

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



23rd Sunday of Pentecost
October 27th, 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
Marc & Brenda Shoffstall in honor of Reformation Day.

MINISTERS for This Week

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Joyce Brincefield
Ushers	Luke Kline & Chad Sterner
Worship Assistant	Jon Schmidt
Musician.....	Darla Frame
Pastor	Pastor Bill Schultz
Greeter.....	Brenda Shoffstall
Acolyte	Faith Whetstone
Fellowship Cleanup.....	Marsha Jackson & Char Curry
Altar Guild	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

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

How Great Thou Art Arr Stuart K. Hine

* 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**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (ELW 504)

*** 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. **Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rebecca VanMeter

WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from Jeremiah.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt — a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they

shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

PSALM: 46

¹God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.

²**Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;**

³though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.

⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,
the holy habitation of | the Most High.**

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;
God shall help it at the | break of day.

⁶**The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth | melts away.**

⁷The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

⁸**Come now, regard the works | of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;**

⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.

¹⁰**Be still, then, and know that | I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth."**

¹¹The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 3: 19-28

A reading from Romans.

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a

gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil (ELW 512)*

*** GOSPEL : John 8: 31-36**

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

³¹Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

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

MESSAGE

Pastor Bill Schultz

*** HYMN OF THE DAY** *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (ELW 517)*

*** THE APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us profess our faith through 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**

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

Lord of all, we give thanks for the whole church throughout the world. Open wide the paths toward unity between denominations so that all followers of Christ may join in shared worship and mission. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Renewing God, as the dying leaves display their beauty, we are reminded that nature's cycle of life includes and requires both life and death. Instill in your people a mission of preservation and appreciation for trees, animals, and waterways threatened by climate collapse. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, in the spirit of reformation we pray for all who cry out for relief from systemic oppression. May the hearts of those who occupy seats of power be reformed so that peace becomes the center of our life together. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Comforting God, be with all who are sick, suffering, or grieving in our own community and beyond especially 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, Alex Shirey, Hunter Smith, Evelyn Sprague, Seth Thuman, Norma Wachauf, Harold Wallace, Jim Zwiebel, Simar, Brett Eley, Tasha McPeek, Kathi and Eloise Katterhenry. And those we name silently or out loud. (Brief silence). Surround them with the promise of your love, comfort, and grace that never ends. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Divine Guide, continue to challenge this community to be ever reforming in our ministries and outreach efforts. Inspire creative ideas among us so that the communal, grace-filled word of God remains at the heart of our ministry. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, in Christ's resurrection you ensure that though life be wrenched away, death cannot win the day. May the truth of your saving grace through faith sustain our hope for life in you. 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

Give Me Jesus Arr Mark Hayes

*** 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 For by Grace You Have Been Saved(ELW 598)
United at the Table (ELW 498)
The Church's One Foundation (ELW 654)

* 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

Dear God, **we come before you seeking your guidance and wisdom, as we search for a new pastor to lead our church. We pray for a pastor who will faithfully teach and preach your word, leading us in spiritual growth and discipleship. Grant us a leader who will bring unity and encourage the many gifts and talents in our congregation. We ask for someone with a servant's heart, willing to walk with us through life's joys and sorrows. God, please guide our search and grant us wisdom to follow your will. 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

Built on a Rock (ELW 652)

DISMISSAL

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

MINISTERS for Next Week 11-3-24

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Richard Yocum
Ushers	Ken Frame & Richard Yocum
Worship Assistant	Jon Schmidt
Musician.....	Karen Luginbuhl
Pastor	Pastor Bill Schultz
Greeter.....	Needed
Acolyte	Nevaeh Estep
Fellowship Cleanup.....	Denise Kantner & Joy Kantner
Altar Guild	Denise Kantner & Joy Kantner

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:

Dear God, we come before you seeking your guidance and wisdom, as we search for a new pastor to lead our church.

We pray for a pastor who will faithfully teach and preach your word, leading us in spiritual growth and discipleship. Grant us a leader who will bring unity and encourage the many gifts and talents in our congregation. We ask for someone with a servant's heart, willing to walk with us through life's joys and sorrows.

God, please guide our search and grant us wisdom to follow your will. 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.
- ✘ Chair contacts their Mission District dean to arrange and complete the **Congregational Workshop – November 2, 9am-2:00/2:30pm.**
 - Call Committee completes the Congregational Profile and emails it to the Call Process office.

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Call Committee Members:

Robin Klock (Chair)
Brenda Shoffstall (Council Liaison)
Hilary Roeger (Secretary)
Richard Youm (Chaplain)
Carrie Schimdt
Carlene Koch
Ken Frame
Makayla Frame (Alternate)

Congregational Workshop – November 2, 9am-2:00/2:30pm

This workshop is for the **whole congregation** to give the Call Committee their input. It is an invaluable time for our congregation to come together and prayerfully seek our next pastor. The church council and Call Committee cannot do this on their own, they need the congregation to show up and participate in the next step of the Call Process.

The Call Committee also asks that as a congregation, we are praying for our next pastor and their family; for our own congregation in this time of uncertainty; and for our congregation to give it to God in his time and plan.

We are a church that needs a pastor, but we are a church together, each with our own gifts/talents to make up a congregation that supports one another together. No one person is left alone to work alone in our church.

Please look at your calendars and add the Congregational Workshop to it, many have busy schedules, but FELC needs you on **November 2, 9:00am-2:00/2:30pm**. Lunch will be carry-in meal; main dish provided, GFC's pulled pork; asking those attending to bring a side dish or dessert.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
09/29/2024	13	90	\$1,878.20	\$10.00
10/06/2024	14	56	\$4,648.24	\$110.00
10/13/2024	10	58	\$2,218.91	\$110.00
10/20/2024	8	78	\$2,544.91	\$25.00
Hurricane Helene Donations (2 weeks total)			\$2,104.15	

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 Tithely 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.

Daylight Savings Ends: Don't forget to change your clocks, Daylight Savings ends on November 3rd.

Christian Ed Meeting: November 7th at 7:15pm in parlor.

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, Oct 27 th	9:00am	Adult & Youth Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Pastor Bill Schultz Wear RED, Reformation Sunday
Wed, Oct 30 th	5:30pm	Confirmation
	6:00pm	Bell Choir
	7:00pm	Women’s Choir
Thurs, Oct 31 st	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
	6:00pm	Wapakoneta Trick-or-Treat Night
Saturday, Nov 2nd	9am-2/2:30pm	CALL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP
Sunday, Nov 3rd	9:00am	Adult & Youth Sunday School
		All Saints Sunday
	10:00am	Worship – Pastor Bill Schultz Bells Choir
	After service	Youth Quake meeting until 1:00pm
		Daylight Savings ends
Wed, Nov 6 th	5:30pm	Confirmation
Thurs, Nov 7 th	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
	7:15pm	Christian Ed Meeting



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