

## 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 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](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 June 23, 2019 At-A-Glance

### Sunday, June 23

8:30 & 10 a.m.

9 a.m.

9:40 p.m.

11 a.m.

### Monday

11:30 a.m.

3:30 p.m.

5 p.m.

7 p.m.

### Tuesday

6:30 a.m.

11 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

Noon

1 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

### Wednesday

10:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

Noon

3:30 p.m.

6:15 p.m.

7:15 p.m.

7:20 p.m.

### Thursday

11:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

Noon

3 p.m.

4:30 p.m.

### Friday

6:30 a.m.

### Sunday, June 30

8:30 & 10 a.m.

9 a.m.

DS = Downtown Site

NS = North Site

### Echoes 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Sunday

Worship, DS Sanctuary

Worship, NS Sanctuary

Imagine Fox Cities Discussion, DS Fellowship Hall

Farewell Coffee Hosted by Emily Forslin, DS Gathering Area

Buffalo Wild Wings (Grades 9-12), Calumet St. Location

Wednesday Night Worship Rehearsal, NS Sanctuary

Young Adult Fellowship (Ages 19-25), NS Gathering Area

Pick Up Basketball League, NS Activity Center

Men's Ministry, NS Library

Middle School Youth Group: Ice Skating,

Appleton Family Ice Center

Kid's Life (Grades K-6) Lunch (Bring Your Own), DS & NS

Kid's Life (Grades K-6) Program, DS & NS

FVLH Visit (All Ages), 425 N. Linwood Ave, Appleton

Congregation Council, DS 221

Bible Study with Kirsten, DS 110-111

Kid's Life (Grades K-6) Lunch (Bring Your Own), DS & NS

Kid's Life (Grades K-6) Program, DS & NS

Neighbor Network Planning, DS Library

Wednesday Worship, NS Sanctuary

refuel (grades 7-12), NS

Imagine Fox Cities Discussion, NS Sanctuary

Men's Ministry Neighborhood Picnic, Seed of Grace Garden

Kid's Life (Grades K-6) Lunch (Bring Your Own), DS & NS

Kid's Life (Grades K-6) Program, DS & NS

AKSMA Board, DS Library

Echoes Board, DS Lounge

Men's Ministry, NS Library

Worship, DS Sanctuary

Worship, NS Sanctuary



## 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.

## Announcements

### Week of June 23, 2019

### North Site

Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.

Wednesday Worship: 6:15 p.m.

# Love Jesus. Live your call.

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

## Sunday at FELC

### Altar Flowers

The Downtown Site altar flowers are provided by Bob and Anita Damon in honor of their 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 22.

### Day on the Mission Field

June 24 is sponsored by Ken and Barb Olson in honor of their wedding anniversary.

### Confirmation Photos

The Confirmation photos have arrived! Check the bin in the Gathering Area in which your student was confirmed for this year's photos or the bin with the bright pink sign for photos from previous years that have not been claimed. Photos from past years that are not claimed by July 31 will be discarded.

## We Need Your Feedback - "Imagine Fox Cities" - Will You Please Join Us?

*Imagine Fox Cities* is a community-wide initiative that seeks input from those in the Fox Cities. If you live or work here, they need your opinion. Your responses will help influence the future of our communities. FELC is proud to have just been added as a host site for 2 of the series of



[www.felc.com](http://www.felc.com), or by calling the Church Office (733-2303), so we can properly prepare for you to share your thoughts and experiences. Each session is highly structured and will take one hour to complete. Choose from these two opportunities:

- Downtown Site Fellowship Hall:  
Today, Sunday, June 23, 9:40 -10:45 a.m.
- North Site Sanctuary:  
Wednesday, June 26, 7:20 - 8:25 p.m.

To help us plan for space and materials for participants at each of these sessions, please complete your registration, ASAP, so we can better prepare to accommodate everyone who is interested. Make your voice heard - join us!

*To learn more about Imagine Fox Cities, visit their website at [www.imaginefoxcities.com](http://www.imaginefoxcities.com).*

## Calling All Bakers

Calling all bakers! FELC needs Coffee Hour baked goods. Please consider sharing a gift of baking and indicate by completing the sign-up sheet located near the Coffee Hour tables. Each baker should plan on bringing approximately 4 dozen goodies. Not only does this gift enhance the coffee hour but it goes a long way in helping to control congregation expenses. Thanks for your generosity!

