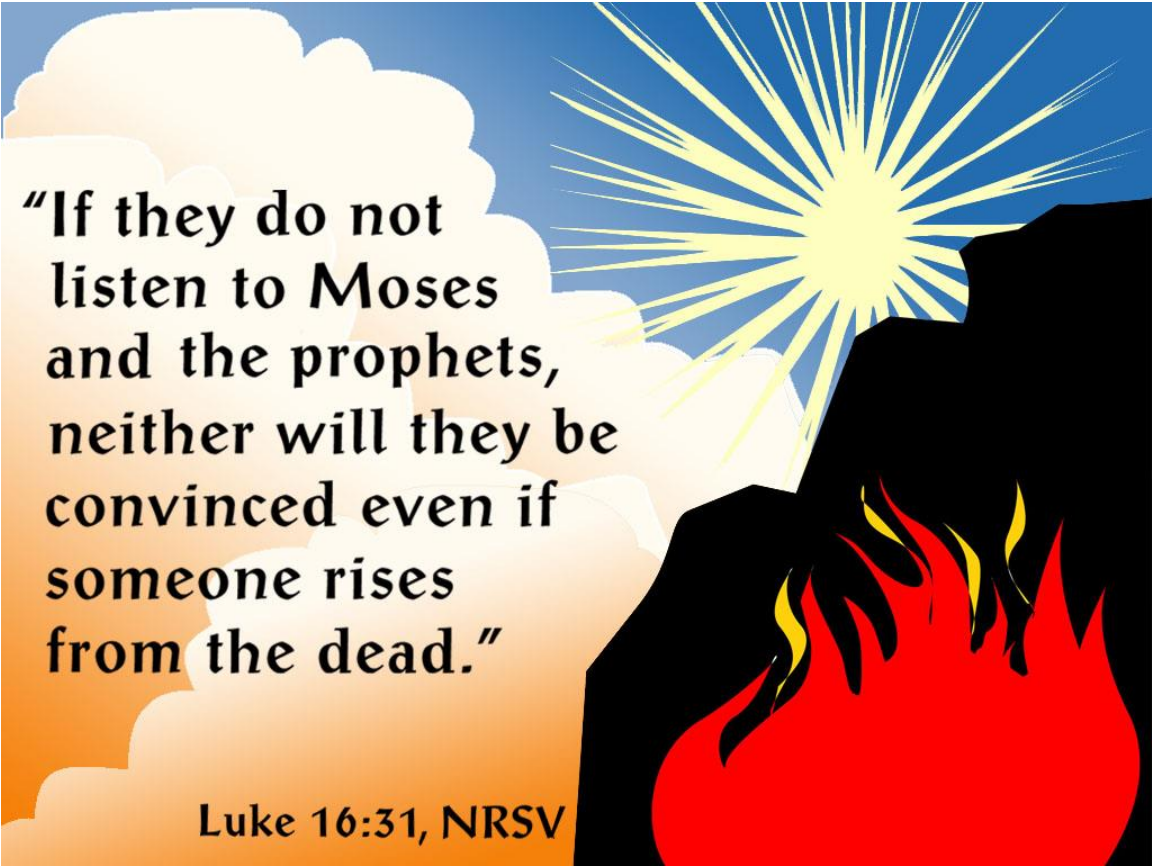


FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



**"If they do not
listen to Moses
and the prophets,
neither will they be
convinced even if
someone rises
from the dead."**

Luke 16:31, NRSV

16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 28, 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	Georgeann Stienecker
Ushers	Ken Frame & Maeson Roode
Worship Assistant	Marsha Jackson
Musician.....	Darla Frame
Pastor	Vicar Christian White
Greeter.....	Chris Nagel
Acolyte	Kaidence Schmidt
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 *Goodness Of God/God Is So Good* by Jenn Johnson arr Mary McDonald

*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

Canticle of the Turning (ELW 723)

*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, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING: AMOS 6:1-7

A reading from Amos. ¹ Alas for those who are at ease in Zion and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria, the notables of the first of the nations, to whom the house of Israel resorts! ² Cross over to Calneh and see; from there go to Hamath the great; then go down to Gath of the Philistines. Are you better than these kingdoms? Or is your territory greater than their territory, ³ O you that put far away the evil day and bring near a reign of violence? ⁴ Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory and lounge on their couches and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the stall, ⁵ who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David improvise on instruments of music, ⁶ who drink wine from bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! ⁷ Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

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

PSALM 146

¹ Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

² **I will praise the Lord as long as I live;**

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

³ Do not your trust in princes,
in mortals in whom there is no help.

⁴ **When their breathe departs, they return to the earth,
on that very day their plans perish.**

⁵ Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;**

⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.
The Lord sets the prisoners free.

⁸ **The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are
bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.**

⁹ The Lord watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the
wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰ **The Lord will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!**

SECOND READING: 1 TIMOTHY 3:1-13

A reading from 1 Timothy. ¹ The saying is sure: whoever aspires to the office of bishop desires a noble task. ² Now a bishop must be above reproach, married only once, temperate, sensible, respectable, hospitable, an apt teacher, ³ not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, and not a lover of money. ⁴ He must manage his own household well, keeping his children submissive and respectful in every way, ⁵ for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how can he take care of God's church? ⁶ He must not be a recent convert, or he may be puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷ Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace and the snare of the devil.

