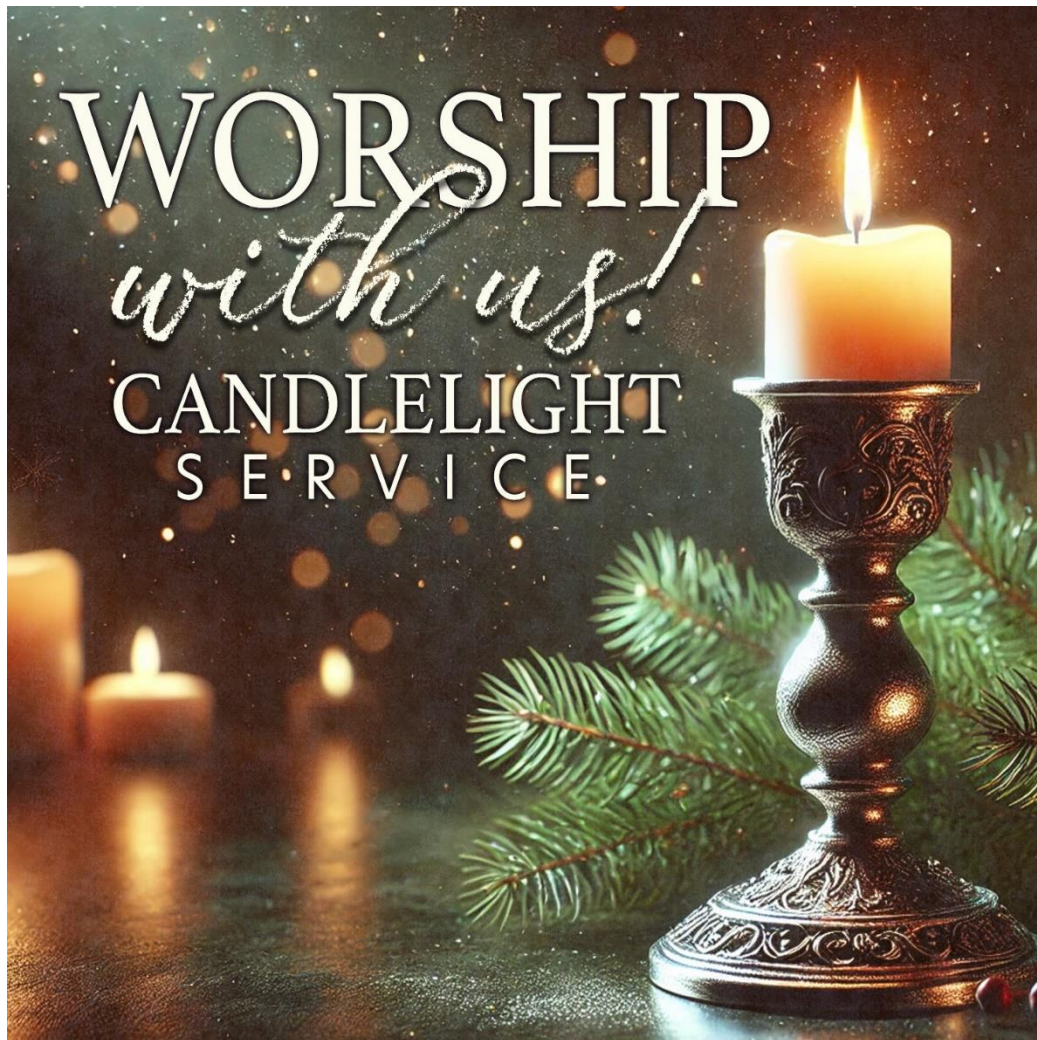


FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 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 the congregation.
Please see the back of the bulletin for those who purchased poinsettias.

MINISTERS for the TODAY

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Marsha Jackson
Ushers	Steve Stienecker & Jim Kantner
Worship Assistant	Char Curry
Musician	Special
Pastor	Pastor Bill Schultz
Greeter	Denise Kantner
Acolyte	Amelia Roeger
Altar Guild	Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame
Fellowship Cleanup	Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame
Advent Reader/Candlelight	Kirby Family

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

* Please rise if able.

