

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



Lessons &



1st Sunday of Christmas
December 29, 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.

MINISTERS for the TODAY

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

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

* Please rise if able.

Introduction to the day

On the first Sunday of Christmas, we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

One Small Child by David Meece arr Lloyd Larson

*** 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**

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.**

*** CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

Glory to God (ELW p. 185)

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

LESSONS AND CAROLS

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

Denise Kantner

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

HYMN *The First Noel* (ELW 300, verse 1,2,3)

Second Reading: Micah 5:2-5a**Georgeann Stienecker**

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

HYMN *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (ELW 279, verse 1,2)

Third Reading: Luke 1:26-35, 38**Char Curry**

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

HYMN*O Come, All Ye Faithful* (ELW 283, verse 1,2)

Fourth Reading: Matthew 1:18-25**Brenda Shoffstall**

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

HYMN*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (ELW 270, verse 1,3)**Fifth Reading: Luke 2:8-20****Denise Kantner**

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

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HYMN*Angels, from the Realms of Glory* (ELW 275, verse 1,4)

Sixth Reading: Matthew 2:1-11**Chris Nagel**

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

HYMN*What Child is This* (ELW 296, verse 1,3)**Seventh Reading: John 1:1-14****Jon Schmidt**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived

among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*** HYMN OF THE DAY**

Away in a Manger (ELW 277)

*** APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us profess our faith using the words from 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.

For those who teach and those who learn, we pray. Bless the education ministries of your church. Guide Sunday school teachers, college and seminary professors, and Bible study leaders in our ongoing faith formation and curiosity. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For the thriving of creation, we pray. Protect the habitats of pangolins and porcupines, penguins and parrots, and all wild animals and creeping things. Increase our knowledge of the natural world and the care of its inhabitants. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For the nations of the world, we pray. Raise up rulers who lead with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Let your peace rule in their hearts and in all lands. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For the well-being of your people, we pray. Keep watch over all who travel this holiday season. Accompany those who are alone or ill *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). Console parents and children whose relationships are strained or severed. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For the ministry of this place, we pray. Let the word of Christ dwell among us. In times of conflict, clothe us in love and move us to forgiveness. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For your holy, beloved, and chosen ones of every time and place, we give thanks. Draw us all into everlasting praise and joy. 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

He Is Born by Traditional French Carol arr Mark Hayes

*** 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.**

*** 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.**

SENDING

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

*** CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER**

Heavenly father, **we humbly pray, asking for help from Your Holy Spirit to guide us and give us wisdom to do what is best for your people who abide in this place of worship. We thank you for those who have shared their time and talents during this interim, but you know we are in need of a spiritual leader to help us grow in your Word. We pray to be open, patient and to do your Will in this process. In Your name we pray. 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**

Joy to the World (ELW 267)

*** DISMISSAL**

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

MINISTERS for Next Week 1-5-25

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Richard Yocum
Ushers	Ken Frame & Richard Yocum
Worship Assistant	Jon Schmidt
Musician.....	Karen Luginbuhl
Pastor	Video Sermon-Adam Poe
Greeter.....	Needed
Acolyte	N/A
Altar Guild.....	Sara Young
Fellowship Cleanup.....	Brenda Shoffstall & Chris Nagel

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 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, Tasha McPeek, 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.

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!



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!

Christmas Decorations We will be taking down decorations on January 10th & 11th. If you are able to help, please let the office or Brenda Shoffstall know. Many hands make light work.

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:

Heavenly father, we humbly pray, asking for help from Your Holy Spirit to guide us and give us wisdom to do what is best for your people who abide in this place of worship. We thank you for those who have shared their time and talents during this interim, but you know we are in need of a spiritual leader to help us grow in your Word. We pray to be open, patient and to do your Will in this process. In Your name we pray. Amen.



FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

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
Sunday, Jan 5th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Video Sermon
Mon, Jan 6 th	7:00pm	Book Club
Wed, Jan 8 th	5:30pm	Confirmation
	6:00pm	Bell Choir
	7:00pm	Women's Choir
Thurs, Jan 9 th	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
	6:00pm	Men's Night at Inn Between
	7:15pm	Christian Ed Meeting
Fri/Sat, Jan 10 th /11 th		Christmas Decoration Cleanup

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

Bookkeeper

Treasurer

Music Director

Audio-Technology

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

Anderson Accounting

Cari Frame; felc.finance@myfelc.org

Darla Frame; darlaframe@gmail.com

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