

First English Lutheran Church

Wapakoneta, Ohio



*Thank you,
Lord of life,
for this beautiful summer day!
May all who worship here
know the
warmth of your presence
and the
sunlight of your love.*

Our August 2023 Newsletter

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
107 W. Mechanic Street, Wapakoneta, OH 45895
(419) 738-3911 FAX: (419) 738-8893
Website: www.myfelc.org E-Mail Address: wapakelc@bright.net

Meet our staff...

Pastor

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

Office Administrator

Chuck Curry wapakelc@bright.net 419-738-3911

Bookkeeper

Anderson Accounting felc.finance@myfelc.org 419-738-3911

Financial Secretary/Treasurer

Georgeann Stienecker... nksoccer@nktelco.net 419-305-5066

Music Director

Darla Frame darlaframe@gmail.com 419-234-3283

Choir Directors

Susan Miller, Adult sugartime@bright.net 567-356-1844

Niki Oren, Bells niki_oren@hotmail.com 567-712-8674

Darla Frame, Bells darlaframe@gmail.com 419-234-3283

Bailey Van Meter &

Makayla Frame, Youth 419-738-3911

Church Council

Brenda Shoffstall..... shoffstall08@yahoo.com 419-233-1956

Teresa Fisher tatmfisher@bright.net 419-236-5628

Dave Clift..... right_guy12@hotmail.com 419-231-9800

Georgeann Stienecker... nksoccer@nktelco.net 419-305-5066

Denise Kantner jadak@bright.net 419-738-8289

Rebecca Van Meter rgvanmeter@yahoo.com 419-230-4979

Jeff Ritchie jritchie002@woh.rr.com 419-296-3794

Jon Schmidt ohthreeohsix@gmail.com 419-231-3284

Darla Frame darlaframe@gmail.com 419-234-3283

Audio/Visual Specialist

Dave Curry dlcy@bright.net 937-307-8596

Audio/Visual Staff

Jeff Ritchie jritchie002@woh.rr.com 419-296-3794

Noah Kirby noah.w.kirby@gmail.com 419-905-8243

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 Calm in the Storm ---



“But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him,” Matthew 14:30-31a

Have you ever gotten into a jam? Or been in a situation where you are overwhelmed?

Oftentimes it happens when unexpected things come up – Peter and the disciples had had a long day. They had just heard that John the baptizer had been killed, and then they went with Jesus to pray, but many people followed them. So Jesus shifted gears and took care of the people – 5000+ were fed. When they were finished Jesus sent the disciples in a boat across the sea to the next place, while Jesus stayed and prayed. A long day – full of emotion – and then one more thing came upon them – a big storm. The disciples were afraid – they were afraid of the storm, afraid what the world might do to them. Afraid. Jesus appeared, walking on the water towards them and said, “do not be afraid” and brought a sense of calm.

Now this is a familiar story – we’ve all heard of Jesus and Peter walking on water – but the thing that stood out to me today was the fact that Jesus immediately extended his hand and brought calmness and comfort. Peter was still in the water, the winds were still raging and Jesus brought calmness and peace. Jesus appeared just when Peter and the disciples most needed him.

Many times in life we are hit with more than we can handle. We are hit with surprise illnesses, surprise job changes, surprise car or house issues, surprises in our family. Or maybe the surprises on their own are no big deal, but when stacked upon each other they are too much. It feels like we are in the storm and are being battered by the people around us or by the storms of life that come upon us.

What storms are upon you right now? Or maybe what storms have you weathered? I invite you to ponder them, to name them, and then look to Jesus – Look out of your battered boat and notice - notice the rock of Jesus who reaches out his hand and catches you just as he catches Peter.

This picture is of a rock in the storm, bringing calm. This stack of rocks is sometimes called an Inukshuk – a pile of rocks that the native American Inuit people piled up to let others know that they were not alone. These are especially helpful in stormy or secluded areas. They can provide a bit of calmness and assurance that Jesus is with you!

