

# First English Lutheran Church

Wapakoneta, Ohio



Our JANUARY 2026 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](http://www.myfelc.org) E-Mail Address: [wapakelc@bright.net](mailto:wapakelc@bright.net)

### **Meet our staff...**

#### **Office Administrator**

Hilary Roeger.....[wapakelc@bright.net](mailto:wapakelc@bright.net) ..... 419-738-3911

#### **Bookkeeper**

Anderson Accounting.....[felc.finance@myfelc.org](mailto:felc.finance@myfelc.org) ..... 419-738-3911

#### **Financial Secretary**

Marsha Jackson .....[felc.finance@myfelc.org](mailto:felc.finance@myfelc.org) ..... 419-738-3911

#### **Music Director**

Darla Frame.....[darlaframe@gmail.com](mailto:darlaframe@gmail.com)..... 419-234-3283

#### **Choir Directors**

Susan Miller, Adult.....[sugartime@bright.net](mailto:sugartime@bright.net) ..... 567-356-1844

Darla Frame, Bells .....[darlaframe@gmail.com](mailto:darlaframe@gmail.com)..... 419-234-3283

#### **Church Council**

Brenda Shoffstall .....[shoffstall08@yahoo.com](mailto:shoffstall08@yahoo.com) ..... 419-233-1956

Richard Yocum .....[richiyocum@yahoo.com](mailto:richiyocum@yahoo.com) ..... 419-234-8919

Georgeann Stienecker...[nksoccer@nktelco.net](mailto:nksoccer@nktelco.net) ..... 419-305-5066

Jon Schmidt.....[ohthreeohsix@gmail.com](mailto:ohthreeohsix@gmail.com) ..... 419-231-3284

Darla Frame.....[darlaframe@gmail.com](mailto:darlaframe@gmail.com)..... 419-234-3283

Catherine Fisher .....[wapakelc@bright.net](mailto:wapakelc@bright.net) ..... 419-738-3911

Chris Nagel.....[mnagel@ohiolink.net](mailto:mnagel@ohiolink.net) ..... 419-657-2554

Char Curry.....[char.curry@bright.net](mailto:char.curry@bright.net) ..... 419-738-4392

#### **Audio/Visual Specialist**

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

#### **Audio/Visual Staff**

Jeff Ritchie.....[jritchie002@woh.rr.com](mailto:jritchie002@woh.rr.com) ..... 419-296-3794

Noah Kirby.....[noah.w.kirby@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

Council met for the monthly meeting after the congregational meeting. Everyone was present along with Vicar Michelle and Paula Anderson.

Once Char gave a nice end-of-year devotion, we discussed at great length our treasurer report, trying to find ways to make them more understandable and easier to compile. Vicar Michelle's background, as treasure for her conference, helped to work out some new options with Paula for the new year.

We thanked them both for their input.

We then approved the financial and secretary reports.

We talked briefly about the lack of committee reports and chairs for the committees so we will be working on that next year.

We discussed the Meet & Greet on Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup>. We were very happy with the turnout and enjoyed hearing more from Pastor Lorenzo and Vicar Michelle.

Brenda explained the next steps in the call process and possible installation.

We then chose our reading assignments for lessons and carols for Sunday, Dec 28<sup>th</sup>.

In new Business, we welcomed Catherine Fisher to council and had Vicar Michelle take over the meeting for election of officers.

Brenda Shoffstall was nominated and accepted for the position of President. Richard

Yocum was nominated and accepted for the position of Vice-president.

Char Curry was elected for the Secretary position.

We raised the pay for Blake Fuerst for our snow removal and mowing for 2026. He has done a wonderful job for our church and even though he moved farther away, still wants to help us out.

The congregational letter for voting to call Pastor Lorenzo in January was approved.

The Angel tree mission was such a success that we had extra money and decided it would be split between 2 of our members that can use extra help. Thank you everyone for helping to allow these families to have a Merry Christmas.

We then discussed our property insurance needing to be renewed for another 3-year term which will result in our premium going up. We will be looking at other companies to compare costs.

We then adjourned the meeting.

We all want to wish everyone a Happy New Year and to thank you for your generosity and support for First English.

Church Council

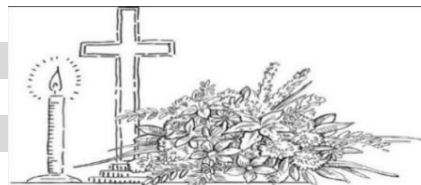
## FELC Committees, Chairpersons, Council Liaisons

Committee	Chairperson	Liaison
Building & Property	Brenda Shoffstall	
Christian Education/Youth		Jon Schmidt
Evangelism		
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 JANUARY:

January 4 <sup>th</sup>	--Available--*
January 11 <sup>th</sup>	--Available--*
January 18 <sup>th</sup>	--Available--*
January 25 <sup>th</sup>	--Available--*



### Altar Candles for the month of JANUARY:

\*The **Altar Candles** are given to the Glory of God.

