

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



Joy Comes in the Morning:
Easter Sunday

Resurrection of Our Lord
April 20, 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 Mark & Chris Nagel in celebration of all the April birthdays in their family.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God
in gratitude for Our Lord & Savior. He is Risen! Hallelujah!

MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Marsha Jackson
Ushers	Ken Frame & Jon Schmidt
Worship Assistant	Char Curry
Musician.....	Darla Frame
Pastor	Pastor Bill Schultz
Greeter.....	Dave & Chris Clift
Acolyte	Nolan Roode
Altar Guild	Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame
Fellowship Cleanup.....	Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame

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

* Please rise if able.

GATHERING

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

He is risen. **He is risen indeed.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

He is Exalted by Twila Paris arr Lloyd Larson

*A NEW BEGINNING

Quiet dawn... – Still grief... – Incredible sorrow.

The Son of Man lies dead, killed by human greed and fear.

Cool morning sun ... – Awakening life.

The garden is now Christ's home, the tomb his dwelling.

The guards stir... – the sun climbs in the sky... – Life begins again.

Jesus lies in sleep this third day since his death.

It is life that shatters the peace... – Blinding light... – Incredible Energy!

Frantic guards run in fear from the face of God.

Angels... – Brilliance... – God's power made manifest!

The stone is moved. The body is gone!

The impossible becomes reality!.

Life conquers death!

Loving friends come to the garden to offer final farewells.

A familiar hand reaches out again. A loving voice says, "I am here. Know me!"

Oh, my Lord Jesus, it is you!

The Lord is risen Indeed!

Incredible Joy... – Supernal wonder... – God's Son is alive again!

No grave can keep this body down! Alleluia!

*GATHERING SONG

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today (ELW 365)

***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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

This is the Feast (ELW p. 187)

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

LADIES' CHOIR

Hail, Redeemer King by Russell Nagy

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rebecca Van Meter

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 65:17-25

A reading from Isaiah. ¹⁷For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. ¹⁸But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. ¹⁹I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. ²⁰No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. ²¹They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²²They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. ²³They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD — and their descendants as well. ²⁴Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. ²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent — its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

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

PSALM: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let Israel now declare,
"God's mercy endures forever."**

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"**

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷**I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.**

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹**Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰"This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter."

²¹**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.**

²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³**By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:19-26

A reading from 1 Corinthians. ¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. ²¹ For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; ²² For as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia (ELW p. 188)

***GOSPEL: LUKE 24:1-12**

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

¹ On the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵ The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶ Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." ⁸ Then they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

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

MESSAGE

Pastor Bill Schultz

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds (ELW 367)

***THE 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**

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Kindle new life in your church. Encourage all who seek creative ways to share the good news of Christ's resurrection. Bless mission developers and new ministries, that their work plant seeds that flourish.

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

Nourish new life in all of creation. Shower forests and grasslands, deserts, and mountains with life-giving rains. Grant us delight in your glory that shows forth in all that grows this season. God of grace, **Hear our prayer.**

Empower new life among the nations. As you raised Jesus from the dead, bring new hope for peace and reconciliation in places of war and strife. Raise up leaders who are steadfast in their commitment to justice and transformation.

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

Bring new hope among all who are in need, especially neighbors without homes or food, and those whose housing or food supply is at risk. Bring healing to all who are fearful, ill, or grieving *especially* Betty Hague, Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz, Marty Rostorfer, Eloise Katterhenry, Marsha Henderson, Staff and Students at Concordia University at Ann Arbor, James Benschhoff, 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, Sue Bartlett, Anthony Holcome, Ike Schnell, Roseann Schlegel-Whetstone, Roman Schlegel, Sue Hughes, Dan Havens, Jason Schneider, Jenn Douglas & Baby, Shirley Hollis, George Lowther, Joyce Brincefield, Susan Bishop and Wanda Nuss. And those we speak out loud or in our hearts. (Brief silence). God of grace, **Hear our prayer.**

Awaken new life in this place. Open our hearts to ways you are calling us to be at work in the world and our community. Give us courage to boldly share your love for all people beyond our walls. God of grace, **Hear our prayer.**

Trusting in the promises of the resurrection, we remember with thanksgiving our beloved dead. Sustain us with a living hope until we are reunited with them and all the saints at the heavenly banquet. God of grace, **Hear our prayer.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, o god, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **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 you provide, and for the gifts you share.