When you find yourself in the storms of life, I invite you to look out, notice Jesus, the true rock, and remember that you are not alone – Jesus brings calm, brings friends who have gone before, and Jesus brings Peace – even while the storm rages. Come Lord Jesus.

Vicar Deb

Worship Q&A:

Have you ever wondered why we ring the bell? Or light the candles the way we do? Or maybe you wondered where the words come from that we use in worship?

During the announcement time of worship, we will share some info on the topic of the day – and then after worship during fellowship time, we'll have a Q&A where you can ask more questions and share your knowledge!

If you have a question or wondering about worship or about our sanctuary – let Chuck or Vicar Deb know!

In July, we shared about why we worship, we learned about the prelude and the bell ringing, about the candles in the sanctuary. We started learning about the parts of the worship service with the Confession and Forgiveness.

Vicar Deb has added a short explanation in the bulletin for the week she shared about it in worship. Feel free to look up the info either in the bulletin or in the worship YouTube recording.

In August we'll learn about the liturgy and about the readings.

Here's our plan! Thanks for your questions!

Future Topics

Q&A - Message - Children's also

Q&A - Creeds

Q&A - Songs

Q&A - Stained Glass Windows

Q&A - Prayers: of the day/Prayers of the people Q&A - Communion

Q&A - Altar Guild

Q&A - Church Year & Parament Colors & Banners

Thank you!

Thank you for your support of a student pastor. Thank you for walking with me as we lead together the ministry at First English and as we share the love of Jesus as Jesus loves us. It has been recommended that we pause in August to have a break between when I'm a Vicar and when I'm ordained as a pastor. I will be having a sabbath from August 6th through September 5th and will not be serving or leading worship during that time. Thank you for welcoming our guest preachers and thank you for your prayers for our ministry together now and in the future.

Congratulations!!

Congratulations to Chuck Curry and Sarah Neff who will be married on August 12th, 2023. Please include them in your prayers. If you would like to send a card, their address is:

Chuck & Sarah Curry, 1638 Deerfield Dr., Lima, OH 45805

Community Snapshot: Mercy Unlimited

Mercy Unlimited was founded in 1989 when a local group of community members noticed a growing need for food assistance within the community. The mission statement of Mercy Unlimited is to reflect the love of Christ by ministering onto those who are hungry, thirsty, homeless in need of clothing, sick, or imprisoned.

The hungry and thirsty are served through our food pantry where we provide emergency food assistance to households experiencing food insecurity. Clients are welcome to shop at our choice food pantry once every 30 days where food is provided as well as health and hygiene items, cleaning supplies and toiletries.

Also, through the food pantry, we have a weekend backpack program where we provide food to students who face food insecurity over the weekend when school breakfasts and lunches are not available. Our staff and volunteers pack enough food for each student to cover all meals through the weekend until their arrival back at school on Monday morning. Each student receives twenty-eight meals per month. Through our micro pantries we also stock and provide ready to eat food, health and hygiene, items, and other items requested by the staff at our local schools to be distributed to students in need.

Also, through our food pantry we provide a monthly food box to homebound seniors, who otherwise would experience food insecurity. Our staff and volunteers prepare the food boxes once a month and the food boxes are delivered by the Auglaize County Council on Aging (ACCA) directly to the seniors' homes.

We are facing an ever-growing homeless situation in Auglaize County. We partner with other agencies to try to provide temporary emergency shelter, food, and other needs of those experiencing homelessness. Those in need of clothing and unable to obtain it on their own are provided with a voucher so they may shop for free within our thrift store.

We also provide chaplain services at the Auglaize County correction facility as well as Celebrate Recovery services to both male and female inmates and after care services, helping them transition back into society.

