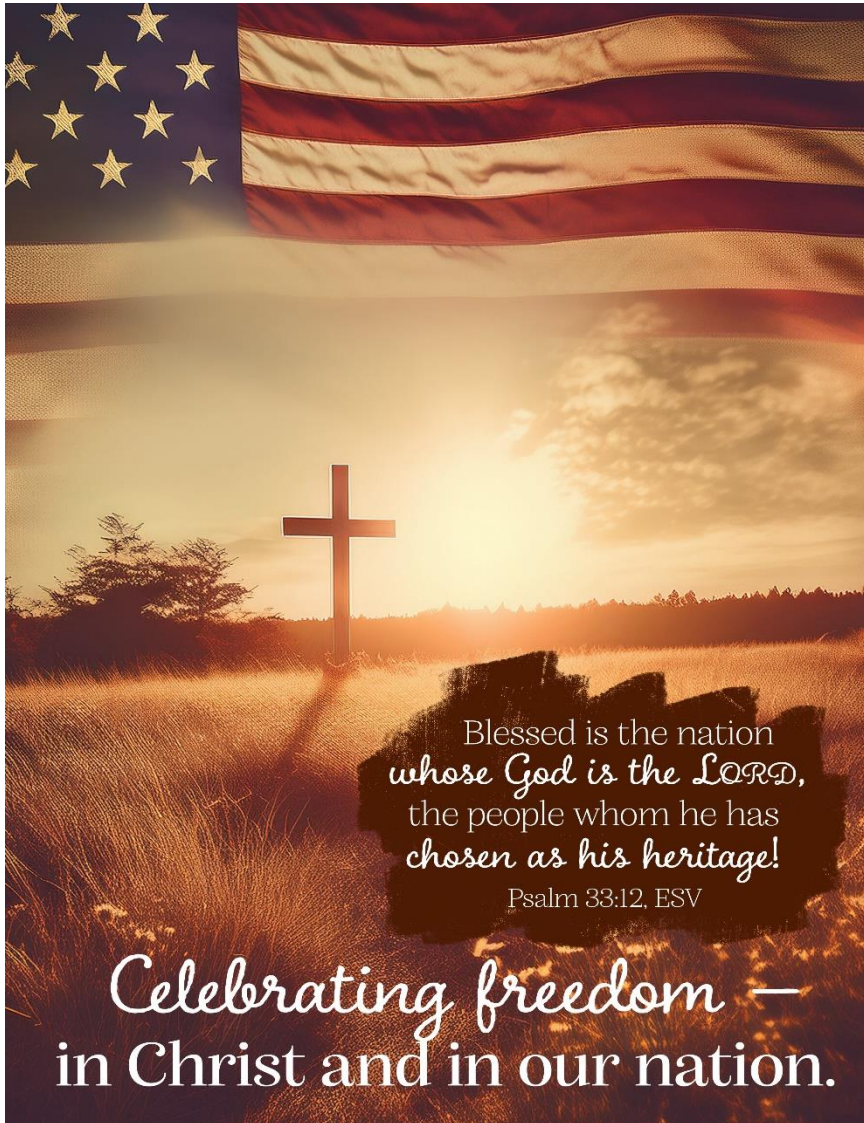


First English Lutheran Church

Wapakoneta, Ohio



Blessed is the nation
whose God is the LORD,
the people whom he has
chosen as his heritage!

Psalm 33:12, ESV

Celebrating freedom —
in Christ and in our nation.

Our JULY 2026 Newsletter

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

107 W. Mechanic Street, Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Office: (419) 738-3911

E-Mail Address: wapakelc@bright.net Website: www.myfelc.org

Meet our staff...

