

## 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 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 May 5, 2019 At-A-Glance

### Sunday, May 5

8:50 a.m.  
9:15/9:25 a.m.  
9:15 a.m.  
9:30 a.m.  
9:30 a.m.  
11:45 a.m.

### Monday

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

### Tuesday

6:30 a.m.  
1 p.m.  
6 p.m.  
8 p.m.

### Wednesday

10:30 a.m.  
Noon  
Noon

Noon  
1 p.m.  
4:15 p.m.

5:30 p.m.  
6:15 p.m.  
6:30 p.m.

7 p.m.  
**Thursday**  
6 a.m.  
9 a.m.

**Friday**  
6:30 a.m.

**Saturday**  
8 a.m.  
8:15 a.m.  
9 a.m.

### Sunday, May 12

8:50 a.m.  
9:15/9:25 a.m.  
9:15 a.m.  
9:30 a.m.  
9:30 a.m.

### Name Badges

Periodically we will ask if anyone needs a new name badge (name change, etc.) If you would like one, please drop off your money (\$12) at the Downtown Site office with your name the way you would like it to read on your badge. Envelopes are located at the Welcome Center at each site to place your money and information in. If you have any questions, please email Karen Kneisler at [kkneisler@felc.com](mailto:kkneisler@felc.com) or call the Church Office at (920)733-2303.

### High School Senior Sunday; Scrip Sale Both Sites

Cherub Choir/Angelus Choir Rehearsal, DS 220/Choir Room  
Sunday School Learning Time, DS/NS  
Adult Learning Time, DS Lounge  
North Site Women's Study, NS Library  
Middle School Music Class, NS Sanctuary  
High School Senior Recognition Lunch, DS 114

DS=Downtown Site  
NS=North Site

Quilters, DS Fellowship Hall  
Board Games Guild Life Group, NS Library  
Pick Up Basketball League, NS Activity Center

Men's Ministry, NS Library  
Judith Circle, DS 114  
Organ Task Force, DS Library  
ATC Basketball, NS Activity Center

Bible Study with Pastor Mary, DS 110-111  
Noon Hour Philosophers, DS Fellowship Hall  
Sarah Circle, DS 114  
Stewardship Committee, DS Lounge  
Miriam Circle, DS Library  
Mental Health Ministries, DS 221  
Handbell Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room  
Wednesday Worship, DS Sanctuary  
Parish Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room & Sanctuary  
refuel (Grades 9-12), DS Youth Room

Early Risers Women's Study, DS Lounge  
Adult Bible Study, DS Lounge

Men's Ministry, NS Library

Sole Burner Team Picture, DS  
Sole Burner Kids' Run, Appleton City Park  
5K Run/Walk, Appleton City Park

### Mother's Day Rose Sale; Scrip Distribution

Cherub Choir/Angelus Choir Rehearsal, DS 220/Choir Room  
Sunday School Learning Time, DS/NS  
Adult Learning Time, DS Lounge  
North Site Women's Study, NS Library  
Ukulele Combo Rehearsal, 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, 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: 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Announcements  
Week of May 5, 2019

# Love Jesus. Live your call.

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

## Sunday at FELC

### Altar Flowers

The altar flowers at the Downtown Site are provided by Lou Chicquette.

### High School Senior Recognition Sunday

Today, we recognize graduating seniors from First English Lutheran Church. At each service there will be seniors speaking about highlights of growing their faith within the church family of FELC. Please join us in congratulating all FELC seniors on this academic milestone and thanking the speakers for sharing their stories. Posters are in the Gathering Area displaying seniors' names, photos, and post-graduation plans. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their faith journeys in this new chapter of their lives.

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

A worship schedule is being created for May 26 - Sept. 8. 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, May 5. If you need any assistance with updating your "can't serve" dates, please contact Kathy Larson at 733-2303 or [klarson@felc.com](mailto:klarson@felc.com). Thank you.

