

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio

Let the little children
come to me,



and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of God
belongs to such as these.

M a r k 1 0 : 1 4

20th Sunday of Pentecost
October 6th, 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 & Youth Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship

The **Altar Candles** are given to the Glory of God by
Chris & Mark Nagel in memory of Chris' sister, Lorna Piper.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God by Amelia & Chad Sterner in
celebration of Vivian (10/3) and Clayton's (10/14) birthdays.

MINISTERS for This Week

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Richard Yocum
Ushers	Ken Frame & Richard Yocum
Worship Assistant	Darla Frame
Musician.....	Karen Luginbuhl
Pastor	Pastor Mick Althausser
Greeter.....	Dave & Chris Clift
Acolyte	Amelia Roeger
Altar Guild	Marsha Jackson & Char Curry
Fellowship Cleanup.....	Marsha Jackson & Char Curry

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

* Please rise if able.

Introduction to the day

Today's gospel combines a saying that makes many of us uncomfortable with a story we find comforting. Jesus' saying on divorce is another of his rejections of human legislation in favor of the original intent of God's law. Jesus' rebuke of the disciples who are fending off the children should challenge us as well. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God as a child does?

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

My Jesus, I Love Thee by J. Gordon

* 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**

Our Father, by Whose Name (ELW 640)

*** 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**

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. **Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rebecca VanMeter

WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:18-24

A reading from Genesis.

¹⁸The LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." ¹⁹So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. ²¹So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken."

²⁴Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

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

PSALM: 8

¹O LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!—

²**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children;**

you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.

³When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

⁴**what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you should care for them?**

⁵Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and honor you crown them.

⁶**You have made them rule over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet:**

⁷all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,

⁸**the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**

⁹O LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

A reading from Hebrews.

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

^{2:5}Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. ⁶But someone has testified somewhere, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them?" ⁷You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor,

⁸subjecting all things under their feet." Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them,⁹but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

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

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*** GOSPEL : Mark 10:2-16**

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

²Some Pharisees came, and to test [Jesus] they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" ³He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" ⁴They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." ⁵But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' ⁷'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

¹⁰Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE

Pastor Mick Althaus

*** HYMN OF THE DAY**

All Are Welcome (ELW 641)

*** THE NICENE CREED**

Let us profess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the

Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

God of our ancestors, we give thanks for the church in all times. May we listen for the prophets of this age who bear messages that stir the church toward renewal and justice. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creator of every creature on earth, direct our lives toward the renewal and sustaining of cattle, birds of the air, animals of the field, and those who share our homes. Reveal the ways we can work alongside creation for the health and well-being of all.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Restoring Lord, grant healing and wholeness to those who are sick and suffering *especially* the family of Alice Cox, Sharon Billiter, Dorothy Dickman, Betty Hague, Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz, Staff and Students at Concordia University at Ann Arbor, Lee Albright, James Benshoff, Nancy Carter, Janet Case, Dominic Cousins, Se'vie Daniel, Emily Fisher, Ted Gibson, Ben Jauert, Bryan Katterhenry, Wayne & Judy Kentner, Lauren Makuh, Sasha Maslov, Jenny Oliver, Nixon Palte, Pam Schulz, Cindy Schwer, Alex Shirey, Hunter Smith, Evelyn Sprague, Seth Thuman, Norma Wachauf, Harold Wallace, Jim Zwiebel, Jacob Schlosser, Simar, Brett Eley and Eloise Katterhenry. Work through medical professionals to diagnose, ease pain, and give life to all who seek their wisdom and experience. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Unifying God, humans were created for relationship with the earth, its creatures, and one another. Forgive us when division threatens companionship, mutual support, and unity among us. May your love inspire us to build supportive communities of faith where all are cherished. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of resurrection, you prepare a place in the kingdom through Christ's death and resurrection. We give thanks for the saints who have taken their place at your heavenly banquet. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever. **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

*** OFFERING HYMN**

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW 182)

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, 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,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, 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

Now We Join in Celebration (ELW 462)
Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue (ELW 644)
Jesus Loves Me! (ELW 595)
The King of Love My Shepherd Is (ELW 502)

*** 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.

***CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, as we gather together in this moment of transition, we seek Your guidance and wisdom. May Your Spirit lead us in unity and discernment as we consider the right person to shepherd our community. Grant us patience and openness to Your Will and help us to trust in Your perfect timing. May our new pastor be filled with Your love, strength and grace, bringing hope and inspiration to our church. We place our faith in You, knowing that You have a plan for us. Thank you for Your continued presence in our lives and in our church. In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

*** 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**

Now Thank We All Our God (ELW 840)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

MINISTERS for Next Week 10-13-24

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Connie Krites
Ushers	Dave Krites & Brian Van Meter
Worship Assistant	Ken Frame
Musician.....	Darla Frame
Pastor	Pastor Bill Schultz
Greeter.....	Dave & Chris Clift
Acolyte	Nolan Roode
Fellowship Cleanup.....	Marsha Jackson & Char Curry
Altar Guild	Marsha Jackson & Char Curry