Pastor

Lorenzo Thomas.....pastor.lorenzo@myfelc.org 330-506-6025

Seminary

Michelle Kousewapakelc@bright.net 419-738-3911

Office Administrator

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

Bookkeeper

Anderson Accounting.....felc.finance@myfelc.org 419-738-3911

Financial Secretary

Marsha Jacksonfelc.finance@myfelc.org 419-738-3911

Music Director

Darla Frame.....darlaframe@gmail.com..... 419-234-3283

Choir Directors

Susan Miller, Adult.....sugartime@bright.net 567-356-1844

Darla Frame, Bellsdarlaframe@gmail.com..... 419-234-3283

Church Council

Brenda Shoffstallshoffstall08@yahoo.com 419-233-1956

Richard Yocumrichiyocum@yahoo.com 419-234-8919

Char Currychar.curry@bright.net 419-738-4392

Georgeann Stienecker...nksoccer@nktelco.net 419-305-5066

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Noah Kirby.....noah.w.kirby@gmail.com..... 419-905-8243

The mission of First English Lutheran Church is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to love one another as He loves us.

JUNE COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

Council met on June 28, 2026 at 8:45. am, for our monthly meeting. After a quorum was met, Brenda gave the devotion. Richard will be doing one next month.

We looked at the financial reports and discussed some questions and looked at our investments. Council decided that we will be asking Paula, our bookkeeper to attend next month's meeting. Pastor Lorenzo will also be attending. We looked at last month's minutes and the business reports and then they were approved.

On committee reports, there was no meeting for Evangelism, but Brenda wanted to thank everyone for increasing our donations for the crisis center. Christian Ed committee will be meeting on August 9. Staff support will be meeting the Pastor probably in August. Life and fellowship committee met on June 26 to discuss some future events in the fall. A meal will be planned for the congregation for Rally Day and will be talking to Christian Ed at their meeting in August. In October fellowship will be having a fall harvest party for the congregation families at Marc and Brenda Shoffstall's home tentatively for October 24 or rain date on October 31 so pencil in your calendars for a fun time! Fellowship will be having a cake reception for Gwendolyn's baptism. So please come back for some refreshments on the 12th.

Brenda let everyone know that spiritual movement yoga class has returned to St. Joe's.

We all thanked Jeff Ritchie for the donation of the drinking fountain by Houston and very reasonable installation fee from Jeff, it is very appreciated.

We then discussed our schedule with Michelle going forward as she works very hard trying to fulfill her requirements for seminary while working her day job. Please give her some words of encouragement when you see her.

Meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting is on June 19th with time to be determined.

Blessings to all!

Church Council

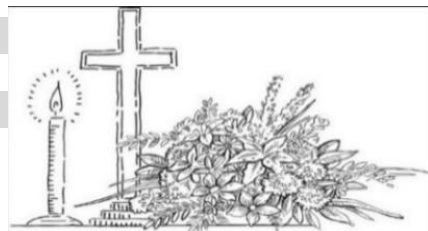
FELC Committees, Chairpersons, Council Liaisons

Committee	Chairperson	Liaison
Building & Property	Brenda Shoffstall	Richard Yocum
Christian Education/Youth	Hilary Roeger	Jon Schmidt
Evangelism	Brenda Shoffstall	Catherine Fisher
Finance/Stewardship	Georgeann Stienecker	Georgeann Stienecker
Life & Fellowship	Brenda Shoffstall	Darla Frame
Staff Support	Char Curry	Char Curry
Stewardship	Meets with Finance	Brenda Shoffstall
Worship & Music	Darla Frame	Chris Nagel

Flowers and Candles

Altar Flowers for the month of JULY:

July 5 th	Diana Fritz Miller
July 12 th	Dave & Connie Krites
July 19 th	--Available--*
July 26 th	--Available--*



Altar Candles for the month of JULY:

The **Altar Candles** are given to the Glory of God
by Marsha Jackson in memory of her mother, Mabel's July birthday.