We partner with other agencies throughout the county and try and fill the gaps in services that many residents are facing. Those agencies include, but are not limited to Auglaize County Crisis Center, Auglaize County Veteran Services, Auglaize County Department of Job and Family Services, Auglaize County Homeless Coalition, Auglaize County CERT, and Auglaize County Council on Aging.

Last fiscal year (Oct-Sept) we provided 11,151 units of service with a dollar value of \$217,000.00 to local individuals and families in need.

If you have any questions about the services we provide, are interested in volunteer opportunities, or would like to provide support, please contact our office at 419-738-3161.

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...

Otterbein at Cridersville	Sharon Billiter, Rex Lippincott
Otterbein at St. Marys	Dorothy Dickman
The Gardens	Betty Hague, Dale Thomas, Betty Lietz

We especially remember in our prayers...

The family and friends of Scott Frame,
Tracy Anderson, Dominic Cousins, Connie Kantner, Bryan Katterhenry,
Wayne & Judy Kentner, Mike Lafon, Rex Lippincott, Sasha Maslov, Dennis McCormick,
Mitchell Metz, Cathy & Desmond Miller, Sue Schoonover, Pam Schulz, Adam Schulze,
Alex Shirey, Alayna Smith Geiger, Donna Stowell Dague, Dale & Mary Ann Thomas,
Linda Thompson, Seth Thuman, Eddie Whetstone, Hannah Wood, Nancy Carter,
April Nance, Angela, 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>
07/02/2023*	21	60	\$2,435.45	\$48.00
07/09/2023	12	55	\$3,815.00	\$58.00
07/16/2023	11	52	\$2,705.00	\$123.00
07/23/2023	10	53	\$1,517.00	\$10.00
07/30/2023		54	\$1,441.00	\$20.00

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	\$176.00
June	Bingo at the Acres	\$80.92
July	Servant's Day	\$202.00
August	Angel Tree	

Flowers and Candles

Altar Flowers for the month of August:

August 6 th	--available--
August 13 th	Amelia Sterner
August 20 th	--available--
August 27 th	--available--

Altar Candles for the month of August:

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

Ministries in Action

	August 6 th	August 13 th	August 20 th	August 27 th
Acolyte	Deven Whetstone	Doris Fisher	Harrison Anderson	Deven Whetstone
Lector	Sandy Brading	Chris Nagel	Ken Frame	Connie Krites
Ushers	Ken Frame & Bruce Monnin	Dave Krites & Brian Van Meter	Ken Frame & Jon Schmidt	Clayton Fisher & Luke Kline
Worship Assistant	Char Curry	Ken Frame	Marsha Jackson	Darla Frame
Musician	Darla Frame	Karen Luginbuhl	Darla Frame	Susan Miller
Preacher	Makayla Frame	Bernie Rohdes	Bailey Van Meter	Pastor Ken Pollitz
Greeter	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Brenda Shoffstall</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>

Altar Guild for August: Brenda Shoffstall & Chris Nagel

Fellowship Cleanup for August: Brenda Shoffstall & Chris Nagel

The Word of God

Sunday	1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel
August 6 th	Isaiah 55:1-5	Psalm 145: 8-9, 14-21	Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21
August 13 th	1 Kings 19:9-18	Psalm 85:8-13	Romans 10:5-15	Matthew 14:22-33
August 20 th	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8	Psalm 67	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28
August 27 th	Isaiah 51:1-6	Psalm 138	Romans 12:1-8	Matthew 16:13-20
September 3 rd	Jeremiah 15:15-21	Psalm 26:1-8	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28
September 10 th	Ezekial 33:7-11	Psalm 119:33-40	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20
September 17 th	Genesis 50:15-21	Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13	Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35
September 24 th	Jonah 3:10-4:11	Psalm 145:1-8	Philippians 1:21-30	Matthew 20:1-16

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 Teams or Facetime. All are welcome!

Quilting Group meets on the 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.

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.