### Final Scrip Orders for the Season

Today is the last Sunday for Scrip orders until September. Please consider purchasing gift cards to support the high school youth attending this summer's mission trip to North Carolina. To date, we have raised over \$2,350 through this fundraiser. Thank you for supporting this program! Order forms are found in this bulletin and in the Gathering Area at the Scrip Sale table.

### Fair Trade Products for Sale

Coffee is often the centerpiece of church social life and a daily ritual for many Americans. Many people feel called by their faith to treat their neighbors with love and respect, and to be good stewards of God's earth. Supporting the Coffee Project is a great way to put this faith into action. Stop in the Gathering Area this morning. We are well supplied with a variety of coffee, tea, and candy bars. Thank you for your support!

### Flower Baskets to Support Homeless Shelter

Hanging flower baskets will be available for purchase today at both sites. Proceeds will be used toward the purchase of tools and supplies for the Schellenberg Homeless Shelter project, a ministry of the Sibiu congregation in Romania. Diane Putzer, from FELC, will deliver the funds when she travels to Romania in mid-May.

## Looking Ahead

### Board Games Guild Meets Tomorrow

Bring your favorite board game, your family and friends, and meet for a night of fun fellowship on Monday, May 6, 6:30-8 p.m. in the North Site Library.

### Joyful Journey

In a society that values cynicism over belief, we can be dubious about any statement that begins, "I believe..." Further, when we allow our lives to be ruled by our doubts, we abandon the joy of God. This Easter season, take part in the study entitled *Joyful Journey*. Learn what it means to follow Jesus; to glimpse our risen Lord and the world of joy into which we are called. If you are interested in starting or joining a small group, contact Pastor Mary ([mbauer@felc.com](mailto:mbauer@felc.com)) or Jeanne Gronholm ([jgronholm@felc.com](mailto:jgronholm@felc.com)) in the church office. To learn more about the study or to sign up, visit [www.felc.com](http://www.felc.com) and click the link on the homepage.

### Calling all Bakers

Calling all Bakers! We are in need of Sunday Morning Coffee Hour baked goods. Please consider sharing a gift of baking and indicate by completing the signup sheet located near the coffee room 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. Thank you for your generosity!

### Student from Haiti

A male music student from Haiti needs free housing while attending Lawrence University for one year. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, call Bob Herder at 738-6640.

### Mother's Day Rose Sale

High School students attending the summer mission trip to North Carolina will be selling roses between all services on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12. Roses are \$5 for you to gift to your #1 supporter, your mother. Help our youth while making your mom feel special!

### Finding Balance: Mentoring Across Generational Differences

On May 12 and 19, Barb Tengesdal will teach and lead conversation on how to better communicate with people of different ages. Each generation has lived experiences that color their perceptions of the world. Politics, religion, money, relationships, work and education can all be understood within a generational context. These two classes will explore peer personality traits typical of generations (Traditionalist, Boomer, GenXer, Millennial, IGen or GenZ) and discuss how lessons learned from cross-generational mentoring can set a path forward for our church, our family relationships, our work environments and more. Join us for this Adult Learning time at 9:15 a.m. in the Downtown Site Lounge.

*Dr. Tengesdal (or just Barb) has had many roles throughout her career in Early Childhood Education. A consultant, presenter and recently the Executive Director for Wisconsin Head Start Association, she has taught courses at colleges and universities in California, North Dakota and Wisconsin. As author and researcher on the topic of Handing off the Torch: Leadership Transitions in the workplace, Barb is the true image of the sandwich generation, with children in college and a 94 year-old mother-in-law a few blocks away - life is never boring! You might also know her as Pastor Jeff's wife.*

### Noon Hour Philosophers 2019

The Noon Hour Philosophers meets for an hour at noon in the Downtown Site Fellowship Hall on Wednesday for the final time until fall. Thank you to all who attended, and special thanks to Mary Poulson for organizing the presentations.

