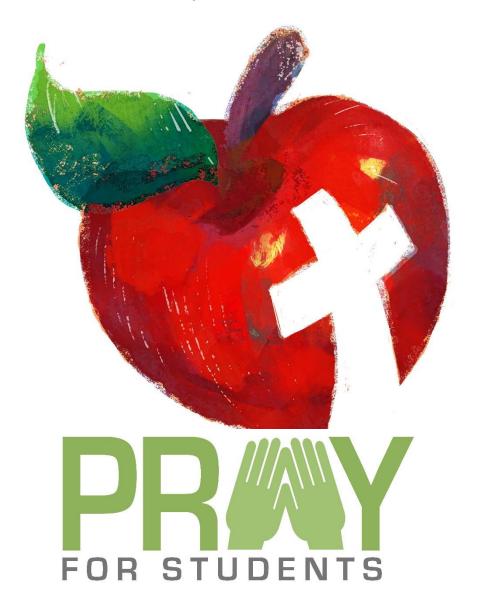
First English Lutheran Church Wapakoneta, Ohio



Our AUGUST 2025 Newsletter

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) 107 W. Mechanic Street, Wapakoneta, OH 45895 Office: (419) 738-3911

Website: www.myfelc.org E-Mail Address: wapakelc@bright.net

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

JULY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

On July 20, 2025, Church council met following worship for our monthly meeting. We invited Michelle Kouse to sit in as our guest. Georgeann gave a devotion and prayer.

We discussed the treasure's report and because we had some questions, we did not approve them this month, but we will be getting our questions answered and approving it in September. We did approve the secretary's report.

We continued with the committee report of Music and worship and discussed upcoming meetings of fellowship and Christian Ed in August and finance in September. Approval for Music and Worship report was done. We discussed the painting project on the exterior of the church. It will be starting in the next couple of weeks.

A very worthy backpack supplies outreach project was explained. Darla Frame and Michelle Kouse will be representing First English for the distribution of supplies on August 13.

Brenda told Council that she took a call by a lady that has just moved to Wapakoneta, and she wanted to have our Church display a very old German document from the 400-year Anniversary of Martin Luther's birthday. Marc has hung the frame, and it now holds a place of honor in our Melching Hall.

Our council will be taking August off from the monthly meeting.

We will have our next meeting on September 21, 2025 Thank you all for your support!

Brenda Shoffstall Council President

FELC Committees, Chairpersons, Council Liaisons

Committee	Chairperson	Liaison
Building & Property	Brenda Shoffstall	Jeff Ritchie
Christian Education/Youth		Jon Schmidt
Evangelism		Denise Kantner
Finance	Cari Frame	Georgeann Stienecker
Life & Fellowship	Brenda Shoffstall	Darla Frame
Social Ministry	Teresa Fisher	Char Curry
Staff Support	Richard Yocum	Richard Yocum
Stewardship	Meets with Finance	Brenda Shoffstall
Worship & Music	Darla Frame	Chris Nagel

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	Views	Attendance	Current Giving	Benevolence
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

Flowers and Candles

Altar Flowers for the month of August:

August 3 rd	Carrie Schmidt	
August 10 th	Available—	
August 17 th	Available—	
August 24th	Available—	
August 31 st	Amelia Sterner	
-		



Altar Candles for the month of August:

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.

2025 Noisy Offerings

Month	Recipient	Amount Collected
January	Wapak Women's Crisis Center	\$130.16
February	California Wildfires	\$750.10
March	Generations of Love	\$171.51
April	Family Life Center of Wapakoneta	\$272.00
May	Ethan Jeanneret, Double-Lung Tra	ans. \$1,081.38
June	NALC Disaster Relief	\$186.00
July	"Flying Horse Farm"-Mt. Gilead, O	H \$708.00
August	Servants Day	



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...

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 Benett, 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.

Prayers from Call Committee for Pastor

Prayers throughout the month:

7-6-25

Heavenly Father, as we continue in the process of searching for a new pastor to lead our congregation, we ask for you to grant us wisdom and patience during the process. Guide us and help us make decisions that will be good for First English in the future, so that we may continue to do your work in the world. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

7-13-25

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.