OUR PRAYER CORNER

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

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

Prayer from Call Committee

Please pray throughout the week:
Heavenly Father, as we gather together in this moment of transition, we seek Your guidance and wisdom. May Your Spirit lead us in unity and discernment as we consider the right person to shepherd our community. Grant us patience and openness to Your Will and help us to trust in Your perfect timing. May our new pastor be filled with Your love, strength and grace, bringing hope and inspiration to our church. We place our faith in You, knowing that You have a plan for us. Thank you for Your continued presence in our lives and in our church. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



Call Committee Checklist for seeking a Pastor:

- ✘ At the time of learned pastoral vacancy, the congregation council arranges for regular supply or interim, working with the Mission District dean.
- ✘ Form a call committee in accordance with congregational constitution – uneven # of persons with a cross-section of the congregation is helpful-elect Chair of the Committee.
- ✘ Call Committee downloads NALC Call Process Manual for call committee members.
- ✘ Call Committee chair contacts the NALC Call Process Coordinator to schedule a conference call for orientation/training. Met on September 15th.
- ✘ Call Committee engages in Bible Study in the Call Process Manual. Meeting on Wednesdays at 6:45pm.
- Call Committee chair will contact Mission District dean to arrange and complete The Congregational Workshop in preparation for the Call Process.

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WEEKLY ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
09/03/2024	20	51	\$1,780.00	\$110.00
09/08/2024	13	49	\$1,827.00	\$35.00
09/15/2024	12	55	\$3,329.62	\$125.00
09/22/2024	11	50	\$2,788.00	\$10.00
09/29/2024	13	90	\$1,878.20	\$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 OCTOBER: Loaves & Fishes 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. October's theme is items for soups. 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.

Youth Quake: Inviting all youth 6th grade and older to Youth Quake in Cincinnati, OH on January 3-5, 2025. Early bird registration is due by October 15th! Contact the office if your youth are interested. It is always a fun time!

Loaves & Fishes: We will be hosting Loaves & Fishes on October 10th. We need volunteers to make cookies ahead of time to have for the meal. Please contact Connie Krites or Brenda Shoffstall if interested.

Offering for Hurricane Relief: We will be taking an offering for the next 2 (two) weeks for those affected by Hurricane Helene. NALC has a Disaster Relief program and we will send the offering through them. We will be passing the offering plates at beginning of service or mail offering to the office (put in memo line: Hurricane Helene Relief).

Morgan's Place Event: For the third year running, Soul'd Out, a Christian music group will perform a benefit for Morgan's Place. Event is Saturday evening, October 19th. The event will be held at Winner Family Harvest Barn, 7317 State Route 47, DeGraff, OH. Doors open at 5:00pm and activities include a quilt auction, raffle, and 50/50 drawing. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children (12yrs & under). For more information, please call (937) 726-998 or (937) 497-8118.

Fall Event on October 13th: We are inviting FELC members on an outing together to VanDemark Farms in Sidney, OH. We will gather back at church by 1:00pm and then head to VanDemark by 1:30pm for corn maze, inflatables, mini golf, and more! Or bring a bag lunch and stay until 1pm. Youth (Sunday School age) are paid for by church. When 10+ people attend, admission is \$9! If interested, please let the office know, 419-738-3911 or wapakelc@bright.net.



VanDemark Farm Sidney, Ohio Exit 90

NOW OPEN WEEKENDS!
Admission \$12 (5 & under are free)

Friday 6-11pm
Saturday 12-11pm
Sunday 12-7pm

Paid Admission Includes
Corn Maze
Petting Zoo
Mini Golf
Hay Ride
Play Zone
Large Inflatable
Bonfires

FALL FUN!

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, Oct 6th	9:00am	Adult & Youth Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Pastor Mick Althausser
Tues, Oct 8 th	1:30pm	Bingo at The Gardens of Wapakoneta
Wed, Oct 9 th	5:30pm	Confirmation
	6:45pm	Call Committee-Bible Study
Thurs, Oct 10 th	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes (FELC-Hosting)
	6:00pm	Men's Night @ K-Ville Woody's
Sunday, Oct 13th	9:00am	Adult & Youth Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Pastor Bill Schultz
	1:00pm	Fall Event–VanDemark Farms -Sidney
Tuesday, Oct 15 th	6:00pm	Ladies' Night at El Azteca
Wed, Oct 16 th	10:00am	Quilting
	5:30pm	Confirmation
	6:45pm	Call Committee-Bible Study
	6:00pm	Bell Choir
	7:00pm	Women's Choir
Thurs, Oct 17 th	4:30pm	Loaves & 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: M-F, 8:30am – 12:30pm

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	Hilary Roeger; wapakelc@bright.net ; 419-738-3911
Bookkeeper	Anderson Accounting
Treasurer	Georgeann Stienecker; nksoccer@nktelco.net
Music Director	Darla Frame
Audio-Technology	Dave Curry; dscy@bright.net ; 937-307-8596