

First English Lutheran Church
Wapakoneta, Ohio



**THESE SUMMER DAYS,
SHEPHERD LORD,
YOU LEAD US AMID
GREEN GRASSES AND
PEACEFUL WATERS TO
RESTORE OUR SOULS.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR
GOODNESS AND MERCY!**

Our June 2023 Newsletter

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
107 W. Mechanic Street, Wapakoneta, OH 45895
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Meet our staff...

Pastor

Vicar Deb Monnin..... deb.monnin@myfelc.org 937-726-0579

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Bailey Van Meter &

Makayla Frame, Youth 419-738-3911

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The mission of First English Lutheran Church is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ
and to love one another as He loves us.

The time in-between – Vicar Deb



Graduation – the time in-between – One thing ends – another thing begins. Some of us just have graduated, some are graduating in the coming years, some of us have graduated a long time ago. All of us find ourselves in the in-between time. In-between this and that. After school, after Christmas, before Easter, after a loved one dies or goes away, before a baby is born, after one job ends before another begins, ... in-between times. Where one isn't sure what is next or what we should be doing now.

The disciples found themselves in that place also – after Jesus appeared to them, after Jesus ascended into heaven. What were they supposed to do? Go back to what they did before? Was this new way of being that Jesus brought over? How long were they to wait and listen?

But we are never alone... Jesus said, *"I will ask the Father and he will give you another advocate, to be with you forever,"* John 14:16 and God said, *"I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,"* Acts 2:17.

The Spirit leads us in these in-between times and in all times...sometimes it's hard to imagine the Spirit. How really do we follow something we can't touch or see? Maybe these words will help? I invite you to ponder these words from my current favorite writer and pastor, Steve Garnaas-Holmes, *Unfolding Light* www.unfoldinglight.net:

The Holy Spirit is not a ghost,
neither Casper-friendly nor haunting.
God is Spirit; the Holy Spirit is God,
the movement of God, the movingness of God,
like how light isn't a thing, and isn't anywhere,
but moves, like the movement of love, which is
not a thing but a reaching-out, a connecting,
a movement, a breathing, in and out,
never held for long, but shared,
which is how Spirit connects us, the only one Spir-
it breathing in and out of us all the time, God's re-
spiration, breathing in us, which is our in-
spiration (until it no longer moves in us and we ex-
pire) and so we all breathe together
because there's only one breath, in which we con-
spire with God (which is why we sing,
because it invites us to breathe together),
moving with the movement of God,
all one, breathing together in the great con-
spiracy that is life.

Breathe in the breath of God, Breathe in and out .. Breathe – Vicar Deb.

Vicar Deb's Seminary Experience:

Thank you all for supporting me and praying for me as I attended Seminary and traveled to Minneapolis for the festivities last weekend (May 20 and 21). It was a blessing to be there.

The Baccalaureate and Commencement messages were inspirational and grounding. If you haven't had a chance to watch them, the Baccalaureate is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPLsbTBI-s0&t=3s> and the Commencement is available here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-enYAviAqM> The people who shared the message in both services are two of my favorite professors – Rev. Doctor Kathryn Schifferdecker and Rev. Dr. Rolf Jacobson.

What's next?? I'm in the in-between time – in between graduation and being ordained. In this in-between time, please continue to call me "Vicar Deb." In our tradition, in the ELCA, the title "Pastor" is generally reserved for someone who is ordained. A person is ordained after they receive their MDiv Degree (I just received it), after they are approved for Ordination (I will have my interview the end of June), and after they receive a "Call" to a congregation. So, there are a few things remaining. In this in-between time – please call me "Vicar Deb."

Thank you!

Thank you for your prayers, cards, and blessings you bestowed upon me as I attended seminary, as I traveled for graduation, and as I participated in the graduation events! You are a blessing to God and to me! Vicar Deb.



Our High School Graduates

Easton Craft

Easton is the son of Matt & Molly Craft. He is the brother of Carly Craft. Easton is graduating from St. Marys Memorial High School. Easton was active on the St. Marys Varsity Baseball team and Soccer team.

