

**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Wapakoneta, Ohio**

**The  
Mighty One  
has done  
great things  
for me—**

**HOLY**

**is  
HIS NAME.**

LUKE 1:49, NIV

**4 Advent Sunday  
December 19, 2021**

## WELCOME TO FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Your presence today makes us more complete. Thank you for being here with us and worshipping with us.

We welcome you to our table for Holy Communion. We invite all baptized Christians who believe that Christ is truly present in the meal to join us. All those who don't receive communion in their church are invited to receive a blessing.

Children of all ages are welcome and are encouraged to participate.

### Worship Leaders & Assistants

The **Altar Candles** are given to the Glory of God  
by Marsha Jackson.

Today's **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God by Brenda Shoffstall in honor of  
the amazing and inspiring youth of FELC

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### MINISTERS for This Week

#### MINISTERS for Next Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>

Audio/Visual .....	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Acolyte (taper / crucifer).....	Carly Craft / Grayce Swaney
Lector .....	Youth Play
Ushers.....	Ken Frame & Jon Schmidt
Worship Assistant.....	Makayla Frame
Musician .....	Darla Frame
Pastor.....	Vicar Deb Monnin
Nursery.....	
Fellowship Cleanup .....	Darla Frame and Brenda Shoffstall

## **Introduction to the day**

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

## **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRELUDE**

*Gloria!* traditional French Carol arr. by Mary McDonald

### **\* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God for whom we wait,

**in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you.**

**We fail in believing that your good news is for us.**

**We falter in our call to tend your creation.**

**We find our sense of self in material wealth.**

**We fear those different from ourselves.**

**We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love.**

**Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace.**

**Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

**Amen. Christmas**

**\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

*Rejoice, Rejoice Believers* (ELW 244)

**\* GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (verse 1, ELW 257)

**\* PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

Schroeder Family

We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time  
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.

As we light the candles on this wreath,  
open our eyes to see your presence  
in the lowly ones of this earth.

Enlighten us with your grace,  
that we may sing of your advent among us  
in the Word made flesh.

Grant this through Christ our Lord,  
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**Amen.**

*Light all four candles.*

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 188)**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

**Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**\* GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**YOUTH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

*Thank you to everyone who helped with the youth pageant this year; our youth staff and volunteers who bring order to the chaos, our parents and grandparents who ensure our actors are here for the rehearsals, and the amazing young people of FELC who help us all to see and experience God at work. Thank you all for blessing us with your gifts!*

**\* HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Canticle of the Turning (ELW 723)*

**INSTALLATION AND THANK YOU OF COUNCIL**

The following persons, having been elected by the congregation to positions of leadership, are asked to come forward:

President:	Chuck Curry
Vice President:	Brenda Shoffstall
Secretary:	Denise Kantner
Treasurer:	Georgeann Stienecker
Council Members:	Rebecca Van Meter, Jeff Ritchie, Dave Clift, Jon Schmidt, Teresa Fisher
Youth Representative:	Luke Kline

In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ liberated you from sin and death and made you members of his Church. Through Word and Sacrament you have been nurtured in faith. I ask you, together with all who are gathered here, to confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we are baptized using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Saint Paul writes: *There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives to everyone ability for particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.*

Our sisters and brothers in Christ have called you to use your gifts to serve the Lord together. Therefore, I ask you: Will you accept this call and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected? **Yes, by the help of God.**

People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you pray for them as they live out their calling? **Yes, by the help of God.**

I now declare you installed as council members of this congregation for 2022.

And now let us pray for our newly elected council for God's blessing and the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Gracious Lord, thank you for sending these faithful servants to serve with us in your kingdom. Bless their doing and their being. Bless their hands, hearts, and wisdom for carrying out your mission. When they grow weary or tired, give them patience, courage, and renewed faith. Help us all to be your examples of faithful witness and service by the power of your Holy Spirit we pray. **Amen**

**\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**\* PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

Please take a moment to share the Lord's peace and grace with one another.

**MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**\* TITHES AND OFFERING**

*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;  
unite them with the prayers we offer now.  
Grace our table with your presence,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

**\* OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

**Amen.**

**\* GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\* HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 190)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of pow'r and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**\* THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

**\* LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

### **COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 191)**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.**

### **SONGS DURING COMMUNION**

*In the Singing (ELW 466)*

*Let There Be Peace (on screen)*

*O Little Town of Bethlehem (ELW 279)*

### **\* AS WE ARE BLESSED**

Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace now and always. **Amen.**

### **\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Most High God, you have come among us at this table.

By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

**Amen.**

### **SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

### **\* BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

### **\* SENDING SONG**

*Joy to the World (ELW 267)*

**\* DISMISSAL**

Go in Peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Angels We Have Heard on High* French Carol arr.by Cindy Berry

*Today we thank Brett, Megan, Sophia, Grady, and Hudson Schroeder for lighting the advent candles. Thank you for sharing your gifts with us today!*

**MINISTERS for Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

Audio/Visual .....	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Acolyte (taper / crucifer).....	Makenzie Schneider / Carly Craft
Lector .....	Chuck Curry
Ushers.....	Jim Kantner & Steve Stienecker
Worship Assistant.....	Georgeann Stienecker
Musician .....	Darla Frame
Pastor.....	Vicar Deb Monnin
Nursery.....	

**MINISTERS for Next Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup> (Lessons and Carols)**

Audio/Visual .....	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Acolyte (taper / crucifer).....	Deven Whetstone / Doris Fisher
Lectors .....	Chuck Curry
.....	Luke Kline
.....	Georgeann Stienecker
.....	Brenda Shoffstall
.....	Connie Krites
.....	Rebecca Van Meter
Ushers.....	Clayton Fisher & Luke Kline
Worship Assistant.....	Jon Schmidt
Musician .....	Darla Frame
Pastor.....	Vicar Deb Monnin
Nursery.....	
Fellowship Cleanup .....	Darla Frame and Brenda Shoffstall

## WEEKLY ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>NWOS Benevolence</u>
11/14/2021	9	78	\$4,989.62	\$268.00
11/21/2021	14	70	\$1,357.00	\$53.00
11/28/2021	9	82	\$1,917.00	\$25.00
12/05/2021	4	81	\$4,071.00	\$157.00
12/12/2021	11	86	\$3,050.00	\$265.00

## OUR PRAYER CORNER

### **Those who would love a visit or a card...**

The Manor:	Jim & Evelyn Reinhart
Otterbein at St. Marys:	Dorothy Dickman
Otterbein at Cridersville	Sharon Meyer
At Home:	Corky Slife, Betty Hague, Dick Chenoweth

### ***We especially remember in our prayers...***

Rita Barrera, Calvin Binkley, David Blackburn, Makayla Brandyberry, Rochelle Clark, Cory Crawford, Mike Green, Bryan Katterhenry, Janelle Krites, Brenda Lippincott, Rex Lippincott, Dennis McCormick, Judy Metz, Peter & Villya Pleshko, Leeann Whetstone, Julio Sanchez, Adam Schulze, Alex Shirey, Seth Thuman, Sawyer Yocum, and Joyce Brincefield and her family.

We remember in our prayers...our military serving at home and abroad, under represented and oppressed people, EMTs, firefighters, police officers, healthcare workers, and our veterans.

We remember in our prayers...our college students: Amanda Bailey, Cameron Bowersock, Daniel Hunt, D.J. O'Neill, Lillian McPeek, Katie Ronan, and Haley Schattschneider.

*If we are missing anyone in our prayer corner, please call or email the office and let us know. If there is anyone who wishes to be removed, please do the same.*

### **What's Happening at First English....**

**Blue Christmas, Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 PM** The Blue Christmas worship service is a time when we can, with others, acknowledge the "blue" feelings we have at Christmas time, the reasons for them, and offer them to God. This time has been called the "long dark night of the soul" and "the winter of our discontent" in which memories of past experiences and the pain of present experiences can become overwhelming. We pray that you will find hope and comfort in knowing that you are not alone. Please Join us.

