

FELC Friendship Pads

Please fill out the Friendship Pad when asked during worship. If the church office does not currently have your contact information or it has changed, please indicate that in the appropriate column.

Nursery Care

The Downtown Site Nursery (located across from the Library in the Gathering Area) and the North Site Nursery (off the main hallway, across from the restrooms) are open for family use during all services. Please ask an usher if you need assistance.

Hearing Assistance

If you are in need of a personal receiver, ask a Downtown Site usher, or a North Site soundboard technician.

Large-print Resources

At the Downtown Site, if you are in need of a large print Bible or bulletin, please ask an usher.

AED Units on Site

Automated external defibrillators are outside the Downtown Site Usher's Room and next to the North Site sound booth.

Video Recording

The 8:30 a.m. Downtown Site worship service is video-recorded to share with our homebound members upon request.

In Need of Prayer?

For additions to the prayer chain, email or call the church office (felc@felc.com; 733-2303).

More Information

For detailed information on these and more FELC events, opportunities and ministries, pick up a newsletter in the Gathering Area, visit our website at www.felc.com, or check the bulletin boards and kiosks in the Gathering Area.

The Week of Sept. 9, 2018 At-A-Glance

Sunday, Sept. 9

8:30 & 10 a.m.
9 a.m.
8:15/8:45 a.m.

Monday

9 a.m.
5:15 p.m.
6:30 p.m.
8:15 p.m.

Tuesday

6:30 a.m.
7 p.m.

Wednesday

10:30 a.m.
Noon
Noon
1 p.m.
5:15 p.m.

Thursday

6:15 p.m.
6:30 p.m.
7 p.m.

Friday

9 a.m.
9:45 a.m.
1 p.m.
1 p.m.
6 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 16

8, 9:15 & 10:30 a.m.
8:15 & 10:30 a.m.
9:15/9:25 a.m.
9:30 a.m.
9:45 a.m.
11:45 a.m.

God's work. Our hands. Sunday

Abbreviated Worship/Send-Off for GWOH, DS Sanctuary
Abbreviated Worship/Send-Off for GWOH, NS Sanctuary
Sunday School Meet n' Greet, DS/NS

Quilters, DS Fellowship Hall
Stephen Ministry, DS Lounge
Board Games Guild, NS Library
Pick Up Basketball, NS Activity Center

Men's Ministry, NS Library
Men's Ministry, DS 221

Bible Study with Pastor Mary, DS 221
Sarah Circle, DS 114
Stewardship Committee, DS Lounge
Miriam Circle, DS Library
Confirmation 8th Grade Parent & Student Information Meeting, DS Fellowship Hall
Wednesday Worship, DS Sanctuary
Parish Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room & Sanctuary
Confirmation 9th Grade Parent & Student Information Meeting, DS Fellowship Hall

Adult Bible Study, DS Lounge
50 + Group 1000 Island Tour, Meet in DS Parking Lot
Bridge Group, DS 114
Library Committee, DS Library
Sunday School Storyteller Training, DS Fellowship Hall

Men's Ministry, NS Library
Worship, DS Sanctuary
Worship, NS Sanctuary
Children's Learning Time, DS/NS
Middle School Music Class, NS Sanctuary
NS Sunday School Parent Meeting, NS Lower Level
New & Review Week 1, DS 221

DS=Downtown Site
NS=North Site

Prayer Warrior Request

Praying is one of the most ancient of human practices, and many believe in its power. Prayer is used in a multitude of ways: to seek comfort, make a request, ask for guidance, heal and restore, express sorrow, celebrate joy or give thanks. We welcome you to join our email prayer team to pray for the requests received. Please contact Jeanne Gronholm at jgronholm@felc.com or Pastor Mary Bauer at mbauer@felc.com to join the email prayer team or to submit a prayer request.



First English Lutheran Church
www.felc.com felc@felc.com

Downtown Site

Sunday Worship: 8:30 & 10 a.m.
Beginning Next Sunday: 8, 9:15 & 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Worship: 6:15 p.m.
Office Hours: M-Th: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
F: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

North Site

Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.
Beginning Next Sunday: 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Love Jesus. Live your call.

