

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio

Rest
for the
Weary

Come to me, all you who
are weary and burdened, and

I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28, NIV



6th Sunday after Pentecost
July 5, 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 Marsha Jackson in memory of her mother, Mabel's July birthday.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God
in celebration of our country's 250th birthday!
God bless America!

MINISTERS for TODAY

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

*Please rise if able.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory (ELW 890)

*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.**

***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.

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

This is the Feast (ELW p. 187)

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **O God, you never undermine your purpose, as you perfectly provide for all that you create. Remove from our way all that is harmful and give us what will profit that we may share in your invincible grace; 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: ZECHARIAH 9: 9-12 28: 5-9

A reading from Zechariah. ⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. ¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. ¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

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

PSALM 145: 1-14

We will read responsively.

¹I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

²Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

³Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

⁴One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

⁵On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

⁶They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.

⁷They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

⁸The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

¹⁰All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you!

¹¹They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power,

¹²to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. (The Lord is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.)

¹⁴The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 7: 14-25a

A reading from Romans. ¹⁴We know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. ¹⁵For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of

sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! ...

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia (ELW p. 188)

***GOSPEL: MATTHEW 11: 25-30**

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

²⁵Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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

MESSAGE

Pastor Lorenzo Thomas

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say (ELW 611)

***NICENE CREED**

Let us profess our faith using the words of the Nicene creed.

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

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

Lord God, thank you for all the faithful saints who live by faith and seek to do your will among us. Guide your Church in faithfully sharing Word and Sacrament, in teaching and in preaching, in caring and in nurturing, and encourage your people to serve you as instruments of your love for all. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Ever-present God, you sent your prophets and apostles out into a faithless world that rejects your Word. Be with all who suffer persecution, especially those seeking to bear faithful witness to Christ in places where they face persecution because of their loyalty to Jesus as Lord. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God and Father, your Son stooped to heal the needs of those who were wounded and weary. Fill with joy the hearts of all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit. We especially lift up Friends & Family 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, Samuel Rivas and Mike Nuss. And anyone that we name out loud or quietly in our hearts. (Brief silence). Turn their sorrow into joy; their suffering into health; and their cries for help into shouts of praise. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord and Guardian of our souls, you have established law and order for our sake and the sake of our neighbors. Protect all who dedicate their lives to keeping us safe. We remember especially those serving in law enforcement. Protect our police/sheriff, security officers, and other first responders in our community, and all who work to do good in our community. 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

I Surrender All arr Joel Raney

***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

Come Share the Lord (Screen)

Great is the Lord (Screen)

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling (ELW 608)

***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**

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies (ELW 888)

***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...

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, Samuel Rivas 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 JULY: BONHOEFFER HOUSE 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. **FELC will be hosting July 30th 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. **July 14th**, all are welcome to 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 JULY Items-Saltine crackers, kids 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.

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.

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 on July 12th for Pastor Lorenzo & Anastasia's daughter, Gwendolyn Thomas. We will celebrate with cake in fellowship hall after service is over. Please join us!

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!**

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.

MINISTERS for Next Week 7-12-26

Audio/Visual..... Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
 Lector..... Elanor Roeger
 Ushers Dave Krites & Dave Clift
 Worship Assistant Hilary Roeger
 Musician Darla Frame
 Pastor Pastor Lorenzo Thomas
 Greeter Frank & Nancy Heffner
 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>
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	21	65	\$410.00	\$10.00

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

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
Wed, July 8 th	6:00pm	Reading of Declaration of Independence
Thurs, July 9 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Community Loaves & Fishes
	6:00pm	Men's Night at J'Maries
Fri, July 10 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sat, July 11 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sun, July 12th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Pastor Lorenzo Thomas
		Baptism-Gwendolyn Thomas
Tues, July 14 th	1:30pm	Bingo at The Gardens
Wed, July 15 th	10:00am	Quilting
Thurs, July 16 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Community Loaves & Fishes
Fri, July 17 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sat, July 18 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

*Our mission is to
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and to love one another as
He has loved us.*