

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 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 Nov. 3, 2019 At-A-Glance

Sunday, Nov. 3

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

Monday

9 a.m.
8 p.m.

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

10:30 a.m.
Noon
1 p.m.
5:45 p.m.
6:15 p.m.
6:30 p.m.
7 p.m.
7 p.m.

Thursday

6 a.m.
9 a.m.
11 a.m.

Friday

6:30 a.m.

Sunday, Nov. 10

8:50 a.m.
9:15 a.m.
9:15/9:25 a.m.
9:30 a.m.
10:30 a.m.

DS = Downtown Site NS = North Site

Daylight Saving Time Ends; Scrip Sale

Cherub/Angelus Choir Rehearsal, DS 220/Choir Room
Adult Learning, DS Lounge
Sunday School Learning Time, DS/NS
Women's Study Group, NS Library

Quilting, DS Fellowship Hall
Pick Up Basketball League, NS Activity Center

Men's Ministry, NS Library
Judith Circle, DS 114
Outreach & Social Ministry Team, DS 114
ATC Basketball, NS Activity Center

Bible Study with Pastor Mary, DS 110-111
Noon Hour Philosophers, DS Fellowship Hall
50+ Planning Team, DS 114
Handbell Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room
Wednesday Worship, DS Sanctuary
Parish Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room
Confirmation General Sessions, DS Assigned Rooms
refuel (grades 10-12), DS Youth Room

Early Risers Women's Study, DS Lounge
Adult Bible Study, DS Lounge
AKSMA Board, DS Library

Men's Ministry, NS Library

Scrip Pick Up

Cherub/Angelus Choir Rehearsal, DS 220/Choir Room
Adult Learning, DS Lounge
Sunday School Learning Time, DS/NS
Women's Study Group, NS Library
Arioso Girl Choir Sings for Worship, DS Sanctuary

One Can, Two Can, Who Can? Together We Can!

Beginning Nov. 6 through the Advent Vespers worship service on Dec. 11, Confirmation students are hosting a food drive at FELC. Food programs rely heavily on local support to provide food to those in need. This is a great chance to make a difference in our community, so our students encourage you to join us in our efforts to help our less-fortunate neighbors. Watch the weekly bulletin announcements or contact Kirsten Owens at kowens@felc.com for more information on this effort.



First English Lutheran Church
www.felc.com 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.

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 Roberta Roloff and family in memory of Bob's heavenly birthday on Nov. 2.

Christmas Gift Idea: A Fair Trade Basket

Fair Trade coffee, tea and chocolate are being sold in the Gathering Area today. There are also gift basket ideas for you to choose from, order and pay for in advance, then pick up at the December coffee sale. An order form is included in this bulletin. This is an opportunity that allows us to acknowledge the dignity given by God to all people. It connects us to an economy of justice. Hope to see you there!

Stewardship Thank You

Thanks to all who have participated in the 2020 Stewardship Appeal Celebration Sunday. To date, 252 households have completed their *Statement of Intent* card. A mailing will be going out this week to all those who have yet to complete their *Statement of Intent* card. Please complete your *Statement of Intent* for 2020 to help *Create Ripples of Faith*. This can be done on www.felc.com/stewardship.

Announcements
Week of Nov. 3, 2019

FELC is Hiring!

First English is looking to fill two NEW exciting staff positions. If you or someone you know is interested in either, please visit www.felc.com/employment for complete job descriptions and to apply, or contact Church Administrator Brenda Smongeski at bsmongeski@felc.com or Pastor Jeff at jtengesdal@felc.com, with any questions.

- **AV Specialist:** This part-time position entails five hours per week, primarily on Sunday mornings, to oversee and coordinate the audio and video aspect of worship for both sites and special events. One emphasis of the position is empowering volunteers to develop their AV skills in worship.

- **Neighbor Network Coordinator:** FELC is currently accepting applications for the role of Neighbor Network Coordinator, a new position to lead an exciting new ministry initiative of FELC. A key function of this role will be matching people's joyful need to serve with others' unmet needs. The person who fills this role is a servant leader, has a passion for deepening community, and will become integral within the life and ministry of our congregation. A half-time position, the role has potential for future expansion and will report to the senior pastor.