You can participate, easy-peasy, right after church! There will be two sessions, facilitated by long-time FELC member, Walt Rugland. Please register on the FELC homepage,

## Learning Luke With Worship, Beaded Bible Bracelets, & Mobiles This Summer

The summer is busy and sometimes we don't make it to worship but any time we come together as God's people we should be praying, supporting, and learning no matter if the congregation is large or small. This summer the majority of the readings will be from Luke. We invite anyone attending service on Sunday mornings or Wednesday nights to mark our worship times as we string a bead of that week's assigned color on a bracelet that will grow over the course of the 14 weeks. On the final summer worship we will add a cross charm and people can take their Beaded Bible Bracelet home as a reminder of this summer's lessons. In addition, students can color a new mobile piece that includes the color of the week, the symbols, and a small poem about the focus word each week which will be assembled the final worship of the summer. Let's string together the lessons of Luke and enjoy coming together as a faith family this summer!

### Cruise with the 50+ Group!

The 50+ Group invites you to cruise the Fox River on the Rivertime2 on Wednesday, July 24. The cruise, which begins at noon and lasts about an hour and a half, costs \$22 per person, which includes the tip. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Watch for ticket sellers at both sites today and next Sunday, June 30. After the cruise you will have the option to attend a dutch treat meal at a restaurant in the area. The boat is not wheelchair accessible but anyone with a walker will be fine. For more information on the Rivertime2, please visit their website at: <https://www.foxrivertours.com/public-cruises/appleton-public-cruises/>.



## Looking Ahead

### Join Pastor Jeff and Barb in Israel . . . and Turkey and Jordan

Having been to Israel twice, Pastor Jeff and Barb are hosting an 11-day trip in the second half of May 2020, with an optional extension to Jordan and Petra. For a long while, a return to the Holy Land has been on Pastor Jeff's heart. He is now looking forward to seeing old and new sights with old and new friends.

A flyer and registration form are available in the Gathering Area and at [www.felc.com](http://www.felc.com). A limited number of spots are available. You can reserve a spot with your down payment as indicated on the registration form. AIRFARE and MOST MEALS are included. The trip also includes an affirmation of baptism in the Jordan River and Holy Communion near the Garden Tomb.

Please feel free to connect with Pastor Jeff or Barb if you have any questions.

### Wednesday Worship

Wednesday Night Worship at the North Site is now in full swing. Worship begins at 6:15 p.m. every Wednesday of the summer, including July 3, and ending on Aug. 14. Please come and enjoy this intern-led service! Something special to look forward to within these services is that for the rest of the summer, one of the interns will be speaking at each service. We look forward to hearing from them throughout the summer.

### Casserole Ministry

Know someone that could use a meal? Casseroles are available at the Downtown Site. Stop by, pick up a casserole and take it to anyone in need. Recipients do not need to be affiliated with FELC. If you have any questions, contact Jeanne Gronholm at [jgronholm@felc.com](mailto:jgronholm@felc.com) or call the Church Office.

## 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. through the summer at local churches in the larger Fox Valley area of Northeast Wisconsin. This week:

**June 26:** Devin Atteln  
Holy Cross Catholic Church  
309 Desnoyer Street, Kaukauna

### Do We Have Your Registrations?

Register your kids now for Sunday School or Confirmation in the fall at [www.felc.com/forms](http://www.felc.com/forms).

### Three, Three, We Need Three!

We're looking for three adults or teams open to taking the three year Confirmation journey with a 7<sup>th</sup> grade small group of six to eight students. Most weeks there is class on Wednesday evenings from 7-8 p.m. from fall to spring plus a couple of other events throughout the time in the program. You don't need to be a Biblical expert to be a great small group leader. You just need the desire to connect with youth, explore questions of faith, share your own Christian experience, and foster trust in your group. Questions? Contact Kirsten Owens, Faith Formation Coordinator, at 733-2303 or [kowens@felc.com](mailto:kowens@felc.com) to discuss this opportunity!