7-20-25

Heavenley Father, we come to you asking for your guidance, wisdom and support. Please guide our minds and heart as we continue in our search for a new pastor to lead us. We seek you first in all we do together. We confess that we are nothing without you and our trust is in you completely. Fill us with your grace as we continue in our search and help us to grow in peace and understanding with one another. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

7-27-25

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for all you have done and will do for us. We continue to strive to do your will as we pray for a spiritual leader for our church. Please help us with the patience you require of us as we wait for your perfect timing. Our trust is in you, Lord. May we be worthy of your love. In your name, we pray. Amen.

Call Committee Checklist for seeking a Pastor:

- **x** At the time of learned pastoral vacancy, the congregation council arranges for regular supply or interim, working with the Mission District dean.
- ➤ Form a call committee in accordance with congregational constitution – uneven # of persons with a cross-section of the congregation is helpful-elect Chair of the Committee.
- X Call Committee downloads NALC Call Process Manual for call committee members.
- × Call Committee chair contacts the NALC Call Process Coordinator to schedule a conference call for orientation/training. Met on September 15th.
- ★ Call Committee engages in Bible Study in the Call Process Manual. Meeting on Wednesdays at 6:45pm.
- X Call Committee chair will contact Mission District dean to arrange and complete The Congregational Workshop in preparation for the Call Process.
- ★ Chair contacts their Mission District dean to arrange and complete the Congregational Workshop – November 2, 9am-2:00/2:30pm.
- ➤ Call Committee completes the Congregational Profile and emails it to NALC Call Process.
- ➤ Call Committee completes the Congregational Profile and video to the NALC website.
- **x** Call Committee develops list of ministry questions to be asked in full interviews.
- ... Patiently waiting on God's timing for a Pastor to show interest in Profile.



Emailed/mailed July 28, 2025

Dear First English Lutheran Church Congregation,

On Sunday, July 27, 2025, Brenda Shoffstall (Council President) spoke to the congregation after worship service. Here is a summary of what she informed the congregation:

- Addressed questions she has been asked regarding Call Process.
 - o Profile has been in NALC database for approximately 7 months
 - We were told that it could take a year or 2 years for a full-time pastor and longer than that for a part-time pastor.
 - Given our finances, the only choice we have is a part-time pastor.
- Last month Brenda was asked by the NALC and Michelle Kouse to consider allowing Michelle to do her internship here at FELC.
 - Normally, once one graduates, they do their internship before they can be ordained.
 - This would help Michelle serve her internship and be ordained sooner and would help FELC to have more of a pastoral presence.
- Michelle Kouse is very eager to help FELC with: (while attending seminary)
 - Visitation
 - Involved with our youth
 - Church Events
 - Assist with Confirmation and First Communion
 - Funeral Services
 - Lenten & Advent Midweek Services

Council wants everyone to understand that FELC will remain in the Call Process so this agreement would not involve any contracts between FELC and Michelle Kouse. The NALC told Brenda that whatever FELC has Michelle do is between FELC and Michelle. NALC will be here for support.

Also, Michelle doesn't want any help with seminary payments, any extra salary, benefits, or housing allowance other than her usual supply payment. However, Council only feels it would be right to pay Michelle for her extra time and mileage.

On June 22, Council approved this internship with Michelle Kouse. Starting in October, Michelle will preach the first 3 weeks of the month. Brenda will ask Pastor Bill Schultz or Pastor Mick Althauser to lead service on 4th/5th Sunday of the month.

Letters are going out today via email and to those that request mail only.

Everyone on council feels that this is a positive change and Michelle is very eager to be apart of First English Lutheran Church. So let us all make her feel welcome!

