

First English Lutheran Church

Wapakoneta, Ohio



Our February 2023 Newsletter

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
107 W. Mechanic Street, Wapakoneta, OH 45895
(419) 738-3911 FAX: (419) 738-8893
Website: www.myfelc.org E-Mail Address: wapakelc@bright.net

Meet our staff...

Pastor

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Financial Secretary/Treasurer

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Bailey Van Meter &

Makayla Frame, Youth 419-738-3911

Church Council

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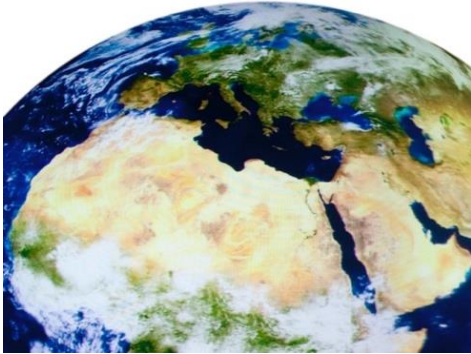
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The mission of First English Lutheran Church is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ
and to love one another as He loves us.

A Message from Vicar Deb

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. Genesis 1:31



In the beginning, God created – God created the world, God created all that is in it, and God declared it Good. God also created you and me, and God declares you and me good also!

God created the world and all that is in it to be in balance, but sometimes because of sin and our own human egos we become out of balance.

We want to live as the world defines us – we want what others have, we don't take the time – or maybe we push down who God created us to be – and things get out of whack. They get out of whack in simple ways or complex ways – Simple, like, -I might think I need to dress or act like that other person who is popular or seems to have it all together – when really those clothes or that behavior is not becoming on me.

Or things might get out of whack because we might try to live out our life or our jobs which are not in jive with where God is leading us at that time and in that moment. Let me explain with my life – and maybe you can see it in your life also.

When I was a younger person – I felt called to be an engineer and work hard – full time plus to help make things better in the refrigeration industry. I also felt called to marry Bruce and raise a family – and that was good – I – for the most part felt good and aligned with God and Where God was leading me. I felt in balance

And then – about 8-10 years ago I felt an urging to do something else, but wasn't sure what – I felt pulled to help others more directly and so I started searching and praying more about that – eventually it led to time off from work – a forced pause -a good pause – It was the time of the COVID shut down and I was able to be still and pray and also help others more directly.

You know the rest -during that time I was pulled to try preaching, to become a SAM, to be appointed here, and to go to seminary...It's been a full couple of years, and now as I discern and pray about where God is calling me, these things seem important:

I feel led to continue to serve in the parish – to share the word of God, to help others see God's action in their life and to help others grow into their calling as a disciple. I also feel

called to serve and care for my family – to be available if anyone needs help – our parents are nearby and healthy, and we want to enjoy them, our children are nearby and now we also have our Grandson Jack, whom we want to enjoy –

As I've prayed, and listened to God, and tried to align with where God is calling me to live a good and holy life – I feel called to serve in the parish part time and also feel called to serve and support my family the remainder of the time –

But it's not all about me – God is calling you also – In Matthew 28, Jesus said – go therefore and make disciples – you are being called just as I am, to disciple to others – You have been given gifts to disciple – some are teachers, some are preachers, some are bakers and some are visitors – you pray and carry God's love where ever you go –

Now I know it's different to consider a part time pastor serving in a church like First English – but in God, there is enough. God provides – if we find ourselves lacking, maybe we are not listening and following God? Or maybe our timing is not God's timing?

And so – How might God be leading us together? Several months ago this part time call became more clear to me – and another thing became clear to me – I believe God is putting another idea in front of us – this second thing that became clear is this:

We have talented, gifted disciples, in this congregation – could it be that we together can serve as God is calling? Could it be that together we serve the people and community in and around First English?

I think so – we have hired a talented Christian Ed director in Rebecca and I believe we have talented people here who can lead through their gifts in visitation and in social outreach. Could we consider serving together as God is calling us? Could we consider the office of the pastor include more than one person??

You see – all through life – through all of our phases or seasons God is calling you and me to be who God creates us to be – and God continues to create – God continues to call us to God – it is not a one time creation –

So in the next weeks and months – I invite you to ponder and pray and listen to where God is calling you – and where God is leading First English – I believe God gives us all that we need - and I believe that we together can serve here in this congregation and in this area as God is calling us and leading us.

