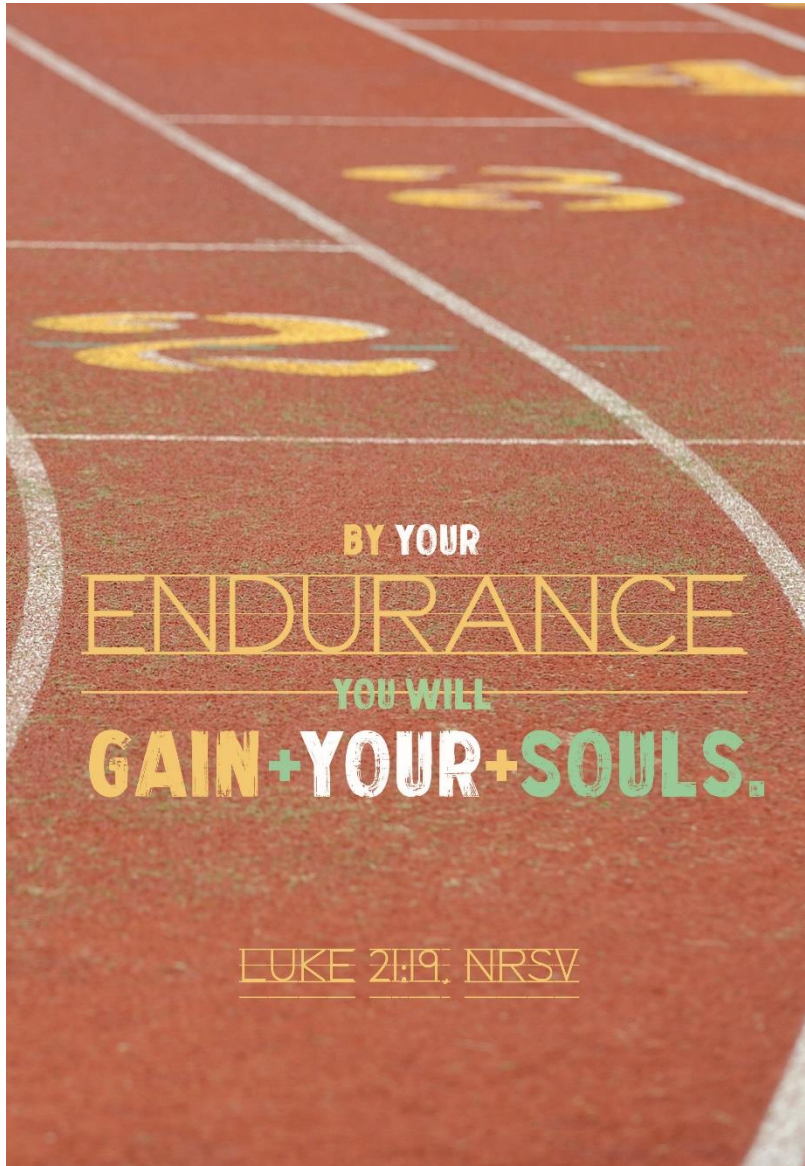


FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



23rd Sunday after Pentecost
November 16, 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 Dave & Char Curry in memory of Don & Clara Curry
and Charles & Mabel Jackson.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God
by Marsha Jackson & Family
in honor of Char & Dave Curry's 40th wedding anniversary!

MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual.....	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector.....	Marsha Jackson
Ushers	Ken Frame & Chad Sterner
Worship Assistant	Marsha Jackson
Musician	Greg Tabler
Pastor	Vicar Michelle Kouse
Greeter	Needed
Acolyte.....	Nolan Roode
Altar Guild	Denise Kantner & Joy Kantner
Fellowship Cleanup.....	Denise Kantner & 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** *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* (ELW 632 vs 1, 3, 5, 6)

*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, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

LADIES' CHOIR

Give Thanks by Sue Farrar

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rebecca Van Meter

WORD

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

FIRST READING: MALACHI 4:1-6

A reading from Malachi. ¹ See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ² But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³ And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts.

⁴ Remember the teaching of my servant Moses, the statutes and ordinances that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

⁵ Lo, I will send you the prophet Elijah before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. ⁶ He will turn the hearts of parents to their children and the hearts of children to their parents, so that I will not come and strike the land with a curse.

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

PSALM: 98

- ¹ O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things,
His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.
- ² **The Lord, has made known his victory,
he has have revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**
- ³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- ⁴ **Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**
- ⁵ Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
- ⁶ **With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.**
- ⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who live in it.
- ⁸ **Let the floods clap their hands,
let the hills sing together for joy**
- ⁹ at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

SECOND READING: 2 THESSALONIANS 3:6-13

A reading from 2 Thessalonians. ⁶ Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸ and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹ This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some of you are living idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia (ELW p. 188)

***GOSPEL: LUKE 21:5-28**

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

⁵When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, ⁶“As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.” ⁷They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” ⁸And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them. ⁹“When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” ¹⁰Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. ¹²“But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹By your endurance you will gain your souls. ²⁰“When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. ²¹Then those in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those inside the city must leave it, and those out in the country must not enter it, ²²for these are days of vengeance, as a fulfillment of all that is written. ²³Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress on the earth and wrath against this people; ²⁴they will fall by the edge of the sword and be taken away as captives among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

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

MESSAGE

Vicar Michelle Kouse

*HYMN OF THE DAY

How Firm a Foundation (ELW 796)

*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

In the power of the Spirit, let us pray to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ on behalf of the Church, the world, and all people according to their need.