Look for the SCRIP form in today's announcements - proceeds from SCRIP sales support the high school youth mission trip next summer!

Summer Intern Applications are Open

Consider applying to be an FELC Summer Intern. This is a paid internship beginning at the end of May and ending in mid-August. This unique opportunity will help you grow as a Christian leader, grow in community and relationship with God, with the church and the community, make new friends, and strengthen old ones. Lastly, it will challenge you to discover the ways God is calling you to serve in this world. Applications can be found online at www.felc.com/summer and are due in the Downtown Site Office or emailed to Heidi Schreiner, Youth and Summer Ministry Coordinator, at hschreiner@felc.com by Dec. 31. Applicants must be at least one year out of high school. Any further questions, contact Heidi or reference the website-www.felc.com/summer.

Thank you Dale Rude!

The staff and congregation of First English wish to extend heartfelt thanks to Dale Rude for his service to FELC. Dale is stepping away from his role as Facility Tech as he prepares for a move out of the area. We will miss his kind smile, his "can do" attitude and willingness to always lend a hand. His dedication to his church family and personal integrity are gifts to us all. When you see Dale in worship or at Bible Study, please extend a warm and sincere word of thanks.

Update Your Contact Information

Have you moved? Dropped your land line? Got a new cell phone? Changed your email address? Please help FELC stay current by updating your contact information for us. It is fast and easy - just visit www.felc.com/update and fill out the short form. Thank you!

Advent Wreath Lighting

Consider helping light the Advent wreath candles this year during worship beginning with the first Sunday in Advent, Dec. 1. This volunteer role consists of lighting a few candles on the wreath and giving a short reading that corresponds with that week of Advent. This is a great way to cross a family project off the list for Confirmation, and is also a wonderful way for all individuals and families to contribute during this special time of our Church year. Advent wreath lighting is a great reminder of our Lord's birth and what it means to be a child of God. If you are interested in signing up to light the Advent wreath, please look for the sign-up sheets in the Gathering Area. Questions? Contact Kathy Larson at klarson@felc.com.



Submit "Can't Serve" Dates

A worship schedule is being created for Dec. 2 - Feb. 29. To assist with scheduling, please review your personal calendars and record within MSP any dates you are unavailable to serve during that time period by Sun., Nov. 10. If you need any assistance with updating your 'can't serve' dates, please contact Kathy Larson (klarson@felc.com or 733-2303). Thank you.

Calling All Bakers

We are in need of Sunday Morning Coffee Hour baked goods at both sites. Please consider sharing a gift of baking and indicate by completing the signup sheet located near the coffee tables. Each baker should plan on bringing approximately four dozen goodies. Thank you for your generosity!



Noon Hour Philosophers (NHP) 2019

The Noon Hour Philosophers meet for an hour at noon in the Downtown Site Fellowship Hall each Wednesday. If you have questions please contact Mary Poulson at mmaryjep@att.net or (920)734-8137.

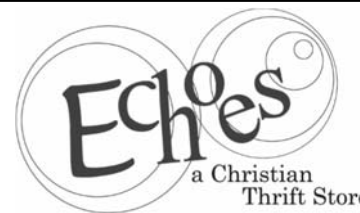
• Nov. 6: Life Coach/Personal Development

Rev. Jeanne Douglas
United Church of Christ
Certified Life Coach/Life Coach Instructor

Thrivent Choice: Your Support. Your Choice.



If you are a member of Thrivent Financial, you are likely aware of this easy, convenient way to support what matters most to you. If you haven't already done so, be sure to direct your designated Thrivent Choice Dollars to First English. If you are uncertain about your eligibility, please connect with your local Thrivent Financial representative. Funds distributed through this program are used by FELC to help further and support our mission, *Love Jesus. Live your call.*



1320 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Store Hours:

Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday & Monday, Closed

Stop in, visit and shop for a while. You may find something that will spruce up your home or wardrobe for the season!