⁸ Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money; ⁹ they must hold fast to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ And let them first be tested; then, if they prove themselves blameless, let them serve as deacons. ¹¹ Women likewise must be serious, not slanderers, but temperate, faithful in all things. ¹² Let deacons be

married only once, and let them manage their children and their households well; ¹³ for those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and great boldness in the faith that is in Christ Jesus. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia (ELW p. 188)

***GOSPEL: LUKE 16:19-31**

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

[Jesus said:] ¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’ ²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ ²⁷ He said, ‘Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house ²⁸ for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ ³⁰ He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

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

MESSAGE

Vicar Christian White

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service (ELW 655)

***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.

Father, thank you for words of warning and wisdom. Sometimes we don't want to hear how faith and finances are connected! Sometimes we think they're about other people, not us. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, and defend us with your holy angels, so we can listen to your Word and faithfully do your will.

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

Give your Church pastors, bishops, deacons, and theologians who adorn your Gospel with holy lives and grace-filled words. Through their wise leadership, lead many people to deeper faith, unshakable hope, and generous charity.

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

Look with kindness upon the people and ministries of this congregation. Help us to care for your “little ones” by loving you, and generously sharing your love with others, however and wherever we can. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the persecuted church, especially in Nigeria, Pakistan, and North Korea. Keep your people steadfast in faith. Help us to speak boldly in their defense. Turn the hearts of their tormentors away from their folly and bring them to repentant faith in you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our country, and for its elected and appointed leaders. Heal the suspicion, division, and hatred that weakens and fractures us. Bless everyone who works to restore integrity, common sense, and impartial justice, tempered with mercy, in our common life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, it's too easy to ignore the poor, or blame them for their plight. It's also easy to do unhelpful things, thinking we're being compassionate. Give us wisdom as well as generosity. Help us to listen and see, to ponder and discuss, so we work with poor people to help them work for, and walk into, a better life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear and answer the prayers of all who cry out to you for help. Especially we pray for the needs of 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, Tim Cunningham, Judy Fisher, Michelle Kouse, Denise Kantner, Joy Mason, and Wanda Nuss. And anyone that we name out loud or quietly in our hearts. (Brief silence). Refresh them in their time of trial, let your holy angels surround them with strength and courage, and bless them with skilled and kindly care. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Dear Father, thank you for gathering our beloved dead into your own bosom. Comfort all who mourn the loss of loved ones. Give us your Holy Spirit, so we encourage, challenge, and support each other as we strive to walk in your ways. Bring us, with all whom you have redeemed by the blood of Jesus, into the holy peace and eternal joy of your Kingdom. 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

Fairest Lord Jesus by Schleishe Volkslieder arr Becki Slagle Mayo

***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, **as we continue in the process of searching for a new pastor to lead our congregation, we ask for you to grant us wisdom and patience during the process. Guide us and help us make decisions that will be good for First English in the future, so that we may continue to do your work in the world. We ask 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**

God of Grace and God of Glory (ELW 669)

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>
08/31/2025	18	67	\$835.00	\$30.00
09/07/2025	13	57	\$2,361.00	\$355.00
09/14/2025	11	54	\$2,943.00	\$115.00
09/21/2025	16	51	\$1,589.00	\$20.00

MINISTERS for Next Week 10-5-25

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Richard Yocum
Ushers	Ken Frame & Richard Yocum
Worship Assistant	Marsha Jackson
Musician	Karen Luginbuhl
Pastor	Pastor Lorenzo Thomas
Greeter	Needed
Acolyte	Nolan Roode
Fellowship Cleanup.....	Marsha Jackson & Char Curry
Altar Guild	Marsha Jackson & Char Curry

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, Tim Cunningham, Judy Fisher, Michelle Kouse, Denise Kantner, Joy Mason, 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.

Please pray the Call committee prayer throughout the week:

Heavenly Father, as we continue in the process of searching for a new pastor to lead our congregation, we ask for you to grant us wisdom and patience during the process. Guide us and help us make decisions that will be good for First English in the future, so that we may continue to do your work in the world. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

What's Happening at First English....

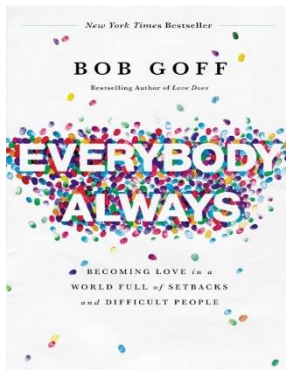
Noisy Offering for the month of SEPTEMBER: MIRACLE MEAL Offering pans are located in the chapel and at the back of the church. Donations are accepted during the entire month.

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.



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!

FELC Congregation Outing!

October 26th

VanDemark Farms
In Sidney, OH

Join us after church for lunch (provided by fellowship)
for everyone (even if you aren't able to come to
VanDemark) and then we will head to VanDemark
Farms by 1:00pm.



Admission (if we have
10+ people go) \$9.
Church will be paying for the
youth that attend.

If interested, please
let office know,
419-738-3911 or
wapakelc@bright.net

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, Sept 28th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Vicar Christian White
		Acolyte-Kaidence Schmidt
Mon, Sept 29 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Wed, Oct 1 st	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	6:00pm	Confirmation Class
		Bell Choir
	7:00pm	Ladies' Choir
Thurs, Oct 2 nd	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
Fri, Oct 3 rd	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Saturday, Oct 4 th	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sunday, Oct 5th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Pastor Lorenzo Thomas
		Acolyte-Nolan Roode
		Finance Meeting
Mon, Oct 6 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	6:00pm	Book Club
Wed, Oct 8 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	6:00pm	Confirmation Class
Thurs, Oct 9 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
Fri, Oct 10 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sat, Oct 11 th	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	9:00am	Walk with Us @ Heritage Park

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.*