FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH Wapakoneta, Ohio



2nd Sunday of Advent December 7, 2025

WELCOME TO FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Your presence today makes us more complete.

Thank you for being here and worshipping with us.

Children of all ages are encouraged to participate in worship.

Sunday Schedule

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship

The **Altar Candles** are given to the Glory of God by Hilary Roeger & Family in celebration of all December birthdays: Mike Roeger, Glen Miller, Maverick & Cari Frame and especially for the birth of our Savior & Lord, Jesus Christ!

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God by Vicar Michelle Kouse in honor of her nephew, Brayden, and all who serve overseas during the holidays, separated from the ones they love. We pray for their safety, peace and return home in God's time.

MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Richard Yocum
Ushers	Ken Frame & Richard Yocum
Worship Assistant	Jon Schmidt
Musician	Karen Luginbuhl
Pastor	Vicar Michelle Kouse
Greeter	
Acolyte	Jacob Schlosser
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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel by Hal Hopson

*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.

Hear this promise of Almighty God: He prepares in our hearts a royal highway for his Son's near approach and cleanses us from all our sins. He drives away the darkness of sin and death, that we may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*GATHERING SONG

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry (ELW 249)

*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.



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (light two candles) Molly & Matt Craft We continue our Advent journey today with re-lighting the Hope candle and the second candle, the candle of Peace. Let the gentle glow of these candles symbolize the tranquility we seek in our hearts and homes, fostering a sense of peace that transcends the chaos of this world.

In a world filled with conflict and confrontations

We humbly seek the gift of peace.

For the storms that sometimes rage within us

We humbly seek the gift of peace.

As we rush and hurry our way through busy lives

We humbly seek the gift of peace.

And for those around us we know are carrying heavy burdens

We humbly seek the gift of peace.

Gracious Creator, in the quiet moments may we find solace in your presence, and in the noisy chaos of life may your peace prevail. Calm the storms that rage within and around us. May we be instruments of your peace, fostering understanding, compassion, and harmony in our hearts. **Amen.**

REPEAT ADVENT'S HOLY LIGHT - Congregation Part from Above

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; 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

Angels We Have Heard on High

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Cari Frame

WORD

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

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 11:1-10

A reading from Isaiah. ¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, 4 but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

PSALM: 72: 1-7

- 1 Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;
- 2 May he judge your people righteousness, and your poor with justice;
- 3 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
- 4 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.
- 5 May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
- 6 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his days may the righteousness flourish; and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 15:4-13

A reading from Romans. ⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. 5 May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. 8 For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs ⁹ and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles and sing praises to your name"; 10 and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; 11 and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; 12 and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." ¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

*GOSPEL: MATTHEW 3:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" ⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, all the region along the Jordan, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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

MESSAGE THE VOICE THAT BREAKS SILENCE

Vicar Michelle Kouse

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Prepare the Royal Highway (ELW 264)

*NICENE CREED

Let us profess our faith using the words of the Nicene creed.

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light.

true God from true God,

begotten, not made,

of one Being with the Father:

through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

As we await the coming of Christ in mercy and majesty, let us pray for the Church, the world, and for all people according to their need.