Introduction to the day

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

GATHERING

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

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Ladies Choir

Dona Nobis Pacem

Susan Miller

O Holy Night

Doris Fisher

A Song of Christmas Joy

John Anderson & Gary Thompson

Mary Did You Know

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CHRISTMAS DIALOG**

Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the people.

Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength, the glory of his name.

Glory to God in the highest!

May God be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ!

Not to us, O Lord, not to us – but to your name give glory.

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

And all flesh shall see it together.

***GATHERING SONG**

Angels We Have Heard on High (ELW 289)

***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

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!

He is the Light no darkness can overcome.

At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven."

In Christ, God's Word is made flesh and lives among us.

With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.

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

Kirby Family

As we gather on this sacred Christmas Eve, we light all the candles, including the center candle, the Christ candle. Together, these candles symbolize the Light of the World coming to dispel the darkness. As we light this Christ candle, may its flame ignite the warmth of God's love within us and spread the message of joy and salvation to all.

Tonight we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the source of our hope.

Let heaven and nature sing.

The Prince of Peace has come to dwell among and within us.

Let heaven and nature sing.

The source of our joy and our salvation is here.

Let heaven and nature sing.

The greatest gift of all, the gift of love, has been given.

Let heaven and nature sing.

Gracious Creator, we thank you for the love that brought Christ into our lives, for the hope his birth represents, and for the peace that his presence brings. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, may this Christ candle illuminate our hearts and minds, drawing us closer to you and to one another. In the name of the newborn King, we pray. **Amen.**

REPEAT ADVENT'S HOLY LIGHT-Congregation Part from Above

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WOMEN'S CHOIR

Go Tell It On The Mountain

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Bill Schultz

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from Isaiah.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their pressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

PSALM: 96

- ¹ Sing to the LORD | a new song;
sing to the LORD, | all the earth.
- ² **Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**
- ³ Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.
- ⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,
more to be feared | than all gods.**
- ⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.
- ⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**
- ⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.
- ⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD.**
- ⁹ Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.
- ¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: "The | LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge
the peo- | ples with equity."**
- ¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that | is
therein.
- ¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O
LORD,
for you come to | judge the earth.**
- ¹³ You will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peoples | with your truth.

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

A reading from Titus.

¹¹ The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Away in the Manger (ELW 277 vs 1 only)

***GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]**

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

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

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

MESSAGE

Pastor Bill Schultz

*HYMN OF THE DAY

O Little Town of Bethlehem (ELW 279)

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

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

Angels sing with praise, and shepherds run with haste. As we glorify and praise you in this place, send us into the world, proclaiming the salvation you have revealed this night. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The seas roar, and the trees of the forest sing for joy. As creation resounds with praise, inspire us with awe, reverence, and a renewed care for all that fills the fields, skies, and seas. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The nations declare your glory. Uphold the leaders of the earth with your justice and righteousness. Break the rod of the oppressor in every land and bring peace where there is conflict. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The holy family finds shelter around the animals' manger. Draw near to persons experiencing homelessness, those who are alone this holiday season, and all for whom this world makes no room. Wrap all your children in bands of love and mercy *especially* Family and Friends of 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, Tasha McPeek, Shelia Snider, Bonnie Davidson, JJ Truesdale, Kathi, Nancy Bush and Wanda Nuss. And those that we name out loud or in our hearts. (Brief silence). God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A child is born for us and light shines on the weary. Watch over those who give birth this night and attend to those who are dying. Be present in our joys and in our sorrows. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The heavenly host praises you. With thanksgiving for Mary, Joseph, and all your saints, sustain us in the blessed hope revealed this night. Fashion us by their example into a people zealous for good deeds, sharing your love and mercy with all. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.

OFFERTORY *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly by Polish Folk Tune arr Heather Sorenson*

***OFFERING HYMN**

(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 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.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
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. 190)

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

(ELW p. 190)

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

***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

(ELW p. 191)

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

What Child Is This (ELW 296)

O Come, All Ye Faithful (ELW 283)

Angels from the Realms of Glory (ELW 275)

***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**

Dear God, **thank you for sending your Son to be our Savior. Help us in this busy season to refocus on your Son and your Will. Be with us as we wait patiently for the pastor You have chosen and prepared for our church. Help this pastor to hear Your call loud and clear. Continue to help this pastor and their family prepare to take this call and help this congregation to prepare for their arrival. We continue to be servants of Your will and plan. Help us to give our worries and concerns to You. In your glorious 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**

Silent Night, Holy Night! (ELW 281)

The church lights will be turned off.