### 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:

- **Riverview Gardens**  
[www.riverviewgardens.org/get-involved](http://www.riverviewgardens.org/get-involved)  
(920)358-0388

## 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
- Sylas Garcia
- Michael Anderson
- Chad Koepsel
- Betty Fischer

### Prayers of Comfort

Families of:

- Nancy Belling
- Joan Bizer
- Linda Codd
- Robert "Bud" Hoepfner
- Bonnie Prodoehl
- Cindy Schneider
- Joan Spaulding

### Prayers of Thanksgiving

Baptism of:

- Penelope Catherine Krausert
- Paislei Noel Kauti

Wedding of:

- Madison Resch and Alex Hopfensperger

### 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
- SPC Samuel Sinclair

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

June 23, 2019

## From the Desk of Summer Intern Jared Schmid

Hello, my name is Jared Schmid. I will be a sophomore at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and I am a current FELC Summer Intern.

This past week, the Summer Interns had a fun week working at Day Camp. In weeks leading up to Day Camp, the Summer Interns planned all the arts & crafts, games, Bible stories, and daily themes for the camp. We had 80 children per day at Day Camp, along with ten middle school and high school helpers. I worked with the fifth and sixth-grade group (named the Sharks and Lions) and was in charge of planning all the games along with the help of Kent Van Beek. I was nervous about Day Camp because I have never worked with children before. By the end of the week, I ended up having so much fun working with the children

and my particular group. We were able to see God through the children's excitement and eagerness to learn about Christ's love for us.

Throughout the rest of the summer, I am excited to participate in Wednesday Night Worship (6:15 p.m. at the North Site each Wednesday through the summer). Worship services are enjoyable to me because it allows me to praise our Lord with others. They also allow me to participate in roles I do not usually get to do in church.

Coming up, the Summer Interns will be beginning our work with Kid's Life. Formerly known as KidsCLUB, Kid's Life is a free drop-in program packed with games, arts and crafts, and Bible stories. I am looking forward to what the remainder of the summer will bring!

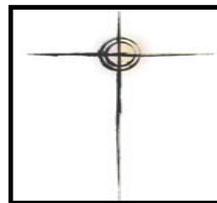
*-Jared Schmid*

## Come to refuel

After service at the North Site on Wednesday Nights the interns host events for Grades 7-12. Come and enjoy spending time with friends and the interns around a campfire or in a friendly game of dodgeball. Anyone wanting to come is welcome. Hope to see you there!

## College Information Retreat

Are you starting college in the fall? Do you wish you had more information about the ins and outs of college life? Come to the College Information Retreat on Friday July, 12 to get insider information from college students. More information to come!



# Youth News

June 23, 2019

## Wednesday Worship

### Wednesdays, 6:15 p.m., North Site

Join the summer interns as they lead a worship service with music, message and Holy Communion. Hope to see you there!

## Be a Part of Wednesday Worship

Do you play an instrument? Enjoy singing? Do you like to read in front of people? Are you interested in ushering or greeting? The interns would love you to be a part of the Wednesday Worship team. Middle and high school students, if you are interested in participating in this meaningful ministry, please contact Abbey at [adesrochers@felc.com](mailto:adesrochers@felc.com), or Carmen at [cdanz@felc.com](mailto:cdanz@felc.com). Get involved!

## Middle School Youth Group

Students in Grades 6-8 meet on Tuesdays beginning June 18, for a variety of activities and service projects. Times and locations will vary each week so watch the bulletin and the church calendar for information. Feel free to bring friends!

## This week, Tuesday, June 25:

### Ice Skating

11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Appleton Ice in Memorial Park. Bring \$3 to rent skates and \$5 for entry to the rink. See you there!

## Buffalo Wild Wings

Hey students grades 9-12: join the interns for food, fellowship and fun Mondays 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!

## Young Adult Fellowship

Young adults ages 19-25, join in a study without homework but WITH dinner! Meet at the North Site Gathering Area at 5 p.m. on Mondays, and enjoy quality time with interns and other young adults.

## 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) on Tuesdays from 1-3 p.m. Play dominoes, bean bag toss, cribbage or just chat with the residents. They would love to see you, and you are bound to make some awesome new friends!



1320 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Store Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sunday & Monday, Closed

(920)882-8172

## 15th Anniversary Celebration!

Please join us to celebrate our anniversary with cake in the Gathering Area today!