First English is committed to becoming a more welcoming, inclusive congregation.

Sunday at FELC

Altar Flowers

The Downtown Site altar flowers are provided in honor of Bob and Mil Herder's 63rd wedding anniversary today.

Shop With Scrip TODAY!

SCRIP is an easy way to help fundraise while you shop. It's an online store where you can buy gift cards for retailers and receive rebates anywhere from 2.5-14%. Our goal of SCRIP is to raise money for annual youth trips. Next summer the high school youth will take part in a mission trip to the Blue Ridge Mountains.

This month, Kwik Trip is running a special where instead of receiving 4% cash back for our fundraising, we will receive a 9% rebate. Gas up church family! Order forms and payment can be placed in the offering plate today, and are due to the Downtown Site Office by noon tomorrow, Monday, Sept. 10. Your gift cards will be available for pick up the following Monday, Sept. 17 at the Downtown Site Office. Thank you for your support!

Looking Ahead

Echoes New Store Hours

Beginning Monday, Sept. 10, Echoes will be closed on Sundays and Mondays. The store is open Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Stop in and find a treasure!



Announcements Week of Sept. 9, 2018

Board Games Guild Life Group is Back!

Board Games Guild is a life group that connects once a month to share fun and fellowship. Join us Monday, Sept. 10 in the North Site Library from 6:30-8 p.m. Bring your favorite game and a friend. Questions? Contact Cathy Jokela at cattymaejo@aol.com.



Submit "Can't Serve" Dates for Worship Volunteering

A worship schedule is being created for Oct. 1 through Dec. 31. To assist with scheduling, please review your personal calendars and record in MSP any dates you are unavailable to serve during that time period. The deadline to record unavailable dates is tomorrow, Monday, Sept. 10. If you need any assistance with updating your "can't serve" dates, please contact Kathy Larson (klarson@felc.com or 733-2303). Thank you.

50+ Group Tour This Week!

The 50+ group will tour the 1000 Island Nature Center in Kaukauna on Sept. 13. The group will meet in the Downtown Site parking lot at 9:45 a.m. to carpool, and leave promptly at 10 a.m. They will stop for lunch after at Landreman's Restaurant in Kaukauna. Please sign up in the Gathering Area if you would like to participate.



Let's Play Bridge

Do you enjoy playing Bridge? If so, join us, the FELC's Bridge Life Group on Thursday, Sept. 13 at 1 p.m. in Room 114 at the Downtown Site. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Bob Herder, (920)738-6640.



Fall Worship Times Resume Sept. 16

Next Sunday, Sept. 16, the fall worship times resume which are:

Downtown Site: 8, 9:15 & 10:30 a.m.
North Site: 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Coffee Project Sunday is Sept. 16

FELC is selling Fairly Traded Coffee, Tea, Hot Cocoa and Candy bars on Sunday, Sept. 16, in the Gathering Area. The simple pleasure of a cup of coffee can be a vital source of income for thousands of small farmers and their families in some of the poorest countries in the world. Please consider supporting this important cause!



Calling All Bakers -The Tradition Widens

Beginning Sept. 16, we invite the North Site to join with the Downtown Site in the tradition of "Calling All Bakers," that is, sharing a gift of baking for Sunday morning coffee hour. Not only does this gift enhance the coffee hour but it goes a long way in helping to control congregation expenses. Please complete the signup sheet near the coffee table. Each baker should plan on bringing approximately four dozen goodies. Questions? Contact Kathy Larson at klarson@felc.com, 733-2303.

Fall *New & Review* Series, Sept 16 - Oct. 7

Are you interested in becoming a member of First English? Perhaps you are already a member but would like a refresher on what it's all about? Then the three week *New & Review* series is for you.