As the candles are lit, please keep the lit candle upright until we extinguish our candles once the song is over.

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ your Savior is born! **Thanks be to God.**

MINISTERS for Next Week 12-29-24

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Council
Ushers	Steve Stienecker & Jim Kantner
Worship Assistant.....	Susan Miller
Musician	Recordings
Pastor	Council
Greeter	Chris Nagel
Acolyte	Nolan Roode
Altar Guild.....	Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame
Fellowship Cleanup	Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
12/01/2024	14	63	\$3,667.00	\$25.00
12/08/2024	16	78	\$3,537.96	\$0.00
12/15/2024	10	98	\$21, 225.80	\$115.00
12/22/2024	11	48	\$6,583.00	\$50.00

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!



OUR PRAYER CORNER

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

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...

Family and Friends of 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, Tasha McPeek, Shelia Snider, Bonnie Davidson, JJ Truesdale, Kathi, Nancy Bush and Wanda Nuss.

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.

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.

Confirmation Regular class is on a break until January 8th and don't forget Sermon Notes!

Thank you to everyone that provided a Christmas Poinsettias:

Becky Kohlrieser

In memory of Brenda & Rex Lippincott.

Brian & Catherine Fisher

In honor of Austin, Clayton, Doris & Vivian.

John & Paula Anderson

In memory of Scott Anderson, Kathi Thompson & Tracy Anderson.

Susan Miller; Jeff, Greg & Nicki Ritchie

In memory of Thomas G. Miller & Thomas H. Miller.

Jon & Carrie Schmidt

In memory of Kathi & Gary Thompson, Tracy Anderson, Helen Patterson.

Mary Klock

In memory of Donald Klock.

Hilary, Mike, Amelia & Elanor Roeger

In memory of our loved ones that have gone to our Lord & Savior before us and in celebration of Jesus' birth.

Ty, Tooty & Jerry's Family

In memory of Ty G. Miller, Tooty & Jerry Fritz.

Mike and Deana Kramer

In honor of our children and grandchildren.

Mark & Chris Nagel

In honor of our children and grandchildren.

Dave & Char Curry

In honor of our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren & in memory of our parents.

Marsha Jackson

In memory of my parents, Mabel & Charles.

Chuck & Joy Kantner

In honor of all family members and in memory of Emmett & Margaret Kantner and Fred & Evie Fisher.

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 completes the Congregational Profile and video to the NALC website.
- **Call Committee develops list of ministry questions to be asked in full interviews. ...**

CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER: Please pray throughout the week:

Dear God, thank you for sending your Son to be our Savior. Help us in this busy season to refocus on your Son and your Will. Be with us as we wait patiently for the pastor You have chosen and prepared for our church. Help this pastor to hear Your call loud and clear. Continue to help this pastor and their family prepare to take this call and help this congregation to prepare for their arrival. We continue to be servants of Your will and plan. Help us to give our worries and concerns to You. In your glorious name, Amen.

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Tues, Dec 24 th	7:45pm	Special Christmas Eve Music
	8:00pm	Christmas Eve Service - Pastor Bill Schultz
Wed, Dec 25 th		CHRISTMAS DAY! Jesus is Born! Office Closed NO Confirmation
Thurs, Dec 26 th		Office Closed NO Loaves & Fishes
Fri, Dec 27 th		Office Closed
Sunday, Dec 29th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Council-Lessons&Carols
Mon, Dec 30 th		January Newsletter deadline.
Tues, Dec 31 st		January Newsletter available. New Year's Eve
Wed, Jan 1 st		New Year's Day! – Office Closed NO Confirmation
Thurs, Jan 2 nd		Office Closed NO Loaves & Fishes
Fri, Jan 3 rd		Office Closed
Fri, Jan 3 rd -Jan 5 th		Youth Quake in Cincinnati, OH

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; darlaframe@gmail.com
Audio-Technology	Dave Curry; dscy@bright.net ; 937-307-8596