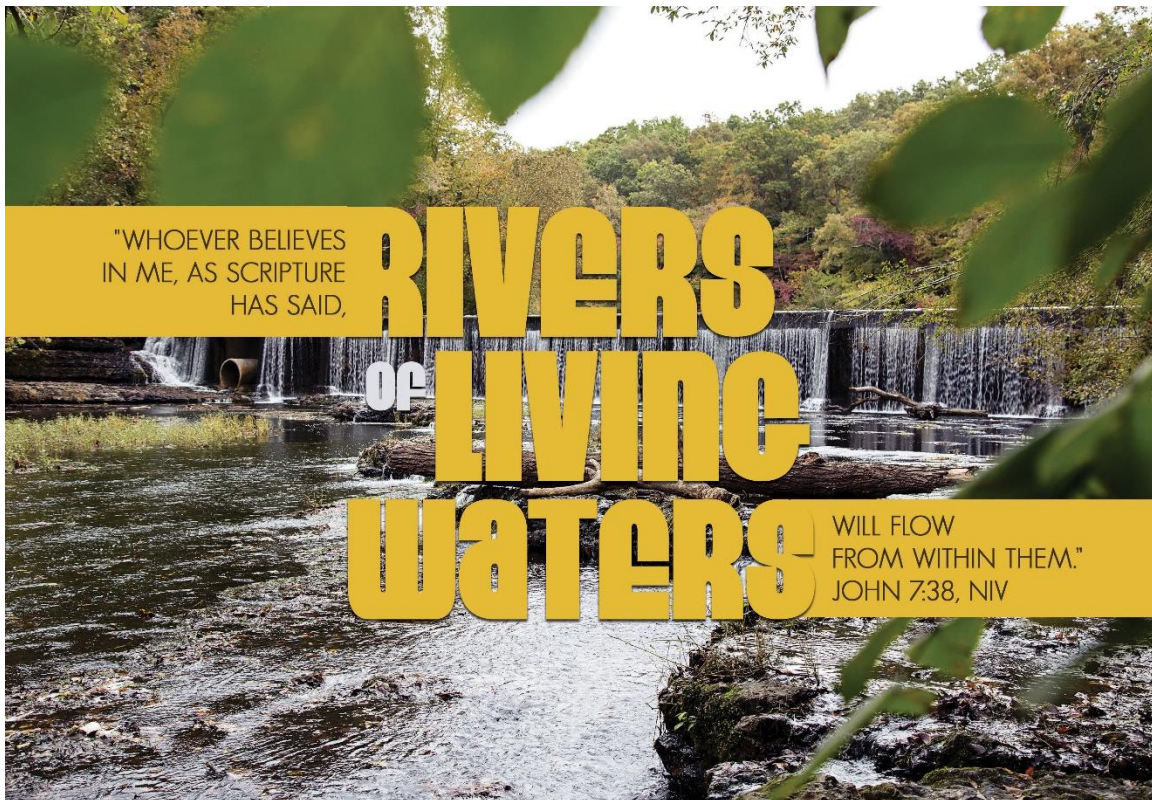


**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio**



"WHOEVER BELIEVES
IN ME, AS SCRIPTURE
HAS SAID,

**RIVERS
OF
LIVING
WATERS**

WILL FLOW
FROM WITHIN THEM."
JOHN 7:38, NIV

**Day of Pentecost
May 24, 2026**

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.

This worship service is live streamed and recorded
and is published on YouTube and Facebook.

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 Hilary, Mike, Amelia & Elanor Roeger
in memory of Ty G. Miller and Leota & Jerry Fritz
& all the wonderful blessings happening at FELC.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God
by Tracy Sawmiller in honor of fallen heroes for Memorial Day!

MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual.....	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector.....	Marsha Jackson
Ushers	Jon Schmidt & Maeson Roode
Worship Assistant	Marsha Jackson
Musician	Recordings
Pastor	Pastor Lorenzo Thomas
Greeter	Class of 2026
Altar Guild	Darla Frame & Deanna Wisener
Fellowship Cleanup.....	Darla Frame & Brenda Shoffstall

*Please rise if able.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLASS OF 2026 RECOGNITION

PRELUDE

America, The Beautiful arr Mark Hayes

*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** *Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading* (ELW 401 vs 1,2,3)

*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.**

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Glory to God (ELW p. 185)

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **O God, you taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit. Grant us, by the same Spirit, to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rebecca Van Meter

WORD

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

FIRST READING: NUMBERS 11: 24-30

A reading from Numbers. ²⁴Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD. And he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tent. ²⁵Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it. ²⁶Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." ²⁸And Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, "My lord Moses, stop them." ²⁹But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!" ³⁰And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

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

PSALM: 25: 1-15

We will read responsively.

