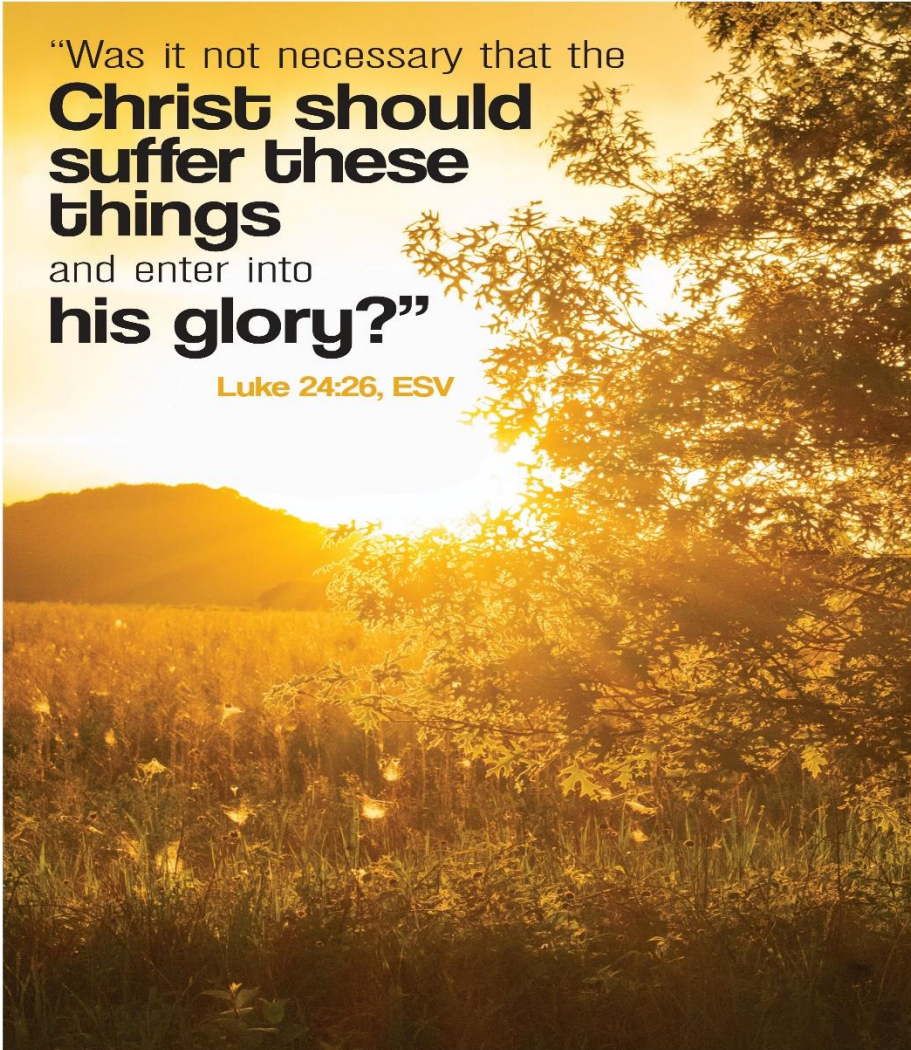


**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Wapakoneta, Ohio**

“Was it not necessary that the  
**Christ should  
suffer these  
things**  
and enter into  
**his glory?”**

**Luke 24:26, ESV**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
**April 19, 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.

## MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual.....	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Reader.....	Ken Frame
Ushers.....	Ken 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

\*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.**

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

*Alleluia! Jesus is Risen (ELW 377)*

#### \*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. **O God, by the humiliation of your Son, you raised up this fallen world. Teach us whom you have rescued from endless death to have the fullness of eternal joy, through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. For he 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: ACTS 2: 14a, 36-41**

A reading from Acts. <sup>14a</sup>Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: <sup>36</sup>“Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” <sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” <sup>38</sup>And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” <sup>40</sup>And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” <sup>41</sup>So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

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

## **PSALM: 116: 1-14**

We will read responsively.

<sup>1</sup>I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.

<sup>2</sup>**Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

<sup>3</sup>The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

<sup>4</sup>**Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!"**

<sup>5</sup>Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.**

<sup>7</sup>Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

<sup>8</sup>**For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling;**

<sup>9</sup>I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

<sup>10</sup>**I believed, even when I spoke: "I am greatly afflicted";**

<sup>11</sup>I said in my alarm, "All mankind are liars."

