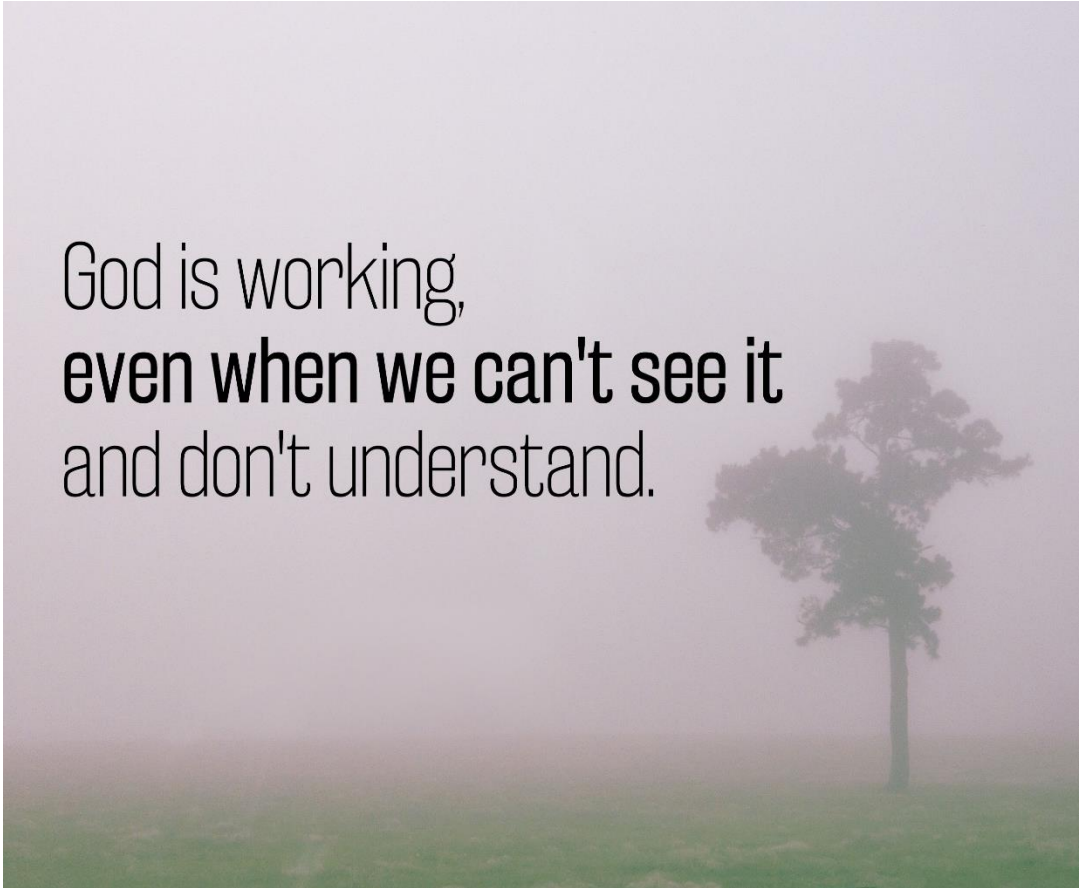


# First English Lutheran Church

Wapakoneta, Ohio

God is working,  
**even when we can't see it**  
and don't understand.



Our September 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](http://www.myfelc.org) E-Mail Address: [wapakelc@bright.net](mailto:wapakelc@bright.net)

## Meet our staff...

### Office Administrator

Chuck Curry ..... [wapakelc@bright.net](mailto:wapakelc@bright.net) ..... 419-738-3911

### Bookkeeper

Anderson Accounting ..... [felc.finance@myfelc.org](mailto:felc.finance@myfelc.org) ..... 419-738-3911

### Financial Secretary/Treasurer

Georgeann Stienecker... ..... [nksoccer@nktelco.net](mailto:nksoccer@nktelco.net) ..... 419-305-5066

### Music Director

Darla Frame ..... [darlaframe@gmail.com](mailto:darlaframe@gmail.com) ..... 419-234-3283

### Choir Directors

Susan Miller, Adult ..... [sugartime@bright.net](mailto:sugartime@bright.net) ..... 567-356-1844

Niki Oren, Bells ..... [niki\\_oren@hotmail.com](mailto:niki_oren@hotmail.com) ..... 567-712-8674

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Youth ..... 419-738-3911

### Church Council

Brenda Shoffstall ..... [shoffstall08@yahoo.com](mailto:shoffstall08@yahoo.com) ..... 419-233-1956

Teresa Fisher ..... [tatmfisher@bright.net](mailto:tatmfisher@bright.net) ..... 419-236-5628

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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.



