

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



Whoever
finds their life
will lose it,
—— and ——

Whoever
loses their life
for my sake
will find it.

MATTHEW 10:39, NIV

5th Sunday after Pentecost
June 28, 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 Mike, Amelia & Elanor Roeger in
celebration of Hilary's 45th birthday on June 30th.

MINISTERS for TODAY

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

*Please rise if able.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Praise the Lord Ye Heavens Adore Him
by Rowland H Prichard arr Mary McDonald

*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

All are Welcome (ELW 641 vs 1, 3, 5)

*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)

*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.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Lord of all power and might, you are the author and giver of all good things. Graft into our hearts a love of your name. Increase in us true faith, nourish us with what is good, and watch over all who are in your care. Grant this, we pray, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives 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 28: 5-9

A reading from Jeremiah. ⁵The prophet Jeremiah spoke to Hananiah the prophet in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD, ⁶and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD make the words that you have prophesied come true, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. ⁷Yet hear now this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes to pass, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

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

PSALM 119: 153-160

We will read responsively.

¹⁵³Look on my affliction and deliver me, for I do not forget your law.

¹⁵⁴**Plead my cause and redeem me; give me life according to your promise!**

¹⁵⁵Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek your statutes.

¹⁵⁶**Great is your mercy, O Lord; give me life according to your rules.**

¹⁵⁷Many are my persecutors and my adversaries, but I do not swerve from your testimonies.

¹⁵⁸**I look at the faithless with disgust, because they do not keep your commands.**

¹⁵⁹Consider how I love your precepts! Give me life, O Lord, according to your steadfast love.

¹⁶⁰**The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.**

SECOND READING: ROMANS 7: 1-13

A reading from Romans. ¹Do you not know, brothers — for I am speaking to those who know the law — that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? ²For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. ³Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress. ⁴Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. ⁵For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. ⁶But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code. ⁷What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.” ⁸But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead. ⁹I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. ¹⁰The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. ¹¹For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. ¹²So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. ¹³Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin

might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia (ELW p. 188)

***GOSPEL: MATTHEW 10: 34-42**

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

³⁴{Jesus said to the disciples,} “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. ³⁶And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household. ³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ⁴⁰Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. ⁴¹The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. ⁴²And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”

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

MESSAGE

Pastor Lorenzo Thomas

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus (ELW 802)

***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.

Gracious Father, give speech and wisdom to those whom you have called to teach your sacred Word. Fill them with your Spirit and inspire them with your power that they may speak for you. Open the ears and hearts of all who hear the message of your servants, that your promise would engender faith within them. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of creation, you are the source of all blessings. We ask that you would grant favorable growing conditions to those who farm the land and provide food for your children around the world. Bring rain to areas of drought and sunshine to nurture growth and make our farms fruitful. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, strengthen with your healing power those whose names we bring to you in prayer. Look upon those who are sick and surround them with your love. We especially lift up 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, Diane Peterson, Connie Krites, Roman Schlegel, Jill Newland, Susan Cooper and Mike Nuss. And anyone that we name out loud or quietly in our hearts. (Brief silence). Send them men and women skilled in using your good gifts of medicine. By your Spirit, move us to be among the instruments you use to offer comfort where we have the opportunity. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Lord, in Christ you have set us free from the power of sin and death and raised us to new life in him. Teach us to treasure the freedoms and independence which we are privileged to enjoy in this country. Help us to use them for the good of all. 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

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.

Please be seated.

OFFERTORY

Down by the Riverside
by African American Spiritual arr Marianne Kim

***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)

***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. Jesus 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

For by Grace You Have Been Saved (ELW 598)

Just as I Am, Without One Plea (ELW 592)

The Church of Christ, in Every Age (ELW 729)

***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**

Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak (ELW 676)

***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

Otterbein-Cridersville

Homebound

Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz

Jim Walls

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, Diane Peterson, Connie Krites, Roman Schlegel, Jill Newland, Susan Cooper 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. In May, offering for DEAR DINAH was \$1,100.50.

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. **FELC will be hosting July 9th and we will need cookies donated.** Any questions, call Brenda.

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!

NALC Youth Gathering will be in Roanoke, VA. Michelle Kouse, Hilary, Amelia & Elanor Roeger will be attending, **July 6-11, 2026.** Please pray for safe travels, good weather & the fruits of building a relationship with God.

MINISTERS for Next Week 7-5-26

Audio/Visual.....	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector.....	Richard Yocum
Ushers	Ken Frame & Richard Yocum
Worship Assistant.....	Marsha Jackson
Musician	Recordings
Pastor	Pastor Lorenzo Thomas
Greeter	Brenda Shoffstall
Altar Guild.....	Cari Frame & Hilary Roeger
Fellowship Cleanup.....	Cari Frame & Hilary Roeger

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
05/31/2026	17	53	\$1,680.00	\$10.00
06/07/2026	16	68	\$1,968.00	\$15.00
06/14/2026	15	56	\$3,933.00	\$280.00
06/21/2026	17	54	\$11,012.00	\$15.00

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sun, June 28th	8:45am	Council Meeting
	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Pastor Lorenzo Thomas
Tues, June 30 th	July Newsletter Available	
Thurs, July 2 nd	9-11:30am	God’s Store House
	4:30pm	Community Loaves & Fishes
Fri, July 3 rd	9-11:30am	God’s Store House
	Office Closed – Happy 4 th of July!	
Sat, July 4 th	9-11:30am	God’s Store House
Sun, July 5th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Pastor Lorenzo Thomas
Mon.-Sat., July 6-11	NALC Youth Gathering in Roanoke, VA	
Thurs, July 9 th	9-11:30am	God’s Store House
	4:30pm	Community Loaves & Fishes
Fri, July 10 th	9-11:30am	God’s Store House
Sat, July 11 th	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

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He has loved us.*