

FELC Friendship Pads

Please fill out the Friendship Pad when asked during worship. If the church office does not currently have your contact information or it has changed, please indicate that in the appropriate column.

Nursery Care

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

Hearing Assistance

If you are in need of a personal receiver, ask a Downtown Site usher, or a North Site sound-board technician.

Large-print Resources

At the Downtown Site, if you are in need of a large print Bible or bulletin, please ask an usher.

AED Units on Site

Automated external defibrillators are outside the Downtown Site Usher's Room and next to the North Site sound booth.

Video Recording

The 8:30 a.m. Downtown Site worship service is video-recorded to share with our homebound members upon request.

In Need of Prayer?

For additions to the prayer chain, email or call the church office (felc@felc.com; 733-2303).

More Information

For detailed information on these and more FELC events, opportunities and ministries, pick up a newsletter in the Gathering Area, visit our website at www.felc.com, or check the bulletin boards and kiosks in the Gathering Area.

The Week of Sept. 1, 2019 At-A-Glance

Sunday, Sept. 1

8:30 & 10 a.m.
9 a.m.

Worship, DS Sanctuary
Worship, NS Sanctuary

DS=Downtown Site
NS=North Site

Monday, Sept. 2

8:15 p.m.

Labor Day - Office Closed

Pick Up Basketball League, NS Activity Center

Tuesday

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

Men's Ministry, NS Library
Judith Circle, DS 114
Outreach & Social Ministry Team, DS 114
Sunday School Teacher Orientation, DS Fellowship Hall

Wednesday

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

Bible Study with Pastor Mary, DS 110-111
50+ Planning, DS 114
Intern Enrichment Ministry Team, DS Lounge
Confirmation 8th Grade Small Group Leaders, DS 114
Dramatic Reader Workshop, DS Fellowship Hall
Confirmation 9th Grade Small Group Leaders, DS 114

Thursday

6 a.m.
9 a.m.
9:30 a.m.

Early Risers Women's Study, DS Lounge
Adult Bible Study, DS Lounge
Leadership Transition, DS 221

Friday

6:30 a.m.

Men's Ministry, NS Library

Sunday, Sept. 8

8:30 & 10 a.m.
9 a.m.

God's work. Our hands. Sunday

Worship, DS Sanctuary
Worship, NS Sanctuary

New & Review 2019

Interested in joining the First English church family? Attend the *New & Review Fall 2019* series. The sessions are held at both sites as it is valuable for new members to be able to visit both locations.

Fall 2019 New & Review Weekly Detail

Sept. 15, 11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m., Downtown Site Rooms 114/115

FELC, the ELCA and You plus Downtown Site Building Tour

Presenter: Pastor Jeff

Sept. 22, 11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m., North Site Library

What It Means to be Lutheran plus North Site Building Tour

Presenter: Pastor Mary

Sept. 29, 11:45 a.m. - 2 p.m., Pastor Jeff's Home

Love Jesus. Live your call. and New Member Luncheon

Presenters: Members of Ministry Teams/Small Groups

Oct. 6, Worship Service of Choice - Either Site

New Member Sunday

To register, sign up online at www.felc.com under the *New to FELC* tab, then *How to Join*. Questions? Contact Karen Kneisler at kkneisler@felc.com or call the Church Office at 733-2303 to register.



First English Lutheran Church

www.felc.com felc@felc.com

Downtown Site

Sunday Worship: 8:30 & 10 a.m.

Office Hours: M-Th: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

F: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (Closed Sept. 2)

North Site

Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.

Announcements

Week of Sept. 1, 2019

Love Jesus. Live your call.

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

Sunday at FELC

Altar Flowers

The Downtown Site flowers are provided by Bill and Beth Padgett in honor of their 55th anniversary.

Open Staff Position

FELC is pleased to announce a new part-time position: AV Specialist. This 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. Interested persons should look for a job description and application at www.felc.com/employment or call the Church Office for more information.

Looking Ahead

Fair-Trade Sale

Through Fair Trade, farmers earn a fair price for their products, have access to affordable credit and gain a long-term trading partner they can trust—all elements missing in the conventional coffee market. With your support, farming communities are able to invest in education, health care and environmentally sustainable farming techniques.