Thank you! Brenda Shoffstall, Council President

Ministries in Action

	August 3 rd	August 10 th	August 17 th	August 24 th	August 31st
Lector	Richard Yocum	Matt Ronan	Carly Craft	Nancy Heffner	Joyce Brincefield
Ushers	Ken Frame & Richard Yocum	Dave Krites & Dave Clift	Ken Frame & Jon Schmidt	Chad Sterner & Luke Kline	Steve Stienecker & Jim Kantner
Worship Assistant	Makayla Frame	Ken Frame	Marsha Jackson	Jon Schmidt	Darla Frame
Musician	Karen Luginbuhl	Darla Frame & Makayla Frame	Recordings	Darla Frame	Recordings
Preacher	Michelle Kouse	Pastor Mick Althauser	Michelle Kouse	Pastor Mick Althauser	Pastor Mick Althauser
Greeter	Chris Nagel	Chris Nagel	Needed	Needed	Needed

Altar Guild for August: Brenda Shoffstall & Chris Nagel Fellowship Cleanup for August: Brenda Shoffstall & Chris Nagel

The Word of God

Sunday	1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel	
August 3 rd	Eccles 1: 2, 12-14; 2: 18-26	Psalm 100	Col 3: 1-11	Luke 12: 13-21	
August 10 th	Gen 15: 1-6	Ps 33: 12-22	Heb 11: 1-3, 8-16	Luke 12: 32-40	
August 17 th	Jer 23: 16-29	Ps 119: 81-88	Heb 11: 17-31; 12: 1-3	Luke 12: 49-53	
August 24 th	Isa 58: 9b-14	Ps 103: 1-8	Heb 12: 18-29	Luke 13: 10-17	
August 31st	Prov 25: 6-7	Psalm 112	Heb 13: 1-8, 15- 16	Luke 14: 1, 7-14	
September 7 th	Duet 30: 15-20	Psalm 1	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14: 25-35	
September 14 th	Exod 32: 7-14	Ps 51: 1-10	1 Tim 1: 12-17	Luke 15: 1-10	
September 21st	Amos 8: 4-7	Psalm 113	1 Tim 2: 1-15	Luke 16: 1-15	
September 28 th	Amos 6: 1-7	Psalm 146	1 Tim 3: 1-13	Luke 16: 19-31	

FELC News and Events...



Personal contact information...if there has

been a change in your family's contact information, please contact the church office by email at wapakelc@bright.net or by calling the office at 419-738-3911.

Education/Worship Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship in person and online at www.myfelc.org

Quilting Group will meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10am in the parlor. If you would like to join this group or have questions, please contact Darla Frame.

<u>Loaves and Fishes:</u> 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.

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.

<u>Collection for Auglaize County Crisis Center</u> We are collecting food items each month for the Auglaize County Crisis Center based on a monthly dinner theme. <u>August's theme is Mexican Items</u>. 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.

<u>Plastic Bag Ministry</u> 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.

<u>Altar Flower/Candles Signup calendar & Greeter Signup</u> We still have many dates available. Please check your calendars and sign up for a date or two!

<u>Christian Ed Committee</u> Will be having a meeting on August 11th at 6:30pm.

<u>Fellowship Committee</u> will be having a meeting on August 17th following worship service.

<u>Men's Night</u> 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!

<u>Ladies' Night</u> is scheduled for 6:00pm on Tuesday, August 19th at LaNeta. Help us celebrate two birthday ladies! All women 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 on designated table. Free Food, Free Backpacks and School Supplies for the first 80 kids! Free games and fellowship for caregivers as we prepare our children for the next school year. All are welcome to gather and celebrate our young people! Thank you to our local Wapakoneta churches, Mercy Unlimited and Agape Ministries and the North West Ohio Lutheran Innovate grant.

Backpack Blessing The new school year is upon us! Join us on Sunday, August 17th, during the worship service, to have your backpack blessed and receive a tag to remind you that you have been blessed by God.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

NALC District Gathering is being hosted by FELC on SEPTEMBER 6th,

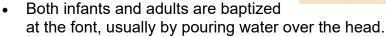
9:15am-1:00pm. We will have 11 other NALC churches attending. It will be a great time to Meet & Greet our fellow brothers & sisters in Christ. It won't be the same if FELC congregation doesn't show up, so please make sure it is on your calendar, September 6th!

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.





Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Psalm 32:1

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.



