

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



THE CHILD GREW AND
BECAME STRONG,
FILLED WITH
WISDOM;
AND THE FAVOR OF GOD
WAS UPON HIM.

Luke 2:40

2nd Sunday of Christmas
January 5, 2025

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 Mark & Chris Nagel.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God.

MINISTERS for the TODAY

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

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

* Please rise if able.

Introduction to the day

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (DARLA)

PRELUDE

Sussex Carol by R.V. Williams

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (DARLA)**

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

***GATHERING SONG**

O Come, All Ye Faithful (ELW 283)

***GREETING (DARLA)**

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 (DARLA)**

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.

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

(ELW p. 185)

***PRAYER OF THE DAY (DARLA)**

Let us pray. **Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3: 4-15 (RICHARD)

A reading from 1 Kings.

⁴The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" ¹⁰It pleased the LORD that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. ¹⁴If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life." ¹⁵Then Solomon awoke; it had been a dream. He came to Jerusalem where he stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. He offered up burnt offerings and offerings of well-being, and provided a feast for all his servants.

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

PSALM: 119: 97-104 (RICHARD)

⁹⁷ Oh, how I | love your teaching!

All the day long it is | in my mind.

⁹⁸ **Your commandment has made me wiser | than my enemies,
for it is | always with me.**

⁹⁹ I have more understanding than | all my teachers,
for your decrees | are my study.

¹⁰⁰ **I am wiser | than the elders,
because I observe | your commandments.**

¹⁰¹ I restrain my feet from every | evil way,
that I may | keep your word.

¹⁰² **I do not turn aside | from your judgments,
because you your- | self have taught me.**

¹⁰³ How sweet are your words | to my taste!
They are sweeter than honey | to my mouth.

¹⁰⁴ **Through your commandments I gain | understanding;
therefore I hate every | lying way.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14 (RICHARD)

A reading from Ephesians.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

(ELW p. 188)

***GOSPEL: Luke 2: 40-52 (ADAM POE – VIDEO)**

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

⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

⁴¹Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.

⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.

⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

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

MESSAGE

Video Sermon – Adam Poe

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

What Child Is This (ELW 296)

***NICENE CREED (DARLA)**

Let us profess our faith using the words from the Nicene Creed.

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF INTERCESSION (DARLA)**

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

O God, you reveal yourself in this assembly. In water, wine, and bread, show us again and again your grace upon grace, that your church boldly testifies to your love. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself in creation. In seedlings and planets, microorganisms and galaxies, awaken us to the cry of the earth. As you nourish your people like a watered garden, empower us to nourish our creaturely companions. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself in every land and in the farthest parts of the earth. Deliver people who suffer under oppressive regimes. Thwart the foolish plans of unjust leaders. Give wisdom to our elected. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself in every human being. Help us recognize your image in our siblings in Christ who are in the strong grip of addiction, depression, anxiety, hopelessness, or other illness *especially* **Dorothy, Betty, Mary Ann, Betty, Marty, Eloise, Kathy, Staff and Students at Concordia University at Ann Arbor, Lee, James, Janet, Dominic, Emily, Ted, Ben, Bryan, Wayne & Judy, Lauren, Sasha, Jenny, Nixon, Pam, Alex, Hunter, Evelyn, Seth, Norma, Harold, Jim, Tasha, Bonnie, JJ, Kathi, Nancy and Wanda.** And those that we name out loud or in our hearts. (Brief silence). Grant us compassion in our care for your people. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself anew every day. In this new year, renew this congregation and its ministries in our witness to the good news of the incarnation. Transform the way we have always done things into your new future for us. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself in the lives of your holy ones. We give you thanks for those who set their hope on you, trusting the inheritance we receive in you. 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 (DARLA)**

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.

OFFERTORY *He Whom Shepherd Men Came Praising by Paul Manz*

***OFFERING HYMN** *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW 182)*

***OFFERING PRAYER (DARLA)**

Let us pray. Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER (DARLA)**

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.

