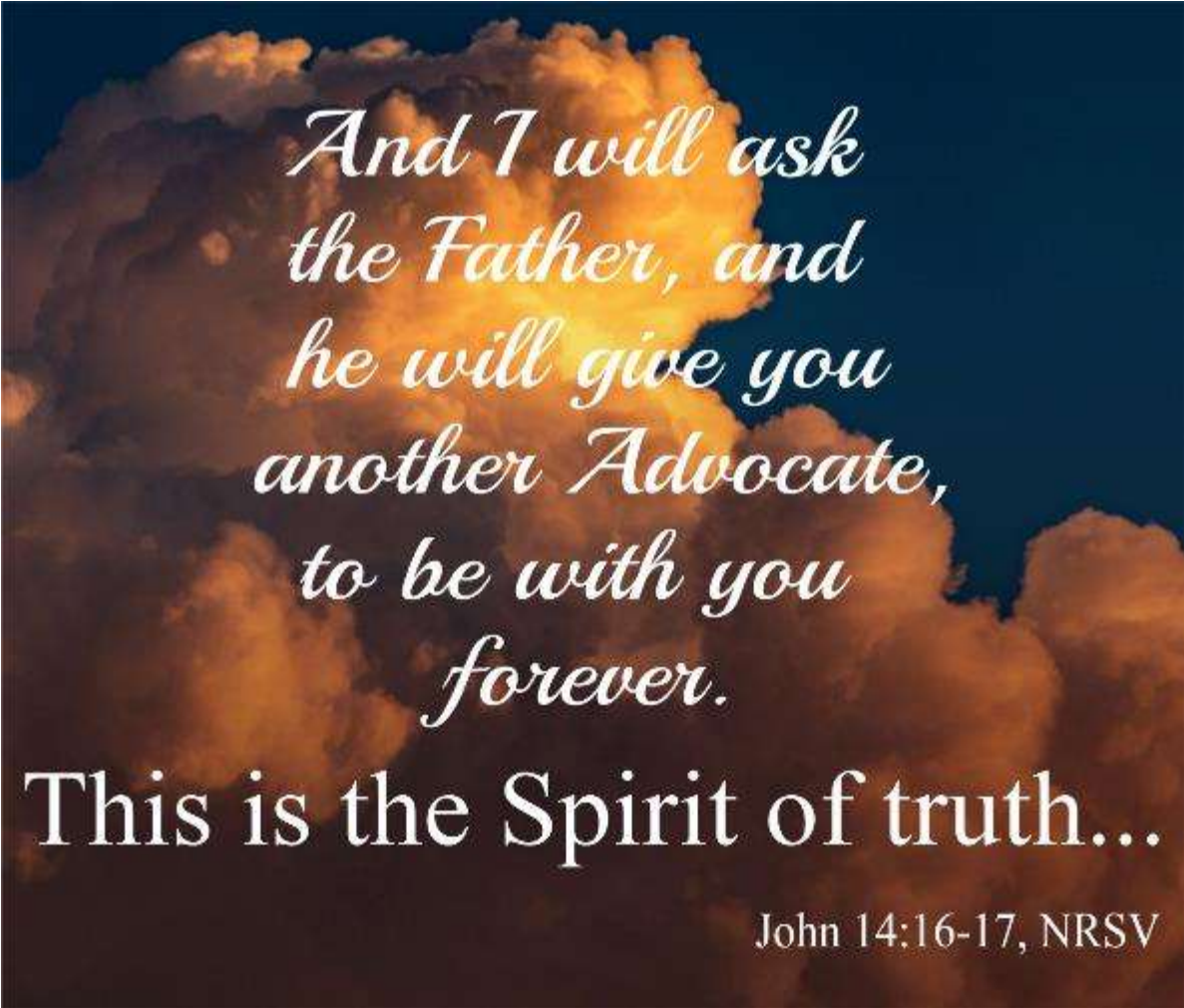


FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



*And I will ask
the Father, and
he will give you
another Advocate,
to be with you
forever.*

This is the Spirit of truth...

John 14:16-17, NRSV

6th Sunday of Easter
May 14, 2023

WELCOME TO FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Your presence today makes us more complete.
Thank you for being here and worshipping with us.

We welcome you to our table for Holy Communion.
We invite all baptized Christians who believe that Christ is truly present
in the meal to join us.

Children of all ages are welcome and are encouraged to participate in worship.