OFFERATORY

All Hail the Power by Oliver Holden arr Joel Raney

***OFFERING HYMN**

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW 182)

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. **Amen.**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, 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

As we come to this time of Holy Communion, please let me extend to you an invitation to come forward and share in this Holy supper. You do not need to be member of this church or any Lutheran church to participate. If you profess faith in Christ Jesus, you are welcome. He is extending this invitation and that is His only requirement. Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God (ELW p. 191)

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

Bread of Life from Heaven (ELW 474)

The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done (ELW366)

The Day of Resurrection! (ELW 361)

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright (ELW 384)

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

HALLELUJAH CHORUS

Anyone is invited to join the choir.
Music is available.

SENDING

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

***CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER**

Dear God, **we come before you seeking your guidance and wisdom, as we search for a new pastor to lead our church. We pray for a pastor who will faithfully teach and preach your word, leading us in spiritual growth and discipleship. Grant us a leader who will bring unity and encourage the many gifts and talents in our congregation. We ask for someone with a servant's heart, willing to walk with us through life's joys and sorrows. God, please guide our search and grant us wisdom to follow your will. 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**

Lift High the Cross (ELW 660)

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
03/30/2025	14	52	\$960.00	\$0.00
04/06/2025	15	71	\$4,843.06	\$65.00
04/13/2025		99	\$3,412.56	\$10.00

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 4-27-25

- Audio/Visual Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
- Lector Joyce Brincefield
- Ushers Luke Kline & Chad Sterner
- Worship Assistant Marsha Jackson
- Musician Recordings
- Pastor Michelle Kouse
- Greeter Needed
- Acolyte Kaidence Schmidt
- Altar Guild Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame
- Fellowship Cleanup Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame

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

Dear God, we come before you seeking your guidance and wisdom, as we search for a new pastor to lead our church. We pray for a pastor who will faithfully teach and preach your word, leading us in spiritual growth and discipleship. Grant us a leader who will bring unity and encourage the many gifts and talents in our congregation. We ask for someone with a servant’s heart, willing to walk with us through life’s joys and sorrows. God, please guide our search and grant us wisdom to follow your will. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

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, 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, Sue Bartlett, Anthony Holcome, Ike Schnell, Roseann Schlegel-Whetstone, Roman Schlegel, Sue Hughes, Dan Havens, Jason Schneider, Jenn Douglas & Baby, Shirley Hollis, George Lowther, Joyce Brincefield, Susan Bishop 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 APRIL: FAMILY LIFE CENTER OF WAPAK

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. April's theme is Breakfast. 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.

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.

LOAVES & FISHES' COOKIES We need your help, FELC is hosting Loaves & Fishes on April 24th. Call Brenda Shoffstall to let her know if you are able to donate and please bring cookies by Thursday, April 24th, 12noon. Make sure to put 2 cookies per bag to help make sure cookies stay yummy in food package. Thank you in advance for your donation and help.

EASTER Sunday There will be no fellowship after today's service so everyone can enjoy Easter with their families. Happy Easter! He is Risen! Hallelujah!

Christ Candle Explanation We follow the NALC guidelines with lighting the Christ Candle. These are the times the Christ Candle will be lit: Easter and the Sundays after through Pentecost; Christmas Eve and the weeks after through Epiphany; Baptism; Funerals; All Saints Sundays and Christ the King Sunday. The Christ Candle will be lit ½ hour before the service starts by an usher. The Christ Candle will be put out by the usher after the dismissal at the end of church. There is a schedule at the back of the sanctuary and in back room of sanctuary.

