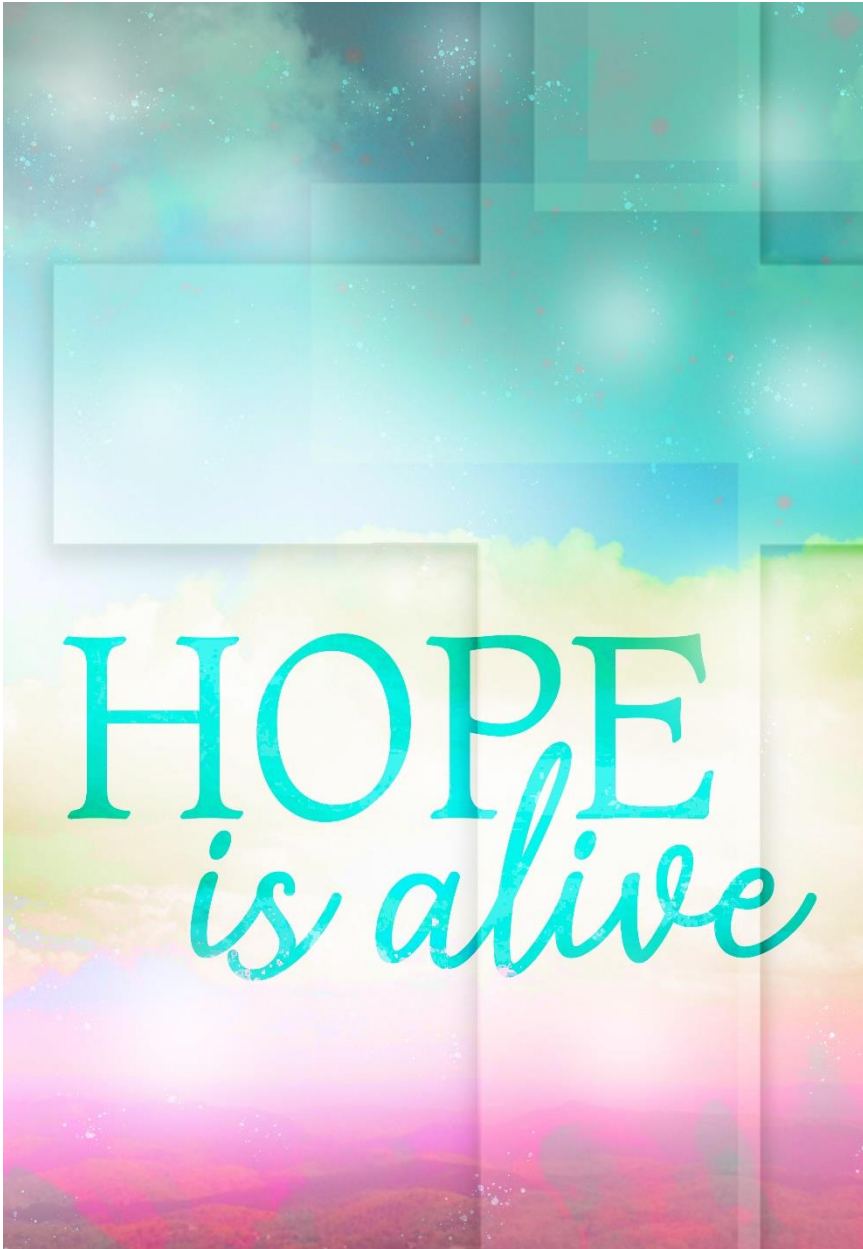


First English Lutheran Church
Wapakoneta, Ohio



Our April 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

Vicar Deb Monnin..... deb.monnin@myfelc.org 937-726-0579

Office Administrator

Chuck Curry wapakelc@bright.net 419-738-3911

Bookkeeper

Chad Sterner..... felc.finance@myfelc.org..... 419-738-3911

Financial Secretary/Treasurer

Georgeann Stienecker... .. nksoccer@nktelco.net..... 419-305-5066

Music Director

Darla Frame darlaframe@gmail.com 419-234-3283

Choir Directors

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Bailey Van Meter &

Makayla Frame, Youth 419-738-3911

Church Council

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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.