As part of our mission, we are currently seeking donations of gently used home décor items (decorative vases, art work, silk flowers, lamps, outdoor decorative items) and craft supplies. We would also welcome volunteers who would like to get involved with our organization. Like us on Facebook!

Bring this coupon to ECHOES for

**50% off** one item. Expires July 24, 2019.



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## FELC DS Engage Page: June 23, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Luke 8:26-39** *Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me"-- for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man... Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.*

Sun, June 23: Family Project: The man described in this passage was dealing with mental illness—a disease that had left him isolated & vulnerable. With his unusual behavior, many would have reacted to him with fear. Children can be very afraid of what they don't understand. Use this resource to find a way to talk to your children about Mental Illness & how we as Christians can show compassion. [https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families\\_and\\_Youth/Facts\\_for\\_Families/FFF-Guide/Talking-To-Kids-About-Mental-Illnesses-084.aspx](https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Facts_for_Families/FFF-Guide/Talking-To-Kids-About-Mental-Illnesses-084.aspx)

Mon, June 24: I have to wonder what happened to this man who had a whole legion of demons after he was healed and Jesus left. Did the people in his hometown embrace his new behavior, or did they always consider him an outsider, distrustful of a change they could not understand? As Jesus touches hearts and heals broken lives, may we also be changed to lay aside past prejudices and welcome transformed lives.

Tues, June 25: Rather than focusing on an individual, Alyce Makenzie shows this passage deals with the God's work to throw off oppressive systems (such as Roman occupiers). She writes, *"As we hear the hooves of the pigs clicking toward the sea, the message is that even the power of Rome will ultimately be no match for the liberating power of God in Christ."* Give praises for God's power at work to free all people. <https://www.patheos.com/Progressive-Christian/Name-Is-Legion-Alyce-McKenzie-06-18-2013.html>

Wed., June 26, I Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 When called to make a stand for our faith, we might be tempted to leave ourselves an "out". We might limit the implications of our faith to what is easy or comfortable, saying things like, "I'll be generous Lord—after I fix my kitchen." Or, "I'll love my neighbor, Lord—just not that neighbor." Perhaps Elisha knew that he would be tempted to live his calling in a half-hearted way, so he didn't give himself the opportunity to do so. He slaughtered his oxen—his means of making a living. Then he used the plow to make a fire, cooked the meat, and gave it away. He did not leave himself an out! What are you holding back in your service to the Lord? Pray that you can live out your faith with an undivided heart

Thurs, June 27, Psalm 16 I love to garden, but don't always have the time to keep my garden looking the way I like. When I do find time, instead enjoying the flowers, it's easy to focus on the weeds, deadheading, watering or mulching that needs to get done. I also can fall into the trap of concentrating on plans for the future—a larger garden or plants I might want to add in. Yours may not be gardening, but each of us has some area where we primarily see either problems or possibilities and find it hard to be satisfied with what we have. Instead, the psalmist proclaims, *"The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places."* (v. 5-6) May we each take time to rejoice in the gifts of what we already have.

Fri., June 28, Galatians 5:1, 13-25 When we read the *"works of the flesh"* in Galatians 5, we can be tempted to stop after coming to sorcery. Besides being intrigued by the Harry Potter series, most of us never think about sorcery. However it is what comes next that we dare not miss. Who hasn't participated in *"enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions?"* We may even believe our faith calls us into certain enmities since we are characterized by our intolerance of evil. We need to remember that instead of judging others, we are called to look internally for signs of the works of the flesh—how we let jealousy overcome generosity, dissensions overcome peace, or anger overcome patience. How are you letting your life be ruled by strife? Ask God's help to live freely in Christ in a life that demonstrates the fruits of the Spirit.

Sat, June 29, Luke 9:51-62 Professor Amy Oden writes, *"We've all felt it. The rise in our gut when someone rejects our most cherished beliefs. We recognize the need to justify our views, prove we are right, defend our faith. But we don't stop there. We also have the impulse to attack—to show how that person is wrong, misguided, even unfaithful...Our Christian history demonstrates that triumphalism is our besetting sin. It is a subtle & short step from rejoicing in the good news of Jesus Christ to attacking those who will not share in it. Our history shows that when we have the power to harm others we consider outside..., we are likely to use it. And Jesus will have none of it. Jesus' answer is to rebuke his disciples and then instruct them to get on with the work of the gospel."* Use any impulse to attack others as an indicator of a need to stop. Then move forward with the work of the gospel. [http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=4101](http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=4101)

