

**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio**



**3rd Sunday after Pentecost
June 29, 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 Mike, Amelia & Elanor Roeger
in celebration of Hilary's Birthday on June 30th!

MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Joyce Brincefield
Ushers	Steve Stienecker & Jim Kantner
Worship Assistant	Jon Schmidt
Musician.....	Recordings
Pastor	Pastor Bill Schultz
Greeter.....	Brenda Shoffstall
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

We have no good apart from God. That makes Jesus' call to follow him an invitation to freedom. This is freedom to revel in the Spirit's fruit: love, joy, peace, and patience. This is freedom to not be imprisoned by anything that would keep us from the fullness of the life God has given us. This is the path of life.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**

O Jesus, I Have Promised (ELW 810)

***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. **Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, you call us to obey you, and you favor us with true freedom. Keep us faithful to the ways of your Son, that, leaving behind all that hinders us, we may steadfastly follow your paths, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rebecca Van Meter

WORD

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

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

A reading from 1 Kings. ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to [Elijah,] “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place.” ¹⁹ So he set out from there, and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was plowing. There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him. ²⁰ He left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, “Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.” Then Elijah said to him, “Go back again; for what have I done to you?” ²¹ He returned from following him, took the yoke of oxen, and slaughtered

them; using the equipment from the oxen, he boiled their flesh, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

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

PSALM 16

- ¹ Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;
I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."
² **All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.**
³ But those who run after other gods
shall have their troubles multiplied.
⁴ **I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,
never take their names up on my lips.**
⁵ O Lord, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who uphold my lot.
⁶ **My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**
⁷ I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night after night.
⁸ **I have set the Lord always before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**
⁹ My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.
¹⁰ **For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the pit.**
¹¹ You will show me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures
forevermore.

SECOND READING: Galatians 5:1, 13-25

A reading from Galatians. ¹ For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. ¹⁶ Live by the

Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia (ELW p. 188)

***GOSPEL: Luke 9:51-62**

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

⁵¹ When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³ but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ Then they went on to another village. ⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹ To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰ But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹ Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ⁶² Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

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

MESSAGE

Pastor Bill Schultz

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Will You Come and Follow Me (ELW 798)

***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.

Guide your church, O God. Anoint us for service and make us messengers of your peace. Emboldened by the witness of Christians throughout history, send us to proclaim your reign come near. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Protect this world, O God. Watch over fields and fruit trees, foxes and birds, the pleasant land beneath us and the sun and moon above. Keep us mindful of the rich inheritance you have given us in the natural world.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Counsel our leaders, O God. Make them steadfast in seeking justice and unable to be shaken as they pursue peace. Lead them by your Spirit to listen and respond to the people they govern. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Uphold all who suffer, O God. Give refuge to those of us who know rejection, and shelter to those of us who have nowhere to lay our heads. Bring any who are sick into your healing presence *especially* Lynda Hampton & Family, Janet Case Family & Friends, Betty Hague, Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz, Marty Rostorfer, Eloise Katterhenry, Marsha Henderson, Judy Metz, 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, Joyce Brincefield, Liam Kramer, Jean Thompson, Norma Jarrells, Doris Fisher, and Wanda Nuss. And anyone that we name out loud or quietly on our hearts. (Brief silence). Give all your fullness of joy. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Set free this assembly, O God. Grow your Spirit's fruits within us and within our congregation's ministries. Set our faces always on you, that we might live in the freedom to which you have called us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Embrace all your saints, O God. We thank you for the faithful departed. Let us rejoice that you do not abandon us to the grave but lead us on the path of life. 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, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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 *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High* (ELW 857 x2)
 Just a Closer Walk with Thee (ELW 697)
 I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me (ELW 860)

***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. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

***CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER**

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

***BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

***SENDING SONG**

Lead On, O King Eternal! (ELW 805)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. **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
Manor	Judy Metz

We especially remember in our prayers...

Lynda Hampton & Family, Janet Case Family & Friends, Betty Hague, Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz, Marty Rostorfer, Eloise Katterhenry, Marsha Henderson, Judy Metz, 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, Joyce Brincefield, Liam Kramer, Jean Thompson, Norma Jarrells, Doris 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.

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
06/01/2025	12	50	\$4,170.00	\$35.00
06/08/2025	16	67	\$2,255.50	\$30.00
06/15/2025	14	56	\$1,218.00	\$105.00
06/22/2025		60	\$2,215.00	\$10.00

MINISTERS for Next Week 7-6-25

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Richard Yocum
Ushers	Ken Frame & Richard Yocum
Worship Assistant	Deanna Ronan
Musician	Darla Frame
Pastor	Pastor Bill Schultz
Greeter	Needed
Altar Guild	Cari Frame & Hilary Roeger
Fellowship Cleanup	Cari Frame & Hilary Roeger

PLEASE PRAY THE CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER THROUGHOUT THE WEEK:

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

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.

FELC Youth & Parents: We need your help for July 10th! Each youth needs to donate 3-4 dozen cookies (pack 2 cookies per Ziplock bag), bring to church the Wednesday/Thursday of July 10th. Any youth (12 yrs & older) that can help prepare meals or have questions please contact Brenda Shoffstall.

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.

July Newsletter It will be emailed and mailed out on Monday, June 30th.

Men's Night is scheduled for 6:00pm on Thursday, July 10th in St. Marys at Beer Barrel.

Ladies' Night is scheduled for 6:00pm on Tuesday, July 15th at Hilary Roeger's backyard. Please bring lawn chair and drink, dinner will be provided. All women are encouraged to come and bring a friend! Call office if you need address.

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, June 29th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School	
	10:00am	Worship – Pastor Bill Schultz	
Mon, June 30 th		July Newsletter Available	
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class	
Wed, July 2 nd	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class	
Thurs, July 3 rd	9-11:30am	God's Store House	
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes	
Fri, July 4 th		<i>Happy 4th of July!! – Office Closed</i>	
	9-11:30am	God's Store House	
Saturday, July 5 th	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class	
	9-11:30am	God's Store House	
Sunday, July 6th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School	
	10:00am	Worship – Pastor Bill Schultz	
Mon, July 7 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class	
Tues, July 8 th	1:30pm	Bingo at the Gardens	
Wed, July 9 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class	
Thurs, July 10 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House	
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes – FELC Hosting FELC Youth cookies needed!	
	6:00pm	Men's Night at Beer Barrel in St. Marys	
Fri, July 11 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House	
Saturday, July 12 th	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

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