**\*A new calendar has been hung, 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	\$855.00
December	Loaves & Fishes	\$224.11

## 2026 Noisy Offerings

Month	Recipient	Amount Collected
January	Kingdom Harvest Ministries	



## 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
12/21/2025	20	72	\$2,485.50	\$35.00
12/24/2025	5	113	\$713.00	\$0.00
12/28/2025	15	49	\$8,090.00	\$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, Wanda Nuss, Dave Krites, 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.**

## Ministries in Action

	January 4 <sup>th</sup>	January 11 <sup>th</sup>	January 18 <sup>th</sup>	January 25 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Lector</b>	Richard Yocum	Chris Nagel	Nancy Heffner	Carly Craft
<b>Ushers</b>	Ken Frame & Richard Yocum	Dave Krites & Dave Clift	Ken Frame & Chad Sterner	Jon Schmidt & Maeson Roode
<b>Worship Assistant</b>	Marsha Jackson	Darla Frame	Jon Schmidt	Hilary Roeger
<b>Musician</b>	Karen Luginbuhl	Recordings	Darla Frame	Susan Miller
<b>Preacher</b>	Jennie Grundey	Vicar Michelle Kouse	Vicar Michelle Kouse	Vicar Michelle Kouse
<b>Greeter</b>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Needed</i>
<b>Acolyte</b>	Faith Whetstone	Youth Quake-None	Jacob Schlosser	Amelia Roeger

**Altar Guild for January: Sara Young & Brenda Shoffstall**

**Fellowship Cleanup for January: Chris Nagel & Brenda Shoffstall**

## The Word of God

Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Psalms	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Gospel
January 4 <sup>th</sup>	1 Kings 3:4-15	Psalms 119: 97-104	Ephesians 1: 3-14	Luke 2: 40-52
January 11 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 42: 1-9	Psalms 29	Romans 6: 1-11	Matthew 3: 13-17
January 18 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 49: 1-7	Psalms 40: 1-11	1 Corinthians 1: 1-9	John 1: 29-42a
January 25 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 9: 1-4	Psalms 27: 1-9	1 Corinthians 1: 10-18	Matthew 4: 12-25
February 1 <sup>st</sup>	Micah 6: 1-8	Psalms 15	1 Corinthians 1: 18-31	Matthew 5: 1-12
February 8 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 58: 3-9a	Psalms 112: 1-9	1 Corinthians 2: 1-12	Matthew 5: 13-20
February 15 <sup>th</sup>	Exodus 24: 8-18	Psalms 2: 6-12	2 Peter 1: 16-21	Matthew 17: 1-9
February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Gen 3: 1-21	Psalms 32: 1-7	Romans 5: 12-19	Matthew 4: 1-11

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.myfelc.org)

**Quilting Group** will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Noisy Offering for the month of JANUARY: KINGDOM HARVEST MINISTRIES**  
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. January's Items: Canned Pasta, Jello Cups, Kid's snacks, & Hamburger Helper. 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.

**Bookkeeping** Tax statements will be available for pickup at the church in January.

**Men's Night** is scheduled for 6:00pm on Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, at JT's in St. Marys by Krogers. All men are encouraged to come and bring a friend!



**Ladies' Lunch** is scheduled for 11:30am on Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at El Azteca in Wapakoneta, OH. All women are encouraged to come and bring a friend!!

**Youth Quake** is in Cincinnati, OH on January 9-11, 2026! We have 13 youth and 3 adults attending! Please keep youth and adults in your prayers, traveling is always with inclement weather, but we always have such a wonderful time together.

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT CAME TO THE MEET & GREET** on December 13<sup>th</sup> for our part-time pastor candidate, Pastor Lorenzo Thomas; his wife, Anastasia; and our intern, Vicar Michelle Kouse.

**Confirmation Class** will resume on January 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Make sure to bring your materials for class and any sermon notes you took over break/Advent.

**Souper Bowl Gathering** Join us on **February 8<sup>th</sup> after worship** service for fellowship with your church family. Look for fliers around church. Save the date and invite family and friends for great food, wonderful raffles and fun playing 9-Square!

**ASH Wednesday** will be on February 18<sup>th</sup>. More details to come.

**Christmas Decorations** January 4<sup>th</sup>, after worship service, we will be taking down our beautiful Christmas decorations. We are asking for everyone who can stay and help us. Thank you and have a very Happy New year to all!

**THANK YOU Notes:**

*Thank you for coming to sing  
carols to me, and for the  
gift you left. It brightened  
my evening.*

*Mary Ann Thomas*

Thank you First English Lutheran Church for all of the preparation and support to help us make the 30<sup>th</sup> year of the Miracle Meal a complete success. We had around 425 in attendance. AGAIN, WE SAY THANK YOU. ~Miracle Meal

## ~ January 2026 ~

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

## ~ February 2026 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship – Bell Choir Vicar Michelle Kouse Acolyte-Kaidence Schmidt	<b>2</b> 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6pm Confirmation Class	<b>5</b> 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	<b>6</b> 9-11:30 GSH	<b>7</b> 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH
<b>8</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Vicar Michelle Kouse Acolyte-Nolan Roode  Join us for <b>Souper Bowl Gathering</b> In Fellowship Hall After Worship Service	<b>9</b> 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6pm Confirmation Class 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Ladies' Choir	<b>12</b> 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night at	<b>13</b> 9-11:30 GSH	<b>14</b> 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH  <b>Happy Valentine's Day!</b> God Loves You! 
<b>15</b> Transfiguration of Our Lord 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship-Ladies' Choir Acolyte-Vivian Fisher  Council Meeting	<b>16</b> 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class  <b>WCS NO SCHOOL</b> President's Day!	<b>17</b> 6:00pm Ladies' Night at	<b>18</b> 10am Quilting 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class  6pm <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>19</b> 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	<b>20</b> 9-11:30 GSH	<b>21</b> 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH
<b>22</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Acolyte-Faith Whetstone	<b>23</b> 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class  <b>March info for Newsletter DUE</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6pm Confirmation Class 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Ladies' Choir	<b>26</b> 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	<b>27</b> 9-11:30 GSH  <b>March Newsletter available</b>	<b>28</b> 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH

**First English Lutheran Church  
107 West Mechanic St.  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895**