

# First English Lutheran Church

Wapakoneta, Ohio



Our MARCH 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

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

### Meet our staff...

#### Pastor

Pastor Lorenzo Thomas..[pastor.lorenzo@myfelc.org](mailto:pastor.lorenzo@myfelc.org) ..... 330-506-6025

#### 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

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

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

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

## FEBRUARY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

Council met after the congregational meeting on February 22, 2026. Richard gave an enlightening prayer to begin the meeting. Pastor Lorenzo came into the meeting before they left to get home with the snowy weather.

Financial reports and the secretary's minutes from last month, many meetings were reviewed and approved.

We reassigned some council liaisons to several committees and talked about Christian Ed meeting that was held on January 26. Char Curry will be chair of Staff Support, Hilary Roeger will be chair of Christian Ed, Georgeann Stienecker will be chair of Finance and Brenda Shoffstall will be Chair of Evangelism and Social Ministry. We all feel encouraged with revitalizing our committees.

We talked about looking at the constitution to add a few amendments in the next couple of months.

We approved memberships of Brian Fisher and Pastor Lorenzo and Anastasia Thomas.

Council approved the motion of offering Gods Storehouse to make First English their permanent home. We really hope they accept our offer as it is a great mission and along with our hosting Loaves and Fishes here, we would be fulfilling our mission statement. More news on that later.

On May 27, Grace Lutheran and Trinity will be holding a kids against hunger in Jackson Center again and First English will be helping to sponsor 2000 meals for the event and putting together a team to help pack the meals.

Our next meeting will be March 29 @ 9:00am

Thank you everyone for really showing up and helping to keep our church thriving.  
Church Council

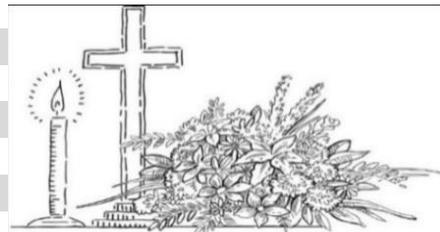
## FELC Committees, Chairpersons, Council Liaisons

Committee	Chairperson	Liaison
Building & Property	Brenda Shoffstall	Richard Yocum
Christian Education/Youth	Hilary Roeger	Jon Schmidt
Evangelism	Brenda Shoffstall	Catherine Fisher
Finance/Stewardship	Georgeann Stienecker	Georgeann Stienecker
Life & Fellowship	Brenda Shoffstall	Darla Frame
Staff Support	Char Curry	Char Curry
Stewardship	Meets with Finance	Brenda Shoffstall
Worship & Music	Darla Frame	Chris Nagel

## Flowers and Candles

### Altar Flowers for the month of MARCH:

March 1 <sup>st</sup>	Chris Nagel
March 8 <sup>th</sup>	--Available--*
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	--Available--*
March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Sara Young
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	Amelia Sterner



### Altar Candles for the month of MARCH:

The **Altar Candles** are given to the Glory of God  
by Dave & Char Curry for answered prayers.

**\*A new calendar has been hung, please  
consider signing up for 2026.**

# 2026 Noisy Offerings

Month	Recipient	Amount Collected
January	Kingdom Harvest Ministries	\$127.00
February	Lutheran Military Veterans & Family Ministries	\$415.00
March	Camp KNO-KOMA	



This camp was started by Frank Heffner's brother, Dr. George Heffner, 50 years ago for Diabetic children. Located in West Virginia.

## 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	Betty Hague, 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 Ike Schnell, 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, 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.*

## Ministries in Action

	March 1 <sup>st</sup>	March 8 <sup>th</sup>	March 15 <sup>th</sup>	March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	March 29 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Lector</b>	Richard Yocum	Sandy Brading	Georgeann Stienecker	Chris Nagel	Nancy Heffner
<b>Ushers</b>	Dave Clift & Richard Yocum	Dave Krites & Dave Clift	Ken Frame & Chad Sterner	Jon Schmidt & Maeson Roode	Steve Stienecker & Jim Kantner
<b>Worship Assistant</b>	Marsha Jackson	Jon Schmidt	Darla Frame	Ken Frame	Marsha Jackson
<b>Musician</b>	Karen Luginbuhl	Greg Tabler	Recordings	Recordings	Darla Frame
<b>Preacher</b>	Pastor Lorenzo Thomas	Pastor Lorenzo Thomas	Pastor Lorenzo Thomas	Pastor Lorenzo Thomas	Vicar Michelle Kouse
<b>Greeter</b>	Dave & Chris Clift	Dave & Chris Clift	Dave & Chris Clift	Dave & Chris Clift	<i>Needed</i>
<b>Acolyte</b>	Nolan Roode	Kaidence Schmidt	Amelia Roeger	Vivian Fisher	Faith Whetstone

