

**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio**



“YOU ARE WITNESSES
OF
THESE
THINGS.”

LUKE 24:48

**3rd Sunday of Easter
April 14th, 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 Becky Kohlreiser in memory of
Pauline & Carl Brading and daughter Brenda & Rex Lippincott and Dick Kohlreiser and
Nancy & Bob Van Skiver and Shirley Richardson and Sally & Roger Moellenkamp.

MINISTERS for This 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

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

* Please rise if able.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Sunday. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures, the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

You've Already Won by Shane and Shane
Acoustic performance by John Anderson and Gary Thompson

* 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

Hallelujah! Jesus Lives! (ELW 380)

* 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. **Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rebecca Van Meter

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Acts 3:12-19

A reading from Acts.

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?" ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 4

- ¹Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;
you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- ²**“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;
how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?”**
- ³Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful;
the LORD will hear me when I call.
- ⁴**Tremble, then, and do not sin;
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**
- ⁵Offer the appointed sacrifices,
and put your trust in the LORD.
- ⁶**Many are saying, “Who will show us any good?”
Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.**
- ⁷You have put gladness in my heart,
more than when grain and wine abound.
- ⁸**In peace, I will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me rest secure.**

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-7

A reading from 1 John.

- ¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.
- ⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 24:36b-48

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

- ^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not

have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?”⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish,⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Pastor Adam Poe

*** HYMN OF THE DAY**

As We Gather at Your Table (ELW 522)

*** 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

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

Each petition will end with *God of Grace*,
Please respond with **hear our prayer**.

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **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

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God (on screen)
Jesus Loves Me (ELW 595)
Here I Am Lord (ELW 574)

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**

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen! (ELW 377)

*** DISMISSAL**

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

MINISTERS for Next Week

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Acolyte	Amelia Roeger
Lector	Joyce Brincefield
Ushers	Ken Frame & Jon Schmidt
Worship Assistant.....	Chuck Curry
Musicians	Karen Luginbuhl
Pastor	Pastor Bill Schultz
Greeter	
Altar Guild.....	Catherine Fisher & Amelia Sterner
Fellowship Cleanup	Georgeann Stienecker & Connie Krites

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.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>NWOS Benevolence</u>
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
04/07/2024	12	58	\$3,091.11	\$72.00

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....

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.

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

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!

Donate Those Solar Eclipse Glasses Minster Bank is collecting new or gently used eclipse glasses to send to Latin America for an upcoming eclipse there. They can be dropped off at any Minster Bank location all through the month of April.

Senior Lunch and Learn The next Senior Lunch and Learn will be at Trinity Lutheran Church (Moulton) on Thursday, April 18 at noon. Melissa Shroyer will be here and have a make and take art project.

Please RSVP to Darlene Risner by April 16 at 419-202-5553.

Dine to Donate Event for Morgan's Place Cemetery On Tuesday, May 14th, from 5pm-8pm, the Culver's on Michigan Avenue in Sidney is holding a Dine to Donate event to support Morgan's Place Cemetery. A percentage of all sales during the event will be donated to Morgan's Place.

Dayton Dragons Event for Morgan's Place Cemetery The Dayton Dragons (a Cincinnati Reds minor league affiliate) will be donating a percentage of ticket sales from their game on Sunday, June 9th at 1:05pm, to Morgan's Place Cemetery. The Dragons will donate 50% of the \$14 ticket price for all tickets sold using the following link:

<https://fevo-enterprise.com/Morgansplace>

The deadline to order through this special link is Thursday, May 9th.

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

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
Sunday, April 21st	10:00 a.m.	Worship – Pastor Bill Schultz
		Council Meeting after worship
Wednesday, April 24 th	12:00 p.m.	Prayer at Trinity
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation
		Bell Choir
Thursday, April 25 th	4:30 p.m.	Loaves and Fishes

First English Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

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; wapakelc@bright.net ; 763-312-9217
Bookkeeper	Anderson Accounting
Treasurer	Georgeann Stienecker; nksoccer@nktelco.net
Music Director	Darla Frame
Audio-Technology	Dave Curry; dscy@bright.net ; 937-307-8596