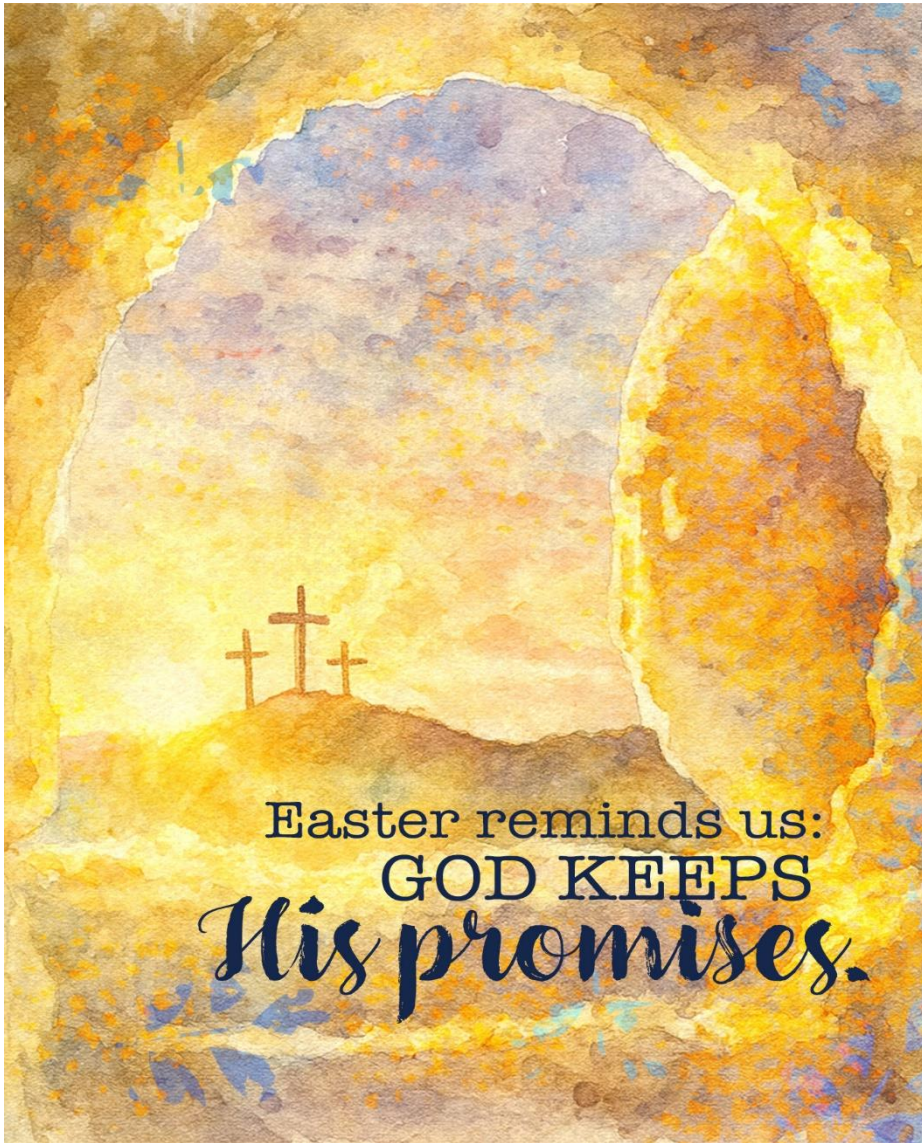


FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



Easter reminds us:
GOD KEEPS
His promises.

Easter Sunday
April 5, 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.

This worship service is live streamed and recorded
and is published on YouTube and Facebook.

* Please rise if able.

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
all the April birthdays in their family.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God
by Hilary, Mike, Amelia Roeger in celebration of April birthdays;
especially Elanor Roeger, Vicar Michelle Kouse, Gwendolyn's arrival,
Pastor Lorenzo Thomas and Anthony Miller.

MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual.....	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Reader.....	Richard Yocum
Ushers.....	Ken Frame & Richard Yocum
Worship Assistant.....	Makayla Frame
Musician.....	Darla Frame
Pastor.....	Vicar Michelle Kouse
Greeter.....	Needed
Acolyte.....	Jacob Schlosser
Altar Guild.....	Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame
Fellowship Cleanup.....	Georgeann Stienecker & Connie Krites

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Crown Him King of Kings/Rejoice, the Lord is King
by Sharon Damazio & John Darrell arr Mary McDonald

*A NEW BEGINNING

Quiet dawn... – Still grief... – Incredible sorrow.

