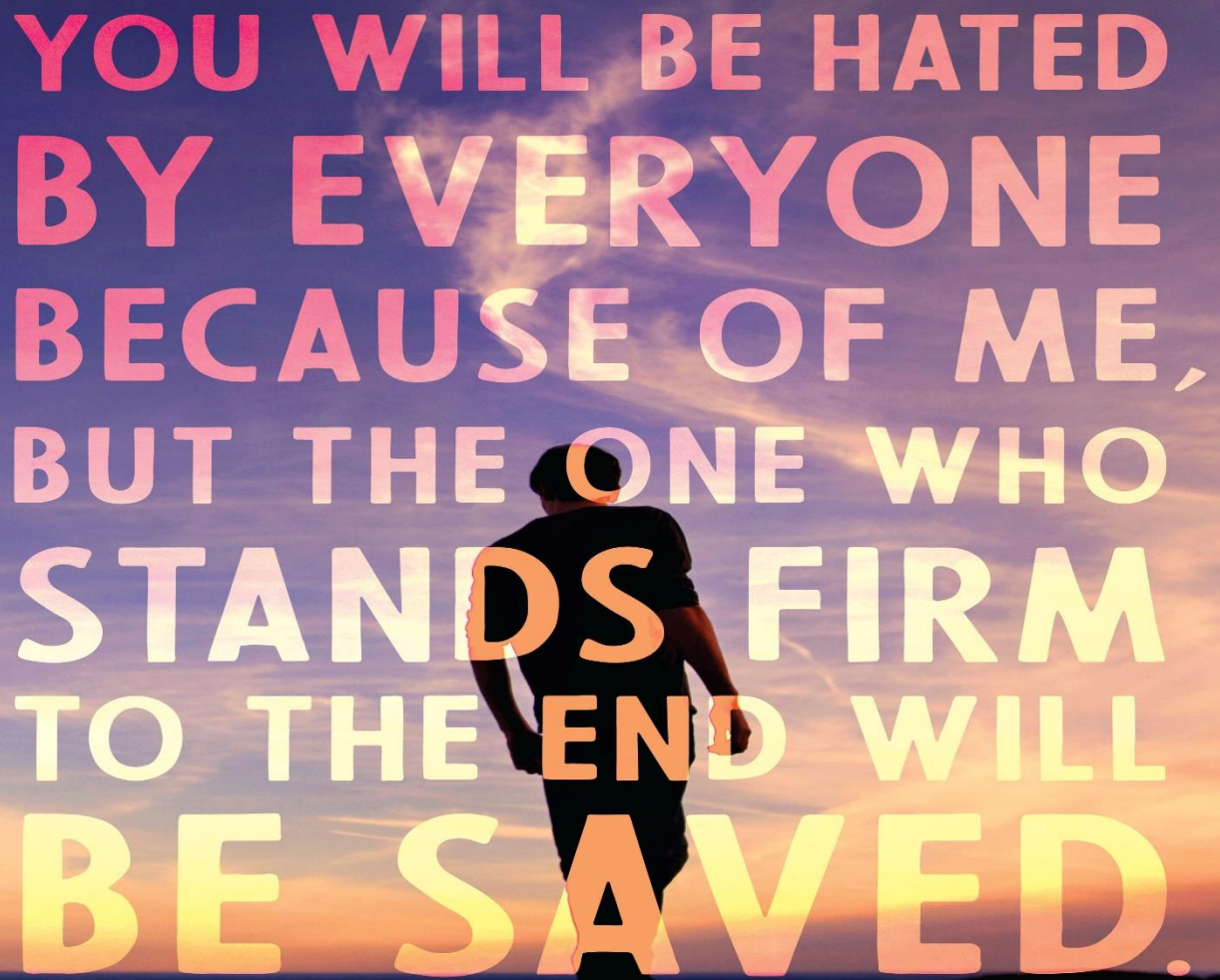


**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio**



**YOU WILL BE HATED
BY EVERYONE
BECAUSE OF ME,
BUT THE ONE WHO
STANDS FIRM
TO THE END WILL
BE SAVED.**

MATTHEW 10:22, NIV

**4th Sunday of Pentecost
June 21, 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 Brenda & Marc Shoffstall in honor
of all holidays celebrated in June.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God
by Marsha Jackson in memory of her dad, Charles, and
in honor of our Heavenly Father.

MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Joyce Brincefield
Ushers	Ken Frame & Chad Sterner
Worship Assistant.....	Jon Schmidt
Musician	Susan Miller
Pastor	Michelle Kouse
Greeter	Brenda Shoffstall
Altar Guild.....	Chris Nagel & Brenda Shoffstall
Fellowship Cleanup	Chris Nagel & Brenda Shoffstall

*Please rise if able.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (JON)

PRELUDE

Shout to the Lord arr Darlene Zscheh by John Carter

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (MICHELLE)

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

How Firm a Foundation (ELW 796)

*GREETING (JON)

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 (JON)**

Let us pray **For those who love you, O God, you have chosen and prepared what no eye has seen nor ear heard. Pour into our hearts a loving affection for you, that we may choose you in and above all things. For only then shall we have what you promise, which far exceeds all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He 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: JEREMIAH 20: 7-13 (JOYCE)

A reading from Jeremiah. ⁷O LORD, you have deceived me, and I was deceived; you are stronger than I, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all the day; everyone mocks me. ⁸For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. ⁹If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. ¹⁰For I hear many whispering. Terror is on every side! "Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" say all my close friends, watching for my fall. "Perhaps he will be deceived; then we can overcome him and take our revenge on him." ¹¹But the LORD is with me as a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble; they will not overcome me. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. ¹²O LORD of hosts, who tests the righteous, who sees the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause. ¹³Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers.

