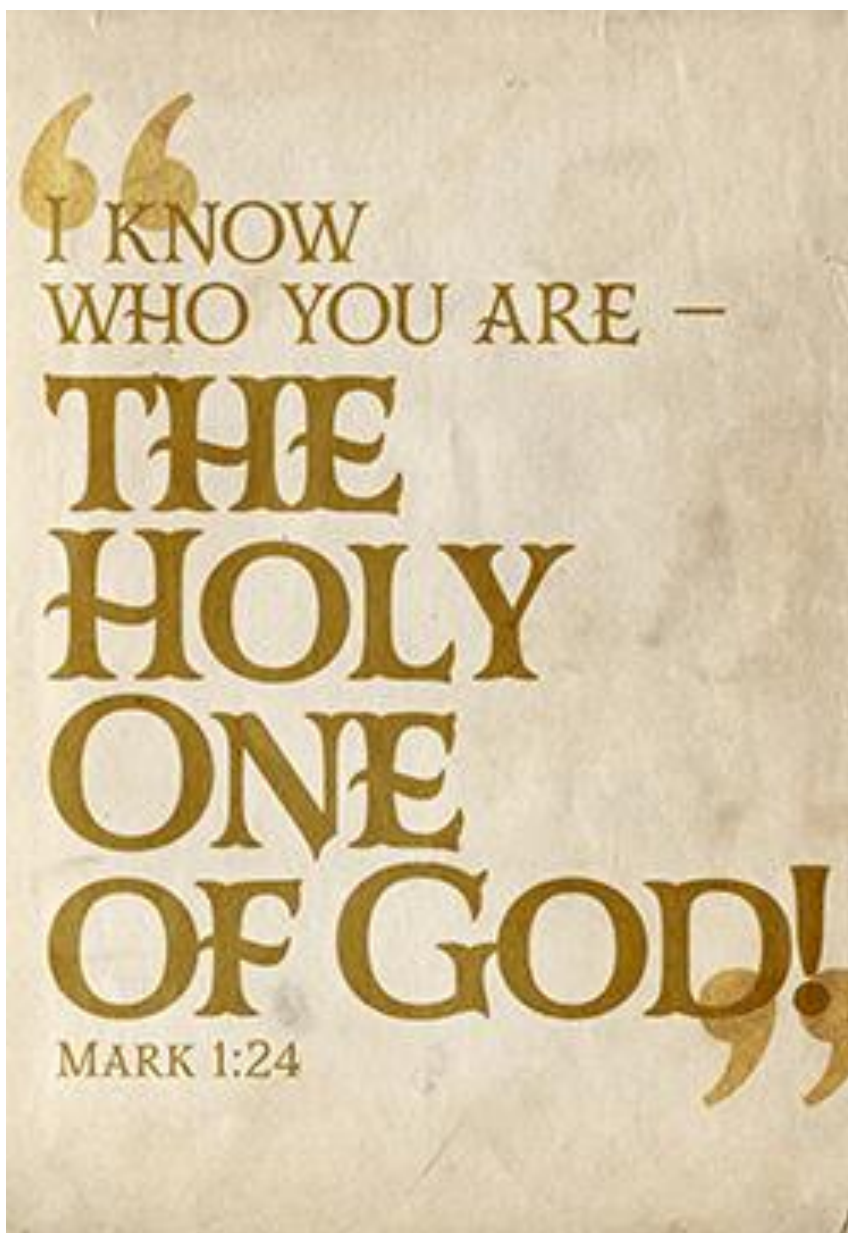


**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio**



**4th Sunday of Epiphany
January 28th, 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	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

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

* Please rise if able.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

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**

Jesus Shall Reign (ELW 434)

* **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

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

A reading from Deuteronomy.

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM:

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

²**Great are your works, O LORD,
pondered by all who delight in them.**

³Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,
and your righteousness endures forever.

⁴**You cause your wonders to be remembered;
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

⁵You give food to those who fear you,
remembering forever your covenant.

⁶**You have shown your people the power of your works
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;
all of your precepts are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity.**

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;
holy and awesome is your name.

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures
forever.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸"Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

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

GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Pastor Bill Schultz

*** HYMN OF THE DAY**

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing (ELW 886)

*** 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

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly (ELW 461)

Healer of Our Every Ill (ELW 612)

God, Whose Word Almighty (ELW 673)

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**

Sent Forth by God's Blessing (ELW 547)

*** DISMISSAL**

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

MINISTERS for Next Week

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Acolyte	Harrison Anderson
Lector	Richard Yocum
Ushers	Ken Frame & Richard Yocum
Worship Assistant.....	Char Curry
Musician	Karen Luginbuhl
Pastor	Pastor Bert Schultz
Greeter	
Altar Guild.....	Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame
Fellowship Cleanup	Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame

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,
Lily Carlson and her parents, 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>
12/24/2023	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
01/21/2024	19	67	\$2,043.91	\$3.00

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 Sign-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!

The Souper Bowl luncheon and fundraiser also includes a raffle. All raffle prizes will be raffled off individually, so you can decide which prizes you want to compete for. If you are interested in donating prizes for the raffle, please contact Brenda Shoffstall.

New Altar Flower & Candle Sign-Up Sheet There is a new altar flower sign-up sheet in the hallway just outside of the sanctuary. Please consider signing up to provide altar flowers in honor of a loved one or a special occasion.

New Greeter Sign-Up Sheet There is a new greeter sign up sheet in the hallway between the sanctuary and Melching Hall. Please consider volunteering to welcome folks to our church on an upcoming Sunday morning.

Ash Wednesday Service at FELC We will be partnering with St Paul UCC and St. Mark's Lutheran Church to provide an Ash Wednesday worship service here at 7pm on Wednesday, February 14th. Pastor Mark Bishop will be leading the service.

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

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. 6:00 p.m.	Prayer at Trinity Bell Choir Confirmation
Thursday, February 1 st	4:30 p.m.	Loaves and Fishes
Sunday, February 3rd	10:00 a.m.	Worship – Pastor Bert Schultz Worship & Music Meeting after worship
Wednesday, February 6 th	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Prayer at Trinity Confirmation
Thursday, February 7 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