***AS WE ARE BLESSED (DARLA)**

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

SENDING

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

***CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER (DARLA)**

Heavenly Father, **as we gather together in this moment of transition, we seek Your guidance and wisdom. May Your Spirit lead us in unity and discernment as we consider the right person to shepherd our community. Grant us patience and openness to Your Will and help us to trust in Your perfect timing. May our new pastor be filled with Your love, strength and grace, bringing hope and inspiration to our church. We place our faith in You, knowing that You have a plan for us. Thank you for Your continued presence in our lives and in our church. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

***BLESSING (DARLA)**

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**

Angels, from the Realms of Glory (ELW 275)

***DISMISSAL (DARLA)**

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

MINISTERS for Next Week 1-12-25

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Sandy Brading
Ushers	Dave Krites & Brian Van Meter
Worship Assistant.....	Marsha Jackson
Musician	Recordings
Pastor	Michelle Kouse
Greeter	Needed
Acolyte.....	Kaidence Schmidt
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...

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, 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 and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>NWOS 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
12/24/2024		117	Combined 12/24 – 12/29	
12/29/2024		38	\$2,762.06	\$0.00

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 JANUARY: Women's Crisis Center

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. January's theme is Snack Items. 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.

New Ministry! FELC will be collecting clean empty plastic grocery bags for our Prison Ministry. Allen/Oakwood Correctional incarcerated persons are making mats for the homeless. There is a collection container located at the backdoor.

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 a few hard copies of the book available to borrow (in library on table) or feel free to download or purchase the book on your own. All are welcome to join! Any questions please contact Jennie Grundey. For the first gathering on January 6th, read chapters 1-4.

Christmas Decorations We will be taking down decorations starting January 7th until finished. We would like to have it all cleaned up and put away before we start helping God's Store House move-in on January 11th. If you are able to help, please let the office or Brenda Shoffstall know. Many hands make light work.

Spiritual Movement Classes We will be hosting Spiritual Movement Classes-Stretch & Strength in our fellowship hall on Monday and Wednesdays at 5:15pm & Saturdays at 8:15am until they are able to move back to their previous location at St. Joe's. This is a healthy opportunity to move the body at all levels and everyone is welcomed.

Confirmation Regular class is on a break until we resume on January 8th. And don't forget Sermon Notes, can be turned into the hanging basket.

FELC 2024 Tax Statements will be available to pick up outside the chapel on Sunday, January 12, 2025. If you did not receive a statement, please contact Georgeann Stienecker or Cari Frame.

FELC Youth Gaming Night Do you like playing video games? Come to play on January 18th at 5:00pm. Pizza and snacks will be provided. Any questions contact office or Carrie/Jon Schmidt.

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, as we gather together in this moment of transition, we seek Your guidance and wisdom. May Your Spirit lead us in unity and discernment as we consider the right person to shepherd our community. Grant us patience and openness to Your Will and help us to trust in Your perfect timing. May our new pastor be filled with Your love, strength and grace, bringing hope and inspiration to our church. We place our faith in You, knowing that You have a plan for us. Thank you for Your continued presence in our lives and in our church. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, Jan 5th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Video Sermon Decoration Cleanup after service
Mon, Jan 6 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	7:00pm	Book Club
Wed, Jan 8 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	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
Saturday, Jan 11 th	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
Sunday, Jan 12th	9:00am	Adult & Youth Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Michelle Kouse
Mon, Jan 13 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	7:00pm	Book Club
Tues, Jan 14 th	1:30pm	Bingo at The Gardens
Wed, Jan 15 th	10:00am	Quilting
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	5:30pm	Confirmation
	6:00pm	Bell Choir
	7:00pm	Women’s Choir
Thurs, Jan 16 th	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
Sat, Jan 18 th	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
	5:00pm	Gaming Night

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