**Lessons and Carols, Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>** We will continue our tradition of having a service of Lessons and Carols the Sunday after Christmas. Please join us as we worship with our favorite carols and readings.

**Organist/Pianist Needed:** We are looking for a person to lead our music once a month or every Sunday. Do you know of someone who would like to play for us? Please reach out to the church office or direct individuals to the church website, myfelc.org, as detailed information has been placed on the home page.

**Adult Sunday School** is meeting in the parlor at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. We would love for everyone to join our discussion and fellowship. Please contact Rebecca Van Meter if you are interested in joining us via Zoom or Facetime. All are welcome!

**Angel Tree** Thank you to everyone who supported the Angel Tree ministry this year! Without your generous support, these families and children would likely not receive Christmas gifts. This year you helped three families referred to us from the Crisis Center, with eight children between them, as well as three more young people from Honduras that attend Wapak City Schools. Thank you for providing these families with a loving and joy-filled Christmas experience.

**Confirmation Class:** Confirmation will resume at 6:30 pm on **January 5<sup>th</sup> at Trinity Moulton**. If you need a ride, please contact Vicar Deb.

**Wednesday Prayer** You are welcome to join us as we pray together on Wednesdays. Pastor Melodi and others pray at Trinity, Moulton at noon and Vicar Deb will be praying at First English at 5:00pm on Wednesdays. We typically meet in the parlor for 45 min to an hour and share our Highs, Lows, and God moments and then we pray together. Please come and pray with us! Come when you can – every week or once a month or just when you can. We will not be meeting at FELC from December 22<sup>nd</sup> to January 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Noisy Offering for the month of December: Auglaize County Council on Aging** Offering pans are located in the chapel and at the back of the church. Donations are accepted during the entire month.

**Wapak Loaves & Fishes** Meals need to be reserved by calling 567-204-6708 and can be picked up in the alley behind the Fellowship Hall from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Please remain in your vehicle and the meals will be brought to you.

**Wapak Loaves & Fishes is in immediate need for volunteer(s)** to help make home deliveries on Thursdays. Beginning December 16<sup>th</sup>, *Loaves* needs one or more volunteers on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month to deliver meals to people in Wapakoneta who are unable to pick up meals at FELC. The meals are usually picked up in the alley south of (behind) First English around 4:00pm and then delivered to about 15 residences. Delivering the meals would take one volunteer or volunteer team approximately one hour and 15 minutes to complete. The time commitment could be reduced if additional volunteers step forward and the route is able to be divided between multiple volunteers or volunteer teams. Please contact Connie Krites or Brenda Shoffstall if you are interested in this opportunity to spread love to your neighbors.

**\*\*Please note that Loaves and Fishes is not serving meals on Thursday December 23<sup>rd</sup>, December 30<sup>th</sup>, or January 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**Prayer Warriors Update** Thank you for participating in Prayer Warriors! As you have probably heard, the youth of First English Lutheran Church have initiated a prayer journey with God called Prayer Warriors. Prayer Warriors pray for and uplift each other by spending time in prayer every day praying for their fellow Warrior and occasionally sending them little gifts or notes of encouragement.

By next Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, we are asking that our Prayer Warriors bring in a small gift or card for their Prayer Warrior and leave them on the table in the hallway between Melching Hall and the sanctuary. The gifts and the identities of your Prayer Warriors will be given out after worship on December 26<sup>th</sup>.

If you missed out on being a Prayer Warrior this time around, you can start signing up for the next round of Prayer Warriors right now. Slips are located at the back of the sanctuary, on the kitchen counter in the fellowship hall, and in the Melching Hall lobby. If you want to participate, just fill out the slip and leave it in the basket provided. The youth will be collecting slips through January 9<sup>th</sup> and you will receive your new Prayer Warriors on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to me about it, I would love to talk about this mission to reunite our church. Please support us and pray always! Bailey Van Meter [baileyvanmeter@icloud.com](mailto:baileyvanmeter@icloud.com)

**Church Envelopes** The 2022 boxed offering envelopes are available on the table in the hallway between the sanctuary and Melching Hall. Also located on the table are signup sheets and information for Vanco Simply Giving. If you have any questions or would like more information about offering envelopes or Vanco, please contact Georgeann Stienecker, FELC Financial Secretary [nksoccer@nktelco.net](mailto:nksoccer@nktelco.net)

**Greeters Needed** We would like to return to the practice of posting greeters at the entrance to Melching Hall. Sign-up sheets have been placed in the hallway between the sanctuary and Melching Hall.

