

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; 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 Aug. 18, 2019 At-A-Glance

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

Monday

7 p.m. Pick Up Basketball League, NS Activity Center

Tuesday

6:30 a.m. Men's Ministry, NS Library
5 p.m. Arts & Environment Committee, NS Library
5:30 p.m. Executive Committee, DS Lounge
6:45 p.m. Finance Committee, DS 110

Wednesday

10:30 a.m. Bible Study with Pastor Mary, DS 110-111
3:30 p.m. Neighbor Network Planning, DS Library

Friday

6:30 a.m. Men's Ministry, NS Library

Sunday, Aug. 25

8:30 & 10 a.m. Worship, DS Sanctuary
9 a.m. Worship, NS Sanctuary
10:10 a.m. Parament Banner Task Force, NS Library

DS = Downtown Site NS = North Site

Building a Better You While Maintaining a Healthy Life Balance

Tuesday, Aug. 27, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

UW Fox Valley Communication Arts Center

Learn more about medication management, vision, blood pressure, hearing, home and community safety, nutrition, mobile assistance and more. Dr. Sudeep Sodhi, board certified in gastroenterology, integrative medicine and nutrition, will be the keynote speaker. Please pre-register at www.FindingBalanceTogether.org or call (920)832-9360. Door prizes and refreshments provided!

Celebrate Diversity Fox Cities Annual Cookout

Saturday, Aug. 24, 11a.m. - 3 p.m.

Jefferson Park, 989 Kargus Drive, Menasha

Celebrating our uniqueness and what we have in common, Celebrate Diversity Fox Cities invites all to enjoy food, fun and conversation at the 27th Annual Community Cookout. Featuring Woodland Boys and Girls Club Dance and Drum Team; Colleen Bins, Metalsmith and traditional Native artist; Anindita Neogy Anaam, Classical Kathak Dancer; and Children's activities: face painting, henna painting, hair braiding, piñata.



First English Lutheran Church
www.felc.com 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.

Announcements
Week of Aug. 18, 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 memory of Nina Anderson.

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 today, Sunday, Aug. 18. If you need any assistance with updating your "can't serve" dates, please contact Kathy Larson (klarson@felc.com or 733-2303). Thank you.

Looking Ahead

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 or Pastor Mary at mbauer@felc.com to find out more about this new opportunity to breathe life into Scripture!

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.

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 so you don't miss out on important information as the Holy Spirit moves us forward!

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.



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 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 for more info!

Lunch and Learn Seminar

As a community service, Wichmann-Fargo Funeral Homes and Crematories will be conducting a complimentary *Lunch and Learn* Seminar on Wednesday, Aug. 21 at 11 a.m. at Wichmann Funeral Home and Crematories, 537 N. Superior Street, Appleton. This program will explain the emotional and financial benefits of advance funeral planning followed by informal questions, answers and a complimentary light meal. Seat reservations should be made by calling Wichmann-Fargo Funeral Homes and Crematories at (920)297-2742.

FOT Throwdown DATE CHANGE

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 **Wednesday, Oct. 2** (note new date), 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 Wednesday, Oct. 2 from 7-9 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 Dayton Henderson at dahenders77@gmail.com.

Reconciling in Christ (RIC)

In June, the Congregation Council approved moving forward with First English becoming a Reconciled in Christ (RIC) congregation. Being an RIC congregation means that a church has gone through a process to be identified as welcoming toward members of the LGBTQ+ community. What's needed are two more persons to serve on a Core Team for about a half-year or so. The Core Team takes the congregation through a defined RIC process, resulting in a Welcome Statement. If this is an area where you'd like to share your time and energy, please let Pastor Jeff or Mary know. There will be a meeting in the near future to learn what the RIC process entails.

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. 21: Ethan Mellema (details below)

Ethan Mellema Recital

All are invited to attend Ethan Mellema's organ recital as part of the Lunchtime Organ Recital Series on 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 for Ethan's biography and other recitals in the series.

Prayers For Community Care

Each week we lift up an organization that works to provide vital services in our community. Consider praying and possibly volunteering for the groups we mention. This week's focus:

- **St. Paul Elder Services, Inc.**
kayf@stpauelers.org
(920)766-6020

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
- Tom Passehl
- Gary M.
- Liz J.
- Connie Summers
- Joel Schlachtenhaufen
- Anita Mansholt

Prayers of Comfort

Families of:

- Rev. Maynard Beemer
- Lelia (Lee) Mulla
- Nevi Rosalio paz Trujillo
- Pedro Claver paz Amador

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Wedding of:

- Cecil Canlubo and Dave Anderson

Prayers for Those Called to Serve in Other Countries

- Sarah Bauer-Myanmar
- Jack Kent-Lithuania
- 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

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 or see the sheets in the Gathering Area to get more project details and age recommendations and to sign up.