We will be selling Fair-Trade products on Sunday, Sept. 15. We hope to see you there.



A Bit Short But A Big Deal

Hey, we've got great news...the majority of our educational teachers and leaders have returned for another great year of connecting kids to Christ and being faith mentors! We are blessed to have so many folks committed to sharing this important work. Yet, we are still looking for a grades 3 & 4 teacher or co-teachers at the Downtown Site and a Kid's Life leader or leadership team for Wednesday nights from 7-8 p.m. For those kids who already have leadership for their class they

won't miss a beat, but for the grades 3 & 4 and Kid's Life groups, running a bit short could be a big deal as we won't be able to meet until the roles are filled. If you think you may be willing to help, contact Kirsten Owens at kowens@felc.com or call the Church Office so we can make sure every class starts on time. The Sunday School teacher orientation meeting is on Sept. 3 so the sooner we know the better prepared we'll be!

Fall Worship Times Resume

The summer worship schedule which began on the weekend of Memorial Day, continues through Rally Sunday/*God's work. Our hands.* Sunday on Sept. 8. First English will return to its regular worship schedule on Sunday, Sept. 15.

The fall worship schedule will be as follows:

- Sunday Downtown Site: 8, 9:15 and 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday North Site: 8:15 and 10:30 a.m.
- Wednesday Downtown Site: 6:15 p.m., beginning Sept. 11

Breathe Life Into Scripture

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

Support Fox Valley Lutheran Homes Linwood Place While Enjoying An Evening of Music!

Join us for the Neil Diamond Nostalgia and Tribute Concert featuring Eric Diamond on Friday, Sept. 20, at 7 p.m. at the OuterEdge Stage at 300 N Oneida St. in Appleton. General Seating tickets are \$25 and Cabaret Seating Tickets are \$30. Reserve your own Cabaret Table for 4 for \$120.

Tickets are available at Linwood Place by calling (920)734-7225, from any board member or at the door.

FOT Throwdown DATE CHANGE

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



A total of 40 Volunteer Shooters are needed to participate in the **Wednesday, Oct. 2**, (note new date), FOT Basketball Throwdown. Each shooter will attempt 20 free throws earning the pledged amount for each made throw. This amount will be in addition to the minimum pledge of \$10. Free throws will be made from the official distance or, if in a wheelchair, from any distance.

The FOT Throwdown will be on the basketball court at FELC North Site on Wednesday, Oct. 2 from 7-9 p.m. Spectators are welcome. Uniforms and trophies for the shooters, along with refreshments for all, will be provided through a Thrivent Action Team grant.

For more information, please contact Dayton Henderson at dahenders77@gmail.com.

Mark Your Calendars for the Pie & Ice Cream Social & Auction

Visit us on Sunday, Oct. 13 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Fox Valley Lutheran Homes Linwood Commons, 425 N. Linwood Avenue in Appleton for a fun filled afternoon with old and new friends. Enjoy pie and ice cream and plan on bidding for a special item at our auction. All proceeds support the Ministry of Fox Valley Lutheran Homes. Watch our website (www.fvlhomes.org) for more information as we begin to display some of our exciting auction items.



Senior Living Expo - Celebrating Life after 50

Older adults, their families, caregivers and all interested are invited to attend this interactive tradeshow with 70+ Exhibit booths on Wednesday, Sept. 18 from 8 a.m.-noon at Player's Choice, County Rd. JJ in Appleton. There's no charge and no advance registration. The event features seminars on social security and estate planning/elder law. Sponsored by Appleton Noon Lions Club.

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 or call the Church Office.

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!

