

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



**"Man shall not live
by bread alone, but
by every word that
proceedeth out of the
mouth of God."**

Matthew 4:4

1st Sunday in Lent
February 22, 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 celebration of birthdays:
their granddaughter, Remi & their daughter-in-law, Lisa.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God
by Marsha Jackson in memory of her grandmother, Flossie.

MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual.....	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector.....	Marsha Jackson
Ushers	Jon Schmidt & Maeson Roode
Worship Assistant	Susan Miller
Musician	Recordings
Pastor	Pastor Lorenzo Thomas
Greeter	Needed
Acolyte	Faith Whetstone
Altar Guild	Amelia Sterner & Catherine Fisher
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

*CONFESSİON AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the \div 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

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer (ELW 618)

*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.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rebecca Van Meter

Word

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

FIRST READING: GENESIS 3:1-21

A reading from Genesis. ¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” ² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

⁸ They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰ He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹ He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹² The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.” ¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.” ¹⁴ The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.” ¹⁶ To the woman he said, “I will greatly increase your pangs in childbirth; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

¹⁷ And to the man he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” ²⁰ The man named his wife Eve because she was the mother of all living. ²¹ And the Lord God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife and clothed them.

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

PSALM: 32: 1-7

1 Happy are those whose transgressions is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

**2 Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

3 While I kept silence, my body wasted away,
through my groaning all day long.

**4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hid my iniquity.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." and you forgave
the guilt of my sin.

**6 Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you at a time of
distress; the rush of mighty waters, shall not reach them.**

7 You are my hiding-place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 5:12-19

A reading from Romans. ¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore, just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Let Your Steadfast Love (ELW p. 189)

*GOSPEL: MATTHEW 4:1-11

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

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ” ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ” ⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ” ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

MESSAGE

Pastor Lorenzo Thomas

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus, Still Lead On (ELW 624)

***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 lift our hearts and voices to the Lord in prayer, that he would be merciful to his people.

Father, thank you for Jesus. Thank you for letting him be tempted just as we are when we're at our weakest! Thank you because he stands with us, and for us. Thank you for causing him to dwell in us, through the worst temptations and struggles we face. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, forgive your Church when it falls into lukewarm worship, wayward teaching, fractured fellowship, stingy charity, and halfhearted witness. Forgive it when it condemns certain sinners, but re-brands its favorite sins as virtue. Help it to stand firm in your Word when it is tempted by sins of faithlessness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Forgive missionaries and all who seek to be your disciples, when their passion for the Gospel cools, or when they become impatient or distracted. Kindle the fire of your Holy Spirit within them, so that they glorify you in all they say and do. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Forgive this congregation when we focus on the speck in another's eye, ignoring the log in our own. Forgive us when we seek our own will, not yours. Forgive us when we boast of ourselves, not the Cross of Christ. Fashion us into the image of Jesus, so others, seeing our good works, glorify you alone.

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

Forgive our military and all first responders when their hearts become hardened by vengeance or hatred. Heal, guide, and strengthen them to act in accordance with your will. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, have mercy on all who are sick, injured, or handicapped; addicted, abused, or abandoned; despairing, frightened, or ashamed; frightened, grieving or dying. Today we pray for Family & Friends of Ike Schnell, 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, Roman Schlegel, Sue Hughes, Dan Havens, Jason Schneider, Jenn Douglas & Baby Bennett, Joyce Brincefield, Norma Jarrells, Jeanie Schnell, Judy Fisher, Michelle Kouse, Elaine Carlson, Wanda Nuss, Tom Meyer, Ryleigh Parks, Todd Sawmiller, Jerry Dicus, Kingdom Harvest Ministries, and WHS-Fellowship of Christian Athletes. And anyone that we name out loud or quietly in our hearts. (Brief silence). Deliver them from the powers of sin, death, and the devil. Restore them to fellowship with all who love them. Renew their faith in you, their Savior and Lord.

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

Father, thank you for showing mercy to all who have died trusting in your promises. Keep us steadfast in faith. Forgive us when we give in to temptation. When the long Lent of this life is complete and the hour of death draws near, let the Cross of Christ sustain us in faith and hope. By his glorious Resurrection, raises us from our tombs. Through the Holy Spirit, breathe your life and love into us forever. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

***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)

***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. Jesus 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

Eat This Bread (ELW 472 x 2)

Thy Holy Wings (ELW 613)

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me (ELW 325)

***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 \pm give you peace. **Amen.**

***SENDING SONG**

A Mighty Fortress is Our God (ELW 504)

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

Date	Views	Attendance	Current Giving	Benevolence
01/25/2026	33	In-Person Service Cancelled		
02/01/2026	23	76	\$19,701.20	\$255.00
02/08/2026	19	76	\$2,154.00	\$75.00
02/15/2026	28	96	\$9,403.00	\$115.00

MINISTERS for Next Week 3-1-26

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Richard Yocum
Ushers	Dave Clift & Richard Yocum
Worship Assistant	Marsha Jackson
Musician	Karen Luginbuhl
Pastor	Pastor Lorenzo Thomas
Greeter	Needed
Acolyte	Nolan Roode
Altar Guild	Marsha Jackson & Char Curry
Fellowship Cleanup	Marsha Jackson & Char Curry

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...

