

## 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 (off of the Gathering Area) and the North Site Nursery (across from the restrooms) are open for family use during all worship services. Please ask an usher if you need assistance. At the North Site, the child-friendly space just inside the Sanctuary doors is supervised by staff and available to children during worship services.

### Hearing Assistance

If you are in need of a personal receiver, ask a Downtown Site usher, or a North Site sound-board 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](mailto: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](http://www.felc.com), or check the bulletin boards and kiosks in the Gathering Area.

# The Week of Aug. 11, 2019 At-A-Glance

## Sunday, Aug. 11

8:30 & 10 a.m.

Worship, DS Sanctuary

9 a.m.

Worship, NS Sanctuary

## Monday

9 a.m.

Arts Camp, DS Lower Level, Kitchen & Fellowship Hall  
Buffalo Wild Wings High School Lunch, Calumet St. BWW  
Wednesday Worship Rehearsal, NS Sanctuary  
Young Adult Fellowship (Ages 19-25), NS Gathering Area  
Stephen Ministry, DS Lounge  
Pick Up Basketball League, NS Activity Center

11:30 a.m.

3:30 p.m.

5 p.m.

5:15 p.m.

7 p.m.

## Tuesday

6:30 a.m.

Men's Ministry, NS Library  
Arts Camp, DS Lower Level, Kitchen & Fellowship Hall  
FVLH Visit (All Ages), 425 N. Linwood Ave, Appleton  
Worship & Music Ministry Team, DS Library

9 a.m.

1 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

## Wednesday

9 a.m.

Arts Camp, DS Lower Level, Kitchen & Fellowship Hall  
Bible Study with Pastor Mary, DS 110-111  
Stewardship Committee, DS Lounge  
Miriam Circle, DS Library  
Wednesday Worship Rehearsal, NS Sanctuary  
Mental Health Ministries, DS 221  
Wednesday Worship, NS Sanctuary  
Ice Cream Social for All, NS Gathering Area  
**refuel** (grades 7-12), NS

10:30 a.m.

Noon

1 p.m.

4 p.m.

4:15 p.m.

6:15 p.m.

7:15 p.m.

7:15 p.m.

## Thursday

9 a.m.

Arts Camp, DS Lower Level, Kitchen & Fellowship Hall

## Friday

6:30 a.m.

Men's Ministry, NS Library

9 a.m.

Arts Camp, DS Lower Level, Kitchen & Fellowship Hall

## Sunday, Aug. 18

8:30 & 10 a.m.

Worship, DS Sanctuary

9 a.m.

Worship, NS Sanctuary

9:30 a.m.

Israel 2020 Information Meeting, DS Lounge

DS=Downtown Site  
NS=North Site



First English Lutheran Church

[www.felc.com](http://www.felc.com) [felc@felc.com](mailto:felc@felc.com)

### Downtown Site

Sunday Worship: 8:30 & 10 a.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.

Wednesday Worship: 6:15 p.m. thru

Aug. 14

Announcements

Week of Aug. 11, 2019

# Love Jesus. Live your call.

*First English is committed to being a welcoming, inclusive congregation.*

## Sunday at FELC

### Altar Flowers

The Downtown Site flowers are provided by Pam Patri and Cindy Miller and their families in honor of Ken Anderson's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on Aug. 6.

## Looking Ahead

### Final Intern-led

### Wednesday Night Worship

Please attend the final intern-led Wednesday Night Worship on Aug. 14 (Wednesday worship resumes at the Downtown Site on Sept. 4). Five of the interns will be sharing short reflections in place of a sermon, and after worship, the interns host an ice cream social to thank the congregation for their support and to celebrate a successful summer of growth, programming, and faith. Worship: 6:15-7:15 p.m.; ice cream social: 7:15-8 p.m.; **refuel**: 7:15-9 p.m. Hope to see you there!