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:

- **The Carrot Project**
wicarrotproject@gmail.com
(920)759-5811

AA Corner

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

Prayer Connection

Prayer connects us to each other in this community of faith and to Christ. To be included in the list of prayers, submit names to the church office or the First English staff. Names are removed after one month, but can always be extended by request. Please remember these First English members, friends and families in prayer in the coming week:

Prayers of Healing, Wholeness & Peace

- Mary Lou Garnsworthy
- Nathan Meissner
- Angel Manos
- Jacob Schwab
- Justin Schwab
- Debra Boushley
- David Heindel
- Doug Hansen
- Amy Ponomarev
- Moore Peregrine
- Juanita Gauerke
- Robb Schaefer
- Carol Peterson
- Bev Hoff
- Alex VanMaren
- Debra Nuthals
- Mitzi Hansen
- Syllas Garcia
- Rev. Kathryn Kuhn
- Tom Passehl
- Liz J.
- Connie Summers
- Joel Schlachtenhaufen
- Anita Mansholt

Prayers of Comfort

Families of:

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

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Baptism of:

- Adley Grace Borchardt

Prayers for Those Called to Serve in Other Countries

- Sarah Bauer-Myanmar
- Jack Kent-Lithuania
- Stephanie Olson-Cambodia
- Spencer Wentland-Japan

Prayers for Those in the Military

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



High School Youth News

Grades 9-12

Sept. 1, 2019



Beginning Wednesday Sept. 18

For Grades 10-12

Wednesday nights

DS Youth Room

7-8 p.m.

- ◆ 9/18: Welcome back! @DS Youth Room
- ◆ 9/25: **5-6:15pm** *Special event refuel night*
- ◆ Hofacker's Hillside Orchard (W3964 Wege Rd, Appleton)
- ◆ 5-5:30 p.m. Apple picking
- ◆ 5:30-6:15 p.m. at NS

Mission Trip 2020...drum roll please..

NASHVILLE, TN June 14-19

Commitment form and fundraiser sign-ups found at www.felc.com/highschool

Commitment form due: Sept. 25

Fundraiser schedule:

Sept. 27: License to Cruise Parking Lot Fundraiser

Sept. 28: Octoberfest Parking Lot Fundraiser

Sept. 29: Bake Sale Both Sites

Social Media

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



Sept. 1, 2019



Information for FELC Youth and Families
Grades K-12

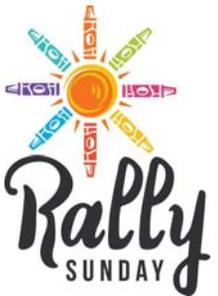
God's work. Our hands.

Rally Sunday is Sept. 8!

Coming together to serve as God calls us to is one of the fundamental ways we share Jesus' love with the world! So don't forget to choose your service event for *God's work. Our hands.* Rally Sunday this year as we start a new year with renewed energy and purpose! Go to www.felc.com to sign-up

and/or donate materials for projects. Even though we won't be in the Sunday School classrooms until Sept. 15, *God's work. Our*

hands. Rally Sunday provides one of the greatest lessons we continually learn - we do super things when we work for God in community!



**God's work.
Our hands.**

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



Welcome to Sunday School/Emails Have Gone Out - Did You Get Yours?

The email with important information to get you going in Sunday School this year was sent out a couple of weeks ago.

The email includes:

- > Sunday School Info. & Youth Ministry Release forms
- > The 2019-20 Sunday School calendar
- > Noteworthy dates
- > Links for special classes & retreats
- > Roles that need to be filled by September



If you haven't received this email your child may not be registered for the 2019-20 Sunday School year. Go to www.felc.com/forms to register or contact Kirsten Owens at kowens@felc.com if you have questions.

Important Sunday School Parent Meetings

There's lots to know so try to make the meeting at your preferred site.

Sept. 15: North Site from 9:45-10:10 a.m. in the Lower Level

Sept. 22: Downtown Site from 10:30-11:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

OH, NO...SAY IT ISN'T SO!

LEADERS NEEDED STAT FOR CLASSES TO MEET

We need these roles filled by Sept. 3 for classes to start on time.

Downtown Site grades 3 & 4 teacher

North Site grades 5 & 6 teacher

Kid's Life leader or team for Wednesday nights (7-8 p.m.)

Contact Kirsten Owens at kowens@felc.com right away if you can help lead these super kids!



A New Parent & Student Retreat Opportunity at Crossways!
Seeds Retreat for grades 1 & 2 students and their parents

Oct. 25 & 26 at Crossways Pine Lake, Waupaca

Registration due Sept. 22

Go to www.felc.com/forms to request info.



