

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



1st Sunday of Christmas
December 28, 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.

MINISTERS for TODAY

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Audio/Visual | Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie |
| Lector | Council |
| Ushers | Jon Schmidt & Maeson Roode |
| Worship Assistant..... | Susan Miller |
| Musician | Darla Frame |
| Pastor | Council |
| Greeter | Chris Nagel |
| 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

Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow arr Mark Hayes

*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

Angels We Have Heard on High (ELW 289)

* 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

Glory to God (ELW p. 185)

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

LESSONS AND CAROLS

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

Georgeann Stienecker

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

HYMN

The First Noel (ELW 300, verse 1,2,3)

Second Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

Chris Nagel

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem (ELW 279, verse 1,2)

Third Reading: Luke 1:26-35, 38

Char Curry

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

HYMN*O Come, All Ye Faithful* (ELW 283, verse 1,2)**Fourth Reading: Matthew 1:18-25**

Brenda Shoffstall

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

HYMN*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (ELW 270, verse 1,3)

Fifth Reading: Luke 2:8-20

Denise Kantner

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HYMN*Angels, from the Realms of Glory* (ELW 275, verse 1,4)

Sixth Reading: Matthew 2:1-11

Jon Schmidt

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

HYMN*What Child is This* (ELW 296, verse 1,3)

Seventh Reading: John 1:1-14

Richard Yocum

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*** HYMN OF THE DAY**

Away in a Manger (ELW 277)

*** APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us profess our faith using the words from 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.**

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

With gratitude for the gift of Christ the Savior, let us draw near to our heavenly Father in prayer, asking his mercy for the Church, the world, and all who need his loving-kindness.

Protect your Church, dear Lord, from the malice of its enemies, and from every temptation to forsake, ignore or distort your holy Word. Make it a light shining in the world's darkness, and a safe haven in our earthly pilgrimage. Use it to draw many hearts to love and trust Jesus, the Redeemer of the world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make this congregation into a company of the upright, who delight in, study, and proclaim your mighty works of salvation. Clothe us with love, binding us together in perfect harmony. Grant that by our words and our lives, our neighbors may see the power and majesty of your redemption and come to faith in your dear Son.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We plead on behalf of children who are abused, abandoned, and aborted here and throughout the world. Keep them in your merciful care. Form us all into people that cherish these little ones. Conform them to the image of their infant Savior, your well-beloved Son Jesus. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give to the rulers of the world that holy fear that is the beginning of wisdom, so that they study your works and perform your precepts. Let uprightness, justice, and mercy guide those who take counsel for the nations. Bestow the blessings of food and shelter, health and employment, justice and peace, upon all the people of the earth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Though angels proclaimed peace and good will at the birth of Jesus, violence, injustice, and evil still trouble the world. Shield and guide all who risk their lives on behalf of others. Prosper all they do that conforms to your will. Support their loved ones with hope and patience. Heal and comfort those who are wounded, and redeem those who have fallen. Establish your peace in the world and in every heart, so that the arts of war need no longer be practiced among us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be gracious and merciful to all whose lives are shadowed by suffering in this season of light, 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, 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). Grant that they may behold your salvation, dwell in the light of your love, revealed in Christ, and glorify you in the company of all who love them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You have let your face shine upon our beloved dead, O God, and have bestowed on them the fullness of your salvation. With gratitude and affection we commend them into your care. Give to us the fortitude of your saints and martyrs, for though now we see Jesus through the eyes of faith, we long to see him face to face. Until that day, grant that he may dwell in us richly, filling us with peace, love, forgiveness, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience – the enduring gifts of Christmas that shall last forever.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, merciful Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. **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.

OFFERTORY *O Little Town of Bethlehem* by Lewis H Redner arr Mark Hayes

***OFFERING HYMN**

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW 182)

***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.**

*** 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.

*** 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**

Joy to the World (ELW 267)

*** DISMISSAL**

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

MINISTERS for Next Week 1-4-26

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Audio/Visual | Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie |
| Lector | Richard Yocum |
| Ushers | Ken Frame & Richard Yocum |
| Worship Assistant | Marsha Jackson |
| Musician | Karen Luginbuhl |
| Pastor | Jennie Grundey |
| Greeter | Needed |
| Acolyte | Faith Whetstone |
| Altar Guild | Brenda Shoffstall & Sara Young |
| Fellowship Cleanup | Brenda Shoffstall & Chris Nagel |

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, 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.

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. No Loaves & Fishes on 25th & January 1st.

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. December's Items: Canned Fruit, Canned Soups, Saltine Crackers, Peanut Butter & Fruit Juices. 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.

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.

Bookkeeping purposes 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.

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|---|
| Sunday, Dec 28th | 9:00am | Adult Sunday School |
| | 10:00am | Worship – Council Acolyte-Jacob Schlosser |
| Mon, Dec 29 th | 5:15pm | Spiritual Movement Class January Newsletter Information Due! No School-Wapak City Schools |
| | | No School-Wapak City Schools |
| Tues, Dec 30 th | | No School-Wapak City Schools |
| Wed, Dec 31 st | 5:15pm | Spiritual Movement Class January Newsletter Available No School-Wapak City Schools |
| | | No School-Wapak City Schools |
| Thurs, Jan 1 st | | Happy New Year's Day – Office Closed No School-Wapak City Schools |
| | 9-11:30am | God's Store House NO Loaves & Fishes |
| Fri, Jan 2 nd | | No School-Wapak City Schools |
| | 9-11:30am | God's Store House |
| Sat, Jan 3 rd | 8:15am | Spiritual Movement Class |
| | 9-11:30am | God's Store House |
| Sun, Jan 4th | 9:00am | Adult Sunday School |
| | 10:00am | Worship – Jennie Grundey Acolyte-Faith Whetstone |
| Mon, Jan 5 th | 5:15pm | Spiritual Movement Class |
| Wed, Jan 7 th | 6:00pm | Confirmation Class Bell Choir |
| | 7:00pm | Ladies' Chori |
| Thurs, Jan 8 th | 9-11:30am | God's Store House |
| | 4:30pm | Loaves & Fishes |
| Fri, Jan 9 th | 6:00pm | Men's Night @ JTs in St. Marys, OH |
| | 9-11:30am | God's Store House |
| Sat, Jan 10 th | 5:00pm | Departure for Youth Quake-Cincinnati, OH |
| | 8:15am | Spiritual Movement Class |
| | 9-11:30am | God's Store House |
| | | Youth Quake-Cincinnati, OH Return 1/11/26 afternoon |

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 – 12:00pm

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

Intern

Vicar Michelle Kouse

Bookkeeper

Anderson Accounting

Music Director

Darla Frame; darlaframe@gmail.com

Audio-Technology

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

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Views</u> | <u>Attendance</u> | <u>Current Giving</u> | <u>Benevolence</u> |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 12/07/2025 | 15 | 65 | \$2,980.00 | \$280.00 |
| 12/14/2025 | 17 | 44 | \$1,073.00 | \$20.00 |
| 12/21/2005 | | 72 | \$2,485.50 | \$35.00 |



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.*