

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio

Matthew 16:24 NRSV



...let them
deny themselves
and take up their cross
and follow me.

14th Sunday of Pentecost
September 3rd, 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.

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.

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.

MINISTERS for This Week

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Acolyte	Deven Whetstone
Lector	Dee Ronan
Ushers	Ken Frame & Richard Yocum
Worship Assistant	Jon Schmidt
Musician	Darla Frame
Preacher	Pastor Bob Gibson
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

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

GATHERING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling by John Zundel arr Bill Wolaver

* 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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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

For the Beauty of the Earth (vs 1,4,5)(ELW 879)

*** 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

Rebecca Van Meter

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21

A reading from Jeremiah.

¹⁵O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.
In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart;

for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merry-makers, nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable, refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD:

If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD.

²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

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

PSALM: Psalm 26:1-8

¹Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;
I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

²**Test me, O LORD, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.**

³For your steadfast love is before my eyes;
I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴**I have not sat with the worthless,
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

⁵I have hated the company of evildoers;
I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶**I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

⁷singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

⁸**LORD, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.**

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

A reading from Romans.

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil (ELW 512)

*** GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE

Pastor Bob Gibson

*** HYMN OF THE DAY**

Will You Come and Follow Me (ELW 798)

*** THE NICENE CREED**

Let us profess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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

One Bread, One Body (ELW 496)

Now We Join in Celebration (ELW 462)

Precious Lord, Take My Hand (ELW 773)

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine (ELW 774)

Blest Be the Tie That Binds (ELW 656)

*** 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**

Jesus, Still Lead On (ELW 624)

*** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the harvest.
Thanks be to God.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>NWOS Benevolence</u>
07/30/2023	13	54	\$1,441.00	\$20.00
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

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!



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, 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, 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.

Let's shower Tracy Anderson with love and encouragement!

Tracy is kicking cancer's butt, again. Thank the Lord! But she is struggling with complications related to her prolonged hospital stays. She could really use our love and support, so we want to shower her with cards and visits. Tracy is at Kindred Hospital (at St. Rita's) and is staying in room 41. The mailing address is:

Kindred Hospital
Attn: Tracy Anderson, Room 41
730 West Market St.
Lima, OH 45805

MINISTERS for Next Week

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

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.

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.

Please Help Us Sponsor Paul for a Month First English has sponsored a young man for several years by the name of Paul Waswa through monthly donations to Compassion International. We are still looking for help to cover the month of December. The monthly cost of this monthly sponsorship is \$43 and the month of December is still available for 2023. If you are interested, please contact the office. Thank you!!!

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. As part of the noisy offering you have the opportunity to purchase custom roasted Maui coffee. 4oz of custom brewed Maui coffee can be purchased for \$10 and all proceeds will go to help the Maui Wildfire victims. Order forms are at the back of the church by the offering plate.

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.

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

Worship Music You will notice we are using more pre-recorded music. Darla enjoys playing occasionally and enjoys worshiping 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.

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, Sept 3rd	10:00 a.m.	Worship – Pastor Bob Gibson
Wednesday, Sept 6 th	12:00 p.m.	Prayer at Trinity
	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts (basement)
Thursday, Sept 7 th	4:30 p.m.	Loaves & Fishes Community Meal
Sunday, Sept 10th	10:00 a.m.	Worship – Rev Paul Meyer
Tuesday, Sept 12 th	2:00 p.m.	Bingo at the Acres
Wednesday, Sept 13 th	12:00 p.m.	Prayer at Trinity
	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts (basement)
Thursday, Sept 14 th	4:30 p.m.	Loaves & Fishes Community Meal
	6:00 p.m.	Men’s Night @ La Neta

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

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