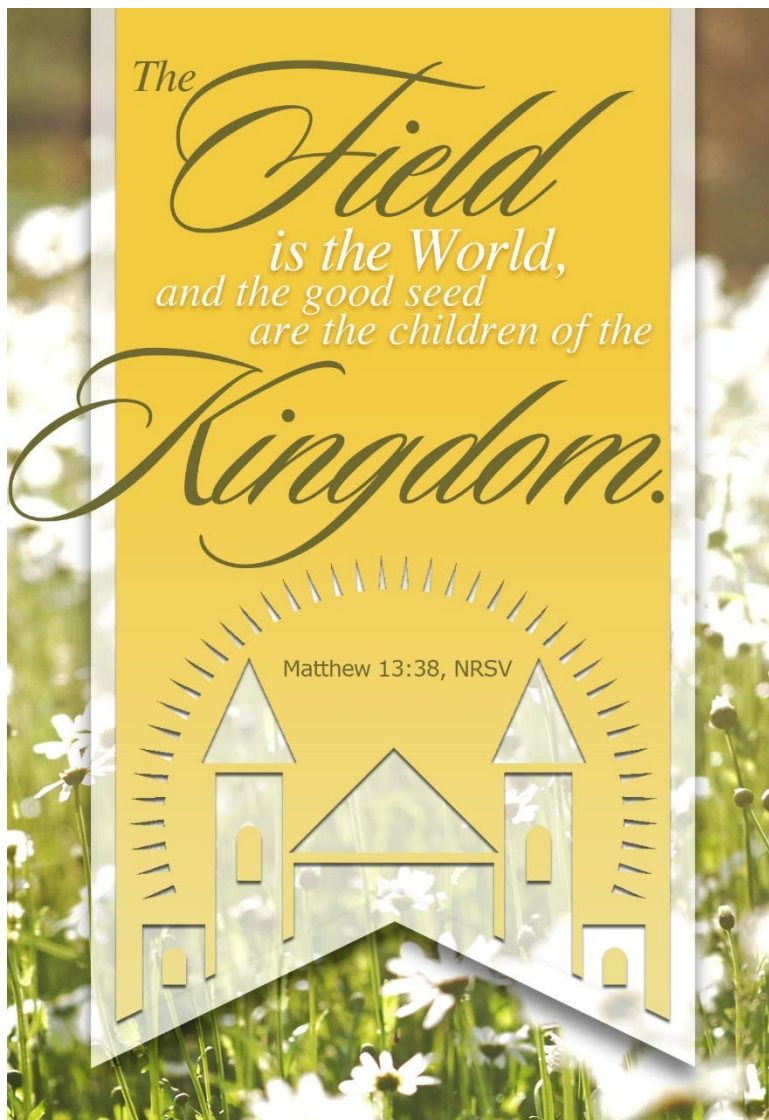


FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



8th Sunday after Pentecost
July 19, 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 Chris Clift in loving memory of her late husband, Jim Bender.

MINISTERS for TODAY

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

Hyfrydol by Rowland Pritchard

*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

Praise and Thanksgiving (ELW 689)

*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. **Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; that you may hear our petitions. In all things, help us to ask for what will please you; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Lorenzo Thomas

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 44: 6-8

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. ⁷Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. ⁸Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any."

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

PSALM 119: 57-64

We will read responsively.

⁵⁷The Lord is my portion; I promise to keep your words.

⁵⁸**I entreat your favor with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise.**

⁵⁹When I think on my ways, I turn my feet to your testimonies;

⁶⁰**I hasten and do not delay to keep your commandments.**

⁶¹Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me, I do not forget your law.

⁶²**At midnight I rise to praise you, because of your righteous rules.**

⁶³I am a companion of all who fear you, of those who keep your precepts.

⁶⁴**The earth, O Lord, is full of your steadfast love; teach me your statutes!**

SECOND READING: ROMANS 8: 18-27

A reading from Romans. ¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. ²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia (ELW p. 188)

***GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13: 24-30, 36-43**

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

²⁴Jesus put another parable before {the disciples}, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ ²⁸He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”’”

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

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

MESSAGE

Pastor Lorenzo Thomas

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Come, Y Thankful People, Come (ELW 611)

***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.

O Lord, our Rock and Redeemer, there is no one like you, and so, we trust in you alone. As you have called the whole Church to be your witnesses, proclaiming to the world the good news of him who has been prophesied since ancient times, give us all boldness to declare your salvation and sow the Gospel seed.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, turn the concerns of the Church to your Word. Give her a heart for you alone, that she may keep your commandments, and bring you honor so people will know that God is in their land. May they see that you are the God of steadfast love and mercy. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all righteousness, merciful Lord, being confident that you answer the prayers of your people, we humbly ask that you heal the sick, feed the needy, and care for those who grieve. 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, Diane Peterson, Connie Krites, Roman Schlegel, Jill Newland, Lynnette Swink Chestnut, Carol Horrom, Michelle Wannamacher, Carrie Schmidt and Mike Nuss. And anyone that we name out loud or quietly in our hearts. (Brief silence). Give them and all who are in need, the peace and blessed assurance that on that Day, the righteous in Christ will shine like the sun in the kingdom of his Father.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all hope, sometimes it seems like everything is futile. Help us to rely on faith instead of feelings, upon what we know to be true because of your promises instead of the false signals given through the sorrows of this present time. Cause us to consider these trials in light of the glory that awaits us through Christ. Give the hopeless courage to wait with patience for what they do not see yet know to be true because of the witness of your Spirit.
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

Offertory by Carolyn Jennings

***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

In the Singing (ELW 466)
Blessed Assurance (ELW 638)
Great is Thy Faithfulness (ELW 733)

***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**

Oh What has Now Been Sown (ELW 550)

***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, Diane Peterson, Connie Krites, Roman Schlegel, Jill Newland, Lynnette Swink Chestnut, Carol Horrom, Michelle Wannamacher, Carrie Schmidt 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. 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 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: TODAY, July 19th!**

MINISTERS for Next Week 7-26-26

Audio/Visual..... Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector..... Joyce Brincefield
Ushers Jon Schmidt & Maeson Roode
Worship Assistant Ken Frame
Musician Recordings
Pastor Michelle Kouse
Greeter Dave & Connie Krites
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>
06/21/2026	17	54	\$11,012.00	\$15.00
06/28/2026	21	65	\$410.00	\$10.00
07/05/2026	17	55	\$1,959.00	\$150.00
07/12/2026	23	67	\$7,267.00	\$140.00

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

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 rd	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
Sun, July 26th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Michelle Kouse
Mon, July 27 th	August Newsletter Info Due!	
Thurs, July 30 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
	4:30pm	Community Loaves & Fishes
		FELC is Hosting
Fri, July 31 st	August Newsletter Available	
	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sat, August 1 st	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; dlcy@bright.net; 937-307-8596



*Our mission is to
spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ
and to love one another as
He has loved us.*