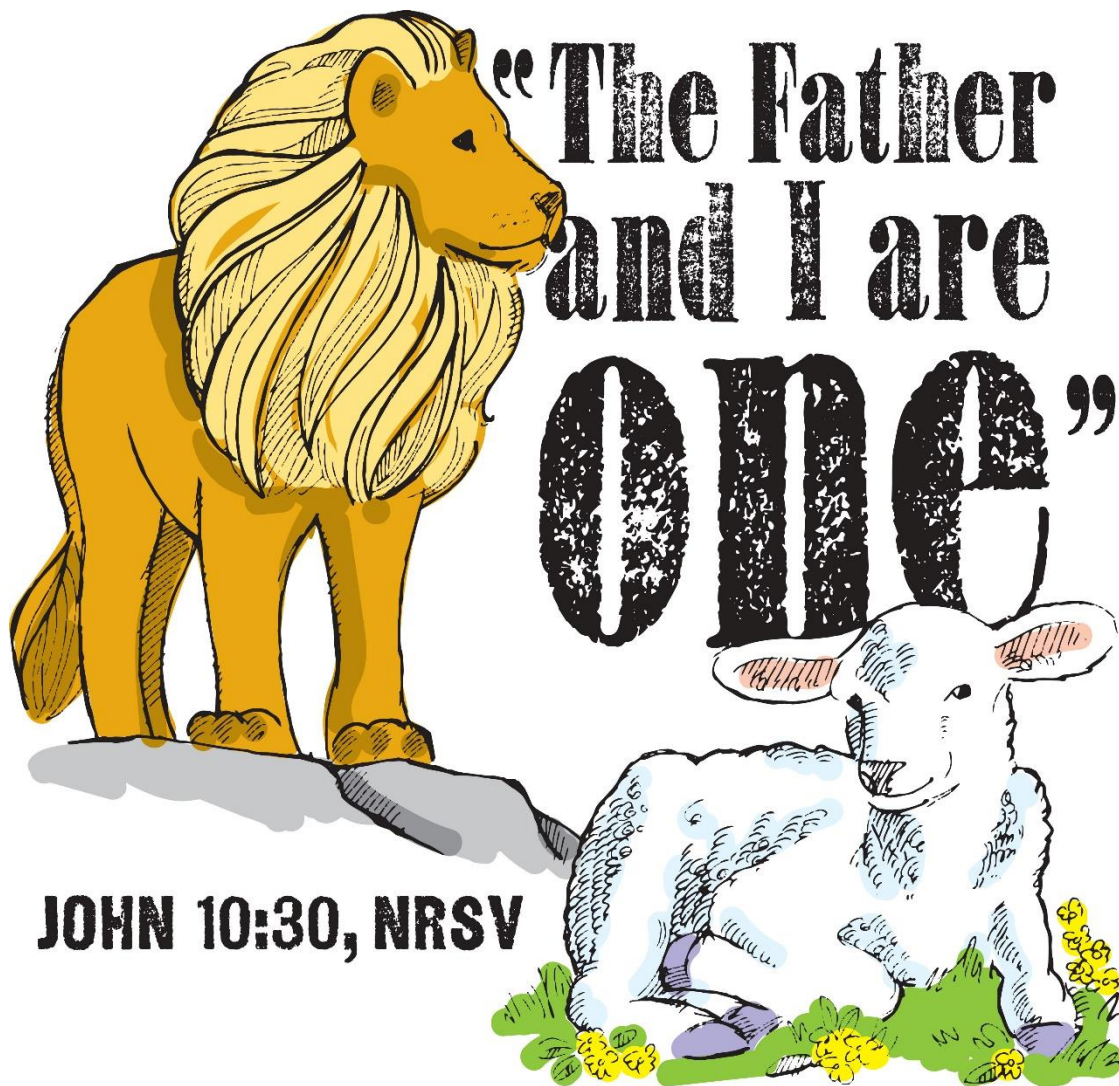


**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Wapakoneta, Ohio**



**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
**May 11, 2025**  
**Happy Mother's Day!**

## 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 Matt & Deanna Ronan in honor of their daughters, Kylie & Katie.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God  
by Chad & Amelia Sterner in celebration of Faith's birthday and Mother's Day.

### MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual .....	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector .....	Marsha Jackson
Ushers .....	Dave Krites & Brian Van Meter
Worship Assistant .....	Darla Frame
Musician .....	Recordings
Pastor .....	Makayla Frame
Greeter .....	Brenda Shoffstall
Altar Guild .....	Darla Frame & Deanna Wisener
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.

