

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio

A photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer, resting on an open Bible. The hands are positioned in the upper right quadrant of the image. The Bible is open, showing text in both English and German. A large, light blue circular graphic with a distressed, textured border is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the main text. The background is a dark, textured surface.

Then Jesus
told his disciples
a parable to show
them that they should
**always pray &
not give up.**

Luke 18:1, NIV

19th Sunday after Pentecost
October 19, 2025

WELCOME TO FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Your presence today makes us more complete.

Thank you for being here and worshipping with us.

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 Mark & Chris Nagel in memory of Chris' sister, Lorna Piper.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God
by Sara Young in celebration of her and her best friends' birthdays,
Sara the 25th, Katie McCullough the 23rd & Kathy Thrush the 29th.

MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual.....	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector.....	Ken Frame
Ushers	Ken Frame & Chad Sterner
Worship Assistant	Jon Schmidt
Musician	Recordings
Pastor	Vicar Michelle Kouse
Greeter	Needed
Acolyte	Faith Whetstone
Fellowship Cleanup.....	Marsha Jackson & Char Curry
Altar Guild	Marsha Jackson & Char Curry

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

Jesus, Still Lead On (ELW 624)

*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 Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

LADIES' CHOIR

Gonna Sing to the Lord by Douglas E. Wagner

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rebecca Van Meter

WORD

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

FIRST READING: GENESIS 32:22-30

A reading from Genesis. ²² The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had.

²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob."

²⁸ Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved."

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

PSALM 121

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where will my help to come?
- ² **My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**
- ³ He will not let your foot be moved
he who keeps you will not slumber.
- ⁴ **He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**
- ⁵ the Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
- ⁶ **the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**
- ⁷ The Lord will keep you from all evil
he will keep your life.
- ⁸ **The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in,
from this time on and forevermore.**

SECOND READING: 2 TIMOTHY 3:14—4:5

A reading from 2 Timothy. ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

^{4:1} In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ² proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵ As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia (ELW p. 188)

***GOSPEL: LUKE 18:1-8**

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

¹ Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' ⁴ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " ⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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

MESSAGE

Vicar Michelle Kouse

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

What a Friend We Have in Jesus (ELW 742)

***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.

Heavenly Father, sometimes our ears itch because we desire convenient untruths. Sometimes we wrestle with your Word and come away hobbling. Sometimes it's hard to love, trust, and obey you! Thank you for hearing our prayers anyhow. Thank you for touching us with healing and blessing, not just rebuke and warning. Thank you for Jesus, who is your Truth, Blessing, Word, and Love incarnate. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make your Church throughout the world always confess and preach that all Scripture is inspired, useful for teaching and reproof. Fill it with your Holy Spirit, so that it penetrates itching ears with the pure doctrine of Christ, crucified and raised from the dead for the forgiveness of sin unto life everlasting. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Keep everyone in this congregation in your merciful care. Conform our hearts to your will. Help us pray boldly and persistently. In all things, let us glorify you, bear witness to your holy and gracious Word, and lead lives worthy of our calling as your children. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Do not slumber or sleep, O Lord, while your suffering Church prays to you. Hear their cries and come to their aid. Soften the hearts of their unjust judges and persecutors. Make those repent of their evil and do what is right in your sight. Grant faith, persistence, and compassion to all who preach the Gospel to those who have not heard the name of Christ aright. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless our war-torn world with your peace. Give it leaders who do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly in your sight. Look with kindness upon the poor and needy, the widow and orphan, and all to whom justice has been denied. Spur us to give practical, compassionate help, so all receive your blessings. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for lawyers, judges, magistrates, and for all who make or interpret laws and administer justice. Give them uprightness of heart and a passion for truth. Make them wise, fair, and impartial in their decisions. Through their work, accomplish your holy and gracious will in our midst. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear the cries of all who suffer, including 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, Jeanie Schnell, Pastor Jenn, Kate Cunningham, Tim Cunningham, Judy Fisher, Michelle Kouse, Sunda McDonald, Elaine Carlson and Wanda Nuss. And anyone that we name out loud or quietly in our hearts. (Brief silence). Bring them safely through their trials, and give them faith in your gracious love. Bless and strengthen everyone who assists in their care. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Thank you, dear Father, for our loved ones who have died and are asleep in your arms. Until we are reunited with them and with all whom you have redeemed, keep us steadfast in faith, persistent in prayer, and attentive to your Word. Let enter your presence in the company of all the saints, and forever worship, praise, and adore you for your love, given through your Son Jesus Christ our Savior. 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 have been baptized and 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

I Received the Living God (ELW 477)

Beautiful Savior (ELW 838)

Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading (ELW 401)

*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 (Please pray throughout the week.)