### Submit "Can't Serve" Dates for

### Worship Volunteering

A worship schedule is being created for Sept. 9 - Jan. 6. To assist with scheduling, please review your personal calendars and record within MSP any dates you are unavailable to serve during that time period. The deadline to record unavailable dates is Sunday, Aug. 18. If you need any assistance with updating your 'can't serve' dates, please contact Kathy Larson ([klarson@felc.com](mailto:klarson@felc.com) or 733-2303). Thank you.

### New & Review New Member Series

Are you or someone you know interested in joining First English? New member classes begin on Sept. 15. Look for more information in upcoming announcements, the August newsletter, or visit [www.felc.com/newmember](http://www.felc.com/newmember).

### Breathe Life Into Scripture

As we begin to use the Narrative Lectionary this September, we are approaching our Bible readings during worship with a deepened sense of creativity. We are working to build a group of readers at each site that are interested in being part of a team that presents the Word in engaging ways. Contact Kirsten Owens at [kowens@felc.com](mailto:kowens@felc.com) or Pastor Mary at [mbauer@felc.com](mailto:mbauer@felc.com) to find out more about this new opportunity to breathe life into Scripture!

### Garden Splendor

Have you moved into a condo or apartment and miss your gardens? Bring your gardening skills to FELC any time of the day. The church needs your weeding and maintenance skills to keep the garden beds in tip top shape. Gloves, tools and weeds will be supplied! Thanks so much for helping to keep the grounds so lovely. If you have any questions, please call the Church Office, 733-2303.



### Flights and Dates Confirmed for Trip to Holyland!

Pastor Jeff and Barb are hosting an information meeting to learn more about their trip to the Holy Land. If you are interested in learning more about this once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage, please join them in the Downtown Site Lounge on Sunday, Aug. 18 at 9:30 a.m. A video will be shown, plus questions answered.

Information (flyer, registration form, and travel insurance) is available in the Gathering Area or at [www.felc.com/IsraelTrip2020](http://www.felc.com/IsraelTrip2020). There are a limited number of spots available. You can reserve a spot with your down payment as indicated on the registration form. Contact Pastor Jeff if you have any questions at [jtengesdal@felc.com](mailto:jtengesdal@felc.com).

## Ready To Make A Big Impact?

Do you remember one or maybe a few of your Sunday School teachers?



Many people do and that's because Sunday School teachers make a significant impact on our faith journeys. Right now we have a few teaching vacancies to fill in our Sunday School program. We are looking for a teacher for the grades 3-4 class at the Downtown Site and a team teacher for the grades 3-4 and/or grades 5-6 class at the North Site. Contact Kirsten Owens, Faith Formation Coordinator, at [kowens@felc.com](mailto:kowens@felc.com) or (920) 733-2303 for more information. God may be calling you to show the love of Jesus in young lives!

## On the Hunt for a Kid's Life Leader

From fall to spring on Wednesday nights at the Downtown Site the joint is jumpin'! Worship, Confirmation, various meetings, and...KID'S LIFE! Students from grades 1-6 meet from 7-8 p.m. for games, service and art projects, prayer, and fun. We are currently looking for a leader, or team of leaders, for this group to spend some casual time connecting and creating with Christ at the center. Please contact Kirsten Owens, Faith Formation Coordinator, at [kowens@felc.com](mailto:kowens@felc.com) for more info!

## Lots Cookin' In Sunday School This Fall - Don't Miss the Memo

This September there will be some significant changes to the Sunday School program at each site. Check the insert for more info. If you have a child(ren) that will be participating in Sunday School NOW is the time to register for September. Go to [www.felc.com/forms](http://www.felc.com/forms) so you don't miss out on important information as the Holy Spirit moves us forward!

## FOT Throwdown

*Friends of Transylvania* (FOT) is working with Diakoniewerk (the Lutheran Social Service agency of Romania) to assist the newly formed Wheelchair Basketball team, the Sibiu Flyers. The goal: raise \$1,100 for the purchase and shipment of a Basketball Wheelchair for the Flyers team.



