

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio

“I PRAY ALSO
FOR THOSE WHO
WILL BELIEVE IN ME
THROUGH THEIR MESSAGE,
THAT ALL OF THEM
MAY BE ONE,
FATHER,
JUST AS YOU ARE IN ME
AND I AM IN YOU.”

JOHN 17:20-21

7th Sunday of Easter
June 1, 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 Sharon Veit in memory of her son, Michael and her sister, Connie.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God
in celebration of our Class of 2025 Graduates!!

MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Richard Yocum
Ushers	Ken Frame & Richard Yocum
Worship Assistant	Makayla Frame
Musician	Karen Luginbuhl
Pastor	Michelle Kouse
Greeter	Needed
Fellowship Cleanup	Carrie & Jon Schmidt
Altar Guild	Carrie & Jon Schmidt

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

* Please rise if able.

Introduction to the day

It is possible to hear in Jesus' high priestly prayer, a prayer he offered shortly before his death, the petitions of the ascended Christ for his own throughout history—to our day—and beyond. Jesus prays for us. In holy baptism we become believers in God, have our robes washed in the flood of Christ's forgiveness, and receive the gift of life forever with all the saints.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLASS OF 2025 RECOGNITION

Luke Kline, Ben Tabler, Eli Van Meter

PRELUDE

God Himself Is Present by Michael & Burkhardt

***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**

The Church's One Foundation (ELW 654)

***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 God, form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rebecca Van Meter

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Acts 1:12-26

A reading from Acts. ¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, ¹⁶Friends, the scripture

had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus — ¹⁷for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ¹⁸(Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹This became known to all the residents of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their language Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰For it is written in the book of Psalms, 'Let his homestead become desolate, and let there be no one to live in it'; and 'Let another take his position of overseer.' ²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us — one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." ²³So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

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

PSALM: 133

¹ How very good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!

² **It is like precious oil upon the head, running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.**

³ It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountain of Zion.
For there the LORD has ordained his blessing: life forevermore.

SECOND READING: Revelation 22:1-6,12-20

A reading from Revelation. ¹Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. ⁶And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true, for the Lord, the God of the spirits of the

prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place."
¹²See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." ¹⁴Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. ¹⁵Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and fornicators and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. ¹⁶It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." ¹⁷The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let everyone who hears say, "Come." And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift." ¹⁸I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this book;" ¹⁹if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away that person's share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book." ²⁰The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia (ELW p. 188)

***GOSPEL: John 17:20-26**

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

[Jesus prayed:] ²⁰"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵"Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

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

MESSAGE

Michelle Kouse

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Son of God, Eternal Savior (ELW 655)

*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.**

*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.

Welcoming God, you invite all people to come and encounter your love. Give your church open hearts and minds to embrace all who seek your presence. Increase the capacity for cooperation between denominations and congregations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, your might is seen in storms and in silence. Where drought threatens, bring rain. Where waters flood, ease them back. Where fire, earthquake, hurricane, or tornado destroy, shelter your people and restore your land. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Discerning God, fill the hearts of leaders with your passion for justice and mercy. Call the nations of this world to tables of peace and collaboration. Encourage governments to seek avenues of collective benefit and joy. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abiding God, all people are held in your care. Strengthen our resolve to listen and advocate on behalf of all who are unnoticed. Hear our prayers for those close to our heart *especially* Betty Hague, Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz, Marty Rostorfer, Eloise Katterhenry, Marsha Henderson, Ted Gibson, Bryan Katterhenry, Judy Kentner, Lauren Makuh, Sasha Maslov, Jenny Oliver, 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 Benett, Shirley Hollis, Joyce Brincefield, Judy Metz, Liam Kramer, Jean Thompson, Norma Jarrells, Doris Fisher, Austin Fisher, Janet Case, Marc, Hilary Roeger and Wanda Nuss. And those we speak out loud or in our hearts. (Brief silence). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing God, be with this congregation as summer. Keep travelers safe. Keep the vulnerable cool. Invigorate summer ministry efforts in our community and support the well-being of children and young people, especially the Class of 2025 graduates. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, the beginning and the end, you are with us throughout our lives. In gratitude for the saints who have died, we look toward your coming again among us. 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

Aria Dolce by Gregg Sewwill

***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)

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

I Come With Joy (ELW 482)
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (ELW 392)
Thine the Amen (ELW 826)

***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 God, **as we continue on this journey of seeking a pastor, we ask for your divine guidance. Your word reminds us that you are the Good Shepherd, and we trust in your leading us to find the right pastor for our church family. May our search be guided by the same love and care that Jesus has for his flock. Lead us to the pastor who will nurture, lead and protect our congregation. In your 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**

Crown Him with Many Crowns (ELW 855 vs 1,4,5)

DISMISSAL

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

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, Ted Gibson, Bryan Katterhenry, Judy Kentner, Lauren Makuh, Sasha Maslov, Jenny Oliver, 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, Doris Fisher, Austin Fisher, Janet Case, Marc, Hilary Roeger 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.