**Staffed Nursery Volunteers Needed** Sign-up sheets to volunteer in the nursery during worship services have been placed in the hallway between the sanctuary and Melching Hall.

**Altar Flowers and Altar Candle Calendar** The 2022 Alter Flowers and Alter Candle sign-up calendar has been placed in the Mechanic St. entrance to the sanctuary. The date you want is probably available. Thank you in advance for volunteering!

**2022 Council Officers** Church Council has elected the following individuals to be the officers of the congregation:

President	Chuck Curry
Vice Pres.	Brenda Shoffstall
Secretary	Denise Kantner
Treasurer	Georgeann Stienecker

## **FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events**

Sunday, December 19 <sup>th</sup>		<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent</b>
	9:00 a.m.	Youth and Adult Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship – Vicar Deb Monnin
	11:15 a.m.	Brunch With Santa
Monday, December 20 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.	Overeaters Anonymous
Wednesday, December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	6:30 p.m.	Blue Christmas Worship Service
	7:30 p.m.	Ladies' Choir
Friday, December 24 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous
		<b>Christmas Eve Service</b>
	8:45 p.m.	Special Music
	9:00 p.m.	Candlelight Worship-Vicar Monnin
Sunday, December 26 <sup>th</sup>		<b>1 Christmas</b>
	9:00 a.m.	Youth and Adult Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship – Lessons and Carols
Monday, December 27 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.	Overeaters Anonymous
Wednesday, December 29 <sup>th</sup>	12:00 p.m.	Prayer at Trinity Moulton
Friday, December 31 <sup>st</sup>	7:30 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous
		<b>Happy New Year!</b>

## **First English Lutheran Church**

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)  
107 W. Mechanic Street, Wapakoneta, OH 45895  
(419) 738-3911 [www.myfelc.org](http://www.myfelc.org)  
Church email: [wapakelc@bright.net](mailto:wapakelc@bright.net)  
Office: 9:00am – 12:00pm

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of First English Lutheran Church is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and love one another as He has loved us.

### **Sunday Schedule**

9:00 a.m. Youth and Adult Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

### **Church Staff & Volunteers**

Pastor	Vicar Deb Monnin, <a href="mailto:deb.monnin@myfelc.org">deb.monnin@myfelc.org</a> ; 937-726-0579
Church Secretary	
Bookkeeper	
Financial Secretary	Georgeann Stienecker; <a href="mailto:nksoccer@nktelco.net">nksoccer@nktelco.net</a>
Sunday School	
Superintendent	Niki Oren; <a href="mailto:niki_oren@hotmail.com">niki_oren@hotmail.com</a> ; 567-712-8674
Custodian	Diane Schlosser
Music Director	Darla Frame
Audio-Technology	Dave Curry; <a href="mailto:dscy@bright.net">dscy@bright.net</a> ; 937-307-8596 Jeff Ritchie; <a href="mailto:jritchie002@woh.rr.com">jritchie002@woh.rr.com</a> ; 419-296-3794 Noah Kirby; <a href="mailto:noah.w.kirby@gmail.com">noah.w.kirby@gmail.com</a> ; 419-905-8243

### **Church Council**

President	Chuck Curry; <a href="mailto:curry074@umn.edu">curry074@umn.edu</a> ; 763-312-9217
Vice Pres.	Brenda Shoffstall
Secretary	Denise Kantner
Treasurer	Georgeann Stienecker
Council Member	Rebecca Van Meter
Council Member	Jeff Ritchie
Council Member	Dave Clift
Council Member	Teresa Fisher
Council Member	Jon Schmidt
Youth Rep.-Council	Luke Kline