First English Lutheran Church

Wapakoneta, Ohio



Our January 2025 Newsletter

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) 107 W. Mechanic Street, Wapakoneta, OH 45895 Office: (419) 738-3911

Website: www.myfelc.org E-Mail Address: wapakelc@bright.net

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The mission of First English Lutheran Church is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to love one another as He loves us.

DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

On December 8, 2024, Council met for their monthly meeting after the congregational meeting.

Cari Frame, our Treasurer came in and discussed the monthly finance reports.

We then started the meeting with Brenda giving the devotion. We looked at the fund summary and the secretary report from November. The reports were approved.

There were no committee meeting minutes to discuss.

We talked about the Bid for installation of the sanctuary lights from Botkin Electric. Property committee recommended them for council's approval. They will start the installation after the first of the year. Brenda gave an update on God's Storehouse move to our church. They are planning on seeing clients here after the first of the year. An update on the call committee was also given by Brenda, along with discussion on conversation with Pastor Bert on some Supply pastor situation and some ways we can have communion on Sundays when we don't have an ordained pastor.

Election of 2025 officers were held. Brenda Shoffstall is now President, Richard Yocum is Vice President and Char Curry is Secretary. Some Liaisons for committees were changed also. We also chose the readings for our lesson and Carols Sunday.

We approved the Christmas Eve Service ad for the Wapak Daily News. We then went into executive session. Denise then gave the Blessing and the meeting was adjourned We all look forward to serving you in 2025.

God's Blessings Church Council **Weekly Attendance and Offerings**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	Current Giving	NWOS Benevolence
12/01/2024	4 14	63	\$3,667.00	\$25.00
12/08/2024	4 16	78	\$3,537.96	\$0.00
12/15/2024	4 10	98	\$21,225.80	\$115.00
12/22/2024	4 25	48	\$6583.00	\$50.00
12/24/2024	4 11	117	Combined 12	2/24 – 12/29
12/29/2024	4 24	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!

2024 Noisy Offerings

Month	Recipient	Amount Collected
January	Family Life Center	\$64.00
February	Wapak Women's Crisis Center	\$145.00
March	Generations of Hope	\$184.00
April	Indian Lake Tornado Victims	\$702.13
May	Heal Our Heroes Project	\$2,126.21
June	VBS Honduras Clean Water Project	t \$494.25
July	Servants' Day	\$118.00
August	Operation Christmas Child	\$116.00
September	Angel Tree	\$153.00
October	Loaves & Fishes	\$99.35
November	Lutheran Military Vet. & Fam. Min.	\$706.50
December	Mercy Unlimited	\$171.00

2025 Noisy Offerings

Month	Recipient	Amount Collected
January	Wapak Women's Crisis Center	
February	Family Life Center	

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, Shelia Snider, Bonnie Davidson, JJ Truesdale, Kathi, Nancy Case 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.

Prayers from Call Committee for Pastor

Prayers throughout the month:

12-1-24

Dear Lord, You've heard our prayers and know our needs. Please continue to guide us in the direction as we continue to pray for our future pastor, his family and the future of our church. Heavenly Father, open our hearts and minds to be able to clearly hear and receive Your will. As we continue through this transition. Lord, be with us and remind us that we are Your shepherds, and this is all on Your time. Help us to keep Your Word in our hearts and be more like You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

12-8-24

Heavenly Father, we continue to ask for your guidance as we seek to call a pastoral leader. May we be ever diligent in our search, that we may find the leader that we know you have chosen for us. Bless our congregation during this process and keep us strong and faithful. We ask all of this in Jesus' name. Amen.



12-15-24

Dear God, as we continue on this journey of seeking a pastor, we ask for your divine guidance. Your word reminds us that you are the Good Shepherd, and we trust in your leading us to find the right pastor for our church family. May our search be guided by the same love and care that Jesus has for his flock. Lead us to the pastor who will nurture, lead and protect our congregation. In your name, Amen.

12-22-24

Heavenly Father, as we seek a new shepherd to lead our church, we humbly come before You, asking for Your guidance and wisdom in this important decision. Grant our call committee the wisdom to identify the individual You have chosen to be our pastor, one with heart for Your word, a passion for ministry and a love for our community. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

12-24-24

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



Call Committee Checklist for seeking a Pastor:

- **x** 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.
- x 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.
- **x** Call Committee completes the Congregational Profile and emails it to NALC Call Process.
- **x** 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. ...

FELC Committees, Chairpersons, Council Liaisons

Committee	Chairperson	Liaison
Building & Property	Brenda Shoffstall	Jeff Ritchie
Christian Education/Youth	Rebecca Van Meter	Richard Yocum
Evangelism	Teresa Fisher	Denise Kantner
Finance	Cari Frame	Georgeann Stienecker
Life & Fellowship	Brenda Shoffstall	Darla Frame
Social Ministry	Teresa Fisher	Char Curry
Staff Support	Richard Yocum	Jon Schmidt
Stewardship	Meets with Finance	Brenda Shoffstall
Worship & Music	Darla Frame	Chris Nagel

Flowers and Candles

Altar Flowers for the month of January:

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January 5 th	Available
January 12th	Available
January 19th	Available
January 26th	Chris Nagel



NEW Altar Flower/Candles SIGNUP calendar is hung! Please sign up for a date or two!

