

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio

LOVE
the Lord your God
with all your
HEART
and with all your
SOUL
and with all your
STRENGTH
and with all your
MIND...

L U K E 10 : 27

5th Sunday after Pentecost
July 13, 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 Dave & Char Curry in honor of their family.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God.

MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Georgeann Stienecker
Ushers	Dave Krites & Needed
Worship Assistant	Susan Miller
Musician	Karen Luginbuhl
Pastor	Michelle Kouse
Greeter	Needed
Fellowship Cleanup	Cari Frame & Hilary Roeger
Altar Guild	Cari Frame & Hilary Roeger

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

* Please rise if able.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Leibster Jesu, wir Sind Hier by Paul Manz

*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 Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate (ELW 722)

*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 God, called to walk the path of life by following your son, Jesus, we are likewise sent out into your world to be beacons of your love and grace. May our lives always bear witness to your redeeming grace made known in the cross; through 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 LEVITICUS 19: 9-18

A reading from Leviticus. ⁹ “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰ You shall not strip your vineyard bare or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God. ¹¹ “You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. ¹² And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the LORD. ¹³ “You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning. ¹⁴ You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the LORD. ¹⁵ “You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶ You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD. ¹⁷ “You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

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

PSALM 41

- ¹ Happy are they who regard the poor!
The LORD will deliver them in the time of trouble.
- ² **The LORD protects and keeps them alive;
they are called happy in the land.**
- ³ The LORD sustains them on their sickbed
in their illness you heal all their infirmities.
- ⁴ **As for me, I said, "O LORD, be gracious to me;
heal me, for I have sinned against you."**
- ⁵ My enemies wonder in malice,
when I will die, and my name perish.
- ⁶ **And when they come to see me, they utter empty words,
while their hearts gather mischief; when they go out, they tell it abroad.**
- ⁷ All who hate me whisper together about me;
they imagine the worst of me.
- ⁸ **They think that a deadly thing has fastened on me,
that I will not rise again from where I lie.**
- ⁹ Even my bosom friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread,
has lifted the heel against me.
- ¹⁰ **But you, O LORD, be gracious to me and raise me up,
that I may repay them.**
- ¹¹ By this I know that you are pleased with me;
because my enemy has not triumph over me.
- ¹² **But you have upheld me because of my integrity,
and set me in your presence forever.**
- ¹³ Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting. Amen and Amen.

SECOND READING Colossians 1:1-14

A reading from Colossians. ¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, ² To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. ³ In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God.

⁷ This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸ and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit. ⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia (ELW p. 188)

***GOSPEL Luke 10:25-37**

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

²⁵ Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷ He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." ²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came near him, and when he saw him he was moved with pity. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

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

MESSAGE

Michelle Kouse

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love (ELW 708)

*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

By the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to God our Father in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord, making intercession for the Church, the world, and for all people according to their need.

Thank you, Lord, for giving us the ministry of showing mercy to others. We confess that sometimes we are distracted or self-absorbed. We make excuses for "passing by on the other side." Forgive us, Father, and kindle your Holy Spirit within our hearts. Make us signs of your love to those who need it most. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

When your Church lies wounded and bleeding, and its leaders pass by on the other side, send your dear Son to be her Good Samaritan. Anoint her with the oil of healing and gladness. Feed her with the medicine of immortality, the Body and Blood of her Savior. And raise her up to be your “Mercy Hospital” for a hurting and hurtful world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Fill the hearts of everyone in this congregation with kindness and mercy. Make us holy and humble, gentle and good, courageous and compassionate, all in equal measure. Make us into your kindly beasts of burden who bear wounded and dying souls to the healing presence of Jesus, their Good Physician. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our persecuted sisters and brothers cry to you for help. Give them strength, hope, and courage in their suffering. Do not let us ignore their plight. Forgive and transform evildoers who have wounded them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give sharp eyes, wise hearts, and generous hands to our elected and appointed leaders, wherever they are given authority and power. Help each of us to notice our neighbor’s distress. Give us all the grace and the willingness to show them mercy. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Protect the farms, businesses, and homes of those affected by flood, fire, wind, or drought. Keep safe all who work to repair and strengthen bridges, roads, dams, and levees. Open wide the hands of all your people, to help provide for those whose homes and livelihoods have been washed or shriveled away. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring the healing balm of Jesus’ grace and mercy to all who are wounded in body, mind, or spirit, including those we name before you now; 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, Bobbi Bendele and Wanda Nuss. And anyone that we name out loud or quietly in our hearts. (Brief silence).

