

**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio**

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Moulton, Ohio**

WORSHIP IN THE PARK



We Celebrate the Ministry Shared and the Lives Touched

**16th Sunday of Pentecost
September 17th, 2023**

Veteran's Park, Wapakoneta, OH

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

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

MINISTERS for This Week

Audio/Visual Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector Ken Frame
Ushers Ken Frame & Jon Schmidt
Preacher Pastor Melodi Hagen

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

* Please rise if able.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

GATHERING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* by Carl G Glazer arr Carol Tornquist

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,
you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you.
We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.
For the harm we have caused,
known and unknown, forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others
and your creation, forgive us.
For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.
Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Shout to the Lord (ELW 821)

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rebecca Van Meter

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God

PSALM: Psalm 103:1-13

¹Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

²**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**

³who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;

⁴**who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

⁵who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶**O Lord, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.

⁸**Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

⁹you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹²**As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

The holy gospel according to Matthew, chapter 18.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

This is the good news for you this day,

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Pastor Melodi Hagen

If you would like to read about Itzhak Perlman’s inspiring performance at the Lincoln Center, check out <https://www.atime.org/chizuk/with-whats-left/>

HYMN OF THE DAY

Shine, Jesus Shine (ELW 671)

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

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

Thank You God, ... Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
We are Sorry God, ... Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
Please God, ... Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through 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

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 power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

BLESSING OF THE MINISTRY & BLESSING OF CLOSURE

When ministries end, it is sometimes with much frustration, sometimes with little feeling, and sometimes with much sadness. This blessing of the ministries we had together, Trinity, First English, & Vicar Deb, will help ease the emotions of a painful leaving, whether that pain is anger or grief. This blessing will send us on our way with God's blessing.

WELCOME

We invite leaders of Trinity and of First English to come forward now.

For everything there is a season
and a time for every matter under heaven. (Ecc. 3:1)

Welcome to this time for reflecting upon our life together
and wishing each other God's blessings.

PRAYER

God of every yesterday and every tomorrow, make your presence known to us in this time of letting go and moving on. Wrap us in your love. May the experience of grace during this time we spend together support us in the days and weeks ahead. AMEN

A reading from John, Chapter 14:

Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid.

REFLECTION

Leaders of Trinity, First English, and Vicar Deb are invited to reflect
I am grateful for.... I am sad about.... I lift these blessings for you...
Let us now pray responsively:

For the Joys shared,
Thank you Lord

For the Hurts caused,
Forgive us Lord

For new Beginnings,
Bless us Lord.

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.**

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**

On Our Way Rejoicing (ELW 537)

*** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. God is at work in you.
Thanks be to God.

You are invited for lunch! Please give the fellowship team a few minutes to set up.

**** Offerings designated for a specific church or ministry
will go to that specific church or ministry. ****

**** Our Loose Offering for today will go to the Maui Fire Victims or to
The Wapakoneta Area Ministerial Association for help with people who are
homeless in our community. You will find baskets for each by the bulletins. ****

FIRST ENGLISH MINISTERS for Next Week

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Acolyte	Deven Whetstone
Lector	Marsha Jackson
Ushers	Clayton Fisher & Luke Kline
Worship Assistant.....	Deanna Ronan
Musician	Kelly Walls
Preacher.....	Pastor Mark Bauer
Greeter	Chris Nagel
Altar Guild.....	Tasha McPeek & Dee Ronan
Fellowship Cleanup	Tasha McPeek & Dee Ronan

Trinity Worship Next Sunday, 10:15 am, in the Sanctuary

Olivia Hagen, Acolyte
Wendy Bauer, Lay Reader
Doretta Nale, Altar Flower Care

FIRST ENGLISH 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...

The family and friends of Mike Lafon,
Tracy Anderson, Makayla Brandyberry, Dominic Cousins, Ted Gibson, Connie Kantner,
Bryan Katterhenry, Wayne & Judy Kentner, 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.

TRINITY PRAYER CONCERNS

Rose Casazza, Gary & Sandra Honis, Autumn Regula, Amy Grewe,
Stan & Monica Hensley, JoAnn Keneipp, Tom Logan, Heather Poynter, Chris Lane,
Redeemer Lutheran Church, and our shut-ins.

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.

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; dicy@bright.net ; 937-307-8596
Council President	Brenda Shoffstall, shoffstall08@yahoo.com , 419-233-1956