***Please consider signing up for Flowers & Candles on 2026 calendar.**

2026 Noisy Offerings

Month	Recipient	Amount Collected
January	Kingdom Harvest Ministries	\$127.00
February	Lutheran Military Veterans & Family Ministries	\$915.00
March	Camp KNO-KOMA	\$1,970.35
April	Morgan's Place	\$623.23
May	Dear Dinah	\$1,100.50
June	Family Life Center	\$365.00
July	Bonhoeffer House, Ambridge, PA	

Bonhoeffer House, Ambridge, PA

The NALS is delighted to announce the acquisition of an historic property in Ambridge, PA at the Seminary Center on the campus of Trinity School for Ministry. The Bonhoeffer House will house NALS students and will be a center for formation for the NALS. This milestone comes as the NALS celebrates its tenth anniversary, marking a decade of growth and commitment to theological education.

The house features three student apartments and communal spaces designed for prayer, fellowship and study. The property, originally built in 1827 by the Harmonist Community, has been restored to blend its historic charm with modern amenities, creating an ideal environment for the theological formation.

The Bonhoeffer House, named after 20th-century Lutheran pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, will be dedicated to fostering a vibrant academic and formative community, in honor of Bonhoeffer's vision of "Life Together."



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...

Family & Friends of Susan Cooper, 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, Lynnette Swink Chestnut, Larry Volbert, Carol Horrom 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.

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
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
06/28/2026		65	\$410.00	\$10.00



Ministries in Action

	July 5 th	July 12 th	July 19 th	July 26 th
Lector	Richard Yocum	Elanor Roeger	Chris Nagel	Joyce Brincefield
Ushers	Ken Frame & Richard Yocum	Dave Krites & Dave Clift	Ken Frame & Chad Sterner	Jon Schmidt & Maeson Roode
Worship Assistant	Marsha Jackson	Hilary Roeger	Darla Frame	Ken Frame
Musician	Recordings	Darla Frame	Karen Luginbuhl	Recordings
Preacher	Pastor Lorenzo Thomas	Pastor Lorenzo Thomas	Pastor Lorenzo Thomas	Michelle Kouse
Greeter	Brenda Shoffstall	Frank & Nancy Heffner	Bonnie Davidson	Dave & Connie Krites

Altar Guild for JULY: Cari Frame & Hilary Roeger

Fellowship Cleanup for JULY: Cari Frame & Hilary Roeger

The Word of God

Sunday	1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel
July 5 th	Zechariah 9: 9-12	Psalm 145: 1-14	Romans 7: 14-25a	Matthew 11: 25-30
July 12 th	Isaiah 55: 10-13	Psalm 65: 9-13	Romans 8: 12-17	Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23
July 19 th	Isaiah 44: 6-8	Psalm 119: 57-64	Romans 8: 18-27	Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43
July 26 th	Deuteronomy 7: 6-9	Psalm 125	Romans 8: 28-39	Matthew 13: 44-52
August 2 nd	Isaiah 55: 1-5	Psalm 136: 1-9 [23-26]	Romans 9: 1-5 [6-13]	Matthew 14: 13-21
August 9 th	Job 38: 4-18	Psalm 18: 1-6 [7-16]	Romans 10: 5-17	Matthew 14: 22-33
August 16 th	Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8	Psalm 67	Romans 11: 1-2a, 13-15, 28-32	Matthew 15: 21-28
August 23 rd	Isaiah 51: 1-6	Psalm 138	Romans 11: 33 – 12: 8	Matthew 16: 13-20
August 30 th	Jeremiah 15: 15-21	Psalm 26	Romans 12: 9-21	Matthew 16: 21-28

FELC News and Events...



Personal contact information...if there has been a change in your family's contact information, please contact the church office by email at wapakelc@bright.net or by calling the office at 419-738-3911.

Education/Worship Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship in person and online at www.myfelc.org

Quilting Group will meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10am in the parlor. If you would like to join this group or have questions, please contact Darla Frame.

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 23rd, and we will need cookies donated. Any questions, call Brenda.

Noisy Offering for the month of JULY: BONHOEFFER HOUSE Offering pans are located in the chapel and at the back of the church. Donations are accepted during the entire month.

