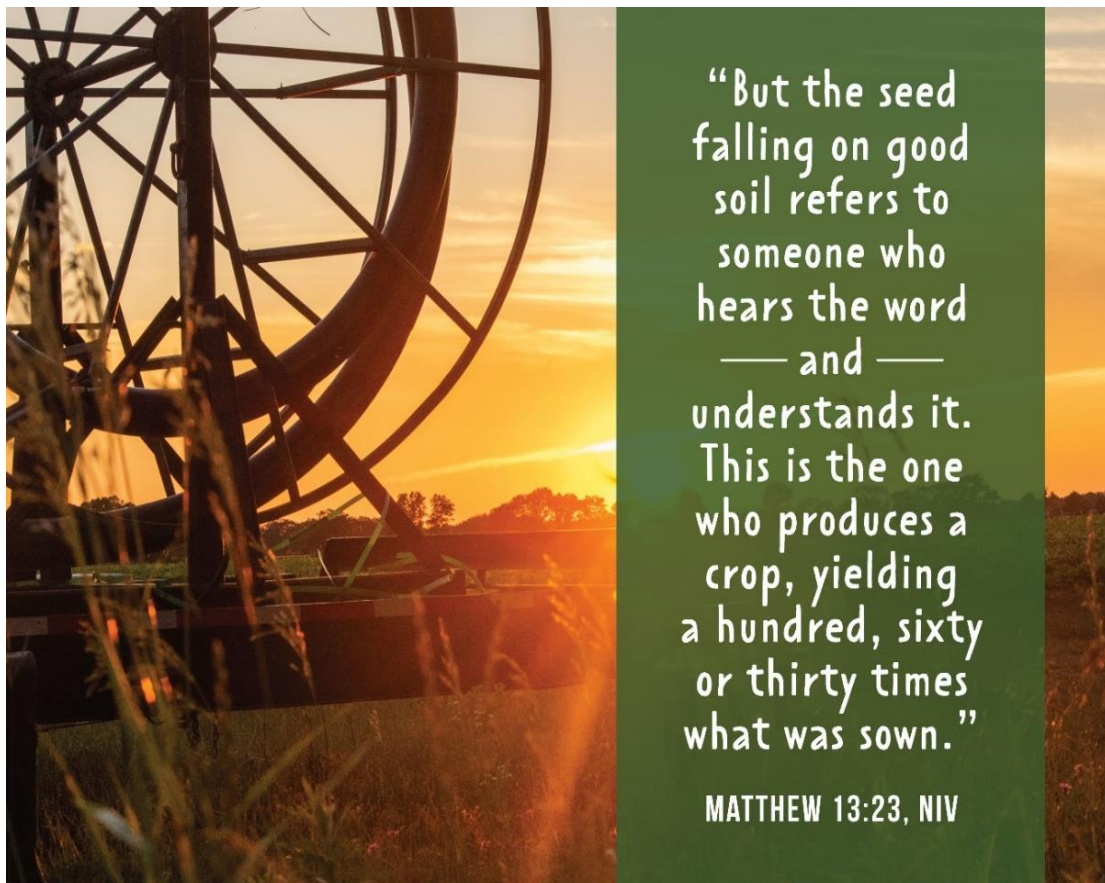


FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



“But the seed
falling on good
soil refers to
someone who
hears the word
— and —
understands it.
This is the one
who produces a
crop, yielding
a hundred, sixty
or thirty times
what was sown.”

MATTHEW 13:23, NIV

7th Sunday after Pentecost
July 12, 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
by Dave & Connie Krites for all His blessings and
in honor of their 55th wedding anniversary on July 10th.

MINISTERS for TODAY

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

*Please rise if able.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Shine, Jesus, Shine* arr Graham Kendrick by Jay Rouse

*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

Canticle of the Turning (ELW 723)

*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. **Richly inspire us, O Lord, to consider and accomplish what you see is good. For we know that we cannot live without you, but that with you, we shall prevail. And so, we pray 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: ISAIAH 55: 10-13

A reading from Isaiah. ¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

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

PSALM 65: [1-8] 9-13

We will read responsively.

[¹Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion, and to you shall vows be performed.

²**O you who hear prayer, to you shall all flesh come.**

³When iniquities prevail against me, you atone for our transgressions.

