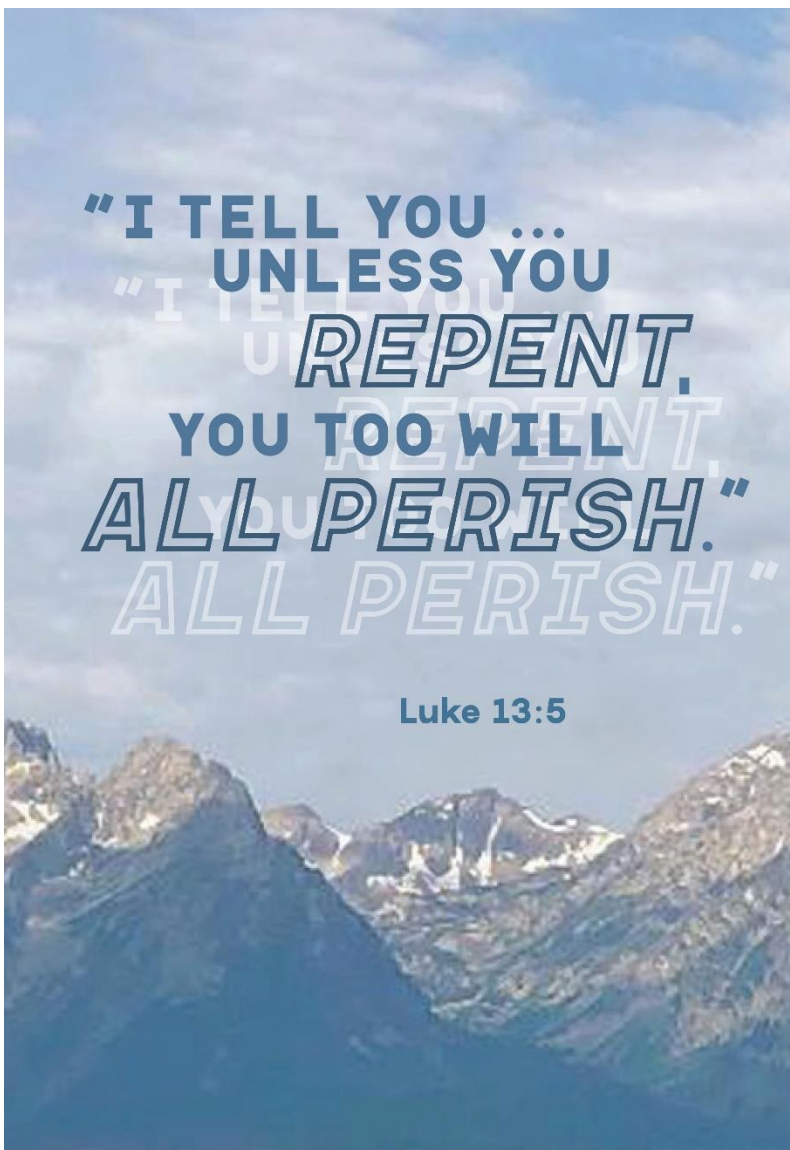


**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Wapakoneta, Ohio**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent  
March 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 Fellowship Committee.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God  
by Bryce & Sara Young in celebration of their 56<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

## MINISTERS for TODAY

|                         |                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 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 |

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

\* Please rise if able.

## Introduction to the day

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

## GATHERING

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

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

### \*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**

*As We Gather at Your Table (ELW 522)*

**\*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. **Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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: Isaiah 55:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup> Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. <sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. <sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. <sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. <sup>5</sup> See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. <sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; <sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. <sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. <sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

### PSALM 63: 1-8

<sup>1</sup> O God, you are my God; eager-ly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.  
<sup>2</sup> **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,  
that I might behold your power and your glory.**  
<sup>3</sup> For your steadfast love is better than life itself;  
my lips shall give you praise.  
<sup>4</sup> **So will I bless you as long as I live  
and lift up my hands in your name.**  
<sup>5</sup> My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,  
<sup>6</sup> **when I remember you upon my bed,  
and meditate on you in the night watches.**

<sup>7</sup> For you have | been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings | | will rejoice.

