

First English Lutheran Church

Wapakoneta, Ohio



Our SEPTEMBER 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...

Office Administrator

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

Treasurer

Cari Frame.....felc.finance@myfelc.org 419-738-3911

Bookkeeper

Anderson Accounting.....felc.finance@myfelc.org 419-738-3911

Financial Secretary

Marsha Jacksonfelc.finance@myfelc.org 419-738-3911

Music Director

Darla Frame.....darlaframe@gmail.com..... 419-234-3283

Choir Directors

Susan Miller, Adult.....sugartime@bright.net 567-356-1844

Darla Frame, Bells.....darlaframe@gmail.com..... 419-234-3283

Jennie Grundey, Youth 419-738-3911

Church Council

Brenda Shoffstallshoffstall08@yahoo.com 419-233-1956

Richard Yocumrichiyocum@yahoo.com 419-234-8919

Georgeann Stienecker...nksoccer@nktelco.net 419-305-5066

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Darla Frame.....darlaframe@gmail.com..... 419-234-3283

Jeff Ritchie.....jritchie002@woh.rr.com 419-296-3794

Chris Nagel.....mnagel@ohiolink.net 419-657-2554

Char Curry.....char.curry@bright.net 419-738-4392

Denise Kantner.....jadak@bright.net 419-738-8289

Audio/Visual Specialist

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Audio/Visual Staff

Jeff Ritchie.....jritchie002@woh.rr.com 419-296-3794

Noah Kirby.....noah.w.kirby@gmail.com..... 419-905-8243

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

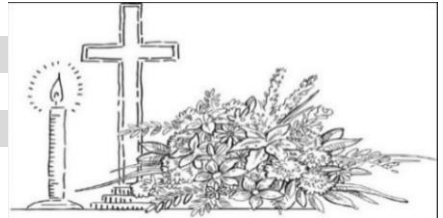
FELC Committees, Chairpersons, Council Liaisons

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

Flowers and Candles

Altar Flowers for the month of SEPTEMBER:

September 7 th	Deana Kramer
September 14 th	--Available--
September 21 st	Susan Miller
September 29 th	--Available--



Altar Candles for the month of September:

The **Altar Candles** are given to the Glory of God
by Jim & Denise Kantner
in honor of their family's September wedding anniversaries.

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 Trans.	\$1,081.38
June	NALC Disaster Relief	\$186.00
July	"Flying Horse Farm"-Mt. Gilead, OH	\$708.00
August	Servants Day	\$
September	Miracle Meal	

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
08/31/2025				



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, 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.

Prayers from Call Committee for Pastor

Please pray throughout the month:

8-3-25 Dear God, thank you for your abundant blessings you give us daily. Be with our congregation as we prayerfully consider our next pastor. Prepare our congregation's hearts and minds for a spiritual leader that will help us grow closer to you and that teaches your Word. Prepare our next pastor and their family for the call to come to our church and congregation. We pray that you give us strength where we are weak and give us hope and faith where we have doubts. And above all, help us to feel your love and presence always but especially throughout this call process. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

8-10-25 Dear Lord, You've heard our prayers and know our needs. Please continue to guide us in the direction as we continue to pray for our future pastor, their family and the future of our church. Heavenly Father, open our hearts and minds to be able to clearly hear and receive Your will. As we continue through this transition. Lord, be with us and remind us that we are Your sheep, and this is all on Your time. Help us to keep Your Word in our hearts and be more like You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

8-17-25 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.

8-24-25 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.

8-31-25 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.

Call Committee Checklist for seeking a Pastor:

- ✗ 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.
 - ✗ 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.
 - ✗ 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.
 - ✗ 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.**



**BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO TRUSTS IN THE LORD, AND
WHOSE HOPE IS THE LORD. JEREMIAH 17:7, NKJV**

Ministries in Action

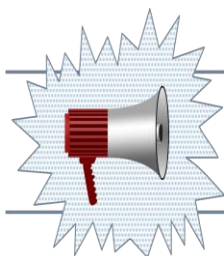
	September 7 th	September 14 th	September 21 st	September 28 th
Lector	Richard Yocum	Marsha Jackson	Doris Fisher	Joyce Brincefield
Ushers	Ken Frame & Richard Yocum	Dave Krites & Dave Clift	Ken Frame & Chad Sterner	Jon Schmidt & Maeson Roode
Worship Assistant	Deanna Ronan	Susan Miller	Darla Frame	Char Curry
Musician	Karen Luginbuhl	Greg Tabler	Recordings	Darla Frame
Preacher	Michelle Kouse	Pastor Bill Schultz	Michelle Kouse	Christian White
Greeter	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Needed</i>

