

**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio**



...the bridegroom came,
AND THOSE WHO WERE READY
went with him into the
wedding banquet...

Matthew 25:10 NRSV

**24th Sunday of Pentecost
November 12th, 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. Youth and Adult Sunday School
9:45 a.m. Youth Choir
10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Worship Leaders & Assistants

The **Altar Candles** are given to the Glory of God by Char Curry
in loving memory of her mother, Mabel Jackson.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God by Carl and Angie Bowersock in
celebration of their 33rd wedding anniversary on November 10th.

The floral arrangement in front of the altar is given in gratitude to Pastor Adam Poe
for leading worship today.

MINISTERS for This Week

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Acolyte	Faith Whetstone
Lector	Doris Fisher
Ushers	Dave Krites & Brian Van Meter
Worship Assistant.....	Jon Schmidt
Musician	
Preacher.....	Pastor Adam Poe
Greeter	Carlene Koch
Altar Guild.....	Denise Kantner & Joy Kantner
Fellowship Cleanup	Denise Kantner & Chris Nagel

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

* Please rise if able.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

GATHERING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE SALUTE OUR VETERANS

Video – I Fought for You

Thank you to all that have served in the Armed Forces!

PRELUDE

* 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.

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

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers (ELW 244)

*** 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.**

*** CALL TO WORSHIP (PSALM 136:1-3)**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
For his steadfast love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods,
For his steadfast love endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
For his steadfast love endures forever.

*** CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 187) *This is the Feast***

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, 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: Amos 5:18-24

A reading from Amos.

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

²³Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 70

¹Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O LORD, make haste to help me.
²**Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.**
³Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat over me
turn back because of their shame.
⁴**Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great is the LORD!”**
⁵But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil (ELW 512)

*** GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Pastor Adam Poe

*** HYMN OF THE DAY**

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness (ELW 488)

*** 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

Please be seated.

As the ushers come forward, 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.

* 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

Come, Let Us Eat (ELW 491)

You Are Mine (ELW 581)

Thy Holy Wings (ELW 613)

*** 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

Soon and Very Soon (ELW 439)

* DISMISSAL

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

You are invited to stay to ask Pastor Poe questions about the NALC.

MINISTERS for Next Week

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Acolyte	Vivian Fisher
Lector	Marsha Jackson
Ushers.....	Ken Frame & Jon Schmidt
Worship Assistant.....	Deanna Ronan
Musician	Kelly Walls
Preacher.....	Pastor Christian Dittmer
Greeter	Frank & Nancy Heffner
Altar Guild.....	Denise Kantner & Joy Kantner
Fellowship Cleanup	Denise Kantner & Chris Nagel

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>NWOS Benevolence</u>
10/08/2023	17	66	\$2,929.00	\$48.00
10/15/2023	18	67	\$1,645.00	\$123.00
10/22/2023	12	77	\$1,632.00	\$82.00
10/29/2023	14	47	\$1,145.00	\$10.00
11/05/2023	7	74	\$4,294.41	\$66.00

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...

The family and friends of Cathy Miller,
The family and friends of Alayna Smith Geiger
James Benshoff, Olivia Brinkley, Dominic Cousins, Richard Curry, Ted Gibson,
Connie Kantner, Bryan Katterhenry, Wayne & Judy Kentner, Rex Lippincott,
Lauren Makuh, Sasha Maslov, Mitchell Metz, Desmond Miller, Jenny Oliver,
Sue Schoonover, Pam Schulz, Adam Schulze, Alex Shirey, Donna Stowell Dague,
Seth Thuman, Phil Thrush, 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.

What's Happening at First English....

Noisy Offering for the month of NOVEMBER: Hopewood Pines Pool Project

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

Operation Christmas Child AKA Operation Shoebox. FELC will be participating in Samaritan Purse's Operation Christmas Child program to spread the Gospel and Christ's love to needy children throughout the world. If you would like to send a box of love through Operation Christmas Child, boxes and instructions are available in the chapel. Filled boxes can be returned to the church on or before November 19th.

YouthQuake Registration Your middle school or high school student is invited to join us for a fun packed weekend of praise and worship at YouthQuake in Cincinnati from January 5-7. Registrations will be accepted until December 17th and the cost is \$80 per student, but there are scholarships available. The registration fee covers all expenses for the weekend except for two lunches. Youth are encouraged to invite their friends to join us. Registration forms are available in the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Chuck Curry at 419-738-3911.

NALC Discussion Sessions You should have received a letter or email regarding ongoing discussions about possibly changing our denominational affiliation. Council is ready to meet and answer any questions regarding this possibility. Members of Council will be available in the council meeting room following worship on November 19th and December 3rd. Today after worship, Pastor Adam Poe, who is an ordained minister in the NALC, has graciously agreed stay to afterward to answer as best he can any questions that you may have about the NALC and how it differs from the ELCA.

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 November 14th. If you would like to help with this social outreach ministry, please contact Brenda Shoffstall.

Hat and Glove Drive for Wapak Middle School FELC is collecting hats and gloves to donate to Wapak Middle School Students. A collection box is located in the chapel.

Worship Music We need your help! If you or someone you know would like to record a song, or sing or play live music for our prelude, let Darla know (it can be any instrument). Also, if you know someone who plays the organ or piano that might be interested in serving as our "organist" one or two Sundays a month or even just occasionally, please pass their name onto Darla, or just let them know we are interested in their services for our services. Thank you so much!

Ladies' Night is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14th at 6:00pm at JT's.

Senior Lunch and Learn Trinity Lutheran in Moulton is hosting a Senior Lunch and Learn on November 16th at noon. Lunch will be provided by J Marie's. Amelia Sterner is the guest speaker and she will be demonstrating the many facets of speech therapy. Please RSVP by November 13th by contacting Darlene Risner at 419-202-5553.

Family Movie night on Friday, November 17th at 5:30pm Please join us for pizza from Al's Woodys Diner and a movie on Friday November 17th at 5:30pm. The adults will watch *Sound of Freedom* in the Fellowship Hall and the youth will watch *Elemental* in the Parlor. FELC will also provide the popcorn, but please plan to bring your own drinks.

Christmas Decorating Please mark your calendars, we will be decorating the church for Christmas on December 1st and 2nd. That's the first Friday and Saturday in December. Our meeting time will depend on the availability of our volunteers.

Christmas Poinsettia Orders Poinsettia order forms are now available from the church office for those of you who would like to order a poinsettia for the altar for Christmas Eve. Those orders will be due on November 26th.

Advent Calendars All youth, toddlers through college, are invited to participate in making their own advent calendar and making advent calendars to share with our homebound members, friends, and youth in need in our community. After the event we are asking families and members of FELC to help deliver calendar gifts to our shut in members. If you have questions please contact Rebecca Van Meter.

Brunch with Santa will be held on December 17th following worship, details to follow.

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, November 12th	10:00 a.m.	Worship – Pastor Adam Poe
Wednesday, November 15 th	10:00 a.m.	Quilting
	12:00 p.m.	Prayer at Trinity
	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts (basement)
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation
		Bell Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Ladies' Choir
Thursday, November 16 th	4:30 p.m.	Loaves & Fishes Community Meal
Sunday, November 19th	10:00 a.m.	Worship – Pastor Christian Dittmer
Thursday, November 24 th		Happy Thanksgiving

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