\*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: June 23, Pentecost 11

**Luke 13:10-17** Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for 18 years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days & be cured, & not on the sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for 18 long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

**Sun. June 23:** Family Project: In this story, the woman was bent over & Jesus healed her, helping her stand up straight. Then the leaders of the synagogue (church) began to get all "bent out of shape" about what Jesus was doing. He wasn't living exactly by the rules. He was healing on the Sabbath. Jesus was making a clear statement that rules were made to help people and not to prevent them from being helped. What are some rules that you "bend" in order to share God's love and show that people are more important than rules?

**Mon. June 24:** Prof. David Schnasa Jacobsen writes of the boundary smashing work depicted in this passage. *"When God is up to something, prepare to be unbound: whether from confining diseases, or social norms about persons with disabilities, or even holy pieties. ... God keeps showing up, drawing the circle just a little wider and unleashing a divine horizon that begets rejoicing over the loosing of every human bondage."* [http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=2956](http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=2956)

**Tues. June 25:** What does it mean to honor the Sabbath? The religious leaders felt the Sabbath was about precisely following the rules of the Law. However, by calling the woman a "daughter of Abraham", Jesus named her part of God's covenant with Abraham—a family that was to receive blessings through their relationship with the Lord -not simply new regulations. He demonstrated that keeping the Sabbath was about doing God's will in the world. Sometimes that means refraining from the pursuit of the worldly advancement that dominates so much of our lives. But often it means action –working toward the goal of the flourishing of all people and honoring the love God shares with all.

**Wed., June 26, Isaiah 65:1-9** This passage reminds me of a football game. So often, one of the receivers will be downfield, wildly waving his arms' trying to get the attention of the quarterback. You can just imagine him back in the huddle, telling the quarterback, "I was wide open.!" The trouble was, the quarterback wasn't looking at him. Perhaps he had a preferred receiver, or perhaps there were linemen breathing down his neck making it nearly impossible to get a pass off. In Isaiah, the Lord says, "I said, "Here I am, here I am," to a nation that did not call on my name." (v. 1) What is keeping you from seeking the Lord? Is your attention fixed elsewhere? Are you being distracted by life's struggles? Be assured the Lord is with you, waiting to hear your cry for help.

**Thurs. June 27, Psalm 22:19-28** In his book, *Psalms*, James Limburg contends the "why" questions from this psalm go unanswered. He shares "Elie Wiesel's account of a young student going to a synagogue to hear a particularly powerful rabbinic teacher. When the young man returned he reported, "My questions remained questions. But somehow I could go on." There are questions that we shall never have answered. Many of them begin with "Why?" ...The psalm suggests that the place to bring these questions is before God, in the company of the gathering of believers. The questions may well remain questions. But we may discover that, somehow, we shall be able to go on with life." If you are dealing with persistent questions, take time to be with the community of faith! *Psalms*, Limburg, James, (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2000) p. 71.

**Fri., June 28, Galatians 3:23-29** Paul points out the radical inclusion experienced in Christ. *"As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."* (v. 27-28) Historically, the church is known for excluding people from the grace and love of Christ, especially those in the LGBTQ community. Here Paul makes it clear that this is a non-issue. In Christ these differences simply do not exist. When we create roadblocks to ministry; when we exempt ourselves from listening to others based on any of these criteria, we are standing in the way of the unity that we are called to experience in Christ.

**Sat. June 29, Luke 8:26-39** As soon as the demon identifies itself as "Legion", the people's minds would turn toward the occupying Romans, and the meaning of this story would expand. Prof. Judith Jones explains, *"The region of Gerasene is the setting of a horrifying historical event. According to Josephus, during the late 60s CE, toward the end of the Jewish revolt, the Roman general Vespasian sent soldiers to retake Gerasa (Jewish War, IV, ix, 1). The Romans killed a thousand young men, imprisoned their families, burned the city, and then attacked villages throughout the region. Many of those buried in Gerasene tombs had been slaughtered by Roman legions."* When dealing with occupying forces of any kind, be they demons, Roman soldiers, memories, or addictions, we can rest assured that Jesus comes to cast out any power of evil. [http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=4108](http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=4108)

\*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>.