⁴**Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts! We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple!**

⁵By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness, O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas;

⁶**the one who by his strength established the mountains, being girded with might;**

⁷who stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples,

⁸**so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at your signs. You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.]**

⁹You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide their grain, for so you have prepared it.

¹⁰You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

¹¹**You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.**

¹²The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy,

¹³**the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.**

SECOND READING: ROMANS 8: 12-17

A reading from Romans. ¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia (ELW p. 188)

***GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13: 1-9, 18-23**

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

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear."

¹⁸{Jesus said to the disciples,} "Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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

MESSAGE

Pastor Lorenzo Thomas

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise (Insert)

While hymn is sung, the candidate(s), sponsors, and parents gather at the font.

The minister addresses the baptismal group and the congregation.

HOLY BAPTISM

Presentation

P: In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

I present Gwendolyn Gottleibe Thomas to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Pastor: In Christian love you have presented *this child* for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring *her* to the services of God's house, and teach *her* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As *she grows* in years, you should place in *her* hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for *her* instruction in the Christian faith, that living in the covenant of *her* Baptism and in communion with the Church, *she* may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ. Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do.

Pastor: Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Gwendolyn in the Christian faith as God's Spirit empowers you, and to help *her* live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? Will you pray for *her* in *her* new life in Christ?

Response: We do.

Profession of Faith

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

R: I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
And born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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 Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water, you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

By the waters of the flood, you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan River your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that this one who is here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of all those who are cleansed by this water and bring *her* forth as an inheritor of your glorious kingdom.

To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Baptism

 Gwendolyn Gottliebe Thomas I baptize you in the name of the Father,
And of the Son, And of the Holy Spirit. Amen

God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your *daughter* from the power of sin and raising *her* up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon *Gwendolyn* : the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

 Gwendolyn , child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life. Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon *Lorenzo & Anastasia* . Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for their child. Strengthen them in their own Baptism so they may share eternally with their child the salvation you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Welcome of the Baptized

Through Baptism God has made this new *sister* a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, child of the same heavenly Father, and worker with us in the kingdom of God.

***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, you call us together as the Church — not just as an individual congregation, but as people from around the world who are one in Jesus Christ. We thank you for the opportunity you give us to serve together with one another. Bless our cooperative ministries and the ministries of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Strengthen our work as the body of Christ.

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

God of creation, you give us the earth to tend and plants for food. In the midst of these summer months we pray for adequate rainfall to support plant growth, so that as the plants flourish the harvest will be plentiful and your children may be fed. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Most gracious God, you have promised to be with us always. To those whom you have given many years, grant that they may continue to join in thanking you for all the bounty of your overflowing love. Continue to uphold them, Lord, with strength and dignity in your loving care. Abide with them, gracious God, that they might continue to bear witness to your unending presence. 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, Lynnette Swink Chestnut, Larry Volbert, Carol Horrom and Mike Nuss. And anyone that we name out loud or quietly in our hearts. (Brief silence). Be with them in their time of need, and remind them of your promise, that neither height or depth, death or life, nor anything else in all of creation, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus.

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

We give thanks, everlasting Father, for your servants who have departed this life in faith and now share the joys of your heavenly kingdom. We humbly ask that, with them, we may live in Christ and die in him, and at the last awaken in his likeness in the resurrection to life everlasting.

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

Jesus Loves Me by William B Bradbury 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, Thou Fount of every Blessing (ELW 807)

Baptized in Water (ELW 456)

Jesus Loves Me! (ELW 595)

***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**

All Things Bright and Beautiful (Insert)

***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



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, 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.

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.

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!!

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 flyers 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!**



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!

MINISTERS for Next Week 7-19-26

Audio/Visual..... Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
 Lector..... Chris Nagel
 Ushers Ken Frame & Chad Sterner
 Worship Assistant..... Darla Frame
 Musician Karen Lughinbuhl
 Pastor Pastor Lorenzo Thomas
 Greeter Bonnie Davidson
 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
07/05/2026				

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

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
Sun, July 19th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Pastor Lorenzo Thomas
		Council Meeting
	12:30pm-1:30pm	9-Square Monthly
Tues, July 21 st	11:30am	Ladies’ Lunch at J’Maries
Thurs, July 23 ^d	9-11:30am	God’s Store House – FELC Hosting
	4:30pm	Community Loaves & Fishes
Fri, July 24 th	9-11:30am	God’s Store House
Sat, July 25 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
spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ
and to love one another as
He has loved us.*