August 18, 2023

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The apostle Paul wrote these words at the beginning of all his letters. I'm thinking and pondering the letter he wrote to the congregation in Corinth. This congregation was split, much as First English is: there are disagreements about who to believe,

which laws to follow, etc. Paul invites them to unite in Christ, (1 Cor 1:10-17) and to be informed by the view of love in 1 Cor 8:1-3, 1 Cor 13, and 1 Cor 16:14.

I invite you to pause right now, open your Bibles and read these texts, out loud. Take a few minutes between each one and share what comes to you, either writing or sketching in a journal, or verbally out loud with a partner. God is with God's people always, leading, caring, sitting with them in the junk and in the grief. May your hearts be open to God's presence.

Please, as you ponder how to go forward, be kind to one another, listen to each other, and go forth in faith as you are beloved children of God.

I will not be returning to First English to preach or lead. I give thanks for the clear message from God in the call vote, calling me into something new. I give thanks for the ministry we shared over the past three years. I give thanks for the growing in Christ we had. I give thanks for you. I pray God's wisdom be on you as you move forward as the body of Christ.

Bruce and I are thankful to have been part of the worshiping and faith community here over the past three years and we pray that the Holy Spirit be with you, now and always.

With God's Blessings,  
*Vicar Deb*

Members and friends of First English,

On Aug 13, the congregation voted to not call Vicar Deb to First English. This means that our church will enter into the call process. Vicar Deb is currently on sabbatical and will not be returning to her roll at First English, but she will be participating in the joint worship service with Trinity Lutheran Moulton on September 17<sup>th</sup> at Veteran's Park. This service and the reception to follow will serve as an opportunity to thank Vicar Deb for her service to this church and to celebrate the ministry that we have shared these past three years.

Congregational Council will be scheduling supply pastors and lay ministers for our upcoming Sunday worship services.

As we move forward, we must come together. Our council has been working on that for several months and will continue, but this congregation needs to do it too. We need to start with being better Christians, doing what's right, respecting others, showing compassion and forgiveness, supporting one another, and working together. This is not my house, it's not your house, it's God's house, so please let's start acting accordingly. As I said last week, it's going to take all of us, our members, our committees, and Council, helping out with things like straightening pews, ushering, greeting, flowers at the altar, visitations, helping outside with our property for us to continue God's work here at First English.

This will not be a quick process, but we can do this and hopefully make First English the welcoming church it needs to be.

It was nice to see our sanctuary so full on the day of the vote. My sincere hope is for some of the people who voted, no matter which way, will keep coming back and want to be a part of us again and get involved.

Thank you and we will keep you all informed regularly.

Brenda Shoffstall,  
Council President

## FELC Committees, Chairpersons, Council Liaisons

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Liaison</b>
Building & Property	Brenda Shoffstall	Jeff Ritchie
Christian Education/Youth	Rebecca Van Meter	
Evangelism		Denise Kantner
Finance	Cari Frame	Dave Clift
Life & Fellowship	Brenda Shoffstall	Darla Frame
Social Ministry		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 & 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, underrepresented and oppressed people, first responders, 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

## Weekly Attendance and 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!



## 2023 Noisy Offerings

<b>Month</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Amount Collected</b>
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	\$143.00
September	Maui Wildfire Victims	

## Flowers and Candles

### Altar Flowers for the month of September:

September 3 <sup>rd</sup>	--available--
September 10 <sup>th</sup>	Church Council
September 17 <sup>th</sup>	--available--
September 24 <sup>th</sup>	--available--

### Altar Candles for the month of September:

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

## Ministries in Action

	September 3 <sup>rd</sup>	September 10 <sup>th</sup>	September 17 <sup>th</sup> @ Veteran's Park	September 24 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Acolyte</b>	Doris Fisher	Harrison Anderson	N/A	Deven Whetstone
<b>Lector</b>	Dee Ronan	Chris Nagel	Ken Frame	Marsha Jackson
<b>Ushers</b>	Ken Frame & Richard Yocum	Dave Krites & Brian Van Meter	Ken Frame & Jon Schmidt	Clayton Fisher & Luke Kline
<b>Worship Assistant</b>	Jon Schmidt	Chuck Curry	N/A	Deanna Ronan
<b>Musician</b>	Darla Frame	Karen Luginbuhl	N/A	Kelly Walls
<b>Preacher</b>	Pastor Bob Gibson	Pastor Paul Myers	Pastor Melodi Hagen	Pastor Mark Bauer
<b>Greeter</b>	Dave & Chris Clift	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	N/A	Chris Nagel