The first two weeks covers First English and the ELCA, Lutheran Theology, how Lutherans interpret the Bible, and more. The third week is at Pastor Jeff's home for a luncheon where members of ministry teams and small groups join to share the many ways one can get involved at First English. The following week is New Member Sunday where new members are welcomed to the FELC family. The full itinerary can be found in the September newsletter or at www.felc.com/newmember.

To register for this *New & Review* session visit www.felc.com/forms under the "New to First English" section, or by calling the church office at (920)733-2303. Questions? Contact Kathy Larson at klarson@felc.com.

2019 High School Mission Trip

Every summer there is an annual youth trip that is offered to high school students currently in grades 9-12. This year, the youth will be going on a mission trip to the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Carolina July 20-27. A commitment form and informational video can be found at www.felc.com/highschool. Commitment forms and \$100 deposit are due Sept. 20 to the Downtown Site Office. Questions? Please contact Heidi Schreiner at hschreiner@fel.com.

AA Corner

If you are or someone you know could use some confidential help with stopping drinking, please call Nancy A. at (920)734-9580.

You Have a Story to Tell

We are about to begin a new religious education year and that means we need tall, small, young, and old storytellers to share the Bible story with our Sunday Schoolers. Give a few minutes on the Sunday morning(s) you choose to share the importance of God's word and connect with our super FELC students! Go to www.felc.com/forms to choose your date(s) and site. The information for your specific week will be sent to you via email after you have selected your date.

Middle School Music Opportunity at the North Site!

New! On the first and third Sundays of the month from 9:30-10 a.m., in the North Site Sanctuary, there is a music class for middle schoolers who are interested in joining the Worship Team some day. Whether you sing or play an instrument, we want you to join in. Bring your voice, your band or orchestra instrument, or other instruments. This class will teach you music skills to eventually join the worship team. Our first class will be Sept. 16. See you there!

Join FELC4NAMI at NAMIWalks Fox Valley

Saturday, Oct. 6, 8:15 a.m. (Check in: 7-8 a.m.)
Wisconsin Timber Rattlers Stadium
2400 N. Casaloma Dr., Appleton

NAMI Fox Valley is bringing back its 5K NAMIWalks event to raise funds and awareness for those needing resources and support who live with or care about someone living with mental illness.

To join or support our team, sign up in the Gathering Area or visit www.namifoxvalley.org and select "NAMIWalks." Search for our team: FELC4NAMI, and select "Join Our Team." Sign on, raise funds if you can, and join us on Oct. 6!

Prayer Connection

Prayer connects us to each other in this community of faith and to Christ. To be included in the list of prayers, submit names to the church office or the First English staff. Names are removed after one month, but can always be extended by request. Please remember these First English members, friends and families in prayer in the coming week:

Prayers of Healing, Wholeness & Peace

- Mary Lou Garnsworthy
- Nathan Meissner
- Brooklyn Ann Converse
- Angel Manos
- Todd Hollenberger
- Jacob Schwab
- Justin Schwab
- Laurie Niles
- Lynn Boenker
- Debra Boushley
- David Heindel
- Doug Hansen
- Amy Ponomarev
- Moore Peregrine
- Tom Roy
- Je'Ann Johnson
- Paul Henrikson
- Juanita Gauerke
- Robb Schaefer
- Kim Norland
- Taylor Vivian Thompson
- Carol Peterson
- Bev Hoff
- Dennis Paisar
- Linda Van Berkel
- Tresor
- Cheryl Laabs
- Beth Nemecek
- Burt Blank
- Karen Foster

Prayers of Comfort Families of:

- Nancy Johnson
- Shirley Kavanaugh
- Cassie Laabs
- Lauren Laabs
- Senator John McCain
- Kenny Reinholz
- Frank Rippl

Prayers for Those Called to Serve in Other Countries

- Stephanie Olson

Prayers for Those in the Military

- Lt. Josh Anderson
- Christian Cramer
- BM3 Kyle Kramer, USCG
- LCPL Robert Kopesky II
- SPC Samuel Sinclair

This Week's Community Care Focus

- EAA-Experimental Aircraft Association
(920)426-4800; hr@eaa.org



High School News

Grades 9-12

Sept. 9, 2018

reFUEL

For Grades 10-12
Wednesday nights
DS Youth Room
7-8 p.m.

