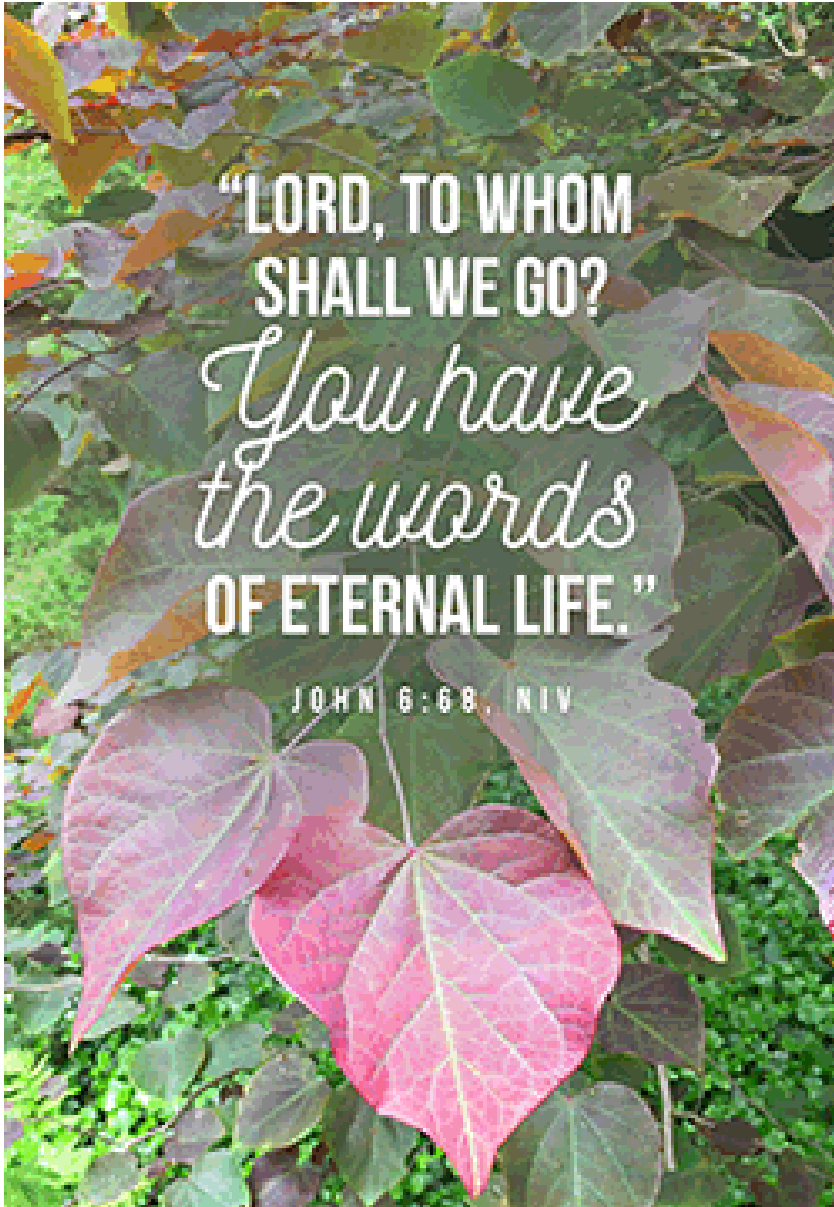


**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio**



**“LORD, TO WHOM
SHALL WE GO?
*You have
the words*
OF ETERNAL LIFE.”**

JOHN 6:68, NIV

**14th Sunday of Pentecost
August 25th, 2024**

WELCOME TO FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

We invite all baptized Christians who believe that Christ is truly present in the meal to join us for Holy Communion when served.

Children of all ages are encouraged to participate in worship.

Sunday Schedule

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship

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 Chad & Amelia Sterner in celebration of Grace's, Cody's, and Harriet's birthdays.

MINISTERS for This Week

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Hilary Roeger
Ushers	Luke Kline & Chad Sterner
Worship Assistant	Ken Frame
Musician	Darla Frame
Pastor	CH Leslie Haines (Maj) ret.
Greeter	
Altar Guild	Brenda Shoffstall & Chris Nagel
Fellowship Cleanup	Brenda Shoffstall & 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

In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John's gospel for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom can we go?" asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

On Jordan's Stormy Banks Trad American Melody arr Joel Raney

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW P. 94)

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

Come, Thou Mighty King (ELW 408)

* 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

Glory be to God (ELW p. 204)

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rebecca Van Meter

WORD

FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

A reading from Joshua.

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 34:15-22

¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous,
and God's ears are open to their cry.

¹⁶**The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,
to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.**

¹⁷The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them
and delivers them from all their troubles.