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
- Amy Ponomarev
- Moore Peregrine
- Robb Schaefer
- Carol Peterson
- Bev Hoff
- Alex VanMaren
- Debra Nuthals
- Mitzi Hansen
- Syllas Garcia
- Rev. Kathryn Kuhn
- Shirley Larson
- Violet Havel
- Debbie Nussbaum

Prayers of Comfort

Families of:

- Brian Damon
- Nita Gauerke
- Doug Hansen
- Fred Russler

Prayers for Those Called to Serve in Other Countries

- Sarah Bauer-Myanmar
- Jack Kent-Slovakia
- 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
- Erika Brehmer

Prayers For Community Care

- **VITA: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance**
vitatax@goodwillncw.org; (920)968-6021



High School Youth News

Grades 9-12

Nov. 3, 2019



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

11/6: What's your brand?
Discussion on how you see yourself, how others see you, how God is calling you to be.



11/13: Baking cookies for coffee hour and local organization of our choice.

11/20: FRIENDSGIVING Potluck
Special Time 6:30-8pm

Mission Trip 2020 NASHVILLE, TN June 14-19

Fundraiser and payment calendar found at www.felc.com/highschool

Next Fundraiser:
TODAY: Scrip Sale in bulletins both sites
11/10: Scrip Card Distribution both sites
Watch for November bonding activity!

Social Media

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



November 3, 2019



Information for FELC Youth and Families
Grades K-12

Save These Dates!

Nov. 27: Thanksgiving Eve Service, 6:15-7:15 p.m.
Downtown Site



Dec. 4: Confirmation Service Night.



Advent

Dec. 11: Advent Vespers Night—Chicken dinner, crafts, & special worship. Dinner begins at 5 p.m., worship from 6:15-7:15 p.m.

Dec. 15: Congregational Christmas Programs. We're ALL in it!
9:15 a.m. worship Downtown Site, 10:30 a.m. worship North Site.

Dec. 18: Confirmation Christmas parties

Find us on Social Media Outlets

Instagram: felc.youth Facebook: FELC YOUTH

Connect with FELC Youth Staff

Kirsten Owens, Faith Formation Coordinator: kowens@felc.com
Heidi Schreiner, Youth & Summer Ministry Coordinator: hschreiner@felc.com

Love Jesus. Live your call.



Elementary & Sunday School News



REFORMATION DAY OR HALLOWEEN? OCTOBER 31 IS INTENTIONALLY BOTH

Even though the roots of Halloween are based in the Celtic pagan harvest festival, Samhain, Roman Catholic conversion resulted in Samhain being reshaped into a Christian event preparing the evening prior to All Saint's Day. Traditionally, All Saint's Day was observed on November 1 when the church honored those who had died and gone to heaven. An important part of the All Saint's observation was having learned church leaders pull out the holy relics kept in the church to be put out for public display. In fact, the viewing of these relics was so significant and popular that pamphlets would be distributed and collected about the relic event. Martin Luther was aware that many church leaders and scholars would be present and entering the Castle Church in Wittenberg to prepare these relics for display so he posted the 95 Theses on the door of the church the day prior, October 31 (All Hallow's Eve, the eve before these saints were hallowed), knowing many eyes would fall on his statement of challenging ideas. Martin Luther's Halloween timing paid off as many saw and spread his proposed points of debate with the Catholic Church. So, if your student ever asks, "Why is Reformation Day on Halloween?" - now you can share that it's because Luther had his own way of being a trickster.



(<https://uanews.arizona.edu/story/what-does-halloween-have-do-reformation-plenty>)



Winter Camp's Not Far Away

Now that our first snow of the season has fallen, it's a good time to get excited about Winter Camp at Crossways Pine Lake Camp for grades 3-6! Camp is Jan. 24-26 and registration is due by Dec. 15.

Go to www.felc.com/forms to request registration information.

We're ALL

In The Christmas Program This Year!
Read your November newsletter for info.



