

First English Lutheran Church

Wapakoneta, Ohio



Our DECEMBER 2025 Newsletter

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

107 W. Mechanic Street, Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Office: (419) 738-3911

Website: www.myfelc.org E-Mail Address: wapakelc@bright.net

Meet our staff...

Office Administrator

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

Treasurer

Dave Clift.....felc.finance@myfelc.org 419-738-3911

Bookkeeper

Anderson Accounting.....felc.finance@myfelc.org 419-738-3911

Financial Secretary

Marsha Jacksonfelc.finance@myfelc.org 419-738-3911

Music Director

Darla Frame.....darlaframe@gmail.com..... 419-234-3283

Choir Directors

Susan Miller, Adult.....sugartime@bright.net 567-356-1844

Darla Frame, Bellsdarlaframe@gmail.com..... 419-234-3283

Church Council

Brenda Shoffstallshoffstall08@yahoo.com 419-233-1956

Richard Yocumrichiyocum@yahoo.com 419-234-8919

Georgeann Stienecker...nksoccer@nktelco.net 419-305-5066

Jon Schmidt.....ohthreeohsix@gmail.com 419-231-3284

Darla Frame.....darlaframe@gmail.com..... 419-234-3283

Jeff Ritchie.....jritchie002@woh.rr.com 419-296-3794

Chris Nagel.....mnagel@ohiolink.net 419-657-2554

Char Currychar.curry@bright.net 419-738-4392

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Audio/Visual Specialist

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Audio/Visual Staff

Jeff Ritchie.....jritchie002@woh.rr.com 419-296-3794

Noah Kirby.....noah.w.kirby@gmail.com..... 419-905-8243

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

NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 16, 2025

Council met, following worship for our monthly meeting. After a quorum was reached, Georgeann gave a devotion.

We discussed our financial and secretary reports and then approved the business of the church.

We approved a donation to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes for their breakfasts.

We nominated Catherine Fisher to be approved as a council member at our congregational meeting.

We approved Michael McGuire as a new member, so please welcome him.

The Congregational meeting agenda on December 21 was approved and will be sent out to the congregation in the near future.

A budget for 2026 was discussed at great lengths and then was approved to be presented to the congregation for approval at the December 21st meeting.

We then went into executive session to discuss the call process. As we move forward in this process, there will be several important dates for everyone to remember. What an exciting time this is going to be for our Church!

Blessings to all,
Church council

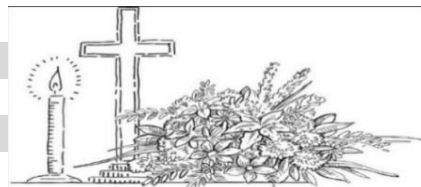
FELC Committees, Chairpersons, Council Liaisons

Committee	Chairperson	Liaison
Building & Property	Brenda Shoffstall	Jeff Ritchie
Christian Education/Youth		Jon Schmidt
Evangelism		Denise Kantner
Finance		Georgeann Stienecker
Life & Fellowship	Brenda Shoffstall	Darla Frame
Social Ministry		Char Curry
Staff Support	Richard Yocum	Richard Yocum
Stewardship	Meets with Finance	Brenda Shoffstall
Worship & Music	Darla Frame	Chris Nagel

Flowers and Candles

Altar Flowers for the month of DECEMBER:

December 7 th	Michelle Kouse
December 14 th	Van Meters
December 21 st	Marsha Jackson
December 28 th	--Available--



Altar Candles for the month of DECEMBER:

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!

**Thank you to everyone who has signed up for flowers & candles.
 A new calendar will be up soon, please consider signing up for 2026.**

2025 Noisy Offerings

Month	Recipient	Amount Collected
January	Wapak Women's Crisis Center	\$130.16
February	California Wildfires	\$750.10
March	Generations of Love	\$171.51
April	Family Life Center of Wapakoneta	\$272.00
May	Ethan Jeanneret, Double-Lung Trans.	\$1,081.38
June	NALC Disaster Relief	\$186.00
July	"Flying Horse Farm"-Mt. Gilead, OH	\$708.00
August	Servants' Day	\$147.73
September	Miracle Meal	\$133.00
October	Operation Christmas Child	\$138.00
November	Angel Tree	\$203.00
December	Loaves & Fishes	



Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
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		48	\$1,038.00	\$10.00

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.