9/19: DS Youth Room
Welcome back!

9/26: **5:30-6pm** *Special event reFUEL night*
Meet at Hofacker's Hillside Orchard (W3964 Wege Rd, Appleton).

6-7pm Bonfire at NS for caramel apples with tons of toppings. If it rains we will hang out at NS Youth Room.

Social Media Corner

Follow us at FELC YOUTH on Facebook and felc.youth on Instagram!
#justdoit



High School Mission Trip Blue Ridge Mountains, NC July 20-27, 2019

Open to students currently in grades 9-12.

Commitment form and informational video can be found at www.felc.com/highschool.

Registration and \$100 deposit due Sept. 20 to DS Office.

Questions? Contact Heidi hschreiner@felc.com

Upcoming Fundraisers for 2019 Mission Trip:

License to Cruise/Octoberfest

Parking Lot fundraiser:

Sept. 28: 5:45-8pm

Sept. 29: 8:30am-4pm

Bake Sale:

Sept. 30: Between all services at both sites

Sign up for shifts at

www.felc.com/highschool or email Heidi.

Sept. 9, 2018



Information for FELC Youth and Families
Grades K-12



Get Ready to Rally and Serve!

Today we kick-off another awesome year of Sunday School with meet n' greets and congregation-wide service.

Families meet their

Sunday School teachers in their classrooms at 8:15 a.m. at the Downtown Site and at 8:45 a.m. at the North Site.

Then we head to a short worship service at 8:30 a.m. at

the Downtown Site or 9 a.m. at the North Site as

we are blessed to head out and serve the community with on and off site service projects. Time to rally and celebrate a new

season as a faith family spreading

God's light in the world!

(The standard Learning Times of 9:15 a.m. at the Downtown Site or 9:25 a.m. at the North Site will begin next Sunday, Sept. 16)



Find us on Social Media Outlets

Instagram: felc.youth Facebook: FELC YOUTH

Connect with FELC Youth Staff

Kirsten Owens, Faith Formation Coordinator: kowens@felc.com

Heidi Schreiner, Youth & Summer Ministry Coordinator: hschreiner@felc.com

Love Jesus. Live your call.



Elementary Sunday School, Song, And Special News



Calling All Parents! Let's Meet For A Great Start

High five! You signed your child(ren) up for Sunday School and are embarking on another year of building faith in your home. It's an important gift to that child, your family, our congregation and the world. In order for parents and caregivers to understand the mission of Sunday morning education, get tips on how to build faith in the home, and hear about changes in the Sunday School program, it seems we really should meet. Please make every effort to attend the Sunday School Meeting for Parents at the Site your child attends:

- ◆ North Site: Sept. 16 from 9:45-10:10 a.m. in the Lower Level. Come down with your student(s) for story and song before and head up to Pastor Chat after.
- ◆ Downtown Site: Sept. 30 from 10:20-10:50 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

We've got a lot of work to do, so let's get off to a great start!

Those who have registered for Sunday School and/or Confirmation are already receiving info emails. It's not too late to enroll!



Go to www.felc.com/forms to be in the know before we giddy-up and go!

La-La-La...

Choir Is

Warming Up



If you love to sing then we'd love for you to do it with us!

Both children's choirs meet 8:50-9:15 a.m. to rehearse.

Cherub Choir (K-grade 2) meets in Downtown Site Room 220.

Angelus (grades 3-6) meets in the Downtown Site Choir Room.

Choir starts next week on Sept. 16. Come one, come all whenever you're able!



Confirmation and Middle School Scoop



Confirmation Is Powering Up
Mark Your Calendar For
Those Meetings!

It's September and you know what that means... everything, including religious education is starting up and so are the meetings. Make it a point to make it to yours so we can start strong!

