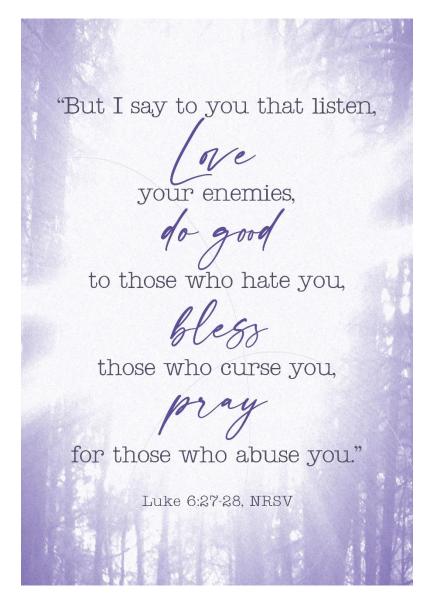
FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH Wapakoneta, Ohio



7th Sunday after Epiphany February 23, 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 Marc & Brenda Shoffstall in hopes of an early Spring.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God by Dave & Connie Krites in honor of the 1st birthday of their great-grandson, Henry (Hank) Calvin Boggs on February 15th.

MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Joyce Brincefield
Ushers	Luke Kline & Chad Sterner
Worship Assistant	Char Curry
Musician	Darla Frame
Pastor	Pastor Bill Schultz
Greeter	Chris Nagel
Acolyte	Faith Whetstone
Altar Guild	Amelia Sterner & Catherine Fisher
Fellowship Cleanup	Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame

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

^{*} Please rise if able.

Introduction to the day

Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee by Ludwig Van Beethoven arr Becky Slagle Mayo

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.**

*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 the Feast (ELW p. 187)

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rebecca Van Meter

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

A reading from Genesis.

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. ⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. 8 So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. 9 Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'" ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

PSALM 37: 1-11, 39-40

- ¹Do not be provoked by [|] evildoers; do not be jealous of those [|] who do wrong.
- ² For they shall soon wither | like the grass, and like the green grass | fade away.
- ³ Put your trust in the LORD I and do good; dwell in the land and I find safe pasture.
- ⁴ Take delight | in the LORD, who shall give you your | heart's desire.
- ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust [|] in the LORD, and see what [|] God will do.
- ⁶ The LORD will make your vindication as clear | as the light and the justice of your case like the | noonday sun.

- ⁷Be still before the LORD and wait | patiently.
- Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in | evil schemes.
 - ⁸ Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to evil.
 - ⁹ For evildoers shall [|] be cut off, but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- [|] sess the land.
 - ¹⁰ In a little while the wicked shall | be no more; even if you search out their place, they will | not be there.
 - 11 But the lowly shall pos- | sess the land; they will delight in abun- | dance of peace.
 - ³⁹ But the deliverance of the righteous comes from | you, O LORD; you are their stronghold in | time of trouble.
- ⁴⁰ You, O LORD, will help them and [|] rescue them; you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you [|] they seek refuge.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

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

*GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38

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

[Jesus said:] ²⁷ "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

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

MESSAGE Pastor Bill Schultz

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus, Think on Me (ELW 599)

APOSTLES' CREED

Let us profess our faith by 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.

Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care *especially especially* 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, Bonnie Davidson, JJ Truesdale, Kathi, Nancy Bush, Anne J., Sue Bartlett, Anthony Holcome, Ike Schnell, Roseann Schlegel-Whetstone, Sue Hughes and Wanda Nuss. And those we speak out loud or in our hearts. (Brief silence). God of grace, hear our prayer.

Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us. May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace. 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 Praise to The Lord, The Almighty by Stralsund Gesangbuch arr John Carter

*OFFERING HYMN

*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

(ELW p. 190)

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

In the Singing (ELW 466) Let There Be Peace (Screen) My Faith Looks Up to Thee (ELW 759)

*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. O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

*CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER

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.

*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

Sent Forth by God's Blessing (ELW 547)

DISMISSAL

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

Please be seated as we get ready for our Congregational Annual Meeting. There are extra copies of Annual Report/Constitution at the back of the church if you need one.

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	Current Giving	Benevolence
01/26/2025	19	52	\$1,355.00	\$0.00
02/02/2025	25	52	\$2,880.00	\$125.00
02/09/2025	19	80	\$3,752.06	\$0.00
02/16/2025	Cancelled due to winter weather			

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!



MINISTERS for Next Week 3-2-25

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Richard Yocum
Ushers	Ken Frame & Richard Yocum
Worship Assistant	Jon Schmidt
Musician	Karen Luginbuhl
Pastor	Michelle Kouse
Greeter	Needed
Acolyte	Vivian Fisher
Altar Guild	Marsha Jackson & Char Curry
Fellowship Cleanup	Marsha Jackson & Char Curry

OUR PRAYER CORNER

Those who would love a visit or a card...

The Gardens Betty Hague, Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz,

Judy Kentner

Homebound Marty Rostorfer, Eloise Katterhenry,

Marsha Henderson

We especially remember in our prayers...

Betty Hague, Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz, Marty Rostorfer, Eloise Katterhenry, Marsha Henderson, 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, Bonnie Davidson, JJ Truesdale, Kathi, Nancy Bush, Anne J., Sue Bartlett, Anthony Holcome, Ike Schnell, Roseann Schlegel-Whetstone, Sue Hughes 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 FEBRUARY: California Wildfires 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>February's theme is Mexican</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.

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 back door.

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.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL Meeting Please join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting TODAY, February 23rd following service. You should have received agenda and information for meeting through email unless you have specified with office to receive by mail. Extra copies are at the back of the church.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE We will be partnering again with St. Paul's & St. Mark's for service on March 5th at 7pm at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Please join us!

Interest-free loans for college students the Pierstorf interest-free loans are open to students in all of Ohio. Eligibility: the applicant and/or one parent or guardian must be active members of a Lutheran church in Ohio. The applicant must be enrolled full time in a four-year undergraduate program at an accredited college or university. Applying: application becomes available online on April 15 of each year, with a deadline for complete application submission of June 30. Applications collected during this time period for loans for the upcoming school year (beginning august or September). Borrowers must apply each year to continue to receive their Pierstorf loan. If you need more information or if you have questions, Rebecca Van Meter may be able to help. Application and information can be found at pierstorf.org.

<u>FEL</u>	FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events		
Sunday, Feb 23 rd	9:00am	Adult & Youth Sunday School	
	10:00am	Worship-Pastor Bill Schultz	
Mon, Feb 24 th	MARCH information for NEWSLETTER DUE		
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class	
Wed, Feb 26 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class	
	5:30pm	Confirmation	
	6:00pm	Bell Choir	
	7:00pm	Ladies' Choir	
Thurs, Feb 27 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House	
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes	
Fri, Feb 28 th	MARCH Newsletter available		
	9-11:30am	God's Store House	
Saturday, Mar 1st	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class	
	9-11:30am	God's Store House	
Sunday, Mar 2 nd	9:00am Adult Sunday School		
	10:00am	Worship - Michelle Kouse -	
		Bell Choir	
Mon, Mar 3 rd	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class	
Wed, Mar 5 th	ASH WEDNESDAY		
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class	
	7:00pm	Ash Wednesday Service at	
		St. Mark's Lutheran Church	
	No Confirmation Class but are to attend Ash Wed		
Thurs, Mar 6 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House	
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes	
Fri, Mar 7 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House	
Saturday, Mar 8 th	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class	
	9-11:30am	God's Store House	

CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER Please pray the prayer throughout the week: 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.

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.

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; dlcy@bright.net; 937-307-8596