#### • May 8: Estate Planning with Wills, Trusts, and Beyond

Carissa Biebel, Founder and Attorney  
Legacy Law Group  
Stacie Dobbe, Attorney, Legacy Group

### Advance Care Planning:

#### It's Always Too Soon Until It's Too Late

Living Will? DNR? Power Of Attorney? You may have heard the terms before, but what do they really mean? On Tuesday, May 7, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. (presentation begins at 5 p.m.) at Brettschneider-Tretting-Nickel Funeral Chapel (606 N. Oneida St., Appleton) join Professional Alliance Network's FREE event as we make sense of it all.

Ellen Koski of Fox Valley Advance Care Planning Partnership will share how you and your loved ones can approach some of the difficult but important conversations surrounding health care decisions, especially in the event you could not communicate or speak for yourself.

Refreshments will be provided. Reserve your spot by emailing [pro.alliance.foxcities@gmail.com](mailto:pro.alliance.foxcities@gmail.com).

### FELC Employment Opportunity

**Sunday School Coordinator, Downtown Site (beginning in September):** This paid position works closely with the Faith Formation Coordinator to facilitate Learning Time activities (9:15-10:15 a.m.) on Sundays during the school year. This position is ideal for one individual or a team of two. Questions? Contact Kirsten Owens, Faith Formation Coordinator, at [kowens@felc.com](mailto:kowens@felc.com).

## 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
- Laurie Niles
- Debra Boushley
- David Heindel
- Doug Hansen
- Amy Ponomarev
- Moore Peregrine
- Juanita Gauerke
- Robb Schaefer
- Carol Peterson
- Bev Hoff
- Cindy Schneider
- Alex VanMaren
- Debra Nuthals
- Mitzi Hansen
- Syllas Garcia
- Steve Mantey
- Randy Kroll
- Rolf Jeppson

### Prayers of Comfort

Family of:

- Rev. James Deckert
- Jeff Gretzinger
- Paul Henrikson
- Evelyn Hewitt
- Shirley Swan

### Prayers of Thanksgiving

Baptisms of:

- Kennedy Grace Johnson

### Prayers for Those Called to Serve in Other Countries

- Sarah Bauer-Myanmar
- Stephanie Olson-Cambodia
- Ross Van Maren-Philippines
- Spencer Wentland-Japan

### Prayers for Those in the Military

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

### This Week's Community Care Focus

- Outagamie County Mentoring Program  
[hhsmentors@outagamie.org](mailto:hhsmentors@outagamie.org); (920)832-2460



# High School Youth News

Grades 9-12

May 5, 2019



For Grades 9-12  
Wednesday nights  
DS Youth Room  
7-8 p.m.

**May 8**  
\*Special time\* Final refuel before interns takeover.  
Potluck Party 6:30-8pm  
Food and games

refuel will return on June 5 at the NS with the Summer Interns leading.



## High School Mission Trip Blue Ridge Mountains, NC

**Final Fundraisers:**  
May 5- Scrip Sale (Today)  
May 12- Scrip Card Distribution and Mother's Day Rose Sale  
Sign up for a shift at [www.felc.com/highschool](http://www.felc.com/highschool)

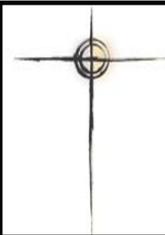
**Parent and Student Meeting:  
May 15, 5:30pm**

DS Fellowship Hall  
Don't forget to bring:  
Youth Covenant  
Participant Release Form  
FELC Ministry Release Form  
Copy of Insurance Card



**Summer Interns are looking for Cabin Helpers for this year's Day Camp!**  
Camp runs June 10-13 from 9:30am-3pm at Plamann Park. Please contact Heidi Schreiner at [hschreiner@felc.com](mailto:hschreiner@felc.com) if you are interested in giving back to this awesome ministry.

