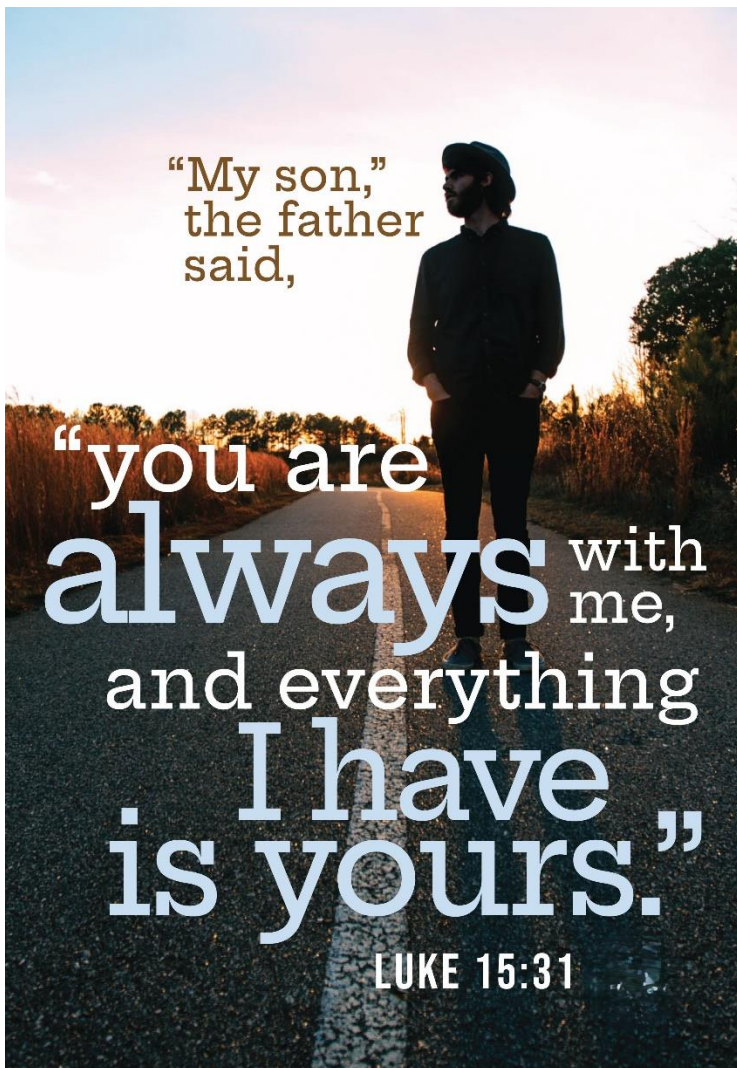


**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Wapakoneta, Ohio**



**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
**March 30, 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 Marsha Jackson  
in celebration of Amanda & Lavare's wedding.

## MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual .....	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector .....	Joyce Brincefield
Ushers .....	Steve Stienecker & Ken Frame
Worship Assistant .....	Deanna Ronan
Musician.....	Recordings
Pastor .....	Christian White
Greeter.....	Dave & Chris Clift
Acolyte .....	Faith Whetstone
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 psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!

## 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**

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (ELW 807)*

**\*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 compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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 12: 1-6

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>You will say in that day: I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me. <sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. <sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. <sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. <sup>5</sup>Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. <sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

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

### PSALM 32

- <sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,  
and whose sin is | put away!
- <sup>2</sup> **Happy are they to whom the LORD im- | putes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!**
- <sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,  
because of my groaning | all day long.
- <sup>4</sup> **For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**
- <sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me  
the guilt | of my sin.
- <sup>6</sup> **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of  
trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.**
- <sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.
- <sup>8</sup> **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;  
I will guide you | with my eye.**
- <sup>9</sup> Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not stay near you."

<sup>10</sup> **Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the LORD.**

<sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart.

**SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21**

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup> So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

<sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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

**\*GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32**

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

<sup>1</sup>Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." <sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>11</sup>Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup>When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup>He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' <sup>20</sup>So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe — the best one — and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup>for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup>Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup>He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup>Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' <sup>31</sup>Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

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

## MESSAGE

Christian White

### \*HYMN OF THE DAY

*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound (ELW 779)*

### 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.

God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**



God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all.

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

God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion *especially* Family & Friends of Anne J., 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, 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). Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died. We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. 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.**

#### **\*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.**

## **SENDING**

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

### **\*CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER**

Heavenly father, we humbly pray, asking for help from Your Holy Spirit to guide us and give us wisdom to do what is best for your people who abide in this place of worship. We thank you for those who have shared their time and talents during this interim, but you know we are in need of a spiritual leader to help us grow in your Word. We pray to be open, patient and to do your Will in this process. In Your 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**

*What Wondrous Love Is This* (ELW 666)

### **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>
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
03/23/2025	15	68	\$14,105.91	\$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](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 4-6-25

Audio/Visual .....	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector .....	Richard Yocum
Ushers .....	Ken Frame & Richard Yocum
Worship Assistant .....	Susan Miller
Musician.....	Karen Luginbuhl
Pastor .....	Pastor Bill Schultz
Greeter.....	Chris Nagel
Acolyte .....	Vivian Fisher
Altar Guild.....	Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame
Fellowship Cleanup.....	Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame

## 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...***

Family & Friends of Anne J., 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, 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! Egg Carton Ministry** Asking for all sizes of clean empty egg cartons. Please put them in the boxes in the church library. They will be used to distribute eggs to those in need.



**Plastic Bag 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!

**Men's Night** will be on Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the Whaling Knife. All men are welcome to join.

**Bingo** on April 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm at the Gardens. All are welcome to volunteer.

**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>.**

**Easter Flower Order Sheet**

**Your name as you want it printed in the bulletin** \_\_\_\_\_

	Quantity:	Dollar Amount:	
Single Stem Lily – 5 plus blooms and buds	_____	_____	\$15.00 each
3 bloom Hyacinth – Assorted Colors	_____	_____	\$13.00 each
6 Bloom Tulip – Assorted Colors	_____	_____	\$13.00 each
Daffodils - 6" pot	_____	_____	\$13.00 each

(circle one)

**In honor of / memory of:**

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**All orders must be turned in by APRIL 6<sup>th</sup>.**

Please place order form and payment in an envelope and return it to Georgeann Steinecker or the church office. The flowers will need to be picked up after Easter Sunday worship.

## FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

<b>Sunday, Mar 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Adult &amp; Youth 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
<b>Sunday, Apr 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Adult &amp; Youth Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Worship – Pastor Bill Schultz – Bell Choir</b>
		<b>Easter Flower Orders DUE!</b>
Mon, Apr 7 <sup>th</sup>	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Tues, Apr 8 <sup>th</sup>	1:30pm	Bingo at the Gardens
Wed, Apr 9 <sup>th</sup>	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	5:30pm	Confirmation
Thurs, Apr 10 <sup>th</sup>	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
	6:00pm	Men's Night at Whaling Knife
Fri, Apr 11 <sup>th</sup>	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Saturday, Apr 12 <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 humbly pray, asking for help from Your Holy Spirit to guide us and give us wisdom to do what is best for your people who abide in this place of worship. We thank you for those who have shared their time and talents during this interim, but you know we are in need of a spiritual leader to help us grow in your Word. We pray to be open, patient and to do your Will in this process. In Your 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](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; <a href="mailto:wapakelc@bright.net">wapakelc@bright.net</a> ; 419-738-3911
Bookkeeper	Anderson Accounting
Treasurer	Cari Frame; <a href="mailto:felc.finance@myfelc.org">felc.finance@myfelc.org</a>
Music Director	Darla Frame; <a href="mailto:darlaframe@gmail.com">darlaframe@gmail.com</a>
Audio-Technology	Dave Curry; <a href="mailto:dlcy@bright.net">dlcy@bright.net</a> ; 937-307-8596