Confirmation and Middle School Scoop



Large Group This Week

Wednesday is a large group night. Make sure to bring your journal, Bible, and catechism each week.

7th grade: Families should have read chapter 4, "Heretic's Trial".

8th grade: Families should have read chapter 4, "The Teachings of Jesus".

9th grade: Parents & students should discuss why bad things in the world and our own lives happen if we have a loving God.

One Can, Two Can Together, We CAN!

Some of our Confirmation small groups are going to be collecting food for St. Joe's until Dec. 11, the night of Advent Vespers. St. Joe's isn't receiving as many donations as they have in past years. On Dec. 11 we will be asking students, families, and all in our congregation to help load donated items on to the St. Joe's truck in our parking lot. As we come together as a faith community to celebrate the gift of Jesus it is the perfect time to share gifts with others. Drop off donations in the marked bins in the Gathering Area.



EEK! WE'VE BEEN HACKED! Don't open any suspicious emails or attachments from Kirsten. She'll always end her emails with "Peace". Consider it our password.

The holidays are a great time to participate in special First English & community service events. Start thinking about how to get involved for your Family Assignments.



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

We Celebrate the Saints

Deaths

<i>Don Albrecht</i>	<i>Norma Gehring</i>	<i>Lee Mulla</i>
<i>Pedro Amador</i>	<i>Jeff Gretzinger</i>	<i>Rebecca Nara</i>
<i>Caryl Bates</i>	<i>Doug Hansen</i>	<i>Joan Nelson</i>
<i>Keith Batley</i>	<i>Stephen Haslehurst</i>	<i>Kim Norland</i>
<i>Rev. Maynard Beemer</i>	<i>Paul Henrikson</i>	<i>Alice Olson</i>
<i>Nancy Belling</i>	<i>Evelyn Hewitt</i>	<i>Marc Patri</i>
<i>Linda Berg</i>	<i>Margurite Hoepfner</i>	<i>Bonnie Prodoehl</i>
<i>Joan Bizer</i>	<i>Robert Hoepfner</i>	<i>Tom Roy</i>
<i>Scott Braun</i>	<i>Nancy Jandt</i>	<i>Fred Russler</i>
<i>Marjorie Buchanan</i>	<i>Nancy Kinnard</i>	<i>Todd Schink</i>
<i>Lloyd Cohen</i>	<i>Irma Koehneke</i>	<i>Joel Schlachtenhaufen</i>
<i>Linda Codd</i>	<i>Chad Koepsel</i>	<i>Cindy Schneider</i>
<i>Janet Cummings</i>	<i>Sande Krizek</i>	<i>Joan Spaulding</i>
<i>Brian Damon</i>	<i>Jim Lain</i>	<i>Gary Strebe</i>
<i>Rev. James Deckert</i>	<i>Rocky Lavalley</i>	<i>Shirley Swan</i>
<i>Leonard Erickson</i>	<i>Mitch Lundgaard</i>	<i>Nevi Trujillo</i>
<i>Lance Fellman</i>	<i>Gary Meyer</i>	<i>Evelyn Weber</i>
<i>Juanita Gauerke</i>	<i>Jane Moe</i>	<i>Barbara Winkler</i>
	<i>Martin Much</i>	

We Celebrate the Saints

Baptisms

<i>Asher Paul Anzulewicz</i>	<i>Kennedy Grace Johnson</i>
<i>Olivia Grace Arnold</i>	<i>Paislei Noel Kauti</i>
<i>Lennox Jade Ashbeck</i>	<i>Penelope Catherine Krausert</i>
<i>Harrison Scott Baker</i>	<i>Vivian Christine Lindenstruth</i>
<i>Adley Grace Borchardt</i>	<i>Mason Thomas Meyer</i>
<i>Bennett Tyler Bushmaker</i>	<i>Glennyn Marie Miller</i>
<i>Louise Marie Craver</i>	<i>Vivienne Rose Peters</i>
<i>Max James Dornfeld</i>	<i>Cameron Christopher Shafran</i>
<i>Hannah Louise Ehlke</i>	<i>Jordy John Simonson</i>
<i>Lucy Marie Ganzen</i>	<i>Faith Madelyn Voss</i>
<i>Finley John Johannsen</i>	