Sunday Schedule

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
9:15 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. Youth Sunday School
9:45 Youth Choir
10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Worship Leaders & Assistants

The **Altar Candles** are given to the Glory of God by the people of God.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God in honor of all mothers
and mother figures that encourage us in our faith.

MINISTERS for This Week

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Acolyte.....	Doris Fisher
Lector	Makayla Frame
Ushers.....	Dave Krites & Brian Van Meter
Worship Assistant.....	Jon Schmidt
Musician	Darla Frame
Preacher.....	Vicar Deb Monnin
Greeter	Brenda Shoffstall
Altar Guild	Darla Frame & Deanna Wisener
Fellowship Cleanup.....	Darla Frame & Brenda Shoffstall

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

* Please rise if able.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

GATHERING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners! By Rowland H Prichard arr Chris Rice*

* 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

Come, Thou Almighty King (ELW 408)

* 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**

Leader: Life!

People: A wonderful gift of God!

Leader: Life!

People: God's gift at birth!

Leader: Life!

People: God's gift through the new birth!

Leader: Life with God!

People: A present possession!

Leader: Life with God!

People: A future inheritance:

ALL: Life! God's wonderful Gift!

*** CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 204)**

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

YOUTH CHOIR

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rebecca Van Meter

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31

A reading from Acts, Chapter 17.

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all

things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him— though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

²⁹Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 66:8-20

⁸Bless our God, you peoples;
let the sound of praise be heard.

⁹**Our God has kept us among the living
and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹¹**You brought us into the net;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹³**I will enter your house with burnt offerings
and will pay you my vows—**

¹⁴those that I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹⁵**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;
I will give you oxen and goats.**

¹⁶Come and listen, all you who believe,
and I will tell you what God has done for me.

¹⁷**I called out to God with my mouth,
and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

¹⁸If I had cherished evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;

¹⁹**but in truth God has heard me
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

²⁰Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing love from me.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22

A reading from 1 Peter, Chapter 3.

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 205)**

*** GOSPEL: John 14:15-21**

The holy gospel according to John, Chapter 14.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate [Paraclete], to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Vicar Deb Monnin

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

We Know that Christ is Raised (ELW 449)

* THE 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

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world and all in need.

Thank You God,Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Sorry God, ...Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Please God, ...Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen 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

During this time we would like to thank you for the work you have been doing, for the support and care that you provide and for the gifts that you share.

The offering baskets are located by the bulletins.

You may drop your offering in the basket before or after worship.

*** OFFERING HYMN**

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW 182)

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.
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... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*** HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 207)**

*** WORDS OF INSTITUTION (ELW p. 130)**

*** 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

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God* (ELW p. 208)

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

Eat this Bread (x2) (ELW 472)
Thy Holy Wings (ELW 613)
What Feast of Love (ELW 487)

*** 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**

Let us pray. Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

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**

Now Thank We All Our God (ELW 840)

*** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God.

MINISTERS for next Sunday

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Acolyte.....	Makenzie Schneider
Lector	Jon Schmidt
Ushers.....	Ken Frame & Jon Schmidt
Worship Assistant	Deanna Ronan
Musician	Darla Frame
Preacher.....	Pastor Melodi Hagen
Greeter	
Altar Guild	Darla Frame & Deanna Wisener
Fellowship Cleanup.....	Darla Frame & Brenda Shoffstall

OUR PRAYER CORNER

Those who would love a visit or a card...

Auglaize Acres	Dennis McCormick
The Manor	Jim Reinhart
Otterbein at Cridersville	Sharon Billiter, Rex Lippincott, Betty Lietz
Otterbein at St. Marys	Dorothy Dickman
The Gardens	Betty Hague, Dale Thomas

We especially remember in our prayers...

Tracy Anderson, Don Cole, Dominic Cousins, Jacob Cox, Janice Etzkorn, Connie Kantner, Bryan Katterhenry, Wayne & Judy Kentner, Rex Lippincott, Lynne Loebach, Sasha Maslov, Cathy & Desmond Miller, Nici Rapp, Sue Schoonover, Pam Schulz, Adam Schulze, Alex Shirey, Donna Stowell Dague, Seth Thuman, Dale & Mary Ann Thomas, Tony Wallace, Eddie Whetstone, Hannah Wood, Angela, and Paul.