Confirmation and Middle School Scoop



Welcome (Back) to Confirmation Emails Have Been Sent

These emails included:



- > Student Info. & Youth Ministry Release Forms
- > Class specific Confirmation calendars for 2019-20
- > 7th Grade Pastor & Family Meeting Sign-Up Genius link
- > Text group info.

If you didn't receive this email for your grades 7-9 student(s) it may be because you have a new student in the program who is not registered or your email address is not current in our system.

Don't Miss Your Parent & Student Meeting

7th grade: Pastor & Family meeting by reservation via Sign-Up Genius link sent in the Welcome to Confirmation email.

A brief, 15 minutes, orientation meeting follows.



8th grade: Sept. 18, 5:30-6:15 p.m., Downtown Site Fellowship Hall.

9th grade: Sept. 18, 7-8 p.m., Downtown Site Fellowship Hall.

Have questions or want to volunteer?

Contact Kirsten Owens at kowens@felc.com or 733-2303.

God's Work. Our Hands.

Sunday, Sept. 8, 2019



Let us know what you are interested in volunteering for. Help make a community presence by being apart of "God's work. Our hands." You will be added to the group of volunteers.

NAME _____

Email: _____

Primary Phone: _____

NEW Birthday Cake Boxes: Decorate boxes and fill with birthday cake baking supplies. Delivered to St. Joe's Food Pantry. All ages.
__ DS __ NS

Painted Rocks: Paint, add art work and hide in community. All ages.
__ DS __ NS

NEW Prayer Shawls (DS): Not new to FELC, but new to GWOH.
__ DS Lounge

NEW Greeting Cards: Create cards for the birthday boxes plus get well cards. All ages. __ DS __ NS

No Sew Blankets: Create blankets for Project Linus. All ages.
__ DS

LWR School Bags (NS): Assemble donations for October boxcar load. All ages. __ NS

Apple Crisp (DS): Assemble and distribute unbaked to area shelters. Ages 6+. __ DS

Casserole Ministry: Perfect if you are gone on Sept. 8! __ Yes

God's Work. Our Hands. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Apple Creek YMCA at 2851 E. Appleton Creek Road. Trail maintenance, litter pick up. **FILLED!!** Ages 12+.

Building for Kids at 100 W. College Ave
General cleaning and organization at the children's museum. No painting this year. Ages 12+

Fox Valley Lutheran Homes at 425 N. Linwood Ave.
__ Painting Balcony Railings: 8 apartments left. Scraping & painting. Adults.
__ Underground Parking Cleaning: Sweep and power wash parking area.
__ Yard Cleaning: Prune and clear yard waste. Ages 12+

NEW Little Free Pantry at 625 Grand Ave.; Little Chute (www.littlefreepantry.org) Organize FELC food donations of non-perishable food items. Meet at the Little Free Pantry and move on to storage area to help organize donations.

Loaves & Fishes at St. Teresa Activity Center 213 E. Wisconsin Ave. Work with raised gardens, add compost, harvest gardens, etc. Ages 12+ **FILLED!!**

NEW Peaceful Purpose at 3205 Commerce Ct.; Appleton. Visit Betsy's salon and come to knit or sew hats for those experiencing hair loss. Sadly, plenty of patients but not enough hats.

DONATIONS NEEDED:

APPLE CRISP

- 3-5 lb. bag of apples
- Butter x 2 lb.
- White sugar x 4 lb.
- Brown sugar x 2 lb.
- Oatmeal, quick oats
- 5-Foil baking pans (9x13)

ART SUPPLIES

- Stickers
- Card stock
- Crayons
- Markers
- Card embellishments

LWR SCHOOL BAGS

- Notebooks
- Gel pens
- Scissors
- Crayons
- Sharpeners
- Pencils

NO SEW BLANKETS/LINUS PROJECT

- 4 yards of fleece (2 yards each of complimentary fabrics OR fleece blanket kit)

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

- Non Perishable Food Items
- Hygiene/sample size items

PEACEFUL PURPOSE, Yarn and soft fabric needed for hats.