7th Grade Family & Pastor Meetings

By Reservation on Sept. 11 & 13

Contact Kirsten a.s.a.p. at kowens@felc.com if you need the Sign-Up Genius link to reserve your meeting time.

8th Grade Student & Parent Meeting

Sept. 12, 5:30-6:15 p.m. in Downtown Site Fellowship Hall

9th Grade Student & Parent Meeting

Sept. 12, 7-8 p.m. in Downtown Site Fellowship Hall



**YIKES!
How Did I
Miss That?**

Maybe fall snuck up on you and you forgot to register your new 7th grader for Confirmation. No worries, we can get you rolling. Just contact Kirsten at kowens@felc.com so you can enroll a.s.a.p. and not miss out on important meetings and info!

**7th Grade
Worship Assistance
Training - Stretching
Our Time**

We ask all Confirmation students to participate in worship assistance (ushering, acolyting, greeting, etc.). The 7th grade training for these roles will occur during the second half the first night of class, Sept. 19. On that one evening class ends at 8:30 p.m. versus 8 p.m. to accommodate worship assistance instruction.



*Have questions or want to volunteer?
Contact Kirsten Owens at kowens@felc.com or 733-2303.*

God's Work with OUR Hands Today!

Today is *God's work. Our hands.* Sunday. Thank you to ALL who are participating. Whether you have donated supplies or are donating your time and skills, you and your efforts are much appreciated.

Forgot to sign up and want to join in? There are several places you can fit it today:

- **Building for Kids** - Children's Museum, 100 W. College Ave., Appleton; Ages 12 and up
- **Loaves & Fishes** - St. Therese Parish, 213 E. Wisconsin Ave., Appleton; Ages 12 and up
- **Jake's Diapers** - 139 E. 2nd St., Kaukauna; All ages
- **Butterfly Garden Project - Seeds of Grace Garden** - Corner of Durkee & North St., Ages 8 and up

Onsite Projects, Downtown Site:

- Seed Bombs - outside weather permitting, Room 014-015 if rain
- Rock Painting - outside weather permitting, Room 014-015 if rain
- No Sew Blankets - Fellowship Hall
- Apple Crisp - Kitchen

Onsite Projects, North Site:

- Onsite projects are pretty full but please feel free to stop by any of the areas to see where help may be needed.

If you are participating in any of the events whether on or off site, please feel free to take photos of your projects and send them to mhujet@felc.com for possible publication on our Facebook page and in the October newsletter. Thank you for doing God's work with YOUR hands!



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God's work. Our hands.

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Evangelical
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Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

First English Lutheran Church SCRIP Order Form

Benefitting FELC Youth Annual Trips

Order Date: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Check one: Pick up at DS Pick up at NS

General Information

Please return completed form to the Church Office or email to Heidi Schreiner at *hschreiner@felc.com*. Payment is required at time of order. Orders placed by **Noon on Monday, Sept. 10**, will be available for pick up on **Monday, Sept. 17 in the DS Office**.

Questions? Contact Heidi Schreiner at (920)733-2303 or *hschreiner@felc.com*.

(Turn this sheet over to select your gift cards.)

Totals

Total # Scrip Purchased: _____

Total Amount Due: _____

Circle Payment Option:

(Make checks payable to FELC. Please put "Scrip" in the memo line.)

Check # _____

Cash

***Special This Month!**

From Sept. 8-28, Kwik Trip will have a rebate of 9% versus the normal 4%!