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
05/04/2025	14	51	\$3,198.06	\$55.00
05/11/2025	11	69	\$1,977.50	\$30.00
05/18/2025	14	72	\$1,770.00	\$125.00
05/25/2025	10	60	\$1,415.00	\$ 10.00

MINISTERS for Next Week 6-8-25

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Makayla Frame
Ushers	Dave Krites & Brian Van Meter
Worship Assistant	Deanna Ronan
Musician	Recordings
Pastor	Pastor Bill Schultz
Greeter	Needed
Fellowship Cleanup	Carrie & Jon Schmidt
Altar Guild	Carrie & Jon Schmidt
Altar Candles	Needed

PLEASE PRAY THE CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER THROUGHOUT THE WEEK:

Dear God, as we continue on this journey of seeking a pastor, we ask for your divine guidance. Your word reminds us that you are the Good Shepherd, and we trust in your leading us to find the right pastor for our church family. May our search be guided by the same love and care that Jesus has for his flock. Lead us to the pastor who will nurture, lead and protect our congregation. In your name, Amen.

What's Happening at First English....

Noisy Offering for the month of JUNE: NALC DISASTER RELIEF Offering pans are located in the chapel and at the back of the church. Donations are accepted all month.

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. June's theme is Baking 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.

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! We still have many available dates, especially in June.

Class of 2025 Recognition is TODAY! Please make sure you recognize, celebrate and pray for the graduating class as they start their next chapter.

Luke Kline

Parents: Jennie & Jason Grundey and the late Jason Kline

Siblings: Matthew Kline & Jack Grundey; Grandparents: Joe & Stephanie Mosler, Jim & Dianne Kline, Charlie & and the late Janet Grundey

Graduating from: Wapakoneta High School; Distinctions: Summa Cum Laude & Honors Diploma; Involvement: Marching Band, Symphonic Band, Pep Band, Band President, Academic Team, National Honor Society, Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout (thanks to FELC members for their donations!) and Loaves & Fishes Volunteer.

Luke will attend Bowling Green State University and majoring in Social Studies Education for grades 7-12.

Ben Tabler

Parents: Greg & Mindy Tabler

Graduating from: Apollo Career Center & Wapakoneta High School; Distinctions: 1st year Academic Letter, NCERR HAVAC Certification, Universal EPA Certification, 10-hour OSHA Certification, 9th & 10th grade Band.

Ben will either work full time in the HVAC field or continue his education at a nearby college branch.

Eli Van Meter

Parents: Brian and Rebecca Van Meter; Sister: Bailey Van Meter

Grandparents: David and Landa Tomlinson and Jeff and Terri Van Meter

Graduating from: Wapakoneta High School; Distinction: Honor Diploma, a graduate of distinction, and earned a 4th year academic award, 4-year varsity team member for Golf and Bowling, member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Eli will be attending University of Northwest Ohio and majoring in Accounting, while also continuing his athletic bowling career at the collegiate level.

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, June 1st	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Michelle Kouse – Class of 2025 Recognition
Mon, June 2 nd	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Wed, June 4 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Thurs, June 5 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
Fri, June 6 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Saturday, June 7 th	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sunday, June 8th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Pastor Bill Schultz
	5:30-7:30pm	VBS STARTS!! Through June 12th
		YeeHaw 😊 God's Greatest Gift
Mon, June 9 th	5:30-7:30pm	VBS YeeHaw – God's Greatest Gift
Tues, June 10 th	5:30-7:30pm	VBS YeeHaw – God's Greatest Gift
Wed, June 11 th	5:30-7:30pm	VBS YeeHaw – God's Greatest Gift
Thurs, June 12 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
	5:30-7:30pm	VBS YeeHaw – God's Greatest Gift
Fri, June 13 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Saturday, June 14 th	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sunday, June 15th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Michelle Kouse – VBS YeeHaw – God's Greatest Gift

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.*