Most holy God, you promise to come with power, glory, judgment, and healing. Sometimes that disturbs us! We want you to make all things right and new! But before that can happen, you'll show us our sins in all their ghastly glory. Cover us then, Lord, with your healing wings. Clothe us in the righteousness of Christ. Shield us with your Holy Spirit. Make us holy, whole, and filled with your eternal life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Cleanse and strengthen your Church throughout the world. Make it watchful and faithful. Let it tirelessly preach the Gospel and serve the world for Jesus' sake. Make it a place of healing for people who are wounded by the powers of sin, death, and the devil. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sometimes it is hard for our congregation to “keep on keeping on” in worship, witness, and welcome. Keep our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus and our ears alert to his Word. Amid the distractions and temptations we experience, grant that we may prefer nothing whatsoever to Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Strengthen and shield everyone persecuted on account of Jesus. By their faithful endurance, turn the hearts of their tormentors to Christ in repentance and faith. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for missionaries, seminarians, and for all whom you call to be a pastor, chaplain, deacon, or other church worker. Fill them with your Spirit. Kindle faith, hope, and love in their hearts. Surround them by a cloud of faithful witnesses, mentors, teachers, and prayer warriors. Bless them to be a blessing to others. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Keep all who suffer in your special care, including Family & Friends of Sunda McDonald, 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, 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, Elaine Carlson, Teresa Fisher, Wanda Nuss, WHS-Fellowship of Christian Athletes, 8th Graders’ Trip to Washington DC and Band’s Trip to Disney in Florida. And anyone that we name out loud or quietly in our hearts. (Brief silence). Grant healing to body, soul, heart, and mind. Strengthen everyone who cares for them. And surround them with the protection of your holy wings. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Most holy God, we thank you for the lives of your faithful people, especially those dearest to us, who now rest from their labors. Wipe away the tears of all who mourn their loss. Support us in this life with your Word and holy Sacraments. Give us strength and charity, so that we encourage one another as we follow Jesus even through the valley of death’s shadow. Bring us, by his merits, into your Kingdom, where with all the redeemed, we shall adore you in the unity you share eternally with your Son and the Holy Spirit. 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

Selection by Greg Tabler

***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 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.**

***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**

When Peace Like a River (ELW 785)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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...

Family & Friends of Sunda McDonald, 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, 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, Elaine Carlson, Teresa Fisher, Wanda Nuss, WHS-Fellowship of Christian Athletes, 8th Graders' Trip to Washington DC and Band's Trip to Disney in Florida.

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 for all those traveling for
8th Grade Washington DC Trip (November 21st-24th) &
Band Trip to Disney-Florida (November 20th-25th).**

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
10/19/2025	15	55	\$521.00	\$10.00
10/26/2025	13	87	\$2,372.00	\$10.00
11/02/2025	13	60	\$2,386.78	\$10.00
11/16/2025	10	54	\$1,528.00	\$30.00

MINISTERS for Next Week 11-23-25

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Chris Nagel
Ushers	Jon Schmidt & Maeson Roode
Worship Assistant	Darla Frame
Musician	Recordings
Pastor	Vicar Michelle Kouse
Greeter	Chris Nagel
Acolyte	Jacob Schlosser
Altar Guild	Denise Kantner & Joy Kantner
Fellowship Cleanup.....	Denise Kantner & Chris Nagel

What's Happening at First English....

Noisy Offering for the month of NOVEMBER: ANGEL TREE 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. November's theme is Breakfast Items: Cereal, Pop Tarts, Pancake Mix/Syrup, etc. 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.

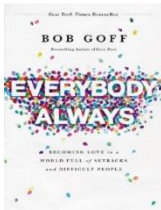
Egg Carton Ministry Asking for only 12 count size clean empty egg cartons. Please put them in the box in the church library. They will be used to distribute eggs to those in need.

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.

Advent Calendar Making following worship service **TODAY, November 16th** in the Fellowship Hall (due to Council Meeting) to make Advent Calendars for our shut-ins and youth. All are welcome to help make.

Christmas Decorating will be following worship service **NEXT SUNDAY, November 23rd**. Many hands makes light work and helping make the church look beautiful is good for everyone. 😊

Ladies' Night is scheduled for 6:00pm on Tuesday, November 18th, at Wapakoneta Eagles. All women are encouraged to come and bring a friend!



Book Club we will have Book Club on Mondays at 6pm: Last gathering is on November 24th, chapters 20-24. Thank you for everyone that has been able to participate! Looking to have another Book Club in Spring of 2026.

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, Nov 16th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Vicar Michelle Kouse
		Acolyte-Nolan Roode
		Ladies' Choir
		Council Meeting & Advent Calendar Making
Mon, Nov 17 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Wed, Nov 19 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	6:00pm	Confirmation Class
Thurs, Nov 20 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Loaves & Fishes
Fri, Nov 21 st	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sat, Nov 22 nd	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sun, Nov 23rd	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Vicar Michelle Kouse
		Acolyte-Jacob Schlosser
		Christmas Decorating
Mon, Nov 24 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	6:00pm	Book Club-Chapters 20-24 Finish Book
		No School-Wapakoneta City Schools
Tues, Nov 25 th		December Newsletter Information DUE!
		No School-Wapakoneta City Schools
Wed, Nov 26 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
		No School-Wapakoneta City Schools
Thurs, Nov 27 th		HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!
		Office Closed! No School-Wapakoneta City Schools
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Fri, Nov 28 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
		No School-Wapakoneta City Schools
Sat, Nov 29 th	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

Treasurer

Music Director

Audio-Technology

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

Anderson Accounting

Dave Clift

Darla Frame; darlaframe@gmail.com

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



FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Wapakoneta, Ohio

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