

First English Lutheran Church
Wapakoneta, Ohio



Our December 2024 Newsletter

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

107 W. Mechanic Street, Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Office: (419) 738-3911

Website: www.myfelc.org E-Mail Address: wapakelc@bright.net

Meet our staff...

Office Administrator

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

Bookkeeper

Anderson Accounting.....felc.finance@myfelc.org 419-738-3911

Financial Secretary

Joy Masonfelc.finance@myfelc.org 419-738-3911

Treasurer

Cari Frame.....felc.finance@myfelc.org 419-738-3911

Music Director

Darla Frame.....darlaframe@gmail.com..... 419-234-3283

Choir Directors

Susan Miller, Adult.....sugartime@bright.net 567-356-1844

Darla Frame, Bells.....darlaframe@gmail.com..... 419-234-3283

Jennie Grundey, Youth 419-738-3911

Church Council

Denise Kantner.....jadak@bright.net 419-738-8289

Brenda Shoffstallshoffstall08@yahoo.com 419-233-1956

Dave Clift.....right_guy12@hotmail.com 419-231-9800

Georgeann Stienecker...nksoccer@nktelco.net 419-305-5066

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Darla Frame.....darlaframe@gmail.com..... 419-234-3283

Jeff Ritchie.....jritchie002@woh.rr.com 419-296-3794

Chris Nagel.....mnagel@ohiolink.net 419-657-2554

Char Curry.....char.curry@bright.net 419-738-4392

Audio/Visual Specialist

Dave Currydscy@bright.net..... 937-307-8596

Audio/Visual Staff

Jeff Ritchie.....jritchie002@woh.rr.com 419-296-3794

Noah Kirby.....noah.w.kirby@gmail.com..... 419-905-8243

The mission of First English Lutheran Church is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to love one another as He loves us.

Highlights from Church Council

We invited Cari Frame, our finance chair, to come into the meeting and discuss the 2025 Budget. After the discussion, she was asked if she would consider becoming our church treasurer as Georgeann Stienecker would like to step down as our current treasurer. She agreed to be considered.

We then began our regular meeting with devotion by Char Curry. We discussed the business of the church and several committee minutes.

Dave Curry is still getting lighting bids for the Sanctuary.

We are looking at a draft of the new constitution and will be finalizing it, soon. We plan to have the Congregation vote on it at our February meeting.

Brenda gave an update on God's Storehouse. They are busy bringing the food and setting shelves up. No word yet on when they will start seeing people here.

Call committee has met several times and has the profile almost ready to submit to the NALC database. They are also working on a video about our church, with the help of Dave Curry.

We approved the budget for 2025. The congregation will vote on it at the December 8, 2024, meeting. We also approved the agenda for the meeting.

We also discussed and approved Cari Frame as our new treasurer, effective November 17, 2024.

Our next meeting will be December 8, 2024

Please reach out with any concerns to any council members and thanks to all for supporting First English.

Blessings,
Church Council

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>NWOS 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!



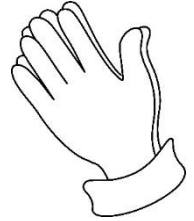
2024 Noisy Offerings

Month	Recipient	Amount Collected
January	Family Life Center	\$64.00
February	Wapak Women's Crisis Center	\$145.00
March	Generations of Hope	\$184.00
April	Indian Lake Tornado Victims	\$702.13
May	Heal Our Heroes Project	\$2,126.21
June	VBS Honduras Clean Water Project	\$494.25
July	Servants' Day	\$118.00
August	Operation Christmas Child	\$116.00
September	Angel Tree	\$153.00
October	Loaves & Fishes	\$99.35
November	Lutheran Military Vet. & Fam. Min.	\$506.50
December	Mercy Unlimited	

OUR PRAYER CORNER

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

Celina Manor	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.

Prayers from Call Committee for Pastor

Prayers throughout the month:

11-3-24

Heavenly Father, we come to you asking for your guidance, wisdom and support. Please guide our minds and heart as we continue in our search for a new pastor to lead us. We seek you first in all we do together. We confess that we are nothing without you and our trust is in you completely. Fill us with your grace as we continue in our search and help us to grow in peace and understanding with one another. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

11-10-24

Dear heavenly father, thank you for all you have done and will do for us. We continue to strive to do your will as we pray for a spiritual leader for our church. Please help us with the patience you require of us as we wait for your perfect timing. Our trust is in you, Lord. May we be worthy of your love. In your name, we pray. Amen.

