

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



12th Sunday after Pentecost
August 31, 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 Chad & Amelia Sterner
in honor of Harriet's birthday, today the 31st
and Grace & Cody's birthdays last Sunday, the 24th.

MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Joyce Brincefield
Ushers	Steve Stienecker & Jim Kantner
Worship Assistant	Darla Frame
Musician	Recordings
Pastor	Pastor Mick Althausen
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

*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

Gather Us In (ELW 532)

*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, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rebecca Van Meter

WORD

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

FIRST READING: PROVERBS 25:6-7

A reading from Proverbs. ⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great, ⁷ for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble. What your eyes have seen

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

PSALM 112

1 Praise the Lord! Happy are those who fear the Lord,
who greatly delight in his commandments!

2 **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

3 Wealth and riches are in their houses,
and their righteousness endures forever.

4 **They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;
they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.**

5 It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
who conduct their affairs with justice.

6 **For the righteous will never be moved;
they will be remembered forever.**

7 They are not afraid of any evil tidings;
their heart is firm, secure in the Lord.

**8 Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid;
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.**

9 They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honor.

**10 The wicked see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth
and melt away; the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.**

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 13:1-8, 15-16

A reading from Hebrews. ¹ Let mutual love continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" ⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia (ELW p. 188)

***GOSPEL: LUKE 14:1, 7-14**

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

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely. ⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest

place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." ¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

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

MESSAGE

Pastor Mick Althaus

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Let Us Go Now to the Banquet (ELW 523)

***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 in the name of Jesus to our heavenly Father for the Church, the world, and one another.

Gracious Father, thank you for making us like Jesus! Joined to him, who humbled himself for our sake, we too can be humble, yet not doormats. Transformed by his Spirit, we can live in faith toward you and in fervent love for others. Thank you! Make us more and more the living image of your Son. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Fill your Church with obedient, humble faith in Christ alone. Give it pastors, bishops, theologians and lay leaders who speak your truth in love. By your Holy Spirit, inspire compassionate deeds and holy lives among all who name Jesus Christ as Lord. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless the people of this congregation. Help us to remember that we always speak, act, and live in the presence of Christ our King. Let the way we treat everyone reflect his strong saving love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Calm the fears and give comfort and strength to your persecuted servants throughout the world. By their humble witness, cause their enemies to repent and to turn to you, their only King, Lord and God. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless this land with justice, prosperity, concord, and integrity. Guide our leaders, and all who take counsel for the nations, so that they may always remember that they must give an account of their deliberations and deeds to you, the King of the Nations. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We are often fascinated by power, prestige, and popularity. Give us the grace to notice, and cherish, the humble and lowly who do your will. More than that, make us like Jesus, who is gentle and lowly of heart. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Those burdened with pain, sorrow, and adversity need the strength and healing that only you can give. We pray on their behalf, especially for 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). Quiet their fears, heal their bodies, minds, and hearts, and renew their hope. Bless all who care for them. Give them refreshment and resources to continue their ministry of loving service. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, thank you for receiving all who have died trusting in you. Quiet the souls of all who mourn. Teach us to live trustfully as your dear children. Lead us into your house, where with all whom you have redeemed, we will rest in your arms, delight in your goodness, and adore you forever. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please take a moment to share the Lord's peace and grace with one another.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

TITHES AND OFFERING

Please be seated.

As the ushers come forward, we would like to thank you for the work you have been doing, for the support and care provided, and for the gifts you share.

OFFERTORY

***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

As We Gather At Your Table (ELW 522)

All are Welcome (ELW 641)

I Come with Joy (ELW 482)

***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**

Heavenly Father, **as we seek a new shepherd to lead our church, we humbly come before You, asking for Your guidance and wisdom in this important decision. Grant our call committee the wisdom to identify the individual You have chosen to be our pastor, one with heart for Your word, a passion for ministry and a love for our community. 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**

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing (ELW 545)

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>
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
08/24/2025	15	38	\$2,103.00	\$110.00

MINISTERS for Next Week 9-7-25

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Richard Yocum
Ushers	Ken Frame & Richard Yocum
Worship Assistant	Deanna Ronan
Musician	Karen Luginbuhl
Pastor	Michelle Kouse
Greeter	Needed
Fellowship Cleanup	Lisa Kirby & Deanna Ronan
Altar Guild	Lisa Kirby & Deanna Ronan

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, 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.

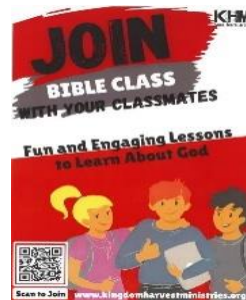
Loaves and Fishes: Meals need to be reserved by calling 567-204-6708 and can be picked up in the alley behind the Fellowship Hall from 4:30 to 5:30 pm.

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 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.

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.

Parents: Have you signed up your child for Release Time in Elementary & Middle School? This is not a substitution for church, just another opportunity to build your relationship with God. 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.



CONFIRMATION CLASSES begins in SEPTEMBER Youth for 2025-2026 class: Amelia Roeger, Kaidence Schmidt, Nolan Roode, Vivian Fisher, Faith Whetstone & Jacob Schlosser. **September 10th at 6pm all confirmation youth and their families** are invited for a fun informative night. Dinner will be provided. **First class for confirmation youth will be on September 17th, 6pm-7pm.** We can't wait to see YOU!

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.

PLEASE PRAY THE CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER THROUGHOUT THE WEEK:

Heavenly Father, as we seek a new shepherd to lead our church, we humbly come before You, asking for Your guidance and wisdom in this important decision. Grant our call committee the wisdom to identify the individual You have chosen to be our pastor, one with heart for Your word, a passion for ministry and a love for our community. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



**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!

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, Aug 31st	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Mick Althaus
Mon, Sept 1st	OFFICE CLOSED – Happy Labor Day!	
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Wed, Sept 3rd	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Thurs, Sept 4th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
Fri, Sept 5th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Saturday, Sept 6th	9:15am-1pm	NALC NWO District Gathering
	Please make sure you attend!! 😊	
	6:00pm	GloryWay @ Salem UMC
Sunday, Sept 7th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Michelle Kouse
		Worship & Music Meeting
Mon, Sept 8th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Tues, Sept 9th	1:30pm	Bingo at The Gardens
Wed, Sept 10th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	6:00pm	Confirmation-Family Night
Thurs, Sept 11th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
	6:00pm	Men's Night @ Astro Lanes
Fri, Sept 12th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Saturday, Sept 13th	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

Bookkeeper

Treasurer

Music Director

Audio-Technology

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

Anderson Accounting

Cari Frame; felc.finance@myfelc.org

Darla Frame; darlaframe@gmail.com

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



*Our mission is to
spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ
and to love one another as
He has loved us.*