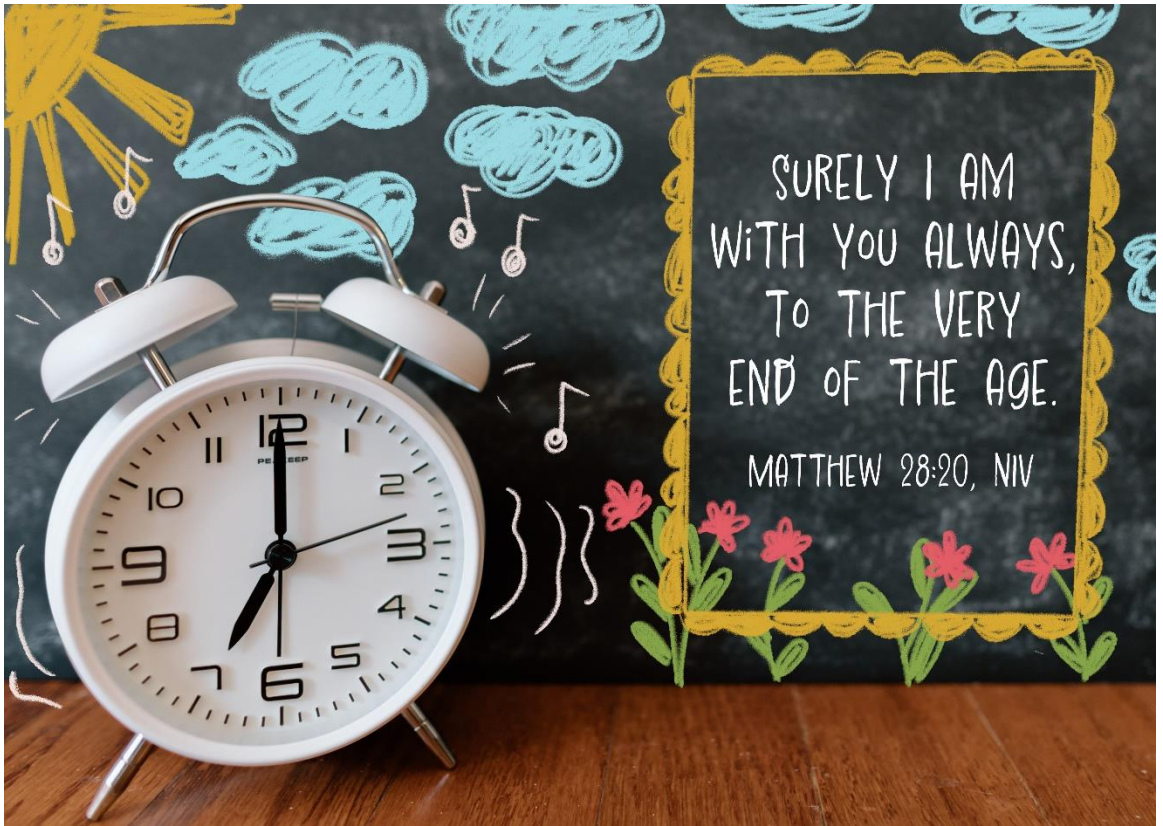


FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



Day of Pentecost
May 31, 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 Frank & Nancy Heffner in honor of our church family.

MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual.....	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector.....	Matt Ronan
Ushers	Steve Stienecker & Jim Kantner
Worship Assistant.....	Ken Frame
Musician	Recordings
Pastor	Michelle Kouse
Greeter	Brenda Shoffstall
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

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

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty (ELW 413)

*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

This is the Feast (ELW p. 187)

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us grace to make the confession of a true faith. We acknowledge your glorious eternal Trinity, and we adore the unity of your majestic work. Defend us by this faith from all adversity and opposition to your way; through Jesus Christ, your Son, 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: GENESIS 1: 1 – 2:4a

A reading from Genesis. ¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ⁶And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. ⁸And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. ⁹And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. ¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶And God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the

lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. ¹⁷And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. ²⁰And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.” ²¹So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. ²⁴And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds — livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. ²⁵And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²⁶Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” ²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” ²⁹And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

¹Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ²And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation. ^{4a}These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created

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

PSALM 8

We will read responsively.

¹O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

²**Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.**

³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

⁴**what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?**

⁵Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

⁶**You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet,**

⁷all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

⁸**the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

⁹O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

SECOND READING: ACTS 2: 14a, 22-36

A reading from Acts. ^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them:

²²“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know — ²³this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵For David says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; ²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. ²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. ²⁸You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ ²⁹Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³²This Jesus God raised

up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. ³⁴For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, ³⁵until I make your enemies your footstool.'" ³⁶Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia (ELW p. 188)

***GOSPEL: MATTHEW 28: 16-20**

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

¹⁶The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

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

MESSAGE

Michelle Kouse

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

God, Whose Almighty Word (ELW 673)

***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.

Holy Trinity, you have revealed yourself as one God in three Persons. We praise you for the wonders of Creation, knowing it is to you that we belong. We thank you for coming to us in Christ to redeem us from all that holds us bound. We pray that you would be at work through your Word, so that we would acknowledge and honor you in all that we do. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father in heaven, your Son prayed that we may be protected in your name. Protect us today from all calamities and distresses that may befall people in our world, in our nation, in our communities, and in our lives. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, you are victorious over sin, death, and all that separates us from you. Draw near to all who feel alone in illness or suffering. 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, Makayla Frame, Tom Judge, Mike Nuss, 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 the Sabbath, be with all those who are taking time off of work to rest and be regenerated. Help us to hear and know you in our keeping of the Sabbath so that we might be renewed for work in your kingdom.
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

***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.**

***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 indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

(ELW p. 190)

***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. Jesus is extending this invitation and that is His only requirement. The bread and wine we share today has already been consecrated by an ordained pastor for this meal. Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God (ELW p. 191)

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

Break Now the Bread of Life (ELW 515)
Come, Join the Dance of Trinity (ELW 412)
Father Most Holy (ELW 415)

*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.

*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

Holy God, We Praise Your Name (ELW 414)

*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	Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz
Otterbein-Cridersville	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, Makayla Frame, Tom Judge, Mike Nuss, 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. Sterner's address: 20003 Miller Rd., Wapak

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.

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sun, May 31st	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Michelle Kouse
Mon, June 1 st	5:15pm	Spiritual Movement Class
Wed, June 3 rd	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
Sun, June 7th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Pastor Lorenzo Thomas
	12:30-1:30	9-Square Monthly
Tues, June 9 th	1:30pm	Bingo at The Gardens
Thurs, June 11 th	9-11:30am	God’s Store House
	4:30pm	Community Loaves & Fishes
	6:00pm	Men’s Night at Woody’s in Kettlersville
Fri, June 12 th	9-11:30am	God’s Store House
Sat, June 13 th	9-11:30am	God’s Store House

MINISTERS for Next Week 6-7-26

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Richard Yocum
Ushers	Ken Frame & Richard Yocum
Worship Assistant	Darla Frame
Musician	Karen Luginbuhl
Pastor	Pastor Lorenzo Thomas
Greeter	Chris Nagel
Altar Guild	Carrie & Jon Schmidt
Fellowship Cleanup	Carrie & Jon Schmidt

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
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
05/24/2026	11	65	\$2,311.50	\$110.00

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.*