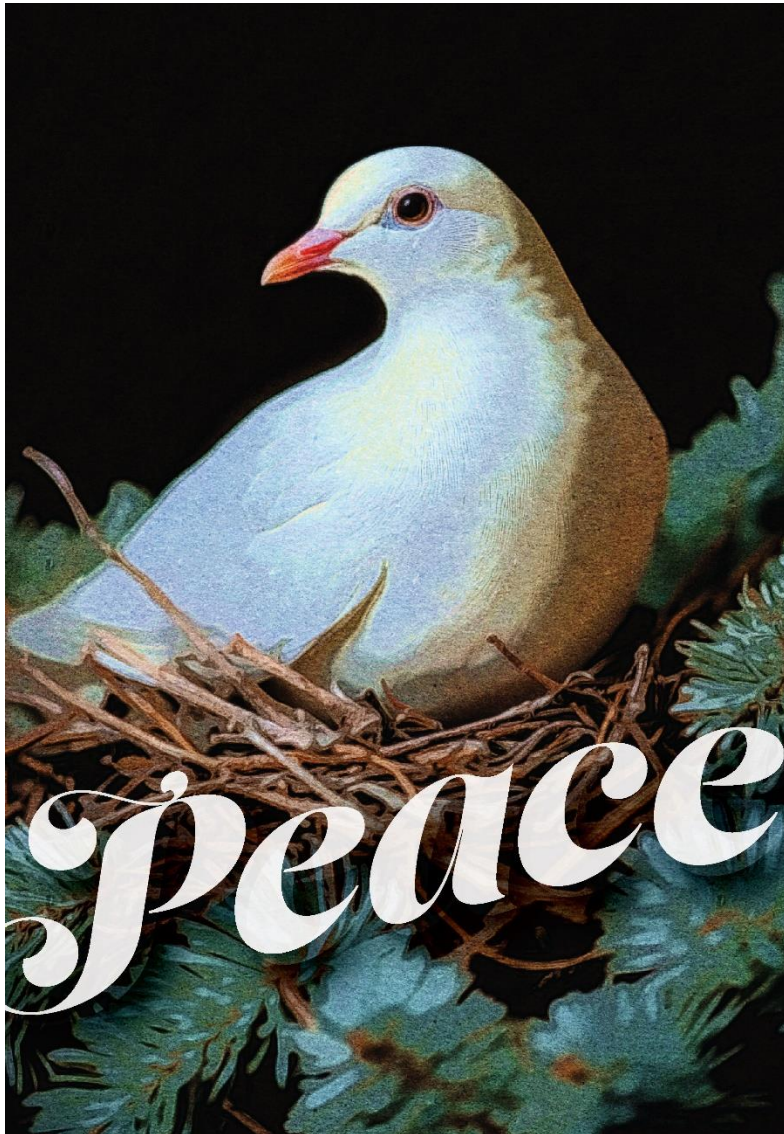


**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio**



**2nd Sunday of Advent
December 8, 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
Hilary, Mike, Amelia & Elanor Roeger in celebration of December birthdays;
Mike Roeger and Glen Miller's birthday and especially Jesus' birth.

MINISTERS for the TODAY

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.....	Chris Nagel
Acolyte	Faith Whetstone
Altar Guild	Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame
Fellowship Cleanup.....	Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame
Advent Reader/Candlelight	Schmidt/Roode Family

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

* Please rise if able.

Introduction to the day

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally, all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Seek Ye First by Johann Pachelbel arr Douglas E. Wagner

* 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**

Prepare the Royal Highway (ELW 264)

* **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)

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LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH
(light two candles)

Schmidt/Roode Family

We continue our Advent journey today with re-lighting the Hope candle and the second candle, the candle of Peace. Let the gentle glow of these candles symbolize the tranquility we seek in our hearts and homes, fostering a sense of peace that transcends the chaos of this world.

In a world filled with conflict and confrontations

We humbly seek the gift of peace.

For the storms that sometimes rage within us

We humbly seek the gift of peace.

As we rush and hurry our way through busy lives

We humbly seek the gift of peace.

And for those around us we know are carrying heavy burdens

We humbly seek the gift of peace.

Gracious Creator, in the quiet moments may we find solace in your presence, and in the noisy chaos of life may your peace prevail. Calm the storms that rage within and around us. May we be instruments of your peace, fostering understanding, compassion, and harmony in our hearts. **Amen.**

REPEAT ADVENT'S HOLY LIGHT-Congregation Part From Above

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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

Ding Dong Merrily On High

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rebecca VanMeter

WORD

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from Malachi.

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

RESPONSIVE READING: LUKE 1:68-79

Also known as Zechariah's song – The Benedictus.