**Altar Guild for March: Marsha Jackson & Char Curry**

**Fellowship Cleanup for March: Marsha Jackson & Char Curry**

## The Word of God

Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Psalm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Gospel
March 1 <sup>st</sup>	Genesis 12: 1-9	Psalm 121	Romans 4: 1-8, 13-17	John 3: 1-17
March 8 <sup>th</sup>	Exodus 17: 1-7	Psalm 95: 1-9	Romans 5: 1-8	John 4: 5-26
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 42: 14-21	Psalm 142	Ephesians 5: 8-14	John 9: 1-41
March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Ezekiel 37: 1-14	Psalm 130	Romans 8: 1-11	John 11: 1-45
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 50: 4-9a	Psalm 118: 19-29	Philippians 2: 5-11	Matthew 26:1 – 27:66
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 16	Colossians 3:1-4	Matthew 28:1-10
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Acts 5:29-42	Psalm 148	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Psalm 116:1-14	1 Peter 1:17-25	Luke 24:13-35
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10

## 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.

**First English will be hosting on March 5<sup>th</sup>**, anyone that can help with cookies is welcomed; they need LOTS of cookies.

**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.

**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: March Items-Taco kits, Salsa, Brownie mix, cooking soups & Pringles. 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.

**Bingo** at The Gardens in Wapakoneta at 1:30pm on the second Tuesday of the month. All are welcome to join and help!

**Men's Night** is scheduled for 6:00pm on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, at La Neta in Wapakoneta. All men are encouraged to come and bring a friend!

**Ladies' Lunch** is scheduled for 11:30am on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at Main Street Station in New Knoxville. All women are encouraged to come and bring a friend!!

**9-Square Monthly** will be a time for Middle/High Schoolers to come together and play 9-Square while learning about God's word. We encourage youth to invite friends from other churches, school, dance class, sports teammates and any other place they feel called to invite someone. **We will meet once a month, 1pm-2:30pm, see flyer for all dates.** We will have a 15-minute Bible Time to learn about God's Love & Good News. Adults are also welcome to join! No need to RSVP, just come! Any questions, contact office/Hilary.

**Easter Celebration with Luncheon & Egg Hunt** on Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> following worship service in the Fellowship Hall. The Luncheon will be a carry-in meal, the fellowship committee will provide the meat. There will be Bible Time, 9-Square, & \*Egg Hunt. Please make sure to sign up for celebration, clipboards will be passed around at church.

**Easter Flower Order Sheet** We will be ordering flowers for Easter Sunday! Order form is at the back of newsletter. **Orders are due by March 22<sup>nd</sup>** to Georgeann or to the office. There are four different types to choose from, please consider ordering to help make Easter Sunday a beautiful, flowery service. Make sure you take flowers with you after Easter service.



**St. Marys Memorial High School's 2026 Franklin B. Walter All-Scholastic Award Recipient**

**(2-18-26)** Senior Carly Craft is the St. Marys Memorial High School's 2026 Franklin B. Walter All-Scholastic Award recipient.

Carly was selected from an outstanding group of seniors through a selection process. She will be honored at the county banquet this April and will represent MHS as our nominee, competing with students from other Auglaize County schools for the opportunity to represent the county at the state level through the Ohio ESC Association.

**The Franklin B. Walter All-Scholastic Award recognizes outstanding high school seniors in Ohio.** Established in 1989, this prestigious award honors one senior from each of Ohio's eighty-eight counties for their academic achievements and contributions to their schools and communities. The award is named after Dr. Franklin B. Walter, who served as Ohio's State Superintendent of Education from 1977 to 1991, and exemplified a commitment to improving education in the state.