A total of 40 Volunteer Shooters are needed to participate in the Saturday, Aug. 24, FOT Basketball Throwdown. Each shooter will attempt 20 free throws earning the pledged amount for each made throw. This amount will be in addition to the minimum pledge of \$10. Free throws will be made from the official distance or, if in a wheelchair, from any distance.

The FOT Throwdown will be on the basketball court at FELC North Site on Saturday, Aug. 24 at 3 p.m. Spectators are welcome. Uniforms and trophies for the shooters, along with refreshments for all, will be provided through a Thrivent Action Team grant.

For more information, please contact Joel Schlachtenhaufen at [sjschlach@gmail.com](mailto:sjschlach@gmail.com) or (920)722-9152.

## Matching Grant

As the result of a generous donor, Crossways Camping Ministries Campaign is pleased to announce that the next \$50,000 in new pledges and gifts are eligible for a matching grant. What an opportunity for your gift to have an even greater impact on the future of our camps. Send gifts to Crossways Camping Ministries, 912 N. Oneida St., Appleton, WI, 54911 (Attention: Campaign) with a note that you are a member of First English. For further information or assistance in making a pledge or a gift, call Bob Herder at 738-6640.



## 2019 Lunchtime Organ Recital Series

The Lunchtime Organ Recital Series celebrates pipe organs and literature with live free performances by a variety of organists at a variety of churches. As envisioned by founder Frank Rippl, the recitals last one half hour on Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. (unless otherwise noted) through the summer at local churches in the larger Fox Valley area of Northeast Wisconsin.

**Aug. 14:** Kartika Putri

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
200 N. Commercial Street, Neenah

## Ethan Mellema Recital

All are invited to attend Ethan Mellema's organ recital as part of the Lunchtime Organ Recital Series. Ethan's recital will be on Wednesday, Aug. 21 at 12:15 p.m. He will play the Austin organ at First United Methodist Church located at 325 E. Franklin Street (down the street from the Downtown Site).

Ethan is currently the choir collaborative keyboardist at First English and an organ student at Lawrence University. He will be playing a recital of J. S. Bach, Johannes Brahms, Stephen Paulus and Jean Langlais. The recital is free of charge, however there will be a free will offering taken during the recital to benefit the series. Please see [www.lunchtimeorganrecital.org](http://www.lunchtimeorganrecital.org) for Ethan's biography and other recitals in the series.

## AA Corner

If you are or someone you know could use some confidential help with stopping drinking or if you are being affected by someone else's drinking, call Dale at (920)419-2794.

## 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
- Angel Manos
- Jacob Schwab
- Justin Schwab
- Debra Boushley
- David Heindel
- Doug Hansen
- Amy Ponomarev
- Moore Peregrine
- Juanita Gauerke
- Robb Schaefer
- Carol Peterson
- Bev Hoff
- Alex VanMaren
- Debra Nuthals
- Mitzi Hansen
- Syllas Garcia
- Anna Stencil
- Rob Schurman
- Rev. Kathryn Kuhn

## Prayers of Comfort

Families of:

- Keith Batley
- Rebecca Nara
- Nevi Rosalio paz Trujillo
- Pedro Claver paz Amador

## Prayers of Thanksgiving

Wedding of:

- Joe Hujet and Amy Werner

## Prayers for Those Called to Serve in Other Countries

- Sarah Bauer-Myanmar
- Stephanie Olson-Cambodia
- Spencer Wentland-Japan

## Prayers for Those in the Military

- Christian Cramer
- Cpl. Alex Grebe
- BM3 Kyle Kramer, USCG
- LCPL Robert Kopesky II
- Sgt. Samuel Sinclair

## This Week's Community Care Focus

• St. Joseph Food Program

[lthibodeau@stjoesfoodprogram.org](mailto:lthibodeau@stjoesfoodprogram.org)  
(920)734-9461



# Youth News

Aug. 11, 2019



## Middle School Youth Group

Students in grades 6-8 meet on Tuesday, Aug. 13 with the interns for an end of the year bonfire! Anyone is welcome to spend the evening together and eat some s'mores! This event will be held at the North Site from 7:30-9 p.m. Hope to see you there and come hungry for s'mores! And feel free to bring friends!