Bless all who act as Good Samaritans to them. Let all that is needed for health and hope be provided and restore them to full fellowship with all who love them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for giving your fullest healing to our beloved dead. Bind up the hearts of those still wounded by grief. Help us to show kindness and mercy to everyone we meet throughout our earthly pilgrimage, for we do not know the burden of suffering they bear. Fill us with your life-giving Spirit. And, by your grace, bring us into your house of healing, life, love, and peace, which your Son has prepared for all whom he has redeemed, and where we shall abide with you forever. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the power of the Holy Spirit, we entrust our prayers and petitions into your hands, gracious Father, for the sake of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

Be Thou My Vision by Paul Manz

***OFFERING HYMN**

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW 182)

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we humbly offer to you the gifts of our treasures, talents, and time. Use them to you glory, and for the benefit of all your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **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 right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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

United at the Table (ELW 498)
When We are Living (ELW 639)
For the Fruit of All Creation (ELW 679)

***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**

Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for feeding us with the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. Send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

***CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER**

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

***BLESSING**

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

***SENDING SONG**

Sent Forth by God's Blessing (ELW 547)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
06/15/2025	14	56	\$1,218.00	\$105.00
06/22/2025	17	60	\$2,215.00	\$10.00
06/29/2025	16	50	\$905.00	\$10.00
07/06/2025	12	58	\$3,285.50	\$10.00

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...

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, Bobbi Bendele 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.

MINISTERS for Next Week 7-20-25

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Ken Frame & Needed
Ushers	Ken Frame & Jon Schmidt
Worship Assistant	Darla Frame
Musician	Recordings
Pastor	Michelle Kouse
Greeter	Needed
Fellowship Cleanup	Cari Frame & Hilary Roeger
Altar Guild	Cari Frame & Hilary Roeger

What's Happening at First English....

Noisy Offering for the month of JULY: "FLYING HORSE FARMS Offering pans are located in the chapel and at the back of the church. Donations are accepted all month. To learn more about Flying Horse Farms click on link to view news story on Channel 4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-S38Rh0ojnk> If you have paper newsletter, type link into address bar on search engine. Call office if you need assistance.

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. July's theme is Snack Foods. 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' 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, July 13th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Michelle Kouse
Mon, July 14 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Tues, July 15 th	6:00pm	Ladies' Night at Hilary's Backyard
Wed, July 16 th	10:00am	Quilting
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Thurs, July 17 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
Fri, July 18 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Saturday, July 19 th	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sunday, July 20th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Michelle Kouse
		Council Meeting
Mon, July 21 st	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Wed, July 23 rd	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Thurs, July 24 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
Fri, July 25 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Saturday, July 26 th	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
	9-11:30am	God's Store House

DID YOU KNOW:

In Lutheran churches, the **baptismal font** is a container, usually bowl-shaped, that holds water used for baptisms. It's often placed near the entrance of the sanctuary to symbolize that our journey of faith begins with baptism. As people walk in, it serves as a reminder of their own baptism and the grace they've received. Why it's important:

- The font represents cleansing and new life in Christ. Through the water and God's Word, baptism washes away sin and marks the start of life in God's grace.
- Lutherans believe baptism is more than just a symbol—it's a means of grace, where God gives forgiveness and promises new life.
- Both infants and adults are baptized at the font, usually by pouring water over the head.

First English Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

107 W. Mechanic Street, Wapakoneta, OH 45895

(419) 738-3911 www.myfelc.org

Church email: wapakelc@bright.net

Office Hours: M-F, 8:30am – 12:30pm

Mission Statement

The mission of First English Lutheran Church is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to love one another as He loves us.

Church Staff & Volunteers

Office Administrator

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

Bookkeeper

Anderson Accounting

Treasurer

Cari Frame; felc.finance@myfelc.org

Music Director

Darla Frame; darlaframe@gmail.com

Audio-Technology

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

PLEASE PRAY THE CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER THROUGHOUT THE WEEK:

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



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.*