The Son of Man lies dead, killed by human greed and fear.

Cool morning sun ... – Awakening life.

The garden is now Christ's home, the tomb his dwelling.

The guards stir... – the sun climbs in the sky... – Life begins again.

Jesus lies in sleep this third day since his death.

It is life that shatters the peace... – Blinding light... – Incredible Energy!

Frantic guards run in fear from the face of God.

Angels... – Brilliance... – God's power made manifest!

The stone is moved. The body is gone!

The impossible becomes reality!

Life conquers death!

Loving friends come to the garden to offer final farewells.

A familiar hand reaches out again. A loving voice says, "I am here. Know me!"

Oh, my Lord Jesus, it is you!

The Lord is risen Indeed!

Incredible Joy... – Supernal wonder... – God's Son is alive again!

No grave can keep this body down! Alleluia!

*GATHERING SONG

Jesus Christ is Risen Today (ELW 365)

***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.**

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

This is the Feast (ELW p. 187)

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **Almighty God, you have overcome death through your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and have opened to us the gate of everlasting life. We humbly beseech you that as you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

LADIES' CHOIR

O Victory in Jesus by Mary McDonald

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rebecca Van Meter

WORD

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

FIRST READING: ACTS 10: 34-43

A reading from Acts. ³⁴Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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

PSALM: 16

We will read responsively.

¹Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

²**I say to the LORD, “You are my LORD; I have no good apart from you.”**

³As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.

⁴**The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips.**

⁵The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

⁶**The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.**

⁷I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

⁸**I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

⁹Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.

¹⁰**For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.**

¹¹You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

SECOND READING: COLOSSIANS 3: 1-4

A reading from Colossians¹If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia (ELW p. 188)

***GOSPEL: MATTHEW 28: 1-10**

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

¹Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." ⁸So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

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

MESSAGE

Vicar Michelle Kouse

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

The Day of Resurrection (ELW 361)

***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.**

***PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

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

Almighty God, you have fought to restore us to righteousness for these many generations, and in Christ Jesus, you have won the victory over sin and death. Help us, Lord, to tell the story of that victory and give thanks for it daily, that our daughters and sons may know your steadfast kindness and live in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, on this day you have broken the bonds of death and have risen victorious over the power of the grave. Thank you especially for your gift of forgiveness and new life. By your grace, grant that each day the sinner in us may be put to death and the new self be raised to live with you in righteousness and faith. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Good and gracious God, strengthen us, and especially all who mourn, by the promise of our joint life with Christ. May the hope of the resurrection to eternal life help us to live in confidence that we will see our loved ones again on that day when Jesus returns. This day we pray especially for Family & Friends of Ed Mornston, 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, Michelle Kouse, Elaine Carlson, Wanda Nuss, Tom Meyer, George Anderson, Jerry Dicus, Pastor Lorenzo & Anastasia Thomas, Pastor Tom, Rick Curry, Teresa Fisher, Kingdom Harvest Ministries and WHS-Fellowship of Christian Athletes. And anyone that we name out loud or quietly in our hearts. (Brief silence). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, on this day when the celebration of your redeeming work in Jesus the Christ is at its fullest expression, strengthen and sustain those whose faith is tender and new. Help them to see in your church's witness a new vision of life in which grace and mercy hold sway. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **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 provided, and for the gifts you share.

OFFERTORY

Hymn of Heaven/When We All get to Heaven

by Phil Wickham, Bill Johnson, Brian Johnson, Chris Davenport & Emily DWilson

***OFFERING HYMN**

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW p. 182)

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, 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 indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

(ELW p. 190)

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

As we come to this time of Holy Communion, please let me extend to you an invitation to come forward and share in this Holy supper. You do not need to be member of this church or any Lutheran church to participate. If you have been baptized and profess faith in Christ Jesus, you are welcome. Jesus is extending this invitation and that is His only requirement. The bread and wine we share today has already been consecrated by an ordained pastor for this meal. Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God (ELW p. 191)

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

Bread of Life from Heaven (ELW 474)

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me (ELW 860)

Halleluiah! Jesus Lives (ELW 380)

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice & Sing! (ELW 385)

***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**

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HALLELUJAH CHORUS

Everyone is invited to join the choir.
Music is available.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace **Amen.**

***SENDING SONG**

Christ is Risen! Alleluia! (ELW 382)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	Weekly Attendance and Offerings		
		<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
03/01/2026	16	69	\$3,291.00	\$130.00
03/08/2026	17	60	\$5,791.00	\$230.00
03/15/2026	12	80	\$2,450.00	\$125.00
03/22/2026	13	75	\$1,590.00	\$35.00
03/29/2026	18	86	\$2,009.50	\$10.00

