# **First English Lutheran Church**

Wapakoneta, Ohio



Our March 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

Meet our staff		
Office Administrator		
Hilary Roeger	wapakelc@bright.net	
Treasurer		
Cari Frame	felc.finance@myfelc.org	
Bookkeeper		
Anderson Accounting	felc.finance@myfelc.org	
Financial Secretary		
Marsha Jackson	felc.finance@myfelc.org	
Music Director		
Darla Frame	darlaframe@gmail.com	
Choir Directors		
Susan Miller, Adult	sugartime@bright.net	
	darlaframe@gmail.com	
Church Council		
	shoffstall08@yahoo.com	
	richiyocum@yahoo.com	
Georgeann Stienecker	nksoccer@nktelco.net	
	ohthreeohsix@gmail.com	
	darlaframe@gmail.com	
	jritchie002@woh.rr.com	
	mnagel@ohiolink.net	
	char.curry@bright.net	
	jadak@bright.net	
Audio/Visual Specialist		
Dave Curry	dlcy@bright.net	
Audio/Visual Staff		
	jritchie002@woh.rr.com	
Noah Kirby	noah.w.kirby@gmail.com	

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

# FEBRUART COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

On February 23, 2025, our monthly council meeting followed the congregational meeting.

Georgeann read a devotion for all of us to think about. Richard volunteered to do next months devotion.

Cari Frame, our Treasurer met with us to go over the financial reports and to answer some questions regarding proper places for some expenses.

After looking at last months council minutes, the business of the Church was approved.

We then talked about some committee news and some upcoming meetings.

In Old Business, we talked about the lighting improvements in the sanctuary. There has been numerous positive feedback from the changes.

Brenda gave an update on God's Storehouse move here. New phone lines were installed for them by TSC. Everything is working out nicely.

There are no new updates from call committee. It is now a time of waiting and praying.

In New Business, we talked about having a NALC meeting and meal at first English with other churches probably in September. Brenda let everyone know Pastor Bert Schultz will be representing our church in the joint service on Good Friday.

Council approved a \$1000 donation toward the NALC seminary to be taken from the Kantner Scholarship fund.

Council also approved a new contract for our snow removal to be awarded to Fuerst Lawn care LLC.

We all agreed to not have a council meeting in August but will still get the reports. Our next meeting will be March 16,2025.

The meeting was then adjourned.

We all do appreciate the positive feedback we are getting and will all be happy to answer any questions.

Church Council

#### FELC Committees, Chairpersons, Council Liaisons

Committee	Cha
Building & Property	Bre
Christian Education/Youth	Reb
Evangelism	Ter
Finance	Car
Life & Fellowship	Bre
Social Ministry	Ter
Staff Support	Ric
Stewardship	Me
Worship & Music	Dar

Chairperson Brenda Shoffstall Rebecca Van Meter Teresa Fisher Cari Frame Brenda Shoffstall Teresa Fisher Richard Yocum Meets with Finance Darla Frame Liaison Jeff Ritchie Richard Yocum Denise Kantner Georgeann Stienecker Darla Frame Char Curry Jon Schmidt Brenda Shoffstall Chris Nagel

### Weekly Attendance and Offerings

		<i>,</i>		U U
<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	Current Giving	<u>Benevolence</u>
02/02/2025	25	52	\$2,880.00	\$125.00
02/09/2025	19	80	\$3,752.06	\$0.00
02/16/2025	Cancell	ed due to winte	r weather	
02/23/2023	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 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!



5

# **Flowers and Candles**

#### Altar Flowers for the month of MARCH:

March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Available—	
March 9 <sup>th</sup>	Available—	A BERNER
March 16 <sup>th</sup>	Marc & Brenda Shoffstall	
March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sara Young	
March 30 <sup>th</sup>	Available—	

#### Altar Candles for the month of MARCH:

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.

## 2025 Noisy Offerings

Month January February March

# Recipient

**Amount Collected** Wapak Women's Crisis Center \$130.16 California Wildfires \$750.10 Family Life Center of Wapakoneta



#### OUR PRAYER CORNER

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

The Gardens Betty Hague, Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz, Judy Kentner Marty Rostorfer, Eloise Katterhenry, Marsha Henderson Homebound

#### 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, Jenn Douglas & Baby, 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.