Please Help Us Sponsor Paul for a Month First English has sponsored a young man by the name of Paul Waswa through Compassion International for the last several years. This sponsorship has been paid for by the children's time donations and noisy offerings and other donations. Going forward, we are asking FELC congregation members if they would be willing to sponsor Paul for a month. The children's time donations would then be donated to Paul and his family through Compassion International. The cost of a monthly sponsorship is \$43 and the months of October, November, and December are still available for 2023. If you are interested, please contact the office. Thank you!!!

Georgeann Stienecker is retiring Effective December 31, 2023, Georgeann Stienecker is retiring as our Financial Secretary. Thank you, Georgeann, for your many years of service and stewardship in this position!!!

The search for someone to replace Georgeann will begin immediately as it will take some time to train her replacement. If you are interested in possibly serving the church in this role, please reach out to Brenda Shoffstall or Cari Frame by August 15th.

August 13th Congregational Meeting Q&A Following worship on July 30th and August 6th, some members of church council will be available in the church council room to answer any questions **regarding the congregational vote to call Vicar Deb** scheduled for August 13th. This is an important time in our church as we move forward and please know we want to help answer any questions you might have as to how Vicar Deb wants to serve with us.

-Brenda Shoffstall, Council President

Noisy Offering for the month of AUGUST: Angel Tree

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, August 10th at 6:00pm at Astro Lanes.

Ladies' Night is scheduled for Tuesday, August 15th at 6:00pm at Meyer's Tavern in Botkins. Please come out and enjoy some great fellowship!

Announcements from Council

Council has been busy with a joint meeting with Synod and Internship committee at the end of June followed by our regular meeting on July 16. We also had a short meeting on July 23. We have been working hard to listen to results of the surveys we sent and to complete all of the process to have a congregational vote for Vicar Deb on August 13.

In our monthly meeting, we looked at the financial and Vicar's reports and also discussed any committee reports.

Property committee asked for approval to replace sinks and faucets in Melching hall restrooms. Cook's heating and plumbing was awarded the job.

We looked over and discussed a revised code of conduct for council members.

A motioned was carried to accept Georgeann Stienecker's retirement notice as financial secretary, effective December 31, 2023. We discussed a possible replacement and will also be allowing any member that is interested to contact Cari Frame or Brenda Shoffstall.

We discussed a staff proposal.

We also voted to recommend a compensation package for the meeting on August 13.

On July 23, council met briefly to further discuss staff proposal but that was declined. The agenda and letter to announce the congregational meeting to vote on Vicar Deb was approved also.

Council has been working to represent our church through this process, but we need all of you too. Please come and ask your questions when we meet after church on June 30 and August 6.

Blessings,
Brenda Shoffstall, Council president

August 2023 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Girl Scouts	3 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	4	5
6 10 th Sunday of Pentecost Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am	7 6:30pm Worship & Music	8 2pm Bingo @ the Acres	9 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Girl Scouts	10 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night @ Astro Lanes	11	12
13 11 th Sunday of Pentecost Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Congregational Meeting Following Worship	14	15 6:00pm Ladies' Night @ Meyer's Tavern in Botkins	16 10am Quilting 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Girl Scouts	17 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	18	19
20 12 th Sunday of Pentecost Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Council Meeting Following Worship	21 6:30pm Fellowship Meeting	22	23 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Girl Scouts	24 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	25	26
27 13 th Sunday of Pentecost Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am	28	29	30 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Girl Scouts	31 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes		

September 2023 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 14 th Sunday of Pentecost Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am	4	5	6 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts	7 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	8	9
10 15 th Sunday of Pentecost Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am	11	12 2pm Bingo @ the Acres	13 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts	14 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night @ TBD	15	16
17 16 th Sunday of Pentecost Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Worship at Veteran's Park Rally Day	18	19 6:00pm Ladies' Night @TBD	20 10am Quilting 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts	21 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	22	23
24 17 th Sunday of Pentecost Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Congregational Council Meeting	25	26	27 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts	28 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	29	30