Something to Ponder

*Christ Jesus, though of God,
did not cling to equality with God,
but in complete self-emptying
took the place of a slave,
born a human.
And as a human, in profound humility,
Christ became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted Christ
with the name that is above every name....
—Philippians 2.6-9*

*Many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.
—Matthew 19.30*

Jesus invites us to a Lenten discipline of humility.
Humility is not thinking poorly of ourselves,
ranking others higher, or mere self-abasement.
Humility is knowing the whole.
We are all a circle, where the first is last and the last is first.
Each of us is equally important.
Each is gifted, beautiful, wounded, and indispensable.
And none is more vital, honored or deserving than another.
We each sing our note. Humility is blending in perfect harmony.
Humility enables us to take the lowest place,
or the highest, and serve as a vessel of God's grace.
It is usually the lowest place,
free of privilege, power or prestige,
where grace is most clear.

*God, give me the humility,
trusting in your grace,
to take the lowest place
and find your glory there.*

Ponderings on the reading and meditation from Vicar Deb: I invite you to read through the scripture and the meditation above – take a pause for a few minutes and read it again. As you read it, I invite you to notice what words or phrases stick out to you?

This particular scripture from Philippians is called the “Christ Hymn” and it’s been sticking with me over the past couple of weeks. I wonder – do you ever have songs or scriptures which stick with you? They might come to the top of mind when you least expect it, like when you are waking up or when you are going from here to there.

This text and meditation has been sticking with me – and the words which stick out almost every time are “self-emptying,” “profound humility,” and “circle.” In this hymn and in this meditation, I’m reminded of how God in Jesus gave up God’s power for us. God in Jesus came to earth and did not use his Godly powers. Rather God in Jesus gave up his position so that he could be with people who have no power. God in Jesus came and ate with the hungry, the unseen, the ones being ignored and not heard.

I like how Pastor Steve Garnaas-Holmes explains humility as being part of a circle, one part in the whole of creation. When we are in a circle, no one is higher or lower, no one is stronger or weaker, no one has more power over another – all of our talents and strengths are valued. In a circle, everyone is seen, no one is hidden. No one is trampled.

I invite you to ponder the Christ Hymn with me this month – this month in which we remember Jesus who died sharing God’s love, grace, and humility. I invite you to pray with me: Humble Lord, God of all Creation, help me to walk with you, to carry your grace and love and humility in my very being, so that others may see you, through me. AMEN

Vicar Deb’s Seminary Experience:

Thank you all for supporting me and praying for me as I attend Seminary.

I’m in the last semester and will finish the end of May. It’s a busy time – and I’m looking forward to graduating, and yet feeling melancholy that I won’t have this period of intense learning and will not see many of my classmates and teachers in person again.

This term, I’m taking four classes, the Bible through Women’s Eyes, the Book of Job, Theological Frameworks for Ministry, and Scripture and its Witnesses. In Job, we’ve been wrestling with why bad things happen to good people. In those times and even now, we think that if we live good lives and if we follow all the rules, everything will work out fine. In the grand scheme of things and certainly in communities, that is true. However, individually we find, as Job did, that there is personal pain and suffering. We might ask why? ... often times, like in Job, we there is no answer. Thankfully, God comes to us through our friends and through nature and shows that us that God cares for all of creation – it’s not just about us. In that wide view, there is hope. God is with us – in the tough and the good times.

Growing Disciples of Jesus Christ & Supporting Vicar Deb through Seminary

Our Mission:
to spread the
Gospel of
Jesus Christ
and love one another
as He loves us

Spring 2023
February 16 to
May 12
2023

Graduation
May 20 & 21, 2023
& Ordination
September 2023

Winter 2023
January 9 to
February 10
2023

Sept 16 to
Dec 20
2022

June 8 to
August 19
2022

February 26
to May 27
2022

January 7 to
February 20
2022

Sept 17 to
December 20
2021

June 9 to
August 20
2021

Vicar Deb's Classes
Spring 2023

- The Bible through Women's Eyes
- The Book of Job
- Theological Frameworks for Ministry
- Scripture and its Witnesses

How are you
Discipling?

What new
Growth do
you see?



First English &
Trinity friends
nourish &
support!

Living into our Gifts!

FELC Committees, Chairpersons, Council Liaisons

Committee	Chairperson	Liaison
Building & Property	Brenda Shoffstall	Jeff Ritchie
Christian Education/Youth	Rebecca Van Meter	Rebecca Van Meter
Evangelism	Rebecca Van Meter	Denise Kantner
Finance	Cari Frame	Dave Clift
Life & Fellowship	Brenda Shoffstall	Darla Frame
Social Ministry	Rebecca Van Meter	Teresa Fisher
Staff Support	Cari Frame	Jon Schmidt
Stewardship	Meets with Finance	Brenda Shoffstall
Worship & Music	Darla Frame	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, Dale Thomas

We especially remember in our prayers...