Prayers throughout the month:

#### 2-2-25

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for all you have done and will do for us. We continue to strive to do your will as we pray for a spiritual leader for our church. Please help us with the patience you require of us as we wait for your perfect timing. Our trust is in you, Lord. May we be worthy of your love. In your name, we pray. Amen.

#### 2-9-25

Dear God, thank you for your abundant blessings you give us daily. Be with our congregation as we prayerfully consider our next pastor. Prepare our congregation's hearts and minds for a spiritual leader that will help us grow closer to you and that teaches your Word. Prepare our next pastor and their family for the call to come to our church and congregation. We pray that you give us strength where we are weak and give us hope and faith where we have doubts. And above all, help us to feel your love and presence always but especially throughout this call process. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

#### 2-16-25

Cancelled due to winter weather.

#### 2-23-25

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/her 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 sheep, 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.

#### Call Committee Checklist for seeking a Pastor:

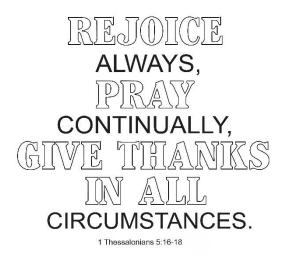
- ★ At the time of learned pastoral vacancy, the congregation council arranges for regular supply or interim, working with the Mission District dean.
- Form a call committee in accordance with congregational constitution – uneven # of persons with a cross-section of the congregation is helpful-elect Chair of the Committee.
- × Call Committee downloads NALC Call Process Manual for call committee members.
- Call Committee chair contacts the NALC Call Process Coordinator to schedule a conference call for orientation/training. Met on September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- ★ Call Committee engages in Bible Study in the Call Process Manual. Meeting on Wednesdays at 6:45pm.
- Call Committee chair will contact Mission District dean to arrange and complete The Congregational Workshop in preparation for the Call Process.
- ★ Chair contacts their Mission District dean to arrange and complete the Congregational Workshop – November 2, 9am-2:00/2:30pm.

× Call Committee completes the Congregational Profile and emails it to NALC Call Process.

**×** Call Committee completes the Congregational Profile and video to the NALC website.

**x** Call Committee develops list of ministry questions to be asked in full interviews.

... Patiently waiting on God's timing for a Pastor to show interest in Profile.



# **Ministries in Action**

	March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	March 9 <sup>th</sup>	March 16 <sup>th</sup>	March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	March 30 <sup>th</sup>
Lector	Richard Yocum	Sandy Brading	Matt Ronan	Chris Nagel	Joyce Brincefield
Ushers	Ken Frame & Richard Yocum	Dave Krites & Brian Van Meter	Ken Frame & Jon Schmidt	Luke Kline & Chad Sterner	Steve Stienecker & Jim Kantner
Worship Assistant	Jon Schmidt	Darla Frame	Marsha Jackson	Ken Frame	Deanna Ronan
Musician	Karen Luginbuhl	Greg Tabler	Darla Frame	Kelly Walls	Recordings
Preacher	Michelle Kouse	Pastor Bill Schultz	Michelle Kouse	Pastor Bill Schultz	Christian White
Greeter	Dave & Chris Clift	Needed	Needed	Joy Kantner	Needed
Acolyte	Vivian Fisher	Nolan Roode	Amelia Roeger	Kaidence Schmidt	Faith Whetstone

Altar Guild for February: Marsha Jackson & Char Curry Fellowship Cleanup for February: Marsha Jackson & Char Curry

