

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



1st Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2024

WELCOME TO FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Your presence today makes us more complete.
Thank you for being here and worshipping with us.

We invite all baptized Christians who believe that Christ is truly present
in the meal to join us for Holy Communion when served.

Children of all ages are encouraged to participate in worship.

Sunday Schedule

9:00 a.m. Adult & Youth Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship

The **Altar Candles** are given to the Glory of God
by Marsha Jackson in memory of her parents, Mabel & Charles Jackson.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God by
Chad Sterner to celebrate Amelia Sterner's birthday on December 2nd.

MINISTERS for This Week

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Carly Craft
Ushers	Ken Frame &
Worship Assistant	Darla Frame
Musician.....	Karen Luginbuhl
Pastor	Pastor Mick Althausser
Greeter.....	NEEDED
Acolyte	Kadience Schmidt
Altar Guild	Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame
Fellowship Cleanup.....	Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame
Advent Reader/Candlelight	Sterner Family

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

* Please rise if able.

Introduction to the day

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel by Hal Hopson

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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**

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You (ELW 241)

*** 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**

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.

**Advent's Holy Light
Congregational Part**

JOEL RANEY

(on cue)

Lord, we are wait - ing for peace to reign,
Lord, we are lis - tening for love's re - frain.
For hope, peace, and joy and love to u -
nite in the beau - ty and won - der of
Ad - vent's ho - ly light.

(repeat this chorus after the candle lighting and litany)

© 2024 Hope Publishing Company, www.hopepublishing.com
All rights reserved.

The Publisher grants permission to reproduce this part for Congregational singing.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (light one candle) Sterner Family
Our Advent journey begins today with the lighting of the first candle, the candle of Hope. Like the flame of a candle, may hope be ignited in our hearts, reminding us that brighter days are ahead.

For those of us facing difficult challenges **Ignite our hearts with hope.**
For the end of wars wreaking havoc and pain in our world **Ignite our hearts with hope.**

For safety for those fleeing the tyranny of oppression **Ignite our hearts with hope.**

For the light of forgiveness to shine in our hearts **Ignite our hearts with hope.**
Gracious Creator, in moments of uncertainty, we turn to you with hearts heavy but hopeful. Grant us the strength to navigate challenges, the wisdom to see possibilities, and the courage to embrace the journey ahead. May hope be our guiding light, leading us to a future filled with grace, love, and possibilities beyond our imagining. **Amen.**

REPEAT ADVENT'S HOLY LIGHT – Congregation Part from Above

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rebecca VanMeter

WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from Jeremiah.

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 25: 1-10

¹To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your
good- | ness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

(ELW p. 188)

*** GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36**

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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

MESSAGE

Pastor Mick Althausen

*** HYMN OF THE DAY**

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers (ELW 244)

*** NICENE CREED**

Let us profess our faith using the words from 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**

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze.

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good.

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering *especially* Sharon Billiter, Dorothy Dickman, Betty Hague, Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz, Marty Rostorfer, Eloise Katterhenry, Staff and Students at Concordia University at Ann Arbor, Lee Albright, James Benschoff, Janet Case, Dominic Cousins, Emily Fisher, Ted Gibson, Ben Jauert, Bryan Katterhenry, Wayne & Judy Kentner, Lauren Makuh, Sasha Maslov, Jenny Oliver, Nixon Palte, Pam Schulz, Alex Shirey, Hunter Smith, Evelyn Sprague, Seth Thuman, Norma Wachauf, Harold Wallace, Jim Zwiebel, Simar, Tasha McPeek, and Kathi. And those that we name out loud or in our hearts. (Brief silence). In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love.

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities.

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died. Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life.

