

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



*I came to bring
fire to the earth...*

LUKE 12:49, NRSV

10th Sunday after Pentecost
August 17, 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 Jason & Michelle Kouse in celebrating the blessings of summer 2025, as our
children return to school and we welcome the beauty of fall.

MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Carly Craft
Ushers	Ken Frame & Jon Schmidt
Worship Assistant	Marsha Jackson
Musician.....	Recordings
Pastor	Past Video
Greeter.....	Needed
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

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS

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

Lead On, O King Eternal (ELW 805)

*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**

Glory to God (ELW p. 185)

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, 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: Jeremiah 23:16-29

A reading from Jeremiah. ¹⁶ Thus says the Lord of hosts: Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you; they are deluding you. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord. ¹⁷ They keep saying to those who despise the word of the Lord, "It shall be well with you," and to all who stubbornly follow their own stubborn hearts, they say, "No calamity shall come upon you." ¹⁸ For who has stood in the council of the Lord so as to see and to hear his word? Who has given heed to his word so as to proclaim it? ¹⁹ Look, the storm of the Lord! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked. ²⁰ The anger of the Lord will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intents of his mind. In the latter days you will understand it clearly. ²¹ I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. ²² But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way and from the evil of their doings. ²³ Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? ²⁴ Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says

the Lord. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" ²⁶ How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷ They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

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

PSALM 119: 81-88

- ⁸¹ **My soul languishes for your salvation;
I have hope in the word.**
- ⁸² My eyes fail with watching your promise;
I ask, "When will you comfort me?"
- ⁸³ **For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke,
yet I have not forgotten your statutes.**
- ⁸⁴ How long most your servant endure?
When will you judge those who persecute me?
- ⁸⁵ **The arrogant have dug pitfalls for me;
they flout your law.**
- ⁸⁶ All your commandments are enduring;
I may persecute without cause; help me!
- ⁸⁷ **They had almost made an end of me on earth;
but I have not forsaken your precepts.**
- ⁸⁸ In your steadfast love, spare my life,
so that I may keep the decrees of your mouth.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:17-31 – 12:1-3

A reading from Hebrews. ¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son, ¹⁸ of whom he had been told, "It is through Isaac that descendants shall be named for you." ¹⁹ He considered the fact that God is able even to raise someone from the dead—and, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. ²⁰ By faith Isaac invoked blessings for the future on Jacob and Esau. ²¹ By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, "bowing in worship over the top of his staff." ²² By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the

Israelites and gave instructions about his burial. ²³ By faith Moses was hidden by his parents for three months after his birth, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called a son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He considered abuse suffered for the Christ to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to the reward. ²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, unafraid of the king's anger, for he persevered as though he saw him who is invisible. ²⁸ By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel. ²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. ¹² ¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary in your souls or lose heart.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia (ELW p. 188)

***GOSPEL: Luke 12:49-53**

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

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹ "I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵² From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

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

MESSAGE

Video of past sermon Pastor Neil Brady

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Faith of Our Fathers (ELW 812)