~~4%~~ | **9%**
Sept. 8 - Sept. 28

Retailer	\$ (Choose)	Credit	Qty	Total Cost
Amazon.com	\$25 \$100	2.5%		
Applebee's	\$25	8%		
Barnes & Noble	\$25	8%		
Bath and Body Works	\$25	13%		
Buffalo Wild Wings	\$25	8%		
CVS	\$25 \$100	6%		
Dick's Sporting Goods	\$25 \$100	8%		
Festival	\$50 \$100	3%		
Fleet Farm	\$25 \$100	3.5%		
Funset Boulevard	\$25	9%		
Gap	\$25 \$100	14%		
HomeGood's	\$25 \$100	7%		
Kohl's	\$25 \$100	4%		
Kwik Trip*	\$25 \$50 \$100	4% 9%		
Little Caesars	\$20	8%		
		TOTAL		

Retailer	\$ (Choose)	Credit	Qty	Total Cost
Menards	\$25 \$100 \$500	3%		
Motomart	\$50	5%		
Nike	\$25	12%		
Old Navy	\$25 \$100	14%		
Pick N Save	\$50 \$100	4%		
Piggly Wiggly	\$50 \$100	3%		
Sams Club	\$50 \$100 \$250	2.5%		
Starbucks	\$25	7%		
Target	\$25 \$50	2.5%		
TJ Maxx	\$25 \$100	7%		
Uno's Pizzeria	\$25	12%		
Walgreen's	\$25 \$100	5%		
Walmart	\$50 \$100 \$250	2.5%		
		TOTAL		

Turn this sheet over to provide your contact information.

FELC DS Engage Page: 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 7:24-37 *From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go -- the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."*

Sun, Sep. 9: Family Project: Mark writes "*They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech, and they begged him to lay his hand on him.*" (v. 32) The heroes in this passage have no name but are simply referred to as "they". "They" are people who see a problem and do something about it. Whether by participating in "God's Work, Our Hands" or by doing other helping deeds, work today as a family to bring healing to those around you.

Mon, Sep. 10: How do we have a community that is not built on favoritism? James challenges the church to value each person, not pandering to those who are wealthy. He points out that God often chooses the poor to be rich in faith. Pray for a vision adjustment—a reminder that God looks at our heart and not our bank balance.

Tues, Sep. 11: The reading from Isaiah tells of a wonderful day when the blind will see, the deaf will hear, and the water will be abundant in the wilderness. We see these promises of healing and plenty come to pass when Jesus heals the blind and the deaf in this passage. Our God has always had a heart for healing—both people and land. May we be inspired to help in healing however we are called.

Wed., Sep. 12, Isaiah 50:4-9a Have you ever thought about the different ways you listen? Sometimes I listen as one who is uninterested, sometimes preoccupied, and sometimes indulgent to the speaker. With children I might be thinking ahead to possible solutions or with my friends I might be trying to understand the feelings at play. Isaiah 50:4 calls us to listen in a different way. "*The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens— awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.*" We are to put ourselves in the shoes of those we teach, evaluating what we are going to say through the prism of the other's need. May God continue to waken our ears to listen for what will best help those who are weary.

Thurs, Sep. 13, Psalm 116:1-9 When I talk to someone who has had a battle with a life threatening illness, I am reminded of the unbelievable gift of life. Gratitude overflows as we are aware that no moment is guaranteed. When death threatens those we love, we are inclined to question God's goodness, railing against the injustice of bad things happening to good, loving people. This mindset betrays a sense of entitlement that can rob us of the wonder of each moment. Whether or not we receive physical healing, may we join the psalmist in rejoicing that, "*You have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.*"

Fri., Sep. 14, James 3:1-12 Why is it that those we love the most are also most likely to receive our harshest words. "*John Bunyan tells us of Talkative: "He was a saint abroad and a devil at home." Many...speak with perfect courtesy to strangers and even preach love and gentleness, and yet snap with ungracious and impatient anger and irritability at his own family at home.*" It is not enough that the world should think that we are calm and loving people, if our own family is afraid of what we will say next. Taming the tongue takes more patience than teaching a hyper-active dog not to chase squirrels. Be determined in pursuing words of kindness and love.

*The Letters of James and Peter, William Barclay (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, May 1960.) p. 105.

