

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; 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 Mar. 15, 2020 At-A-Glance

Sunday, Mar. 15

8:50 a.m.
9:15 a.m.
9:15/9:25 a.m.
9:30 a.m.
9:35/9:45 a.m.

Monday

9 a.m.
8 p.m.

Tuesday

6:30 a.m.
5 p.m.
5:30 p.m.
6:45 p.m.
8 p.m.

Wednesday

9:30 a.m.
10 a.m.
Noon
Noon
4:15 p.m.
4:45 p.m.

6:15 p.m.

7 p.m.
7 p.m.
7 p.m.

Thursday

6 a.m.
9 a.m.

Friday

6:30 a.m.

Sunday, Mar. 22

8:50 a.m.
9:15 a.m.
9:15/9:25 a.m.
9:30 a.m.
9:35/9:45 a.m.
3:30 p.m.

DS = Downtown Site NS = North Site

Scrip Distribution

Cherub/Angelus Choir Rehearsal, DS 220/Choir Room
Adult Learning, DS Lounge
Sunday School Learning Time, DS/NS
Adult Forum, NS Sanctuary
Birth-to-Preschool Faith Formation Group, NS/DS Nursery

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

Men's Ministry, NS Lounge
Pickleball, NS Activity Center
Executive Committee, DS Lounge
Finance Committee, DS 110
ATC Basketball, NS Activity Center

Lenten Worship, DS Sanctuary
Lenten Study with Pastor Mary, DS 110-111
Noon Hour Philosophers, DS Fellowship Hall
Arts & Environment Committee, DS Library
Mental Health Ministries, DS 221
Lenten Meal (Swedish Meatballs/Chicken A La King), DS Fellowship Hall
Lenten Worship, DS Sanctuary
Parish Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room
Confirmation General Sessions, DS Assigned Rooms
refuel (Grades 10-12), DS Youth Room

Early Risers Bible Study, DS Lounge
Adult Bible Study, DS Lounge

Men's Ministry, NS Lounge

Cherub/Angelus Choir Rehearsal, DS 220/Choir Room
Adult Forum, DS Lounge
Sunday School Learning Time, DS/NS
Women's Study Group, NS Lounge
Birth-to-Preschool Faith Formation Group, NS/DS Nursery
Mission Trip Bonding Event, Paradise Island

Make an IMPACT! Thank You

Thank you to those who participated in this year's *Make an IMPACT!* Event. We are so grateful for your support and for celebrating together as one congregation to support our unique Summer Intern Ministry. Through Friday's event and your sponsorships, we were able to raise close to \$30,000 out of their \$33,000 goal. We are hoping to reach our goal with future sponsorships and grant applications before the interns begin in late May.



First English Lutheran Church
www.felc.com felc@felc.com

Downtown Site

Sunday Worship: 8, 9:15 & 10:30 a.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 Mar. 15, 2020

Love Jesus. Live your call.

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

Sunday at FELC

Altar Flowers

The Downtown Site altar flowers are provided by Lou Chicquette.

Sunday Morning Learning

- **9:15 a.m. Downtown Site Lounge**
Lenten Study: *The Jesus I Never Knew*
(Also on Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. during Lent)
- **9:30 a.m. North Site Sanctuary**
Adult Education Forum Today
Reconciling in Christ: A basic introduction to gender and sexual orientation issues to help us expand our welcome of LGBTQIA people

Palm Sunday Breakfast Served by the Men of the Congregation

Make breakfast at church a part of your Palm Sunday tradition. It's become a delicious way to get to know people and to begin your Holy Week celebration. The men of the congregation will be serving a delicious breakfast from 8:30-11 a.m. at the Downtown Site and 9-11 a.m. at the North Site on Palm Sunday, Apr. 5.

Calling all men: Are you willing to help prepare, serve, or cleanup the breakfast? Please sign up today using the posters in the Gathering Areas or use the online signup form at www.felc.com/forms.

Looking Ahead

Lenten Meals and Worship

On Wednesdays throughout Lent, a 9:30 a.m. worship service will be offered at the Downtown Site. A fellowship meal at 4:45 p.m. followed by a 6:15 p.m. worship service (Mar. 18 at the Downtown Site; Mar. 25 and Apr. 1 at the North Site) will also be offered. All are welcome!

Wednesday, Mar. 18: Swedish meatballs/chicken a la king, sponsored by the Worship Assistants at the Downtown Site.