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: JULY Items-Saltine crackers, kid's snacks, canned fruit and pancake mix. 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.

Bingo at The Gardens in Wapakoneta at 1:30pm on the second Tuesday of the month. All are welcome to join and help on **July 14th!**

Men's Night is scheduled for 6:00pm on Thursday, July 9th, at J'Maries in Wapakoneta. All men are encouraged to come and bring a friend!

Ladies' Lunch is scheduled for 11:30am on Tuesday, July 21st at J'Maries in Wapakoneta. All women are encouraged to come and bring a friend!!



Baptism

Baptism on July 12th **Gwendolyn Gottliebe Thomas**

The daughter of
Pastor Lorenzo & Anastasia Thomas
was born on April 4, 2026.

Her sponsors are Chris & Cathy Butson.

Please help us welcome our newest sister in Christ;
we will have cake in the fellowship hall after service, all are welcome!

Thank You Notes:



FELC, Thank you for sharing your space with the Spiritual Movement class during the past eighteen months. We are truly grateful for the generosity and goodwill that was extended while St. Joseph's was being renovated. While it was not an easy choice to leave, the decision to return is rooted in having carpet. The space at St. Joe's is much smaller, and we will miss the larger gathering space at FELC. If there is any interest in joining the class, please know that this is always room.

Wishing you peace and harmony now and always.

~DeLynn Epperly

Much Appreciated

He Knows Our Name



Chase and Company Band



Parking

LOT WORSHIP

CRIDERSVILLE, OHIO

SATURDAY

JULY 11TH, 2026

Starting at 4:00pm

DON'T FORGET YOUR CHAIRS!