11-17-24

Dear God, thank you for your abundant blessings you give us daily. Be with our congregation as we prayerfully consider our next pastor. Prepare our congregation's hearts and minds for a spiritual leader that will help us grow closer to you and that teaches your Word. Prepare our next pastor and their family for the call to come to our church and congregation. We pray that you give us strength where we are weak and give us hope and faith where we have doubts. And above all, help us to feel your love and presence always but especially throughout this call process. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

11-24-24

Heavenly Father, we come before You as Your people, united in faith and hope. We thank you for the blessings You have poured upon our congregation and for the faithfulness of those who have gone before us, building this church upon the foundation of Christ.

Lord, in this season of transition, we seek Your guidance. As we search for a new pastor, we ask that You lead us to the shepherd You have already prepared for us – someone who will preach Your Word faithfully, administer the sacraments with joy and guide us with wisdom and love. Open our hearts to Your will and grant us patience as we await Your perfect timing.

Father, we also ask for clarity and courage as we reflect on our identity as Your church. Show us how to live out Your mission in this community. Help us discern our unique calling and equip us to share the Gospel in word and deed. May our unity in Christ shine brightly and may our love for one another be a testament to Your grace.

We place our trust in You, knowing that You hold our church in Your hands. Fill us with Your Spirit and let Your peace and hope sustain us in the days ahead. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



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 the Call Process office.

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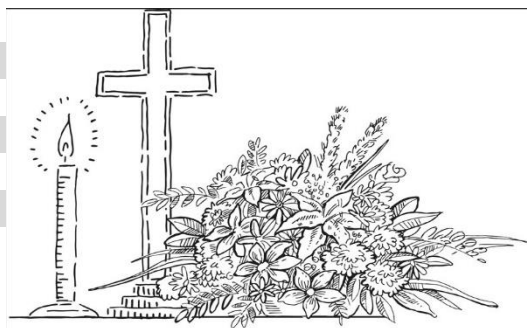
FELC Committees, Chairpersons, Council Liaisons

Committee	Chairperson	Liaison
Building & Property	Brenda Shoffstall	Jeff Ritchie
Christian Education/Youth	Rebecca Van Meter	Chris Nagel
Evangelism	Teresa Fisher	Denise Kantner
Finance	Cari Frame	Dave Clift
Life & Fellowship	Brenda Shoffstall	Darla Frame
Social Ministry	Teresa Fisher	Char Curry
Staff Support	Cari Frame	Jon Schmidt
Stewardship	Meets with Finance	Brenda Shoffstall
Worship & Music	Darla Frame	Georgeann Stienecker

Flowers and Candles

Altar Flowers for the month of November:

December 1 st	Amelia Sterner
December 8 th	Hilary Roeger
December 15 th	--Available--
December 22 nd	Rebecca Van Meter
December 24 th	--Available--
December 29 th	--Available--



Altar Candles for the month of November:

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

Ministries in Action

	Dec 1 st	Dec 8 th	Dec 15 th	Dec 22 nd	Dec 24 th Christmas Eve	Dec 29 th
Lector	Carly Craft	Georgeann Stienecker	Christmas Play	Joyce Brincefield	Marsha Jackson	Council-Lessons & Carols
Ushers	Ken Frame & Richard Yocum	Dave Krites & Brian Van Meter	Ken Frame & Jon Schmidt	Luke Kline & Chad Sterner	Steve Stienecker & Jim Kantner	Steve Stienecker & Jim Kantner
Worship Assistant	Darla Frame	Ken Frame	Deanna Ronan	Makayla Frame	Char Curry	Susan Miller
Musician	Karen Luginbuhl	Susan Miller	Darla Frame	<i>Recordings</i>	Special	Recordings
Preacher	Pastor Mick Althausser	Pastor Bill Schultz	Michelle Kouse	Chaplain Leslie Haines	Pastor Bill Schultz	Council-Lessons & Carols
Greeter	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Needed</i>
Acolyte	Kadience Schmidt	Faith Whetstone	Nevaeh Estep	Vivian Fisher	Amelia Roeger	Nolan Roode