June 2025

I hope that your summer has been good! I wanted to invite you to **Spiritual Movement** classes (*Proverbs* 14:30). They are a combination of movement,
stretch and strength. The benefits of intentional movement are important to both
the body and the mind: lower blood pressure, greater range of motion, more
flexibility, silent time, prayer and more.

During class, I will offer movements for the physical part of the body while working with the breath and alignment. At the end of class, we will enjoy a few minutes of relaxation with prayer/meditation. All levels of ability are welcome. If interested, please come.

Classes are currently taking place at First English Lutheran Church, across from St. Joseph's. They are kindly hosting us and God's Storehouse (Isaiah 58:10-14) while St. Joseph's is being renovated. We meet in the newer section of the building and enter off of the allev.

Class Times: M/W Evenings: 5:15 P Saturday Morning: 8:15 A

Donations are accepted during class, and ALL money collected is used charitably. To date, Spiritual Movement has raised over \$60,000 to support those in need. St. Joseph's, First English, Mercy Unlimited, God's Storehouse, the Lima Rescue Mission and the YMCA are examples of where most of the donations go.

Please call or email me with any questions. If you have attended in the past, I would love to see you again. This letter is encouragement to discern if this opportunity would fit into your current obligations and be a benefit.

Wishing you and yours a very wonderful summer-may many blessings be yours.

Sincerely,

DeLynn Epperly John 14:27





See Bulletin Boards for these flyers!



Auglaize County Out of the Darkness Walk

October 11, 2025

Heritage Park, Wapakoneta Check in @ 9 am

Register at afsp.org/auglaizecounty







Parents: Have you signed up your child for Release Time in Elementary & Middle

School? Use QR code or website to register your child to go to Release Time/Bible class one day a week during the school day!! Any questions, ask Hilary.

~ August 2025 ~

			101 2020			
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9-11:30 GSH	2 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH
8 th Sunday after Pentecost 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Michelle Kouse	4 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	5	6 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class WCS schedule pickup	7 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm NO Loaves & Fishes	8 9-11:30 GSH	9 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH
10 9 th Sunday after Pentecost 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Pastor Mick Althauser	11 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6:30pm Christian Ed Meeting	12 1:30pm Bingo at The Gardens	113 11am Backpack Giveaway! @ St. Paul's 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	14 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night at JT's in St. Marys 5:30-9:30pm Wapak City Back to School Celebration	15 9-11:30 GSH	16 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH
17 10 th Sunday after Pentecost 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Backpack Blessing Michelle Kouse Fellowship Meeting NO Council Meeting	18 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	19 6:00pm Ladies' Dinner at LaNeta in Wapak 1st Day of School – Wapakoneta City	20 10am Quilting 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	21 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	22 9-11:30 GSH	23 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH
24 11 th Sunday after Pentecost 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Pastor Mick Althauser	25 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class September info for Newsletter DUE	26	27 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	28 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes September Newsletter available	29 9-11:30 GSH	30 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH
31 12 th Sunday after Pentecost 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Pastor Mick Althauser						

~ September 2025 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 OFFICE CLOSED 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class HAPPY LABOR DAY!	2	3 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	4 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	5 9-11:30 GSH	6 9:15am-1pm NALC DISTRICT Mission Gathering Join us to meet fellow NALC members
7 13 th Sunday after Pentecost 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Michelle Kouse Worship & Music Meeting	8 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class		10 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class Confirmation Family Night	11 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night at	12 9-11:30 GSH	13 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH
14 14 th Sunday after Pentecost 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Pastor Bill Schultz	Sprtl Mvmnt	Ladies'	17 10am Quilting 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class Confirmation Class	18 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	19 9-11:30 GSH	20 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH
21 15 th Sunday after Pentecost 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Michelle Kouse Council Meeting	22 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	23	24 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class Confirmation Class 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Ladies' Choir	25 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	26 9-11:30 GSH	27 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH
28 16 th Sunday after Pentecost 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Christian White	29 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class October Newsletter info DUE!	30	31 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class Confirmation Class October Newsletter Available			

First English Lutheran Church 107 West Mechanic St. Wapakoneta, OH 45895