Altar Candles for the month of January:

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.

Ministries in Action

	January 5 th	January 12 th	January 19 th	January 26 th
Lector	Richard Yocum	Sandy Brading	Chris Nagel	Joyce Brincefield
Ushers	Ken Frame & Richard Yocum	Dave Krites & Brian Van Meter	Ken Frame & Jon Schmidt	Luke Kline & Chad Sterner
Worship Assistant	Darla Frame	Marsha Jackson	Darla Frame	Ken Frame
Musician	Karen Luginbuhl	Recordings	Recordings	Darla Frame
Preacher	Video Sermon- Adam Poe	Michelle Kouse	Pastor Bill Schultz	Pastor Mick Althauser
Greeter	Brenda Shoffstall	Needed	Needed	Needed
Acolyte	None- Youth Quake	Kaidence Schmidt	Faith Whetstone	Nevaeh Estep

Altar Guild for January: Sara Young

Fellowship Cleanup for January: Brenda Shoffstall & Chris Nagel

The Word of God

Sunday	1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel
January 5 th	1 Kings 3:4-15	Ps 119: 97- 104	Eph 1: 3-14	Luke 2: 22-40
January 12 th	Isa 43: 1-7	Ps 29	Rom 6: 1-11	Luke 3: 15-22
January 19 th	Isa 62: 1-5	Ps 36: 5-10	1 Cor 12: 1-11	John 2: 1-11
January 26th	Neh 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Ps 19	1 Cor 12: 12-31a	Luke 4: 14-21
February 2 nd	Jer 1: 4-10	Ps 71: 1-6	1 Cor 12: 31b-13:3	Luke 4: 31-44
February 9 th	Isa 6: 1-8	Ps 138	1 Cor 15: 1-11	Luke 5: 1-11
February 16 th	Jer 17: 5-8	Ps 1	1 Cor 15: 12-20	Luke 6: 17-26
February 23 rd	Gen 45: 3-11, 15	Ps 37: 1-11, 39-40	1 Cor 15: 35-38, 42-50	Luke 6: 27-38



FELC News and Events...

Personal contact information.. if there has been a change in your family's contact information, please contact the church office by email at wapakelc@bright.net or by calling the office at 419-738-3911.

Education/Worship Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Adult and Youth Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship in person and online at www.myfelc.org

Quilting Group will meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10am in the parlor. If you would like to join this group or have questions, please contact Darla Frame.

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 during the entire month.

<u>Loaves and Fishes:</u> Meals need to be reserved by calling 567-204-6708 and can be picked up in the alley behind the Fellowship Hall from 4:30 to 5:30 pm.

<u>Collection for Auglaize County 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>Worship Music</u> 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 (it can be any instrument). 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 or even just occasionally, please pass their name onto Darla, or just let them know we are interested in their services for our services. Thank you so much!

<u>Confirmation</u> 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.

Men's Night is scheduled for 6:00pm on Thursday, January 9th at the Inn Between.

Youth Quake Youth 6th grade and older attended Youth Quake in Cincinnati, OH on January 3-5, 2025.

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.

<u>Christmas Decorations</u> We will be taking down decorations starting January 7th. 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.

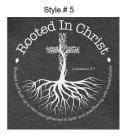
Spiritual Movement Classes We will be hosting Spiritual Movement Classes-Stretch & Strength in our fellowship hall on Monday and Wednesdays at 5:15pm & Saturdays at 8:15am until they are able to move back to their pervious location at St. Joe's. This is a healthy opportunity to move the body at all levels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

<u>FELC Shirt Fundraiser</u> We are selling FELC Shirt/Sweatshirts for \$25. By the parlor door, there are fliers with styles you can choose from and an order sheet to fill out. Please contact Carrie Schimdt for questions and orders.

Choose: T-shirt/Sweatshirt, Size, Shirt Color, Ink Color, Quantity & Style # Individualize your T-shirt/Sweatshirt for your liking. Order sheet and sample shirts on hangers by Parlor. \$25 T-shirt or Sweatshirt RIC SYLEGIS T-SHIRT OF SWEATSHIRT SWEATSHIR

Please direct any questions to Carrie Schmidt, 419-230-0379
Make checks to Carrie Schmidt.

\$25 T-shirt or Sweatshirt





Choose: T-shirt/Sweatshirt, Size, Shirt Color, Ink Color, Quantity & Style # Individualize your T-shirt/Sweatshirt for your liking.

Order sheet and sample shirts are on hangers by Parlor. Contact Carrie, 419-230-0379.

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.

<u>January Book Club</u> 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.

<u>Ladies' Lunch</u> is scheduled for 11:30am on Tuesday, January 21st at Side Rails. January and February will be Ladies' lunch due to evenings getting dark so soon. But come MARCH 18th, we will go back to Ladies' Night. Be sure to mark your calendars now so you don't miss out!