Help Needed: Downtown Site Chancel Cleaning and Easter Decorating

Can you please help clean the Downtown Site Chancel at 12:30 p.m. on Maundy Thursday, Apr. 9? This is an ideal time to clean since the altar will be stripped. We are also looking for help setting out the Easter plants after the 6:15 p.m. Good Friday service on Apr. 10. More hands make light work, so please consider fitting these very important tasks into your schedule. Any time you can give to help is appreciated. If you have questions or want more information, please contact the Church Office at 733-2303.



Glorifying God Together Through Art

FELC members at both sites are invited to create individual fused-glass designs to be displayed together, at the North Site during the season of Pentecost (summer and fall). Consider signing up at www.felc.com/forms for one of these workshops at Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass, 165 N. Park Ave. Neenah, where we'll create our little masterpieces under the helpful eye of an instructor. Class dates and times are:

- Saturday, Mar. 21, 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Mar. 28, 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Thursday, Apr. 2, 1-3:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Apr. 23, 5:30-8 p.m.
- Sunday, May 3, 1:30-4 p.m.

Come on your own, or consider attending a class with your family or with members of an FELC group you enjoy. No experience or artistic ability necessary. Simply come and create. You are welcome and encouraged to make a free-will offering at the class to help offset material/instructor expenses.

If you have any questions please contact Mary Vandenberg at maryvandenberg7@gmail.com or (920)205-4628.

Come to the Congregational Seder

On Maundy Thursday (Apr. 9) an educational Seder and light meal will be provided prior to worship that is open to the full congregation. The Seder and meal begin at 5:15 p.m. at the North Site with worship to follow. Sign-Up in advance at www.felc.com/forms.

Join the FELC Sole Burner Team

This is the 24th year that FELC has a team participating in this event. Consider registering with FELC today to support cancer fighters and survivors! Saturday, May 9 in Appleton City Park.

- 8 a.m.: Downtown Site Gathering Area for refreshments
- 8:15 a.m.: Team Picture in DS Gathering Area
- 8:30 a.m.: Kids Fun Runs
- 9 a.m.: 5k Walk/Run

Cost is \$30 Adult, \$15 ages 12 and under. Register online at www.felc.com/forms, or pick up a registration in the Gathering Area. Sign up by Mar. 30 to have "Team FELC" on your shirt. Checks should be made out to American Cancer Society and dropped off with registration in the Downtown Site Office.

Noon Hour Philosophers (NHP) 2020

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

• Mar. 18: A Pictorial Journey of How Did We Get to Now

Jan Smith, Executive Director
Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

In Mindsight: Bits of Mental Health Info

Last month we suggested doing a Gratitude Journal, as there is a link between gratitude and happiness. We mentioned that there are also physical health benefits to having an attitude of gratitude. Here are a few!

- **Improves physical health:** Strengthens the immune system, lowers blood pressure, reduces symptoms of illness, and makes us less bothered by aches and pains.
- **Increases heart rate variability:** Heart patients who practice gratitude show better moods, better sleep, less fatigue and lower levels of inflammatory biomarkers related to cardiac health.

(Taken from: <https://www.awesomeendsin.me/benefits-using-gratitude-journal/print/>)

Cancellations

If wondering about cancellations, check the FELC website (www.felc.com) under the Facebook section, lower right hand margin on the FELC homepage. The church calendar will be updated and TV station WBAY will be notified.

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:

- Attic Chamber Theater
www.attictheaterinc.com; (920)850-1952

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
- Sylas Garcia
- Rev. Kathryn Kuhn
- Shirley Larson
- Luke Wilson
- Jake Wilson
- Joslyn Benrud
- Alice Boyd
- Becky Krueger
- Carol Berggren
- Darrell Jordan
- Gloria Luebke
- Karen Schultz
- Marilyn Peterson
- Jonathon Kazinguvu

Prayers of Comfort Families of:

- Garret Bellmore
- Margee Erickson
- Steve Heil
- Terri Larson

Prayers of Thanksgiving Baptism of:

- Josie Jane Degenhardt
- Asher Alan Rucker
- Ronnie James Rucker
- Charlotte Jean Marie Zimmer

Those Called to Serve in Other Countries

- Sarah Bauer-Myanmar
- Jack Kent-Slovakia
- Spencer Wentland-Japan
- Erika Brehmer
- Christian Cramer
- SFC Matt Grey and Unit 1/25 SBTC
- BM3 Kyle Kramer, USCG
- LCPL Robert Kopesky II
- Sgt. Samuel Sinclair

Celebrate the Resurrection

Remember a loved one at Easter this year. A \$12 gift will purchase an Easter flower to beautify the Sanctuaries at one of our two sites. Please return this order form with your payment to the Church Office or drop it in the offering plate. Payment can also be made online at www.felc.com. All gifts will be acknowledged in the Easter bulletins.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

I would like to order ____ Easter flower(s) and will pick it/them up after the last Easter service.