Easton plans on attending UNOH in Lima, Ohio to study HVAC/R (Heating and Air Conditioning/Refrigeration) in the fall of 2024. Easton would like to thank Vicar Deb and the FELC congregation for their faith and support throughout the years.



Makayla Frame

Makayla is the daughter of Cari Frame and sister of Maverick. She graduated from Wapakoneta High School with the highest academic distinction, summa cum laude. During her high school career she participated in Octagon Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Honor Society, volleyball, track, and danced at The Dance Centre, where she was a member of the hip hop competition team. She also has worked at Happy Daz restaurant for 3 years.

In the fall, Makayla will be attending Bowling Green State University and is enrolled in the Honors College. She plans to study mathematics with a focus on actuarial science.



Bailey Van Meter

Bailey is the daughter of Brian and Rebecca Van Meter. Bailey graduated with honors from Wapakoneta High School. During high school she was a four-year varsity member of the Wapakoneta High School Girls Bowling Team, where she and her team made two state appearances. She was a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes and participated in the W.I.N. program by interning in Mrs. Saunders' kindergarten classroom at Wapakoneta Elementary School. Bailey works at Astro Lanes and Prairie View Golf Course. At church she is a member of the youth group, taught the preschool/elementary Sunday School, directed the youth choir and leads VBS music.

After graduation Bailey plans to attend Concordia University in Ann Arbor to continue her bowling career, study elementary and special education and grow her faith in God.



Austin Fisher

Austin is the son of Brian and Catherine Fisher. Austin graduated from Apollo Career Center's Welding and Fabrication Program. Austin will spend the summer working at Cool Wind Farms and the family farm. He is also looking forward to a summer vacation in the Smokey Mountains.

In the fall, Austin will continue his training at the Kentucky Welding Institute. With this additional training, Austin intends to join the Pipefitter's Union and become a traveling welder.



Isabelle Jenna Nicole Oren

Izzy is the daughter of Niki Oren and the granddaughter of Jim and Cindy Zwiebel. Izzy is graduating from Wapakoneta High School. Izzy is a member of the Wapakoneta Marching Band, where she played the piccolo, and of the Concert Band, where she played the flute.

Izzy currently works at Happy Daz. After graduation Izzy plans to attend The Modern College of Design in Kettering, Ohio.



Abby McCollough also graduated from Wapakoneta High School this year. Congratulations Abby!

In addition to our high school graduates we had three college graduates this year; Haley Schattschneider, Katie Ronan, and Vicar Deb Monnin.



Haley Schattschneider graduated from Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee on December 16, 2022 with a Bachelor of Music in Commercial Music. Haley plans to stay in Nashville working independently for Club 44 Records, with the goal of becoming a studio musician. Congratulations Haley!



Katie Ronan graduated from Bowling Green State University on December 10, 2022 with a Bachelor of Arts in PPEL (Philosophy, Political Science, Economics, and Law). Katie plans to obtain her paralegal certification through Cincinnati State Technical Community College and start her career as a paralegal. Congratulations Katie!

Vicar Deb Monnin graduated from Luther Seminary on May 21, 2023 with a Master of Divinity degree. Vicar Deb looks forward to being called to a congregation and being ordained later in the fall.



FELC Committees, Chairpersons, Council Liaisons

Committee	Chairperson	Liaison
Building & Property	Brenda Shoffstall	Jeff Ritchie
Christian Education/Youth	Rebecca Van Meter	Rebecca Van Meter
Evangelism	Rebecca Van Meter	Denise Kantner
Finance	Cari Frame	Dave Clift
Life & Fellowship	Brenda Shoffstall	Darla Frame
Social Ministry	Rebecca Van Meter	Teresa Fisher
Staff Support	Cari Frame	Jon Schmidt
Stewardship	Meets with Finance	Brenda Shoffstall
Worship & Music	Darla Frame	Georgeann Stienecker

Our Prayer Corner

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

Auglaize Acres Dennis McCormick
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...