## **Introduction to the day**

The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those “who have come out of the great ordeal” in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

## **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**      *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!* (ELW 385)

**\*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.**

**\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

*Glory to God* (ELW p. 185)

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**BELL CHOIR**

*I Am So Glad*

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

Cari Frame

## WORD

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

### **FIRST READING: Acts 20:17-35**

A reading from Acts. <sup>17</sup>From Miletus he sent a message to Ephesus, asking the elders of the church to meet him. <sup>18</sup>When they came to him, he said to them: "You yourselves know how I lived among you the entire time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, <sup>19</sup>serving the Lord with all humility and with tears, enduring the trials that came to me through the plots of the Jews. <sup>20</sup>I did not shrink from doing anything helpful, proclaiming the message to you and teaching you publicly and from house to house, <sup>21</sup>as I testified to both Jews and Greeks about repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus. <sup>22</sup>And now, as a captive to the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup>except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and persecutions are waiting for me. <sup>24</sup>But I do not count my life of any value to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the good news of God's grace. <sup>25</sup>And now I know that none of you, among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom, will ever see my face again. <sup>26</sup>Therefore I declare to you this day that I am not responsible for the blood of any of you, <sup>27</sup>for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. <sup>28</sup>Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son. <sup>29</sup>I know that after I have gone, savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. <sup>30</sup>Some even from your own group will come distorting the truth in order to entice the disciples to follow them. <sup>31</sup>Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to warn everyone with tears. <sup>32</sup>And now I commend you to God and to the message of his grace, a message that is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified. <sup>33</sup>I coveted no one's silver or gold or clothing. <sup>34</sup>You know for yourselves that I worked with my own hands to support myself and my companions. <sup>35</sup>In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

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

## PSALM: 23

<sup>1</sup> The LORD <sup>1</sup> is my shepherd;  
I shall not <sup>1</sup> be in want.

<sup>2</sup> **The LORD makes me lie down <sup>1</sup> in green pastures  
and leads me be- <sup>1</sup> side still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> You restore my <sup>1</sup> soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways <sup>1</sup> for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall <sup>1</sup> fear no  
evil;**

**for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they <sup>1</sup> comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence <sup>1</sup> of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is <sup>1</sup> running over.

<sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days <sup>1</sup> of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the <sup>1</sup> LORD forever.**

## SECOND READING: Revelation 7:9-17

A reading from Revelation. <sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

<sup>11</sup> And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> singing, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.” <sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” <sup>14</sup> I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup> For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. <sup>16</sup> They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; <sup>17</sup> for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

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

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia* (ELW p. 188)

**\*GOSPEL: John 10:22-30**

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

<sup>22</sup> At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter,  
<sup>23</sup> and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. <sup>24</sup> So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." <sup>25</sup> Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; <sup>26</sup> but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. <sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> The Father and I are one."

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

**MESSAGE**

Makayla Frame

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us* (ELW 789)

**\*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.

You guide your people to the waters of life. Make your church a nourishing place for all who are thirsty for hope and healing. Renew us in the waters of baptism and send us forth as signs of your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You tend to the earth, sustaining life in all places. Revive fragile ecosystems and restore species in danger of extinction. Teach us new ways of living in balance and harmony with our non-human neighbors.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You wipe the tears from every eye. Tend to all who struggle with anxiety or depression, loneliness, or despair. Enfold all who are in any need in your shepherding care *especially* Betty Hague, Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz, Marty Rostorfer, Eloise Katterhenry, Marsha Henderson, Dominic Cousins, Ted Gibson, Bryan Katterhenry, Judy Kentner, Lauren Makuh, Sasha Maslov, Jenny Oliver, Nixon Palte, Pam Schulz, Alex Shirey, Hunter Smith, Seth Thuman, Norma Wachauf, Harold Wallace, Jim Zwiebel, JJ Truesdale, Sue Bartlett, Ike Schnell, Roman Schlegel, Sue Hughes, Dan Havens, Jason Schneider, Jenn Douglas & Baby Benette, Shirley Hollis, Joyce Brincefield, Judy Metz, Liam Kramer and Wanda Nuss. And those we speak out loud or in our hearts. (Brief silence). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

This Mother's Day, bless mothers, grandmothers, and all who offer mothering care. Come close to those whose relationships with their families are difficult, and console all who grieve the loss of mother figures or the loss of children.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You are the source of everlasting life. In deep gratitude for all your saints, we rejoice in the joy and hope of the resurrection made known to us in Jesus, your beloved child. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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 provided, and for the gifts you share.