**Altar Guild for September: Tasha McPeek & Dee Ronan**

**Fellowship Cleanup for September: Tasha McPeek & Dee Ronan**

## The Word of God

Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Psalms	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Gospel
September 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jeremiah 15:15-21	Psalms 26:1-8	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28
September 10 <sup>th</sup>	Ezekiel 33:7-11	Psalms 119:33-40	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20
September 17 <sup>th</sup>	Genesis 50:15-21	Psalms 103:[1-7] 8-13	Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35
September 24 <sup>th</sup>	Jonah 3:10-4:11	Psalms 145:1-8	Philippians 1:21-30	Matthew 20:1-16
October 1 <sup>st</sup>	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32	Psalms 25:1-9	Philippians 2:1-13	Matthew 21:23-32
October 8 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 5:1-7	Psalms 80:7-15	Philippians 3:4b-14	Matthew 21:33-46
October 15 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 25:1-9	Psalms 23	Philippians 4:1-9	Matthew 22:1-14
October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Isaiah 45:1-7	Psalms 96:1-9[10-13]	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Matthew 22:15-22
October 29 <sup>th</sup>	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Psalms 46	Romans 3:19-28	John 8:31-36

## 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](mailto: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](http://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!

### **We Give Thanks for the Ministry over the Last 3 Years**

Please join us for worship on September 17<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> after worship.

**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 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 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.

**Noisy Offering for the month of SEPTEMBER: Maui Wildfire Victims**

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.

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

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

**Servants Day is Saturday September 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:kschatts@gmail.com) or the church office.

## **Announcements from Council**

Council met on August 20 after worship. We talked with our special guest Joy Mason who is interested in filling Georgeann's position as Financial Secretary. Council approved the hiring of Joy effective January 1, 2024. Georgeann will be working with her in the coming weeks.

We looked at the financial reports given to us along with Vicar Deb's final report.

We discussed various committee matters.

We received copies of the Church Council covenant and will have a copy of signatures in the office safe.

We discussed service in the park and farewell day on September 17 at Veterans Park. Fellowship will take care of the meal and Christian Ed will work on the farewell for Vicar Deb and to thank Trinity for the past 3 years.

We went into executive session on a matter.

Finally, we accepted the resignation of Rebecca Van Meter as Christian Education Director.

On August 21, Rebecca also resigned from Church council. Thank you for your years of service.

Brenda Shoffstall  
Council President

## September 2023 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3</b> 14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Pastor Bob Gibson	4	5	<b>6</b> 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>7</b> 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	8	9
<b>10</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Pastor Paul Meyer	11	<b>12</b> 2pm Bingo @ the Acres	<b>13</b> 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Ladies' Choir	<b>14</b> 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes  6:00pm Men's Night @ La Neta	15	16
<b>17</b> 16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost Adult Sunday School @ 9am  Worship w/Trinity @ 10am @ Veteran's Park Pastor Melodi Hagen	18	<b>19</b> 6:00pm Ladies' Night @FELC	<b>20</b> 10am Quilting 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Ladies' Choir	<b>21</b> 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	22	<b>23</b> Servant's Day 8am-4pm
<b>24</b> 17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost Adult & Youth Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Pastor Mark Bauer Rally Day	25	26	<b>27</b> 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>28</b> 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	29	30

## October 2023 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost Adult & Youth Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Pastor Mich Althouser	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Bell Choir	<b>5</b> 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost Adult & Youth Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Traci Merrithew	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 2pm Bingo @ the Acres	<b>11</b> 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>12</b> 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes  6pm Men's Night @ TBD	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost Adult & Youth Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Pastor Bill Schultz	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:00pm Ladies' Night @ TBD	<b>18</b> 10am Quilting 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>19</b> 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Pentecost Adult & Youth Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Sue Bishop  Council Meeting Following Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Bell Choir	<b>26</b> 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Reformation Sunday Adult & Youth Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Pastor Bill Schultz	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				