# The Word of God

Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Psalm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Gospel	
March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Deut 34: 1-12	Psalm 99	Heb 3: 1-6	Luke 9: 28-36	
March 9th	Deut 26: 1-11	Ps 91: 1-2, 9-16	Rom 10: 8b-13	Luke 4: 1-13	
March 16 <sup>th</sup>	Gen 15: 1-12, 17-18	Psalm 27	Phil 3: 17 – 4: 1	Luke 13: 31-35	
March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	lsa 55: 1-9	Ps 63: 1-8	1 Cor 10: 1-13	Luke 13: 1-9	
March 30 <sup>th</sup>	Josh 5: 9-12	Psalm 32	2 Cor 5: 16-21	Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32	
April 6 <sup>th</sup>	lsa 43: 16-21	Psalm 126	Phil 3: 8-14	Luke 20: 9-20	
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	lsa 50: 4-9a	Psalm 31: 9-16	Phil 2: 5-11	Luke 22: 14 – 23: 56	
April 17 <sup>th</sup> <b>Maundy</b> Thursday	Jer 31: 31-34	Psalm 34	Heb 10: 15-25	Luke 22: 1-27	
April 20 <sup>th</sup> EASTER	lsa 65: 17-25	Ps 118: 1-2, 14-24	1 Cor 15: 19-26	Luke 24: 1-12	
April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Acts 5: 12-20	Psalm 148	Rev 1: 4-18	John 20: 19-31	

# 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 MARCH: Family Life Center of Wapakoneta Offering pans are located in the chapel and at the back of the church. Donations are accepted during the entire month.

**Loaves and Fishes:** 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>March's theme is Italian</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 Altar Flower/Candles Signup calendar & Greeter Signup** We still have many dates available. Please check your calendars and sign up for a date or two! 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.

<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 back door.

<u>Auglaize County Right to Life</u> Are you being called to help volunteer? There is a big need for volunteers, especially with all the activities that ACRL put together. If you are interested, see list of volunteer descriptions on bulletin boards around church or see office for more details.

Ladies' Night is scheduled for 6:30am on Tuesday, March 18th at Side Rails.

<u>ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE</u> We will be partnering again with St. Paul's & St. Mark's for service on 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 13th 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.

<u>Carry-In & Egg Hunt</u> April 13<sup>th</sup>, is Palm Sunday and FELC is celebrating Easter after service in the fellowship hall with a carry-in meal, Easter Egg Hunt and the Easter Bunny! All are welcome!

**Fellowship Meeting** We will a Fellowship meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup> following service in the council room.

**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>The Wapakoneta Area Ministerial Association (WAMA)</u> announces the schedule for its annual <u>Wednesday Noon Lenten Services</u>, which will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church, West Pearl Street, Wapakoneta. The theme for the 2025 services is the Parables of Luke. Lunch and a time of fellowship will follow each half-hour service. The Noon Lenten services are open to the public; all are very welcome. Free will donations will be accepted for WAMA's Voucher Program and for Servants Day.

Those attending the service may enter the church from the west (parking lot) entrance, north (Pearl Street) entrance, or east (Perry Street) entrance. Please note that the Blackhoof Street entrance into the parking lot will be closed because of construction at the Faith Center (the historic school), and cars should access the parking lot from Benton Street, *not* Pearl Street.

The date and theme for each service is:

March 5, Ash Wednesday: Parable of the Fruitless Tree – Luke 13:1-9/St. John and St. Joseph Catholic churches

March 12: Parable of the Traveler and the Samaritan – Luke 10:25-37/St. Mark's Lutheran Church

March 19: Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus – Luke 16:19-31/Wapakoneta YMCA, Buckland United Church of Christ & St. Patrick Catholic Church

March 26: Two Parables on Prayer – Luke 18:1-14/St Paul United Church of Christ April 2: Parable of the Great Dinner – Luke 14:15-24/Salem United Methodist Church and friends

April 9: The Lord's Prayer and the Parable of the Midnight Knock – Luke 11:1– 13/Otterbein-Cridersville and First English Lutheran Church

The Wapakoneta Area Ministerial Association has hosted the Noon Lenten Services and Lunches annually for nearly 60 years. Officers of the Wapakoneta Area Ministerial Association are Father Sean Wilson, president; Reverend Doug Pretorius, treasurer; and Rachel Barber, secretary.

#### THANK YOUs

The family of Dorothy L. Dickman would like to thank you for your kind expression of sympathy. A huge thank you for all you did in helping us celebrate the life of Dorothy (mom, grandma). All of your outpouring of love, support, and prayers both during the last few difficult weeks and throughout her many years attending First English have meant so much and are so very appreciated. Thank you all!