Come quickly, Lord! Thank you for promising to deliver us from sin, evil, and death – but even so, come quickly! Thank you for being our King, Savior, Healer, and Redeemer – but come quickly to establish your reign, perfectly and forever. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Come quickly, righteous Branch from Jesse's root. Make your Church holy, faithful, and tireless in proclaiming your coming. By its words and deeds, lead many to repentance and faith in you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Come quickly, King foretold by prophets. Rule in our hearts and in this congregation. Grant us your gracious Spirit. Help us to show your mercy to fellow sinners, and to live in your peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Come quickly, righteous and faithful Savior. Vindicate those who are persecuted on account of your holy Name. Decide with equity on their behalf. Lay low the wicked who refuse to repent. And hasten the day when no one shall hurt or destroy on your holy mountain. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Come quickly, wise counsellor. Bless seminarians and all who are called into holy ministry. Grant them right judgment, godly actions, and joy in your presence. Bestow your Spirit upon them, and upon missionaries, evangelists, teachers, and theologians, until the whole earth is full of the knowledge of your saving mercy. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Come quickly, gentle Savior. Protect our little ones from every danger and harm. Keep them safe from the fangs of predators and abusers, the poison of sickness and despair, the venom of lies and hateful words, and the claws of warfare and every form of violence. Protect their innocence and help us raise them in knowledge, fear, and joy in the Lord. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Come quickly, King of Mercy. Banish those things which trouble your people in body, mind, heart or soul. We lift before you all who crave your healing touch, including Betty Hague, Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz, Marty Rostorfer, Eloise Katterhenry, Marsha Henderson, Judy Metz, Ted Gibson, Bryan Katterhenry, Judy Kentner, Lauren Makuh, Sasha Maslov, Jenny Oliver, Alex Shirey, Hunter Smith, Seth Thuman, Harold Wallace, Jim Zwiebel, JJ Truesdale, Sue Bartlett, Ike Schnell, Roman Schlegel, Sue Hughes, Dan Havens, Jason Schneider, Jenn Douglas & Baby Bennett, Joyce Brincefield, Norma Jarrells, Bobbi Bendele, Connie Krites, Jeanie Schnell, Kate Cunningham, Tim Cunningham, Judy Fisher, Michelle Kouse, Elaine Carlson, Teresa Fisher, Wanda Nuss, Kingdom Harvest Ministries and WHS-Fellowship of Christian Athletes. And anyone that we name out loud or quietly in our hearts. (Brief silence). Keep them safe from every evil. Restore them to health, hope, and fellowship with all who love them. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Come quickly, Lord of Life. Reunite us with all the saints who from their labors rest. Bestow on us your righteousness, wisdom, and mercy. Help us withstand the bitter challenges we face and support one another along our pilgrim road. Bring us to your holy mountain, where with all the redeemed, we shall delight in your presence and sing of your mercy and love forever. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, grant to us, dear Father, for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **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

Sussex Carol by Michael Burkhardt

*OFFERING HYMN

*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy God, receive these tokens of our love for you. Make them, and us, holy. Use them, and us, as you desire. In everything, grant that we speak and act for the glory of your coming Kingdom, and for the well-being of the people you long to redeem. This we ask in the name of your Son, 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 right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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 have been baptized and 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

United at the Table (498)

For by Grace You Have Been Saved (ELW 598) Comfort, Comfort Now My People (ELW 256)

*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

Almighty and ever-living God, we give you thanks for these heavenly gifts. Kindle in us the fire of your Spirit. When your Christ comes again, make us shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

*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

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (ELW 254)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

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, Judy Metz

We especially remember in our prayers...

Betty Hague, Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz, Marty Rostorfer, Eloise Katterhenry, Marsha Henderson, Judy Metz, Ted Gibson, Bryan Katterhenry, Judy Kentner, Lauren Makuh, Sasha Maslov, Jenny Oliver, Alex Shirey, Hunter Smith, Seth Thuman, Harold Wallace, Jim Zwiebel, JJ Truesdale, Sue Bartlett, Ike Schnell, Roman Schlegel, Sue Hughes, Dan Havens, Jason Schneider, Jenn Douglas & Baby Bennett, Joyce Brincefield, Norma Jarrells, Bobbi Bendele, Connie Krites, Jeanie Schnell, Kate Cunningham, Tim Cunningham, Judy Fisher, Michelle Kouse, Elaine Carlson, Teresa Fisher, Wanda Nuss, Kingdom Harvest Ministries and WHS-Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

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 DECEMBER: LOAVES & FISHES Offering pans are located in the chapel and at the back of the church. Donations are accepted during the entire month.