## refuel on Wednesday

On Aug. 14 immediately following the 6:15 p.m. Wednesday Worship at the North Site, students grades 6-12 are invited to join the interns at **refuel**. Enjoy learning and fellowship with campfire discussions, outdoor volleyball and more! Parents can pick their kids up at 9 p.m.

## Arts Camp

This year FELC and The Mission Church are joining forces to hold Arts Camp. This event is for kids age 3 to those who have completed grade 5. It will be held here at FELC as well as at The Mission Church Monday, Aug. 12 to Friday, Aug. 16 from 9 a.m.-noon. Free sack lunches will be made available to all kids in attendance. Each day will be filled with art projects and new ways to express creativity! An Art Show to showcase some art from the week will be held on Friday, Aug. 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the Red Lion Paper Valley Hotel. Registration for this event is available online at [www.themissionchurch.us/events/](http://www.themissionchurch.us/events/)

## Buffalo Wild Wings

Hey students grades 9-12: join the interns for food, fellowship and fun Monday, Aug. 12 at 11:30 a.m. at Buffalo Wild Wings on Calumet St. in Appleton. Bring money for your own lunch and be ready to have a great time!

## Ice Cream Social

After Worship on Aug. 14, the interns will hold an Ice Cream Social to celebrate the end of the summer and their time as interns. Anyone is welcome to grab a sweet treat and say goodbye. This event will be held after worship from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Hope to see you there.



# What's Important Now - Weekly Intern News... It's a WIN WIN!

Aug. 11, 2019

## From the Desk of Summer Intern Madi Howard

My name is Madi Howard and I am studying music therapy and psychology at the University of Kansas. This is my third summer as an FELC intern and it has been such a privilege to come back and be a part of this program once more. I've loved being a part of every program this church has to offer. I've also loved getting to know my fellow interns. They are some of the most hardworking and motivated people I know!

I had the incredible opportunity to study abroad at the beginning of the summer in Copenhagen, Denmark. But that means I have only been back as an intern for a few weeks now. It was awesome to come back and see that the program was in such good hands

and that I could jump right in to help out and do my part.

One of the most rewarding things I've been able to do this summer is help plan music for the benefit concert. Music has always been my modality for expressing my self and my emotions so it's been extremely fulfilling to use my skills and passion for music to give back to a meaningful cause.

It's been another incredible summer, so thank you for all the support you give to the interns and this program.

Peace and Blessings,

*-Madi Howard*

## Fox Valley Lutheran Homes

Students AND adults: Join the interns as they visit the residents of Fox Valley Lutheran Homes (425 N. Linwood Ave., Appleton) this Tuesday, Aug. 13 for the annual summer picnic. FVLH will provide lunch for everyone starting at 12:30-2 p.m. We would love to see you there!

## Last Wednesday Night Worship

This week will be the last of the summer, intern led Wednesday Night Worship at the North Site. Worship begins at 6:15 p.m. Come say goodbye to the interns as the internship is coming to a close.

# God's work. Our hands. Sunday, Sept. 8

*God's work. Our hands.* Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) - one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. You work every day to make your community a better place. Let's do this work together!