2 of Hearts



Lakeside Worship Band



Also performing will be Amanda Rule



STEINKE FAMILY
CHIROPRACTIC



AUGLAIZE EMBROIDERY

Parking LOT WORSHIP

SPEAKERS



Courtnee Morris



Heidi Hahn



Ryan Dunlap



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

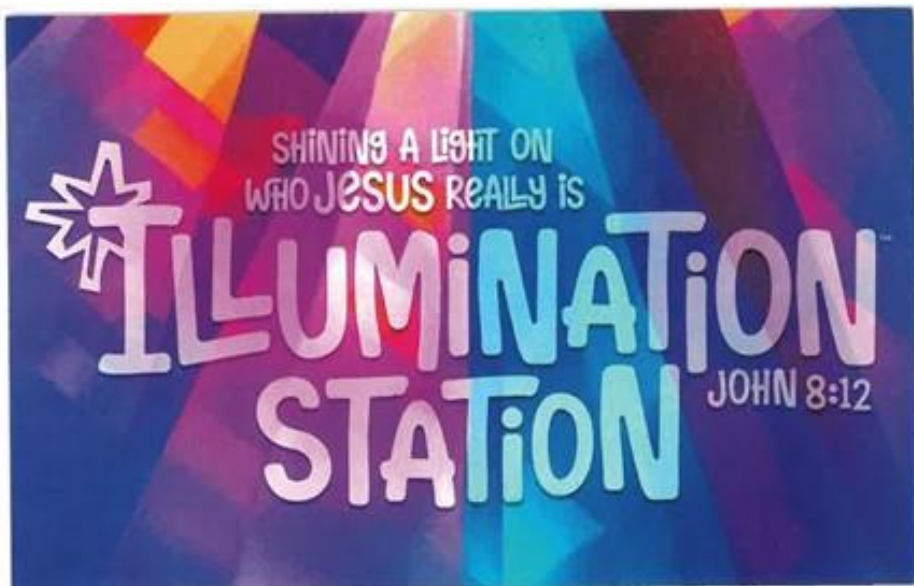
November 15th • December 13th



Register early for
VBS 2026
July 7-9th
5:30pm-8pm

The Wapak Church
14871 Fox Ranch Rd.
Wapakoneta, OH 45895





SAVE THE DATE

Vacation Bible School

Wapakoneta Baptist Church
815 Ashland Ave. Wapakoneta, OH

July 19th – 23rd, 2026

6:15 to 8:00 pm

Pre K – 6th Grade

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

JESUS is
The LIGHT
of The WORLD



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America 250-Ohio has asked all communities in the state to host **Public Readings of the Declaration of Independence on July 8 at 6 pm.** July 8, 1776, marks the date when the Declaration was first read in public. Plan now to attend and be inspired by local residents reading the document we hold so dear! Wapakoneta: On the north side of the courthouse, bring a lawn chair. Rain location: St. Paul's UCC.



**Wednesday, August 12th 11-1pm
at St. Paul's UCC Church in Wapakoneta.**

Free Food, Free Backpacks and school Supplies for the first 80 kids! Free games and fellowship for caregivers as we prepare our children for the next school year.

All are welcome to gather and celebrate our young people!


Thank you to our local Wapakoneta churches, Mercy Unlimited and Wapakoneta Area Ministerial Association and the North West Ohio Lutheran Innovate grant. If you would like to donate school supplies or help us serve the kids please contact Pastor Melodi Hagen at Trinity Lutheran Church, 419-738-8547

SCHOOL LIST SUPPLIES NEEDED:

12 Pack of #2 Pencils, Pens, Bottle Glue, Glue Sticks, Pink Erasers, Pocket Folders, Scissors, Highlighters, Dry Erase Markers, 24ct. Crayon box, Markers, Tissue Boxes & Clorox Wipes



~ JULY 2026 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 9-11:30 GSH	3 9-11:30 GSH Office Closed	4 Happy 4 th of July!! 
5 6 th Sunday after Pentecost 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Pastor Lorenzo Thomas	6	7	8 6:00pm Public Reading of Declaration of Independence on the North side of courthouse	9 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night at J'Maries	10 9-11:30 GSH	11 9-11:30 GSH
NALC Youth Gathering in Roanoke, VA						
12 7 th Sunday after Pentecost 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Pastor Lorenzo Thomas Baptism-Gwendolyn Thomas	13	14 1:30pm Bingo at The Gardens	15 10am Quilting	16 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	17 9-11:30 GSH	18 9-11:30 GSH
19 8 th Sunday after Pentecost 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Pastor Lorenzo Thomas Council Meeting 12:30pm-1:30pm 9-Square	20	21 11:30am Ladies' Lunch at J'Maries	22	23 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes- FELC Hosting	24 9-11:30 GSH	25 9-11:30 GSH
26 9 th Sunday after Pentecost 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Michelle Kouse	27 August Newsletter info DUE!	28	29	30 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	31 9-11:30 GSH August Newsletter Available	

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.

~ August 2026 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10 th SUNDAY after Pentecost 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Pastor Lorenzo Thomas	3	4	5	6 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	7 9-11:30 GSH	8 9-11:30 GSH
9 11 th SUNDAY after Pentecost 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Pastor Lorenzo Thomas Christian Ed/Youth Meeting	10	11 1:30pm Bingo at The Gardens	12 11am-1pm Backpack & School Supplies Giveaway at St. Paul's UCC	13 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night at	14 9-11:30 GSH	15 9-11:30 GSH
16 12 th SUNDAY after Pentecost 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship- Backpack Blessing Michelle Kouse 12:30pm-1:30pm 9-Square	17	18 11:30am Ladies' Lunch at	19 10am Quilting	20 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	21 9-11:30 GSH	22 9-11:30 GSH
23 13 th SUNDAY after Pentecost 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Pastor Lorenzo Thomas	24	25	26 September info for Newsletter DUE	27 9-11:30 GSH 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	28 9-11:30 GSH	29
30 14 th SUNDAY after Pentecost 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Pastor Lorenzo Thomas	31 September Newsletter available			Tentative Schedule finalized in August Newsletter		

**First English Lutheran Church
107 West Mechanic St.
Wapakoneta, OH 45895**