Social Media: Facebook: FELC YOUTH || Instagram: felc.youth



# High School Youth News

Grades 9-12

May 5, 2019



For Grades 9-12  
Wednesday nights  
DS Youth Room  
7-8 p.m.

**May 8**  
\*Special time\* Final refuel before interns takeover.  
Potluck Party 6:30-8pm  
Food and games

refuel will return on June 5 at the NS with the Summer Interns leading.

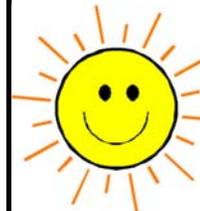


## High School Mission Trip Blue Ridge Mountains, NC

**Final Fundraisers:**  
May 5- Scrip Sale (Today)  
May 12- Scrip Card Distribution and Mother's Day Rose Sale  
Sign up for a shift at [www.felc.com/highschool](http://www.felc.com/highschool)

**Parent and Student Meeting:  
May 15, 5:30pm**

DS Fellowship Hall  
Don't forget to bring:  
Youth Covenant  
Participant Release Form  
FELC Ministry Release Form  
Copy of Insurance Card



**Summer Interns are looking for Cabin Helpers for this year's Day Camp!**  
Camp runs June 10-13 from 9:30am-3pm at Plamann Park. Please contact Heidi Schreiner at [hschreiner@felc.com](mailto:hschreiner@felc.com) if you are interested in giving back to this awesome ministry.

Social Media: Facebook: FELC YOUTH || Instagram: felc.youth



# Elementary & Middle School News



## Let Us Know

### You're Going To Be Here Next Year

Don't let the summer sweep you away without registering for Sunday School! Go to [www.felc.com/forms](http://www.felc.com/forms) and take a couple of minutes to register so we can look forward to seeing you in September!



# Elementary & Middle School News



## Let Us Know

### You're Going To Be Here Next Year

Don't let the summer sweep you away without registering for Sunday School! Go to [www.felc.com/forms](http://www.felc.com/forms) and take a couple of minutes to register so we can look forward to seeing you in September!



### Kick Off a Cool FELC Summer At The Pool

First English is crack-a-lackin' with super summer stuff for kids and families. We kick things off with Day Camp, June 9-14, and the Free *FELC Pool Party For All* on Wednesday, June 19 after worship from 8:15-10:15 p.m. at Mead Pool. The pool is being used just by our group! Save the pool party date and go to [www.felc.com/summer](http://www.felc.com/summer) to find more great ways to spend your summer with your FELC family!



### Kick Off a Cool FELC Summer At The Pool

First English is crack-a-lackin' with super summer stuff for kids and families. We kick things off with Day Camp, June 9-14, and the Free *FELC Pool Party For All* on Wednesday, June 19 after worship from 8:15-10:15 p.m. at Mead Pool. The pool is being used just by our group! Save the pool party date and go to [www.felc.com/summer](http://www.felc.com/summer) to find more great ways to spend your summer with your FELC family!



**Calling All New Confirmation Students Entering 7<sup>th</sup> Grade In The Fall. Registration is NOW!**  
Go to [www.felc.com/forms](http://www.felc.com/forms) to get rolling!



**Calling All New Confirmation Students Entering 7<sup>th</sup> Grade In The Fall. Registration is NOW!**  
Go to [www.felc.com/forms](http://www.felc.com/forms) to get rolling!

**Treats Needed For Sunday School Parties on May 19!**  
Sign up at [www.felc.com/forms](http://www.felc.com/forms)



### Choir Corner

Last singing dates until fall:  
Angelus Choir - May 12, 8 a.m.  
Cherub Choir - May 19, 9:15 a.m.  
Singing strong in spring!

**Treats Needed For Sunday School Parties on May 19!**  
Sign up at [www.felc.com/forms](http://www.felc.com/forms)



### Choir Corner

Last singing dates until fall:  
Angelus Choir - May 12, 8 a.m.  
Cherub Choir - May 19, 9:15 a.m.  
Singing strong in spring!