¹To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

²O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.

³Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

⁶Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

⁸Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

⁹He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

¹¹For your name's sake, O Lord, pardon my guilt, for it is great.

¹²Who is the man who fears the Lord? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose.

¹³His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land.

¹⁴The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.

¹⁵My eyes are ever toward the Lord, for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

SECOND READING: ACTS 2: 1-21

A reading from Acts. ¹When the day of Pentecost arrived, {the disciples} were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.

⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. ⁵Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and

Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians — we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” ¹²And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.” ¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; ¹⁸even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; ²⁰the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. ²¹And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia (ELW p. 188)

***GOSPEL: JOHN 7: 37-39**

³⁷On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” ³⁹Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

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

MESSAGE

Pastor Lorenzo Thomas

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Spirit of Gentleness (ELW 396)

***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,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to hell.**

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 again 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 lift our hearts and voices to the Lord in prayer, that he would be merciful to his people.

Grant to your Church, O Lord, your Holy Spirit, and the wisdom which comes down from heaven, that your Word may not be bound, but be preached and heard with joy. Touch our hearts with the fire of your Spirit, that we may serve you in steadfast faith and, in the confession of your name, abide to the end. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Spirit, fill us with a deep, abiding faith and remove all doubt from our hearts. Open our minds to understand the Scriptures and the work of Christ among us. Empower us to move beyond these walls to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, crucified and risen from the dead, so that others might come to have life in his name. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, you know the battles we face every day. We pray that you bring healing to this world torn apart by violence, bloodshed, and war. Uphold and sustain veterans, survivors, and all those who have suffered the effects of war. Grant them hope, peace, and safety of rest in you. This day we pray especially for Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz, Jim Walls, Marty Rostorfer, Eloise Katterhenry, Marsha Henderson, Judy Metz, Ted Gibson, Bryan Katterhenry, Lauren Makuh, Sasha Maslov, Jenny Oliver, Alex Shirey, Hunter Smith, Seth Thuman, Harold Wallace, Jim Zwiebel, JJ Truesdale, Sue Bartlett, Roman Schlegel, Sue Hughes, Dan Havens, Jason Schneider, Bennett Douglas, Norma Jarrells, Jeanie Schnell, Michelle Kouse, Wanda Nuss, Tom Meyer, George Anderson, Kay, Richard & Don Ault, Jerry Dicus, Pastor Lorenzo & Anastasia Thomas, Kingdom Harvest Ministries and WHS-Fellowship of Christian Athletes. And anyone that we name out loud or quietly in our hearts. (Brief silence). Make known to them the wholeness that only you can bring. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of Creation, you have placed us in a wondrous world that reflects your creative glory and power. We pray that you would look with kindness on all that you have made, and that the hearts of all living things may sing their thanks for generations to come. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; for the sake of your 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

For The Beauty Of The Earth arr Mark Hayes

***OFFERING HYMN**

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW p. 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.

***BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace **Amen.**

***SENDING SONG**

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies (ELW 888)

***DISMISSAL**

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

Class of 2026

Congratulations Seniors!

Carly Craft

The daughter of Molly & Matt Craft. She currently attends St. Marys Memorial High School. After high school she will be attending Wright State Lake Campus and majoring in Early Childhood Education. She has been involved in Gatekeepers and National Honors Society. She will be waitressing and working part-time at Ernst Apparel.

Maeson Roode

The son of Carrie & Jon Schmidt and Matt & Destany Roode. He currently attends Wapakoneta High School. After high school he's looking to join a carpenter's union and learn about the carpenter's trade. He has been involved in Marching Band and Esports. He will be working at Wal-Mart.

Grayce Swaney

The daughter of Amy & Ben Swaney. She currently attends Jackson Center High School. After high school she will be attending Wright State Lake Campus and majoring in Elementary Childhood Education. She has been involved in Volleyball, Cheerleading, FFA, Student Ambassadors and National Honors Society. She will be working at YMCA-Sidney and City of Sidney.



OUR PRAYER CORNER

Those who would love a visit or a card...

The Gardens	Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz
Primrose Assist. Living	Jim Walls
Homebound	Marty Rostorfer, Eloise Katterhenry, Marsha Henderson, Judy Metz

We especially remember in our prayers...

Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz, Jim Walls, Marty Rostorfer, Eloise Katterhenry, Marsha Henderson, Judy Metz, Ted Gibson, Bryan Katterhenry, Lauren Makuh, Sasha Maslov, Jenny Oliver, Alex Shirey, Hunter Smith, Seth Thuman, Harold Wallace, Jim Zwiebel, JJ Truesdale, Sue Bartlett, Roman Schlegel, Sue Hughes, Dan Havens, Jason Schneider, Bennett Douglas, Norma Jarrells, Jeanie Schnell, Michelle Kouse, Elaine Carlson, Wanda Nuss, Tom Meyer, George Anderson, Kay, Richard & Don Ault, Jerry Dicus, Pastor Lorenzo & Anastasia Thomas, Kingdom Harvest Ministries and WHS-Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

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 MAY: DEAR DINAH Offering pans are located in the chapel and at the back of the church. Donations are accepted during the entire month. Dear Dinah is a Christ-centered ministry that shares the love and hope of Jesus with individuals impacted by human trafficking and exploitation through outreach, relationships and long-term support.

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.

Bingo at the Gardens in Wapakoneta at 1:30pm on the second Tuesday of the month. All are welcome to join and help!

Collection for Auglaize County Crisis Center We are **IN NEED of collecting** food items each month for the Auglaize County Crisis Center based on a monthly dinner theme: MAY Items-Fruit juices, rice, peanut butter, pasta sides & pizza kits. Please put donations on the counter in the library for us to deliver weekly or bi-weekly.

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.

9-Square Monthly It will be a time for Middle/High Schoolers to come together and play 9-Square while learning about God's word. We encourage youth to invite friends from other churches, school, dance class, sports teammates and any other place they feel called to invite someone. **We will meet once a month, 12:30pm-1:30pm, see flyer for all dates.** We will have a short Bible Time to learn about God's Love & Good News. Adults are also welcome to join! No need to RSVP, just come! Any questions, contact office/Hilary. Those attending 9-Square Monthly, lunch will be provided after fellowship hour is over, around 12noon-ish. Next Date: June 7th!

Pool Party Join us **June 6th, 1pm-5pm**, at Chad & Amelia's house! Bring a snack to share, your own drinks, lawn chairs & a pop-up tent if you have one. Chad and Amelia Sterner are graciously letting us use their beautiful spacious pool. Contact Hilary/office with any questions.

Congregational Meeting TODAY, May 24th following worship service, please stay!



9-Square Monthly Schedule

Invite friends to come and play and
for a short bible time.

Once a month at FELC, **12:30pm-1:30pm.**

Come when you can and invite friends each month to join us!
Geared for Middle & High School aged youth, adults welcome.

Save these dates so you don't miss out!

March ~~15th~~ • April ~~19th~~ • May ~~3rd~~ • June 7th • July 19th

August 16th • September 13th • October 18th

November 15th • December 13th



Pool Party

June 6th, 1pm-5pm at Chad & Amelia's pool!!

Come join in the fun!

Bring a snack to share, your own drinks,
lawn chairs & a pop-up tent if you have one.

Chad and Amelia Sterner are graciously letting us use their
beautiful spacious pool.

Contact Hilary/office with any questions.

MINISTERS for Next Week 5-31-26

Audio/Visual..... Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
 Lector..... Matt Ronan
 Ushers Steve Stienecker & Jim Kantner
 Worship Assistant..... Ken Frame
 Musician Recordings
 Pastor Michelle Kouse
 Greeter Needed
 Altar Guild..... Darla Frame & Deanna Wisener
 Fellowship Cleanup..... Darla Frame & Brenda Shoffstall

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
04/26/2026	15	75	\$1,433.00	\$10.00
05/03/2026	12	63	\$9,565.00	\$230.00
05/10/2026	16	105	\$1,983.00	\$20.00
05/17/2026	15	85	\$971.00	\$25.00

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sun, May 24th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Pastor Lorenzo Thomas
		Class of 2026 Recognition
		Congregational Meeting
		Council Meeting
Mon, May 25 th		Happy Memorial Day! Office Closed
	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Tues, May 26 th		June Newsletter information Due!
Wed, May 27 th	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
	3:00-8:00pm	Kids Against Hunger in Jackson Center
Thurs, May 28 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Community Loaves & Fishes
Fri, May 29 th		June Newsletter Available
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sat, May 30 th	8:15am	Spiritual Movement Class
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sun, May 31st	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Michelle Kouse
Mon, June 1 st	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Thurs, June 4 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Community Loaves & Fishes
Fri, June 5 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sat, June 6 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	1pm-5pm	Pool Party at Sterner's 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

Pastor

Rev. Lorenzo Thomas;

pastor.lorenzo@myfelc.org; 330-506-6025

Office Administrator

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

Bookkeeper

Anderson Accounting

Music Director

Darla Frame; darlaframe@gmail.com

Audio-Technology

Dave Curry; dscy@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.*