DOWNTOWN SITE	NORTH SITE
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	

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

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FELC DS Engage Page: Aug. 18, 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Luke 12:49-56 *"I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"*

Sun, Aug 18: Family Project: Rev. Sharron Blezard suggests, *"Invite the children to tell you what the weather is like today. How do they know...Are storms on the way? Are drought conditions stunting growth of local crops? How can you tell when the weather is changing? Jesus invites us to take faith forecasts, too. He wants us to be aware of what faces the church and our own faith lives. How can we do this?...Prayer? Holy listening? Scripture? Conversations with other Christians? Listening to the world around us?...Make sure that there are...opportunities to hear children's voices in the community's discernment."* Pass all your ideas on to the pastor!

<http://www.stewardshipoflife.org/2016/08/controlled-burns-faithful-forecasting/>

Mon, Aug 19: In October, I'm going to Myanmar to visit my daughter who is in the Peace Corps. Of course I am looking forward to going, but I am dreading the plane ride. The first leg (from Chicago to Shanghai) is about 14 hours long. The night before the trip, with equal parts dread and anticipation, I can imagine saying, "I wish it were already started!" I would say this not because I am looking forward to hours in a plane, but the difficulty will be offset by what comes at the other side—seeing my daughter! Jesus knows that all sorts of chaos will follow his death and resurrection. This is something that will divide households. But Jesus sees what awaits at the other side—redemption and peace with God!

Tues, Aug 20: Jesus' followers are asked to interpret the present time, a difficult task even when we know the end of the story. The conflict that Jesus sees coming pits an allegiance to the law and the power brokers who control access to the temple and all things holy against the simple message that Jesus brings—one of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. This conflict of law versus grace continues as we all must resist the temptation to judge ourselves in light of our actions instead of God's grace.

Wed., Aug 21, Isaiah 58:9b-14 One of my most unflattering moments as a human being took place on the playground when I was about 7 years old. Talking about the birthday party of a friend, I announced that I didn't know if I would go since this particular girl was so bossy that I didn't really like her. There was silence as eyes moved past me. That's when I realized this girl now stood behind me & had heard everything. I still cringe when I think about it. The point isn't that this was the worst, most egregious sin. The point is that though almost all other playground experiences are forgotten, this still is with me. I can still call it to mind. The Lord says, *"If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ... then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday."* When we speak words of kindness, we chase away our own gloom and bring light to others.

Thurs, Aug 22, Psalm 103:1-8 The Lord has given me many, many blessings, but not a good memory. Names, dates, appointments, & citations for memorized Bible verses disappear as quickly as ice cream dropped in front of a hungry dog! My Bible quotations usually begin, *"Somewhere in the Bible it says something like this."* This psalm reminds forgetful people like me, *"do not forget."* Do not forget a God who forgives, heals, redeems, crowns, satisfies, and renews. Our God is so active, so all encompassing in the blessings sent our way. With purposeful, intentional delight our souls bless the Lord in return.

Fri., Aug. 23, Hebrews 12:18-29 In his commentary, William Barclay points out that these verses describe the terrifying story of the Israelites receiving the law. *"In the giving of the law at Mount Sinai three things are stressed. (i) the sheer majesty of God... (ii) the absolute unapproachability of God...He who tried to approach God met death. (iii) the sheer terror of God. ...Then at verse 22 there comes the difference. The first section deals with all that we can expect under the old covenant and the old law; in it there is nothing in God but lonely majesty, complete separation from man, and prostrating fear. But to the Christian there has come the new covenant; there has come the new relationship with God."* Jesus is the mediator of that new covenant. We mustn't become complacent in our position as beloved children of God. Rather we are awestruck to be in a relationship with the almighty creator of the universe.

Sat, Aug. 24, Luke 13:10-17 One could argue that Jesus did everything wrong in this passage. His insistence on healing this woman on the Sabbath in front of a crowd of people was exacerbating a tense situation. Couldn't he have been more discreet? He did this healing on a controversial day in a public place in front of many. Furthermore, he did not back down when confronted by the leaders of the synagogue but boldly spoke of freedom. As we step out in our lives, we will always hear voices that are telling us that we are not capable, or that now is not the best time, or that we don't have enough support. When we speak the words of freedom and release that come from God, now is always the best time to speak. There will never be a perfect time to step into your calling, but when you hear the call, it is always the right time to follow the Lord!

*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/FELCEngagePage>.

FELC NS Engage Page: Aug. 18, 9th 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 18: 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 19: 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

Tues, Aug 20: 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 21, 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

Thurs, Aug 22, 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. 23, 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. 24, 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 North Site FELC Engage Page. <https://www.facebook.com/FELCEngagePage>.