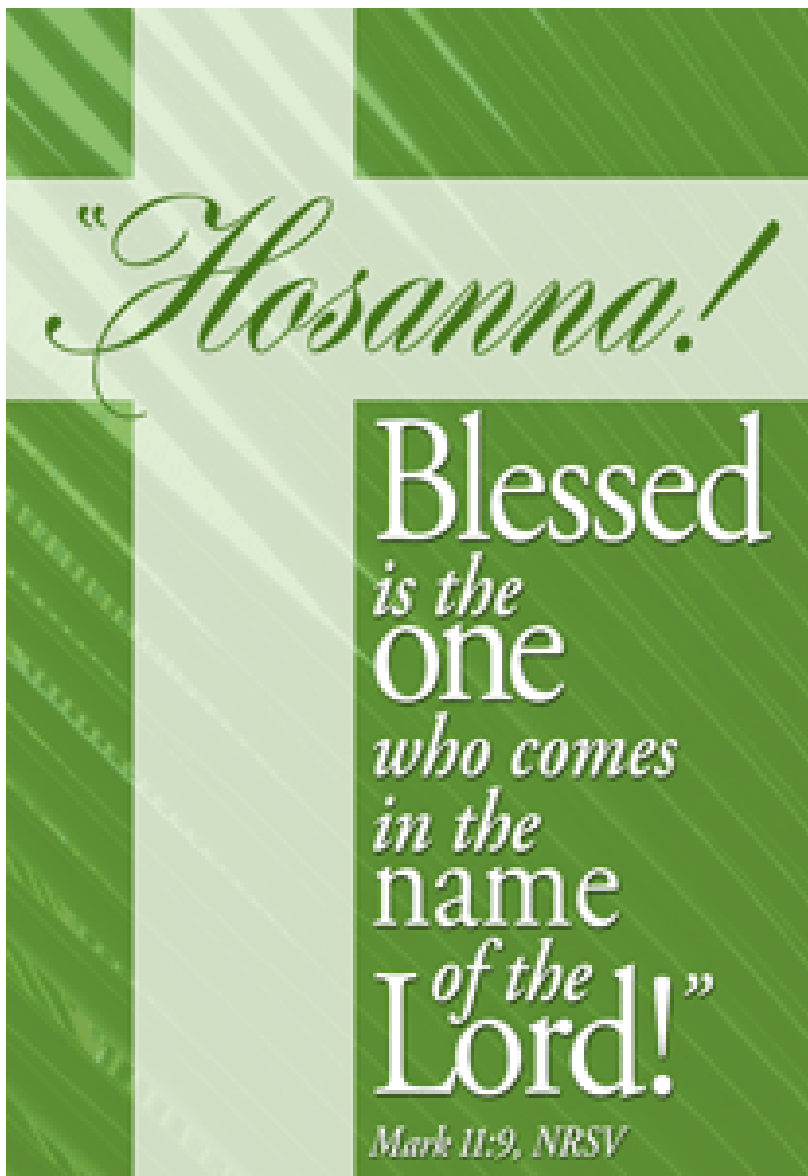


FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



Palm Sunday
March 24th, 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 Jim & Denise Kantner,
Angie & Joe Kraft, and Alaina & Mike Vecchio in honor of
Dale and Mary Ann Thomas' 70th wedding anniversary.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God by Bryce and Sara Young in celebration
of 55 years of wedded bliss. Happy anniversary!

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	Greg Tabler
Cantor	Jennie Grundey & Chris Nagel
Pastor.....	Pastor William Schultz
Greeter	Susan Miller
Altar Guild.....	Marsha Jackson & Char Curry
Fellowship Cleanup	Marsha Jackson & Char Curry

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

* Please rise if able.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

This week, the center of the church's year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark's gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ's suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God's salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God's astonishing work.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

* PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Mark 11:1-11

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

The Father provides for all our need.

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

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna to the Son of David.

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹¹Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

* BLESSING OF PALMS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

* GATHERING SONG

All Glory, Laud and Honor (ELW 344)

* 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.**

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray. **Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

YOUTH CHOIR

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rebecca Van Meter

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

A reading from Isaiah.

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM:

⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I ^l am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat ^l and my belly.

¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my ^l years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones ^l are consumed.**

¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to ^l my acquaintances;
when they see me in the street ^l they avoid me.

¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, ^l out of mind;
I am as useless as a ^l broken pot. R**

¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is ^l all around;
they put their heads together against me; they plot to ^l take my life.

¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in ^l you, O LORD.
I have said, "You ^l are my God.**

¹⁵My times are ^l in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who ^l persecute me.

¹⁶**Let your face shine up- ^l on your servant;
save me in your ^l steadfast love." R**

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

A reading from Philippians.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

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

GOSPEL: Mark 14:1--11

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glorify you, O Lord.

¹It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; ²for they said, “Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.”

³While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. ⁴But some were there who said to one another in anger, “Why was the ointment wasted in this way? ⁵For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.” And they scolded her. ⁶But Jesus said, “Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. ⁷For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. ⁸She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. ⁹Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

¹⁰Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. ¹¹When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Pastor Bill Schultz

*** HYMN OF THE DAY**

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross (ELW 335)

*** THE APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us profess our faith using the words 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**

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

Each petition will end with *Hear us, O God.*

Please respond with **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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

Selections from Greg Tabler

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**

Beneath the Cross of Jesus (ELW 338)

*** 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 Marsha Jackson
- Ushers Steve Stienecker & Jim Kantner
- Worship Assistant Deanna Ronan
- Musician Darla Frame
- Cantor Darla Frame & Jennie Grundey
- Pastor Pastor William Schultz
- Greeter Dave & Chris Clift
- Altar Guild Marsha Jackson & Char Curry
- Fellowship Cleanup Marsha Jackson & Char Curry

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>NWOS Benevolence</u>
02/18/2024	18	58	\$1,545.41	\$36.00
02/25/2024	14	75	\$2,345.00	\$3.00
03/03/2024	15	107	\$3,945.00	\$0.00
03/10/2024	11	103	\$1,985.00	\$0.00
03/17/2024	10	64	\$2,185.00	\$113.00

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!



OUR PRAYER CORNER

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

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

We especially remember in our prayers...

James Benshoff, Olivia Brinkley, Braden Brandyberry, Lily Carlson and her parents, Dominic Cousins, Emily Fisher, Ted Gibson, Ben Jauert, Connie Kantner, Bryan Katterhenry, Wayne & Judy Kentner, Lauren Makuh, Sasha Maslov, Mitchell Metz, Desmond Miller, Jenny Oliver, Charleigh Pangle, Noah Schlosser, Sue Schoonover, Pam Schulz, Alex Shirey, Seth Thuman, Norma Wachauf, 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.

Our Current College Students

Please consider sending them a card or words of encouragement.

Makayla Frame	Hannah Kirby	Bailey Van Meter
BGSU	BGSU	Concordia-Ann Arbor

Please contact their parents or the church office for their mailing addresses.

What's Happening at First English....

Noisy Offering for MARCH: Generations of Love Wapakoneta Offering pans are located in the chapel and at the back of the church. Donations are accepted all month.

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

Easter Egg Hunt The Fellowship Committee will be hosting a refreshment time after worship today along with an Easter egg hunt for the kids ages 1-10. There will be some treat bags for the kids along with golden egg prizes. I have heard the Easter bunny will be here again.

No Youth Sunday School Easter Sunday We will not have youth Sunday School Easter Sunday, please enjoy the extra time getting ready for Easter worship service.

No Fellowship Time Easter Sunday We will not have cookies and refreshments following worship on Easter Sunday, please enjoy the extra time preparing for your Easter celebrations.

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, March 24th	10:00 a.m.	Worship – Pastor William Schultz
		Easter Egg Hunt and Fellowship
Wednesday, March 27 th	12:00 p.m.	Prayer at Trinity
		Lenten service and lunch at St. Joe
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation
		Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Ladies' Choir
Thursday, March 28 th	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday worship @ St Paul UCC
Friday, March 27 th	7:00 p.m.	Good Friday worship @ St Mark's
Sunday, March 31st	10:00 a.m.	Worship – Pastor William Schultz
Wednesday, April 3 rd	12:00 p.m.	Prayer at Trinity
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation
		Bell Choir
Thursday, April 4 th	4:30 p.m.	Loaves and Fishes

First English Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of 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; darcy@bright.net ; 937-307-8596