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

PSALM 91: 1-10 [11-16] (JOYCE)

We will read responsively.

¹He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

²**I will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”**

³For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.

⁴**He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.**

⁵You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day,

⁶**nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.**

⁷A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.

⁸**You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked.**

⁹Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place — the Most High, who is my refuge —

¹⁰**no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent.**

[¹¹For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

¹²**On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

¹³You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

¹⁴**“Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name.**

¹⁵When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.

¹⁶**With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.”]**

SECOND READING: ROMANS 6: 12-23 (JOYCE)

A reading from Romans¹²Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. ¹³Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. ¹⁵What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. ²⁰For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. ²²But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia (ELW p. 188)

***GOSPEL: MATTHEW 10: 5a, 21-33 (MICHELLE)**

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

^{5a}These twelve {disciples} Jesus sent out, instructing them,

²¹“Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²²and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. ²⁴A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household. ²⁶So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ²⁷What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³²So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.”

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

MESSAGE

Michelle Kouse

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Will You Come and Follow Me (ELW 798)

***APOSTLES' CREED (JON)**

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 (JON)**

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

Bless all fathers and those who offer fatherly care. Strengthen them in love, guide them in patience, and comfort those for whom this day is difficult.

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

God and Father of us all, by whom the whole family in heaven and on earth is named: Grant that all on earth who bear the earthly name of father and those who may not bear the name yet still share a fatherly love for the children around them may reflect your grace and care. Strengthen their witness to the love that you have for all your children everywhere and lead us by their example to be people of faith.

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

Lord God of the Sabbath, as you rested on the seventh day, you hallow our times of rest as well. Be present with your people as they travel in these summer days. Keep them safe from harm and accident; refresh them in their play time, and open their eyes to the wonders of your good creation. Bring travelers safely home, renewed in joy and zeal for you. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of mercy, you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Restore our cities, towns, and rural communities. Use us to build houses for the homeless, give bread to the hungry, cover the naked, comfort the grieving, and give care to those suffering in body, mind, or spirit. We especially lift up **Mary Ann, Betty, Jim, Marty, Marsha, Ted, Hunter, Seth, Jim, JJ, Jason, Bennett, Kay, Richard, Don, Jerry, Makayla, Tom, and Mike**. And anyone that we name out loud or quietly in our hearts. (Brief silence). May we serve as instruments of your saving Gospel. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

We give thanks to you for the vocations you grant to all your people. Keep safe from harm and danger those whose work is dangerous. We hold before you in prayer those who have answered the call to military service [especially...], that at the completion of their work, they may return home safely. Be present with families who wait and watch for their homecoming. 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 (JON)**

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 (JON)

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 (MICHELLE)**

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 (MICHELLE)**

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 (MICHELLE)**

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 (MICHELLE)

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

We Eat the Bread of Teaching (ELW 518)

When Peace Like a River (ELW 785)

Precious Lord, Take My Hand (ELW 773)

***AS WE ARE BLESSED (MICHELLE)**

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 (MICHELLE)**

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 (MICHELLE)**

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 Jesus, I Have Promised (ELW 810)

***DISMISSAL (MICHELLE)**

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



We especially remember in our prayers...

Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz, Jim Walls, Marty Rostorfer, Marsha Henderson, Ted Gibson, Hunter Smith, Seth Thuman, Jim Zwiebel, JJ Truesdale, Jason Schneider, Bennett Douglas, Kay, Richard & Don Ault, Jerry Dicus, Makayla Frame, Tom Judge, and Mike 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 JUNE: FAMILY LIFE CENTER 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.

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: JUNE Items-Cereal, Pop Tarts, Breakfast Bars, Brownie Mix and Soups. 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: July 19th!**

MINISTERS for Next Week 6-28-26

Audio/Visual.....Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
 Lector..... Elanor Roeger
 Ushers Jon Schmidt & Maeson Roode
 Worship Assistant Deanna Ronan
 Musician Darla Frame
 Pastor Pastor Lorenzo Thomas
 Greeter Chris Nagel
 Altar Guild..... Chris Nagel & Brenda Shoffstall
 Fellowship Cleanup..... Chris Nagel & Brenda Shoffstall

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
05/24/2026	11	65	\$2,311.50	\$110.00
05/31/2026	17	53	\$1,680.00	\$10.00
06/07/2026	16	68	\$1,968.00	\$15.00

Bibles from lecterns have been updated and old bibles need new homes. If interested in them contact Darla, 419-234-3283.

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sun, June 21st

Happy Father's Day!!

9:00am Adult Sunday School

10:00am Worship – Michelle Kouse

Thurs, June 25th

July Info for Newsletter Due!

9-11:30am God's Store House

4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes

Fri, June 26th

9-11:30am God's Store House

5:30pm Fellowship Comm Meeting at 5Vines

Sat, June 27th

9-11:30am God's Store House

Sun, June 28th

8:30am Council Meeting

9:00am Adult Sunday School

10:00am Worship – Pastor Lorenzo Thomas

Tues, June 30th

July Newsletter Available

Thurs, July 2nd

9-11:30am God's Store House

4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes

Fri, July 3rd

Office Closed

9-11:30am God's Store House

Sat, July 4th

HAPPY 4TH of JULY!! God Bless!

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

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.*