**Sign up for the project of your choice starting today! First come, first served.**

*Visit [www.felc.com/forms](http://www.felc.com/forms) or see the sign up sheets in Gathering Area to get more project details and age recommendations.*

<b>DOWNTOWN SITE</b>	<b>NORTH SITE</b>
NEW! Birthday Cake Boxes	NEW! Birthday Cake Boxes
Painted Rocks	Painted Rocks
NEW! Get Well Cards/ Care Bags	NEW! Get Well Cards/Care Bags
Apple Crisp Assembly	No Sew Blankets
No Sew Blankets	School Backpack Assembly
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Casserole Ministry
Casserole Ministry	

<b>COMMUNITY OUTREACH</b>	
Apple Creek YMCA	Loaves & Fishes
Fox Valley Lutheran Homes	NEW! Peaceful Purpose
Building for Kids	NEW! Little Free Pantry-Little Chute



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

# God's work. Our hands. Sunday, Sept. 8

## T-SHIRT SALE Deadline: TODAY, Aug. 11

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Pick up at:  Downtown Site  North Site

Size:

Youth (\$3)  small  medium  large

Adult (\$3)  small  medium  large  
 x-large

Adult (\$4)  2XL      Adult (\$5)  3XL

Adult (\$6)  4XL      Adult (\$7)  5XL

Total quantity ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

Total due: \_\_\_\_\_      Check number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Drop off or mail this form with payment to the FELC Church Office, 326 E. North St., Appleton WI 54911 or visit [www.felc.com/forms](http://www.felc.com/forms)**

**PAYMENT DUE AT TIME OF ORDER.**

T-shirt distribution will take place in late August/early September in the Gathering Areas.



**Count Me In!** is a periodic emphasis to lift up volunteer opportunities within FELC, the community and the world. Some will be short-term obligations while others may be ongoing worship roles that are in need of more volunteers. Please prayerfully consider volunteering for a role that will bring you joy! You will be contacted with the details of your choices soon. If you have questions contact Kathy Larson at 733-2303 or kl Larson@felc.com. Thank you!

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Service I/We tend to worship at:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Octoberfest Parking Lot Mission Trip Fundraiser Sept. 28**

- 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Education Needs**

- DS Sunday School Teacher grades 3-4
- DS Kid's Life Leaders ages K-6 Wed. 7-8 pm
- NS Sunday School Teachers grades 3-4 & 5-6
- Both Sites, Storytellers to read during worship
- Both Sites, Sunday School room organizers

**Music Involvement**

- Parish Choir
- NS Praise Team
- Cantors/Song Leaders
- Handbell Choir
- Children's choirs: Angelus & Cherub

**Small Group Ministry**

- Small Group Hosts

**NS Volunteer Worship Roles**

- Worship Assistant
- Communion Setup and Serving, 10:30 a.m. urgent
- Coffee Hour

**DS Volunteer Worship Roles \*\*NS & DS Students, see below**

- Worship Assistant
- Soundboard Operator
- Worship Service Filming/Editing

**\*\*We encourage techy students both NS and DS to sign up to be trained. Would only need to film once every 8 weeks.**

Stewardship Committee Member

Gardening Needs at either site



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## FELC DS Engage Page: Aug. 11, 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Luke 12:32-40** *"Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."*

Sun, Aug 11: Family Project: It's a great day for a treasure hunt! Have the prize be some candy or ice cream —something your kids treasure that quickly is gone. Discuss how the things we think of as "treasure" are certainly to be enjoyed, but do not last. Instead of focusing on treasure that doesn't last, Jesus asks us to focus on the treasure that does —the good things we do that keep rippling out in the world to make a difference. We are to be ready to act for the good at all times. Talk about what makes you better prepared to help others and how to have a helping mindset.

