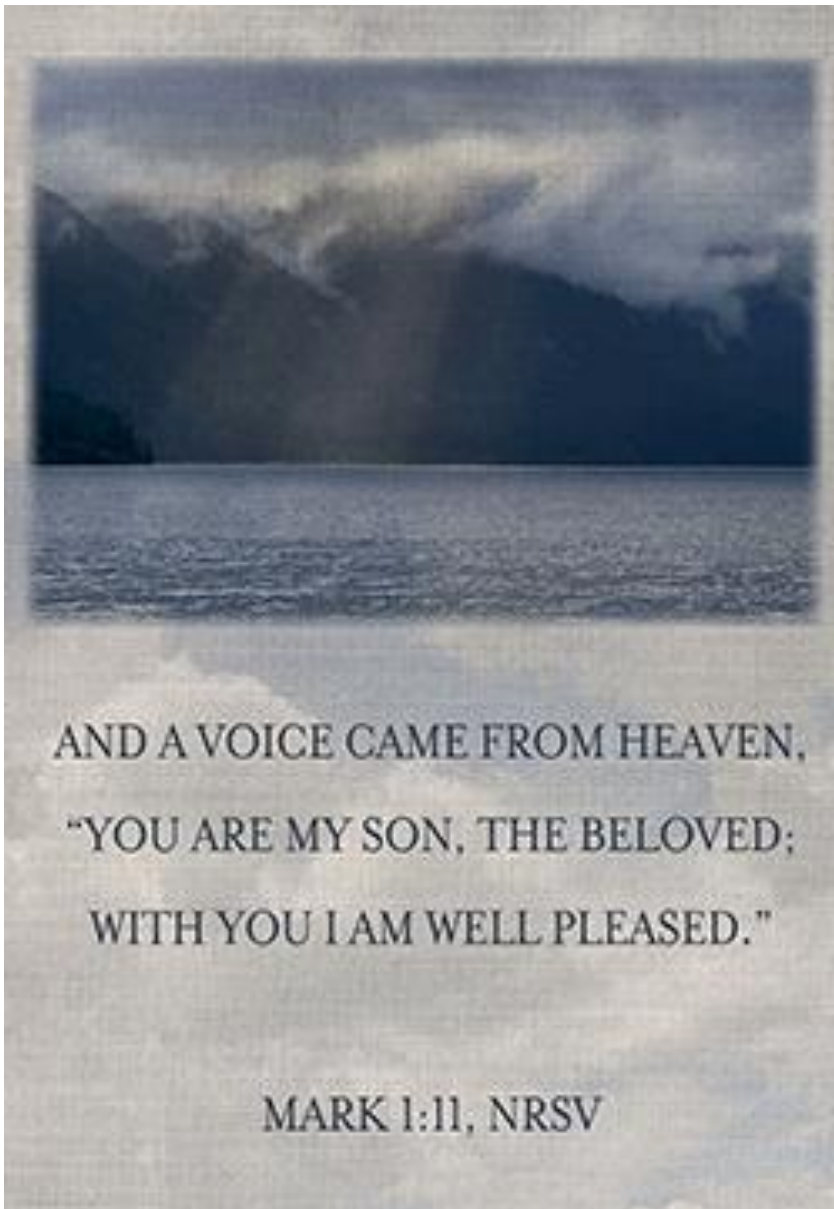


**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio**



AND A VOICE CAME FROM HEAVEN,
"YOU ARE MY SON, THE BELOVED;
WITH YOU I AM WELL PLEASED."

MARK 1:11, NRSV

**Baptism of Our Lord
January 7th, 2024**

WELCOME TO FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

Sunday Schedule

9:00 a.m. Youth and Adult Sunday School

9:45 a.m. Youth Choir

10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Worship Leaders & Assistants

The **Altar Candles** are given to the Glory of God by Chuck Curry in gratitude for the promise and possibility that the new year brings.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God by Brian and Rebecca Van Meter in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

MINISTERS for This Week

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Acolyte	Faith Whetstone
Lector	Marsha Jackson
Ushers	Ken Frame & Richard Yocum
Worship Assistant	Darla Frame
Musician	Karen Luginbuhl
Preacher	Jennie Grundey
Greeter	Brenda Shoffstall
Altar Guild	Sara Young & Angie Bowersock
Fellowship Cleanup	Brenda Shoffstall & Chris Nagel

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

* Please rise if able.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW P. 94)**

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

* **GATHERING SONG**

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise (ELW 310)

* **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.**

*** CALL TO WORSHIP (PSALM 136:1-3)**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

For his steadfast love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods,

For his steadfast love endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords,

For his steadfast love endures forever.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 204) *Glory be to God*

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rebecca Van Meter

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-5

A reading from Genesis.

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM:

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

SECOND READING: Acts 19:1-7

A reading from Acts.

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil* (ELW 512)

GOSPEL: Mark 1:4-11

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the

thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Jennie Grundey

* HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized (ELW 304)

* 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.**

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

Each petition will end with *God of Grace*.

Please respond with ***receive our prayer***.

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

* 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

Please be seated. As the ushers come forward, 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.