**Thank you to everyone who provided the beautiful flowers
that fill our sanctuary this Easter Sunday!**

Becky Kohrieser

In memory of Brenda & Rex Lippincott, Pauline & Carl Brading, Nancy & Bob VanSkiver,
Sally & Roger Moellenkamp and Shirley Richardson.

Brian Fisher Family

In honor of their children.

Dan & Kriss Havens

In memory of our son, Justin & Hean & Bob Fairchild and Marian & Henry Kohler and
Parents.

Darla & Ken Frame

In memory of our parents; Norma & Paul Rickert and Betty & Don Frame.

Dave & Char Curry

In honor of our family and friends on this glorious Easter morning. He is Risen!

Dave & Connie Krites

In honor of our sons and their wonderful families, who have blessed our lives in many
ways.

Diana & Glen Miller

In memory of Ty, Jerry & Tooty.

Frank & Nancy Heffner

In honor of their grandchildren; Allison, Tara & Ella.

Hilary, Mike, Amelia & Elanor Roeger

In memory of Ty Garrett Miller and Tooty & Jerry Fritz.

Ike & Jeanie Schnell

In memory of Daisy & Dewey Schnell and Howard & Tressie Achey.

John & Paula Anderson

In memory of Scott Anderson, Tracy Anderson & Kathi Thompson.

Jon & Carrie Schmidt

In memory of Gary & Kathi Thompson, Harry Anderson, Tracy Anderson, Helen
Patterson and Eileen Schmidt.

Marc & Brenda Shoffstall

In honor & memory of their families.

Mark & Chris Nagel

In honor of Jesus Easter Resurrection.

Marsha Jackson

In memory of her mom & dad; Mabel & Charles.

Mary, Mike & Robin Klock

In memory of Don.

Mike McGuire & Deana Kramer

In honor of their children and grandchildren.

Susan Miller

In honor of her children; Jeff, Greg & Nicki Ritchie.

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, Apr 20th	EASTER SUNDAY – He is RISEN! Hallelujah!
	9:00am Adult & Youth Sunday School
	10:00am Worship – Pastor Bill Schultz – Ladies’ Choir
Mon, Apr 21 st	5:15pm Spiritual Movement Class
Wed, Apr 23 rd	5:15pm Spiritual Movement Class
	5:30pm Confirmation
Thurs, Apr 24 th	9-11:30am God’s Store House
	4:30pm Loaves & Fishes
Fri, Apr 25 th	9-11:30am God’s Store House
Saturday, Apr 26 th	8:15am Spiritual Movement Class
	9-11:30am God’s Store House
Sunday, Apr 27th	9:00am Adult & Youth Sunday School
	10:00am Worship – Michelle Kouse – Council Meeting
Mon, Apr 28 th	5:15pm Spiritual Movement Class
	<i>May Information for Newsletter DUE!</i>
	6:00pm Christian Ed Meeting
Wed, Apr 30 th	May Newsletter Available
	5:15pm Spiritual Movement Class
	5:30pm Confirmation
	6:00pm Bell Choir
	7:00pm Ladies’ Choir
Thurs, May 1 st	<i>National Day of Prayer</i>
	9-11:30am God’s Store House
	12:00pm National Day of Prayer at Wapak Fire Station
	4:30pm Loaves & Fishes
Fri, May 2 nd	8:00am NALC Convocation
	9-11:30am God’s Store House
Saturday, May 3 rd	8:00am NALC Convocation
	8:15am Spiritual Movement Class
	9-11:30am God’s Store House

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

Bookkeeper

Treasurer

Music Director

Audio-Technology

Hilary Roeger; wapakelc@bright.net; 419-738-3911

Anderson Accounting

Cari Frame; felc.finance@myfelc.org

Darla Frame; darlaframe@gmail.com

Dave Curry; dscy@bright.net; 937-307-8596

Happy Easter!