Altar Guild for September: Lisa Kirby & Deanna Ronan

Fellowship Cleanup for September: Lisa Kirby & Deanna Ronan

The Word of God

Sunday	1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel
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 21 st	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
October 5 th	Hab 1: 1-4, 2: 1-4	Psalm 62	2 Timothy 1: 1-14	Luke 17: 1-10
October 12 th	Ruth 1: 1-19a	Psalm 111	2 Timothy 2: 1-13	Luke 17: 11-19
October 19 th	Gen 32: 22-30	Psalm 121	2 Timothy 3: 14 – 4: 5	Luke 18: 1-8
October 26 th	Rev 14: 6-7	Psalm 46	Romans 3: 19-28	John 8: 31-36



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

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!

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.

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.

Noisy Offering for the month of SEPTEMBER: MIRACLE MEAL

Offering pans are located in the chapel and at the back of the church. Donations are accepted during the entire month.

Collection for Auglaize County Crisis Center We are collecting food items each month for the Auglaize County Crisis Center based on a monthly dinner theme. September's theme is Italian 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.

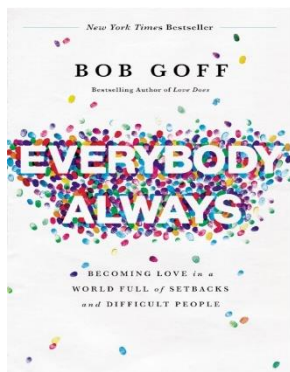
Egg Carton Ministry Asking for only 12 count size clean empty egg cartons. Please put them in the boxes in the church library. They will be used to distribute eggs to those in need.

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.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES begin 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!

Men's Night is scheduled for 6:00pm on Thursday, September 11th, at Astro Bowling Lanes in Wapakoneta. All men are encouraged to come and bring a friend!

Ladies' Night is scheduled for 6:00pm on Tuesday, September 16th at LaGrande. All women are encouraged to come and bring a friend! It was great seeing so many women come last month! 😊



Coming Soon – Book Club We heard everyone, Book Club is coming back! Starting October 6th through November 17th, we will have Book Club every other Monday at 6pm. If you can't make a Monday, that's ok, attend as many Mondays as you can. The book will be *Everybody Always* by Bob Goff. Books will be in office, call or stop by to get yours!

VanDemark Farms Congregation Outing will be October 26th following service. Fellowship Committee will provide lunch for everyone (even if you aren't able to attend VanDemark Farms) and then we will head to VanDemark Farms by 1pm (Christian Ed Comm will pay for all youth attending) to have a short Bible time and enjoy their corn maze, putt-putt, hay mound, and other fall activities. Mark calendars now and let office know if you have any questions.

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.



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

Psalms 32:1

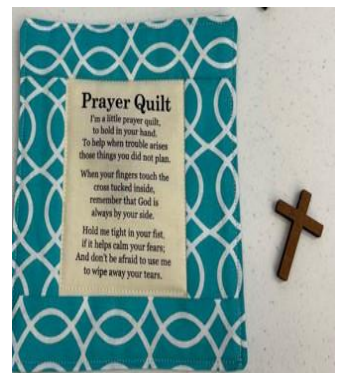
New Plaque in Melching Hall Lobby of a very old German document from the 400-year Anniversary of Martin Luther's birthday. This document was donated by a woman who recently moved to town and wanted a Lutheran church to honor it somewhere special in their church. We are grateful for her calling and giving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



Quilting members have been hard at work making 700 of these beautiful Prayer Quilts!

They have been in English and in Spanish. They have been sent near and far (to other countries) in hopes of reaching those that need it. Inside the Prayer Quilt is a wooden cross. Please make sure to take to a loved one or someone in need.

Prayer says: I'm a little prayer quilt, to hold in your hand. To help when troubles arises those things you did not plan. When your fingers touch the cross tucked inside, remember that God is always by your side. Hold me tight in your fist, if it helps calm your fears; and don't be afraid to use me to wipe away your tears.