In Honor of or In Memory of (Circle one): _____

In Honor of or In Memory of (Circle one): _____

In Honor of or In Memory of (Circle one): _____

Total amount due: \$ _____

The deadline to order is Thursday Apr. 2. Thank you!



High School Youth News

Grades 9-12

Mar. 15, 2020



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

3/18: Compassion Pantry
Packing Night!

We will be collecting and organizing non-perishable food items and hygiene products to donate to Appleton Central High School for students in need. Please consider bringing an item or two to contribute to the cause! Hygiene List: tooth paste, deodorant, shampoo, tampons, etc.

3/25: Refuel will be at the NS to follow Lent worship schedule. Bonfire at the NS - Weather Permitting! Heidi will bring her guitar along with s'mores.

**Mission Trip 2020
NASHVILLE, TN
June 14-19**

Upcoming Fundraiser:

Mar. 15 Scrip Sale
Distribution

Upcoming Bonding

Event: Mar. 22 Ice
Cream at Paradise
Island 3pm

Questions,
contact Heidi

hschreiner@felc.com

ATTENTION GRADUATING SENIORS

Head to www.felc.com/highschool to check out the 4 different scholarship opportunities and their qualifications. Applications are due to the DS Office by Friday, May 1.

Questions, contact Heidi (hschreiner@felc.com).

Mar. 15, 2020



Information for FELC Youth and Families
Grades K-12

Lent is a Special Time for Our Faith Family to Come Together

Families benefit so greatly from entering into Christian community during Lent on Wednesday nights. They have an opportunity to hear faith stories from people they know. They can share a meal with friends and catch up. They can participate in worship midweek.

Join us on Wednesdays at 4:45 p.m. for a freewill offering meal followed by 6:15-7 p.m. worship.

Mar. 18 at the Downtown Site

Mar. 25 & Apr. 1 at the North Site.



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



Confirmation and Middle School Scoop



We Journey With Jesus To The Cross

Holy Week

Palm Sunday - Apr. 5

Regular Worship & Sunday School Times

Palm Sunday Breakfast at Both Sites

Maundy Thursday - Apr. 9

North Site

Educational Seder and meal for the congregation 5:15-6 p.m.

First Communion during Worship 6:15-7:15 p.m.

Good Friday - Apr. 10

Downtown Site Worship 6:15-7:15 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY - APR. 12

Downtown Site Worship: 8, 9:30 & 11 a.m.

North Site Worship: 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

No Sunday School at either site

Students, grab your Easter treat & craft bag in the Gathering Area



Confirmation Large Group This Week

7th grade: Families should have chapter 10 read

8th grade: Families should have chapter 10 read

9th grade: We will be completing our faith statements.

Next Week We're Movin'!

Mar. 25 & Apr. 1

Confirmation meets at the North Site for the last two Wednesdays of Lent.

We will be watching an Easter movie to prepare for Holy Week.



Don't Forget to Sign Up for 5th Sunday Project & Potluck

Downtown Site on Sunday, Mar. 29, 4-6 p.m.

Go to www.felc.com/forms to register!



Neighbor NETWORK

Communion Class & Educational Seder



At First English there is no age minimum for receiving the gift of holy communion. Our class is offered for grade 2 students and higher due to the age level of the content but

this class is also excellent for parents that would like information on the sacrament to share with younger children. Register online at www.felc.com/forms to be part of the Mar. 30 class and attend the educational Seder on Apr. 9 as a family. You know best when your child is ready to receive, we're here to support you!



THIS IS IT!

FINAL COMPASSION PANTRY COLLECTION WEEK

We need:

granola bars, feminine hygiene products, fruit cups, dental hygiene items, individual packages of crackers and trail mix, soap, deodorant, microwave soup and macaroni cups (no items that need a stove or oven please), any other non-perishable single serve items.

This is our fifth year organizing this project and our recipient is Appleton Central High School. Let's thrive in year 5!

Important Dates for 9th Grade Confirmands

Apr. 15: Faith interviews by reservation

Apr. 17: Prep, Pizza, & Prayer, 6-9 p.m., North Site

Apr. 22: Rehearsal meal, worship, & photos, 5:15-8:30 p.m., North Site

Apr. 26: Affirmation of Baptism Sunday, 10:30 a.m., Both Sites

Have questions or want to volunteer?

