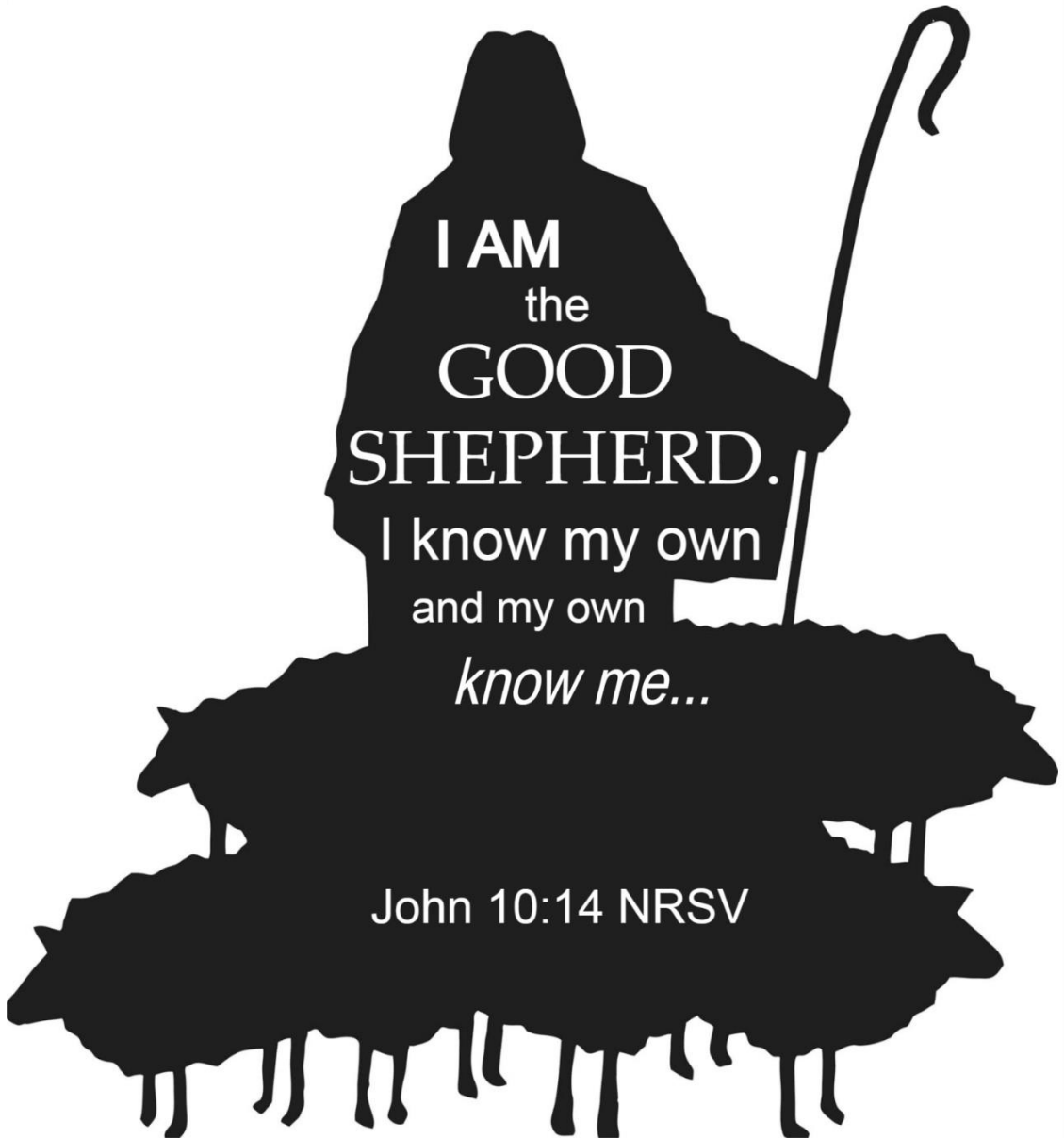


FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



I AM
the
GOOD
SHEPHERD.

I know my own
and my own

know me...

John 10:14 NRSV

4th Sunday of Easter
April 21st, 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 the people of God.

MINISTERS for This 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

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

* Please rise if able.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF THE QUILTS

PRELUDE

God Himself is Present by Michael Burkhardt

* 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

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today, Alleluia (ELW 369)

* 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. **O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

Seekers of Your Heart
by Dick Tunney, Melodie Tunney, & Beverly Darnell arr Mary McDonald

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rebecca Van Meter

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12

A reading from Acts.

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is
'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24

A reading from 1 John.

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

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

GOSPEL: John 10:11-18

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the

Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Pastor Bill Schultz

*** HYMN OF THE DAY**

The Lord's My Shepherd (ELW 778)

*** 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,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
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

United at the Table (ELW 498)

Have No Fear, Little Flock (ELW 764)

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love (ELW 708)

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.

*** PRAYER FOR COUNCIL**

*** 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**

God Be With You Till We Meet Again (ELW 536)

*** DISMISSAL**

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

MINISTERS for Next Week

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Acolyte	Deven Whetstone
Lector	Jennie Grundey
Ushers	Luke Kline & Clayton Fisher
Worship Assistant.....	Ken Frame
Musicians	Kelly Walls
Pastor.....	Christian White
Greeter	Dave & Chris Clift
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, 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>
03/17/2024	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
04/14/2024	14	63	\$2254.00	\$128.00

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.

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.

All Ages Youth Event Planned for May 5th FELC will be hosting a fun filled youth event for all age groups following worship on Sunday, May 5th. The event is expected to last until 1:30. We will have an assortment of games available, including 9-Square. Lunch will be provided.

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 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
Sunday, April 28th	10:00 a.m.	Worship – Christian White
Tuesday, April 30 th	6:45 p.m.	Christian Education Meeting
Wednesday, May 1 st	12:00 p.m.	Prayer at Trinity
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation
	7:00 p.m.	Ladies’ Choir
Thursday, May 2 nd	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