The family and friends of Steve Kinstle,
The family and friends of Linda Taylor,
Tracy Anderson, Don Cole, Dominic Cousins, Jacob Cox, Janice Etzkorn,
Connie Kantner, Bryan Katterhenry, Wayne & Judy Kentner, Mike Lafon, Rex Lippincott,
Lynne Loebach, Sasha Maslov, Dennis McCormick, Mitchell Metz,
Cathy & Desmond Miller, Nici Rapp, Sue Schoonover, Pam Schulz, Adam Schulze,
Alex Shirey, Alayna Smith Geiger, Donna Stowell Dague, Seth Thuman,
Dale & Mary Ann Thomas, Linda Thompson, Tony Wallace, Eddie Whetstone,
Hannah Wood, Angela, Paul, and Skyler.

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 and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>NWOS Benevolence</u>
04/30/2023	14	67	\$1,540.00	\$0.00
05/07/2023	14	68	\$3,385.00	\$76.00
05/14/2023	14	70	\$1,869.00	\$63.00
05/21/2023	13	64	\$1,139.00	\$110.00
05/28/2023	11	63	\$1,257.00	\$10.00

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!



2023 Noisy Offerings

Month	Recipient	Amount Collected
January	Luke Kline Eagle Scout Project	\$1,741.43
February	Tanzanian Lutheran Church	\$1,000.00
March	Turkey Earthquake Victims	\$567.67
April	Morgan's Place	\$1,251.76
May	Wapak Area Tornado Relief	\$151.00
June	Bingo at the Acres	

Flowers and Candles

Altar Flowers for the month of June:

June 4 th	Brenda Shoffstall
June 11 th	--available--
June 18 th	--available--
June 25 th	--available--

Altar Candles for the month of June:

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

Ministries in Action

	June 4 th	June 11 th	June 18 th	June 25 th
Acolyte	Doris Fisher	Harrison Anderson	Deven Whetstone	Doris Fisher
Lector	Ken Frame	Connie Krites	Chris Nagel	Joyce Brincefield
Ushers	Ken Frame & Bruce Monnin	Dave Krites & Brian Van Meter	Ken Frame & Jon Schmidt	Clayton Fisher & Luke Kline
Worship Assistant	Deanna Ronan	Marsha Jackson	Makayla Frame	Ken Frame
Musician	Karen Luginbuhl	Kelly Walls	Darla Frame	Darla Frame
Preacher	Vicar Deb Monnin	Vicar Deb Monnin	Vicar Deb Monnin	Vicar Deb Monnin
Greeter	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>

Altar Guild for June: Jon & Carrie Schmidt

Fellowship Cleanup for June: Jon & Carrie Schmidt

The Word of God

These are the lessons and gospel readings for the next two months. We provide them for you: to prepare your hearts for worship, and to learn about God's action in the world.

Sunday	1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel
June 4 th	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	Psalm 8	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Matthew 28:16-20
June 11 th	Hosea 5:15-6:6	Psalm 50:7-15	Romans 4:13-25	Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
June 18 th	Exodus 19:2-8a	Psalm 100	Romans 5:1-8	Matthew 9:35-10:8[9-23]
June 25 th	Jeremiah 20:7-13	Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15]16-18	Romans 6:1b-11	Matthew 10:24-39
July 2 nd	Jeremiah 28:5-9	Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18	Romans 6:12-23	Matthew 10:40-42
July 9 th	Zechariah 9:9-12	Psalm 145:8-14	Romans 7:15-25a	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
July 16 th	Isaiah 55:10-13	Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13	Romans 8:1-11	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
July 23 rd	Isaiah 44:6-8	Psalm 86:11-17	Romans 8:12-25	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
July 30 th	1 Kings 3:5-12	Psalm 119:129-136	Romans 8:26-39	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

FELC News and Events...

Personal contact information...if there has been a change in your family's contact information, please contact the church office by email at wapakelc@bright.net or by calling the office at 419-738-3911.

