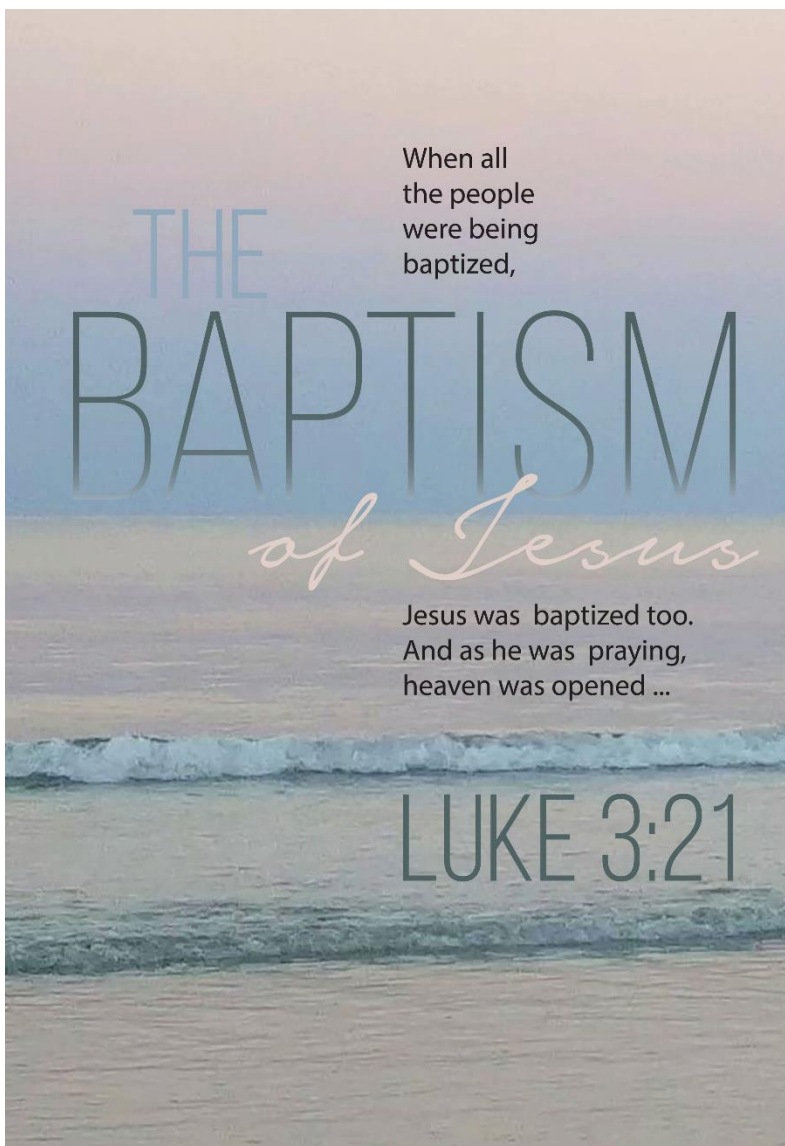


**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Wapakoneta, Ohio**



**Baptism of Our Lord  
January 12, 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  
in celebration of Mark’s birthday and son, Brian’s birthday  
and in memory of Chris’ father, John Zuber’s birthday.

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

**MINISTERS for the TODAY**

- 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

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

\* Please rise if able.

## **Introduction to the day**

Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

## **GATHERING**

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

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRELUDE**

### **\*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**

*Songs of Thankfulness and Praise (ELW 310)*

## **\*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.**

## **\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

*Glory be to God* (ELW p. 185)

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, 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**

*Morning Has Broken* by Bill Ingram

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

Rebecca Van Meter

## **WORD**

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

## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7**

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup> But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. <sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. <sup>3</sup> For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom,

Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. <sup>4</sup> Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. <sup>5</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; <sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, “Give them up,” and to the south, “Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— <sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

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

## **PSALM: 29**

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.

<sup>2</sup> **Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God’s name;  
worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;  
the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup> **The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup> **the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup> The voice | of the LORD  
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup> **The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup> The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the | forests  
bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, “Glory!”

<sup>10</sup> **The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned asking for- | evermore.**

<sup>11</sup> O LORD, give strength | to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace.

## **SECOND READING: Romans 6: 1-11**

A reading from Romans.