# First English Lutheran Church SCRIP Order Form

## Benefitting FELC Youth Annual Trips

### General Information

Please turn in form with payment to the table in the Gathering Area, offering plate, Church Office or email to Heidi Schreiner at [hschreiner@felc.com](mailto:hschreiner@felc.com). Payment is required at time of order. Orders placed by **Noon on Monday, May 6**, will be available for pick up on **Sunday, May 12**. **After that, they will be available in the Downtown Site Office**. Questions? Contact Heidi Schreiner at 733-2303 or [hschreiner@felc.com](mailto:hschreiner@felc.com).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Order Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Check one:  Pick up at DS  Pick up at NS

Retailer	\$ (Circle)	Credit	Qty	Cost
Amazon.com	\$25 \$100	2.5%		
Applebee's	\$25	8%		
Barnes & Noble	\$25	8%		
Bath + Body Works	\$25	13%		
Best Buy	\$25 \$100	4%		
Buffalo Wild Wings	\$25	8%		
Chipotle	\$25	10%		

Retailer	\$ (Circle)	Credit	Qty	Cost
CVS	\$25	6%		
DICK'S Sporting Goods	\$25 \$100	8%		
Domino's	\$25	8%		
Festival Foods	\$50 \$100	3%		
Fleet Farm	\$25 \$100	3.5%		
Gap	\$25 \$100	14%		
Home Depot	\$25 \$100	4%		
	SUBTOTAL PG 1			

**Turn sheet over for more shopping options.**

Retailer	\$ (Circle)	Credit	Qty	Cost
HomeGoods	\$25 \$100	7%		
iTunes	\$25	5%		
Kohl's	\$25 \$100	4%		
Kwik Trip	\$25 \$50 \$100	4%		
Little Caesars	\$20	8%		
Marcus Theatres	\$25	8%		
Meijer	\$50 \$100	3%		
Menards	\$25 \$100	3%		
Motomart	\$50	5%		
Nike	\$25	12%		
Noodles & Co	\$10	8%		
Old Navy	\$25 \$100	14%		
Panera	\$25	8%		

Retailer	\$ (Circle)	Credit	Qty	Cost
Pick 'N Save	\$50 \$100	4%		
Sam's Club	\$50 \$100	2.5%		
Scheels	\$25	8%		
Starbucks	\$25	7%		
Subway	\$10	6%		
Taco Bell	\$25	5%		
Target	\$25 \$50	2.5%		
T.J. Maxx	\$25 \$100	7%		
Uno Pizzeria	\$25	12%		
Van Zeeland Nursery & Landscape	\$50 \$100 \$_____	5% (Landscape Project) 10% (Retail)		
Walgreen's	\$25 \$100	5%		
Walmart	\$50 \$100	2.5%		
	SUBTOTAL PG 2			
	SUBTOTAL FROM PG 1			
	TOTAL PGS 1 & 2			

Total Amount Due: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Option:  Check# \_\_\_\_\_  Cash

Make checks payable to FELC (please write Scrip in the memo)

**Turn this sheet over to provide your contact information.**



## FELC DS Engage Page: May 5, 2019—Season of Easter

**John 10:22-30** *At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."*

Sun, May 5: Family Project: It always makes me smile to see videos of a shepherd calling in the sheep. In the Youtube video listed below, we see the sheep come running from far afield, knowing that they will receive good things from the shepherd's hand. Where is it that we hear Jesus' voice and receive good things? Church? When reading the Bible? When praying? Let us run expectantly to be near our Shepherd, receiving blessings from His hands.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Coo\\_grSF1Ns](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Coo_grSF1Ns)

Mon, May 6: What a lovely promise we all heard this past Sunday—no one will be able to snatch us out of Jesus' hand. When starting down a new path, whether it's graduation, a move, retirement, or marriage, our life can become chaotic and topsy-turvy. It is good to remember that we will always have the stability that comes from being safe in the arms of our Savior. Furthermore, if anyone questions our faith due to theological disagreements, this verse reminds us we are not their sheep. We have been given to God; we are Jesus' sheep, safe in the fold with our Savior.

