

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



“Here is the
Lamb of God who
takes away the
sin of the world!”

John 1:29, NRSV

2nd Sunday after Epiphany
January 18, 2026

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 Mark & Chris Nagel in honor of the birthdays this month of Mark,
son, Brian and memory of Chris' dad John Zuber.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God.

MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual.....	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector.....	Nancy Heffner
Ushers	Ken Frame & Chad Sterner
Worship Assistant	Jon Schmidt
Musician	Darla Frame
Pastor	Vicar Michelle Kouse
Greeter	Needed
Acolyte.....	Jacob Schlosser
Altar Guild	Brenda Shoffstall & Sara Young
Fellowship Cleanup.....	Brenda Shoffstall & Chris Nagel

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

Awesome God by Richard Mullins arr Jay Rouse

*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

O Day Full of Grace (ELW 627 vs 1, 2, 5)

*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**

This is the Feast (ELW p. 187)

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

LADIES' CHOIR

Do Lord, Remember Me arr Mary McDonald

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Vicar Michelle Kouse

Word

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

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 49:1-7

A reading from Isaiah. ¹ Listen to me, O coastlands; pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born; while I was in my mother's womb he named me. ² He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. ³ And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." ⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord and my reward with my God." ⁵ And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength— ⁶ he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." ⁷ Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up; princes, and they shall prostrate

themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

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

PSALM: 40: 1-11

- ¹ I waited patiently for the Lord,
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
- ² **He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.**
- ³ He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God;
many shall see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.
- ⁴ **Happy are those who make the Lord their trust,
who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.**
- ⁵ You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your
thoughts towards us; none can be compare with you. Were I to proclaim and
tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.
- ⁶ **Sacrifice and offering you do not desire;
but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you
have not required.**
- ⁷ Then I said, “Here I am;
In the scroll of the book it is written of me:
- ⁸ **‘I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart.’ ”**
- ⁹ I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation;
see, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord.
- ¹⁰ **I have not hidden your saving help within my heart; I have spoken of
your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your
steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.**
- ¹¹ Do not, O Lord, withhold your mercy from me;
let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever.

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9

A reading from 1 Corinthians. ¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, ² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of

God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia (ELW p. 188)

***GOSPEL: JOHN 1:29-42**

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

²⁹The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ³¹I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³²And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God." ³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). ⁴²He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

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

MESSAGE

Vicar Michelle Kouse

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Jeus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult (ELW 696)

***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.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Let us pray that the light of Christ may shine upon the Church, the world, and all people according to their need.

Thank you, Father, for Jesus. Thank you for making him our doorway into your heart. Thank you for making him your dear Lamb, the sacrifice for our sin. Thank you for making him the light of the world, and of our lives.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, cause your Church to preach like John the Baptist. May it always point to Jesus, and say, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." Prune away every program or teaching that does not serve that end. Let Jesus use the Church to draw new disciples to himself, and to shape them into his likeness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make disciples of everyone in this congregation. Give us willing and trust-filled hearts. Help us to use our spiritual gifts to glorify you and build up our community of faith. Make us bold to tell others, "This is the Christ, the Son of the living God." Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless the Church wherever it is persecuted on account of Jesus. By its patient witness, turn its enemies from hatred to repentance. For missionaries throughout the world, for our seminaries, church colleges, and schools, and for all who seek to proclaim the Gospel in word and deed, we also lift our hands, hearts and voices in fervent supplication. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

This weekend, we celebrate the confession of St. Peter, and commemorate the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Thank you for this double witness. Teach us to value one another not based on race, creed, or gender, but because you have created all people in your image and have given your Son as the sacrifice for all our sin. By your Holy Spirit, make the content of our character reflect your will, so that we treat each other with respect, justice, and charity. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Enlighten the minds and purify the hearts of those who take counsel for the nations. Turn them away from the false gods of power, prestige, and ideology, and teach them your ways. Bestow your favor upon our country. Make it a beacon of righteousness, justice and freedom for all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Stoop down, O Lord, and hear the cry of all who are afflicted by suffering or sorrow, 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, Connie Krites, Jeanie Schnell, Kate Cunningham, Tim Cunningham, Judy Fisher, Michelle Kouse, Elaine Carlson, Wanda Nuss, Tom Meyer, Kingdom Harvest Ministries, and WHS-Fellowship of Christian Athletes. And anyone that we name out loud or quietly in our hearts. (Brief silence). Lift them out of their desolation, make their footing sure, and put a new song into their mouths. Restore them to their loved ones, so they may joyfully proclaim your deliverance. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Father, thank you for your servants who have died to us but rest safely in your hand. Sustain us with that same strong and merciful hand. Help us trust and follow Jesus, and to bear his saving love to the world. Keep us close to him, so we are declared guiltless on that day when he is revealed to the world. Make us fit to dwell with him in the glory he shares with you and the Holy Spirit 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 you provide, and for the gifts you share.