Mon, Aug 12: Prof. Erick Thompson points out that being unprepared according to this passage does not mean that you are damned, but that you are unprepared to share the gospel. He writes, *"this text is about vocation, not justification. These texts do not point to a simple quid pro quo of "be prepared and you will be saved." Instead, the idea here is to be ready so that when God calls you to action, you seize the opportunity and spread the good news. Being alert and being ready are like potential energy, ready to be turned into kinetic energy when prompted. The energy produced here is gospel centered: healing, justice, love, grace, peace."*

[http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=2950](http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=2950)

Tues, Aug 13: If you were a slave, you might dread the return of the master. Just as with a boss in a new job, or a selection committee for college admittance, the power is on one side. In Jesus' day, when slavery existed, the actions of this master would have shocked the listeners. This is a new kind of power. One that retains the raw energy of cosmic creation, but bends to put on a towel and serve that very creation. In our desire to rid ourselves of fear, we can try to make God human size. Instead, live in wonder that God's heart is as big as the power of God's hand.

Wed., Aug 14, Jeremiah 23:23-29 Jeremiah's message often put him at odds with the ruling elite who carried a sense of entitlement from their identity as the chosen people. Professor Brennan Breed tells how Jeremiah denounced these prophets. *"This passage...issues a scathing denunciation to the state-sanctioned prophets who deliver a fake message designed to prop up a system that exploits the weak for the benefit of the powerful. The hyper-nationalistic assumptions of these prophets construct a false god who is consumed with the success of Davidic kings and seems to care little for ethics, let alone those outside the borders of Judah."* We Christians can fall prey to the same disease. May we never see the gospel as a tool to promote our own profit or comfort.

[http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=4152](http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=4152)

Thurs, Aug 15, Psalm 82 This psalm is good news for those who are suffering. God does not waste time in the council of "gods" demanding their adulation. Instead, with divine authority, God calls them to honor those who have no means. It begs us to ask ourselves how we are using our voice. Do we long for people to honor and respect us and the things that we value? Or do we encourage people in word and deed to help those in need —the lowly and destitute. When we tolerate a system that perpetuates injustice, where powerless people can be cheated by creditors or unscrupulous employers, we dishonor God and erode the good-will that binds our society together.

Fri., Aug. 16, Hebrews 11:29-12:2 What are your stories of faith? On my dad's side I have an aunt who went to Africa when she was very young to starting a mission in Liberia. Her legacy was chronicled by a Liberian pastor that came to faith through her work. Even in her 70's, her heart's desire was to be back with those she loved and who loved her in Africa. *By faith, Aunt Martha went to Africa...* Her sister, Aunt Polly, stayed home and faithfully followed the Lord. Later in life, she was back at home after a particularly difficult hospitalization. At a visit, she told us, *"I expected to wake up and see the pearly gates. Instead I was back in the hospital."* *By faith Aunt Polly expected to meet her Lord.* Polly & Martha are part of my cloud of witnesses. And wonder of wonders, as our Lord strips layers of selfishness and sin from us, may we become those witnesses for others, helping them see Jesus, *"the pioneer & perfecter of our faith."*

Sat, Aug 17, Luke 12:49-56 In Danny Daniels' song, "Holy Fire", the chorus goes, *"Holy Fire, spirit of mercy. Holy Fire, power of God. Consume us now and take away All that you have not made. Make us pure, Holy Fire."* Whenever I read this very difficult passage from Luke in which Jesus sounds like a pyromaniac, this song comes to mind. I remember watching a member of a previous church testify in tears that he had held onto bitterness from a divorce. While singing this song, he realized that God wanted to burn it away. Was it easy to let go? Did he glibly say, *"I guess I'll just forget about it."* "No! The pain had gone deep and the cure burned deeply also. Healing came with tears. Even though a God of immense power can be terrifying, it is a power, a holy fire, that can free us from even the most hopeless situations and intractable sins."