Please keep our youth and adults in your prayers as they travel to attend Youth Quake in Cincinnati, Ohio; January 9-11, 2026. We have 13 youth and 3 adults attending event.

Prayers from Call Committee for Pastor

Please pray throughout the month:

11-2-25 Dear Lord, You've heard our prayers and know our needs. Please continue to guide us in the direction as we continue to pray for our future pastor, their family and the future of our church. Heavenly Father, open our hearts and minds to be able to clearly hear and receive Your will. As we continue through this transition. Lord, be with us and remind us that we are Your sheep, and this is all on Your time. Help us to keep Your Word in our hearts and be more like You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

11-9-25 Heavenly Father, we continue to ask for your guidance as we seek to call a pastoral leader. May we be ever diligent in our search, that we may find the leader that we know you have chosen for us. Bless our congregation during this process and keep us strong and faithful. We ask all of this in Jesus' name. Amen.

11-16-25 Dear God, as we continue on this journey of seeking a pastor, we ask for your divine guidance. Your word reminds us that you are the Good Shepherd, and we trust in you leading us to find the right pastor for our church family. May our search be guided by the same love and care that Jesus has for his flock. Lead us to the pastor who will nurture, lead and protect our congregation. In your name, Amen.

11-23-25 Heavenly Father, as we seek a new shepherd to lead our church, we humbly come before You, asking for Your guidance and wisdom in this important decision. Grant our call committee the wisdom to identify the individual You have chosen to be our pastor, one with heart for Your word, a passion for ministry and a love for our community. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

11-30-25 Gracious and loving God, We come before You today with grateful hearts. After a long year of searching, waiting, and trusting, You have faithfully guided us to this moment. We thank You for leading our call committee with patience, wisdom, and unity throughout this journey. We praise You for Pastor Lorenzo and Anastasia whom you have called to serve among us. Bless them as they prepare to begin this new chapter. Strengthen them with Your Spirit, fill them with joy in ministry, and grant them peace in this time of transition. Lord, continue to shape us as a congregation to be welcoming, supportive, and eager to partner in Your mission. Let this new beginning be rooted in Your Word, centered on Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We place our future in Your hands with confidence and hope, trusting in Your goodness and Your timing. Thank You for hearing our prayers and providing for our needs. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Call Committee Checklist for seeking a Pastor:

- ✗ At the time of learned pastoral vacancy, the congregation council arranges for regular supply or interim, working with the Mission District dean.
- ✗ Form a call committee in accordance with congregational constitution – uneven # of persons with a cross-section of the congregation is helpful-elect Chair of the Committee.
- ✗ Call Committee downloads NALC Call Process Manual for call committee members.
- ✗ Call Committee chair contacts the NALC Call Process Coordinator to schedule a conference call for orientation/training.
Met on September 15th.
- ✗ Call Committee engages in Bible Study in the Call Process Manual.
Meeting on Wednesdays at 6:45pm.
- ✗ Call Committee chair will contact Mission District dean to arrange and complete The Congregational Workshop in preparation for the Call Process.
- ✗ Chair contacts their Mission District dean to arrange and complete the Congregational Workshop – November 2, 9am-2:00/2:30pm.
- ✗ Call Committee completes the Congregational Profile and emails it to NALC Call Process.
- ✗ Call Committee completes the Congregational Profile and video to the NALC website.
- ✗ Call Committee develops list of ministry questions to be asked in full interviews.

Call Committee and Council have interviewed a candidate... more details to come as soon as possible.



Ministries in Action

	December 7 th	December 14 th	December 21 st	December 24 th	December 28 th
Lector	Richard Yocum	Marsha Jackson	Carly Craft	Elanor Roeger	Council
Ushers	Ken Frame & Richard Yocum	Dave Krites & Dave Clift	Ken Frame & Chad Sterner	Jon Schmidt & Maeson Roode	Jim Kantner & Steve Stienecker
Worship Assistant	Jon Schmidt	Hilary Roeger	Deanna Ronan	Makayla Frame	Susan Miller
Musician	Karen Luginbuhl	Recordings	Recordings	Darla Frame	Darla Frame
Preacher	Vicar Michelle Kouse	Pastor Bill Schultz	Vicar Michelle Kouse	Vicar Michelle Kouse	Council
Greeter	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Needed</i>
Acolyte	Jacob Schlosser	Amelia Roeger	Kaidence Schmidt	Nolan Roode	Vivian Fisher
Christ Candle	Molly & Matt Craft Family	Hilary, Mike, Amelia & Elanor Roeger	Carlene Koch & Diane Hollingsworth	Georgeann & Steve Stienecker	---