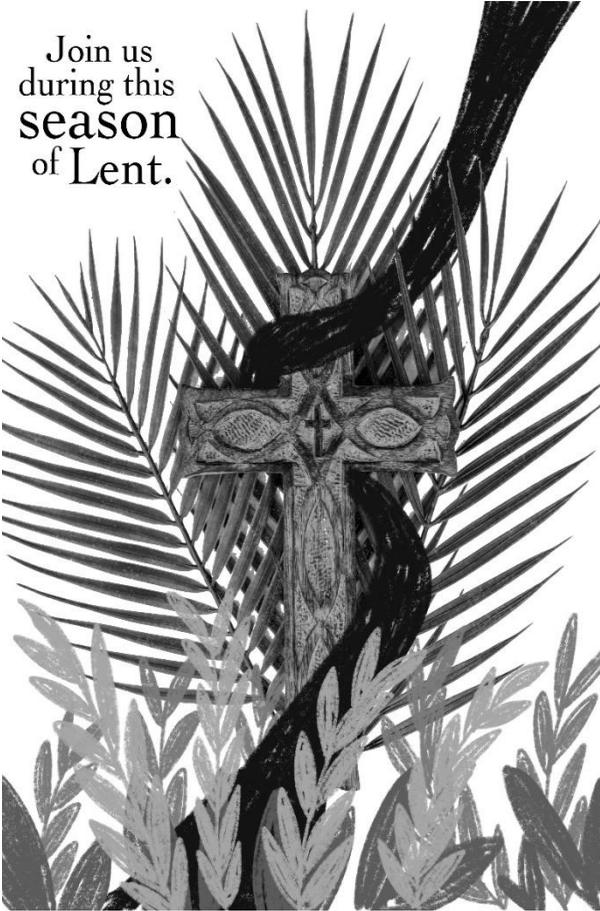
## Lenten Tri-Congregational Worship Services

Join us  
during this  
season  
of Lent.

We will be joining St. Mark's Lutheran Church and St. Paul's UCC for our Lenten Services:

**Maundy Thursday** will be on **April 2<sup>nd</sup> at St. Mark's Lutheran Church** with St. Paul's preaching **at 7pm**. Readings will be Exodus 12: 1-4, 11-14; Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26; John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

**Good Friday** will be on **April 3<sup>rd</sup> at First English Lutheran Church** with St. Mark's preaching **at 7pm**. Readings will be Isaiah 52: 13 – 53: 12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10: 16-25; John 18: 1 – 19: 42



FELC will also be having  
**Wednesday Evening Lenten Services on  
March 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.**

# FELC Easter Celebration on March 29<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday!

Following worship service, join us  
in the Fellowship Hall  
for Luncheon, Bible Time, 9-Square &  
\*Easter Egg Hunt!

There also will be an  
Easter Bunny hopping down the bunny trail!



\*Egg Hunt for youth 10yrs & younger

## 9-Square Monthly Schedule

Invite friends to come and play and  
for a short bible time.

Once a month at FELC, 1pm-2:30pm.  
Come when you can and invite friends each month to join us!  
Geared for Middle & High School aged youth, adults welcome.

Save these dates so you don't miss out!

March 15<sup>th</sup> • April 19<sup>th</sup> • May 3<sup>rd</sup> • June 7<sup>th</sup> • July 19<sup>th</sup>

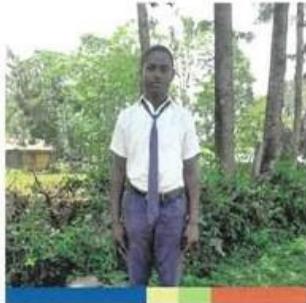
August 16<sup>th</sup> • September 13<sup>th</sup> • October 18<sup>th</sup>

November 15<sup>th</sup> • December 13<sup>th</sup>



## CONGRATULATIONS TO PAUL!!

**Paul did it!**  
Let the  
celebration  
begin!



While we celebrate Paul's launch into adulthood, know there's still work to be done in sharing the hope of Christ with children living in poverty, like Allan, who is currently waiting for a sponsor. Start praying about sponsoring him.

**Please see pamphlet on bulletin board for more information about ALLAN!**

Allan is 20 years old from Kenya. He has been waiting for more than 131 days for a sponsor. Allan lives with his mom and dad in a house made of tin and wood. We will start Allan's sponsorship on March 6, 2026.

