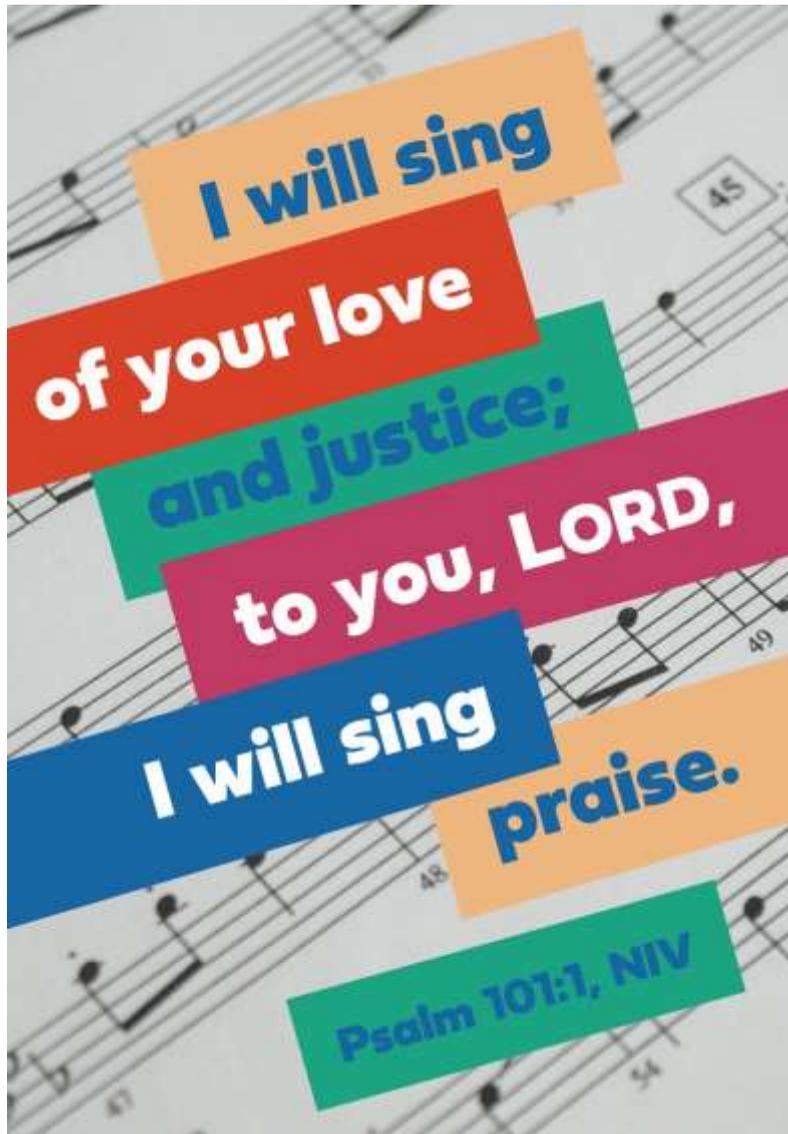


**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio**



**Christmas Sunday
December 26, 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 the Van Meter Family in loving gratitude to Susan Miller for her seven years of service as the Treasurer of First English Lutheran Church, on the occasion of her retirement.

MINISTERS for This Week

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
Alter Guild	Darla Frame and Brenda Shoffstall
Fellowship Cleanup.....	Darla Frame and Brenda Shoffstall

This worship service is live streamed and recorded and is published on YouTube and Facebook.

* Please rise if able.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

What Child is This? arr. by Joel Raney

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

Joy to the World (ELW 267)

Dialogue

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

By day and night he shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus is the light of the world.

Jesus is the light of our lives.

Sing to God a new song!

A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness— a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts. **Amen.**

LESSONS AND CAROLS

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

HYMN

The First Noel (ELW 300, verse 1)

Second Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem (ELW 279, verse 1)

Third Reading: Luke 1:26-35, 38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful (ELW 283, verse 1)

Fourth Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will

save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (ELW 270, verse 1)

Fifth Reading: Luke 2:8-20

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HYMN

Angels, from the Realms of Glory (ELW 275, verse 1)

Sixth Reading: Matthew 2:1-11

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

HYMN

What Child is This (ELW 296, verse 1)

Seventh Reading: John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

HYMN

Away in a Manger (ELW 277, verse 1)

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

In his light, draw all to the manger
to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

In his light, draw all to the manger
to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

In his light, draw all to the manger
to sing for joy with the angels.

In the brightness of his life
cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.

It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.
In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.

TITHES AND OFFERING

During this time we would like to thank you for the work you have been doing, for the support and care you provide and for the gifts you share. We want to thank you for the generous gifts that you have mailed in or brought in today.

CREATE IN ME (ELW 186)

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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.**

BLESSING

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God, all creatures here below!

You are the shepherds telling the story.

We tell it in the streets and across the land.

You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.

You are the angels announcing peace.

We live with joy and go now in peace.

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING MUSIC

Angels We Have Heard on High (ELW 289)

POSTLUDE

He is Born arr. by Mark Hayes

Thank you Jon Schmidt, Darla Frame, Chuck Curry, Luke Kline, Georgeann Stienecker, Brenda Shoffstall, Connie Krites, and Rebecca Van Meter for leading worship today.

Vicar Deb is enjoying a few of days of vacation and will return on January 3rd, 2022.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>NWOS Benevolence</u>
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
12/19/2021	19	115	\$13,612.00	\$31.00

OUR PRAYER CORNER

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

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

We especially remember in our prayers...

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

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.

MINISTERS for next Sunday, January 2, 2021

Audio/Visual Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Acolyte (taper / crucifer)..... *volunteers needed*
Lectors..... Chris Nagel
Ushers..... Katie McCullough / Jim Zwiebel
Worship Assistant Ken Frame
Musician Bailey Van Meter
Pastor Chuck Curry
Alter Guild Sara Young & Angie Bowersock
Fellowship Cleanup..... Deanna Ronan & Lisa Kirby

What's Happening at First English....

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.

Church Directories The new church directories have arrived and are ready to be picked up from the table in the hallway between Melching Hall and the sanctuary.

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

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!

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 22nd to January 12th.

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.

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.

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.

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!

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

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.

If you want to participate, just fill out the slip and leave it in the basket provided. Slips are located at the back of the sanctuary, on the kitchen counter in the fellowship hall, and in the Melching Hall lobby. The youth will be collecting slips through January 9th and you will receive your new Prayer Warriors on January 16th.

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

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 26 th		1 Christmas
	9:00 a.m.	Youth and Adult Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship – Lessons and Carols
Monday, December 27 th	7:00 p.m.	Overeaters Anonymous
Wednesday, December 29 th	12:00 p.m.	Prayer at Trinity Moulton
Friday, December 31 st	7:30 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous
		Happy New Year!
Sunday, January 2 nd		2 Christmas
	9:00 a.m.	Youth and Adult Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship – Chuck Curry
Monday, January 3 rd	7:00 p.m.	Overeaters Anonymous
Wednesday, January 5 th	12:00 p.m.	Prayer at Trinity Moulton
	5:00 p.m.	Prayer at FELC (Parlor)
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation at Trinity Moulton
Friday, January 7 th	5:00 p.m.	Youth depart for YouthQuake
	7:30 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous

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

Church Council

President	Chuck Curry; curry074@umn.edu ; 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