## **OFFERTORY**

### **\*OFFERING HYMN**

*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful* (ELW 182)

### **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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**

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

### **\*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>
04/17/2025	8	56	Maundy Thursday Service	
04/20/2025	15	107	\$10,038.16	\$125.00
04/27/2025	15	50	\$798.20	\$10.00
05/04/2025	14	51	\$3,198.06	\$55.00

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 5-18-25

Audio/Visual .....	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector .....	Matt Ronan
Ushers .....	Ken Frame & Jon Schmidt
Worship Assistant .....	Susan Miller
Musician .....	Darla Frame
Pastor .....	Michelle Kouse
Greeter .....	Needed
Altar Guild .....	Darla Frame & Deanna Wisener
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...***

Betty Hague, Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz, Marty Rostorfer, Eloise Katterhenry, Marsha Henderson, Dominic Cousins, Ted Gibson, Bryan Katterhenry, Judy Kentner, Lauren Makuh, Sasha Maslov, Jenny Oliver, Nixon Palte, Pam Schulz, Alex Shirey, Hunter Smith, Seth Thuman, Norma Wachauf, Harold Wallace, Jim Zwiebel, JJ Truesdale, Sue Bartlett, Ike Schnell, Roman Schlegel, Sue Hughes, Dan Havens, Jason Schneider, Jenn Douglas & Baby Benette, Shirley Hollis, Joyce Brincefield, Judy Metz, Liam Kramer 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.*

### **PLEASE PRAY THE CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER THROUGHOUT THE WEEK:**

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

### ***What's Happening at First English....***

**Noisy Offering for the month of MAY: ETHAN JEANNERET, DOUBLE-LUNG TRANSPLANT** Offering pans are located in the chapel and at the back of the church. Donations are accepted all month. See May newsletter for more information about Ethan and his family.

**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.

**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. Mat's theme is Pizza. 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!

**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.

**Movie Night** on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. We will have pizza and popcorn. Ask friends, all are welcome! See flyers for Movie Night details or email that was sent out.

**Youth Sunday School** We will have our last class before summer break on May 18<sup>th</sup>, with a little celebration for the wonderful year we had together. 😊

**First Communion** will be given on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Please join us as we celebrate our youth in their First Communion.

**Ladies' Night** is scheduled for 5:30pm on Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at JT's in St. Marys.

**Class of 2025 Recognition** on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Please join us as we recognize, celebrate and pray for the graduating class as they start their next chapter. Contact office if you have a Senior to be recognized.

**VBS** Please see flyer for NEW TIMES and DATES! We hope you can join us!! Contact office if you are interested in volunteering. Deadline for Registration & guarantee a shirt is due May 30<sup>th</sup>!

**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.

## FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

**Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**

**♥ HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY ♥**

**9:00am**

**Adult & Youth Sunday School**

**10:00am**

**Worship – Makayla Frame – Bell Chr**

Mon, May 12<sup>th</sup>

5:15pm

Spiritual Movement Class

Wed, May 14<sup>th</sup>

5:15pm

Spiritual Movement Class

Thurs, May 15<sup>th</sup>

9-11:30am

God's Store House

4:30pm

Loaves & Fishes

Fri, May 16<sup>th</sup>

9-11:30am

God's Store House

6:00pm

Movie Night

Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

8:15am

Spiritual Movement Class

9-11:30am

God's Store House

**Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00am**

**Adult & Youth Sunday School**

**10:00am**

**Worship – Michelle Kouse –**

**Ladies Choir – First Communion**

**Council Meeting**

Mon, May 19<sup>th</sup>

5:15pm

Spiritual Movement Class

Tues, May 20<sup>th</sup>

5:30pm

Ladies' Night @ TJs in St. Marys

Wed, May 21<sup>st</sup>

10:00am

Quilting

5:15pm

Spiritual Movement Class

Thurs, May 22<sup>nd</sup>

9-11:30am

God's Store House

4:30pm

Loaves & Fishes

Fri, May 23<sup>rd</sup>

9-11:30am

God's Store House

**Last Day of School for Wapakoneta City Schools**

Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup>

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](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; [dlcy@bright.net](mailto:dlcy@bright.net); 937-307-8596



**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Wapakoneta, Ohio

*Our mission is to  
spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ  
and to love one another as  
He has loved us.*