

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



↑ JESUS↑ SAID TO THEM.
"GO AND TELL
THAT FOX FOR ME.

LISTEN.

↑ I AM CASTING OUT DEMONS
AND PERFORMING CURES
TODAY AND TOMORROW.
AND ON THE THIRD DAY
↑ FINISH MY WORK."

↑ LUKE 13:32.NRSV

2nd Sunday of Lent
March 16, 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 Fellowship Committee.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God
by Brenda Shoffstall in appreciation of everyone stepping up
to help keep church running smoothly.

MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Matt Ronan
Ushers	Ken Frame & Jon Schmidt
Worship Assistant	Marsha Jackson
Musician.....	Darla Frame
Pastor	Michelle Kouse
Greeter.....	Needed
Acolyte	Amelia Roeger
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

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Whispering Hope by Alice Hawthorne arr Joel Raney

*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**

O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate (ELW 722)

***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.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

LADIES' CHOIR

Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child
by Traditional Spiritual arr Jay Althouse

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rebecca Van Meter

WORD

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

FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 26: 8-15

A reading from Jeremiah.

⁸And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, "You shall die! ⁹Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, 'This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant'?" And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.

¹⁰When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king's house to the house of the LORD and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the LORD. ¹¹Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, "This man deserves the sentence of death because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears."

¹²Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, "It is the LORD who sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. ¹³Now therefore amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God, and the LORD will change his mind about the disaster that he has pronounced against you. ¹⁴But as for me, here I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. ¹⁵Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will be bringing innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the LORD sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears."

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

PSALM 4

¹ Answer me when I call, o God, defender | of my cause;
you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and | hear my
prayer.

² **"You mortals, how long will you dishon- | or my glory;
how long will you love illusions and seek | after lies?"**

³ Know that the LORD does wonders | for the faithful;
the LORD will hear me | when I call.

⁴ **Tremble, then, and | do not sin;
speak to your heart in silence up- | on your bed.**

⁵ Offer the appointed | sacrifices,
and put your trust | in the LORD.

⁶ **Many are saying, "Who will show us | any good?"
Let the light of your face shine upon | us, o LORD.**

⁷ You have put gladness | in my heart,
more than when grain and | wine abound.

⁸ **In peace, I will lie | down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me | rest secure.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17—4:1

A reading from Philippians.

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Let Your Steadfast Love (ELW p. 189)

***GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35**

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

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³² He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

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

MESSAGE

Michelle Kouse

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Thy Holy Wings (ELW 613)

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**

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you give shelter to living things as numerous as the stars. Strengthen the voice of prophets who call humanity to faithful care for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today's leaders to work for justice and safeguard the world for future generations.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. Care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need *especially* Betty Hague, Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz, Marty Rostorfer, Eloise Katterhenry, Marsha Henderson, Staff and Students at Concordia University at Ann Arbor, James Benschoff, 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, Nancy Bush, Anne J., Sue Bartlett, Anthony Holcome, Ike Schnell, Roseann Schlegel-Whetstone, Roman Schlegel, Sue Hughes, Dan Havens, Jason Schneider, Jenn Douglas & Baby, Karen Stienecker and Wanda Nuss. And those we speak out loud or in our hearts. (Brief silence). May all know they are not alone. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you are our light and our salvation. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us. Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **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

Something About That Name by William J Gaither
arr Lloyd Larson

***OFFERING HYMN**

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW p. 182)

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our 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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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

Received the Living God (ELW 477)

As the Deer (Screen)

His Eye is on the Sparrow (Screen)

*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

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.**

*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

God Be with You Till We Meet Again (ELW 536)

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>
02/16/2025	Cancelled due to winter weather			
02/23/2025	18	67	\$4,879.00	\$335.00
03/02/2025	20	75	\$3,876.80	\$175.00
03/09/2025	13	69	\$2,804.00	\$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!



MINISTERS for Next Week 3-23-25

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Chris Nagel
Ushers	Luke Kline & Chad Sterner
Worship Assistant	Ken Frame
Musician	Kelly Walls
Pastor	Pastor Bill Schultz
Greeter	Joy Kantner
Acolyte	Kaidence Schmidt
Altar Guild	Marsha Jackson & Char Curry
Fellowship Cleanup	Marsha Jackson & Char Curry

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.

OUR PRAYER CORNER

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

The Gardens	Betty Hague, Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz
Burton Ridge in Lima	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, 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, Nancy Bush, Anne J., Sue Bartlett, Anthony Holcome, Ike Schnell, Roseann Schlegel-Whetstone, Roman Schlegel, Sue Hughes, Dan Havens, Jason Schneider, Jenn Douglas & Baby, Karen Stienecker 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: Generations of Love 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.

Youth Event Join us TODAY, March 16th, 12:30pm-2:30pm at Astro Lanes for pizza and bowling. All are welcome!

Ladies' Night is scheduled for 6:00pm on Tuesday, March 18th at Side Rails. All are welcome!

Carry-Inn & Egg Hunt Signup sheets are going around for Carry-In & Egg Hunt on **April 13th following service**. Please make sure you let Fellowship Committee know how many kids & adults are coming. Fellowship Committee will be providing the meat: ham. Egg hunt will be divided into two groups: 1-4yr olds in basement & 5-10yr olds in sanctuary. And don't forget the Easter Bunny will be there!

EASTER Flowers In your bulletin is a half sheet order form to help FELC Easter Sunday look and smell wonderful with flowers from Haehn's Florist. Please fill out form and put form & money in offering plate, to Georgeann or church office. The flowers will need to be picked up after Easter worship service. **Deadline for ordering flowers is March 6th.**

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, Mar 16th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Michelle Kouse – Ladies' Choir Council Meeting
	12:30pm-2:30pm	Youth Event-Astro Lanes
Mon, Mar 17 th	 HAPPY ST. PARTRICK'S DAY 	
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Tues, Mar 18 th	6:00pm	Ladies' Night at Side Rails
Wed, Mar 19 th	10:00am	Quilting
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	5:30pm	Confirmation
Thurs, Mar 20 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
Fri, Mar 21 st	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Saturday, Mar 22 nd	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sunday, Mar 23rd	9:00am	Adult & Youth Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship–Pastor Bill Schultz
Mon, Mar 24 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Wed, Mar 26 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	5:30pm	Confirmation
	6:00pm	Bell Choir
	April info for Newsletter DUE!!	
Thurs, Mar 27 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
Fri, Mar 28 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Saturday, Mar 29 th	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
	9-11:30am	God's Store House

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

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.

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: 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 ; 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