



First English Lutheran Church
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 (920)733-2303

Announcements
Week of Apr. 5, 2020

Love Jesus. Live your call.

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

FELC Update in Reference to COVID-19

First English Lutheran Church has canceled all in-person activities within both of our Church buildings through May 13 or until further notice. Both sites and the Church Office are closed to the public. Staff members will be working remotely, so emails and phone messages will be checked and addressed. Please visit www.felc.com for all the latest updates from First English.

*For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you,
 Do not fear; I will help you. Isaiah 41:13*

Holy Week Online Worship Schedule

- **Maundy Thursday:**

6:15 p.m., broadcast from Pastor Mary's home

- **Good Friday:**

6:15 p.m., broadcast from the Downtown Site

- **Easter Sunday:**

9 a.m., broadcast from the Downtown Site

Worship services are available at www.felc.com
 and on the First English Facebook page.

About Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper is certainly part of our life together, but like so many other things, it has been impacted by COVID-19. While some churches have found creative ways to celebrate the sacrament, most are refraining from doing so. In fact, Bishop Jerry Mansholt is encouraging "a fasting from Holy Communion" for congregations of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin (ELCA). His recommendation is something with which Pastor Jeff and Pastor Mary agree. You can find his letter at www.felc.com/updates.

Daily Devotion and *Story@Home* Online

Did you know that FELC provides a daily devotion and a Sunday School *Story@Home* lesson every Monday through Saturday? They are both available to view on the First English Lutheran Church Facebook Page and the FELC homepage, www.felc.com. Please take advantage of these wonderful ways to stay connected!

For Those Who Have Ordered Easter Plants

You have several options if you have already ordered plants to beautify the Sanctuaries on Easter Sunday:

- Call or email the Church Office and request a refund.
- Call or email the Church Office and request the amount you spent be added to your giving statement.
- Do nothing; when First English resumes gathering for worship and holds an Easter service, your plant will be ordered and your loved one honored.



In Preparation for Good Friday

During the 6:15 p.m. Good Friday service, five candles will be extinguished. So that you might participate in the ritual, collect five candles in your home before Friday. They don't have to match. Light them before the Friday service, and then extinguish yours as the ones in the service are extinguished.

Meditation from Music Ministry

Downtown Site Music Director and Organist, Dr. Nathan Birkholz, has created hymn reflections along with musical meditations that you can view in the comfort of your home. Thus far these reflections have taken the form of exploring interesting background information on a particular hymn, reading of part or all of the hymn text, and a musical offering based on the hymn tune. Find them on FELC's homepage by clicking the *Meditations from Music Ministry* button. They are also on FELC's Facebook page. After Easter, be on the lookout for more educational offerings from the music ministry of FELC. Dr. Birkholz is in the process of creating an online study for anyone who would like to participate. Details are forthcoming.

Virtual Small Groups

Feeling adventurous and want to have community online during this time of social distancing?



Now is the perfect time to be in a virtual small group! Based on the book by Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew*, Pastor Mary leads a 6 week video series in the small group study, *Why Jesus?* Together we will explore how misconceptions about Jesus' messages add stress and anxiety to our lives, keep us from loving one another and creating community, and leave us unprepared for the struggles that come our way.

To host a small group or to participate in one, please contact Jeanne Gronholm at jgronholm@felc.com or call the Church Office and leave a message to get started. All materials are on the church website and there are many platforms in which to connect via the internet to be a small group. Get connected and grow in God's word as we learn new and exciting ways to be community.

FELC Website

FELC is working hard to give you the most up to date helpful information we can as we move through these challenging times. This is a photo of a portion of our homepage, with easy links to the most sought after information. Visit www.felc.com and explore!

A Letter to the Congregation	Current Updates	Emotional and Spiritual Support	Neighbor Network
Worship	Worship Bulletin for Sunday's Live Worship	Daily Devotions	Weekly Announcements
Sunday School	Confirmation	High School	Giving
FELC Facebook Page	Meditations from Music Ministry	Echoes, A Christian Thrift Store	Small Group Ministry

Stewardship in an Uncertain Time

First English is offering comfort, courage and uplifting worship in the face of uncertainty. It is helping all members of the congregation to connect at a time of isolation, providing casseroles in a time of need, and providing hope in a backdrop of fear. We invite you to continue or increase your regular support, via mail, online, text or through automatic giving to allow First English to continue these vital ministries. Please visit the homepage on the church website, www.felc.com, to learn all the ways you can continue supporting the ministries of FELC. And if you find yourself in need, please call the Church Office at 733-2303. Even though our building is closed, calls are being responded to.