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. Payment is required at time of order. Orders placed by **Noon on Monday, Nov. 4** will be available for pick up on **Sunday, Nov. 10. After that, they will be available in the Downtown Site Office.** Questions? Contact Heidi Schreiner at 733-2303 or 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 is offering Coffee Gift Baskets with Fair Trade coffees and teas for a quick and thoughtful Christmas gift! Two sizes are offered:

- Large (\$30) will include three coffees and two teas. Unless otherwise indicated, the coffees will be caffeinated. Types and flavors of coffee will vary. Teas will include one black tea and one green tea.
- Small basket (\$20) will include two coffees and one tea. Unless otherwise indicated, coffees will be caffeinated. Types and flavors of coffee will vary. Tea will be a black tea.

We will begin taking orders during the coffee sale today. If you miss us today, please drop off or mail your order (accompanied by your payment) to the Church Office (326 E. North St., Appleton, WI 54911) by Nov. 25. Orders will be available for pickup between services on Dec. 8 at the site the order was placed. If you are unable to pick up your order at that time, you may pick it up in the Church Office during business hours. Make checks payable to FELC, and write "coffee" in the memo line.

Fair Trade Coffee/Tea Basket Order Form:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

	# ordered	Subtotals (# ordered X price)
Large Baskets (\$30)		
Small Baskets (\$20)		
	Final Total \$ =	

_____ I would like decaffeinated coffee/tea in _____ of my large baskets.
(circle one or both) (how many)

_____ I would like decaffeinated coffee/tea in _____ of my small baskets.
(circle one or both) (how many)

The deadline to order is Monday Nov. 25.



FELC is offering Coffee Gift Baskets with Fair Trade coffees and teas for a quick and thoughtful Christmas gift! Two sizes are offered:

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The deadline to order is Monday Nov. 25.

FELC DS Engage Page: Nov. 3, 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Counter-Cultural Community: Community of God's Presence

1 Kings 18:17-39 (excerpts) *[Elijah] answered, "...you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord & followed the Baals. Now therefore have all Israel assemble for me at Mount Carmel, with the 450 prophets of Baal & the 400 prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table." So Ahab sent to all the Israelites, & assembled the prophets at Mt Carmel. Elijah then came near to all the people, & said, "How long will you go limping with 2 different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." ...Then Elijah said to the people, "I, even I only, am left a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets number 450. Let 2 bulls be given to us; let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, & lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it; I will prepare the other bull & lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. Then you call on the name of your god & I will call on the name of the Lord; the god who answers by fire is indeed God." All the people answered, "Well spoken!" ...So they took the bull that was given them, prepared it, & called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, crying, "O Baal, answer us!" But there was no voice, & no answer...As midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice, no answer, & no response. Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come closer to me"; & all the people came closer to him. First he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been thrown down; Elijah took 12 stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob...; with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord. Then he made a trench around the altar...Next he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, & laid it on the wood. He said, "Fill 4 jars with water & pour it on the burnt offering & on the wood." Then he said, "Do it a 2nd time"; & they did it a 2nd time. Again he said, "Do it a 3rd time"; & they did it a 3rd time, so that the water ran all around the altar, & filled the trench also with water. At the time of the offering... the prophet Elijah came near & said, "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, & Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, & that I have done all these things at your bidding. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, & that you have turned their hearts back." Then the fire of the Lord fell & consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, & the dust, & even licked up the water that was in the trench. When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces & said, "The Lord indeed is God; the Lord indeed is God."*

Sun, Nov 3: Family Project: God is present in all we do, but we are often unconscious of that presence. Take time today as you transition between activities to breathe in God's presence. Whether you are watching football or raking leaves, spend time drinking in the warmth of God's love.

Mon, Nov 4: In a community of God's presence, we are invited to live in the light of grace and forgiveness. We are able to hope that the pit we see around us and in our own heart will not have the final say, but that God can melt away unforgiveness and the strangle-hold that it has on us.

