

**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Wapakoneta, Ohio**



**Transfiguration  
March 2, 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 for a nice and calm Spring and Summer weather.

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

## MINISTERS for TODAY

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.....	Dave & Chris Cliff
Acolyte .....	Vivian Fisher
Altar Guild.....	Marsha Jackson & Char Curry
Fellowship Cleanup.....	Marsha Jackson & Char Curry

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

\* Please rise if able.

## **Introduction to the day**

Witnesses to the glory of God in the face of Jesus reflect that glory in the world. It was true for Moses. It was doubtless true for Peter, James, and John. We pray that it will be true of all of us who see God's glory in the word and in the supper and who are being "transformed into the same image" by God's Spirit.

## **GATHERING**

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

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRELUDE**

*Amazing Grace by W. Walker*

### **\*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**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (ELW 631)*

**\*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. 182)*

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**BELL CHOIR**

*The Church's One Foundation*

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

Rebecca Van Meter

## WORD

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

### **FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 34: 1-12**

A reading from Deuteronomy.

<sup>1</sup>Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, <sup>2</sup>all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, <sup>3</sup>the Negeb, and the Plain — that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees — as far as Zoar. <sup>4</sup>The LORD said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants'; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there." <sup>5</sup>Then Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, at the LORD's command. <sup>6</sup>He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. <sup>7</sup>Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. <sup>8</sup>The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

<sup>9</sup>Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses.

<sup>10</sup>Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. <sup>11</sup>He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, <sup>12</sup>and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

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

### **PSALM: 99**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is king; let the | people tremble.

The LORD is enthroned upon the cherubim; let | the earth shake.

<sup>2</sup> **The LORD, | great in Zion,  
is high a- | bove all peoples.**

<sup>3</sup> Let them confess God's name, which is | great and awesome;  
God is the | Holy One.

<sup>4</sup> **O mighty king, lover of justice, you have es- | tablished equity;  
you have executed justice and righteous- | ness in Jacob.**

<sup>5</sup> Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and fall down before God's footstool;  
God is the Holy One.

<sup>6</sup> **Moses and Aaron among your priests, and Samuel among those who  
call upon your name, O LORD,  
they called upon you, and you answered them,**

<sup>7</sup> you spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;  
they kept your testimonies and the decree that you gave them.

<sup>8</sup> **O LORD our God, you answered them indeed;  
you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil  
deeds.**

<sup>9</sup> Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and worship upon God's holy hill;  
for the LORD our God is the Holy One.

### **SECOND READING: Hebrews 3:1-6**

A reading from Hebrews.

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, brothers and sisters, holy partners in a heavenly calling, consider that Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, <sup>2</sup>was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses also "was faithful in all God's house." <sup>3</sup>Yet Jesus is worthy of more glory than Moses, just as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. <sup>4</sup>(For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) <sup>5</sup>Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that would be spoken later. <sup>6</sup>Christ, however, was faithful over God's house as a son, and we are his house if we hold firm the confidence and the pride that belong to hope.

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

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia* (ELW p. 188)

**\*GOSPEL: Luke 9:28-36**

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

<sup>28</sup>Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup>And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white.

<sup>30</sup>Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. <sup>31</sup>They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup>Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. <sup>33</sup>Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" — not knowing what he said. <sup>34</sup>While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud.

<sup>35</sup>Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen listen to him!" <sup>36</sup>When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

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

**MESSAGE**

Michelle Kouse

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Shine, Jesus, Shine* (ELW 671)

**NICENE CREED**

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

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

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

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

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

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **\*PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

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

Transfiguring God, through the glory of your presence, you transform us. Move the church from complacency to boldness in sharing the good news with others. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for your creation. As seasons change, give patience and skill to all who tend to animals giving birth. Grant nourishing weather for the growing of crops. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all in leadership, especially for those who lead states, counties, and town councils. Give them wisdom to protect local resources so that all will flourish both now and in the years to come. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Bring your healing grace to those who feel distant from you. Speak comfort to those who need your words of mercy. We pray for those close to our communities and in our hearts *especially* 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 Benschhoff, 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, Roman Schlegel, Sue Hughes, Dan Havens, Jason Schneider and Wanda Nuss. And those we speak out loud or in our hearts. (Brief silence). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**



God of our past, present, and future, lead us into new beginnings, trusting in the promise of new life in Christ. Accompany congregations needing to close, and give courage to congregations starting new ministries.

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

Renewing God, the saints who have gone before us witnessed to the ways you transform your church and people. We give thanks for their example and pray we carry it forward. 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**

*Song of God's Presence by Paul Abels*

### **\*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.**

## **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, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light. 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**

Let Us Break Bread Together (ELW 471)

Beautiful Savior (ELW 838)

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (ELW 815)

This Little Light of Mine (ELW 677)

## **\*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

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.

### \*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

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* (ELW 834)

### DISMISSAL

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

## Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
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			
02/23/2025	18	67	\$4,879.00	\$335.00

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!



## MINISTERS for Next Week 3-9-25

Audio/Visual .....	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector .....	Sandy Brading
Ushers .....	Dave Krites & Brian Van Meter
Worship Assistant .....	Darla Frame
Musician.....	Greg Tabler
Pastor .....	Pastor Bill Schultz
Greeter.....	Needed
Acolyte .....	Amelia Roeger
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, Roman Schlegel, Sue Hughes, Dan Havens, Jason Schneider 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 MARCH: Family Life Center of Wapakoneta**

Offering pans are located in the chapel and at the back of the church. Donations are accepted all month.

**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. March's theme is Italian. 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.

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

**Men's Night** is scheduled for 6:00pm on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at Astro Lanes.

**Youth Event** Do you like pizza and bowling? Then come join us on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 12:30pm-2:30pm at Astro Lanes.

**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.

## FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

<b>Sunday, Mar 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Adult Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Worship – Michelle Kouse – Bell Choir</b>
Mon, Mar 3 <sup>rd</sup>	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
<b>Wed, Mar 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday Service at St. Mark's Lutheran Church</b>
		No Confirmation Class but are to attend Ash Wed
Thurs, Mar 6 <sup>th</sup>	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
Fri, Mar 7 <sup>th</sup>	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Saturday, Mar 8 <sup>th</sup>	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
<b>Sunday, Mar 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS-CLOCKS SPRING FORWARD</b>	
	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Adult &amp; Youth Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Worship–Pastor Bill Schultz</b>
Mon, Mar 10 <sup>th</sup>	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Tues, Mar 11 <sup>th</sup>	1:30pm	Bingo at The Gardens
Wed, Mar 12 <sup>th</sup>	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	5:30pm	Confirmation
	6:00pm	Bell Choir
	7:00pm	Ladies' Choir
Thurs, Mar 13 <sup>th</sup>	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
	6:00pm	Men's Night at Astro Lanes
Fri, Mar 14 <sup>th</sup>	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Saturday, Mar 15 <sup>th</sup>	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
	9-11:30am	God's Store House

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

## **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

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

Bookkeeper

Anderson Accounting

Treasurer

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

Music Director

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

Audio-Technology

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