~ March 2026 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Pastor Lorenzo Thomas Acolyte-Nolan Roode	<b>2</b> 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 12noon Lenten Lunch 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6pm Confirmation Class	<b>5</b> 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes- FELC Hosting	<b>6</b> 9-11:30 GSH	<b>7</b> 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH
<b>8</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Pastor Lorenzo Thomas Acolyte-Kaidence Schmidt	<b>9</b> 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	<b>10</b> 1:30pm Bingo at The Gardens	<b>11</b> 12noon Lenten Lunch @ St. Joe's Catholic Church; FELC 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6:30pm Lenten Service	<b>12</b> 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night at LaNeta	<b>13</b> 9-11:30 GSH	<b>14</b> 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH
<b>15</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship-Bell Choir Pastor Lorenzo Thomas Acolyte-Amelia Roeger  1pm-2:30pm 9-Square	<b>16</b> 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	<b>17</b> 11:30am Ladies' Lunch at Main St. Station	<b>18</b> 12noon Lenten Lunch 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6:30pm Lenten Service 5:45pm Bell Choir 7:15pm Ladies' Choir	<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> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Pastor Lorenzo Thomas Acolyte-Vivian Fisher Flower orders Due	<b>23</b> 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10am Quilting 12noon Lenten Lunch 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6:30pm Lenten Service	<b>26</b> 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes April Newsletter info DUE!	<b>27</b> 9-11:30 GSH	<b>28</b> 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH
<b>29</b> Palm Sunday 9am Council Meeting 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship- Ladies' Chr Vicar Michelle Kouse Acolyte-Faith Whetstone Easter Celebration, Luncheon & Egg Hunt	<b>30</b> 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	<b>31</b> April Newsletter Available				

~ April 2026 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6pm Confirmation Class	<b>2</b> 9-11:30 GSH NO Loaves & Fishes 7pm Maundy Thursday @ St. Mark's Lutheran Church	<b>3</b> 9-11:30 GSH 7pm Good Friday @ First English Lutheran Church-Ladies' Choir	<b>4</b> 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH
<b>5</b> EASTER SUNDAY Resurrection of Our Lord 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship-Ladies' Choir Vicar Michelle Kouse Acolyte-Nolan Roode	<b>6</b> 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	<b>7</b> 1:30pm Bingo at The Gardens	<b>8</b> 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6pm Confirmation Class 6pm Bell Choir	<b>9</b> 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night	<b>10</b> 9-11:30 GSH	<b>11</b> 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH
<b>12</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship-Bell Choir Pastor Lorenzo Thomas Acolyte-Vivian Fisher	<b>13</b> 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	<b>14</b> 11:30am Ladies' Lunch	<b>15</b> 10am Quilting 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6pm Confirmation Class 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Ladies' Choir	<b>16</b> 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	<b>17</b> 9-11:30 GSH	<b>18</b> 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH
<b>19</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Pastor Lorenzo Thomas Acolyte-Faith Whetstone  Council Meeting 1pm-2:30pm 9-Square	<b>20</b> 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6pm Confirmation Class 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Ladies' Choir	<b>23</b> 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	<b>24</b> 9-11:30 GSH	<b>25</b> 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH
<b>26</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship – Bell Choir Pastor Lorenzo Thomas Acolyte-Kaidence Schmidt	<b>27</b> 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class May info for Newsletter DUE	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6pm Confirmation Class 6pm Bell Choir	<b>30</b> 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes May Newsletter available		

## Easter Flower Order Sheet

Your name as you want it printed in the bulletin \_\_\_\_\_

	Quantity:	Dollar Amount:	
Single Stem Lily – 5 plus blooms and buds	_____	_____	\$16.00 each
Calla Lily – 4" pot – Assorted Colors	_____	_____	\$16.00 each
6 Bloom Tulip – Assorted Colors	_____	_____	\$13.00 each
Daffodils - 6" pot	_____	_____	\$13.00 each

(circle one)

**In honor of / memory of:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**All orders must be turned in by MARCH 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

Please place order form and payment in an envelope and return it to Georgaann Steinecker or the church office.

The flowers will need to be picked up after Easter Sunday worship.

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