God calls us to be close to God and God gives us purpose – And God said it is Good.
AMEN

Where are you noticing God's action in your week? This month I invite you to take time at the end of the day or week and reflect on your day and week... where were you surprised? Where were you disappointed? Where were you delighted? I invite you then to jot it down in a notebook or in your phone - and lift a prayer to God. Invite God to be with you in your joy and also in your disappointment. Ask God to walk with you and to bring people into your life who may share with you your highs and lows - share out loud with your friend these highs and lows - God is with you - leading and guiding you through this practice of listening and sharing You can't do it wrong - you are not alone - God is with you and so am I - Vicar Deb

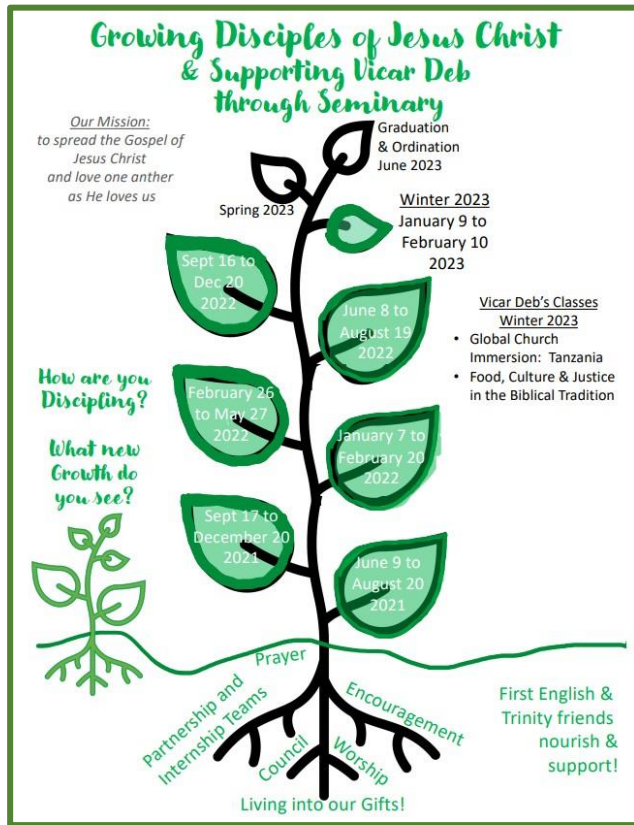


Vicar Deb's Seminary Experience:

Thank you all for supporting me and praying for me as I attend Seminary. I've just returned from Tanzania – Africa – and talked all about it on Sunday, February 5, 2023. Check it out on YouTube!

I begin my final semester in the middle of February – I'm sort of sad and yet somewhat excited that seminary is coming to a close. Thank you for all of your prayers and encouragement through this journey. I couldn't have done it without you!

We have things to ponder and pray about as my seminary journey closes – Is God calling us to serve together? It seems so? How might we serve God in this community together in a new and different way than has been done before? God has led us together through these past couple of years as I've been a part time SAM and seminary student. That is new and different --- can we continue being a role model for a new way to serve here in Wapakoneta, Ohio? I invite you to pray, to ponder, and to talk with me and others about it.



FELC Committees, Chairpersons, Council Liaisons

Committee

Building & Property
Christian Education/Youth
Evangelism
Finance
Life & Fellowship
Social Ministry
Staff Support
Stewardship
Worship & Music

Chairperson

Brenda Shoffstall
Rebecca Van Meter
Rebecca Van Meter
Cari Frame
Brenda Shoffstall
Rebecca Van Meter
Cari Frame
Meets with Finance
Darla Frame

Liaison

Jeff Ritchie
Rebecca Van Meter
Denise Kantner
Dave Clift
Darla Frame
Teresa Fisher
Jon Schmidt
Brenda Shoffstall
Georgeann Stienecker

Our Prayer Corner

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

Auglaize Acres	Dennis McCormick
The Manor	Jim Reinhart
Otterbein at Cridersville	Sharon Billiter, Rex Lippincott
Otterbein at St. Marys	Dorothy Dickman
The Gardens	Betty Hague, Betty Lietz

We especially remember in our prayers...