Tues, Nov 5: Forgiveness. Hope in heartbreaking situations. Freedom from addictions. Transformation from sin & apathy. Love and respect for all. A community built around an expectation of God's presence and action becomes a place of safety, where these miracles are recognized & practiced.

Wed., Nov 6, Hosea 11:1-9: "You've gone too far!" Maybe it's a friend whose teasing has become too personal. Or maybe it's an entertainer who has crossed a line from sharp, insightful comments to those that are simply offensive. God seems to be telling the people of Israel that they have gone well beyond his tolerance level. And yet, instead of feeding into resentments over Israel's weakness for following idols, instead of speaking of all the ways that they have chased their own desires, God speaks as a loving parent who cherishes their child. "Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in my arms;...I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them." (v. 3-4) God chooses to remember and act out of love. When we are tempted to act on our anger—even justified anger—perhaps it is time to remember a different story. As much as is healthy, let us act out of loving concern for others.

Thurs, Nov 7, Psalm 36:5-10: In our final week of "Counter-Cultural Community", we are brought face to face with God's radically inclusive love. This is the love that the psalmist extols in Psalm 36. "How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings." In life, we tend to hang out with like-minded people, finding it difficult to imagining how others arrive at viewpoints that are blatantly different from our own. Differing values can be seen as the result of faulty logic, and we may be tempted to label others as misinformed rather than to work for understanding. If you are tempted to write anyone off, imagine them standing together with you under the shadow of God's wings. Live your entire life in this holy shadow world.

Fri., Nov 8, Hosea 11:1-9: How many times recently have you been listening to the news when you have thought, "I do not understand how anyone can possibly think that way!"? We can foster & feed into that lack of understanding until it grows into anger or even hatred. The question becomes, "How do we move back from anger?" In this passage from Hosea, it is easy to see why God would become angry. After bringing the people of Israel out of Egypt, they have turned their backs on him & started to worship other gods. You can imagine God saying, "How could they possibly do that?" Just as God moved back from anger by remembering love, we must work to make our congregation into a place where all feel a sense of belonging. We must practice acting out of love when we feel the barriers of anger and differences of opinion begin to divide.

Sat, Nov 9, Mark 10:13-14: In his book, "Deepening Community", Paul Born writes, "'Belonging means to feel that we are in the right place, to be made to feel welcome in a place or a group. It is to be cared for and to reciprocate that caring, to know that 'I am at home.' It is a willingness to extend our identity to a people or experience.'" Jesus welcomed the children—certainly a counter-cultural act in his day. He helped them to feel loved and accepted—to feel a sense of belonging. How do we foster a sense of belonging? One way is to picture ourselves as the children that Jesus, against all odds, has invited to come and sit with him. If we are all together at Jesus feet, we truly belong.

*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: Nov. 3, 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Counter-Cultural Community: Community of Service

1 Kings 12:1-17, 25-29 (excerpts) *Jeroboam & all the assembly of Israel came & said to Rehoboam, "Your father made our yoke heavy. Now therefore lighten the hard service of your father & his heavy yoke that he placed on us & we will serve you." He said to them, "Go away for 3 days, then come again to me."...Then King Rehoboam took counsel with the older men who had attended his father Solomon..."How do you advise me to answer this people?" They answered him, "If you will be a servant to this people today & serve them, & speak good words to them...then they will be your servants forever." He...consulted with the young men who had grown up with him..."What do you advise that we answer this people who have said to me, 'Lighten the yoke that your father put on us?'" The young men...said to him, "Thus you should say to this people who spoke to you..."My little finger is thicker than my father's loins. Now, whereas my father laid on you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.'" So Jeroboam & all the people came to Rehoboam the 3^d day, as the king had said...He disregarded the advice that the older men had given him & spoke to them according to the advice of the young men... When all Israel saw that the king would not listen to them, the people answered the king, "What share do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Look now to your own house, O David." So Israel went away to their tents. But Rehoboam reigned over the Israelites who were living in the towns of Judah...Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim, & resided there; he went out from there & built Penuel...Then Jeroboam said to himself, "Now the kingdom may well revert to the house of David. If this people continues to go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, the heart of this people will turn again to their master, King Rehoboam of Judah; they will kill me & return to King Rehoboam of Judah." So the king took counsel, & made 2 calves of gold. He said to the people, "You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Here are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt." He set one in Bethel, & the other he put in Dan.*