Family & Friends of Ike Schnell, 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, Roman Schlegel, Sue Hughes, Dan Havens, Jason Schneider, Jenn Douglas & Baby Bennett, Joyce Brincefield, Norma Jarrells, Jeanie Schnell, Judy Fisher, Michelle Kouse, Elaine Carlson, Wanda Nuss, Tom Meyer, Ryleigh Parks, Todd Sawmiller, Jerry Dicus, 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 FEBRUARY: LUTHERAN MILITARY

VETERANS & FAMILY 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. **First English will be hosting on March 5th,** anyone that can help with cookies is welcomed; they need LOTS of cookies.

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. February's Items: Taco kits, cake mixes, frosting, chunky soups, soup in a cup, & cooking spray. 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.

Congregational Annual Meeting will be held TODAY, Sunday February 22, 2026. Annual Report was emailed out on February 9th. There are extras in the back of the church.

Lenten Tri-Congregational Worship Services we will be joining St. Mark's Lutheran Church and St. Paul's UCC for our Lenten Services: FELC will also be having **Wednesday Evening Lenten Services on March 11th, 18th & 25th at 6:30pm.**

The annual Wednesday Noon Lenten services, organized by the Wapakoneta Area Ministerial Association (WAMA) will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18. All services will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church, West Pearl street. The theme for the 2026 services is "The Beatitudes: Attitudes of the Heart, Personally and Communally." Ash Wednesday's theme is "Blessed are the poor in spirit...."

Lunch and a time of fellowship will follow each half-hour service. The Noon Lenten services are free and open to the public; all are very welcome. Free will donations will be accepted for WAMA's Voucher Program and for Servants Day.

Those attending the service may enter the church from the west (parking lot) entrance, north (Pearl Street) entrance, or east (Perry Street) entrance. The Blackhoof Street entrance into the parking lot will be closed, and cars should access the parking lot from Benton Street, not Pearl Street.

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sun, Feb 22nd	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Pastor Lorenzo Thomas
		Acolyte-Faith Whetstone
		Congregational Annual Meeting
		Council Meeting
Mon, Feb 23rd		March Newsletter Info Due!
Wed, Feb 25th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	12:00pm	Noon Lenten Lunch/Service @ St. Joe's
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	6:00pm	Confirmation Class
		Bell Choir
	7:00pm	Ladies' Choir
Thurs, Feb 26th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Community Loaves & Fishes
Fri, Feb 27th		March Newsletter Available
Sat, Feb 28th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sun, Mar 1st	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Pastor Lorenzo Thomas
		Acolyte-Nolan Roode
Mon, Mar 2nd	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Wed, Mar 4th		Pastor Lorenzo & Brenda will be out Visiting
	12:00pm	Noon Lenten Lunch/Service @ St. Joe's
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	6:00pm	Confirmation Class (2 hr. class)
Thurs, Mar 5th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Community Loaves & Fishes
		Hosted by First English
Fri, Mar 6th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sat, Mar 7th	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

Pastor

Rev. Lorenzo Thomas;

pastor.lorenzo@myfelc.org; 330-506-6025

Office Administrator

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

Bookkeeper

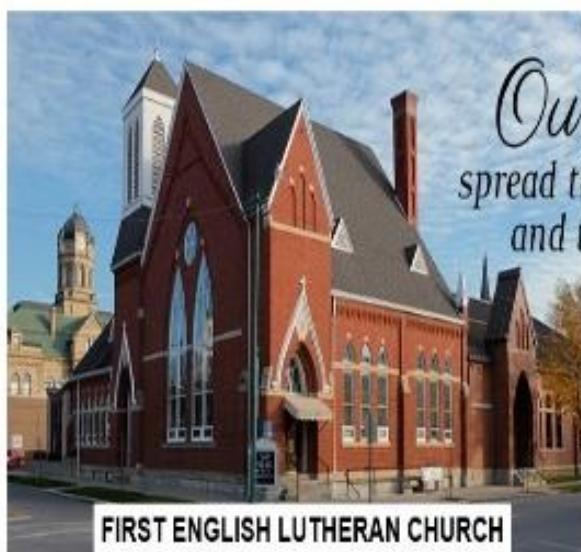
Anderson Accounting

Music Director

Darla Frame; darlaframe@gmail.com

Audio-Technology

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



*Our mission is to
spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ
and to love one another as
He has loved us.*

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Wapakoneta, Ohio