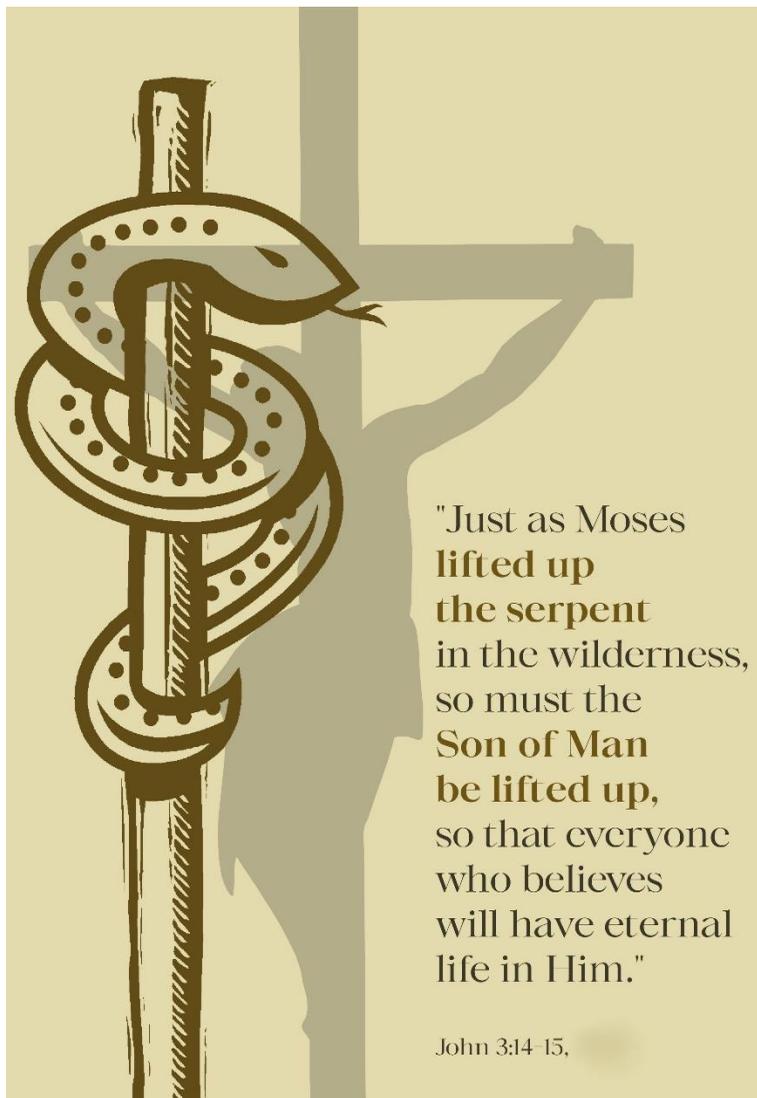


FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



2nd Sunday in Lent
March 1, 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 Dave & Char Curry for answered prayers.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God
by Mark & Chris Nagel in gratitude for His many blessings.

MINISTERS for TODAY

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	Dave & Chris Clift
Acolyte.....	Nolan Roode
Altar Guild.....	Marsha Jackson & Char Curry
Fellowship Cleanup.....	Marsha Jackson & Char Curry

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

Alas, And Did My Savior Bleed by Raymond Haan

*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

God Loved the World (ELW 323)

*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. **O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world 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 12:1-9

A reading from Genesis. ¹ Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵ Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot and all the possessions that they had gathered and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. ⁸ From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east, and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. ⁹ And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

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

PSALM: 121

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
- ² **My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**
- ³ He will not let your foot be moved
he who keeps you will not slumber.
- ⁴ **He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**
- ⁵ the Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
- ⁶ **the sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**
- ⁷ The Lord will keep you from all evil
he will keep your life.
- ⁸ **The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in,
from this time on and forevermore.**

SECOND READING: ROMANS 4:1-8, 13-17

A reading from Romans. ¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. ⁶ So also David speaks of the blessedness of those to whom God reckons righteousness apart from works: ⁷ "Blessed are those whose iniquities are forgiven and whose sins are covered; ⁸ blessed is the one against whom the Lord will not reckon sin."

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶ For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the

presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Let Your Steadfast Love (ELW p. 189)

***GOSPEL: John 3:1-17**

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

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of water and Spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹ "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

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

MESSAGE

Pastor Lorenzo Thomas

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus (ELW 451)

***NICENE CREED**

Let us profess our faith using the words of the Nicene creed.

