

First English Lutheran Church
Wapakoneta, Ohio

BLESS US
in this new year, Lord.



My future is in
**YOUR
HANDS.**
PSALM 31:15, NLT

Our January 2024 Newsletter

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
107 W. Mechanic Street, Wapakoneta, OH 45895
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Website: www.myfelc.org E-Mail Address: wapakelc@bright.net

Meet our staff...

Office Administrator

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Treasurer

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

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Choir Directors

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Jennie Grundey, 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.

December Council Highlights

Council met after the 2 congregational meetings on December 10, 2023.

Reports were discussed and approved.

We talked about the vote results to leave ELCA and the next steps moving forward for our second vote on March 10, 2024.

We held the officer's election and Denise Kantner was elected President, Brenda Shoffstall is Vice President, David Clift is secretary and Georgeann Stienecker is Treasurer of council.

Council Liaisons will remain the same except for Char Curry will be liaison for Social Ministry and Chris Nagel will be liaison for Christian Education.

Council voted to appoint Brenda Shoffstall to continue as synod disaffiliation and supply pastor coordinator and eventual call process coordinator.

Council then went into executive session to discuss 2024.

We will meet for our monthly meeting on January 21, 2024 and will also be holding our annual congregational meeting on February 18, 2024.

We thank you all for your continued support with your time and talents, making our church strong and vital.

Church Council

FELC Committees, Chairpersons, Council Liaisons

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

Weekly Attendance and 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

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	\$1,741.43
February	Tanzanian Lutheran Church	\$1,000.00
March	Turkey Earthquake Victims	\$567.67
April	Morgan's Place	\$1,251.76
May	Wapak Area Tornado Relief	\$176.00
June	Bingo at the Acres	\$80.92
July	Servant's Day	\$202.00
August	Angel Tree	\$143.00
September	Maui Wildfire Victims	\$1,128.28
October	Operation Christmas Child	\$203.00
November	Hopewood Camp Pool Project	\$211.00
December	Loaves and Fishes	\$225.00

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 Donna Stowell Dague,

Family and Friends of Karen Beard,

James Benshoff, Susan Binkley, Olivia Brinkley, Braden Brandyberry, Nancy Bush,

Dominic Cousins, Char Curry, Donnie 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.



Thank You's!

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Auglaize County Crisis Center board, staff, and families served through this agency, we would like to thank you for your most generous donation. It is due to your generosity that we can continue to serve families throughout Auglaize County

With deepest gratitude, Auglaize County Crisis Center

Thank you my friends, for all you do for Children's Hometown Holiday. We appreciate you.

Peace and Love, Elaine Poppe

Dear FELC Family,

I would like to thank each and every one of you for the Christmas gifts for Lawrence. We also greatly appreciate the ham and groceries. We were not expecting food or the check (covering next month's electric bill). It was all a great help at this time with Paul being off work for 9 months and our recent surgeries. He is now able to return to work at the beginning of the year.

God has blessed us and helped us through so much this year and many prayers have been answered!

Thank you again! God bless you all!
Nancy Bush

Flowers and Candles

Altar Flowers for the month of January:

January 7 th	Van Meter Family
January 14 th	<i>available</i>
January 21 st	<i>available</i>
January 28 th	<i>available</i>

Altar Candles for the month of January:

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.

A new flower sign-up calendar has been placed in the hallway just outside of the sanctuary at the Mechanic Street entrance.

