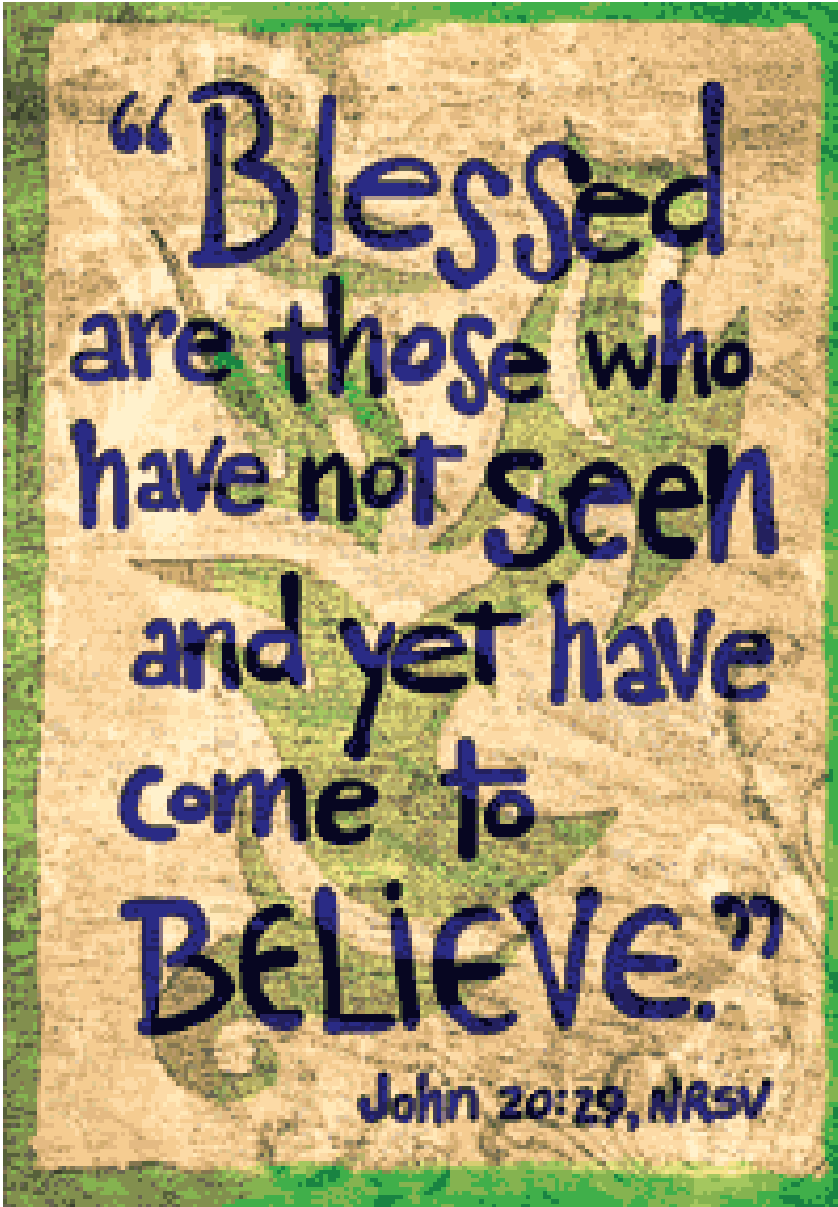


FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



2nd Sunday of Easter
April 7th, 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

The **Altar Candles** are given to the Glory of God by Mark and Chris Nagel in honor of
all the April birthdays in their family.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God by Hilary, Mike, and Amelia Roeger in
celebration of Elanor’s 9th birthday.

MINISTERS for This Week

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Acolyte	Nolan Roode
Lector	Richard Yocum
Ushers	Ken Frame & Richard Yocum
Worship Assistant	Marsha Jackson
Musician	Darla Frame
Pastor	Pastor Mick Althouser
Greeter	
Altar Guild	Catherine Fisher & Amelia Sterner
Fellowship Cleanup	Georgeann Stienecker & Connie Krites

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

* Please rise if able.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Lord of the Dance* Shaker Tune adapted by Sydney Carter arr Joel Raney

* **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**

Thine Is the Glory (ELW 378)

* **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, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

BELL CHOIR *All Things Bright and Beautiful* 17th Cent Melody arr Barbara B. Kinyon

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rebecca Van Meter

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35

A reading from Acts.