- Soft, bulky yarn
- 1 yard jersey or cotton fabric

FELC DS Engage Page: Sept. 1, 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Luke 14:1, 7-14 *On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come & say to you, 'Give this person your place,' & then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go & sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, & those who humble themselves will be exalted." He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, & you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."*

Sun, Sep 1: Family Project: Have those in your family ever experienced what it feels like to be left out? Perhaps there was a birthday party that they didn't get invited to, or a class that all of their friends were in, or a team with tryouts that they didn't "make it" into. How does it feel to be left out? According to this passage, who does Jesus invite to his banquet? How do we make sure that the poor and all those who cannot repay feel welcome into our worship and into our community of faith?

Mon, Sep 2: Although we do not live in an honor-shame culture like Jesus did, we do allow ourselves to honor those who have more prestigious connections. This passage encourages us to open our hearts to everyone, regardless of whether or not the relationship will make us look good in the eyes of others. David Lose wonders, *"what it would be like to live into the freedom to stop calculating our social prestige and stop worrying about what others think and simply be kind to everyone around us, particularly those who are not often the recipients of kindness."* He invites us to help in God's work of handing out dignity, worth, and value to all.
<http://www.davidlose.net/2016/08/pentecost-15-c-freedom-to-stop-counting-and-start-blessing/>

Tues, Sep 3: When I meet someone new, I might invite them over for supper, and then sit back and wait for them to reciprocate. After some time, I might try another invitation –or even a third. But at some point, I expect that they will initiate getting together and show some interest in the relationship. Jesus reminds us that our interactions with others aren't to be dictated by some rules of engagement, but rather the need of the recipient. Does someone need to belong? Don't play the waiting game. Keep on inviting –you are blessed as you share God's love.

Wed., Sep 4, Genesis 2:4b-25 Our Narrative Lectionary starts with the second of the creation stories. While the account in Genesis 1 places the focus on the order & breadth of creation, this account emphasizes the relationship between God & humanity. We see the pieces align for the amazing drama that unfolds throughout the Biblical narrative. A loving God creates humanity and invites them to learn how to trust and obey God's law (do not eat from the tree), to exercise free will, and to acknowledge all the ways that creation is interconnected. It is a lesson that we are learning to this day. Do we see God's law as gift or as burden? Do we value all of creation? And what do we do when we fall short –over and over again? The very first chapters of this astounding story point us to the cross and our need for Christ's redemption and forgiveness.

Thurs, Sep 5, Psalm 8 When I got a puppy, my habit of moving from a chair by the tv right up to bed had to change. She needed a trip outside. Consequently, I have had the joy of getting reacquainted with the night sky. Whenever I step out my door and look up, straightway I see the big dipper. Next the little dipper comes into focus except for nights when the moon is bright enough to cast shadows. The vast beauty causes me to burst into song on a regular basis. (This is when I'm particularly glad I'm in the country!) I wonder which stars this psalmist was seeing when he declared, *"When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?"* (v. 3-4) Rejoice today in the wonder that we occupy even a tiny part of the mind of the God who fashioned the night sky.

Fri., Sep 6, Genesis 2:4b-2 When I read, *"The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it,"* (v. 15) it makes me think of a diorama. I'm picturing God making a pleasing little scene and placing Adam into it in the same way that I created a world inside a shoe box. However, no matter how well I formed the pieces, I would never come back and find that they had planted a garden inside the shoe box while I was gone! God gives us so much in creation –a beautiful world, an amazing body, resources for food, shelter, and clothing. But one of the most amazing gifts of creation is purpose. God's creation did not stop in forming our bodies. Praise God for the breath of life, a chance for meaningful work, and the ability to impact this world.

Sat, Sep 7, Mark 1:16-20 One of the first things God did after creating Adam was to give him a job. We have a God who allows us to be co-creators, to use our intelligence and will to create beauty and harmony. Similarly, Jesus' first recorded words to Simon and Andrew were, *"Follow me and I will make you fish for people."* (v. 17) Although Jesus alone would conquer death and sin, he engaged humans in the work of spreading the message of love and forgiveness to others. Be assured that your life has meaning and purpose. Jesus has called you to be in the people business –to share God's grace and to participate in making this world reflect God's glory.

