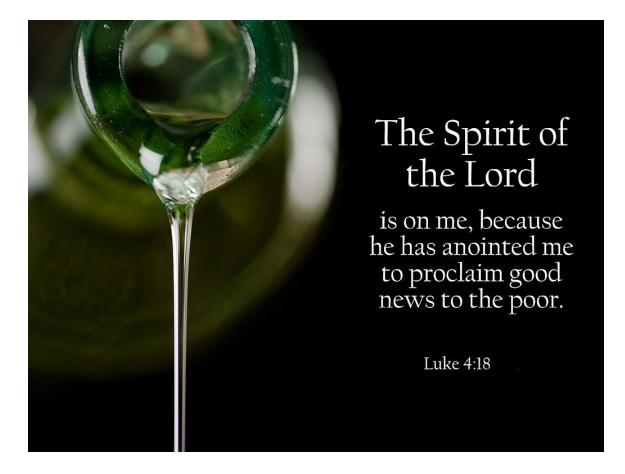
FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH Wapakoneta, Ohio



3rd Sunday after Epiphany January 26, 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 by Mark & Chris Nagel in honor of the January birthdays in their family.

MINISTERS for the TODAY

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Joyce Brincefield
Ushers	Luke Kline & Chad Sterner
Worship Assistant	Ken Frame
Musician	Darla Frame
Pastor	Pastor Mick Althauser
Greeter	Needed
Acolyte	Faith Whetstone
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

God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Amazing Grace/My Chains are Gone by Chris Tomlin & Louie Giglio 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

*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

This is the Feast (ELW p. 187)

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WOMEN'S CHOIR

Praise Him by Craig Courtney

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rebecca Van Meter

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

A reading from Nehemiah.

¹ All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the

men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 19

¹ The heavens declare the glo-¹ ry of God,

and the sky proclaims its I maker's handiwork.

² One day tells its tale | to another, and one night imparts knowledge | to another.

³Although they have no ¹ words or language, and their voices ¹ are not heard

and their voices I are not heard,

 4 their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends $^{\rm |}$ of the world,

where God has pitched a tent | for the sun.

⁵ It comes forth like a bridegroom out [|] of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to [|] run its course.

⁶ It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of $^{|}$ it again;

nothing is hidden from its | burning heat.

⁷ The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re-[|] vives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom [|] to the simple.

⁸ The statutes of the LORD are just and re- [|] joice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light [|] to the eyes.

⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean and en- [|] dures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous [|] altogether. ¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, more than [|] much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey [|] in the comb.

¹¹ By them also is your ser- [|] vant enlightened,

and in keeping them there is [|] great reward.

¹² Who can detect one's | own offenses?

Cleanse me from my | secret faults.

¹³ Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion ^I over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a [|] great offense. ¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be

acceptable ¹ in your sight,

O LORD, my strength and | my redeemer.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a} But strive for the greater gifts. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia (ELW p. 188)

*GOSPEL: Luke 4:14-21

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

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

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

MESSAGE

Pastor Mick Althauser

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing (ELW 886)

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.

As your word is opened in our midst, we give thanks for all who share scripture: for parents, grandparents, and godparents; teachers and mentors; deacons, pastors, bishops, and scholars. Inspire passion for the stories of faith. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As heavens declare your glory and the sky proclaims your work, we lift our voices in awe of quarks and atoms, vast stars and solar systems. Guide us to speak on behalf of your handiwork. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As Jesus proclaimed life and freedom in his community, energize communities and nations to eliminate poverty, engage in prison ministry and transformative justice, and envision new ways of working together for your promised reign. God of grace, **hear our prayer.** As your word and presence revive the soul, accompany all experiencing depression, anxiety, or eating disorders; be a source of strength for all affected by memory loss and their caregivers; draw near to all undergoing medical treatment or surgery *especially* Family and Friends of 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, Ted Gibson, Ben Jauert, Bryan Katterhenry, Wayne & Judy Kentner, Lauren Makuh, Sasha Maslov, Jenny Oliver, Nixon Palte, Pam Schulz, Alex Shirey, Hunter Smith, Ed Meckstroth, Seth Thuman, Norma Wachauf, Harold Wallace, Jim Zwiebel, Tasha McPeek, Bonnie Davidson, JJ Truesdale, Kathi, Nancy Bush, Anne J., Anthony, Sue Bartlett, Anthony Holcome, Ike Schnell, and Wanda Nuss. And those we speak out loud or in our hearts. (Brief silence). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As we are made one body in baptism, strengthen all who serve. Renew and inspire all who use their gifts in this congregation, community, and the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As our faith is strengthened by saints who have gone before us, we remember leaders of the early church and beloved friends and family who have died. 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. 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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**

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

Lamb of God (ELW p. 191)

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

NION Here is Bread (ELW 483) We are Called (ELW 720) Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness (ELW 843)

*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. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

***CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER**

Heavenley Father, we come to you asking for your guidance, wisdom and support. Please guide our minds and heart as we continue in our search for a new pastor to lead us. We seek you first in all we do together. We confess that we are nothing without you and our trust is in you completely. Fill us with your grace as we continue in our search and help us to grow in peace and understanding with one another. In Jesus' 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**

