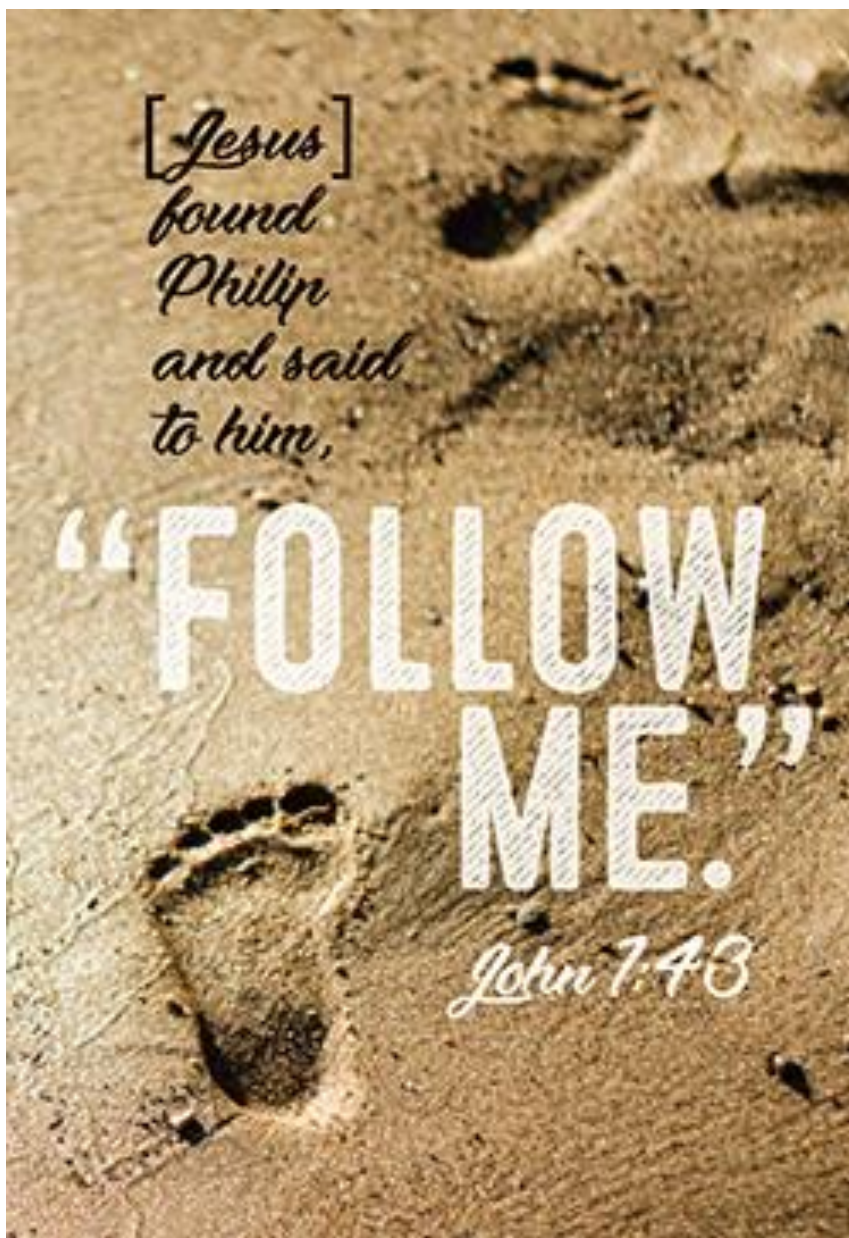


FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



2nd Sunday of Epiphany
January 14th, 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 Mark and Chris Nagel in celebration
of the January and February birthdays in our family; Mark, Brian Lisa, and Remi, and in
memory of Chris's father, John.

MINISTERS for This 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 |
| Pastor | Pastor Mick Althausen |
| Greeter | |
| 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

O Jesus, I Have Promised (ELW 810)

* 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

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM

Lift High the Cross by Sidney H Nicholson arr Lloyd Larson

WORD

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

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

A reading from 1 Samuel.

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."
Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 139:1-6,13-18

¹LORD, you have searched me out;

O LORD, you have known me.

²**You know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

³You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴**Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.**

⁵You encompass me, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

¹³For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴**I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.**

¹⁵My body was not hidden from you,
while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶**Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were
written in your book; my days were fashioned before they came to be.**

¹⁷How deep I find your thoughts, O God! How great is the sum of them!

¹⁸If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹²"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³"Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh." ¹⁷But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil (ELW 512)

GOSPEL: John 1:43-51

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Glory to you, O Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Pastor Mick Althausen

*** HYMN OF THE DAY**

Will You Come and Follow Me (ELW 798)

*** 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**.

* 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..

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

* HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 207)

*** WORDS OF INSTITUTION (ELW p. 190)**

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God* (ELW p. 208)

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

One Bread, One Body (ELW 496)

Here I Am, Lord (ELW 574)

Thy Strong Word (ELW 511)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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**

O Day Full of Grace (ELW 627)

*** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

MINISTERS for Next Week

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Audio/Visual | Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie |
| Acolyte | Deven Whetstone |
| Lector | Ken Fame |
| Ushers | Ken Frame & Jon Schmidt |
| Worship Assistant..... | Deanna Ronan |
| Musician | Darla Frame |
| Greeter | Bob & Deb Shenk |
| 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 |
| Vancrest in St. Marys | Jim Zwiebel |

We especially remember in our prayers...

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, Charleigh Pangle, Sue Schoonover, Pam Schulz, Alex Shirey, Seth Thuman, Phil Thrush, Eddie Whetstone, Jim & Cyndi Zwiebel, 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.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who has prayed for me and supported me during my recovery from surgery. I really felt the love from my FELC family.

- Char Curry

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Views</u> | <u>Attendance</u> | <u>Current Giving</u> | <u>NWOS Benevolence</u> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 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 |
| 01/07/2024 | 21 | 57 | \$3,130.00 | \$18.00 |

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 March 12th FELC will not be hosting Bingo at the Acres on Tuesday, February 13th 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.

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!

2023 Tax Statements are Available 2023 Tax Statements have been printed and can be picked up on the table in the hallway outside of the chapel. If you cannot find a tax statement for your household and believe that you should have received one, please contact Georgeann Steinecker at nksoccer@nktelco.net. Thank you!

FELC to host Blood Drive This Wednesday, January 17th, from noon until 6pm, FELC will be hosting a blood drive in the fellowship hall.

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

| | | |
|--|-------------------|---|
| Sunday, January 14th | 10:00 a.m. | Worship – Pastor Mick Althausser |
| | | Worship & Music Meeting after worship |
| 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 |
| | noon-6 p.m. | Blood Drive |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Bell Choir |
| | | Confirmation |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Ladies Choir |
| Thursday, January 18 th | 4:30 p.m. | Loaves and Fishes |
| Sunday, January 21st | 10:00 a.m. | Worship – Pastor William Schultz |
| | | Church Council Meeting after worship |
| Tuesday, January 23 rd | 6:15 p.m. | Christian Education Meeting |
| Wednesday, January 24 th | 12:00 p.m. | Prayer at Trinity |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Confirmation |
| Thursday, January 25 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 |