*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: Sept 1, 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Luke 14:25-33 *Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.*

Sun, Sep 1: Family Project: Have you watched “Chariots of Fire”? It is a 1981 film that tells the story of Eric Liddell, a Scottish runner who didn't compete in the 100 yard race in the 1924 Olympic games because it would mean running a race on a Sunday. Whether or not you agree with his decision, his life –both in his running career and in his later years as a missionary to China –exemplified the idea of taking up your cross and letting all the decisions you make be guided by God. Watch the movie and talk about what it means to sacrifice for your faith.

Mon, Sep 2: David Lose writes about what it means to “carry your cross”? *“We've been trained somewhere to think that when Jesus talks about “taking up the cross” he's referring to some major spiritual travail. Or at least significant suffering or sacrifice, preferably on behalf of the faith. But what if it's simpler than that? ...Here's what Alan Culpepper says: “Bearing a cross has nothing to do with chronic illness, painful physical conditions, or trying family relationships. It is instead what we do voluntarily as a consequence of our commitment to Jesus Christ.”* Each of us carries our cross when our choices intentionally reflect our faith.

<http://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?post=1554>

Tues, Sep 3: In my experience, it is incredibly difficult to count the cost before doing repairs. Inevitably there are hidden fees, contractors run into the unexpected, or the completed repair does not actually fix the initial problem. This is the case with cars or buildings (all made by people!), but it is even more difficult to count the cost with our lives. Our desire is to honor God, and to make our commitment to Christ obvious by what we do. But family, jobs, responsibilities and possessions eat away at that desire and make the “cost” increase. Pray for ways to simplify your life, to take up your cross, and follow Christ.

Wed., Sep 4, Proverbs 25:6-7 When I arrived at the synod golf outing recently, I was told by numerous people that I was being billed as the team's ringer. I know this was done in jest, since last Tuesday was my first time playing golf for the summer. I am no expert golfer! This became even more obvious when I stepped up to the ball, swung at it, AND MISSED! Since the truth always come out, be forthright in the impression you give others. According to this passage, don't misrepresent yourself. Don't claim to be an expert or a great person when you are not –and don't let others promote you falsely. Furthermore, don't be grasping for prestige or worried about self-promotion. Be content to be a humble child of God.

Thurs, Sep 5, Psalm 112 The texts for this week focus on how we as people live lives that honor God. Their focus on advice can imply that our actions are primarily what draw us into God's embrace. It helps to know that Psalms 111 and 112 are actually paired. Both are acrostic Psalms –the first letter of each line begins with an alphabetical sequence in Hebrew. Both begin “Praise the Lord”. However the focus of 111 is on God while 112 presents the faithful response of human beings. For example 111:4b says the Lord is “*gracious and merciful*”, while 112:4b says those who fear the Lord are “*gracious, merciful, and righteous.*” According to James Limburg, put together, “*These two alphabetical psalms articulate two themes: the greatness of the works of the Lord (111:2) and the happiness of those who worship the Lord (112:1).*”

Psalms, Limburg, James, (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2000) p. 387.

Fri., Sep 6, Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 When looking for advice on how to live well, you would do well to follow these verses. Love others, show hospitality to strangers, remember those in prison or being tortured, be faithful in your marriage, offer praise to God, do good, & share what you have. This type of life honors & pleases God. Although there are more directives here than we can humanly follow, the attempt will help free us from the guilt of self-recrimination. That is the way of the law. It condemns us; it makes us feel as though we haven't done enough. But the more we pattern our lives after its teachings, the more we are able to live in confidence, unafraid of the future. Know that you are a beloved child of God, free to follow the law of God with joy.

Sat, Sep 7, Luke 14:1, 7-14 Like the dinner host in Jesus' story, when I invite people over to my house, they are usually people that make me feel good—those who I find interesting or funny, who share a common hobby or life situation, or those who are good conversationalists. I am not likely to invite or even know those who don't fit these parameters. However, Jesus calls us all to think differently. As Prof. Mitzi Smith says, “*Jesus also advises the dinner host, a leader of the Pharisees, that his guest list should not be limited to those within and above his social class; he should invite the marginalized, the diseased and physically challenged, and/or those who are socially and economically humbled. He should include people who cannot return the favor of hosting a feast to which he would be invited.*” http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=4163

*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>.