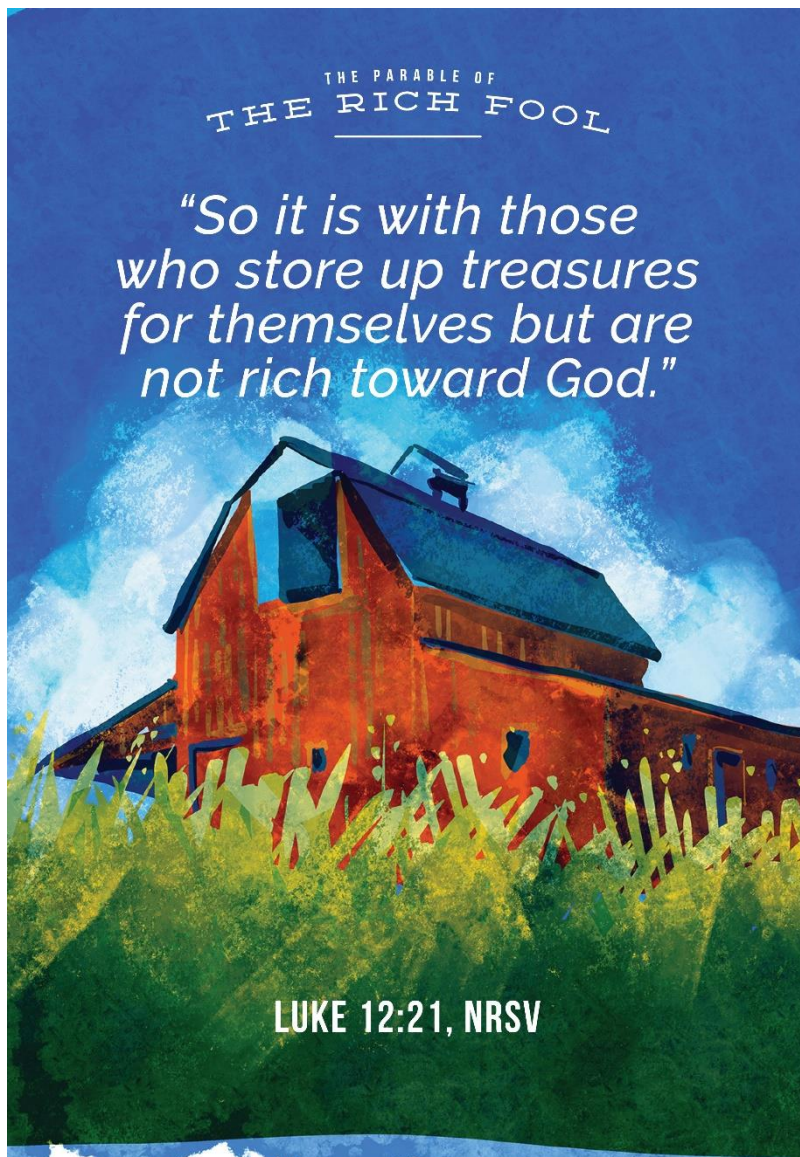


FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



8th Sunday after Pentecost
August 3, 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 Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship

The **Altar Candles** are given to the Glory of God
by Ned & Lisa Kirby in honor of all the teachers and students going back to
school & praying for a successful year.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God
by Jon & Carrie Schmidt in honor of Maeson's 18th birthday on August 1st.
They love you and are very proud of you.

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	Chris Nagel
Fellowship Cleanup.....	Brenda Shoffstall & Chris Nagel
Altar Guild	Brenda Shoffstall & Chris Nagel

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

Sanctus by Franz Schubert

*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

Son of God, Eternal Savior (ELW 655)

*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. **Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Michelle Kouse

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

A reading from Ecclesiastes. ² Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. ¹² I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem.

¹³ applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans beings to be busy with. ¹⁴ I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind. ^{2:18} I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me ¹⁹ ---and who knows which it toiled and used by wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰ So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹ because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²² What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³ For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

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

PSALM 100

¹ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

² **Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.**

³ Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ **Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.**

⁵ For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-11

A reading from Colossians. ¹ So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. ⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹ In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia (ELW p. 188)

***GOSPEL: Luke 12:13-21**

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

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” ¹⁴ But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵ And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” ¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ ¹⁸ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

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

MESSAGE

Michelle Kouse

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Be Thou My Vision (ELW 793)

***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**

Let us pray for the Church, the world, and for one another.

Heavenly Father, you bless greatly, us even when we think we have very little! You give us life and breath. Each new day gives us a chance to repent, forgive, and share Jesus' love. Help us to thank you for these things, to enjoy them rightly; and to share them generously. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Clothe your Church with Christ. Put away from it all evil desires, words, and deeds. Fill it with your Spirit, so it abounds in every good gift, overflows with Jesus' life, and leads many to faith in him. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Fill the people of this congregation with wisdom and humility. Remind us that everything is done for you, not for ourselves, and that we must one day render an account of our stewardship of your blessings. Make us faithful, generous, and holy. Use us to draw many people into your fatherly embrace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Keep your persecuted Church in your care and bless their faithful witness. Help us to provide for our suffering sisters and brothers from the storehouses of our spiritual and material riches. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for your blessing upon our nation – and for all nations. Guide our leaders with your Spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might. Remind them that they are to be faithful and honest stewards of the power and authority entrusted to them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, lead us on the hard path of discipleship. Teach us virtues that are often unpopular: responsibility, accountability, and self-sacrifice, grounded in faith toward you and fervent love for one another. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift before you the suffering and sorrow of your people, including: Family & Friends of Norma Wachauf, 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, 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, Norma Jarrells, Doris Fisher, Bobbi Bendele, Connie Krites, Makenna Roode and Wanda Nuss. And anyone that we name out loud or quietly in our hearts. (Brief silence). Anoint them with the oil of gladness. Heal wounds to body, mind, and soul. Grant that, with those who love them, they may enter your gates with thanksgiving and go into your courts with praise. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, keep our beloved dead close to your heart. Comfort all whose grief runs deep. By the power of your Spirit, turn our hearts from the folly of sin. Keep us focused on Jesus and his love for us. Make us channels of his forgiveness and grace, because so many people need them. By your mercy, bring us into your Kingdom, where with all the redeemed, we shall praise and adore you forever. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear our prayers, gracious Father, offered through the power of the Spirit; and for the sake of your dear Son, grant us all that is in accordance with your merciful will, to your glory and for the good of your people. **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