*** OFFERING HYMN** *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful* (ELW 182)

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*** LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

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**

God, Whose Almighty Word (ELW 673)

*** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

MINISTERS for Next Week

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Acolyte	Vivian Fisher
Lector	Connie Krites
Ushers	Dave Krites & Brian Van Meter
Worship Assistant.....	Jon Schmidt
Musician	Greg Tabler
Greeter	
Altar Guild.....	Sara Young & Angie Bowersock
Fellowship Cleanup	Brenda Shoffstall & Chris Nagel

OUR PRAYER CORNER

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

Otterbein at Cridersville	Sharon Billiter, Rex Lippincott
Otterbein at St. Marys	Dorothy Dickman
The Gardens	Betty Hague, Dale & Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz

We especially remember in our prayers...

Family and friends of Karen Beard,
James Benshoff, Susan Binkley, Olivia Brinkley, Braden Brandyberry, Nancy Bush,
Dominic Cousins, Char Curry, Bonnie Davidson, Ted Gibson, Connie Kantner,
Bryan Katterhenry, Wayne & Judy Kentner, Rex Lippincott, Lauren Makuh, Sasha
Maslov, Mitchell Metz, Desmond Miller, Jenny Oliver, Sue Schoonover, Pam Schulz,
Alex Shirey, Seth Thuman, Phil Thrush, Eddie Whetstone, Jim & Cyndi Zweibel,
Nancy Carter, April Nance, Angela, and Skyler.

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.

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 & OFFERINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>NWOS Benevolence</u>
12/03/2023	7	70	\$4,954.91	\$73.00
12/10/2023	18	94	\$26,104.02	\$23.00
12/17/2024	18	90	\$7,962.91	\$133.00
12/24/2023	8	113	\$2,124.20	\$3.00
12/31/2023	14	63	\$9,965.91	\$3.00

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!



What's Happening at First English....

Worship Music We need your help! If you or someone you know would like to record a song, or sing or play live music for our prelude, let Darla know. Also, if you know someone who plays the organ or piano that might be interested in serving as our "organist" one or two Sundays a month, please let Darla know. Thank you so much!

Next Bingo at the Acres on January 9th FELC will not be hosting Bingo at the Acres in December. Bingo will resume on January 9th from 2-3pm. If you would like to help with this social outreach ministry, please contact Brenda Shoffstall.

2024 Offering Envelopes The cost of offering envelopes has risen and the reliability of their timely delivery is suspect. For those reasons we are discontinuing ordering offering envelopes for our members. There are envelopes available in the pews for your convenience. Please be sure to enter your full name and what fund you would like your offering directed to. You may use outdated envelopes, but please be sure to write your full name on the envelope. If you have questions, please see Georgeann Stienecker or contact her at nksoccer@nktelco.net. Thank you!

Noisy Offering for JANUARY: Family Life Center Offering pans are located in the chapel and at the back of the church. Donations are accepted all month.

Men's Night is scheduled for Thursday, January 11th at 6pm at The Inn Between.

Ladies' Night is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16th at 6pm at Woody's K-Ville Inn in Kettlersville.

Adult Sunday School Starting Sunday, January 14th, the adult Sunday school class will be starting our discussions using the topics of Luther's Small Catechism as our guide. On January 14th we will start with the 10 Commandments. While the Small Catechism will give us our topics and be a resource, please read other resources (especially the Bible) and bring your life experience to the discussion. We meet in the parlor at 9am. All are welcome!

You can find a pdf of Luther's Small Catechism here:
http://www.st-ansgars-montreal.ca/WhatIs/Small_Catechism.pdf

Save the Date: Souper Bowl 2024 is Sunday, February 11th at 11:30am FELC is hosting a community Souper Bowl luncheon on Super Bowl Sunday, February 11th, at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Each lunch will consist of a choice of soup, a sandwich or hot dog, and a dessert. Participants will have the option to dine in or carry out. This event is open to the community, so please invite your friends. More details will be provided in the coming weeks as they become available.

It will take many hands to pull this event off successfully. We will be asking for lots of volunteers to prepare food, serve meals, and clean up after the event. Please consider signing up to help out when the opportunity becomes available. Thank you!

Altar Flower Sing-up for 2024 A new flower sign-up calendar has been placed in the hallway just outside of the sanctuary at the Mechanic Street entrance. Please consider honoring or memorializing a loved one or a special occasion by volunteering to provide flowers to decorate our altar. All dates are first come, first served. Thank you so much!

Thank you so much! Thank you to everyone who came in on Friday to take down our Christmas decorations! It went so quickly and so smoothly that we didn't need to come in on Saturday to finish up. Thank you again!

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, January 7th	10:00 a.m.	Worship – Jennie Grundey
	3:00 p.m.	Estimated return from YouthQuake
Tuesday, January 9 th	2:00 p.m.	Bingo at the Acres
Wednesday, January 10 th	12:00 p.m.	Prayer at Trinity
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation
Thursday, January 11 th	4:30 p.m.	Loaves and Fishes
	6:00 p.m.	Men's Night @ The Inn Between
Sunday, January 14th	10:00 a.m.	Worship – Pastor Mick Althausser
Tuesday, January 16 th	6:00 p.m.	Ladies Night @ Woody's K-Ville Inn in Kettlersville
Wednesday, January 17 th	10:00 a.m.	Quilting
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
		Confirmation
	7:00 p.m.	Ladies Choir
Thursday, January 18 th	4:30 p.m.	Loaves and Fishes

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 Hours: 11:00am – 1:00pm

Mission Statement

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

Church Staff & Volunteers

Office Administrator	Chuck Curry
Bookkeeper	Anderson Accounting
Treasurer	Georgeann Stienecker; nksoccer@nktelco.net
Music Director	Darla Frame
Audio-Technology	Dave Curry; dlcy@bright.net ; 937-307-8596