OFFERTORY

I Stand in Awe by Mark Altrogge arr Jay Rouse

***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.**

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)

***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. Jesus is extending this invitation and that is His only requirement. The bread and wine we share today has already been consecrated by an ordained pastor for this meal. Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God (ELW p. 191)

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly (ELW 461)

Here I Am, Lord (ELW 574)

This Little Light of Mine (ELW 677)

*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

Arise, Your Light has Come (ELW 314)

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **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, Connie Krites, Jeanie Schnell, Kate Cunningham, Tim Cunningham, Judy Fisher, Michelle Kouse, Elaine Carlson, Wanda Nuss, Tom Meyer, 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 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.

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. January's Items: Canned Pasta, Jello Cups, Kid's snacks, & Hamburger Helper. 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.

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.

2025 Tax Statements 2025 Tax statements available for pickup outside of chapel.

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

Congregational Vote to Call a Pastor We invite you for worship service and we will be having a congregational meeting on January 25, 2026, to vote to call Pastor Lorenzo Thomas. Please join us for this important vote for our congregation. A letter and information has been mailed to all active church members.

MINISTERS for Next Week 1-25-26

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Carly Craft
Ushers	Jon Schmidt & Maeson Roode
Worship Assistant	Hilary Roeger
Musician	Susan Miller
Pastor	Vicar Michelle Kouse
Greeter	Needed
Acolyte	Amelia Roeger
Altar Guild	Brenda Shoffstall & Sara Young
Fellowship Cleanup.....	Brenda Shoffstall & Chris Nagel

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
12/24/2025	5	113	\$713.00	\$0.00
12/28/2025	15	49	\$8,090.00	\$10.00
01/04/2026	17	64	\$2,754.00	\$155.00
01/11/2026	19	52	\$1,963.00	\$55.00

Souper Bowl Gathering Join us on **February 8th 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!

Souper Bowl Luncheon

February 8, 2026

11:30am – 1:00pm

First English Lutheran Church



Meal includes Soup, Sandwich and Dessert!!
Soups: Chicken Noodle, White Chicken Chili, Tomato Tortellini & Chili
Sandwiches: Hot Dogs & Shredded Chicken
Variety of Desserts donated by Fellowship Committee

Join us, bring friends and family!

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sun, Jan 18th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Vicar Michelle Kouse Acolyte-Jacob Schlosser Council Meeting
Mon, Jan 19 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Tues, Jan 20 th	11:30am	Ladies' Lunch at El Azteca in Wapak
Wed, Jan 21 st	10:00am	Quilting
	6:00pm	Confirmation Class Bell Choir
Thurs, Jan 22 nd	7:00pm	Ladies' Choir
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Fri, Jan 23 rd	4:30pm	Community Loaves & Fishes
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sat, Jan 24 th	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sunday, Jan 25th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Vicar Michelle Kouse Acolyte-Amelia Roeger
Congregational Vote to CALL Pastor Lorenzo Thomas		
Mon, Jan 26 th	February Info Due for Newsletter	
Wed, Jan 28 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	6:00pm	Confirmation Class Bell Choir
	7:00pm	Ladies' Choir
Thurs, Jan 29 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Community Loaves & Fishes
Fri, Jan 30 th	February Newsletter Available!	
Sat, Jan 31 st	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	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

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

Bookkeeper

Music Director

Audio-Technology

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

Anderson Accounting

Darla Frame; darlaframe@gmail.com

Dave Curry; 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.*