MINISTERS for Next Week 4-12-26

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Reader	Jennie Grundey
Ushers	Dave Krites & Dave Clift
Worship Assistant	Deanna Ronan
Musician.....	Karen Luginbuhl
Pastor	Pastor Lorenzo Thomas
Greeter.....	Joy Kantner
Acolyte	Kaidence Schmidt
Altar Guild	Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame
Fellowship Cleanup.....	Georgeann Stienecker & Connie Krites

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 Ed Mornston, 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, Michelle Kouse, Elaine Carlson, Wanda Nuss, Tom Meyer, George Anderson, Jerry Dicus, Pastor Lorenzo & Anastasia Thomas, Pastor Tom, Rick Curry, Teresa Fisher, 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 APRIL: MORGAN'S PLACE 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. April Items- Pizza kits, mozzarella cheese, muffin mix & canned chicken. 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.

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

Christian Ed Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 7th at 6:00pm in parlor.

Men's Night is scheduled for 6:00pm on Thursday, April 9th, at Inn Between in Botkins. All men are encouraged to come and bring a friend!

Book Club We will be starting on Monday, April 13th at 6:30pm, every Monday until May 4th. We will be reading *An Altar in World* by Barbara Brown. If you need a book let the office know. Please join us!

Ladies' Lunch is scheduled for 11:30am on Tuesday, April 21st at Mason Jar in Wapakoneta. All women are encouraged to come and bring a friend!!

Worship & Music Committee Meeting will be held on April 12th following worship service.

9-Square Monthly It 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 short 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.

The **Fellowship Committee** would like to thank everyone that helped support a fun filled carry in meal and egg hunt for the kids on Palm Sunday.

We will not be having any fellowship time following the worship on Easter Sunday to allow everyone time to spend with family. Thank you to all.

**Thank you to everyone who provided the beautiful flowers
that fill our sanctuary this Easter Sunday!**

Bonnie Davidson

In memory of her parents, Tom & Laura Davidson.

Brian & Catherine Fisher

In honor of their children: Austin, Clayton, Doris & Vivian.

Chad & Amelia Sterner

In memory of Doug Whetstone & Bud Sterner.

Chuck & Joy Kantner

In honor of their children & grandchildren. In memory of Emmet & Margaret Kantner and Fred & Evie Fisher.

Darla & Ken Frame

In honor of their children and grandchildren.

Dave & Char Curry

In honor of their children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and sisters.

Dave & Connie Krites

In praise of our risen Lord of all his wonderful blessings.

Hilary, Mike, Amelia & Elanor Roeger

In celebration of the resurrection of our Lord & Savior!

Jeanie Schnell

In memory of Ike Schnell.

Jennie, Jason, Luke, Matthew & Jack

In memory of Jason Kline.

Jon & Carrie Schmidt

In memory of Kathi & Gary Thompson, Tracy Anderson, Harry Anderson, Helen Patterson and Eileen Schmidt.

Marc & Brenda Shoffstall

In memory of their parents & in honor of their church family.

Mark & Chris Nagel

In honor of their family.

Marsha Jackson

In memory of her mom & dad.

Susan Miller

In honor of the Ladies' Choir.

Tracey Sawmiller

In memory of her brother, Todd Sawmiller.

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sun, Apr 5th		Happy Easter! He is Risen! Hallelujah!
	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Vicar Michelle Kouse
		Acolyte-Jacob Schlosser
		Ladies' Choir
Mon, Apr 6 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Tues, Apr 7 th	6:00pm	Christian Ed Meeting
Wed, Apr 8 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	6:00pm	Confirmation Class
		Bell Choir
Thurs, Apr 9 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Community Loaves & Fishes
	6:00pm	Men's Night at Inn Between in Botkins
Fri, Apr 10 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sat, Apr 11 th	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sun, Apr 12th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Pastor Lorenzo Thomas
		Acolyte-Kaidence Schmidt
		Bell Choir
		Worship & Music Comm Meeting
Mon, Apr 13 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	6:30pm	Book Club
Tues, Apr 14 th	1:30pm	Bingo at The Gardens
Wed, Apr 15 th	10:00am	Quilting
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	6:00pm	Confirmation Class
		Bell Choir
	7:00pm	Ladies' Choir
Thurs, April 16 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Community Loaves & Fishes
Fri, Apr 17 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sat, Apr 18 th	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