Faith Begins By Letting Go by David Gonzol

***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 your 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

One Bread, One Body (ELW 496)

Morning Has Broken (ELW 556)

In Christ There Is No East or West (ELW 650)

Take My Life, That I May Be (ELW 685)

***AS WE ARE BLESSED (PASTOR)**

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, thank you for your abundant blessings you give us daily. Be with our congregation as we prayerfully consider our next pastor. Prepare our congregation's hearts and minds for a spiritual leader that will help us grow closer to you and that teaches your Word. Prepare our next pastor and their family for the call to come to our church and congregation. We pray that you give us strength where we are weak and give us hope and faith where we have doubts. And above all, help us to feel your love and presence always but especially throughout this call process. 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**

O Living Bread from Heaven (ELW 542)

DISMISSAL

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

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
07/06/2025	12	58	\$3,285.50	\$10.00
07/13/2025	13	47	\$1,547.00	\$150.00
07/20/2025	12	53	\$1,940.00	\$10.00
07/27/2025	15	53	\$1,198.00	\$140.00

MINISTERS for Next Week 8-10-25

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Matt Ronan
Ushers	Dave Krites & Dave Clift
Worship Assistant	Ken Frame
Musician	Darla Frame & Makayla Frame
Pastor	Pastor Mick Althausen
Greeter	Chris Nagel
Fellowship Cleanup	Brenda Shoffstall & Chris Nagel
Altar Guild	Brenda Shoffstall & Chris Nagel

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, Judy Metz

We especially remember in our prayers...

Family & Friends of Norma Wachauf, 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, 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, Norma Jarrells, Doris Fisher, Bobbi Bendele, Connie Krites, Makenna Roode 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.

New Plaque in Melching Hall Lobby of a very old German document from the 400-year Anniversary of Martin Luther's birthday. This document was donated by a woman who recently moved to town and wanted a Lutheran church to honor it somewhere special in their church. We are grateful for her calling and giving it to us.

PLEASE PRAY THE CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER THROUGHOUT THE WEEK:

Dear God, thank you for your abundant blessings you give us daily. Be with our congregation as we prayerfully consider our next pastor. Prepare our congregation's hearts and minds for a spiritual leader that will help us grow closer to you and that teaches your Word. Prepare our next pastor and their family for the call to come to our church and congregation. We pray that you give us strength where we are weak and give us hope and faith where we have doubts. And above all, help us to feel your love and presence always but especially throughout this call process. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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.

What's Happening at First English....

Noisy Offering for the month of AUGUST: SERVANTS DAY Offering pans are located in the chapel and at the back of the church. Donations are accepted during the entire 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. **ATTENTION: There will be NO MEAL on August 7, 2025.**

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. August's theme is Mexican 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.

Christian Ed Meeting will be on August 11th at 6:30pm in parlor.

Men's Night is scheduled for 6:00pm on Thursday, August 14th at JT's in St. Marys. All men are encouraged to come and bring a friend!

BACKPACK GIVEAWAY! SAVE the DATE: Wednesday, August 13th 11-1pm Location: St. Paul's UCC Church Hall, 101 Perry St, Wapakoneta
If you would like to help us serve the kids please *contact Pastor Melodi Hagen at Trinity Lutheran Church, 419-738-6547.*

If you would like to donate School List Supplies Needed: 12 pack of #2 Pencils, Pens, Bottle glue, Glue Sticks, Pink Erasers, Pocket Folders, Scissors, Highlighters, Dry Erase markers, 24 Crayon Box, Markers, Tissue Boxes, Clorox Wipes, please put bought items on designated table.



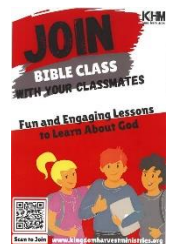
IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

NALC NWO District Gathering is being
hosted by FELC on
SEPTEMBER 6th, 9:15am-1:00pm.

We will have 11 other NALC churches attending. It will be a great time to Meet & Greet our fellow brothers & sisters in Christ. It won't be the same if FELC congregation doesn't show up, so please make sure it is on your calendar, September 6th!

Parents: Have you signed up your child for Release Time in Elementary & Middle School? See flyers around church. Use QR code or website to have your child go to Release Time/Bible class one day a week during the school day!! Any questions, ask Hilary.



FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, Aug 3rd	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Michelle Kouse
Mon, Aug 4 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Wed, Aug 6 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Thurs, Aug 7 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House NO Loaves & Fishes
Fri, Aug 8 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Saturday, Aug 9 th	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sunday, Aug 10th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Mick Althaus
Mon, Aug 11 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	6:30pm	Christian Ed Meeting
Tues, Aug 12 th	1:30pm	Bingo at the Gardens
Wed, Aug 13 th	11-1pm	Backpack Giveaway @ St. Paul's
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Thurs, Aug 14 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
	5:30-8:30pm	Wapak City Back to School Celebration
	6:00pm	Men's Night @ JT's in St. Mary's
Fri, Aug 15 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Saturday, Aug 16 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

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