The family and friends of Randy Presar,
Tracy Anderson, Brianna Bertke, Don Cole, Dominic Cousins, Jacob Cox,
Paul Crossley, Charlene Curry, Donna Stowell Dague, Janice Etzkorn, Connie Kantner,
Bryan Katterhenry, Wayne & Judy Kentner, Betty Lietz, Rex Lippincott, Lynne Loebach,
Sasha Maslov, Dennis McCormick, Cathy & Desmond Miller, Nici Rapp,
Sue Schoonover, Pam Schulz, Adam Schulze, Alex Shirey, Seth Thuman,
Derrick Whetstone, Chaz & Tracy Williams, and Angela.

We remember in our prayers our military serving at home and abroad, under represented and oppressed people, first responders, educators, healthcare workers, and our veterans.

We remember in our prayers our college student: Amanda Bailey

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.

2023 Noisy Offerings

Month	Recipient	Amount Collected
January	Luke Kline Eagle Scout Project	\$1,641.43
February	Tanzanian Lutheran Church	
March		
April		
May		
June		

Flowers and Candles

Altar Flowers for the month of February:

February 5 th	Chad & Amelia Sterner
February 12 th	--available--
February 19 th	--available--
February 26 th	--available--

Altar Candles for the month of February:

The **Altar Candles** are given to the Glory of God by Chuck Curry.

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>NWOS Benevolence</u>
01/01/2023	12	44	\$2,430.00	\$48.00
01/08/2023	14	53	\$1,830.00	\$28.00
01/15/2023	18	69	\$2,587.00	\$241.00
01/22/2023	19	53	\$1,955.00	\$3.00
01/29/2023	11	87	\$1,641.43	\$0.00

2023 current budgeted expenses are \$210,480.66, or \$4,047.71 per week.

FELC can now accept online donations through the church website thanks to our partnership with Tithe.ly online giving. Just visit myfelc.org or scan the QR code to the right. From the church website click on the green GIVE button and follow the prompts.

Thank you for your support!



Thank You's

I want to thank you for adopting our family this year. It has been an up and down struggle to get on our feet firmly and this is such a gift. We hope you have a blessed (Christmas) as you have blessed ours!

-Angle Tree Recipient from Auglaize County Crisis Center

Thank you so much for your generosity, love, care, and support. My kids and I are so glad to live in an area where people care enough to help support us at Christmas time in our difficult season of life. We pray and hope you all have a blessed Christmas & New Year!

With grateful hearts, Mom & 2 Kiddos

Congratulations to our Graduates!



Haley Schattschneider graduated from Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee on December 16, 2022 with a Bachelor of Music in Commercial Music. Haley plans to stay in Nashville working independently for Club 44 Records, with the goal of becoming a studio musician. Congratulations Haley!

Katie Ronan graduated from Bowling Green State University on December 10, 2022 with a Bachelor of Arts in PPEL (Philosophy, Political Science, Economics, and Law). Katie plans to obtain her paralegal certification through Cincinnati State Technical Community College and start her career as a paralegal. Congratulations Katie!

Ministries in Action

	February 5 th	February 12 th	February 19 th	February 26 th
Acolyte	Doris Fisher	Makenzie Schneider	Deven Whetstone	Matthew Kline
Lector	Marsha Jackson	Jon Schmidt	Connie Krites	Joyce Brincefield
Ushers	Ken Frame	Dave Krites & Brian Van Meter	Ken Frame & Jon Schmidt	Clayton Fisher & Luke Kline
Worship Assistant	Marsha Jackson	Darla Frame	Makayla Frame	Ken Frame
Musician	Bailey Van Meter	Karen Luginbuhl	Darla Frame	Darla Frame
Preacher	Vicar Deb Monnin	Pastor Melodi Hagen	Bailey Van Meter	Vicar Deb Monnin
Greeter	Chuck Curry	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>

Altar Guild for February: Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame

Fellowship Cleanup for February: Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame

The Word of God

These are the lessons and gospel readings for the next two months. We provide them for you: to prepare your hearts for worship, and to learn about God's action in the world.