A Furlough for Pastor Mary

Pastor Mary's husband and daughter have each returned home from foreign countries. Because the two have to be in quarantine, Pastor Mary has volunteered to take a two-week unpaid furlough through Apr. 13 to be with her family. Even though she is stepping away from her regular pastoral duties during this time, she and her family intend to lead Maundy Thursday worship at 6:15 p.m. from their home on Facebook Live - a blessed gift for all of us!

Confirmation Keeps Truckin'

Confirmation general sessions have ended for the year, but we are moving forward with the Affirmation of Baptism preparation. The 9th grade students are completing their faith interviews via ZOOM, Confirmation certificates are filled out, and we have the gowns in-house for our Confirmands. Crossways Camps has told us that they have not canceled Confirmation Camp but are keeping abreast of any changes in the news regarding COVID-19. Our schedule has been put on pause but we keep truckin' looking forward to our time to celebrate!

Christ in Our Home

Christ in Our Home (April, May and June) devotional booklets are available in the "Little Library" stationed outside of the North and Downtown Sites.

High School Youth News

I scream, you scream, we all scream for ROUTINE! Check out this weekly quarantine schedule for your high school youth!

WATCH ONLINE
WWW.FELC.COM/HIGHSCHOOL

SUN: 9 A.M. CHURCH LIVE JOIN US ONLINE FOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAY MORNINGS  

MON: MUSIC LISTEN TO HEIDI PLAY WORSHIP SONGS ON SOCIAL MEDIA  

TUE: TIK TOK TUNE INTO WEEKLY CONTENT 

WED: 7 P.M. ZOOM HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP- SEE EMAIL & TEXTS FOR LINKS  

THUR: THROWBACKS TAKE A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE WITH WEEKLY #TBT  

FRI: SPOTIFY/DWELL USE THESE APPS TO LISTEN TO THE BIBLE AND OUR MUSIC PLAYLISTS: FELC WORSHIP SONGS  

FELC. YOUTH   **FELC YOUTH** 

FELC Neighbor Network

There are members who need help and those who can help. If you can help, or are in need of supplies, a meal, or an errand to be run, please contact our new Neighbor Network Coordinator, Deni Kuchler, at (920)733-2303 or dkuchler@felc.com.

Glorifying God Together Through Art Workshops Canceled

The fused-glass workshops at Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass have been canceled. We hope to resume this project later in the year. If you're signed up, feel free to leave your name on the registration list. You'll be notified if/when the classes are rescheduled.

A Message from Echoes, A Christian Thrift Store

Echoes is currently closed to the public with plans to reopen Apr. 14. Staff will be working on some long needed projects and improvements during the closure. The situation is ever evolving, so please check back occasionally for updates.



Donations will continue to be accepted Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Echoes is located at 1320 W. Wisconsin Ave. in Appleton.

Email Prayer Team

Praying is one of the most ancient of human practices, and many believe in its power. Prayer is used in a multitude of ways: to seek comfort, make a request, ask for guidance, heal and restore, express sorrow, celebrate joy or give thanks. Many of you asked how you can help during this pandemic. We invite you to join our email prayer team to pray for the requests received. Please contact Jeanne Gronholm at jgronholm@felc.com for more information, to join the email prayer team or to submit a prayer request.

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 Gamsworthy
- 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
- Sylas Garcia
- Rev. Kathryn Kuhn
- Shirley Larson
- Luke Wilson
- Jake Wilson
- Joslyn Benrud
- Darrell Jordan
- Gloria Luebke
- Karen Schultz
- Marilyn Peterson
- Rosella Wassman
- Alice Boyd
- Tim Gosh
- Joy Weller
- Terry Maves

Prayers of Comfort

- Families of:
- Barb Bieber
 - Bob Damon, Sr.
 - Steve Heil
 - Jonathan Kazinguvu
 - Marillyn Freeman

Those Called to Serve in Other Countries

- Trent Baumbach-Japan
- Jack Kent-Slovakia
- Spencer Wentland-Japan

Those in the Military and Their Families

- Erika Brehmer
- Christian Cramer
- SFC Matt Grey and Unit 1/25 SBTC
- BM3 Kyle Kramer, USCG
- LCPL Robert Kopesky II
- Sgt. Samuel Sinclair

This Week's Community Care Focus

- Bay-Lakes Council, Boy Scouts of America
www.baylakesbsa.org; (920)734-5705

Mark 11:1-11 When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage & Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Sun. Apr 5: Family Project: Share the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Then go for a walk! Find branches to wave & pray as you walk that the love of God would bless both the people & the places that you pass.

