

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



14th Sunday after Pentecost
September 14, 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 Jim & Denise Kantner
in honor of their family's September wedding anniversaries.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God.

MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Marsha Jackson
Ushers	Dave Krites & Dave Clift
Worship Assistant	Susan Miller
Musician	Greg Tabler
Pastor	Pastor Bill Schultz
Greeter	Needed
Fellowship Cleanup	Lisa Kirby & Deanna Ronan
Altar Guild	Lisa Kirby & Deanna Ronan

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

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (ELW 807)

*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, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, 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: EXODUS 32:7-14

A reading from Exodus. ⁷ The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸ they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " ⁹ The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰ Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation."

¹¹ But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land

that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " ¹⁴ And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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

PSALM 51: 1-10

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

² **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ **Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your
sight; so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when
you pass judgment.**

⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

⁶ **You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.**

SECOND READING: 1 TIMOTHY 1:12-17

A reading from 1 Timothy. ¹² I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience making me an example to those who would come to

believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia (ELW p. 188)

***GOSPEL: LUKE 15:1-10**

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

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” ³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. ⁸ “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

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

MESSAGE

Pastor Bill Schultz

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound (ELW 779)

***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.

Holy God, thank you for Jesus! Thank you for making him our good Shepherd. Thank you for loving us so much that you give us forgiveness, life, fellowship with you, and love beyond all telling. Thank you most of all for giving us your Son, crucified, raised, and ascended to your right hand for our salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, give your Church the grace and desire to faithfully follow Jesus. Give it leaders who rightly proclaim your Word and lift high the Cross of Christ. Give it your Holy Spirit, so it is a place of welcome, forgiveness, and transformation for every sinner who enters it. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give your grace to this congregation. Forgive us when, like unruly sheep, we head-butt and distress your flock. Help us to repent of thoughtless words, self-centered actions, and anything else that hinders one of your dear children from loving and trusting you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give us strength to carry our crosses and follow Jesus wherever he leads us. Give us courage, to bear his love in the dark and ugly places of our world. Give us hope, so we believe that his Light will shine in every darkness, and no darkness can comprehend or overcome it. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our nation continues to struggle with enemies within and beyond its borders, and with political and ideological divides that threaten to bring out the worst rather than the best in us. Shepherd us through these troubled times. Bring healing to our hearts, homes, and communities. Anoint our eyes to see one another as fellow citizens and as beloved children of the same heavenly Father. And bring a measure of your peace to this weary world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be merciful to all who are hurting, weak, abused, hungry, or grieving; or who in any way need the abundance of your grace. Especially we lift 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, Joy Mason, Carlene Koch and Wanda Nuss. And anyone that we name out loud or quietly in our hearts. (Brief silence). Be their Good Shepherd and bring them healing and hope. Help us all to be gentle, gracious, compassionate and kind to them, so that together, we may praise your goodness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Dear heavenly Father, we entrust into your care all our beloved dead. Comfort all who mourn and fill us with your Holy Spirit's wisdom and grace. Teach us to love each other tenderly and care for one another diligently and keep us ever in Christ's care. Of your goodness, grant that he should heal us from every sin and infirmity. Keep our eyes fixed on the Cross of our Savior as he leads us into your Kingdom. With one voice, as one flock may we may praise, adore, and glorify our Good Shepherd 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

In the Singing (ELW 466)

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us (ELW 789)

The King of Love My Shepherd Is (ELW 502)

*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, **we humbly pray, asking for help from Your Holy Spirit to guide us and give us wisdom to do what is best for your people who abide in this place of worship. We thank you for those who have shared their time and talents during this interim, but you know we are in need of a spiritual leader to help us grow in your Word. We pray to be open, patient and to do your Will in this process. In Your 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 I lift Your Name on High (ELW 545) x2

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>
08/17/2025	13	40	\$11,345.00	\$25.00
08/24/2025	15	38	\$2,103.00	\$110.00
08/31/2025	18	67	\$835.00	\$30.00
09/07/2025	13	57	\$2,361.00	\$355.00

August Noisy Offering – Servant’s Day \$147.73

MINISTERS for Next Week 9-21-25

Audio/Visual Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector Doris Fisher
Ushers Ken Frame & Chad Sterner
Worship Assistant Darla Frame
Musician Recordings
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, 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 SEPTEMBER: MIRACLE MEAL 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.

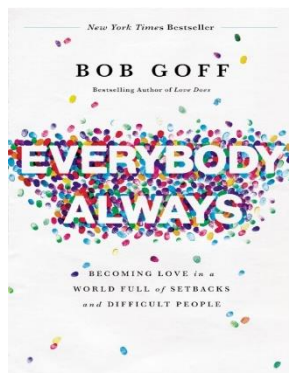
Collection for the Women's Crisis Center We are collecting food items each month for the Auglaize County Crisis Center based on a monthly dinner theme. September's theme is Italian Items. The crisis center is also in need of basic personal hygiene items. Please put donations on the counter in the library 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 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.

Ladies' Night is on September 16th at 6:00pm at LaGrande, one block north of church. All women are invited to join us! Last month was wonderful to see so many gather. 😊

CONFIRMATION CLASSES begins in SEPTEMBER Youth for 2025-2026 class: Amelia Roeger, Kaidence Schmidt, Nolan Roode, Vivian Fisher, Faith Whetstone, & Jacob Schlosser. **First class for confirmation youth will be on September 17th, 6pm-7pm.** We can't wait to see YOU!



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. RSVPs are encouraged so we have an idea for amount of food for lunch, but all are welcome even at the last minute. 😊

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, Sept 14th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Pastor Bill Schultz
Mon, Sept 15 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Tues, Sept 16 th	6:00pm	Ladies' Night at LaGrandes
Wed, Sept 17 th	10:00am	Quilting
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	6:00pm	Confirmation Class
Thurs, Sept 18 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
Fri, Sept 19 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Saturday, Sept 20 th	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sunday, Sept 21st	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Michelle Kouse
		Council Meeting
		Acolyte-Amelia Roeger
Mon, Sept 22 nd	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Wed, Sept 24 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	6:00pm	Confirmation Class
		Bell Choir
	7:00pm	Ladies' Choir
Thurs, Sept 25 th	October Newsletter Information DUE	
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
Fri, Sept 26 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Saturday, Sept 27 th	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
	9-11:30am	God's Store House

PLEASE PRAY THE CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER THROUGHOUT THE WEEK:

Heavenly father, we humbly pray, asking for help from Your Holy Spirit to guide us and give us wisdom to do what is best for your people who abide in this place of worship. We thank you for those who have shared their time and talents during this interim, but you know we are in need of a spiritual leader to help us grow in your Word. We pray to be open, patient and to do your Will in this process. In Your name we pray. Amen.

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.*