

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



5th Sunday of Easter
May 18, 2025

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 Matt & Deanna Ronan in honor of their daughters, Kylie & Katie.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God
by Chuck & Joy Kantner in celebration of their children's birthdays
on May 11th, 15th & June 1st.

MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Matt Ronan
Ushers	Ken Frame & Jon Schmidt
Worship Assistant	Susan Miller
Musician	Darla Frame
Pastor	Michelle Kouse
Greeter	Dave & Chris Clift
Altar Guild	Darla Frame & Deanna Wisener
Fellowship Cleanup.....	Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame

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

* Please rise if able.

Introduction to the day

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

On Eagle's Wings by Michael Joncas arr Lorie Line

***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** *Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing* (ELW 389; vs 1, 2 & 5)

***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**

This is the Feast (ELW p. 187)

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

LADIES' CHOIR *I Asked the Lord* By J. Lange & J. Duncan arr Walter Ehret

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rebecca Van Meter

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Acts 11:1-18

A reading from Acts. ¹ Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸ But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

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

PSALM: 150

¹ Hallelujah! Praise God in the | holy temple;
praise God in the mighty | firmament.

² **Praise God for | mighty acts;**
praise God for ex- | ceeding greatness.

³ Praise God with | trumpet sound;
praise God with | lyre and harp.

⁴ **Praise God with tambou- | rine and dance;**
praise God with | strings and pipe.

⁵ Praise God with re- | sounding cymbals;
praise God with loud | clanging cymbals.

⁶ **Let everything | that has breath**
praise the LORD. | Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-7

A reading from Revelation. ¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." ⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. ⁷Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia (ELW p. 188)

***GOSPEL: John 16:12-22**

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

¹²I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁶A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me. ¹⁷Then some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying to us, 'A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'; and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" ¹⁸They said, "What does he mean by this 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about." ¹⁹Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Are you discussing among yourselves what I meant when I said, 'A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'?" ²⁰Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy. ²¹When a woman is in labor, she has pain, because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world. ²²So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

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

MESSAGE

Michelle Kouse

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Where Charity and Love Prevail (ELW 359)

APOSTLES' CREED

Let us profess our faith using 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.**

***PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Fill the church with the spirit of your redeeming love. Make us steadfast in our proclamation of your grace for all people without exceptions, especially those often overlooked in our communities. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Awaken joy in the beauty and abundance of your creation. Show us the wonder of your presence from the smallest flower to the tallest tree. Recommit us to preserve wild places. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Pour out your love on all in need of care: those mourning losses, enduring trauma, experiencing broken relationships, yearning for companionship, or facing illness *especially* Betty Hague, Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz, Marty Rostorfer, Eloise Katterhenry, Marsha Henderson, Dominic Cousins, Ted Gibson, Bryan Katterhenry, Judy Kentner, Lauren Makuh, Sasha Maslov, Jenny Oliver, Nixon Palte, Pam Schulz, Alex Shirey, Hunter Smith, Seth Thuman, Norma Wachauf, Harold Wallace, Jim Zwiebel, JJ Truesdale, Sue Bartlett, Ike Schnell, Roman Schlegel, Sue Hughes, Dan Havens, Jason Schneider, Jenn Douglas & Baby Benette, Shirley Hollis, Joyce Brincefield, Judy Metz, Liam Kramer, Jean Thompson, Norma Jarrells, Deana Kramer, Doris Fisher, Austin Fisher and Wanda Nuss. And those we speak out loud or in our hearts. (Brief silence). Wipe away every tear. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for all the saints whose lives bear witness to your redeeming love. Guide us by their example, until we join them in your eternal home. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen 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 provided, and for the gifts you share.

OFFERTORY *Here, At Your Table, Lord* by William F. Sherwin arr Mark Hayes

***OFFERING HYMN**

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW 182)

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, 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, 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. 190)

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

***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

As we come to this time of Holy Communion, please let me extend to you an invitation to come forward and share in this Holy supper. You do not need to be member of this church or any Lutheran church to participate. If you profess faith in Christ Jesus, you are welcome. He is extending this invitation and that is His only requirement. Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God (ELW p. 191)

FIRST COMMUNION

At this time we welcome to the table our First Communion youth and their families as they receive for the first time the bread and wine, the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Andrew Schlosser & Frankie Yocum

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

We Eat the Bread of Teaching (ELW 518)

Break Now the Bread of Life (ELW 515)

For by Grace You Have Been Saved (ELW 598)

***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. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER**

Dear Lord, **You've heard our prayers and know our needs. Please continue to guide us in the direction as we continue to pray for our future pastor, their family and the future of our church. Heavenly Father, open our hearts and minds to be able to clearly hear and receive Your will. As we continue through this transition. Lord, be with us and remind us that we are Your sheep, and this is all on Your time. Help us to keep Your Word in our hearts and be more like You. In Jesus' name, 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**

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen! (ELW 377; vs 1, 2, &3)

DISMISSAL

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

First Communion Youth

Andrew Schlosser – Parents: Mark & Diane Schlosser; Siblings: Noah & Jacob Schlosser; Grandparents: Trell & Marisa Yocum and Jack & Peg Schlosser
Andrew attends Wapakoneta Elementary School and is finishing the 3rd grade. He loves wrestling, football, and baseball. He loves listening to ACDC, Metallica, BonJovi (thanks to Uncle Michael, lol). He loves going four wheeling with his daddy and Jacob. He loves playing with all his cousins! He loves hanging out with his grandparents or just family over all!! He is smart, witty and can definitely be sassy at times. They love you Andrew to the moon and back!