<sup>8</sup> **My whole being | clings to you;  
your right hand | holds me fast.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

<sup>1</sup> I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup> and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup> Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup> Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." <sup>8</sup> We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup> We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup> And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup> These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup> So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup> No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Let Your Steadfast Love* (ELW p. 189)

**\*GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9**

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

<sup>1</sup>At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.<sup>2</sup>[Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”<sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.” <sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup>He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

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

**MESSAGE**

Pastor Bill Schultz

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me* (ELW 623)

**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.

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions.

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

We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home.

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

We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live.

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

We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion especially 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, 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, Shirley Hollis and Wanda Nuss. And those we speak out loud or in our hearts. (Brief silence). Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**



We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended. May their witness inspire our own. 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**

#### **\*OFFERING HYMN**

*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW 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**

*What Feast of Love* (ELW 487)

*You Are Mine* (ELW 581)

*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love* (ELW 708)

## **\*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. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## SENDING

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

### \*CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER

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

### \*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

*O Living Bread from Heaven (ELW 542)*

### 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> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 02/23/2025  | 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             |
| 03/16/2025  | 21           | 78                | \$2,347.41            | \$135.00           |

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 3-30-25

|                         |                                |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Audio/Visual .....      | Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie      |
| Lector .....            | Joyce Brincefield              |
| Ushers .....            | Steve Stienecker & Jim Kantner |
| Worship Assistant ..... | Deanna Ronan                   |
| Musician.....           | Recordings                     |
| Pastor .....            | Christian White                |
| Greeter.....            | Needed                         |
| Acolyte .....           | Faith Whetstone                |
| 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                |
| Burton Ridge in Lima | Judy Kentner   |
| Homebound            | Marty Rostorfer, Eloise Katterhenry,<br>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, 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, Shirley Hollis 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.

**Carry-Inn & Egg Hunt** Signup sheets are going around for Carry-In & Egg Hunt on **April 13<sup>th</sup> 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 APRIL 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**THANK YOU** to the youth and adults that attended the Youth Event last Sunday at Astro Lanes. We had 24 youth plus parents attend event!!

## FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

|                                    |  |  |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Sunday, Mar 23<sup>rd</sup></b> | <b>9:00am</b>                          | <b>Adult &amp; Youth Sunday School</b> |
|                                    | <b>10:00am</b>                         | <b>Worship—Pastor Bill Schultz</b>     |
| Mon, Mar 24 <sup>th</sup>          | 5:15pm                                 | Spiritual Movement Class               |
| Wed, Mar 26 <sup>th</sup>          | 5:15pm                                 | Spiritual Movement Class               |
|                                    | 5:30pm                                 | Confirmation                           |
|                                    | 6:00pm                                 | Bell Choir                             |
|                                    | <b>April info for Newsletter DUE!!</b> |  |
| Thurs, Mar 27 <sup>th</sup>        | 9-11:30am                              | God's Store House                      |
|                                    | 4:30pm                                 | Loaves & Fishes                        |
| Fri, Mar 28 <sup>th</sup>          | 9-11:30am                              | God's Store House                      |
| Saturday, Mar 29 <sup>th</sup>     | 8:15am                                 | Spiritual Movement Class               |
|                                    | 9-11:30am                              | God's Store House                      |
| <b>Sunday, Mar 30<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>9:00am</b>                          | <b>Adult Sunday School</b>             |
|                                    | <b>10:00am</b>                         | <b>Worship – Christian White</b>       |
| Mon, Mar 31 <sup>st</sup>          | 5:15pm                                 | Spiritual Movement Class               |
|                                    | <b>April Newsletter Available</b>      |  |
| Wed, Apr 2 <sup>nd</sup>           | 5:15pm                                 | Spiritual Movement Class               |
|                                    | 5:30pm                                 | Confirmation                           |
|                                    | 7:00pm                                 | Ladies' Choir                          |
| Thurs, Apr 3 <sup>rd</sup>         | 9-11:30am                              | God's Store House                      |
|                                    | 4:30pm                                 | Loaves & Fishes                        |
| Fri, Apr 4 <sup>th</sup>           | 9-11:30am                              | God's Store House                      |
| Saturday, Apr 5 <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:*

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

**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

Bookkeeper

Treasurer

Music Director

Audio-Technology

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

Anderson Accounting

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

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

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