

**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio**

There is nothing outside a
person that by going in can
defile, but the things that
come out are what defile.

Mark 7:15,
NRSV



**15th Sunday of Pentecost
September 1st, 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 Roeger family in celebration of Hilary and Mike's anniversary this month.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God by Jason, Jennie, Matt, Luke, and Jack in honor of Dad/Grandpa Grundey, Dad/Grandpa Mosler and Jim/Papa Kline who all recently celebrated birthdays.

MINISTERS for This 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.....	Desiree Lanteigne & Lily'ann Knauth
Altar Guild.....	Lisa Kirby & Deanna Ronan
Fellowship Cleanup.....	Lisa Kirby & Deanna Ronan

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

* Please rise if able.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Here I Am, Lord by Daniel L Schutte arr Jack Schrader

* 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

This Is My Father's World (ELW 824)

* 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. **O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures.**

Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from

all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your

Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Jennie Grundey

WORD

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

A reading from Deuteronomy.

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 15

¹LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING: James 1:17-27

A reading from James.

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

* **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil (ELW 512)

GOSPEL: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

²¹"For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Dale Stanley

*** HYMN OF THE DAY**

Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun (ELW 557)

*** 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

Peaceful Piano #2 by Mark Hayes

*** 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.**

*** 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.

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**

For the Beauty of the Earth (ELW 879)

*** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

MINISTERS for Next Week

Audio/Visual Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie

Lector Marsha Jackson

Ushers Dave Krites & Brian Van Meter

Worship Assistant Susan Miller

Musician Karen Luginbuhl

Pastor Pastor Mick Althouser

Greeter

Altar Guild Lisa Kirby & Deanna Ronan

Fellowship Cleanup Lisa Kirby & 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, Lee Albright, James Benshoff, Nancy Carter, Janet Case, Dominic Cousins, Se'vie Daniel, Emily Fisher, Ted Gibson, Ben Jauert, Paula Jauert, 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, Sara Young, Jim Zwiebel, Angela, 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>
07/28/2024	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
08/25/2024	7	68	\$1,308.00	\$10.00

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 SEPTEMBER: Angel Tree 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!

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. September's theme is pizza. 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.

Rally Day is Sunday, September 8th Rally Day will be next Sunday, September 8th. There will be activities for the youth starting at 9am and in the fellowship hall after worship. We will have a carry in meal and fellowship time following worship. Pulled pork and cheesy potatoes will be provided. We hope to see you there!

Senior Lunch and Learn on September 19th The next senior lunch and learn is scheduled for Thursday, September 19th at noon. The event will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moulton and will feature lunch from J. Marie's and a presentation from Missy Schlenker, a physical therapist from Mercy Health. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Darlene Risner at 419-202-5553 by Monday, September 16th.

Servant's Day is Saturday, September 28th The Wapakoneta Ministerial Association is organizing its 15th annual Servant's Day on Saturday, September 28th from 8am to 4pm. If you are interested in volunteering to participate in a Servant's Day service project, please contact Kelly Walls or the church office. Thank you for your interest in serving our community!

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, Sept 1st	10:00 a.m.	Worship – Dale Stanley
Monday, Sept 2 nd		Labor Day - Office Closed
Thursday, Sept 5 th	4:30 p.m.	Loaves and Fishes
Sunday, Sept 8th	9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
		Rally Day Activities for Youth
	10:00 a.m.	Worship – Pastor Mick Althouser
	11:15 a.m.	Carry-In Meal
Wednesday, Sept 11 th	6:00 p.m.	Men's Night @ Astro Lanes
Thursday, Sept 12 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

Hilary Roeger; wapakelc@bright.net; 419-738-3911

Anderson Accounting

Georgeann Stienecker; nksoccer@nktelco.net

Darla Frame

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