Frankie Yocum – Parents: Richard & Melanie Yocum; Sibling: Annie Yocum; Grandparents: Trell & Marisa Yocum and Joe & Diane Peterson
Frankie is homeschooled and is finishing the 2nd grade. He loves to play video games, build legos and play soccer. He is very intelligent and always has insight to share about life! He loves spending time with his cousins and Lela and going on adventures with homeschool. He also enjoys traveling to Florida to see Nana and PopPop and his family there.

OUR PRAYER CORNER

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

The Gardens	Betty Hague, Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz
Burton Ridge in Lima	Judy Kentner
Homebound	Marty Rostorfer, Eloise Katterhenry, Marsha Henderson

We especially remember in our prayers...

Betty Hague, Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz, Marty Rostorfer, Eloise Katterhenry, Marsha Henderson, Dominic Cousins, Ted Gibson, Bryan Katterhenry, Judy Kentner, Lauren Makuh, Sasha Maslov, Jenny Oliver, Nixon Palte, Pam Schulz, Alex Shirey, Hunter Smith, Seth Thuman, Norma Wachauf, Harold Wallace, Jim Zwiebel, JJ Truesdale, Sue Bartlett, Ike Schnell, Roman Schlegel, Sue Hughes, Dan Havens, Jason Schneider, Jenn Douglas & Baby Benette, Shirley Hollis, Joyce Brincefield, Judy Metz, Liam Kramer, Jean Thompson, Norma Jarrells, Deana Kramer, Doris Fisher, Austin Fisher and Wanda Nuss.

We remember in our prayers our military serving at home and abroad, underrepresented 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.

PLEASE PRAY THE CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER THROUGHOUT THE WEEK:

Dear Lord, You’ve heard our prayers and know our needs. Please continue to guide us in the direction as we continue to pray for our future pastor, their family and the future of our church. Heavenly Father, open our hearts and minds to be able to clearly hear and receive Your will. As we continue through this transition. Lord, be with us and remind us that we are Your sheep, and this is all on Your time. Help us to keep Your Word in our hearts and be more like You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
04/20/2025	15	107	\$10,038.16	\$125.00
04/27/2025	15	50	\$798.20	\$10.00
05/04/2025	14	51	\$3,198.06	\$55.00
05/11/2025	11	69	\$1,977.50	\$30.00

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!



MINISTERS for Next Week 5-25-25

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Joyce Brincefield
Ushers	Luke Kline & Chad Sterner
Worship Assistant	Ken Frame
Musician	Recordings
Pastor	Pastor Bill Schultz
Greeter	Needed
Fellowship Cleanup	Brenda Shoffstall & Darla Frame
Altar Guild	Darla Frame & Deanna Wisener

What's Happening at First English....

Noisy Offering for the month of MAY: ETHAN JEANNERET, DOUBLE-LUNG

TRANSPLANT Offering pans are located in the chapel and at the back of the church. Donations are accepted all month. See May newsletter for more information about Ethan and his family.

Loaves and Fishes: Meals need to be reserved by calling 567-204-6708 and can be picked up in the alley behind the Fellowship Hall from 4:30 to 5:30 pm.

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. May'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.

NEW! Egg Carton Ministry Asking for all sizes of clean empty egg cartons. Please put them in the boxes in the church library. They will be used to distribute eggs to those in need.

Plastic Bag Ministry FELC will be collecting clean empty plastic grocery bags for our Prison Ministry. Allen/Oakwood Correctional incarcerated persons are making mats for the homeless. There is a collection container located at the back door.

Flower/Candle Calendar & Greeter Sign Up Sheet The 2025 Flower/Candle Calendar is up and ready for members to sign up!

Christ Candle Explanation We follow the NALC guidelines with lighting the Christ Candle. These are the times the Christ Candle will be lit: Easter and the Sundays after through Pentecost; Christmas Eve and the weeks after through Epiphany; Baptism; Funerals; All Saints Sundays and Christ the King Sunday. The Christ Candle will be lit ½ hour before the service starts by an usher. The Christ Candle will be put out by the usher after the dismissal at the end of church. There is a schedule at the back of the sanctuary and in back room of sanctuary.

Ladies' Night is scheduled for 5:30pm on Tuesday, May 20th at JT's in St. Marys.

Class of 2025 Recognition on June 1st. Please join us as we recognize, celebrate and pray for the graduating class as they start their next chapter. Contact office if you have a Senior to be recognized.

VBS Please see flyer for NEW TIMES and DATES! We hope you can join us!! Contact office if you are interested in volunteering. Deadline for Registration & guarantee a shirt is due May 30th!

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, May 18th	9:00am	Adult & Youth Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Michelle Kouse – Ladies Choir – First Communion Council Meeting
Mon, May 19 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Tues, May 20 th	5:30pm	Ladies' Night @ TJs in St. Marys
Wed, May 21 st	10:00am	Quilting
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Thurs, May 22 nd	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
Fri, May 23 rd	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	Last Day of School for Wapakoneta City Schools!	
Saturday, May 24 th	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sunday, May 25th	9:00am	Adult & Youth Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Pastor Bill Schultz
Mon, May 26 th	Happy Memorial Day! – Office Closed	
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Wed, May 28 th	June Newsletter Info DUE!	
	2pm-6pm	Food Packaging in Jackson Center
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Thurs, May 29 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
Fri, May 30 th	VBS Registration DUE!	
	June Newsletter Available!	
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Saturday, May 31 st	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
	9-11:30am	God's Store House

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

Bookkeeper

Treasurer

Music Director

Audio-Technology

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

Anderson Accounting

Cari Frame; felc.finance@myfelc.org

Darla Frame; darlaframe@gmail.com

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



FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio

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He has loved us.*