Tues, May 7: Historically, the concept that we are safe in Jesus' arms has been used to deny hardships & avoid writing wrongs others experience here on earth. As Prof Osvaldo Vena writes, *"The example that comes to mind is that of the slaves in the USA, who were told to wait for the "pie in the sky" while they were toiling to provide their white owners with an earthly one, and a very succulent one at that, building through their work the wealth that was to be the foundation of the capitalist system we currently live in. That was a deceiving way of using scripture to enslave, both physically and psychologically..."* May our use of scripture always reveal love and justice, not simply waiting for heaven, but experiencing it now. [http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=4047](http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=4047)

Wed., May 8, Acts 9:1-20 Saul was a very good, religious person who was so caught up in his personal crusade for God that he totally missed God's presence. As Prof. Amy Oden writes, *"At both ends of the ideological spectrum, Christian progressives as well as Christian conservatives look to purge their ranks of any who step even slightly out of line. The story each side tells about themselves is that they are holding firm to sacred values. No one thinks of themselves as a persecutor in the stories we tell ourselves about our own commitments. We would be shocked to hear Jesus say to us, "Why do you persecute me?" On this Sunday before Pentecost, to prepare ourselves for...the vision of what God is up to far beyond ourselves, we might pause to examine our blind spots, often tied to our deepest commitments."*

[http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=4043](http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=4043)

Thurs, May 9, Psalm 30 In our church calendar, we find this Psalm three times. Once is now during the Easter season as we leave behind the sorrow of the crucifixion for the joy of the resurrection. The other two times are after Jesus brings back to life both the widow's only child and Jairus' daughter. The joy that we find in our journey of faith isn't one that ignores the sense of loss and sadness we experience when walking through the pain of death. Rather it encompasses that grief and transforms it into a knowledge that death cannot have the final say—our mourning will someday turn into dancing. As people of faith, we do not try to force those who mourn to dance. Rather we accompany them as they pour out their pain to the Lord, and hold faith with them that God will restore them to a dance-filled life.

Fri., May 10, Rev. 5:11-14 John writes in Revelation 5:12, *"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"* Revelation is written in the form of a Jewish apocalypse story. This is a story that uncovers the evils of the Roman empire and predicts its downfall at the hand of a Jewish hero. However, Revelation turns this genre around when it places at the middle of this hero tale Jesus, *"the Lamb that was slaughtered."* Instead of a conquering hero, Jesus comes in vulnerability, humbling himself and laying aside his rights. It is in emptying himself that Jesus demonstrates his true worth and brings salvation. Joy is ours as we worship the Lamb, who alone is worthy of our praises.

Sat, May 11, John 21:1-19 Three times, Jesus asks Peter, *"Do you love me?"* Three times, Peter responds, *"Yes, you know that I love you."* Three times Jesus commissions Peter, *"Feed (or tend) my sheep (or lambs)."* He ends with the call, *"Follow me."* This repetition of three mirrors the three times that Peter had denied knowing Jesus, afraid to acknowledge their relationship. There will be times when we disappoint or even deny our Lord. There will be times when we act in ways that bring shame to the faith or hurt to others. It might be easiest in those times to simply give up and call ourselves unworthy disciples. Jesus reminds us simply that we still have value, and we still have a job. Beloved but not perfect, let us follow Jesus and feed his sheep.

