

**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio**



**15th Sunday of Pentecost
September 10th, 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
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 by the people of God in gratitude for
Pastor Paul Myers leading us in worship this morning.

MINISTERS for This Week

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Acolyte	Harrison Anderson
Lector	Chris Nagel
Ushers.....	Dave Krites
Worship Assistant.....	Chuck Curry
Musician	Karen Luginbuhl
Preacher.....	Pastor Paul Myers
Greeter	Dave & Chris Clift
Altar Guild.....	Tasha McPeek & Dee Ronan
Fellowship Cleanup	Tasha McPeek & Dee Ronan

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

* Please rise if able.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

GATHERING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

A Joyful Trumpet by Patricia Harris

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Merciful God, **we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God,
we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

* GATHERING SONG

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (ELW 836)

* 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.**

* **KYRIE (ELW p. 184).** *Kyrie is Latin for Lord – and also refers to a short prayer*

* **CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 187)**

This is the Feast

* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Pastor Paul Myers

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

A reading from Ezekiel.

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 119:33-40

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

³⁶**Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.

³⁸**Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰**Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

A reading from Romans.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil (ELW 512)

*** GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Reverend Paul Myers

* HYMN OF THE DAY

Where Charity and Love Prevail (ELW 359)

* 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

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

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

We are Sorry God, ... Hear us, O God, **Your Mercy is great.**

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

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior. **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 field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things.

Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*** HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 190)**

*** 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. 191)

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

For by Grace You Have Been Saved (ELW 598)

When We Are Living (ELW 639)

As We Gather at Your Table (ELW 522)

* 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

We thank you generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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

Earth and All Stars! (vs 1,4,5)(ELW 731)

* DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

MINISTERS for Next Week (Worship in the Park)

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Acolyte	
Lector	Ken Frame
Ushers.....	Ken Frame & Jon Schmidt
Worship Assistant.....	
Musician	
Preacher.....	Pastor Melodi Hagen
Greeter	
Altar Guild.....	Tasha McPeek & Dee Ronan
Fellowship Cleanup	Tasha McPeek & Dee Ronan

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 & Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz

We especially remember in our prayers...

Tracy Anderson, Makayla Brandyberry, Dominic Cousins, Ted Gibson, 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, 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 & OFFERINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>NWOS Benevolence</u>
08/06/2023	26	61	\$3,322.00	\$61.00
08/13/2023	30	110	\$3,150.00	\$118.00
08/20/2023	19	78	\$1,251.00	\$13.00
08/27/2023	10	58	\$995.00	\$10.00
09/03/2023	19	68	\$3,367.00	\$71.00

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....

We Give Thanks for the Ministry over the Last 3 Years

Please join us for worship on September 17th at Veterans Park. We will join with Trinity Lutheran Moulton and Vicar Deb to give thanks for the ministry we have shared over the past three years and offer blessings as we go forward in a different way. The Fellowship Committee will be providing meat and paper supplies. Trinity will be providing bottled water. You are asked to bring chairs, a side dish or dessert, and other drinks if desired. In the event of rain, we will worship in the FELC fellowship hall. See you there!

We know that Vicar Deb has touched many lives while serving this church and our community. Everyone is invited to bring a card of thanks or share words of encouragement for Vicar Deb for her pastoral care and leadership.

Noisy Offering for the month of SEPTEMBER: Maui Wildfire Relief

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

Bingo at the Acres FELC has resumed Bingo at the Acres. FELC will host Bingo every second Tuesday of the month from 2-3pm, our next date is September 12th. If you would like to help with this social outreach ministry, please contact Brenda Shoffstall.

Rally Day will be held on September 24th following worship Ready or not, it's time.

Rally Day marks the start of Sunday School. With Bailey and Makayla heading off to college, Sunday School will be getting a bit of a reboot this year. We are still finalizing some of the details and look forward to sharing more information with you in the coming weeks. We are also looking for a few good mentors who would be willing to help fill in on the occasional Sunday. If that sounds like you, please reach out to Cari Frame.

Rally Day Continued...new beginnings

In addition to being the kickoff for youth Sunday School, Rally Day will be an opportunity for First English to start something new, something more organic and more congregationally driven. Do you have an idea for a ministry or activity? Do you want to try something new? Do you want to get more involved at FELC but aren't sure how? Let's start talking about your ideas and hopes for the church. You are invited to come together to "commit to something new" on September 24th after worship.

Men's Night is scheduled for Thursday, September 14th at 6:00pm at La Neta.

Ladies' Night is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept 19th at 6:00pm at First English. We will be ordering food in. Please bring your own drinks. We will be having fellowship and games.

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

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 month of December is still available for 2023. If you are interested, please contact the office. Thank you!!!

Worship Music You will notice we are using more pre-recorded music. Darla enjoys playing occasionally and enjoys worshipping with the congregation even more. We support her desire to lead worship musically less often, so you will notice that we are using more pre-recorded music. You can help!! Spread the word – if you know someone who would like to record a song, or sing or play live music for our prelude let Darla know (it can be any instrument). If you know someone who might know someone who plays the organ or piano who would be the “organist” one, two or more Sundays a month, let us know as well. We give thanks to Darla for all she does and we give thanks to you who might know someone who would like to share their musical gifts.

Save the Dates

Fellowship committee once again will be hosting a Brunch with Santa on Dec 17, 2023, after worship with a visit from Santa and gift bags and a delicious brunch.

On Feb 11, 2024, which is Super Bowl Sunday, we will also be bringing back the Souper Bowl lunch with various soups, sandwiches and pies. We will be inviting area churches also. This will be a fundraiser for our church.

Both of these events will take many hands to pull them off and what better way to do something together as a congregation. More details will follow but be sure to add these dates to your calendar!

Thank you so much everyone!
Brenda Shoffstall

Servants Day is Saturday September 23rd from 8am to 4pm Organized by the Wapak Area Ministerial Association since 2010, Servants Day is an annual opportunity for volunteers to help repair the homes of those in need in the Wapakoneta area. Typical Servants Day projects include painting, carpentry, plumbing, electrical work, and yardwork/clean up. If you are interested in participating, please contact Kelly Walls at kschatts@gmail.com or the church office.

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, Sept 10th	10:00 a.m.	Worship – Rev Paul Meyer
Tuesday, Sept 12 th	2:00 p.m.	Bingo at the Acres
	6:15 p.m.	Christian Ed Meeting
Wednesday, Sept 13 th	12:00 p.m.	Prayer at Trinity
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Ladies' Choir
Thursday, Sept 14 th	4:30 p.m.	Loaves & Fishes Community Meal
	6:00 p.m.	Men's Night @ La Neta
Sunday, Sept 17th	10:00 a.m.	Worship in the Park – Veteran's Park
Tuesday, Sept 19 th	6:00 p.m.	Ladies' Night at First English
Wednesday, Sept 20 th	10:00 a.m.	Quilting
	12:00 p.m.	Prayer at Trinity
	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts (basement)
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Ladies' Choir
Thursday, Sept 21 st	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

Office Administrator	Chuck Curry
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