December Ladies' Lunch

(Bottom left clockwise)

Photo'd: Connie Krites, Joy Kantner, Robin Klock, Marsha Jackson, Georgeann Stienecker, Darla Frame, Brenda Shoffstall, Hilary Roeger, Chris Nagel, Char Curry and Joy Mason.

Gaming Night

See fliers around Church posted on Bulletin Boards.



Thank Yous

- •Thank you so much to all the carolers who came to sing to me at the Gardens. I really enjoyed seeing the kids and listening to the carols. It means so much to be remembered by my church family. ~Mary Ann Thomas.
- •The Bowersock Family would like to thank everyone that has been praying for Charleigh. She is doing good. It is truly appreciated.
- •Thank You from Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries, Inc.:



LUTHERAN MILITARY VETERANS AND FAMILIES MINISTRIES, INC. 3480 STELLHORN ROAD FORT WAYNE, INDIANA 46815 260.755.2239 WWW.LMVFM.ORG



"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

December 23, 2024

Dear Members of First English Lutheran Church,

We greatly enjoyed our time with you this weekend, and greatly appreciate your gifts totaling \$706.50 for dog training during our Annual Christmas Appeal. An ornament has been chosen for you and placed on our tree. Please visit our website at www.LMVFM.ORG or our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/LMVFM to see the ornaments that have been placed on our Christmas tree. We remain committed to helping our military, veterans, military contractors and their family members receive the direct care and support through the programs our ministry has to offer. Despite the many challenges that we are called upon to address, such as rising suicide rates among our military and their family members, it is reassuring to know that we have your prayers and support. As a ministry that provides free services, we look forward to bringing God's unconditional love, healing and comfort to our troops, veterans, contractors and their family members.

Our Paws and Effect Program is providing much support for our veterans. Patrick-Dooly is now 6 years old. He enjoys working with our clients and meeting new people on our mission trips. On the 16th of this month, we welcomed our newest Paws and Effect team member, 8-week-old Sir Phillip Arlington-Cooper (Cooper for short). He is the grandson of Dooly and is also a British Cream Retriever. His training has already begun, and we know that he will be an important member of the team.

LMVFM has seen many changes over the past 17 years of ministry. We continue to grow to meet the needs of those we serve. We have begun scheduling educational seminars for 2025 and look forward to the year ahead. Again, thank you for your support and partnership with us. Were it not for the blessings that God continues to provide our ministry, and faithful friends like you, we would not be able to carry on with the work we do. Herry E to you all :

Together in His Service,

CH Leslie Haines, (MAJ) ret., STS, MA

Executive Director

Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries, Inc.

260,755,2239 Lmvfm.org@gmail.com www.lmvfm.org

"Serving With Christ's Love Those Who Serve"

~ January 2025 ~

~ January 2023 ~							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			No Confirmation Office Closed NEW YEAR'S DAY!!	2 NO Loaves & Fishes Office Closed	Youth Quake Office Closed	4 Youth Quake	
5 2 nd Sunday of Christmas 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Video Sermon-Adam Poe Youth Quake Fellowship Meeting	6 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 7pm Book Club	7 Decoration Cleanup	8 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 5:30pm Confirmation 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Women's Choir	9 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night at Inn Between 7:15pm Christian Ed Meeting		11 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class God's Store House Moves In	
12 Baptism of Our Lord 9am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10am Worship-Bells Michelle Kouse Acolyte Kaidence Schmidt Worship & Music Comm Meeting	13 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 7pm Book Club	1:30pm Bingo @ The Gardens	15 10am Quilting 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 5:30pm Confirmation 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Women's Choir	16 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	Strauser Blood Drive	18 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 5pm Gaming Night	
2 nd Sunday of Epiphany 9am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10am Worship-Wmn's Chr Pastor Bill Schultz Acolyte Faith Whetstone	Book Club Martin Luther King Jr. Day		22 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 5:30pm Confirmation	23 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	24	25 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class	
26 3rd Sunday of Epiphany 9am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10am Worship Pastor Mick Althauser Acolyte Nevaeh Estep	27 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 7pm Book Club	28	29 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 5:30pm Confirmation 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Women's Choir	30 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	31		

~	February	/ 2025 ~
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~ February 2025 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class
Presentation of Our Lord 9am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10am Worship-Bells Michelle Kouse Acolyte Vivian Fisher Groundhog's Day!	3 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	4	5 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 5:30pm Confirmation	6 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	7	8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class
9 5 th Sunday of Epiphany 9am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10am Worship Pastor Mick Althauser Acolyte Amelia Roeger	10 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	11	12 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 5:30pm Confirmation 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Women's Choir	4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night At TBD	14 Valentine's Day!	15 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class
16 6 th Sunday of Epiphany 9am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10am Worship-Wmn's Chr Michelle Kouse Acolyte Nolan Roode	17 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class President's Day	18 11:30am Ladies' Lunch at TBD	19 10am Quilting 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 5:30pm Confirmation	20 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	21	22 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class
23 1st Sunday of Christmas 9am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10am Worship Pastor Bill Schultz Acolyte Kaidence Schmidt	24 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	25	26 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 5:30pm Confirmation 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Women's Choir	27 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	28	

First English Lutheran Church 107 West Mechanic St. Wapakoneta, OH 45895