Hello, Thank you for the beautiful service/funeral in celebration of Dorothy Dickman. Please accept my donation in her honor. I was able to watch the service online with the link and can share that the video and volume were excellent. This was a nice option for friends and family who cannot attend in person. Sincerely, Lorraine McIntosh & Family Dear First English Council, I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for your generous donation towards my seminary journey and the purchase of my first Alb robe. Your support means more to me than words can fully convey. I know this gift is not just a contribution to my education and ministry attire – it's a profound reminder of the faith and encouragement that surrounds me as I follow the Lord's calling to share His Word.

Your kindness strengthens my resolve to walk faithfully in the path God has set before me. I am humbled and honored to be part of a community that invests in the spiritual growth and mission of others. In the words of Isaiah 6: 8 "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here I am, send me!'"

Thank you again for such a meaningful part of my spiritual path. Your support will always be a source of encouragement in my heart.

With Heartfelt Appreciation - Michelle Kouse



Youth Event March 16<sup>th</sup>, 12:30pm-2:30pm @ Astro Lanes

Do you like pizza and bowling, then join us!



# Palm Sunday Carry-In and Egg Hunt



Egg Hunt and Easter Bunny.



~ March 2025 ~							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						<b>1</b> 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH	
	<b>3</b> 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	4	5 ASH Wednesday 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 7:00pm Ash Wednesday at St. Mark's (confirmation class will attend service)	6 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	<b>7</b> 9-11:30 GSH	8 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH	
9 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent 9am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10am Worship Pastor Bill Schultz Acolyte Nolan Roode Fellowship Meeting Daylight Savings Begins	<b>10</b> 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	Bingo at The	12 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 5:30pm Confirmation 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Ladies' Choir	<b>13</b> 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night at Astro Lanes	<b>14</b> 9-11:30 GSH	<b>15</b> 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH	
16 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent 9am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10am Worship-Ladies' Chr Michelle Kouse Acolyte Amelia Roeger Council Meeting Youth Event-Astro Lanes	17 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class Happy St. Patrick's Day!	<b>18</b> 6:30pm Ladies' Night at Side Rails	<b>19</b> 10am Quilting 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 5:30pm Confirmation	20 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	<b>21</b> 9-11:30 GSH	22 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH	
23 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent 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 April info Newsletter DUE!	<b>27</b> 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	<b>28</b> 9-11:30 GSH	<b>29</b> 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH	
30 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent 9am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10am Worship Christian White Acolyte Fatih Whetstone	31 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class April Newsletter available						

~ April 2025 ~							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1	2 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 5:30pm Confirmation 7pm Ladies' Choir	<b>3</b> 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	<b>4</b> 9-11:30 GSH	5 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH	
6 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent 9am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10am Worship-Bells Pastor Bill Schultz Acolyte Vivian Fisher	<b>7</b> 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	8 1:30pm Bingo at The Gardens	<b>9</b> 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 5:30pm Confirmation	<b>10</b> 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night at TBD	<b>11</b> 9-11:30 GSH	<b>12</b> 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH	
13 Palm Sunday 9am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10am Worship Michelle Kouse Acolyte Faith Whetstone Carry-In & Egg Hunt	<b>14</b> 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	<b>15</b> 6:30am Ladies' Night at TBD	16 10am Quilting 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 5:30pm Confirmation 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Ladies' Choir	17 9-11:30 GSH NO Community Loaves & Fishes 7pm Maundy Thursday Service at FELC-Ladies' Chr; Acolyte Amelia Roeger	<b>18</b> 9-11:30 GSH 7pm Good Friday at St. Paul's	<b>19</b> 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH	
20 Resurrection of Our Lord 9am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10am Worship-Ladies' Chr Pastor Bill Schultz Acolyte Nolan Roode He is Risen! Hallelujah!	<b>21</b> 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	22	23 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 5:30pm Confirmation	24 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	<b>25</b> 9-11:30 GSH	26 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH	
27 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter 9am Adult & Youth Sunday School 10am Worship Michelle Kouse Acolyte Kaidence Schmidt Council Meeting	28 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class May info Newsletter DUE	29	30 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 5:30pm Last Class Confirmation till Fall May Newsletter available				

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