Sun, Nov 3: Family Project: Pastor Jeff's sermon used the quote, *"Servanthood is not a duty but a natural outflow of caring for people who care for you."* Discuss the differences between doing acts of service out of a sense of duty versus a sense of caring. Then find a way to serve together.

Mon, Nov 4: Pastor Jeff writes, *"Both Solomon and David had ruled through self-serving and oppressive policies; both had used forced labor to build royal projects. King Rehoboam had an opportunity to rule differently."* We discover, however, that Rehoboam holds onto the way of power rather than the way of service. This self-serving act divides the kingdom. Jesus calls us to a life of service for our own sake & also for the well-being of our communities.

Tues, Nov 5: P. Jeff writes, *"The Holy Bible is filled with stories about the misuse of power...and broken relationships. We could add our own broken experiences with neighbors, friends and relatives. It is why we – counterculturally –turn again and again to Jesus. ...Jesus' words of forgiveness from the cross promise no community is beyond the transforming power of his love."*

Wed., Nov 6, 1 Kings 18:17-39: After the division of Israel into the Northern and the Southern kingdoms, those in the north were no longer able to access Jerusalem, the nexus of their religious activity. Northern kings set up alternate places of worship to prevent the people from running to the south. Consequently, the North devolved into a hotbed of idol worship, honoring the gods of the surrounding countryside & even murdering the prophets who preached against worshiping these gods. When Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to a duel, he thought he was the only remaining prophet of Yahweh. How sad that the faith that had united the Israelites had become another point of contention. Sadly, that can happen all too often in our churches, as the love and service we are called to give one another is forgotten when debates about building and ministry choices become power struggles. Our witness to Christ's love suffers when we forget that our first call is love God and one another!

Thurs, Nov 7, Psalm 31:19-24: In the midst of our struggles, it can seem as though the Lord is far away. The psalmist had cried out to the Lord, *"I am driven far from your sight."* Similarly, Elijah had felt alone in his faith. Perhaps this is what makes our struggles so difficult –they can cause us to feel abandoned by God. At times like this, we look to the cross. At great cost, God gave hope by sending Jesus, so that all would know God's love. If God will travel this lonely and painful road to the cross on our behalf, God will be with us as we deal with life's struggles and disappointments. Like the psalmist, we can say, *"Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord."*

Fri., Nov 8, 1 Kings 18:17-39: Last Sunday was All Saints Sunday, a perfect time to remember that we are not a community in and for ourselves, but a community of God's presence. Surrounding ourselves with people who believe in the transforming power of God's love gives us hope that we will not be stuck in the mistakes of the past. When we forget the inbreaking of God, church can be diminished into a self-improvement center. We should not be focused on self and our idols. Rather, we come together to love and worship God, and expect God to be present in extraordinary ways in our communal gatherings. Elijah was not acting alone, but knew God would act to draw people away from false idols. Pray today that God would send out servants to draw us back into community when we follow the ways of the world.

Sat, Nov 9, Mark 9:2-4 Elijah appears with Jesus & Moses on the Mt of Transfiguration. According to Jewish tradition, Elijah would come to announce the arrival of the Messiah. His presence lets the disciples know that God is at work fulfilling promises. At present day Passover celebrations, a cup of wine is poured for Elijah but is not drunk. This action symbolizes the future revealing of God, the anticipation of a day when God will provide clarity. In spite of persecutions throughout the millennia that have covered the globe, the Jewish people have maintained a sense of community & identity by holding onto practices that tie them as a people to their ancient roots. May we also live in the presence of an undrunk cup, in expectation of God's promise & revelation.

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