Mon. Apr 6, Mark 14:1-25: As we enter into Holy Week, our hearts turn to the events that led to Jesus crucifixion. We notice his intentional march toward the cross. The chief priests & scribes plot for it, the woman at Bethany anoints him for it, Judas betrays him for it, and Jesus prepares the disciples for it by feeding them the bread and wine of the first Lord's Supper. The disciples are in the cocoon of Jesus' presence. Like children who feel immune to harm when with their parents, they ignore Jesus' predictions & coming death. Even so, he is preparing them for the time he will no longer be with them. In the Lord's Supper, the disciples, and centuries later we ourselves, are brought into the very presence of God's love and grace. When our time of isolation is over, when we share Communion again, may we savor God's presence and love.

Tues. Apr 7, Mark 14:26-42: Peter is told that he will betray Jesus 3 times in one night. I have to wonder if, as he waited in the courtyard of the High Priest, Peter felt he had already betrayed Jesus. A deeply distressed Jesus had asked Peter to stay awake & pray. Three times Jesus comes down the mountain to find Peter, James, & John in deep sleep. Even though this weakness may have felt like a betrayal, Jesus had not predicted that Peter would betray him six times. Jesus understands the limitations of human bodies. And though it is likely that Peter remembered this event with deep disappointment, it is clear that Jesus never condemned him for being human. We must not condemn ourselves either for needing food, rest, and companionship as we live out our faith. Part of being dead to self is becoming comfortable with the limitations of being human.

Wed. Apr 8, Mark 14:43-65 Prof. Lance Pape writes of the passion narrative. "Mark's passion story is less an argument to be understood, and more a theological poem to ponder. Held within its thrall, we are reminded again that those who claim to follow Jesus are capable of betrayal; we are educated about the paranoid violence of empire; we are warned about the dangers of self-interest among the professionally religious. But most of all we are fascinated by a particular man who, when push comes to shove, refuses to withdraw the high-stakes wager which is his whole self completely surrendered to that new way of being he called the Kingdom of God. Hoping against hope, he risks it all. If such risk is met by abandonment (Mark 15:34), then all is lost; but if by vindication (Mark 15:39), then all is gained. The passion narrative is not a doctrine to be dissected, but a drama to be experienced and explored again and again by those who would dare conform their own lives to the courageous, winsome, and faithful identity it discloses." https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=2405

Thurs. Apr 9, Mark 14:66-15:20 From Pastor David Lose: "We are used to the classic rags-to-riches story... Whether it's...Bill Gates or Steve Jobs..., we are primed to expect, even long for, a story that portrays the upward mobility to which we aspire. But Jesus goes in the other direction. In fact, he embraces downward mobility, refusing the glory that is his so as to pour himself out...in love for us. Paul isn't, of course, merely reciting a salvation history. He is inviting us not only to contemplate this spectacular act of self-giving but also to emulate it in our daily lives. That may seem hard to imagine, and yet we each have had moments where we have sacrificed something for others or have witnessed tremendous self-sacrifice. It may help to...recall the sacrifice of a parent or grandparent...While these sacrifices aren't the same thing as Jesus' sacrifice for us, they nevertheless are shaped by it and demonstrate something of the character of the Christian community Paul invites us to imagine." <https://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?post=1614>

Fri. Apr 10, Mark 15:21-39 The darkened sanctuary, the candles being extinguished one by one, the hymns of mourning and remembrance: for many of us today's service is the most important of the entire year. Easter services are undoubtedly better attended—who wants to be sad? But we must experience the loss and sacrifice of Good Friday to truly experience the joy of Easter. This year, as we remember Jesus' crucifixion from our various homes, may we hold on to the wonder of knowing the great love that drove Jesus to the cross.

Sat. Apr 11, Mark 15:40-47 Today is a day of waiting. Should we remember the horror of the crucifixion or anticipate the wonder of the resurrection? In many ways, our entire lives are caught up in a similar waiting. We know the certainty of death experienced here on earth, and we wait, hope, and pray that one day we will know the certainty of the resurrection. May this day of waiting, and even this time apart from our day to day lives in isolation, remind us to be vigilant in looking for signs of the resurrection. Whether it is in the love of family and friends, in the peace we feel when singing of Jesus' grace and forgiveness, or in the calm we experience as we give our troubles to Jesus in prayer, may we be known as a people living in confident hope of the resurrection.

*For an online discussion of these and other questions concerning the texts, go to our Facebook Downtown or North Site FELC Engage Page. <https://www.facebook.com/FELC-Engage-Page>.