¹⁸**The LORD is near to the brokenhearted
and saves those whose spirits are crushed.**

¹⁹Many are the troubles of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers them from every one.

²⁰**God will keep safe all their bones;
not one of them shall be broken.**

²¹Evil will bring death to the wicked
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

²²**O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10-20

A reading from Ephesians.

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil (ELW 512)

GOSPEL: John 6:56-69

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

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Chaplain Leslie Haines

*** HYMN OF THE DAY**

O Jesus, I Have Promised (ELW 810)

*** THE APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us profess our faith using the words of the 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**

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

Each petition will end with *Merciful God*,
Please respond with **receive our prayer**.

Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of 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

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 you provide, and for the gifts you share.

OFFERTORY

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need arr Tracey Craig McKibbon

*** OFFERING HYMN**

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW 182)

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, 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. 207)**

*** WORDS OF INSTITUTION (ELW p. 190)**

*** 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 to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God (ELW p. 208)

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

For the Bread Which You Have Broken (ELW 494)

They'll Know We Are Christians (On Screen)

When Morning Gilds the Skies (ELW 853)

***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

Let us pray. O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our 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**

Blessed Assurance (ELW 638)

*** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

MINISTERS for Next Week

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Richard Yocum
Ushers.....	Ken Frame & Richard Yocum
Worship Assistant.....	Jon Schmidt
Musician	Darla Frame
Pastor.....	Dale Stanley
Greeter	
Altar Guild.....	Tasha McPeek & Deanna Ronan
Fellowship Cleanup	Tasha McPeek & Deanna Ronan

OUR PRAYER CORNER

Those who would love a visit or a card...

Otterbein at Cridersville Sharon Billiter
Otterbein at St. Marys Dorothy Dickman
The Gardens Betty Hague, Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz

We especially remember in our prayers...

Concordia Ann Arbor, James Benshoff, Nancy Carter, Janet Case, Dominic Cousins, Se'vie Daniel, Emily Fisher, Ted Gibson, Ben Jauert, Paula Jauert, Connie Kantner, Bryan Katterhenry, Wayne & Judy Kentner, Lauren Makuh, Sasha Maslov, Jenny Oliver, Nixon Palte, Pam Schulz, Cindy Schwer, Alex Shirey, Hunter Smith, Evelyn Sprague, Georgeann Stienecker, Seth Thuman, Norma Wachauf, Harold Wallace, Eddie Whetstone, Sara Young, Jim Zwiebel, Angela, Skyler, and Samir.

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>Benevolence</u>
07/21/2024	9	55	\$1,615.20	\$10.00
07/28/2024	9	59	\$1,423.00	\$10.00
08/04/2024	12	54	\$4,510.00	\$45.00
08/11/2024	19	75	\$1,770.80	\$90.00
08/18/2024	11	43	\$2,454.91	\$125.00

2024 current budgeted expenses are \$128,507.08, or \$2,471.29 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 AUGUST: Operation Christmas Child Offering pans are located in the chapel and at the back of the church. Donations are accepted all month.

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. 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, please let Darla know. Thank you so much!

FELC is Hiring FELC is seeking qualified candidates for the position of office administrator. This is a part-time salaried position. The desired work schedule is Monday through Friday from 9am to noon. Duties include but are not limited to maintaining office hours, greeting visitors, answering the phone, responding to emails, drafting and publishing worship bulletins, newsletters, and other church correspondence, maintaining church records, assisting the Council, Committees, and Staff of FELC, and other tasks as needed. Candidates should have good verbal and written communication skills and be comfortable operating computers and proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel and Outlook. Please contact Denise Kantner at 419-738-8289 or Brenda Shoffstall at 419-233-1956 if interested in this position.

Collection for the Women's Crisis Center We are collecting food items each month for the Auglaize County Crisis Center based on a monthly dinner theme. August's theme is breakfast items. The crisis center is also in need of basic personal hygiene items. Please put donations on the counter in the library for us to deliver weekly or bi-weekly.

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, August 25th	10:00 a.m.	Worship – CH Leslie Haines (Maj) ret.
Thursday, August 29 th	4:30 p.m.	Loaves and Fishes
Sunday, September 1st	10:00 a.m.	Worship – Dale Stanley
Monday, September 2 nd		Labor Day - Office Closed
Thursday, September 5 th	4:30 p.m.	Loaves and Fishes

First English Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

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

Bookkeeper

Treasurer

Music Director

Audio-Technology

Chuck Curry; wapakelc@bright.net; 763-312-9217

Anderson Accounting

Georgeann Stienecker; nksoccer@nktelco.net

Darla Frame

Dave Curry; dicy@bright.net; 937-307-8596