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

## FELC NS Engage Page: Aug. 11, 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Luke 12:13-21** *Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns & build larger ones, & there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."*

Sun. Aug 11: Family Project: Carolyn Brown suggests an activity to help children & adults realize that stuff can't bring lasting happiness. "Name several things that at different times in your life were "gotta haves" for you – a certain kind of bike or electronics or clothes. Identify reasons for wanting those things – everyone else had one, they looked really cool, you just knew they would make you special, etc. Tell about some things that turned out to be as great as you thought they would be AND some that were really disappointing." Even a discussion of what was on last year's Christmas list might be a great springboard into understanding that *"one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions."*

<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com/2016/06/year-c-proper-13-18th-sunday-in.html>

Mon. Aug 12: What I have noticed through the years is that the more stuff a person has, the more stuff a person has to take care of. Upkeep on two yards takes more time than one. An elaborate landscape takes more time than a few potted plants. And a huge home costs not only money to build, but also time to maintain and clean. And the time we spend taking care of our stuff cannot be spent twice. It cannot also be spent connecting with and caring for friends and family. When deciding what to buy, make sure that you consider not only monetary value, but also how God is calling you to use the time and relationships you have been given.

Tues. Aug 13: Out of all the requests that someone could have made of Jesus, this man thought Jesus' time would be best spent in trying to convince his brother to give him a share of the inheritance. He was in the presence of Jesus—someone who healed people, who freed people from demons, who fed thousands of people! But his lack in this one area had affected his ability to truly experience the wonder of the moment. If you find yourself obsessing over an issue you can't control, pray for the grace to let it go and experience the abundance of having enough.

Wed., Aug 14, Genesis 15:1-6 In this passage, God looks at Abraham's faith and counts it as righteousness. However Abraham was also making a choice—one about how much he believed in the trustworthiness of God. Professor Sara Koenig says, *"the heart of this interaction is faith and trust. If Abram understands God to be righteous, to be one whose word is firm and secure, to be one who will make good on God's promises, then Abram can believe. The same is true for us. Belief is hard enough when there is a delay between God's promises and their fulfillment. It would be nigh impossible if the God in whom we believe is not trustworthy, is not righteous."* If you struggle in waiting for God's response, be comforted as you remember the faithfulness of God.

[http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=1730](http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=1730)

Thurs. Aug. 15, Psalm 33:12-22 Professor James Mead points out that the repetition of words about God's watching helps us to recognize that God knows us completely. God *"looks down from heaven"*; God *"sees humankind"*; God *"watches all the inhabitants of the earth"*; God fashioned *"the hearts of them all"*; God *"observes all their deeds."* According to Professor James Mead, *"these explicit repetitions, ...seek to motivate believers to trust that God's knowledge of them is complete. That the God to whom we belong watches us so completely that we can therefore confidently "wait" for the Lord (verse 20).*

[http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=1745](http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=1745)

Fri., Aug. 16, Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 What does your ideal landscape look like? There are so many that I can enjoy—mountains, lakes, rivers, rolling plains, waterfalls, cliffs—the list goes on. But if we are looking for that specific place whose builder and architect is God, it has less to do with physical beauty and more to do with a state of heart. We long for a land where there is justice, peace, generosity, physical and mental well-being, forgiveness, and love. We are like those in this passage who have not received the promises, but from a distance we see and greet them. According to the book of Hebrews, this is what faith is. It is seeing the promises of God, the greatly desired future that we long for, and believing that God is moving us in that direction. We have hope for the future. All the things that seem "foreign" or wrong about this world will not exist in the city God is preparing, in our homeland

Sat. Aug. 17, Luke 12:32-40 Reading these sayings by Jesus, I have to wonder, "Who am I?" Am I part of God's little flock, loved and cared for? Am I the person who has sold out everything for the sake of the gospel? Am I the anxious servant, well prepared and waiting for my master's return? Am I a slave who has been invited to sit and eat while he serves me? And who is the thief and why does he make a sudden appearance in the text? Certainly I am part of God's little flock. That takes less imagination than seeing myself as someone who is totally prepared, whose heart is sold out to Christ, and who has abdicated all rights, seeing themselves as a slave for the sake of the gospel. This text calls us to devote ourselves to living into that sold-out identity, knowing that we can never control the amount of time we have to do God's work.

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