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

Artist and ELCA Pastor Paul Oman at FELC North Site on Mar. 25

Drawn to the Word Artist; www.paulomanfineart.com



Paul Oman, artist and ELCA pastor, will share his *Drawn to the Word* artistic ministry with First English and the community on Wednesday, Mar. 25 at the North Site. He served as a science teacher, then Lutheran pastor when, in 2011, he took up work as an artistic pastor full-time.

Paul seeks to give new vision to God's Word by using the process of painting to captivate audiences in our visually oriented culture. Painting and drawing have been a part of Paul's life since childhood. Receiving national and international recognition for his work in watercolor, Paul uses this gift to proclaim the Gospel unique and powerful ways that impact lives and inspire mission.

On Mar. 25, Paul will paint on a large canvas during the service while scripture and music alternate. Everyone is welcome to the 6:15 p.m. service which will last an hour, but your RSVP will help to ensure adequate seating is set up in the North Site Sanctuary. You can RSVP at www.felc.com.

Before the service, a meal will be served as is the tradition on Lenten Wednesdays, in the North Site Activity Center beginning at 4:45 p.m. After the service, Thrivent Financial, the sponsor for this *Drawn to the Word* event, will host a reception for all.

Your RSVP is appreciated to ensure adequate seating.
You may do so at www.felc.com,
or by calling the Church Office at 733-2303.

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Seasonal Flu and Coronavirus Precautions

Communities across the country are responding proactively to reduce the risk of contagion and ensure best health practices, in conjunction with recommendations from the Center for Disease Control the Public Health Department. In sync with other faith communities across the country, First English Lutheran Church is adopting practices to respond faithfully to this current challenge. We also ask that our worshiping community adopt best practices during this time.

Not Feeling Well? Please stay home, and let the church office know if you desire prayers for quick recovery. We want everyone to be safe and to follow public guidelines. Worship bulletins, readings, sermons, etc. can be sent to you via email or mail. Please remember that every week a worship service is recorded and posted on the FELC home page at www.felc.com.

Vulnerable Individuals. We extend special concern for older adults and persons with underlying chronic medical conditions, who bear a greater risk if COVID-19 spreads into our community. We encourage vulnerable persons to make sure there is someone who will check on and care for them if they get sick.

Wash Your Hands. Wash Your Hands. Wash hands by scrubbing with soap under running water for as long as it takes to sing *Jesus Loves Me, This I Know*. Hand sanitizers are placed conveniently throughout the church buildings.

Offering Collection. We will discontinue the passing of offering plates during worship. A basket or plate will be placed at the front of the center aisle, for worshipers to place their offerings on their way forward for Holy Communion. Online giving is also available and encouraged. Please continue financial support for our community of faith, its ministries and outreach to neighbors in need.

Greeters and Handshaking. No touching. Greeters, ushers, and others who provide welcome and hospitality at First English Lutheran Church will continue to offer a friendly face and welcoming words to all who gather for worship, but they will do so without a hand shake. Changing the way we traditionally express our sincere hospitality involves longstanding habits and is not easy, but we do so out of care for those who are most vulnerable.

Sharing of the Peace. This has always been an important part of people connecting with one another. We will refrain from physical contact and instead implement a sharing of the peace through eye contact, a verbal greeting, and reverent bow and/or hand gesture . . . until the time of concern has passed.

Communion Practice. For the Lord's Supper, a server will drop a wafer into a communicant's open hand. (As always, gluten-free wafers will be available in a bowl in the center aisle.) Another server will place a small cup of wine into the communicant's hand. Please note: small cups of white grape juice will be served if requested verbally or by pointed finger. The small plastic cups must be thrown into the waste basket that is in place just past the serving station. Communion preparers and servers are being asked to follow proper hygiene practices.

Baptismal Font. Water will not be in the baptismal font except for use during baptisms.

Food Handling & Fellowship. Preparing and sharing food is a major area of concern when it comes to the risk of spreading contagions. We are working to make sure heightened practices are being followed. All individuals preparing food must be healthy, and wash hands by scrubbing with soap under running water for twenty seconds. Food servers wear gloves and are being trained in best practices.