Prayer Quilt

I'm a little prayer quilt,
to hold in your hand.
To help when trouble arises
those things you did not plan.
When your fingers touch the
cross tucked inside,
remember that God is
always by your side.

Hold me tight in your fist,
if it helps calm your fears;
And don't be afraid to use me
to wipe away your tears.

See Bulletin Boards for these flyers!



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.



**WALK
WITH US**
TO PREVENT SUICIDE
REGISTER TODAY

Auglaize County Out of the Darkness Walk

Do you want to walk for a cause? **Join FELC team to help prevent suicide and walk on October 11, 2025 at 9am** together with your church family!! Use QR code to sign up under **First English Team**. A donation has been made, so no need to make additional donations to join team.

October 11, 2025

Heritage Park, Wapakoneta
Check in @ 9 am

Register at
afsp.org/auglaizecounty



GLORYWAY

GLORYWAYMUSIC.COM



Join us for an evening of worship with music and laughter as we welcome Glory Way!

When : Saturday, September 6, 2025 @ 6 PM

Where: Salem United Methodist Church
505 Bellefontaine Street
Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895

Cost: Free and open to the public (freewill donation collected during concert and merchandise will also be available).

Thank you for helping us give back to our community!



Because of your support, we surpassed our goals for our **2025 Growing in Faith Community Night**. You helped us bring in The Kid's Coalition for Hunger and we packed 20,132 meals. We distributed those meals across three different counties through our local food pantries. We had over 200 volunteers show up from 20 different businesses and faith organizations working together to show we care.

Many people have asked us, "Can we do this again next year?" This is not our decision, it's up to the community working together. If you would like to support our efforts next year **May 27, 2026** please contact Eric Hagen at 701-331-0927. With your generosity and support we are able to lift up our neighbors. Thank you!



~ 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 6pm GloryWay @ Salem UMC
7 13th Sunday after Pentecost 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Michelle Kouse	8 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	9 1:30pm Bingo at The Gardens	10 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6pm Confirmation Family Night	11 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night at Astro Lanes	12 9-11:30 GSH	13 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH
14 14th Sunday after Pentecost 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Pastor Bill Schultz	15 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	16 6:00pm Ladies' Night at LaGrandes	17 10am Quilting 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6pm 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 15th Sunday after Pentecost 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Michelle Kouse Acolyte-Amelia Roeger Council Meeting	22 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	23	24 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6pm Confirmation Class 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Ladies' Choir	25 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes October Newsletter info DUE!	26 9-11:30 GSH	27 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH
28 16th Sunday after Pentecost 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Christian White Acolyte-Kaidence Schmidt	29 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	30 October Newsletter Available				

~ October 2025 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6pm Confirmation Class 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Ladies' Choir	2	3 9-11:30 GSH	4 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH
5 17th Sunday after Pentecost 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Bell Choir Pastor Lorenzo Thomas Acolyte-Nolan Roode Finance Meeting	6 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6pm Book Club	7	8 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6pm Confirmation Class	9 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	10 9-11:30 GSH	11 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH 9am Walk with Us @ Heritage Park
12 18th Sunday after Pentecost 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Pastor Lorenzo Thomas Acolyte-Vivian Fisher Worship & Music Meeting	13 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class	14 1:30pm Bingo at The Gardens	15 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6pm Confirmation Class 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Ladies' Choir	16 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night at TBD	17 9-11:30 GSH	18 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH
19 19th Sunday after Pentecost 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Ladies' Choir Michelle Kouse Acolyte-Faith Whetstone Council Meeting	20 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6pm Book Club	21 6:00pm Ladies' Dinner at TBD	22 10am Quilting 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6pm Confirmation Class 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Ladies' Choir	23 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	24 9-11:30 GSH	25 8:15am Sprtl Mvmnt Class 9-11:30 GSH
26 Reformation Sunday WEAR RED!! 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Bell Choir Michelle Kouse Acolyte-Jacob Schlosser VanDemark Farms Congregation Outing	27 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6pm Christian Ed Meeting November info for Newsletter DUE	28	29 5:15pm Sprtl Mvmnt Class 6pm Confirmation Class	30 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	31 9-11:30 GSH November Newsletter available	

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