The family and friends of Scott Anderson,
The family and friends of Theresa Nagel,
Tracy Anderson, Brianna Bertke, Don Cole, Dominic Cousins, Jacob Cox,
Paul Crossley, Donna Stowell Dague, Janice Etzkorn, Connie Kantner,
Bryan Katterhenry, Wayne & Judy Kentner, Rex Lippincott, Lynne Loebach,
Sasha Maslov, Dennis McCormick, Cathy & Desmond Miller, Nici Rapp,
Sue Schoonover, Pam Schulz, Adam Schulze, Alex Shirey, Jerry & Francine Slife,
Georgeann Stienecker, Seth Thuman, Dale & Mary Ann Thomas, Eddie Whetstone, Chaz &
Tracy Williams, Hannah Wood, and Angela.

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 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.

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>NWOS Benevolence</u>
03/05/2023	20	107	\$14,282.30	\$141.00
03/12/2023	21	39	\$1,930.00	\$33.00
03/19/2023	12	74	\$1,447.00	\$113.00
03/26/2023	10	82	\$1,641.00	\$18.00
04/02/2023	22	115	\$4,095.00	\$44.00

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!



2023 Noisy Offerings

Month	Recipient	Amount Collected
January	Luke Kline Eagle Scout Project	\$1,641.43
February	Tanzanian Lutheran Church	\$1,000.00
March	Turkey Earthquake Victims	\$367.67
April	Morgan's Place	
May		
June		

Flowers and Candles

Altar Flowers for the month of April:

April 2 nd	--available--
April 9 th	Easter Sunday
April 16 th	--available--
April 23 rd	Van Meter Family
April 30 th	Chris Nagel

Altar Candles for the month of April:

The **Altar Candles** are given to the Glory of God by Mark and Chris Nagel in celebration of the many April birthdays in our family and our anniversary.

Ministries in Action

	April 2nd	April 9 th	April 16 th	April 23 rd	April 30 th
Acolyte	Matthew Kline	Harrison Anderson	Doris Fisher	Makenzie Schneider	Deven Whetstone
Lector	Ken Frame	Chuck Curry	David Clift	Connie Krites	Joyce Brincefield
Ushers	Ken Frame & Bruce Monnin	Dave Krites & Brian Van Meter	Ken Frame & Jon Schmidt	Clayton Fisher & Luke Kline	Steve Stienecker & Jim Kantner
Worship Assistant	Susan Miller	Char Curry	Makayla Frame	Marsha Jackson	Ken Frame
Musician	Karen Luginbuhl	Darla Frame	Darla Frame	Susan Miller	Darla Frame
Preacher	Vicar Deb Monnin	Vicar Deb Monnin	Vicar Deb Monnin	Vicar Deb Monnin	Pastor Melodi Hagen
Greeter	<i>Brenda Shoffstall</i>	<i>Frank & Nancy Heffner</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Chris Nagel</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>

Altar Guild for April: Niki Oren & Michelle Bowen

Fellowship Cleanup for April: Connie Krites & Georgeann Stienecker

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	1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel
April 2 nd	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 26:14-27:66
April 9 th	Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Colossians 3:1-4	Matthew 28:1-10
April 16 th	Acts 2:14a, 22-23	Psalm 16	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
April 23 rd	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19	1 Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35
April 30 th	Acts 7:55-60	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
May 7 th	Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10
May 14 th	Acts 17:22-31	Psalm 66:8-20	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
May 21 st	Acts 1:6-14	Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11	John 17:1-11
May 28 th	Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	John 20:19-23

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.

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

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.

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!

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.

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, April 2 nd	Palm Sunday	10am at First English
	Carry-In Meal, Egg Hunt	11am Fellowship Hall
Thursday, April 6 th	Maundy Thursday	7pm at St. Marks
Friday, April 7 th	Good Friday	7pm at First English
Sunday, April 9 th	Easter Sunday	10am at First English

Wapak Loaves & Fishes There will be no meal served during the week of April 3rd. Meals will resume on Thursday, April 13th. 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.

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.

Noisy Offering for the month of APRIL: Morgan's Place Cemetery

Offering pans are located in the chapel and at the back of the church. Donations are accepted during the entire month.