Altar Guild for December: Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame

Fellowship Cleanup for December: Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame

The Word of God

Sunday	1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel
December 7 th	Isaiah 11: 1-10	Psalm 72: 1-7	Romans 15: 4-13	Matthew 3: 1-12
December 14 th	Isaiah 35: 1-10	Psalm 146	James 5: 7-11	Matthew 11: 2-15
December 21 st	Isaiah 7: 10-17	Psalm 24	Romans 1: 1-7	Matthew 1: 18-25
December 24 th	Isaiah 9: 2-7	Psalm 97	1 John 4: 7-16	Matthew 1: 18-25
December 28 th	Council – Songs & Readings			
January 4 th	1 Kings 3:4-15	Psalm 119: 97-104	Ephesians 1: 3-14	Luke 2: 40-52
January 11 th	Isaiah 42: 1-9	Psalm 29	Romans 6: 1-11	Matthew 3: 13-17
January 18 th	Isaiah 49: 1-7	Psalm 40: 1-11	1 Corinthians 1: 1-9	John 1: 29-42a
January 25 th	Isaiah 9: 1-4	Psalm 27: 1-9	1 Corinthians 1: 10-18	Matthew 4: 12-25

FELC News and Events...



Personal contact information...if there has been a change in your family's contact information, please contact the church office by email at wapakelc@bright.net or by calling the office at 419-738-3911.

Education/Worship Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship in person and online at www.myfelc.org

Quilting Group will meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10am in the parlor. If you would like to join this group or have questions, please contact Darla Frame.

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 December 18th & 25th and January 1st.

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.

Collection for Auglaize County 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. 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 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.

Men's Night 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!

Ladies' Night is paused until January, No December Ladies' Night. Stay tuned for January details.

Christmas Caroling 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.

Christmas Eve/Candlelight Service with Communion will be at 8:00pm on December 24th. Come early for the joyous sounds of those blessing us with their Christmas selections before worship service. Be sure to pick up your poinsettias after service that you ordered.

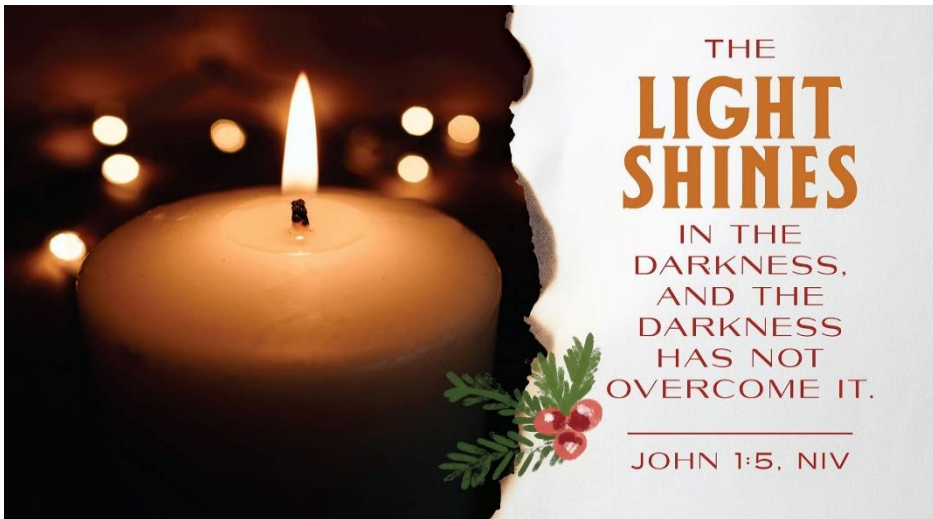
Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, December 21st. Please stay after worship service so we can discuss budget and any other information that needs to be discussed. 😊

Angel Tree tags are hung. We are supporting 2 families this year. One through the Crisis Center and another a local family in the community. **Unwrapped gifts are due back to the church by December 14th.** 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.

Tea Party-Hometown Holidays We will be hosting the Tea Party for Hometown Holidays again this year **on December 6th**. Brenda will need help cleaning up afterwards. If you are interested and able, please let Brenda know.

Christmas Eve Special Music Do you like playing an instrument or singing? Contact Darla Frame if you are interested in **playing or singing before Christmas Eve Worship Service at 8:00pm.**

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.