Altar Guild for December: Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame

Fellowship Cleanup for December: Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame

The Word of God

Sunday	1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel
December 1 st	Jer 33: 14-16	Ps 25: 1-10	1 Thess 3: 9-13	Luke 21: 25-36
December 8 th	Mal 3: 1-4	Luke 1: 68-79	Phil 1: 3-11	Luke 3: 1-6
December 15 th	Zeph 3: 14-20	Isa 12: 2-6	Phil 4: 4-7	Luke 3: 1-6
December 22 nd	Micah 5: 2-5a	Luke 1: 46b-55	Heb 10: 5-10	Luke 1: 39-45
December 24 th	Isa 9: 2-7	Ps 96	Titus 2: 11-14	Luke 2: 1-14
December 29 th	1 Sam 2: 18-20	Ps 148	Col 3: 12-7	Luke 2: 41-52
January 5 th	Jer 31: 7-14	Ps 147: 12-20	Eph 1: 3-14	John 1: 10-18
January 12 th	Isa 43: 1-7	Ps 29	Acts 8: 14-17	Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22
January 19 th	Isa 62: 1-5	Ps 36: 5-10	1 Cor 12: 1-11	John 2: 1-11
January 26 th	Neh 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Ps 19	1 Cor 12: 12-31a	Luke 4: 14-21

FELC News and Events...



Personal contact information...if there has been a change in your family's contact information, please contact the church office by email at wapakelc@bright.net or by calling the office at 419-738-3911.

Education/Worship Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Adult and Youth Sunday School
 10:00 a.m. Worship in person and online at www.myfelc.org

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!

Confirmation Regular class is on a break until we resume on January 8th but youth are required to attend Let's Do Advent Together at 6:00pm. And don't forget Sermon Notes, can be turned into hanging basket.

Quilting Group will meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10am in the parlor. If you would like to join this group or have questions, please contact Darla Frame.

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 during the entire month.

Loaves and Fishes: Loaves & Fishes will be taking a short break for the holidays; no meals will be served on December 19th & 26th. Meals need to be reserved by calling 567-204-6708 and can be picked up in the alley behind the Fellowship Hall from 4:30 to 5:30 pm.

Collection for Auglaize County 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.

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 (it can be any instrument). 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 or even just occasionally, please pass their name onto Darla, or just let them know we are interested in their services for our services. Thank you so much!

Baptism Sunday, November 24, Madelyn Rae Wohn was baptized during worship service. She was born on 5-20-24 to Adam & McKenna Wohn.

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 Quake Youth 6th grade and older will be attending Youth Quake in Cincinnati, OH on January 3-5, 2025.

Ladies' Lunch is scheduled for 11:30am on Tuesday, December 17th at Main St. Restaurant in New Knoxville, OH.

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.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 8pm on December 24, 2024. Come early and enjoy Special Music.

January Book Club We will be meeting on Mondays in January at 7:00pm. We will be reading Max Lucado's "He Chose the Nails." We will meet in the parlor. There are some hard copies of the book available to borrow or feel free to download or purchase the book on your own. All are welcome to join us! Any questions please contact Jennie Grundey.

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 Van Meter know if you plan to join us so you can be informed where we will be meeting.

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.

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.

FELC Shirt Fundraiser We are selling FELC Shirt/Sweatshirts for \$25. By the parlor door, there are fliers with styles you can choose from and an order sheet to fill out. Please contact Carrie Schimdt for questions and orders.

FELC Shirt Fundraiser

Choose: T-shirt/Sweatshirt, Size, Shirt Color, Ink Color, Quantity & Style #
Individualize your T-shirt/Sweatshirt for your liking.
Order sheet and sample shirts on hangers by Parlor.

\$25
T-shirt or
Sweatshirt

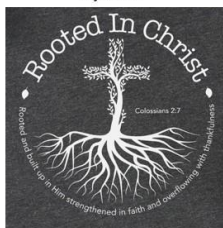


Please direct any questions to Carrie Schmidt, 419-230-0379
Make checks to Carrie Schmidt.

