

**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Wapakoneta, Ohio**



**No Greater  
Love**

**The Holy Trinity  
June 15, 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  
By Marc & Brenda Shoffstall in celebration of their anniversary  
and in honor Father's Day!

### MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual .....	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector .....	Connie Krites
Ushers .....	Ken Frame & Jon Schmidt
Worship Assistant .....	Char Curry
Musician .....	Darla Frame
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**

“O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!” Today we celebrate the holy Trinity. Paul writes that through Jesus we have peace with God, whose love pours into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, giving us lasting hope. We celebrate the gracious One-in-Three, eternal Three-in-One, as we worship in community; as we share water and word, bread and wine; and as we bring God’s love and hope to our neighbors.

## **GATHERING**

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

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **VBS PRESENTATION – YEEHAW – CELEBRATING GOD’S GREATEST GIFT**

## **PRELUDE**

## **\*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**

*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty! (ELW 413)*

**\*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. **Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

Michelle Kouse

## WORD

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

### FIRST READING: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

A reading from Proverbs. <sup>1</sup> Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? <sup>2</sup> On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; <sup>3</sup> beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: <sup>4</sup> “To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live.

<sup>22</sup> The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. <sup>23</sup> Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

<sup>24</sup> When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. <sup>25</sup> Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth—<sup>26</sup> when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world’s first bits of soil. <sup>27</sup> When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, <sup>28</sup> when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, <sup>29</sup> when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, <sup>30</sup> then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, <sup>31</sup> rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.”

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

### PSALM 8

<sup>1</sup> O LORD our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!—

<sup>2</sup> **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.**

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

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

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

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

<sup>7</sup> all flocks and cattle,  
even the wild beasts of the field,  
<sup>8</sup> **the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,  
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**  
<sup>9</sup> O LORD our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

## **SECOND READING: Acts 2:14a, 22-36**

A reading from Acts. <sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>22</sup>You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know — <sup>23</sup>this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. <sup>24</sup>But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. <sup>25</sup>For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; <sup>26</sup>therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. <sup>27</sup>For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. <sup>28</sup>You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.' <sup>29</sup>Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup>Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup>Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.'  
<sup>32</sup>This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. <sup>33</sup>Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you both see and hear.  
<sup>34</sup>For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, <sup>35</sup>until I make your enemies your footstool." ' <sup>36</sup>Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

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

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia* (ELW p. 188)

**\*GOSPEL: John 8:48-59**

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

<sup>48</sup>The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" <sup>49</sup>Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon; but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. <sup>50</sup>Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is one who seeks it and he is the judge. <sup>51</sup>Very truly, I tell you, whoever keeps my word will never see death." <sup>52</sup>The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon. Abraham died, and so did the prophets; yet you say, 'Whoever keeps my word will never taste death.' <sup>53</sup>Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets also died. Who do you claim to be?" <sup>54</sup>Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, he of whom you say, 'He is our God,' <sup>55</sup>though you do not know him. But I know him; if I would say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know him and I keep his word. <sup>56</sup>Your ancestor Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day; he saw it and was glad." <sup>57</sup>Then the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" <sup>58</sup>Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am." <sup>59</sup>So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

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

**MESSAGE**

Michelle Kouse

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Come, Join the Dance of Trinity (ELW 412)*

**\*APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us profess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

Abiding God, your love pours into your whole church, creating faith and bestowing hope. Fill all the baptized with these good gifts in our various callings. Gather your church in every place and expression into the unity of your Spirit. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creating God, your name is majestic in all the earth, and we are filled with awe at your creation. Renew this planet and all its wonders: springs abounding with water, earth and soil, beasts of the field, birds of the air, and fish of the sea. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Compassionate God, your mindful care for us is everlasting. Give peace to all who are troubled, endurance to all who suffer, deliverance to all who are afflicted, and healing to all who are sick *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, Hilary Roeger, Marc and Wanda Nuss. And those we speak out loud or in our hearts. (Brief silence). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Living God, your glory appears in our shared life. On this Father's Day, give to all fathers and father figures gentle hearts and strong spirits, heal the wounds in our families, and comfort those for whom this day brings pain. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**



Eternal God, your hope does not disappoint. We give you thanks for all who have died in the hope of the resurrection. Hold us in our grief and bring us at last to fullness of life in you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our 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**

#### **\*OFFERING HYMN**

*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW 182)*

#### **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. **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. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, 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**

*Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God* (Screen)  
*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* (ELW 834)  
*Father Most Holy* (ELW 415)

### **\*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, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **SENDING**

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

### **\*CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER**

Dear God, thank you for sending your Son to be our Savior. Help us in the busy season to refocus on your Son and your Will. Be with us as we wait patiently for the pastor You have chosen and prepared for our church. Help this pastor to hear Your call loud and clear. Continue to help this pastor and their family prepare to take this call and help this congregation to prepare for their arrival. We continue to be servants of Your will and plan. Help us to give our worries and concerns to You. In your glorious 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**

*God, Whose Almighty Word* (ELW 673)

### **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
06/01/2025	12	50	\$4,170.00	\$35.00
06/08/2025	Will be updated for 6/22/2025 service			

## MINISTERS for Next Week 6-22-25

Audio/Visual .....	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector .....	Chris Nagel
Ushers .....	Luke Kline & Chad Sterner
Worship Assistant .....	Marsha Jackson
Musician .....	Greg Tabler
Pastor .....	Pastor Mick Althausen
Greeter .....	Needed
Fellowship Cleanup .....	Carrie & Jon Schmidt
Altar Guild .....	Carrie & Jon Schmidt
Altar Candles .....	Needed

### **PLEASE PRAY THE CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER THROUGHOUT THE WEEK:**

Heavenly Father, as we seek a new shepherd to lead our church, we humbly come before You, asking for Your guidance and wisdom in this important decision. Grant our call committee the wisdom to identify the individual You have chosen to be our pastor, one with heart for Your word, a passion for ministry and a love for our community. In Jesus' name, we pray. 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.

**Ladies' Lunch** is scheduled for 11:30am on Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at Main Street in New Knoxville.

## **FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events**

<b>Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Happy Father's Day!</b>	
	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Adult Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Worship – Michelle Kouse – VBS YeeHaw – God's Greatest Gift</b>
Mon, June 16 <sup>th</sup>	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Tues, June 17 <sup>th</sup>	11:30am	Ladies' Lunch @ Main St. in New Knoxville
Wed, June 18 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am	Quilting
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Thurs, June 19 <sup>th</sup>	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
Fri, June 20 <sup>th</sup>	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Saturday, June 21 <sup>st</sup>	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
<b>Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Adult Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Worship – Pastor Mick Althausen Council Meeting</b>
Mon, June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Wed, June 25 <sup>th</sup>	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Thurs, June 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>July Newsletter Information DUE!!</b>	
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
Fri, June 27 <sup>th</sup>	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Saturday, June 28 <sup>th</sup>	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](http://www.myfelc.org)

Church email: [wapakelc@bright.net](mailto: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](mailto:wapakelc@bright.net); 419-738-3911

Anderson Accounting

Cari Frame; [felc.finance@myfelc.org](mailto:felc.finance@myfelc.org)

Darla Frame; [darlaframe@gmail.com](mailto:darlaframe@gmail.com)

Dave Curry; [dlcy@bright.net](mailto:dlcy@bright.net); 937-307-8596



**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Wapakoneta, Ohio

*Our mission is to  
spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ  
and to love one another as  
He has loved us.*