Sunday/ Holiday	1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel Reading
February 5 th	Micah 6:1-8	Psalm 15	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12
February 12 th	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Psalm 119:1-8	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Matthew 5:21-37
February 19 th	Exodus 24:12-18	Psalm 2	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matthew 17:1-9
February 22 nd Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17	Psalm 51:1-17	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
February 26 th	Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7	Psalm 32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
March 5 th	Genesis 12:1-4a	Psalm 121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17
March 12 th	Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
March 19 th	1 Samuel 16:1-13	Psalm 23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
February 26 th	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45

FELC News and Events...

Personal contact information...if there has been a change in your family's contact information, please contact the church office by email at wapakelc@bright.net or by calling the office at 419-738-3911.

Adult Sunday School is meeting in the parlor at 9:00am 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!

Education/Worship Schedule:

9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
9:15 & 11:15 a.m.	Youth Sunday School
9:45 a.m.	Youth Choir
10:00 a.m.	Worship in person and online at www.myfelc.org

Noisy Offering for the month of February: Tanzanian Lutheran Church

Donations are accepted in the chapel and at the back of the church the entire month.

Middle-School and High School Sunday School will be meeting in the basement each Sunday morning at 9:15. Vicar Deb, or her occasional substitute, would love for you to join in the conversation!

Preschool-Elementary School Sunday School has begun. There are two options to participate, at 9:15am and immediately following worship. Each session will take place in the large Sunday School room and last about 30 minutes. Both sessions will have the same lesson taught.

Youth Choir has returned and is open to all youth who would like to participate. Practice will take place every Sunday from 9:45-9:55 in the large Sunday School room.

Offering Envelopes Our offering envelopes have finally arrived. They will be available to be picked up in the hallway outside the chapel. If you did not receive envelopes and would like them, please contact Georgeann Stienecker. Thank you for your patience!

Men's Night is scheduled for Thursday, January 9th at 6:00pm at Astro Lanes.

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.

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 to 5:30 pm. Please remain in your vehicle and the meals will be brought to you.

Quilting Group meets on third Wednesday of the month, from 10am-12noon in the parlor. If you would like to join this group or have questions, please contact Darla Frame.

Game Night scheduled for Friday, February 24th at 6pm Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for a night of family fun and games. Playing cards and some games will be provided, but please feel free to bring games from home that you would like to play. We are asking that you bring your own snacks and refreshments.

Temple Talks If you missed the recent temple talks we encourage you to visit YouTube and watch them. Brenda talked on January 15 about the options for First English and Vicar Deb and the survey which was sent. Georgeann talked on January 29 about the finances which will be involved for a pastor. Vicar Deb talked on February 5 about God's call for her and on all of us. Please if you have questions or comments direct them to council or to Vicar Deb.

Adult Book Study, starting Monday, February 27 and continuing through March, there will be an adult book study in the parlor starting at 7:00pm each Monday. Led by FELC's new Christian Education Director, Rebecca Van Meter, we will be meeting to discuss our reading of **Before Amen** by **Max Lucado**. Please let Rebecca or the office know if you plan to join the study so she can plan and purchase the appropriate number of books. Please let Rebecca know if you would like a Zoom option.

The opening of Before Amen,

“Hello, my name is Max. I'm a recovering prayer wimp. I doze off when I pray. My thoughts zig, then zag, then zig again. Distractions swarm like gnats on a summer night. If attention deficit disorder applies to prayer, I am afflicted. When I pray, I think of a thousand things I need to do. I forget the one thing I set out to do: pray. Some people excel in prayer. They inhale heaven and exhale God. They are the SEAL Team Six of intercession. They would rather pray than sleep. Why is it that I sleep when I pray? They belong to the PGA: Prayer Giants Association. I am a card-carrying member of the PWA: Prayer Wimps Anonymous. Can you relate?”

I can relate! If you can relate, please consider joining the study!

Maple Syrup Festival, March 12 from 11:00am to 3:00pm at LMC at Hopewood Pines. Address is 2790 State Route 61, Marengo, OH 43334. LMC at Hopewood Pines is where our youth go for summer camp. Get to know the land and trails at Hopewood before you send your child there for summer camp or if you don't have camp age children, this is still a great day trip that supports our LOMO summer camps.