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **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

Awake, Awake, And Greet The New Morn by Marty Haugen

*** OFFERING HYMN**

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful(ELW 182)

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, 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, ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*** HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

(ELW p. 190)

*** WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*** 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**
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

***COMMUNION SONG**

Lamb of God (ELW p. 191)

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly (ELW 461)
Christ Be Our Light (ELW 715)
As the Deer (Screen)
My Lord, What a Morning (ELW 438)

*** AS WE ARE BLESSED**

Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace now and always. **Amen.**

*** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*** CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER**

Dear Lord, **You've heard our prayers and know our needs. Please continue to guide us in the direction as we continue to pray for our future pastor, his family and the future of our church. Heavenly Father, open our hearts and minds to be able to clearly hear and receive Your will. As we continue through this transition. Lord, be with us and remind us that we are Your shepherds, and this is all on Your time. Help us to keep Your Word in our hearts and be more like You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

*** 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**

The King Shall Come (ELW 260)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

MINISTERS for Next Week 12-8-24

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Georgeann Stienecker
Ushers	Dave Krites & Brian Van Meter
Worship Assistant	Ken Frame
Musician.....	Susan Miller
Pastor	Pastor Bill Schultz
Greeter.....	NEEDED
Acolyte	Faith Whetstone
Altar Guild	Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame
Fellowship Cleanup.....	Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame

OUR PRAYER CORNER

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

Manor at Celina	Sharon Billiter
Otterbein at St. Marys	Dorothy Dickman
The Gardens	Betty Hague, Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz
Homebound	Marty Rostorfer, Eloise Katterhenry

We especially remember in our prayers...

Sharon Billiter, Dorothy Dickman, Betty Hague, Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz, Marty Rostorfer, Eloise Katterhenry, Staff and Students at Concordia University at Ann Arbor, Lee Albright, James Benshoff, Janet Case, Dominic Cousins, Emily Fisher, Ted Gibson, Ben Jauert, Bryan Katterhenry, Wayne & Judy Kentner, Lauren Makuh, Sasha Maslov, Jenny Oliver, Nixon Palte, Pam Schulz, Alex Shirey, Hunter Smith, Evelyn Sprague, Seth Thuman, Norma Wachauf, Harold Wallace, Jim Zwiebel, Simar, Tasha McPeek, and Kathi.

We remember in our prayers our military serving at home and abroad, underrepresented 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.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
11/03/2024	11	75	\$5,149.69	\$175.00
11/10/2024	10	73	\$1,552.00	\$20.00
11/17/2024	09	63	\$1,383.06	\$15.00
11/24/2024	13	86	\$2,192.00	\$100.00

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 the month of DECEMBER: Mercy Unlimited Offering pans are located in the chapel and at the back of the church. Donations are accepted all month.

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!

Collection for the Women's Crisis Center We are collecting food items each month for the Auglaize County Crisis Center based on a monthly dinner theme. December's theme is Snacks. The crisis center is also in need of basic personal hygiene items. Please put donations on the counter in the library for us to deliver weekly or bi-weekly.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be on December 8th following worship. Please be sure to attend. Information/agenda will be emailed/mailed soon, be on the lookout!

Brunch with Santa is following worship on December 15th in Fellowship Hall. Brunch includes meal and activities. Please contact Brenda or office to join!

Cookie Donations for Cookie Plate Fundraiser Needed We will be selling cookie plates at Brunch with Santa again this year. The proceeds will benefit the Wapak Ministerial Association and County EMA to help with efforts to combat food and housing insecurity. We are hoping to make and sell 30 cookie plates at \$10 each. We are in dire need of volunteers to bake and donate cookies to fill plates. Please contact Brenda Shoffstall if you are interested in donating cookies.

FELC Family Christmas Party All are welcome to come, invite family and friends, on December 20th at 7pm. Bring a wrapped present (\$10 max.) that you would enjoy receiving (Not a white elephant). Also bring a smaller gift that can fit into a red solo cup. Be ready to play Christmas games and have a fun evening with your FELC family. Bring your favorite Christmas snack to share!

Christmas Caroling All are invited to join the youth in caroling to some of our members on the evening of December 8th. Please let Rebecca know if you plan to join us so you can be informed where we will be meeting.