<u>Loaves and Fishes:</u> 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. No Loaves & Fishes on December 18th, 25th & January 1st.

<u>Collection for the Women's Crisis Center</u> We are collecting food items each month for the Auglaize County Crisis Center based on a monthly dinner theme. <u>December's Items:</u> <u>Canned Fruit, Canned Soups, Saltine Crackers, Peanut Butter & Fruit Juices</u>. 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.

Egg Carton Ministry Asking for only 12 count size clean empty egg cartons. Please put them in the box in the church library. They will be used to distribute eggs to those in need.

<u>Plastic Bag Ministry</u> 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.

<u>Angel Tree</u> tags are hung. We are supporting 2 families this year. One through the Crisis Center and another a local family in the community. <u>Unwrapped gifts are due</u> <u>back to the church by December 14th.</u> If you would like to help provide a gift or two but do not want to shop, we are taking monetary donations and Teresa Fisher will shop.

<u>Bookkeeping purposes</u> please have all FELC donations to the church by Sunday, December 28, 2025. Tax statements will be available for pickup at the church in January.

<u>Meet & Greet Letter</u> has been emailed (and mailed to those designated) out on November 26, 2025. Please make sure you take time to read and mark calendars. Letters are on table in back of church if you would like a hard copy.

<u>Men's Night</u> is scheduled for 6:00pm on Thursday, December 11th, at Whaling Knife in downtown Wapakoneta by the movie theatre. All men are encouraged to come and bring a friend!

<u>Christmas Caroling</u> will be on December 14th at 5:30pm. Let Rebecca Van Meter or Jennie Grundey know if you are interested in joining the caroling or if you want to be caroled to.

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	Current Giving	Benevolence
11/02/2025	13	60	\$2,386.78	\$10.00
11/09/2025	10	54	\$1,528.00	\$30.00
11/16/2025	9	61	\$2,365.00	\$360.00
11/23/2025	11	72	\$7,055.00	\$20.00
11/30/2025	19	48	\$1,038.00	\$10.00

MINISTERS for Next Week 12-14-25

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Marsha Jackson
Ushers	Dave Krites & Dave Clift
Worship Assistant	Hilary Roeger
Musician	Recordings
Pastor	Pastor Bill Schultz
Greeter	Needed
Acolyte	Amelia Roeger
Altar Guild	Denise Kantner & Joy Kantner
Fellowship Cleanup	Denise Kantner & Joy Kantner

		pcoming Calendar of Events
Sun, Dec 7th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Vicar Michelle Kouse
		Acolyte-Jacob Schlosser
		Bell Choir
Mon, Dec 8th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	6:00pm	Miracle Meal @ Aug. Co. Fairgrounds
Wed, Dec 10 th	6:30pm	Advent Service-Vicar Michelle Kouse
Thurs, Dec 11th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
000	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
	6:00pm	Men's Night @ Whaling Knife
Fri, Dec 12 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sat, Dec 13th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	11:30am	Meet & Greet
Sunday, Dec 14th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
500	10:00am	Worship – Pastor Bill Schultz
		Acolyte-Amelia Roeger
Mon, Dec 15th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Wed, Dec 17 th	10:00am	Quilting
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	5:45pm	Bell Choir
	6:30pm	Advent Service-Vicar Michelle Kouse
	7:15pm	Ladies' Choir
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
35		NO Loaves & Fishes
Fri, Dec 19th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sat, Dec 20th	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
The state of the s	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: <u>wapakelc@bright.net</u> Office Hours: M-F, 8:30am – 12:00pm

Mission Statement

The mission of First English Lutheran Church is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to love one another as He loves us.

Church Staff & Volunteers

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

Bookkeeper Anderson Accounting

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH Wapakoneta, Ohio

Treasurer Dave Clift

Music Director Darla Frame; darlaframe@gmail.com

Audio-Technology Dave Curry; dlcy@bright.net; 937-307-8596