*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

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

Father, sometimes your word dismays us! We don't like to hear about divine fire, judgment, and division. Make us brave and steadfast in faith. Give us ears to rightly hear, and hearts to rightly repent. Give us grace to show the fruits of repentant faith, to your glory and for the good of your people.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make your Church a faithful witness to your Word. When it must speak of fire, judgment, or sin, let it be honest, fearless, and humble. Help it always point to Jesus, the merciful pioneer and perfecter of our faith, and the longed-for Salvation of the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Renew the faith, increase the zeal, and strengthen the deeds of everyone in this congregation. Cast the purifying fire of your Holy Spirit in our midst, so that all we say and do is in accordance with your Word. Use us to accomplish your will in the lives of our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We are surrounded by a cloud of faithful witnesses, including Christians who are persecuted in this age of “tolerance and diversity.” Strengthen and encourage us by their example. Give them patient and steadfast hearts. And burn away the sin from the hearts of all who hate them, and you.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Establish your peace among all people of this world. No plan or project of ours can heal the seeds of wickedness and violence in our hearts. Thus, we plead heal, purify, guide and direct the people and the leaders of every human endeavor, in accordance with your will and for our common good.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Until your peace is established, good men and women must risk their lives to protect others. We pray for all of them. Direct their decisions and deeds, so that even places of chaos and violence may begin to know your peace. Bring them safely home and bless their hearts and lives with that same peace.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for everyone who is afflicted by the powers of sin, suffering, and sorrow. This day we remember before you: 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 Bennett, Joyce Brincefield, Norma Jarrells, Bobbi Bendele, Connie Krites, Makenna Roode, Steve Hillery, Jeanie Schnell, Pastor Jenn, Kate Cunningham, Judy Fisher, Michelle Kouse, Denise Kantner and Wanda Nuss. And anyone that we name out loud or quietly in our hearts. (Brief silence). Be their sure hope and strong deliverer. Strengthen their faith in times of trial. Bring them safely into the fellowship of those who love them and into closer communion with you.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we commend our departed loved ones into your care. Renew to us the promise you make to all the faithful: that “when through fiery trials your pathway shall lie, my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.” Keep our faith steadfast and firm in your excellent Word, until that day when you bear us in your bosom into your everlasting Kingdom, and make us stand before you with all whom you have upheld by your righteous, omnipotent hand.
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

***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.**

***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.**

SENDING

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

***CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, **we continue to ask for your guidance as we seek to call a pastoral leader. May we be ever diligent in our search, that we may find the leader that we know you have chosen for us. Bless our congregation during this process and keep us strong and faithful. We ask all of this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

***BLESSING**

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

***SENDING SONG**

Let the Whole Creation Cry (ELW 876)

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>
07/20/2025	12	53	\$1,940.00	\$10.00
07/27/2025	15	53	\$1,198.00	\$140.00
08/03/2025	14	61	\$2,900.00	\$55.00
08/10/2025	12	56	\$2,379.00	\$5.00

MINISTERS for Next Week 8-24-25

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Nancy Heffner
Ushers	Chad Sterner & Luke Kline
Worship Assistant	Jon Schmidt
Musician	Darla Frame
Pastor	Pastor Mick Althausser
Greeter	Needed
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
Roselawn in Spencerville	Joyce Brincefield

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 Bennett, Joyce Brincefield, Norma Jarrells, Bobbi Bendele, Connie Krites, Makenna Roode, Steve Hillery, Jeanie Schnell, Pastor Jenn, Kate Cunningham, Judy Fisher, Michelle Kouse, Denise Kantner 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

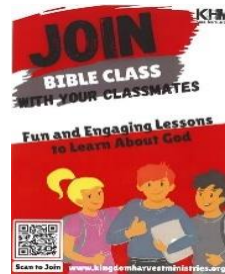
Plastic Bag Ministry FELC will be collecting clean empty plastic grocery bags for our Prison Ministry. Allen/Oakwood Correctional incarcerated persons are making mats for the homeless. There is a collection container located at the back door.

Fellowship Meeting will be TODAY, August 17th following worship service.

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

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.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS



IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENT

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!

PLEASE PRAY THE CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER THROUGHOUT THE WEEK:

Heavenly Father, we continue to ask for your guidance as we seek to call a pastoral leader. May we be ever diligent in our search, that we may find the leader that we know you have chosen for us. Bless our congregation during this process and keep us strong and faithful. We ask all of this in Jesus' name. Amen.

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, Aug 17th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship—Past Video Pastor Neil Brady
		Backpack Blessing
		Fellowship Meeting
		NO Council Meeting
Mon, Aug 18 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Tues, Aug 19 th	6:00pm	Ladies' Night at LaNeta in Wapak
		Wapak City Schools First Day of School
Wed, Aug 20 th	10:00am	Quilting
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Thurs, Aug 21 st	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
Fri, Aug 22 nd	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Saturday, Aug 23 rd	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sunday, Aug 24th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Mick Althaus
Mon, Aug 25 th		September Info DUE for Newsletter
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	6:00pm	Christian Ed Meeting in Parlor
Wed, Aug 27 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Thurs, Aug 28 th		September Newsletter Available
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
Fri, Aug 29 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Saturday, Aug 30 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