Sat, Sep. 15, Mark 8:27-38 I recently received a drawing from a child in my congregation entitled "paster". The woman pictured had seriously styling boots, a mini-skirt and a top that wonder woman could have worn. On her hip she carried books that were entitled Jesus and God and she looked fearless. When this girl hears the word "pastor", she envisions someone strong. However, I wonder what any of us picture when we hear the word "Messiah". Is it a term that brings comfort and hope, or does it just make us think of religion? In situations where you feel helpless, your Messiah comes to bring salvation. Allow yourself to feel the relief and wonder that comes from being rescued. Then picture that.

*For an online discussion of these and other questions concerning the texts, go to our Facebook FELC Engage Page: https://www.facebook.com/FELC_Downtown_Site_Engage_Page

FELC NS Engage Page: 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 7:24-37 *From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go -- the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."*

Sun, Sep. 9: Family Project: Mark writes "*They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech, and they begged him to lay his hand on him.*" (v. 32) The heroes in this passage have no name but are simply referred to as "they". "They" are people who see a problem and do something about it. Whether by participating in "God's Work, Our Hands" or by doing other helping deeds, work today as a family to bring healing to those around you.

Mon, Sep. 10: How do we have a community that is not built on favoritism? James challenges the church to value each person, not pandering to those who are wealthy. He points out that God often chooses the poor to be rich in faith. Pray for a vision adjustment—a reminder that God looks at our heart and not our bank balance.

Tues, Sep. 11: The reading from Isaiah tells of a wonderful day when the blind will see, the deaf will hear, and the water will be abundant in the wilderness. We see these promises of healing and plenty come to pass when Jesus heals the blind and the deaf in this passage. Our God has always had a heart for healing—both people and land. May we be inspired to help in healing however we are called.

Wed., Sep. 12, Jeremiah 11:18-20 Hebrew scholar Abraham Heschel describes Jeremiah as a gentle man with a harsh prophetic call. Many accused him of betraying his country and deserting to the enemy, citing his tendency to prophesy the destruction of Israel as proof. Even those in his own home town were trying to kill him. So when Jeremiah says, "*I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter,*" he was not exaggerating. Although we long to believe otherwise, perhaps this cruel behavior by those in power is not so unusual—these words could have also been spoken by Jesus. As humans, we must constantly be on guard against a tendency to make enemies out of those who give us bad news or point out shortcomings. May we always be open to be persuaded by the truth.

Thurs, Sep. 13, Psalm 54 Shakespeare asks, "*What is in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.*" Although the truth in this statement is apparent, it is less applicable in situations where we are dealing with a person's reputation. If a person's name has been tarnished by their own thoughtless actions or words, or by lies told about them by others, it is difficult to repair that harm. May we take care of how we speak of the Lord, lifting up God's name in a way that gives others encouragement to call out to the Lord when they are in need.

Fri., Sep. 14, James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Theologian William Barclay points out four characteristics of incorrect teaching. "*1. It is fanatical—held with unbalanced violence rather than reasoned conviction. 2. It is bitter—regarding opponents as enemies to be annihilated rather than friends to be persuaded. 3. It is selfishly ambitious—more eager to display itself than to display the truth. 4. It is arrogant—its attitude is pride in its own knowledge rather than humility in its own ignorance.*"* As teachers, we must exude passion about God's word, while avoiding the pitfall of arrogance about our own learning. May we display the humility that points to Jesus and not to self!

*The Letters of James and Peter, William Barclay (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, May 1960.) p. 108.

Sat, Sep. 15, Mark 9:30-37 Have you ever wondered why we don't have more stories about Jesus' childhood? While today we find childhood stories interesting and informative, in Jesus' day this was not the case. "*The child in antiquity was a non-person.*"* Since people were often accepted as the emissary of the one who sent them, it was fine to receive Jesus as an emissary from God. But now the disciples are asked to receive someone as inconsequential as a child. There is a total forfeiture of status in an action so foreign to the time. Jesus reminds us over and over again that true life in the Spirit comes when we abandon trying to work our way into God's grace, and embrace living a life of humble service.

*The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary, vol. VIII, Pheme Perkins (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994) p. 637.

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