<sup>12</sup>**What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me?**

<sup>13</sup>I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,

<sup>14</sup>**I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 PETER 1:17-25**

A reading from 1 Peter. <sup>17</sup>If you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, <sup>18</sup>knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. <sup>20</sup>He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you <sup>21</sup>who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

<sup>22</sup>Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, <sup>23</sup>since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; <sup>24</sup>for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, <sup>25</sup>but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

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

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia* (ELW p. 188)

**\*GOSPEL: LUKE 24: 13-35**

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

<sup>13</sup>That very day two of {Jesus' followers} were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. <sup>16</sup>But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" <sup>19</sup>And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup>and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. <sup>21</sup>But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. <sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, <sup>23</sup>and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." <sup>25</sup>And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup>And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. <sup>28</sup>So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, <sup>29</sup>but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" <sup>33</sup>And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, <sup>34</sup>saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup>Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

## MESSAGE

Pastor Lorenzo Thomas

### \*HYMN OF THE DAY

*Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ (ELW 674)*

### \*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.

Heavenly Father, through your Spirit guide all the baptized, that they may daily discover Christ walking before, beside, and behind them wherever their paths may lead. We pray for those preparing for baptism and those who have yet to learn of your abundant grace and peace won through the glorious resurrection of our Lord, Jesus. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, all creation groans with labor pains awaiting your promised redemption. In this season of transitioning weather we pray for communities everywhere impacted by the vagaries of violent weather – tornadoes, spring flooding, high winds and lightning. Grant them safety. Be with relief workers and all who assist in recovery efforts. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, be present with those who are homeless, lost, bereaved, orphaned, those who are unemployed or under-employed, those who grieve, those who are ill or despairing. 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). Make known to them the wholeness that only you can bring. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of righteousness, grant wisdom to world leaders, turning them away from fear and distrust. Open their eyes to the ways of freedom and justice that reflect your reign. We pray particularly for people in those places where violence and oppression are a daily reality. 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

*Come, Let Us Eat* (ELW 491)  
*As We Gather at Your Table* (ELW 522)  
*Blessing and Honor* (ELW 854)

### \*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

*The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done* (ELW 366)

### \*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. **FELC will be hosting May 7<sup>th</sup>**, please consider donating cookies, contact Brenda with any questions. Two cookies per bag is preferred. Thanks in advance.

**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 continue on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm, every Monday until May 4<sup>th</sup>. We will be reading *An Altar in World* by Barbara Brown Please join us!

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

**Council Meeting** will be held TODAY, April 19<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup>** to be included in newsletter and bulletin.

**9-Square Monthly TODAY, April 19<sup>th</sup>!!** 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. Those attending 9-Square Monthly, lunch will be provided after fellowship hour is over, around 12noon-ish.

**MINISTERS for Next Week 4-26-26**

Audio/Visual ..... Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie  
 Reader ..... Carly Craft  
 Ushers ..... Jon Schmidt & Maeson Roode  
 Worship Assistant ..... Hilary Roeger  
 Musician..... Susan Miller  
 Pastor ..... Pastor Lorenzo Thomas  
 Greeter..... Needed  
 Acolyte ..... Nolan Roode  
 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>
03/22/2026	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
04/12/2026	14	78	\$2,097.00	\$130.00

## FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

<b>Sun, Apr 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Adult Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Worship – Pastor Lorenzo Thomas Acolyte-Amelia Roeger Council Meeting</b>
	<b>1pm-2:30pm</b>	<b>9-Square Monthly w/ Lunch before</b>
Mon, Apr 20 <sup>th</sup>	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	6:30pm	Book Club
Tues, Apr 21 <sup>st</sup>	11:30am	Ladies’ Lunch at Mason Jar in Wapak
Wed, Apr 22 <sup>nd</sup>	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	6:00pm	Confirmation Class
Thurs, Apr 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9-11:30am	God’s Store House
	4:30pm	Community Loaves & Fishes
Fri, Apr 24 <sup>th</sup>	9-11:30am	God’s Store House
Sat, Apr 25 <sup>th</sup>	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
	9-11:30am	God’s Store House
<b>Sun, Apr 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Adult Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Worship – Pastor Lorenzo Thomas Acolyte-Nolan Roode Bell Choir</b>
Mon, Apr 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>May Information Due for Newsletter</b>	
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	6:30pm	Book Club
Wed, Apr 29 <sup>th</sup>	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	6:00pm	Confirmation Class
	7:00pm	Bell Choir
Thurs, April 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>May Newsletter Available</b>	
	9-11:30am	God’s Store House
	4:30pm	Community Loaves & Fishes
Fri, May 1 <sup>st</sup>	9-11:30am	God’s Store House
Sat, May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	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](http://www.myfelc.org)

Church email: [wapakelc@bright.net](mailto: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](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

Music Director

Darla Frame; [darlaframe@gmail.com](mailto:darlaframe@gmail.com)

Audio-Technology

Dave Curry; [dicy@bright.net](mailto: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.*