

**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio**



**2nd Sunday of Easter
April 12, 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.

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 Chad & Amelia Sterner in celebration of
Liam Kramer's birthday (April 6th)
& to welcome Spring's warmer temperatures.

MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual.....	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Reader.....	Jennie Grundey
Ushers	Dave Krites & Dave Cliff
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

*Please rise if able.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing* by Michael Burkhardt

*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.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

***GATHERING SONG** *That Easter Day with Joy was Bright* (ELW 384)

*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. **Help us, almighty God, that our joyful celebration of the resurrection feast may be reflected in our daily work and conversation. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

BELL CHOIR

Come Christians Join to Sing

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rebecca Van Meter

WORD

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

FIRST READING: ACTS 5:29-42

A reading from Acts. ²⁹Peter and the apostles answered {the high priest and the council}, "We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." ³³When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. ³⁵And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. ³⁶For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, ⁴⁰and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴²And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

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

PSALM: 148

We will read responsively.

¹Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

²**Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!**

³Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴**Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**

⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD! For he commanded and they were created.

⁶**And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.**

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps,

⁸**fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word!**

⁹Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰**Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds!**

¹¹Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

¹²**Young men and maidens together, old men and children!**

¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven.

¹⁴**He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints, for the people of Israel who are near to him. Praise the LORD!**

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 1:3-9

A reading from 1 Peter. ³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith — more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia (ELW p. 188)

***GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19-31**

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

¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." ²⁴Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." ²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

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

MESSAGE

Pastor Lorenzo Thomas

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Now the Green Blade Rises (ELW 379)

***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,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to hell.**

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 again 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.**

***PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

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

Holy Father, you have invited us to the banquet of your Son. We thank you for this gift of grace and for your promise of forgiveness. Lead us to your table with humble and repentant hearts, so that we may hear your Word for us. Make us mindful of your presence with us as we share in communion with you and one another. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all creation, in many parts of your world the creation has begun its annual process of rebirth. As shoots sprout forth from the earth and trees put forth their buds, help us to see in these everyday miracles a hint of the promised glory of our own resurrection through your Son, Jesus.

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

Healer of our every ill, in every corner of the world your children suffer in mind, body, and spirit. Many lack the basic necessities for life – clean water, nutritious food, and adequate shelter. Others find themselves overcome with grief and despair, while still others face the challenges of medical concerns. Empower your church to be sources of healing and wholeness and voices of hope. This day we pray especially for 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, 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.**

God of mercy, teach us to recognize the priceless treasures of grace and reconciliation you have given us in your Son, Jesus and then to be bold and generous in offering that same grace to those who may have hurt us. In a world divided on many fronts, may your Spirit lead us to be agents of reconciliation and peace. 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 provided, and for the gifts you share.

OFFERTORY

When Morning Gilds the Skies by Hal Hopson

***OFFERING HYMN**

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW p. 182)

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we humbly offer to you the gifts of our treasures, talents, and time. Use them to your glory, and for the benefit of all your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **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)

***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

Now We Join in Celebration (ELW 462)

The Peace of the Lord (ELW 646)

I Know that My Redeemer Lives! (ELW 619)

***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 thank you for feeding us with the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. Send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of your Son, 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 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**

Thine is the Glory (ELW 376)

***DISMISSAL**

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

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, Michelle Kouse, Elaine Carlson, Wanda Nuss, Tom Meyer, George Anderson, Jerry Dicus, Pastor Lorenzo & Anastasia Thomas, Pastor Tom, 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!

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 TODAY, April 12th following worship service.

Council Meeting will be held on April 19th following worship service.

Class of 2026 Do you have a Grad graduating this May? If so, please contact the office to let us know. We have Information Sheet for them to fill out. There are some at the back of church or office can email it to you.

Please **RETURN by April 24th** to be included in newsletter and bulletin.

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. **Next date: April 19th!!**

MINISTERS for Next Week 4-19-26

Audio/Visual Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
 Reader Ken Frame
 UshersKen Frame & Chad Sterner
 Worship Assistant Susan Miller
 Musician..... Recordings
 Pastor Pastor Lorenzo Thomas
 Greeter..... Hilary, Mike, Amelia & Elanor Roeger
 Acolyte Amelia Roeger
 Altar Guild Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame
 Fellowship Cleanup..... Georgeann Stienecker & Connie Krites

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
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
04/05/2026	19	111	\$7,681.50	\$185.00

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

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
Thurs, April 16 th	6:00pm	Confirmation Class
	7:00pm	Ladies' Choir
	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
Sun, Apr 19th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Pastor Lorenzo Thomas Acolyte-Amelia Roeger Council Meeting
Mon, Apr 20 th	1pm-2:30pm	9-Square Monthly
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Tues, Apr 21 st	6:30pm	Book Club
	11:30am	Ladies' Lunch at Mason Jar in Wapak
Wed, Apr 22 nd	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	6:00pm	Confirmation Class
Thurs, Apr 23 rd	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Community Loaves & Fishes
Fri, Apr 24 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sat, Apr 25 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

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.*