O Jesus, I Have Promised (ELW 810)

DISMISSAL

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

MINISTERS for Next Week 2-2-25

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Richard Yocum
Ushers	Ken Frame & Richard Yocum
Worship Assistant	Deanna Ronan
Musician	Karen Luginbuhl
Pastor	Jennie Grundey
Greeter	Needed
Acolyte	Vivian Fisher
Altar Guild	Amelia Sterner & Catherine Fisher
Fellowship Cleanup	Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame

	Weekly Attendance and Offerings			
<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	Attendance	Current Giving	Benevolence
12/29/2024	17	38	\$2,762.06	\$0.00
01/05/2025	18	37	\$2,740.00	\$20.00
01/12/2025	17	61	\$1,281.06	\$25.00
01/19/2025	13	64		

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...

The Gardens	Betty Hague, Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz
Homebound	Marty Rostorfer, Eloise Katterhenry

We especially remember in our prayers...

Family and Friends of 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, Ted Gibson, Ben Jauert, Bryan Katterhenry, Wayne & Judy Kentner, Lauren Makuh, Sasha Maslov, Jenny Oliver, Nixon Palte, Pam Schulz, Alex Shirey, Hunter Smith, Ed Meckstroth, Seth Thuman, Norma Wachauf, Harold Wallace, Jim Zwiebel, Tasha McPeek, Bonnie Davidson, JJ Truesdale, Kathi, Nancy Bush, Anne J., Anthony, Sue Bartlett, Anthony Holcome, Ike Schnell, 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.

<u>Collection for the Women's Crisis Center</u> We are collecting food items each month for the Auglaize County Crisis Center based on a monthly dinner theme. <u>January's theme is Snack Items</u>. 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.

<u>New Ministry!</u> 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.

<u>January Book Club</u> We will be meeting on <u>Monday, January 27th at 7:00pm to</u> <u>finish up book</u>. We will be reading Max Lucado's "He Chose the Nails." We will meet in the parlor. 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.

<u>FELC 2024 Tax Statements</u> 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.

Flower/Candle Calendar & Greeter Sign Up Sheet The 2025 Flower/Candle Calendar is up and ready for members to sign up! Please check your calendar and pick a Sunday or two to help the church out. The Greeter Sign Up sheet is up and ready for volunteers through March. Greeters come a bit early to service and welcome everyone to church with a smiling face and a handshake/hug/hello. Thanks in advance! And thank you to those that have signed up.

Christ Candle The Christ Candle in the front of church is to symbolize God's presence and light. On designated days, it will be lit by the usher before church service, and it will be extinguished after service is over and the congregation has left by usher. The Christ Candle has its own schedule of when it should be lit, which includes baptisms, funerals and certain days in the church calendar. Schedule is located at back of church, back of sanctuary or can be provided by office.

CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER Please pray the prayer from service throughout the week.

Souper Bowl Mark your calendars for February 9th, 11:30am-1pm, to join us for Souper Bowl Community Luncheon. Meals are Adult \$10, Kids (3-12 yrs old) \$5 and 2 & under are Free. You will be able to purchase tickets before church out in Melching Hall. Meals include Soup, Sandwich and Dessert! There will be raffles for several Gift Baskets (including OSU coolers). Tickets will be sold at the door the day of event.

SOUPER BOWL COMMUNITY LUNCHEON FEBRUARY 9, 2025 11:30-1PM FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH ADULTS \$10 KIDS 3-12 \$5 2 & UNDER FREE



It's About Great Soup For You!

Meal includes Soup, Sandwich and Dessert! Soups: Chili, White Chicken Chili, Chicken Noodle, Vegetable Beef, Vegetarian, Tomato Tortellini Sandwiches: Shredded Chicken and Hot Dogs Whole Pies: \$15 Pints of Soup: \$5 Carry outs Available

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events				
Sunday, Jan 26 th	9:00am	Adult & Youth Sunday School		
	10:00am	Worship–Pastor Mick Althauser		
		Women's Choir		
Mon, Jan 27 th	February Newsletter Information Due to Office			
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class		
	7:00pm	Book Club		
Wed, Jan 29 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class		
	5:30pm	Confirmation		
	6:00pm	Bell Choir		
	6:45pm	Call Committee Meeting		
	7:00pm	Women's Choir		
Thurs, Jan 30 th	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes		
Fri, Jan 31 st	February Newsletter Printed and Available			
Saturday, Feb 1 st	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class		
Sunday, Feb 2 nd	9:00am	Adult Sunday School		
	10:00am	Worship – Jennie Grundey – Bell Chr		
Mon, Feb 3 rd	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class		
Wed, Feb 5 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class		
	5:30pm	Confirmation		
Thurs, Feb 6 th	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes		
Saturday, Feb 7 th	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 Church email: <u>wapakelc@bright.net</u> 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.

Office Administrator Bookkeeper Treasurer Music Director Audio-Technology

Church Staff & Volunteers

Hilary Roeger; wapakelc@bright.net; 419-738-3911 Anderson Accounting Cari Frame; felc.finance@myfelc.org Darla Frame; darlaframe@gmail.com Dave Curry; dlcy@bright.net; 937-307-8596