\*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: May 5, 2019—Season of Easter

**John 10:22-30** *At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."*

Sun, May 5: Family Project: It always makes me smile to see videos of a shepherd calling in the sheep. In the Youtube video listed below, we see the sheep come running from far afield, knowing that they will receive good things from the shepherd's hand. Where is it that we hear Jesus' voice and receive good things? Church? When reading the Bible? When praying? Let us run expectantly to be near our Shepherd, receiving blessings from His hands.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Coo\\_grSF1Ns](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Coo_grSF1Ns)

Mon, May 6: What a lovely promise we all heard this past Sunday—no one will be able to snatch us out of Jesus' hand. When starting down a new path, whether it's graduation, a move, retirement, or marriage, our life can become chaotic and topsy-turvy. It is good to remember that we will always have the stability that comes from being safe in the arms of our Savior. Furthermore, if anyone questions our faith due to theological disagreements, this verse reminds us we are not their sheep. We have been given to God; we are Jesus' sheep, safe in the fold with our Savior.

Tues, May 7: Historically, the concept that we are safe in Jesus' arms has been used to deny hardships & avoid writing wrongs others experience here on earth. As Prof Osvaldo Vena writes, *"The example that comes to mind is that of the slaves in the USA, who were told to wait for the "pie in the sky" while they were toiling to provide their white owners with an earthly one, and a very succulent one at that, building through their work the wealth that was to be the foundation of the capitalist system we currently live in. That was a deceiving way of using scripture to enslave, both physically and psychologically..."* May our use of scripture always reveal love and justice, not simply waiting for heaven, but experiencing it now. [http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=4047](http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=4047)

Wed, May 8, Acts 5:27-32 By the time the apostles stood before the council in this scene, they had already been arrested other times for speaking out about Jesus. This was after the chief priests had done all they could to put the lid on the entire "Jesus" phenomenon by having him arrested and put to death. Instead they find these pesky followers of Jesus simply will not be silent. Their preaching is actually making the message spread. And what a message it is! These people are not going to prison in order to gain power or prestige. Their message is not one of overthrow or revolt. Instead, over and over again they are arrested spreading a message of repentance and forgiveness of sins. It's a message we are called to repeat and practice!

Thurs, May 9, Psalm 150 The book of Psalms starts out with a call to a life of following God —of being a people whose *"delight is in the law of the Lord."* In its 150 chapters, we are led through every sort of emotion. We glimpse the uplifting moments of awe in God's creation. We realize we are held in God's steadfast love. We are instructed in how to act. We also come face to face with our frailty, our need to deal with anger, suspicion, depression, and loss. It is only fitting then that this songbook would end with a call to praise. "Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!" None of our emotions place us outside of the sovereignty of God. We love and are loved by God always.

Fri, May 10, Revelation 1:4-8 Prof. Ron Allen points out that the words *"him who is and who was and who is to come"* are actually modified from a Roman phrase. When referring to their gods, the Romans said they were, are, and shall be. Allen says, *"The "shall be" indicates that the Roman gods aim to maintain the social order as it is. The notion of "is to come" reveals that God is coming into history to complete reconstruction of the world."* We follow a God who is not locked in the past. We do not put our trust in institutions, but rather in our Lord who is always making us new. It is tempting to think that our present faith and our present religious institutions are essential to the Christian message. However, God is always raising the dead, the church is continually called into reformation, changing in order to serve the Gospel & not the institution. The one who is to come guides us into new life.

[http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=4034](http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=4034)

Sat, May 11, John 20:19-31 In this passage from John, we find the disciples hanging out behind locked doors, afraid of the Jews. Who wouldn't be? Having been with Jesus during all of his ministry, they were likely uncertain how the Jewish leaders would respond. They were living in fear and Jesus entered into that place, giving them a mission outside of those locked doors. He strengthened them with the Holy Spirit, & armed them with forgiveness. It's as if he is saying, "Go out in the world, my people, knowing that the Spirit goes with you. Value the gift of forgiveness that you bring." In the next verses, Jesus is able to demonstrate the power of that word of forgiveness as he extends reconciliation to Thomas. It is in going and in forgiving that we help others see Jesus. They too can exclaim, "My Lord and my God!"

\*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>.