Treat yourself to a day filled with maple syrup, all you can eat pancakes, maple infused sausage and live music performed by a local band. You can purchase sassafras tea and donuts that are cooked over an open fire, buy real maple syrup or take a nature hike. Be sure to visit the sugar shack. You can relax and enjoy a conversation around the fire and connect with friends, old and new. This annual tradition is a fun and welcoming family and community festival themed in maple syrup. Funds are raised at the festival for summer camperships.

If you attend this event please let Rebecca Van Meter or the office know, we would be happy to hear about your adventure. Please feel free to send us your pictures too!

Monthly youth events following worship will typically be held on the last Sunday of each month, January through April. More details will come before each event. Contact Rebecca or the office for more information.

Summer Camp Please consider sending your child(ren) to HopeWood Camp this summer. HopeWood, formerly Lutheran Memorial Camp, is one of the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry in Ohio (LOMO) camps. Camp Mowana was also a part of the LOMO camps. There are many weeks to choose from. This is a great opportunity to grow your child's faith in an amazing setting. FELC has always strongly supported our youth attending LOMO camps. FELC will pay the majority of our active youth to attend camp, leaving you to pay just \$100 for your first child attending, and just \$50 for each youth after that. Please let Rebecca know if you are registering your child for camp and are using one of the following codes.

To register go to:

<https://www.lomocamps.org/>

And use the appropriate codes:

WAPANEW – for new campers to Hopewood

WAPARETURN – for Makayla, Carlee, or Izzy



Announcements from Council

Council met following worship on January 15, 2023. After our devotion, we listened to Chuck Curry who presented his description of how he is helping with the people in need in our community.

We approved our monthly business reports and committee reports.

Regrettably, we accepted Noah Schlosser's resignation as our youth representative.

We discussed the temple talk that was held before church. Rebecca presented a letter that was composed earlier by some of us on council and then all of council spent quite a bit of time completing a final draft that was to go out by the following week. There will be another temple talk on January 29, that will discuss financial considerations.

Other business included approving a request from Chuck Curry for \$100.00 from the Kantner scholarship to enroll in an online continuing education class.

Executive cleaning service did not represent themselves well, so we are now going with Custom cleaning service and will be a savings to our budget.

Council approved the agenda for the Bi-Annual congregational meeting on February 5.

Please reach out to any of us on Council with any concerns you may have.

God's Blessings,
Church Council

February 2023 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 5th Sunday of Epiphany 9:00am Adult 9:15 & 11:15am Youth 9:45am Youth Choir Worship @ 10am	6	7	8 12:00pm Prayer @ Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @ FELC Girl Scouts 6:30pm Confirmation Fellowship Meeting	9 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night @ Astro Lanes	10	11
12 6th Sunday of Epiphany 9:00am Adult 9:15 & 11:15am Youth 9:45am Youth Choir Worship @ 10am 11:15am Congregational Meeting Council Meeting to Follow	13 Worship and Music Committee 6:00pm	14	15 10am Quilting 12:00pm Prayer @ Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @ FELC Girl Scouts 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Choir	16 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	17	18
19 Transfiguration Sunday 9:00am Adult 9:15 & 11:15am Youth 9:45am Youth Choir Worship @ 10am	20	21	22 12:00pm Prayer @ Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @ FELC Girl Scouts 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship service at St. Marks	23 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	24	25
26 1st Sunday of Lent Sunday School 9:00am Adult 9:15 & 11:15am Youth 9:45am Youth Choir Worship @ 10am	27 Adult Book Study @7pm	28				

March 2023 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Lenten Worship 7:30pm Choir	2 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	3	4
5 2nd Sunday of Lent Sunday School 9:00am Adult 9:15 & 11:15am Youth 9:45am Youth Choir Worship @ 10am Council Meeting after worship	6 Adult Book Study @7pm	7	8 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts 7:00pm Lenten Worship	9 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night @ TBD	10	11
12 3rd Sunday of Lent 9:00am Adult 9:15 & 11:15am Youth 9:45am Youth Choir Worship @ 10am	13 Adult Book Study @7pm	14	15 10am Quilting 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Lenten Worship 7:30pm Choir	16 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	17	18
19 4th Sunday of Lent 9:00am Adult 9:15 & 11:15am Youth 9:45am Youth Choir Worship @ 10am	20 Adult Book Study @7pm	21	22 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts 7:00pm Lenten Worship	23 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	24	25
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