Wedding Dress Donation for Morgan's Place On Sunday, March 19 our members heard a Temple Talk by Mollie Verdier telling us about **Morgan's Place Cemetery**, whose mission is to assist bereaved families throughout the grieving process when experiencing the loss of a baby. A part of their mission involves making burial outfits for the babies from used wedding gowns. We would like to invite anyone who has a gown they no longer need or want to store to consider donating it to Morgan's Place for this very important mission. The dresses can be brought to the church and we will see they get to Mollie and her volunteer seamstresses to use. Our Quilting Group will be making blankets for donation and the Noisy Offering for April will be designated to Morgan's Place as well.

Dine to Donate Fundraiser for Morgan's Place Morgan's Place Cemetery is hosting a Dine to Donate event at Amelio's Pizzeria in Sidney on **Thursday, April 13th** from 5-9pm. A portion of all sales for the evening will be donated to Morgan's Place Cemetery. Amelio's Pizzeria is located at 115 South St. in Sidney.

Men's Night is scheduled for Thursday, April 13th at 6:00pm at Meyer's Tavern in Botkins.

Ladies' Night April 18th Spring is finally here! We will once again be having ladies' night on Tuesday, April 18 at El Azteca at 6:00pm. Please come out for some great fellowship!

Guest Speaker Event at First Methodist Church April 16th at 6:30pm First Methodist is hosting pastor and missionary Tim Burden to share his encouraging and inspirational message about the mission of Jesus and how we must rediscover this mission today.

Game Night April 21st at 6pm FELC is hosting a Family Game Night in the Fellowship Hall at 6pm on Friday, April 21st. The Fellowship Committee will be providing some light snacks, but feel free to bring a snack or something to share and your favorite family friendly game to play. There will be door prizes as well.

Youth Retreat April 28th & 29th There will be an overnight youth retreat at First English for our Middle School and High School students. More details are forthcoming.

Family Life Center Walk for Life is June 3rd Help the Family Life Center reach out with a message of help and hope to at-risk women. Please sign up to be a Walker in this year's Walk for Life! Join us at the Walk for Life on Saturday, June 3rd from 9:30 AM- 11:30 AM at the Wapak Track on 400 W. Harrison Street in Wapakoneta.

Hygiene Kits Service Project The Youth of First English are asking for your help with a service project. They would like to package hygiene kits for the housing insecure individuals at **Lutheran Social Services' Faith Mission** in Columbus. The kits consist of basic hygiene items such as body wash and deodorant and toothpaste (a complete list can be found on the posters and flyers around the church). The Youth are asking the congregation of First English to donate the personal hygiene items needed to build these kits. Donated items may be placed in the large shopping cart in the Melching Hall lobby. The kits will be assembled by our youth and delivered to the LSS Faith Mission in April.

Please do not feel like you need to donate a complete kit, any and all donations of the requested hygiene items will be accepted and appreciated.

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



Alive Music Festival The high school youth group (current 8th-12th graders) will be attending the Alive Music Festival in Mineral City, Ohio. We will be leaving July 12th and returning very late on July 15th. If you are interested in attending please talk to Rebecca.

Thank You

Dear Church Friends,

Thank you for your donation of \$500 to Shoulder to Shoulder...

Shoulder to Shoulder partners with Ilula Hospital, their Nursing School and community partners including Dignity for Daughters to improve the lives and health of people in the Iringa Diocese of Southern Tanzania. Your generous donation makes a difference to improve the lives and health of people in the Iringa community. Thank you!

Sincerely, Kent Peterson from *Shoulder to Shoulder*

Announcements from Council

Council met after worship on March 5, 2023. We reviewed the business reports and approved them along with amending one of the reports for our minutes.

We then looked at the committee reports and approved them.

Staff support will be meeting with Vicar Deb on April 26 to see how they can help along with the other people on staff at other times.

We discussed the need to reach out to our members to help on a stewardship committee. Brenda will be glad to hear from anyone that would like to help with this much needed effort. We will also be looking at some synod resources.

On March 30, Council, Vicar Deb, internship committee and our Synod facilitator will be meeting to discuss how we can move forward in the coming months.

We approved 2 weeks of Vacation for our office administrator position.

Brenda read a letter of resignation from our bookkeeper, Chad Sterner due to his increased job commitments. He has done a wonderful job.

Next month, we will be sharing with the congregation what the priorities of the surveys have shown along with concerns given. We want to thank everyone that has taken the time to give us your thoughts as we move forward in decisions that will be made in the coming months.

Thank you for putting your trust in our council. We, along with committees are working hard to make our church stronger and serving God.