<sup>1</sup>What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup>But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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

## **\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

(ELW p. 188)

## **\*GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-22**

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

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

<sup>19</sup>But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, <sup>20</sup>added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

<sup>21</sup>Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

## MESSAGE

Michelle Kouse

### \*HYMN OF THE DAY

*Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized* (ELW 304)

### APOSTLES' CREED

Let us profess our faith using the words of 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.**

### \*PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news, especially Young Adults in Global Mission and international congregations.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your voice sounds over the waters. Speak words of healing over the rivers and lakes, seas and oceans. Heeding your voice, lead us to care for water, and the land and creatures it nourishes. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery *especially* Dorothy Dickman, Betty Hague, Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz, Marty Rostorfer, Eloise Katterhenry, Kathy Link, Staff and Students at Concordia University at Ann Arbor, 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, Anne J., Anthony, Sue Bartlett and Wanda Nuss. And those we speak out loud or in our hearts. (Brief silence). Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You draw us into community. Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You grant us peace. Comfort all who grieve. Dwell with us in this life and, at the last, join us with the saints whom you have created, formed, and named. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **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 provided, and for the gifts you share.

### **OFFERTORY**

#### **\*OFFERING HYMN**

*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful* (ELW 182)

#### **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. **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.**

#### **\*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.

## **SENDING**

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

### **\*CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, as we continue in the process of searching for a new pastor to lead our congregation, we ask for you to grant us wisdom and patience during the process. Guide us and help us make decisions that will be good for First English in the future, so that we may continue to do your work in the world. We ask 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**

*Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart* (ELW 800)

### **DISMISSAL**

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

## MINISTERS for Next Week 1-19-25

Audio/Visual ..... Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie  
 Lector ..... Chris Nagel  
 Ushers ..... Ken Frame & Jon Schmidt  
 Worship Assistant ..... Darla Frame  
 Musician..... Recordings  
 Pastor ..... Pastor Bill Schultz  
 Greeter..... Needed  
 Acolyte ..... Faith Whetstone  
 Altar Guild ..... Sara Young  
 Fellowship Cleanup.....Brenda Shoffstall & Chris Nagel

### Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>NWOS Benevolence</u>
12/15/2024	10	98	\$21,225.80	\$115.00
12/22/2024	11	48	\$6,583.00	\$50.00
12/24/2024	11	117	Combined 12/24 – 12/29	
12/29/2024	17	38	\$2,762.06	\$0.00
01/05/2025	18	37	\$2,330.00	\$20.00

FELC can now accept online donations through the church website thanks to our partnership with Tithe.ly online giving. Just visit [myfelc.org](http://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...***

Dorothy Dickman, Betty Hague, Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz, Marty Rostorfer, Eloise Katterhenry, Kathy Link, Staff and Students at Concordia University at Ann Arbor, 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, Anne J., Anthony, Sue Bartlett 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 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.

**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 pervious location at St. Joe's. This is a healthy opportunity to move the body at all levels and everyone is welcomed.

**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 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm. Pizza and snacks will be provided. Any questions contact office or Carrie/Jon Schmidt.

**The Bowersock Family** would like to Thank everyone that has been praying for Charleigh. She is doing good. It is truly appreciated.

**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 15<sup>th</sup>.
- × 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 continue in the process of searching for a new pastor to lead our congregation, we ask for you to grant us wisdom and patience during the process. Guide us and help us make decisions that will be good for First English in the future, so that we may continue to do your work in the world. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

## FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

<b>Sunday, Jan 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Adult &amp; Youth Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Worship – Michelle Kouse – Bell Ch.</b>
Mon, Jan 13 <sup>th</sup>	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	7:00pm	Book Club
Tues, Jan 14 <sup>th</sup>	1:30pm	Bingo at The Gardens
Wed, Jan 15 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am	Quilting
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	5:30pm	Confirmation
	6:00pm	Bell Choir
	7:00pm	Women’s Choir
Thurs, Jan 16 <sup>th</sup>	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
Sat, Jan 18 <sup>th</sup>	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
	5:00pm	Gaming Night
<b>Sunday, Jan 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Adult Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Worship – Pastor Bill Schultz</b>
		<b>Council Meeting</b>
Mon, Jan 20 <sup>th</sup>	Office Closed –	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	7:00pm	Book Club
Tues, Jan 21 <sup>st</sup>	11:30am	Ladies’ Lunch at Side Rails
Wed, Jan 22 <sup>nd</sup>	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	5:30pm	Confirmation
Thurs, Jan 23 <sup>rd</sup>	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
Saturday, Jan 25 <sup>th</sup>	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class

## **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](http://www.myfelc.org)

Church email: [wapakelc@bright.net](mailto: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](mailto:wapakelc@bright.net); 419-738-3911

Anderson Accounting

Cari Frame; [felc.finance@myfelc.org](mailto:felc.finance@myfelc.org)

Darla Frame; [darlaframe@gmail.com](mailto:darlaframe@gmail.com)

Dave Curry; [dscy@bright.net](mailto:dscy@bright.net); 937-307-8596