Pray. For those impacted by these viruses, for all caregivers and health professionals, and for policymakers as they respond to this situation. Pray, breathe deeply and rest in the strength of God: *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* Philippians 4: 6-7

Mark 12:1-12 Then he began to speak to them in parables. "A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a pit for the wine press, and built a watchtower; then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants to collect from them his share of the produce of the vineyard. But they seized him, and beat him, and sent him away empty-handed. And again he sent another slave to them; this one they beat over the head and insulted. Then he sent another, and that one they killed. And so it was with many others; some they beat, and others they killed. He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, "They will respect my son.' But those tenants said to one another, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' So they seized him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others. Have you not read this scripture: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?" When they realized that he had told this parable against them, they wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowd. So they left him and went away.

Sun, Mar 15: Family Project: This parable starts with a description of all that God has given humanity. God made a beautiful and productive world and then put people in charge of tending and protecting it. Just like those wicked tenants, we are often careless with the resources that we have. Spend some time discussing how you as a family can better tend the world God has given us.

Mon, Mar 16: There are certain stories in the Bible that are hard to interpret, and, as Prof. Angela Hancock writes, "Some biblical texts are hard to love, and this parable makes my list." Are we supposed to rejoice that the Landowner gets revenge against the wicked tenants? We wish they would have acted differently, that they would have honored the contract they had with the owner. Their actions seem so shortsighted. The same can be said for those of us who all too often turn a blind eye to the effects of our modern lifestyle on the planet. May we be good tenants of the vineyard God has given us!

Tues, Mar 17: As Pheme Perkins writes in *The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary on Mark*, we must not take the condemnation of the wicked tenants to be seen as a judgment against Jewish people. "His rejection of the particular religious leaders of his day does not imply rejection of the people as whole." (p. 672) Instead of using this parable as an excuse to blame others, we must ask ourselves how we are complicit in rejecting the prophets and truth tellers God puts in our lives.

Wed, Mar 18, Mark 12:28-34 This coming week, the answer to the question "Why Jesus?" is "To belong." As people who love the Lord with all our heart, soul, strength and mind, we belong to something bigger than ourselves. We can be tempted to find our self-worth through belonging to certain groups. This sort of belonging through fitting in can be a lot of fun, as long as we feel that we do fit in! If we sense the group is asking us to act outside of our morals or values, we can abandon our own ideals to maintain our acceptance in a group. We can also begin to worry that some of our ideas and past actions might not be acceptable to the group. In contrast to belonging through fitting in, we can bring our whole self into our relationship with God. Our sense of belonging to God is not dependent on things like titles or bank accounts. God gives us absolute belonging and a beautiful ideal and purpose to work toward.

Thurs, Mar 19, Psalm 89:1-4 A list of the best-known hymns in the world today would probably be topped by "Amazing Grace". The simplicity of the tune and the wonder of undeserved acceptance & love have combined to touch so many lives. In a similar way, these 4 verses lift up two words that touch at the heart of the faith of the psalmist and the Israelites of his day. The first is *hesed* or steadfast love of the Lord. This word is so rich in meaning that, according to Prof. Scott Schauff, it has also been defined as lovingkindness, love, kindness, mercy, loyalty, favor, devotion, goodness and more! Next the word faithfulness would remind the Jewish people of their deliverance from Egypt. Sing (& pray) whatever songs connect you to the grace, steadfast love & faithfulness of God!

Fri, Mar 20, Mark 12:35-40 The other commandment that Jesus lifts up is to love your neighbor as yourself. We are to avoid acting like the scribes who used their community as a place for self-advancement rather for mutual love and caring. The community that we belong to in Christ does not depend on our ability to be perfect or to measure up to some imaginary standard. Instead, our community is centered around our identity as God's children and our calling to help others live grace-filled lives. Because of this, we do not simply accept or tolerate others. Rather, we recognize them as God's children and value them as contributing members of a community of love.

Sat, Mar 21, Mark 12:41-44 Pastor Henry Langknecht encourages us to keep giving even when we feel our small, widow's mite contributions can do little to affect the great need around us. "What's the point of my small acts of faithfulness? Why bother? I sit in the food court in the mall & watch as bag after bag of trash (containing aluminum cans & plastic bottles) are loaded up & then taken to landfills; & I know that this scene is repeated daily in thousands of venues around the world. Why do I bother recycling my 2 six-packs per week of diet cola? What is the meaning of my measly individual action? How can the faithfulness of the widow be sustained in me? The story of the widow's offering suggests that faithful giving (& faithful living) is not for the sake of recipient but rather for the sake of... the life of the giver. If the ends are assured in the economy of God, then only the means remain." https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=441

*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/FELCEngagePage>.