Overview of Survey Responses

The Council and Internship committee are working with Synod to relay the 5 most important focus points of a pastor as expressed by the congregation surveys. 1. Be an effective communicator. 2. Be effective in working with the youth. 3. Be active in visitation of members and nonmembers. 4. Help people develop their spiritual life. 5. Be an effective teacher. Building a sense of community and a commitment to the Lutheran Church were also highly valued by our respondents.

The most frequent concerns of the congregation in the comments were: 1. Full time pastor versus part-time pastor. 2. A pastor who has a visible presence at church events and in the community. 3. Are there enough volunteers to fill in the gaps if we have a part-time pastor? 4. Budgetary concerns on compensation of a pastor. 5. Having open communication at the church.

Explanation of the Shared Ministry Agreement

Several survey respondents were curious why we entered into shared ministry agreement with Trinity Lutheran in Moulton. The following are the primary reasons FELC needed to enter the agreement with Trinity to hire Vicar Deb as our Synodically Authorized Minister in August of 2020 and why we have continued to uphold this partnership.

- Vicar Deb was not even enrolled in seminary yet when she joined us in the summer of 2020. She had completed Diakonia classes and became a Synodically Authorized Minister, or SAM) shortly after she joined us, but she was not ready and able to minister to a congregation without a supervisor as is typically the case with SAM's. Because of this, our synod always appoints a mentoring pastor to partner with new SAMs. Pastor Meldoi, from Trinity, was familiar with Deb and had been walking alongside her as Vicar Deb listened for where God was calling her. Pastor Melodi feels called to raise up lay leaders who are feeling called into ministry. Having Pastor Melodi as Vicar Deb's supervisor/mentor was an obvious choice for the Synod Office, and FELC's President and Vice President.
- When Vicar Deb entered seminary she needed a supervisor. This would usually be done by the pastor at the congregation where they are serving, but since we had no pastor to supervise Vicar Deb, Pastor Melodi was able to continue to serve us as Vicar Deb's supervisor.
- Vicar Deb's seminary only allows her to preach 2 Sundays a month, really to spend time writing two sermons a month, so one Sunday a month she re-preaches one of her sermons at Trinity and we are blessed with having Pastor Melodi come and lead us and share a message with us.

We thank everyone who participated in the survey, and we will continue to keep the congregation informed as we move forward at FELC.

-FELC Church Council

April 2023 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Palm Sunday 9:00am Adult 9:15 & 11:15am Youth 9:45am Youth Choir Worship @ 10am Easter Carry-in Meal & Easter Egg Hunt Following Worship	3	4	5 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts 7:30pm Choir	6 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship @ St. Marks	7 7pm Good Friday Worship Service @ First English	8
9 Easter Sunday Sunday School 9:00am Adult 9:15 & 11:15am Youth 9:45am Youth Choir Worship @ 10am	10	11	12 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts 6:30pm Confirmation	13 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night @ Meyer's Tavern	14	15
16 2nd Sunday of Easter 9:00am Adult 9:15 & 11:15am Youth 9:45am Youth Choir Worship @ 10am Council Meeting after worship	17	18 6:00pm Ladies' Night @ El Azteca	19 10am Quilting 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Choir	20 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	21 6:00pm Family Game Night @ FELC	22
23 3rd Sunday of Easter 9:00am Adult 9:15 & 11:15am Youth 9:45am Youth Choir Worship @ 10am Confirmation Sunday	24	25	26 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts	27 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	28	29
30 4th Sunday of Easter Sunday School 9:00am Adult 9:15 & 11:15am Youth 9:45am Youth Choir Worship @ 10am						

May 2023 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Choir	4 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	5	6
7 5 th Sunday of Easter Sunday School 9:00am Adult 9:15 & 11:15am Youth 9:45am Youth Choir Worship @ 10am	8 6:30pm Worship & Music Committee	9	10 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts	11 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night @ TBD	12	13
14 6 th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Adult 9:15 & 11:15am Youth 9:45am Youth Choir Worship @ 10am Council Meeting after worship	15	16 6:00pm Ladies' Night @TBD	17 10am Quilting 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Choir	18 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	19	20 Vicar Deb's Baccalaureate
21 7 th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Adult 9:15 & 11:15am Youth 9:45am Youth Choir Worship @ 10am Vicar Deb's Commencement	22	23	24 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts	25 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	26	27
28 Pentecost Sunday Sunday School 9:00am Adult 9:15 & 11:15am Youth 9:45am Youth Choir Worship @ 10am	29 Happy Memorial Day!	30	31			