Dear Heavenly Father, **thank you for all you have done and will do for us. We continue to strive to do your will as we pray for a spiritual leader for our church. Please help us with the patience you require of us as we wait for your perfect timing. Our trust is in you, Lord. May we be worthy of your love. 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**

O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate (ELW 722)

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>
09/21/2025	16	51	\$1,589.00	\$20.00
09/28/2025	13	40	\$8,193.00	\$500.00
10/05/2025	12	56	\$2,695.00	\$310.00
10/12/2025	12	65	\$3,472.50	\$180.00

MINISTERS for Next Week 10-26-25

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Elanor Roeger
Ushers	Jon Schmidt & Maeson Roode
Worship Assistant	Ken Frame
Musician	Darla Frame
Pastor	Vicar Michelle Kouse
Greeter	Hilary Roeger & Family
Acolyte	Vivian Fisher
Fellowship Cleanup	Marsha Jackson & Char Curry
Altar Guild	Marsha Jackson & Char Curry

**Next Sunday, October 26th,
REFORMATION SUNDAY –
WEAR RED!!**

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

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, Jeanie Schnell, Pastor Jenn, Kate Cunningham, Tim Cunningham, Judy Fisher, Michelle Kouse, Sunda McDonald, Elaine Carlson 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 OCTOBER: OPERATION CHRISTMAS

CHILD 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.

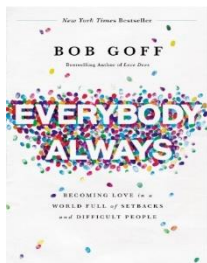
Collection for the Women's Crisis Center We are collecting food items each month for the Auglaize County Crisis Center based on a monthly dinner theme. October's theme is Octoberfest Items. The crisis center is also in need of basic personal hygiene items. Please put donations on the counter in the library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

Bingo at The Gardens is on October 21st at 1:30pm. Please join us!

Ladies' Night will be on October 21st at 6:00pm at FELC Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome. Bring a friend for a Halloween themed evening of games and fun! Meal will be provided.



Book Club started October 6th, we will have Book Club on Mondays at 6pm: October 20th, November 3rd & November 24th. 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 all at church before we go (even if you aren't able to attend VanDemark Farms) and then we will head to Van Demark Farms by 1pm (Christian Ed Committee will pay for all youth attending) to have a short Bible time and then enjoy their corn maze, putt-putt, hay mound and other fall activities. Mark your calendars now and let the office know if you have any questions. See flyers around church.

Council Meeting today following worship.

Youth Quake-Cincinnati, OH Early Bird Registration is **DUE October 20, 2025**, for Middle/High School Students. Email has been sent to congregation with all information. Packets are at the back of the church, turn into the office. Youth Quake will be January 9-11, 2026.

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, Oct 19 th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Vicar Michelle Kouse Acolyte-Faith Whetstone Ladies' Choir Council Meeting
Mon, Oct 20 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	6:00pm	Book Club
		<u>Youth Quake Registration DUE!!!</u>
Tues, Oct 21 st	1:30pm	Bingo at The Gardens
	6:00pm	Ladies' Night at FELC-Halloween Party
Wed, Oct 22 nd	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	6:00pm	Confirmation Class Bell Choir
	7:00pm	Ladies' Choir
Thurs, Oct 23 rd	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
	6:30pm	Wapakoneta Halloween Parade
Fri, Oct 24 th		No School-Wapakoneta City Schools
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sat, Oct 25 th	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sun, Oct 26th		REFORMATION SUNDAY – WEAR RED!!
	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Vicar Michelle Kouse Acolyte-Vivian Fisher, Bell Choir
		Following service-VanDemark Farms Congregation Lunch & Outing
Mon, Oct 27 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	6:00pm	Christian Education Comm. Meeting
		November Info for Newsletter DUE!
Wed, Oct 29 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	6:00pm	Confirmation Class
Thurs, Oct 30 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
	6:00pm	Wapakoneta Trick-or-Treat Night!
Fri, Oct 31 st	9-11:30am	God's Store House
		November Newsletter Available
Saturday, Nov 1 st	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 – 12:00pm

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

Music Director

Audio-Technology

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

Anderson Accounting

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.*