Education/Worship Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
 10:00 a.m. Worship in person and online at www.myfelc.org

Adult Sunday School is meeting in the parlor at 9:00am on Sunday mornings. We would love for everyone to join our discussion and fellowship. Please contact Rebecca Van Meter if you are interested in joining us via Zoom or Facetime. All are welcome!

Quilting Group meets on third Wednesday of the month, from 10am-12noon in the parlor. If you would like to join this group or have questions, please contact Darla Frame.

Cookies Needed for Loaves and Fishes Thursday June 8th is First English's week to prepare meals for Loaves and Fishes. We are in need of several dozen cookies to go with these meals. If you are willing to donate cookies, please contact Brenda Shoffstall or Connie Krites. 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.

Wednesday prayer You are welcome to join us as we pray together on Wednesdays. This summer, Vicar Deb and others pray at Trinity, Moulton at noon and also at First English at 5:00pm.

Noisy Offering for the month of JUNE: Bingo at the Acres

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

Men's Night is scheduled for Thursday, June 8th at 6:00pm at The Side Rail in Wapak.

Ladies' Night is scheduled for Tuesday, June 20th at 6:00pm at Hillary Roeger's. Please come out for some great fellowship! If you need directions, please contact Brenda Shoffstall at (419) 233-1956

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 in attending please talk to Rebecca.

Family Life Center Walk for Life is June 3rd from 9:30 AM- 11:30 AM at the Wapak Track on 400 W. Harrison Street in Wapakoneta.

Announcements from Council

On May 21, 2023, Council met for the monthly meeting. We went through the monthly financial reports and we read the Vicar's report. Vicar Deb has asked for a time in June to meet with 3 members of the internship committee and 3 members of council to discuss ideas for various ways we want to move forward and help each other matching the gifts and needs of First English and Vicar Deb.

We approved the committee reports followed by some ideas for getting the word out that we need members to help out since our church needs more volunteers as this is a big part of stewardship. It can no longer be done with just a few. It was decided to put an article in the newsletter and bulletin describing why we need more people to keep our church moving forward.

We also would like to try to explain some of what has been happening with our meetings with Deacon Sherry and Pastor Will as we move forward in discussing our future here at First English.

- We as a council have met with Deacon Sherry and Pastor Will and the internship committee and Vicar Deb twice for some discussion on her vision for serving here and how we might overcome issues within the church such as healthy communication and healing past hurts.
- Vicar Deb and Brenda Shoffstall along with Deacon Sherry and Pastor Will have met to open dialogue as to coming together and building a stronger body of Christ.
- All of these meeting that we are having are so important to bring unity here at First English and to pave ways our church can continue to grow and for Vicar Deb to discern God's calling for her.
- We will continue to keep you all informed as this process moves forward. Please continue to pray for everyone here at First English. We are also willing to answer any questions you might have in the coming weeks.

Blessings to all,

Brenda Shoffstall, Teresa Fisher, Jon Schmidt, Darla Frame, Denise Kantner, Rebecca Van Meter, Georgeann Stienecker, David Clift, Jeff Ritchie

June 2023 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	2	3
4 Trinity Sunday Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Honor Graduates	5 VBS 9am-noon	6 VBS 9am-noon	7 VBS 9am-noon 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts	8 VBS 9am-noon 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night @ The Side Rail	9 VBS 9am-noon	10
11 2 nd Sunday of Pentecost Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am VBS Presentation	12	13	14 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts	15 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	16	17
18 3 rd Sunday of Pentecost Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am	19	20 6:00pm Ladies' Night @ Hillary Roeger's	21 10am Quilting 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts	22 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	23	24
25 4 th Sunday of Pentecost Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Council Meeting after worship	26	27	28	29 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	30	1

July 2023 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5	6 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	7	8
9 5 th Sunday of Pentecost Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am	10	11	12 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts	13 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night @ TBD	14	15
16 6 th Sunday of Pentecost Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am	17	18	19 10am Quilting 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts	20 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	21	22
23 7 th Sunday of Pentecost Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am	24	25 6:00pm Ladies' Night @TBD	26 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts	27 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	28	29
30 8 th Sunday of Pentecost Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am	31					