

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio

Follow Me,
and I
will make you



fish
for
people.

Mark 1:17, NRSV

3rd Sunday of Epiphany
January 21st, 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 the people of God.

MINISTERS for This 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
Pastor	Pastor Bill Schultz
Greeter	Bob & Deb Shenk
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

As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *O Praise Him* by David Crowder arr Bethany K Smith & Mary McDonald

* **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**

We Are Called (ELW 720)

* **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. **Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rebecca Van Meter

CHOIR ANTHEM

Great, Getting' Up Day Traditional Spiritual arr Sally K. Albrecht

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

A reading from Jonah.

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM:

⁵For God alone I wait in silence;
truly, my hope is in God.

⁶**God alone is my rock and my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.**

⁷In God is my deliverance and my honor;
God is my strong rock and my refuge.

⁸**Put your trust in God always, O people,
pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.**

⁹Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate cannot be trusted.
Placed on the scales together they weigh even less ¹ than a breath.

¹⁰**Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride;
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**

¹¹God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,
that power belongs to God.

¹²**Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord,
for you repay all according to their deeds.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away. Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

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

GOSPEL: Mark 1:14-20

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Pastor Bill Schultz

*** HYMN OF THE DAY**

Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult (ELW 696)

*** APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us confess our faith using the word of the 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

Break Now the Bread of Life (ELW 515)

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (ELW 815)

I Love to Tell the Story (ELW 661)

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.**

PRAYER FOR COUNCIL

Heavenly Father, we humbly come before you to ask that you send your Holy Spirit among the elected leaders of this congregation as they meet today to make decisions that have bearing on the life and ministry of this congregation. We pray that your spirit will guide them to make these decisions in faith, grounded in our calling to share your love and the gospel. **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**

Shine, Jesus, Shine (ELW 671)

*** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

MINISTERS for Next Week

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Acolyte	Doris Fisher
Lector	Chris Nagel
Ushers	Luke Kline & Clayton Fisher
Worship Assistant.....	Susan Miller
Musician	recordings
Pastor	Pastor Bill Schultz
Greeter	Chris Nagel
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, Dominic Cousins,
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, Carrie Schmidt, Sue Schoonover,
Pam Schulz, Alex Shirey, Seth Thuman, Eddie Whetstone, Jim & Cyndi Zwiebel,
Nancy Carter, April Nance, Angela, Jess and Gilbert, 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>
12/17/2024	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
01/14/2024	23	42	\$1,113.00	\$111.00

2024 current budgeted expenses are \$128,507.08, or \$2,471.29 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!

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!

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.

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.

Adult Sunday School The adult Sunday school class has begun a series of discussions based on the topics of Luther's Small Catechism as our guide. 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 and is a fundraiser for our church, so please invite your friends. Adult meals will cost \$8 and youth (ages 3-12) will cost \$5, and kids age 2 or younger will eat free.

It will take many hands to pull this event off successfully. Please consider signing up to help out when opportunities become available. This week we are asking individuals to sign up to provide desserts for the event. Thank you so much!

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, January 21st	10:00 a.m.	Worship – Pastor Bill 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
Sunday, January 28th	10:00 a.m.	Worship – Pastor Bill Schultz Social Ministry/Evangelism Committee after worship
Wednesday, January 31 st	12:00 p.m.	Prayer at Trinity
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
		Confirmation
Thursday, February 1 st	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