FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



1st Sunday of Advent
November 29, 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 Marsha Jackson in honor of Dave and Char Curry's wedding anniversary.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God

MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual ..... Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector ..... Joyce Brincefield
Ushers .....Jim Kantner & Steve Stienecker
Worship Assistant .....Ken Frame
Musician .....Darla Frame
Pastor .....Vicar Michelle Kouse
Greeter .....Denise Kantner
Acolyte ..... Knox Yocum
Altar Guild .....Denise Kantner & Joy Kantner
Fellowship Cleanup..... Denise Kantner & Chris Nagel

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 *Emmanuel*

***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** *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You* (ELW 241)

***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.**

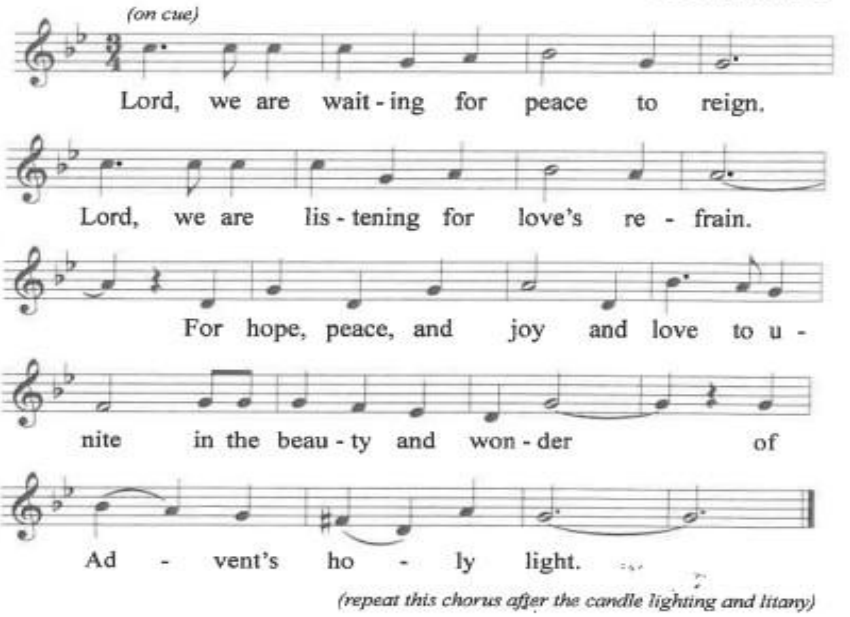
***CALL TO WORSHIP**
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
For his steadfast love endures forever.
Give thanks to the God of gods,
For his steadfast love endures forever
give thanks to the Lord of Lords
For his steadfast love endures forever

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (light one candle)

Joyce Brincefield and Bonnie Davidson
Soloist Darla Frame

Advent's Holy Light
Congregational Part

JOEL RANEY



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Our Advent journey begins today with the lighting of the first candle, the candle of Hope. Like the flame of a candle, may hope be ignited in our hearts, reminding us that brighter days are ahead.

For those of us facing difficult challenges,
Ignite our hearts with hope.
For the end of wars wreaking havoc and pain in our world
Ignite our hearts with hope.
For safety for those fleeing the tyranny of oppression
Ignite our hearts with hope.
For the light of forgiveness to shine in our hearts
Ignite our hearts with hope.

Gracious Creator, in moments of uncertainty, we turn to you with hearts heavy but hopeful. Grant us the strength to navigate challenges, the wisdom to see possibilities, and the courage to embrace the journey ahead. May hope be our guiding light, leading us to a future filled with grace, love, and possibilities beyond our imagination. **Amen.**

REPEAT ADVENT'S HOLY LIGHT – Congregation Part from Above

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **Stir up your power, O Lord, and come, that by your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by your mighty deliverance; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Rebecca Van Meter

GOD'S WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? We have all become like one who

is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Be not so terribly angry, O Lord, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people. Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 80:1-7 Intoned by Susan Miller and Darla Frame
Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.
Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
O Lord God of Hosts how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus

Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Alleluia* (ELW p. 188)

***GOSPEL**: Mark 13:24-37
The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you O Lord.**
{Jesus said,} "In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning —lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE Vicar Michelle Kouse

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *My Lord What A Morning (Elw438)*

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.

***PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

As we await the coming of Christ, let us pray for the Church, the world, and for all people according to their need.

God of new beginnings, in these days of Advent prepare our hearts and minds to receive your Word in ever powerful ways. By the power of your Holy Spirit, stir us to wait with joyful expectation for the coming of your Son. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of light and life, shine the light of your presence into our lives during these weeks of waning daylight. Fill the darkness of this world with your love, that all people would see your glory and know that you are the source of all good things.