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 133

¹How good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!

²**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.

For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1--2:2

A reading from 1 John.

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

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

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them.

Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name. The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Pastor Mick Althouser

*** HYMN OF THE DAY**

Now the Green Blade Rises (ELW 379)

*** THE NICENE CREED**

Let us profess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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.

OFFERTORY

Let All Things Now Living Trad Welsh melody arr Mark Hayes

*** 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

Come, Share the Lord (on screen)

We Will Glorify (on screen)

The Peace of the Lord (ELW 646)

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. 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

Christ Is Risen! Alleluia! (ELW 382)

* DISMISSAL

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

MINISTERS for Next Week

Audio/Visual Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Acolyte Kaidence Schmidt
Lector Joyce Morey
Ushers Dave Krites & Brian Van Meter
Worship Assistant Ken Frame
Musicians Gary Thompson & John Anderson
Pastor Pastor Adam Poe
Greeter
Altar Guild Catherine Fisher & Amelia Sterner
Fellowship Cleanup Georgeann Stienecker & Connie Krites

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>NWOS Benevolence</u>
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
03/24/2024	17	70	\$1,890.01	\$3.00
03/31/2024	11	146	\$2,039.00	\$38.00

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, Lily Carlson and her parents, Nancy Carter, Dominic Cousins, Se'vie Daniel, Emily Fisher, Ted Gibson, Ben Jauert, Connie Kantner, Bryan Katterhenry, Wayne & Judy Kentner, Lauren Makuh, Sasha Maslov, Mitchell Metz, Desmond Miller, April Nance, Jenny Oliver, Charleigh Pangle, Noah Schlosser, Sue Schoonover, Pam Schulz, Alex Shirey, Seth Thuman, Norma Wachauf Eddie Whetstone, Jim & Cyndi Zwiebel, 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 APRIL: Indian Lake Tornado Relief Offering pans are located in the chapel and at the back of the church. Donations are accepted all month.

Collection for Auglaize County Crisis Center Starting in April we will start collecting food items each month for the Auglaize County Crisis Center. In past we use to collect items based off of a monthly dinner theme. For April we will collect Italian meal items. These items can be types of pasta, sauce, pizza dough mix, pizza sauce, pepperoni, can ravioli/spaghetti-o's for the kids, items for minestrone soup, dressing for salad, grated parm cheese, etc. The crisis center is also in need of basic personal hygiene items.

Please put your items on the counter in the library for us to deliver weekly or bi-weekly.

Men's Night will be April 11th at 6pm at Astro Lanes.

Ladies Night will be on April 16th at 6pm at El Azteca.

Cookie Donations Needed for Loaves & Fishes on April 11th First English will be serving at Loaves and Fishes this coming Thursday, April 11th, and we are in need of cookies to include with the meals. Loaves is currently serving about 300 meals weekly, so your donations are greatly appreciated. If you are interested in donating cookies, please sign the sheets that are being passed around during the service or contact Brenda Shoffstall.

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!

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, April 7th	10:00 a.m.	Worship – Pastor Mick Althaus Worship Committee Meeting after worship
Tuesday, April 9 th	6:30 p.m.	Christian Education meeting
Wednesday, April 10 th	12:00 p.m.	Prayer at Trinity
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation
	7:30 p.m.	Ladies' Choir
Thursday, April 11 th	4:30 p.m.	Loaves and Fishes
	6:00 p.m.	Men's Night at Astro Lanes
Sunday, April 14th	10:00 a.m.	Worship – Pastor Adam Poe
Tuesday, April 16 th	6:00 p.m.	Ladies' Night at El Azteca
Wednesday, April 17 th	10:00 a.m.	Quilting
	12:00 p.m.	Prayer at Trinity
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation
		Bell Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Ladies' Choir
Thursday, April 18 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; dscy@bright.net ; 937-307-8596