We remember in our prayers our military serving at home and abroad, under represented 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.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>NWOS Benevolence</u>
04/02/2023	22	115	\$4,095.00	\$44.00
04/09/2023	17	133	\$3,565.00	\$93.00
04/16/2023	8	75	\$1,635.99	\$153.00
04/23/2023	16	73	\$1,222.00	\$3.00
04/30/2023	14	68	\$3,385.00	\$76.00

2023 current budgeted expenses are \$210,480.66, or \$4,047.71 per week.

FELC can now accept online donations through the church website thanks to our partnership with Tithe.ly online giving. Just visit myfelc.org or scan the QR code to the right. From the church website click on the green GIVE button and follow the prompts.

Thank you for your support!



What's Happening at First English....

Sunday School Preschool-elementary Sunday School is held in the large Sunday School room at 9:15am & following Sunday worship. Middle school-high school youth meet in the basement from 9:15-9:45am. See you then!

The last day of Sunday School for this school year is May 21, 2023.

Noisy Offering for the month of MAY: Wapakoneta Area Tornado Relief

Offering pans are located in the chapel and at the back of the church. Donations are accepted during the entire month.

Alive Music Festival The high school youth group (current 8th-12th graders) will be attending the Alive Music Festival in Mineral City, Ohio. We will be leaving July 12th and returning very late on July 15th. If you are interested, please talk to Rebecca.

Family Life Center Walk for Life is June 3rd Help the Family Life Center reach out with a message of help and hope to at-risk women. Please sign up to be a Walker in this year's Walk for Life! Join us at the Walk for Life on Saturday, June 3rd from 9:30 AM-11:30 AM at the Wapak Track on 400 W. Harrison Street in Wapakoneta.

Bingo at the Acres FELC will resume Bingo at the Acres on May 9th from 2-3pm. FELC will host Bingo every second Tuesday of the month going forward. If you would like to help with this social outreach ministry please contact Brenda Shoffstall.

Vacation Bible School Registration Has Begun! VBS is June 5-9. Registration forms are available at the church and in the church office. Completed registrations are due by May 22nd to guarantee that your child receives a shirt.

Peder & Allison Eide Concert May 31st We heard them at Youth Quake and now Peder and Allison Eide are coming to Jackson Center, Wednesday May 31st from 5:30-9:30pm. All youth, families, and friends are encouraged to attend this **free event**. If you are interested in carpooling, please contact Rebecca Van Meter.

Summer Camp Please consider sending your child(ren) to HopeWood Camp this summer. HopeWood, formerly Lutheran Memorial Camp, is one of the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry in Ohio (LOMO) camps. Camp Mowana was also a part of the LOMO camps. There are many weeks to choose from. This is a great opportunity to grow your child's faith in an amazing setting. FELC has always strongly supported our youth attending LOMO camps. FELC will pay the majority of our active youth to attend camp, leaving you to pay just \$100 for your first child attending, and just \$50 for each youth after that. Please let Rebecca know if you are registering your child for camp.

Flat Jesus is Back! Get yours at the back of the sanctuary or chapel.

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, May 14th	10:00 a.m.	6th Sunday of Easter Worship-Vicar Deb Monnin
Wednesday, May 17 th	10:00 a.m.	Quilting
	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts (Basement)
	7:30 p.m.	Ladies' Choir
Thursday, May 18 th	4:30 p.m.	Loaves & Fishes Community Meal
Sunday, May 21st	10:00 a.m.	7th Sunday of Easter Worship-Pastor Melodi Hagen
Tuesday, May 23 rd	6:30 p.m.	Ladies' Night at The Side Rail
Wednesday, May 24 th	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts (Basement)
Thursday, May 25 th	4:30 p.m.	Loaves & Fishes Community Meal

First English Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
107 W. Mechanic Street, Wapakoneta, OH 45895
(419) 738-3911 www.myfelc.org
Church email: wapakelc@bright.net
Office Hours: 11:00am – 1:00pm

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	Vicar Deb Monnin, deb.monnin@myfelc.org ; 937-726-0579
Office Administrator	Chuck Curry
Christian Ed & Youth Director	Rebecca Van Meter
Bookkeeper	Anderson Accounting
Financial Secretary	Georgeann Stienecker; nksoccer@nktelco.net
Music Director	Darla Frame
Audio-Technology	Dave Curry; dlyc@bright.net ; 937-307-8596
Council President	Brenda Shoffstall, shoffstall08@yahoo.com , 419-233-1956