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

God of comfort, your healing touch transcends time and space. Strengthen and console those who are anxious, grieving, lonely, ill, or

discouraged in any way. I invite you now, either quietly or aloud to speak the names of someone in need of prayer.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, grant to us, dear Father, for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **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 *For The Fruit Of All Creation*

***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. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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 p190)

***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

For By Grace You Have Been Saved (ELW 598)
Christ be Our Light (ELW 715)
What a Friend We Have in Jesus (ELW742)

***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 give you thanks for these heavenly gifts. Kindle in us the fire of your Spirit. When your Christ comes again, make us shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and forever. **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** *The King Shall Come* *(ELW 260)*

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	Betty Lietz
Otterbein	Jim Walls
Homebound	Marty Rostorfer, Eloise Katterhenry, Marsha Henderson,

We especially remember in our prayers…

Betty Lietz, Jim Walls, Marty Rostorfer, Marsha Henderson, Ted Gibson, Hunter Smith, Seth Thuman, Jim Zwiebel, JJ Truesdale, Jason Schneider, Bennett Douglas, Kay, Richard & Don Ault, Jerry Dicus, Diane Peterson, Connie Krites, Roman Schlegel, Jill Newland, Lynnette Swink Chestnut, Carol Horrom, Michelle Wannamacher, Robert Brincefield, Mike Nuss, Becky Kohlreiser, Carolyn Eakins, Allison Heffner & Baby Lydia.

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.

MINISTERS for Next Week 12-6-26

Audio/Visual.....Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector..... Richard Yocum
Ushers .....Doug Thrush & Richard Yocum
Worship Assistant..... Darla Frame
Musician.....Karen Luginbuhl
Pastor .....Pastor Lorenzo
Greeter.....Connie Krites
Acolyte ..... Lillian Schlegel
Altar Guild.....Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame
Fellowship Cleanup.....Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame

What's Happening at First English….

Noisy Offering for the month of NOVEMBER: ANGEL TREE
Offering pans are located in the chapel and at the back of the church. Donations are accepted during the entire month.
Christmas Caroling- will be Sunday, December 13th at 1pm. All are invited to join the youth as we spread joy and cheer to our homebound members. Let Jennie or Rebecca know if you plan to join the fun.
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 . December's list is Microwave popcorn, fruit cups, pudding cups, Macaroni and Cheese. 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.
Angel Tree – Don't forget to help our angel tree mission!
Tea Party-Hometown Holidays We will be hosting the Tea Party for Hometown Holidays again this year **on December 5th**. Brenda would like help cleaning up afterwards.
Christmas Carol Fest Zion Lutheran Church in St Marys has invited us to their Christmas Carol Fest. Sundary, December 6 @6:30 PM. Please join us!
God's Storehouse- Please save your Community Market receipts and put them in canister on rack at the back foyer. Thank you

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, Nov 29th	**9:00am**	**Adult Sunday School**
	10:00am	**Worship – Vicar Michelle Kouse**
		Acolyte-Knox Yocum
Thurs. Dec. 3rd	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
Fri, Dec 4th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sat, Dec 5th	8:00am	Hometown Holidays-Tea Party
Sun, Dec 6th	**9:00am**	**Adult Sunday School**
	10:00am	**Worship – Pastor Lorenzo**
		Acolyte-Lillian Schlegel
		Bell Choir
Mon Dec 7th	6:00pm	Miracle Meal @ Aug. Co. Fairgrounds
Thurs, Dec 10th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
	6:00pm	Men's Night @ Beer Barrel St. Marys
Fri, Dec 11th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sat, Dec 12th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sun.Dec13th	**9:00am**	**Adult Sunday School**
	10:00am	**Worship-Pastor Lorenzo**
	1:00pm	Caroling
		Bell Choir
Mon Dec 14th	6:00pm	Miracle Meal @ Aug. Co. Fairgrounds

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

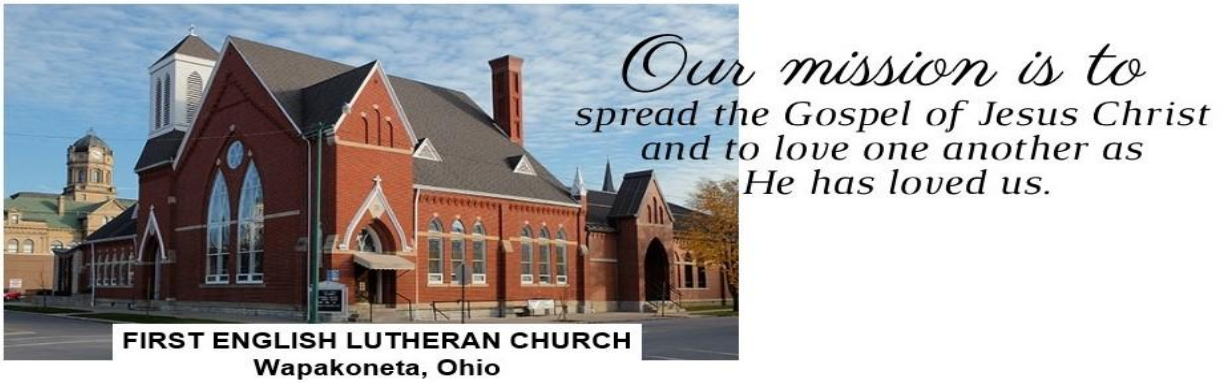
Date	Views	Attendance	Current Giving	Benevolence
11-01-26	13	66	$3372.00	$220.00
11-08-26	14	68	$2299.00	$175.00
11-15-26	24	61	$1255.00	$110.00
11-22-26	15	78	$ 627.00	$ 50.00

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 – 11:30am

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	Pastor Lorenzo Thomas: pastor.lorenzo@myfelc.org
Seminarian	Vicar Michelle Kouse
Bookkeeper	Anderson Accounting
Music Directo	Darla Frame; darlaframe@gmail.com
Audio-Tech	Dave Curry; dlcy@bright.net; 937-307-8596