Ministries in Action

	January 7 th	January 14 th	January 21 st	January 28 th
Acolyte	Faith Whetstone	Vivian Fisher	Deven Whetstone	Doris Fisher
Lector	Marsha Jackson	Connie Krites	Ken Frame	Chris Nagel
Ushers	Ken Frame & Richard Yocum	Dave Krites & Brian Van Meter	Ken Frame & Jon Schmidt	Clayton Fisher & Luke Kline
Worship Assistant	Darla Frame	Jon Schmidt	Deanna Ronan	Susan Miller
Musician	Karen Luginbuhl	Greg Tabler	Darla Frame	Recordings
Preacher	Jennie Grundey	Pastor Mick Althausser	Pastor Bill Schultz	Pastor Bill Schultz
Greeter	Brenda Shoffstall	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	Bob & Deb Shenk	Chris Nagel

Altar Guild for January: Sara Young & Angie Bowersock

Fellowship Cleanup for January: Brenda Shofstall & Chris Nagel

The Word of God

Sunday	1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel
January 7 th	Genesis 1:1-5	Psalm 29	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:14-11
January 14 th	1 Samuel 3:1-10[11-20]	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
January 21 st	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Psalm 62:5-12	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
January 28 th	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	Psalm 111	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28
February 4 th	Isaiah 40:21-31	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
February 11 th	2 Kings 2:1-12	Psalm 50:1-6	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9
February 18 th	Genesis 9:8-17	Psalm 25:1-10	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15
February 25 th	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Psalm 22:23-31	Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38

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 and Youth Sunday School
9:45 a.m.	Youth Choir
10:00 a.m.	Worship in person and online at www.myfelc.org

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 Teams or Facetime. All are welcome!

Quilting Group will meet on January 10th at 10am in the parlor. If you would like to join this group or have questions, please contact Darla Frame.

Loaves and Fishes Meals Resume Jan 11th 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.

Noisy Offering for the month of JANUARY: Family Life Center

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

Next Bingo at the Acres on January 9th FELC will be hosting Bingo at the Acres on January 9th from 2-3pm. If you would like to help with this social outreach ministry, please contact Brenda Shoffstall.

Help Needed to Take Down Christmas Decorations Volunteers are needed to help tear down and put away our Christmas decorations. Please join us as you are able. Brenda will open the church at 9am on Friday, January 5th and Saturday January, 6th the church will remain open each day until the last volunteers go home or the work gets done. Many hands make light work. If you plan to stop by in the evening, you are encouraged to call Brenda to make sure the church hasn't been locked for the day.

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

Ladies' Night is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16th at 6:00pm at TBD.

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

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 (it can be any instrument). 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 or even just occasionally, please pass their name onto Darla, or just let them know we are interested in their services for our services. Thank you so much!

Personal Care Items Collection for Our Daily Bread We will be collecting hotel or travel sized personal care items to support the ministry of Our Daily Bread in Lima. A collection box has been placed in the church library.

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!

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!

January 2024 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Bell Choir Confirmation 7:00pm Ladies' Choir	7	8	9
7 Baptism of Our Lord Adult & Youth Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Jennie Grundey Fellowship Meeting following worship	8	9 2pm Bingo @ the Acres	10 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Confirmation	11 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night @ TBD	12	13
14 2nd Sunday of Epiphany Adult & Youth Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Pastor Mick Althausser	15	16 6pm Ladies' Night @ TBD	17 10am Quilting 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Bell Choir Confirmation 7:00pm Ladies' Choir	18 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	19	20
21 3rd Sunday of Epiphany Adult & Youth Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Pastor William Schultz	22 Annual Report Items Due	23	24 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Confirmation	25 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	26	27
28 4th Sunday of Epiphany Adult & Youth Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Pastor William Schultz	29	30	31 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Bell Choir			

February 2024 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	2	9
4 5th Sunday of Epiphany Adult & Youth Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Pastor Bert Schultz Worship & Music Meeting following worship	5	6	7 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm Ladies' Choir	8 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night @ TBD	9	10
11 Transfiguration of Our Lord Adult & Youth Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Pastor Paul Gruetter	12	13 2pm Bingo @ the Acres	14 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship service with St Paul's and St. Mark's at FELC	15 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	16	17
18 1st Sunday of Lent Adult & Youth Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Chuck Curry	19	20 6pm Ladies' Night @ TBD	21 10am Quilting 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm Ladies' Choir	22 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	23	24
25 2nd Sunday of Lent Adult & Youth Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Pastor Paul Gruetter	26	27	28 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Confirmation Bell Choir			