

11th Sunday after Pentecost **August 24, 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 in honor of summer coming to an end & everyone returning for a new school year.

MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Nancy Heffner
Ushers	Chad Sterner
Worship Assistant	Jon Schmidt
Musician	Darla Frame
Pastor	Pastor Mick Althauser
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

PRELUDE

How Great Is Our God by Chris Tomlin arr Lloyd Larson

*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

Come, We That Love the Lord (ELW 625)

*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. O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 58:9b-14

A reading from Isaiah. ^{9b} If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. ¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. ¹³ If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs; ¹⁴ then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

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

PSALM 103: 1-8

- ¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
- ² Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—
- ³ who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases;
- ⁴ who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;
- ⁵ who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- ⁶ The LORD, works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.
- ⁷ He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.
- 8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 12:18-29

A reading from Hebrews. ¹⁸ You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. ²⁰ (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death." ²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵ See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! ²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." ²⁷ This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot

be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia (ELW p. 188)

*GOSPEL: Luke 13:10-17

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

¹⁰ Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹ And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." ¹³ When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴ But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day." ¹⁵ But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it away to give it water? ¹⁶ And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" ¹⁷ When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

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

MESSAGE Pastor Mick Althauser

*HYMN OF THE DAY

You are Mine (ELW 581)

*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.

Heavenly Father, thank you for showing us what you would have us do, even when it is hard. Give us strength and grace to worship you in the beauty of holiness, and to share your love, justice, and mercy with others. Thank you for establishing for us a kingdom that can never be shaken. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lead the Church you love in the narrow way of peace, holiness, and truth. Make it a trustworthy, open gate to Christ. Lead all who are wounded in soul and body to the salvation he offers them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Touch the hearts of the people gathered here with your beauty and goodness. Make our words gracious and our deeds lovely. Make of us a kingdom of priests, holy in your sight; and a family of servants, faithfully doing your will. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Join the sufferings of your persecuted Church to those of Christ. Give it a gracious word of testimony, truth, and forgiveness, so that its tormentors may repent and be saved. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring to fruition Isaiah's vision that all nations shall serve and worship you. Give leaders the strength and desire to work for peace, righteousness, and justice for all people - especially the poor and those devastated by human malice or natural disaster. Help all of us to be true neighbors to one another. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The school year fast approaches, to mingled dread and anticipation. Give students joy in learning and diligence in study. Help their teachers and aides to convey true love of their subject matter. Make them gentle disciplinarians, inspiring mentors, and worthy examples to their students. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant healing, hope and strength to everyone who suffers, especially 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, Joy Mason, Carlene Koch and Wanda Nuss. And anyone that we name out loud or quietly in our hearts. (Brief silence). Assure them of your loving presence, and let them enter into your gates with thanksgiving and into your courts with praise. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Most holy Father, receive into your Kingdom our beloved dead. Keep us faithful and true, holy and steadfast, as we walk the narrow Way established by Jesus. Give us hope and joy along that way. Help us encourage one another. Bring us into that Kingdom which you have promised to all whom you redeem by the sufferings of Christ. There let us know the unspeakable joy of abiding in your love 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

The Power Of Your Love by Geoff Bullock arr Lloyd Larson

*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:

*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.

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly (ELW 461)

Healer of Our Every III (ELW 612)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (ELW 858)

*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, as we continue on this journey of seeking a pastor, we ask for your divine guidance. Your word reminds us that you are the Good Shepherd, and we trust in you leading us to find the right pastor for our church family. May our search be guided by the same love and care that Jesus has for his flock. Lead us to the pastor who will nurture, lead and protect our congregation. In your 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

Savior, Again to your Dear Name (ELW 534)

DISMISSAL

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

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	Views	Attendance	Current Giving	Benevolence
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
08/17/2025	13	40	\$11,345.00	\$25.00

MINISTERS for Next Week 8-31-25

	Noah Kirby & Jeff RitchieJoyce Brincefield
	Steve Stienecker & Jim Kantner
	Darla Frame
Musician	Recordings
Pastor	Pastor Mick Althauser
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

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, Bonnie Davidson, Joy Mason, Carlene Koch 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.

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.

<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.

<u>Collection for the Women's 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 only 12 count size clean empty egg cartons. Please put them in the box 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.

Parents: Have you signed up your child for Release Time in Elementary & Middle School? More time with God!! 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.

PLEASE PRAY THE CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER THROUGHOUT THE WEEK:

Dear God, as we continue on this journey of seeking a pastor, we ask for your divine guidance. Your word reminds us that you are the Good Shepherd, and we trust in you leading us to find the right pastor for our church family. May our search be guided by the same love and care that Jesus has for his flock. Lead us to the pastor who will nurture, lead and protect our congregation. In your name, 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.

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.



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!

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events					
Sunday, Aug 24 th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School			
	10:00am	Worship – Mick Althauser			
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			
Sunday, Aug 31 st	9:00am	Adult Sunday School			
	10:00am	Worship – Mick Althauser			
Mon, Sept 1 st	OFFICE CLOSED – Happy Labor Day!				
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class			
Wed, Sept 3 rd	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class			
Thurs, Sept 4 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House			
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes			
Fri, Sept 5 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House			

9:15am-1pm NALC NWO District Gathering

Please make sure you attend!! 😊

Saturday, Sept 6th

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: <u>wapakelc@bright.net</u> 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

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH Wapakoneta, Ohio

Treasurer Cari Frame; felc.finance@myfelc.org
Music Director Darla Frame; darlaframe@gmail.com

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

