

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



3rd Sunday in Lent
March 8, 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.

MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual.....	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Reader.....	Sandy Brading
Ushers	Dave Krites & Dave Cliff
Worship Assistant	Jon Schmidt
Musician	Greg Tabler
Pastor	Pastor Lorenzo Thomas
Greeter	Dave & Chris Cliff
Acolyte.....	Kaidence Schmidt
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

*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 Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts (ELW 658)

*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. **Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through 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: EXODUS 17:1-7

A reading from Exodus. ¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵ The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

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

PSALM: 95: 1-9

1 O come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

3 For the Lord is a great God,

and a great King above all gods.

4 In his hand are the depths of the earth;

the heights of the mountains are his also.

5 The sea is his, for he made it,

and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

6 O come, let us worship and bow down,

let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

7 For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. Oh, that today you would listen to his voice!

8 "Do not harden your hearts,

as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness.

9 When your ancestors tested me,

and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 5:1-8

A reading from Romans. ¹ Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Let Your Steadfast Love (ELW p. 189)

***GOSPEL: JOHN 4:5-26**

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

⁵ So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

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

MESSAGE

Pastor Lorenzo Thomas

*HYMN OF THE DAY

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say (ELW 611)

*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.

Heavenly Father, thank you for Jesus, your living water. Sometimes we don't realize how thirsty we are. Sometimes what we drink makes us even thirstier. Thank you that Jesus quenches our thirst for your goodness, love, forgiveness, and life, by filling us with Himself. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make your Church a place where your living water flows. Use it to quench the thirst, heal the hearts, and cleanse the souls of people dying for lack of your love. May it always share your holy Word so that many may hear, and come to believe, that your Son is the Savior of the world.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray on behalf of our persecuted sisters and brothers. Fulfill in them the Apostle's words: that suffering produces endurance; endurance produces character; character produces hope; and hope does not put them to shame, because God's love has been poured into their hearts through the Holy Spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus said the fields are ripe for the harvest. Therefore we pray: Call, equip, and send new pastors and evangelists to preach the Good News. Make each of us disciples "on a mission with you" to eagerly share the Living Water with thirsty souls in our communities. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Have mercy on this congregation. Make us people eager to worship you in spirit and in truth; to care for one another with gentle hearts; and to share the living water of your Son with everyone we know. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Thank you for everyone who makes clean water available throughout the world. Grant that all who benefit from the pure and refreshing waters of this life may also be drawn to the Living Water of eternal life, Jesus Christ your Son. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Have mercy on our nation, its leaders, and its people. Although we are all sinful and rebellious, save us, we pray, from our folly. Give us hearts that delight in your law, and wills set to obey it. Remove from us the spirit of discord and strife, and crown us with the blessing of your peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Refresh and heal with your Living Water everyone burdened with suffering and sorrow, including 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). Give them renewed strength, deep peace, strong hope, and abiding faith in your compassion. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father, with reverence and affection, we entrust our beloved dead into your care. Wipe away the tears all who mourn. Refresh us with your Word and Sacraments as we pass through death's valleys. Help us to encourage one another; to rejoice even though suffering; to cultivate good character; to live in hope; and to lean on your promises. Speed the day when, in Spirit and in truth, the whole company of the redeemed will worship you, and acclaim your Son as the Savior of the world, our Lord and our God. 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. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.. 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

Selection by Greg Tabler

***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, you have given your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and an example of godly life. Give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive these his inestimable gifts, and daily endeavor to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (ELW 807)

*DISMISSAL

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	Weekly Attendance and Offerings		
		<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
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
03/01/2026	16	69	\$3,291.00	\$130.00

MINISTERS for Next Week 3-15-26

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Reader	Georgeann Stienecker
Ushers	Ken Frame & Chad Sterner
Worship Assistant	Darla Frame
Musician.....	Recordings
Pastor	Pastor Lorenzo Thomas
Greeter.....	Dave & Chris Clift
Acolyte	Amelia Roeger
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	Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz
Shawnee Manor	Judy Kentner
Homebound	Marty Rostorfer, Eloise Katterhenry, Marsha Henderson, Judy Metz

We especially remember in our prayers...

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.

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.

Mid-Week Evening Services FELC will also be having **Wednesday Evening Lenten Services on March 11th, 18th & 25th at 6:30pm.**

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 29th 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 church or on the office door. **Orders are due by March 22nd** 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.

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 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
Fri, Mar 13 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sat, Mar 14 th	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sun, Mar 15th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Pastor Lorenzo Thomas Acolyte-Amelia Roeger
	1pm-2:30pm	9-Square Monthly
Mon, Mar 16 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Tues, Mar 17 th	♣ Happy St. Patrick's Day ♣	
	11:30am	Ladies' Lunch @ Main St. Station in NK
Wed, Mar 18th	12:00pm	Noon Lenten Lunch/Service @ St. Joe's
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	5:45pm	Bell Choir
	6:30pm	Mid-Week Lenten Service
	7:15pm	Ladies' Choir
Thurs, Mar 19 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Community Loaves & Fishes
Fri, Mar 20 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sat, Mar 21 st	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
	9-11:30am	God's Store House

Sun, March 22nd Easter Flower Order Forms are Due! Please consider ordering! 😊

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

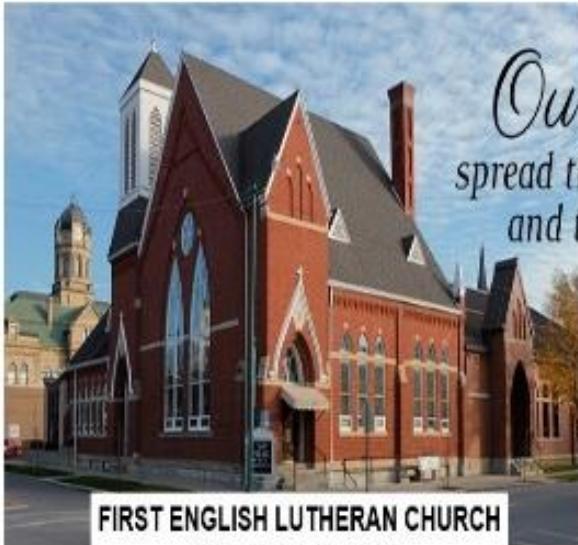
Anderson Accounting

Music Director

Darla Frame; darlaframe@gmail.com

Audio-Technology

Dave Curry; dscy@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