\$25

T-shirt or Sweatshirt

Style # 5



Style # 6



Choose: T-shirt/Sweatshirt, Size, Shirt Color,
Ink Color, Quantity & Style #
Individualize your T-shirt/Sweatshirt for your
liking.

Order sheet and sample shirts on hangers by
Parlor. Contact Carrie, 419-230-0379.

THANK YOUs & Requests

Dear Congregation Members, the March 14th, 2024, tornado left individuals and families with sudden and heartbreaking losses. Your prayers and gift provided support to people in need of both material goods and hope. Please accept our sincere thanks for recognizing and responding to the needs of others.

Sincerely, Helen L. Norris EMA Director/Logan County Long Term Recovery



Mary Ann Thomas is turning 90! Mary Ann's birthday is December 25th. Please join us in celebrating her birthday with a card shower. If you feel so inclined, please share a favorite memory or story in your card to Mary Ann. Her address is The Gardens of Wapakoneta 505 Walnut Street, Room 307, Wapakoneta, OH 45895.

**KIDS, PARENTS,
GRANDPARENTS,
Family & Friends
JOIN US for**



**FELC BRUNCH
WITH SANTA
December 15th
After worship
in fellowship hall**

Brunch includes Casseroles, Muffins, Pancakes,
Sausage and Milk/Orange juice
Activities include:
Santa/other helpers, coloring pages and gift bag.
Selling plates of cookies for \$10.

Signup sheets in pews or call office, 419-738-3911.

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!

**FELC
Family
Christmas
Party!**

ALL are welcome to come, invite family and friends!

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.

This will be a **CARRY-IN your favorite Christmas snack** to share!



~ December 2024 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 1 st Sunday of Advent 9am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10am Worship Pastor Mick Althausen Acolyte Kaidence Schmidt	2	3	4 No Confirmation- 5:30pm Bell Choir 6pm Let's Do Advent Together 7pm Women's Choir	5 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	6	7
8 2 nd Sunday of Advent 9am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10am Worship-Bells Pastor Bill Schultz Acolyte Faith Whetstone Congregational Meeting Council Meeting 5:30pm Caroling	9	10	11 No Confirmation- 6pm Let's Do Advent Together 7pm Women's Choir	12 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night At La Neta 7pm Blue Christmas at St. Paul's	13	14
15 3 rd Sunday of Advent 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Christmas Play Michelle Kouse Acolyte Nevaeh Estep Brunch with Santa	16	17 11:30am Ladies' Lunch at Main St. Rest. In New Knoxville	18 10am Quilting No Confirmation 6pm Bells	19 NO Loaves & Fishes	20 7pm FELC Family Christmas Party!	21
22 4 th Sunday of Advent 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Chaplain Leslie Haines Acolyte Vivian Fisher	23	24 8pm Christmas Eve Service Pastor Bill Schultz Acolyte Amelia Roeger Women's Choir	25 JESUS is born! Merry Christmas!! No Confirmation Office Closed	26 NO Loaves & Fishes Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28
29 1 st Sunday of Christmas 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Council-Lessons & Carols Acolyte Nolan Roode	30	31				

~ January 2025 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 No Confirmation	2 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	3 Youth Quake	4 Youth Quake
5 2nd Sunday of Christmas 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Pastor Youth Quake	6 7pm Book Club	7	8 5:30pm Confirmation 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Women's Choir	9 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night at TBA 7:15pm Christian Ed Meeting	10	11
12 Baptism of Our Lord 9am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10am Worship-Bells Pastor Acolyte Kaidence Schmidt	13 7pm Book Club	14 1:30pm Bingo @ The Gardens	15 10am Quilting 5:30pm Confirmation 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Women's Choir	16 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	17 12pm-6pm Strauser Blood Drive	18
19 2nd Sunday of Epiphany 9am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10am Worship-Wmn's Chr Pastor Acolyte Faith Whetstone	20 7pm Book Club	21 11:30am Ladies' Lunch at TBA	22 5:30pm Confirmation	23 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	24	25
26 3rd Sunday of Epiphany 9am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10am Worship Pastor Acolyte Nevaeh Estep	27 7pm Book Club	28	29 5:30pm Confirmation 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Women's Choir	30 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	31	

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