Mid-Week Advent Services

will be held in the chapel;
Theme: From Darkness to Light –
The Promise Unfolding.

Join us for a **shorten service at 6:30pm** on
December 3rd – Wonderful Counselor
December 10th – Mighty God
December 17th – Everlasting Father

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
full worship service at 8pm
December 24th – Prince of Peace



FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

107 WEST MECHANIC ST. WAPAKONETA, OHIO 45895-1997

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www.myfelc.org

November 25, 2025

To First English Congregation,

We are pleased to inform you that Pastor Lorenzo Thomas has been recommended by our call committee and church council, as a candidate to become our part-time pastor. He led our services on October 5 and 12 which is on our website under our Facebook page, if you would like to listen to his sermons.

A meet and greet lunch will be held with Pastor Lorenzo and his wife, Anastasia, along with Michelle Kouse on Saturday, December 13 at 11:30 in the fellowship hall of First English. Please come with any questions for them and discuss with them the vision for our church.

Please join us for this gathering as we seek guidance in this very important decision. In blessings to you all!

Brenda Shoffstall
Council President

NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

~ December 2025 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*NO Confirmation Classes BUT Advent Services must be attended.	1	2 6:00pm Meet & Greet Meeting	3 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 5:45pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Advent Service 7:15pm Ladies' Choir	4 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	5 9-11:30 GSH	6 8:00am Hometown Holidays-Tea Party
7 2 nd Sunday of Advent 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship-Bell Choir Vicar Michelle Kouse Acolyte-Jacob Schlosser	8 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6pm Miracle Meal @ Aug. Co. Fairgrounds	9	10 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6:30pm Advent Service	11 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night at Whaling Knife	12 9-11:30 GSH	13 9-11:30 GSH 11:30am Meet & Greet
14 3 rd Sunday of Advent 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Pastor Bill Schultz Acolyte-Amelia Roeger 5:30pm Christmas Caroling	15 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	16	17 10am Quilting 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 5:45pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Advent Service 7:15pm Ladies' Choir	18 9-11:30 GSH No Loaves & Fishes	19 9-11:30 GSH	20 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH
21 4 th Sunday of Advent 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Vicar Michelle Kouse Acolyte-Kaidence Schmidt Congregational Meeting Council Meeting	22 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class NO SCHOOL	23 NO SCHOOL	24 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class NO SCHOOL 8pm Christmas Eve Service: Vicar Michelle Kouse, Reader-Elanor Roeger Acolyte-Nolan Roode Ladies' Choir 	25 Office Closed 9-11:30 GSH No Loaves & Fishes NO SCHOOL  Merry Christmas!	26 Office Closed 9-11:30 GSH NO SCHOOL	27 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH
28 1 st Sunday after Christmas 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Council – Songs & Readings Acolyte-Vivian Fisher	29 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class NO SCHOOL January info for Newsletter DUE	30 NO SCHOOL	31 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class NO SCHOOL Happy New Year's Eve!!  January Newsletter available			

~ January 2026 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 OFFICE CLOSED 9-11:30 GSH NO Loaves & Fishes Happy New Year's Day!! NO SCHOOL	2 9-11:30 GSH NO SCHOOL	3 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH
4 2 nd Sunday after Christmas 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Jennie Grundey Acolyte-Faith Whetstone	5 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6pm Book Club	6	7 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6pm Confirmation Class 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Ladies' Choir	8 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night at	9 9-11:30 GSH <div> Youth Quake- Cincinnati, OH </div>	10 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH
11 Baptism of Our Lord 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Bell Choir Vicar Michelle Kouse <div> Youth Quake- Cincinnati, OH </div>	12 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	13 1:30pm Bingo at The Gardens	14 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6pm Confirmation Class	15 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	16 9-11:30 GSH	17 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH
18 2 nd Sunday after Epiphany 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Ladies' Choir Vicar Michelle Kouse Acolyte-Jacob Schlosser Council Meeting	19 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	20 6:00pm Ladies' Night at	21 10am Quilting 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6pm Confirmation Class 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Ladies' Choir	22 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	23 9-11:30 GSH	24 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH
25 3 rd Sunday after Epiphany 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Vicar Michelle Kouse Acolyte-Amelia Roeger	26 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class February Newsletter info DUE!	27	28 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6pm Confirmation Class 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Ladies' Choir	29 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	30 9-11:30 GSH February Newsletter Available	31 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH

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