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

Dearest heavenly Father, we know John 3:16 by heart. Thank you for its truth. You *do* so love the world! You gave your only Son! We have everlasting life, not death! Thank you for your love. By your Spirit, let our lives reflect that love – to you, and to people who don't yet know your love or believe your Word. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let the wind of your Spirit blow through your Church. Breathe your life and love through it, to revive everyone who is wounded and dying from the assaults of the sin, death, and the devil. Make the Church your “wounded healer,” able to draw broken and sinful people close to Jesus. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Keep watch over our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world when they cry to you for help. Preserve them from every evil. Grant repentance, forgiveness, and new life to their tormentors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Nicodemus, a teacher in Israel, needed the challenge, wisdom, and words of life that only Jesus could give. Grant that all who seek to be pastors, teachers, and theologians should always sit at Jesus' feet. Fill them with his Spirit. Make them truth-filled teachers and trustworthy guides to everyone in their care. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Fill this congregation with the Holy Spirit, so that day by day, our hearts, minds, words, and works are reborn as instruments of your will. Use us to bring your redeeming love to those who need it most. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for travelers, immigrants, and refugees. Protect them from cruel traffickers, false promises, and deadly dangers. We also pray for those who strive to keep our nation safe from those who abuse our hospitality and endanger the innocent. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Teach and guide the leaders of all nations, especially our own. Help them prefer integrity and wisdom to the allure of power or popularity. Make them watchful and protective toward those entrusted to their care. Guide them in paths of justice and righteousness and help us all to walk in those paths.

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

Be the shield and strength of those who risk their lives on our behalf. Do not let their foot be moved. Deliver them from evil. Use them to bring safety and help in dangerous situations. Restore them to their loved ones when their task is done. Grant honor to the fallen, healing to the wounded, and peace to all.

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

Watch over everyone who endures pain, sorrow, fear, doubt, loneliness, or despair, including Family & Friends 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, Bennett Douglas, 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). Be their shade and shelter. Give hope to their hearts, health to their bodies, confidence to their minds, and faith to their souls.

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

Heavenly Father, thank you for embracing our beloved dead in your everlasting arms. Keep us steadfast in faith. Guide us through this “barren land.” Feed us with the Bread of Heaven. Be our strength and shield. When we tread the verge of Jordan, bid our anxious fears subside. By the Cross of Jesus, land us safe on Canaan’s side. Fill us with songs and praises that, with all the redeemed, we sing to you 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

Give Me Jesus by W. Walker

***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**

Lift High the Cross (ELW 660)

***DISMISSAL**

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

MINISTERS for Next Week 3-8-26

Audio/Visual Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
 Lector Sandy Brading
 Ushers Dave Krites & Dave Clift
 Worship Assistant Jon Schmidt
 Musician Greg Tabler
 Pastor Pastor Lorenzo Thomas
 Greeter Dave & Chris Clift
 Acolyte Kaidence Schmidt
 Altar Guild Marsha Jackson & Char Curry
 Fellowship Cleanup Marsha Jackson & Char Curry

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
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
02/22/2026	21	71	\$2,941.00	\$465.00

OUR PRAYER CORNER

Those who would love a visit or a card...

The Gardens	Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz
Shawnee Manor	Judy Kentner
Homebound	Marty Rostorfer, Eloise Katterhenry, Marsha Henderson, Judy Metz

We especially remember in our prayers...

Family & Friends of 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, Bennett Douglas, 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 MARCH: CAMP KNO-KOMA 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. March Items-Taco kits, Salsa, Brownie mix, cooking soups & Pringles. 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.

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, Mar 1st	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Pastor Lorenzo Thomas Acolyte-Nolan Rode
Mon, Mar 2 nd	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Wed, Mar 4 th	12:00pm	Noon Lenten Lunch/Service @ St. Joe's
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	6:00pm	Confirmation Class (2 hr. class)
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Thurs, Mar 5 th	4:30pm	Community Loaves & Fishes Hosted by First English
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Fri, Mar 6 th	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
Sat, Mar 7 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sun, Mar 8th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Pastor Lorenzo Thomas Acolyte-Kaidence Schmidt
Mon, Mar 9 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Tues, Mar 10 th	1:30pm	Bingo at the Gardens
Wed, Mar 11th	12:00pm	Noon Lenten Lunch/Service @ St. Joe's FELC Leading Service
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	6:30pm	Mid-Week Evening Lent Service
Thurs, Mar 12 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Community Loaves & Fishes
	6:00pm	Men's Night at LaNeta
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Fri, Mar 13 th	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
Sat, Mar 14 th	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

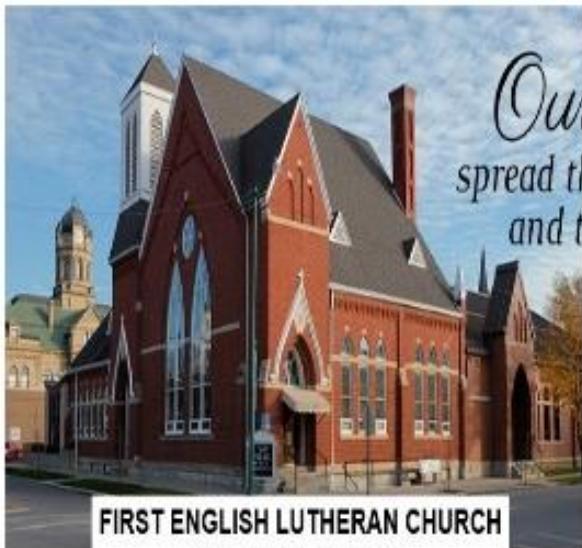
Anderson Accounting

Music Director

Darla Frame; darlaframe@gmail.com

Audio-Technology

Dave Curry; dicy@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.*