

**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio**



Well Done,
thou good and
faithful servant...
enter thou into
the joy of thy lord.

Matthew 25:21, KJV

**25th Sunday of Pentecost
November 19th, 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 Brian and Rebecca Van Meter in
loving memory of our grandparents and in thanksgiving for the lives they lived.

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

MINISTERS for This 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 Dittmar
Greeter	Frank & Nancy Heffner
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

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

GATHERING

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

VIDEO - MIRACLE MEAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

For the Fruit of All Creation (ELW 679)

* 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. **Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

LADIES' CHOIR ANTHEM

A Joyful Noise by John Ness Beck

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rebecca Van Meter

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm."

¹³Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.

Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,

the warrior cries aloud there.

¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,

¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.

¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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

PSALM: Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

¹Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

²**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.**

³You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."

⁴**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night;**

⁵you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

⁶**in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

⁷For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.

⁸**Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

⁹When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

¹⁰**The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**

¹¹Who regards the power of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your indignation?

¹²**So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil (ELW 512)

*** GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30**

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have

been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE

Pastor Christian Dittmar

* HYMN OF THE DAY

As Saints of Old (ELW 695)

* 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

For the Bread Which You Have Broken (ELW 494)

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (ELW 815)

Christ, Be Our Light (ELW 715)

* 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

On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand (ELW 437)

* DISMISSAL

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

MINISTERS for Next Week

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Acolyte	Deven Whetstone
Lector	Connie Krites
Ushers.....	Luke Kline & Clayton Fisher
Worship Assistant.....	Susan Miller
Musician	Darla Frame
Preacher.....	Chuck Curry
Greeter	Chris Nagel
Altar Guild.....	Denise Kantner & Joy Kantner
Fellowship Cleanup	Denise Kantner & Chris Nagel

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 Adam Schulze,
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, 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.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>NWOS Benevolence</u>
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
11/12/2023	14	80	\$2,189.50	\$143.00

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....

Noisy Offering for NOVEMBER: Hopewood Pines Pool Project Offering pans are located in the chapel and at the back of the church. Donations are accepted all month.

Operation Christmas Child Filled boxes should be returned to the church today.

NALC Discussion Sessions Council is ready to meet and answer any questions regarding this possibility of changing our denominational affiliation. Members of Council will be available in the council meeting room following worship on Nov 26th and Dec 3rd.

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.

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.

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!

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. The Fellowship Committee will be hosting a delicious brunch of breakfast casserole, pancakes, sausage and muffins for all to come and enjoy. Santa will be stopping by too. We will also be selling cookie plates to benefit the Wapak Ministerial Association and County EMA.

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, November 19th	10:00 a.m.	Worship – Pastor Christian Dittmar Council Meeting after worship
Thursday, November 24 th		Happy Thanksgiving
Sunday, November 26th	10:00 a.m.	Worship – Chuck Curry Advent Calendar Making after worship
Wednesday, November 29 th	12:00 p.m.	Prayer at Trinity
	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts (basement)
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Ladies' Choir
Thursday, November 30 th	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; darcy@bright.net ; 937-307-8596
Council President	Brenda Shoffstall, shoffstall08@yahoo.com , 419-233-1956