Let's Do Advent Together Join us on December 4th & 11th at 6pm to prepare our hearts and minds for Christmas.

Men's Night is scheduled for 6:00pm on Thursday, December 12th at La Neta Mexican Restaurant in Wapakoneta.

Youth Christmas Play will be on December 15th during worship. The play this year will be more of a nativity and will need no rehearsal. We will meet up at 9am on the 15th to get in costume and practice some songs. We will need some youth to read parts. Please let Rebecca/Jennie know if your child(ren) will be in the play and/or they would like a reading part.

Angel Tree Lists are posted for The Crisis Center, Seniors at Wapak Village, and Generations of Love on Pearl St. Please sign up to donate gifts. Any questions please contact Teresa Fisher, she will go shopping if you want to give monetary donation instead of items.

Confirmation Regular class is on a break until January 8th but youth are required to attend Let's Do Advent Together at 6:00pm. And don't forget Sermon Notes!

Blue Christmas will be at St. Paul's United Church of Christ on December 12th at 7:00pm. This Blue Christmas worship service is a time when we can, with others, acknowledge the "blue" feelings we have at Christmas time, the reason for them and offer them to God. This time has been called the "long dark night of the soul" and "the winter of our discontent" in which memories of past experiences and the pain of present experiences can become overwhelming. We pray that you will find hope and comfort in knowing that you are not alone. Please join for this quiet reflective service.

Call Committee Checklist for seeking a Pastor:

- ✗ At the time of learned pastoral vacancy, the congregation council arranges for regular supply or interim, working with the Mission District dean.
- ✗ Form a call committee in accordance with congregational constitution – uneven # of persons with a cross-section of the congregation is helpful-elect Chair of the Committee.
- ✗ Call Committee downloads NALC Call Process Manual for call committee members.
- ✗ Call Committee chair contacts the NALC Call Process Coordinator to schedule a conference call for orientation/training. Met on September 15th.
- ✗ Call Committee engages in Bible Study in the Call Process Manual. Meeting on Wednesdays at 6:45pm.
- ✗ Call Committee chair will contact Mission District dean to arrange and complete The Congregational Workshop in preparation for the Call Process.
- ✗ Chair contacts their Mission District dean to arrange and complete the Congregational Workshop – November 2, 9am-2:00/2:30pm.
- Call Committee completes the Congregational Profile and emails it to NALC Call Process. ...

CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER: Please pray throughout the week:

Dear Lord, You've heard our prayers and know our needs. Please continue to guide us in the direction as we continue to pray for our future pastor, his family and the future of our church. Heavenly Father, open our hearts and minds to be able to clearly hear and receive Your will. As we continue through this transition. Lord, be with us and remind us that we are Your shepherds, and this is all on Your time. Help us to keep Your Word in our hearts and be more like You. In Jesus' name, Amen.



FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, Dec 1st	9:00am	Adult & Youth Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Pastor Mick Althausser
Wed, Dec 4 th	No Confirmation	
	5:30pm	Bell Choir
	6:00pm	Let's Do Advent Together
	7:00pm	Women's Choir
Thurs, Dec 5 th	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
Sunday, Dec 8th	9:00am	Adult & Youth Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship– Bells – Pastor Bill Schultz
		CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
	5:30PM	Caroling
Wed, Dec 11 th	NO Confirmation	
	6:00pm	Let's Do Advent Together
	7:00pm	Women's Choir
Thurs, Dec 12 th	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
	6:00pm	Men's Night @ La Neta Mexican Rest.
	7:00pm	Blue Christmas @ St. Paul's

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: M-F, 8:30am – 12:30pm

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

Hilary Roeger; wapakelc@bright.net; 419-738-3911

Bookkeeper

Anderson Accounting

Treasurer

Cari Frame; felc.finance@myfelc.org

Music Director

Darla Frame

Audio-Technology

Dave Curry; dscy@bright.net; 937-307-8596