⁶⁸ Blessed are you, Lord, the ^l God of Israel,
you have come to your people and ^l set them free.

⁶⁹ **You have raised up for us a ^l mighty Savior,
born of the house of your ^l servant David.**

⁷⁰ Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us ^l from our enemies,

⁷¹ from the hands of ^l all who hate us,

⁷² **to show mercy ^l to our forebears,
and to remember your ^l holy covenant.**

⁷³ This was the oath you swore to our ^l father Abraham:

⁷⁴ to set us free from the hands of our ^l enemies,

free to worship you ^l without fear,

⁷⁵ **holy and righteous before you, all the days ^l of our life.**

⁷⁶ And you, child, shall be called the prophet of ^l the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to pre- ^l pare the way,

⁷⁷ **to give God's people knowledge ^l of salvation
by the forgiveness ^l of their sins.**

⁷⁸ In the tender compassion ^l of our God

the dawn from on high shall ^l break upon us,

⁷⁹ **to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shad- ^l ow of death,
and to guide our feet into the ^l way of peace.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

A reading from Philippians.

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

(ELW p. 188)

*** GOSPEL : Luke 3:1-6**

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

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

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

MESSAGE

Pastor Bill Schultz

*** HYMN OF THE DAY**

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry (ELW 249)

* THE APOSTLES' CREED

Let us profess our faith using the words from 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

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

Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering *especially* Bonnie Davidson, Sharon Billiter, Dorothy Dickman, Betty Hague, Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz, Marty Rostorfer, Eloise Katterhenry, Kathy Link, Staff and Students at Concordia University at Ann Arbor, Lee Albright, James Benschhoff, 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, Shelia Snider and Kathi. And those that we

name out loud or in our hearts. (Brief silence). Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life and allow us to learn from their faithful witness. 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

*** OFFERING HYMN**

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW 182)

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, 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 delight,
that we should at all times and in all places
offer thanks and praise to you, ...

we praise your name and join their unending song of praise:

*** HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

(ELW p. 190)

*** 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. 191)

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

Come, Share the Lord (Screen)
Comfort, Comfort Now My People (ELW 256)
The Peace of the Lord (ELW 646)

*** 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. 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.

*** CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, **we continue to ask for your guidance as we seek to call a pastoral leader. May we be ever diligent in our search, that we may find the leader that we know you have chosen for us. Bless our congregation during this process and keep us strong and faithful. We ask all of this 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**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (ELW 254)

DISMISSAL

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

Please remain seated for the Congregational Meeting.

MINISTERS for Next Week 12-15-24

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Youth Christmas Play
Ushers	Ken Frame & Jon Schmidt
Worship Assistant	Deanna Ronan
Musician	Darla Frame
Pastor	Michelle Kouse
Greeter	NEEDED
Acolyte	Nevaeh Estep
Altar Guild	Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame
Fellowship Cleanup	Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame
Advent Reader/Candlelight	Ronan Family

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, Kathy Link, 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, Shelia Snider, Bonnie Davidson 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>
11/10/2024	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
12/01/2024	14	63	\$3,667.00	\$25.00

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 TODAY, December 8th following worship. Please be sure to stay after worship. Information/agenda has been emailed/mailed! Extras are at the back of the church.

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 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!

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

Wapakoneta Irving Club invites you to St. Paul United Church of Christ sanctuary on Monday, December 16th at 7:00pm to listen to and sing-a-long with the St. Paul's Bell Choir. Light refreshments will follow in the fellowship hall.

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:
Heavenly Father, we continue to ask for your guidance as we seek to call a pastoral leader. May we be ever diligent in our search, that we may find the leader that we know you have chosen for us. Bless our congregation during this process and keep us strong and faithful. We ask all of this in Jesus' name. Amen.



FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, Dec 8th	9:00am	Adult & Youth Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship– Bells – Pastor Bill Schultz
		CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
		Council Meeting
	5:30PM	Caroling
Wed, Dec 11 th		NO Confirmation
	6:00pm	Let's Do Advent Together
Thurs, Dec 12 th	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
	6:00pm	Men's Night @ La Neta Mexican Rest.
	7:00pm	Blue Christmas @ St. Paul's
Sunday, Dec 15th	9:00am	Adult & Youth Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Michelle Kouse
		Brunch with Sants following worship
Tues, Dec 17 th	11:30am	Ladies Lunch @ Main St. Rest. in NK
Wed, Dec 18 th		No Confirmation
	6:00pm	Bell Choir
	7:00pm	Women's Choir
Thurs, Dec 19 th		NO Loaves & Fishes
Fri, Dec 20 th	7:00pm	FELC Family Christmas Party

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; dicy@bright.net ; 937-307-8596