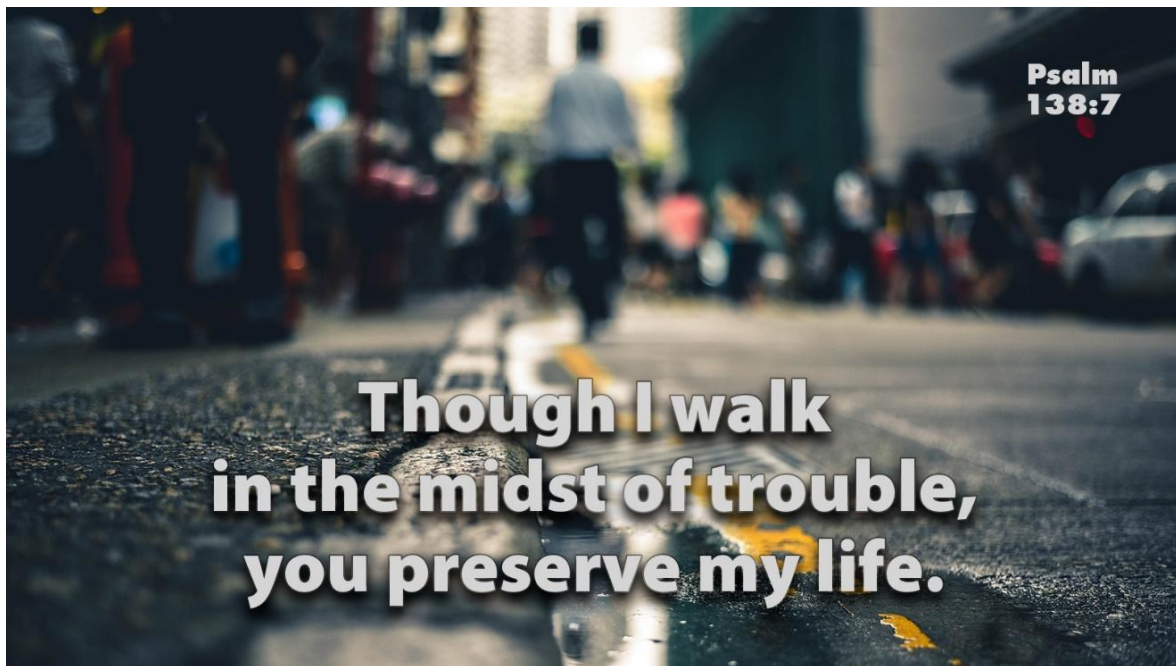


**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio**



13th Sunday after Pentecost

August, 23, 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 Dave & Connie Krites in honor of their 2 sons, daughter-in-law,
10 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.
They have been richly blessed.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God

MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Jennie Grundey
Ushers.....	Jon Schmidt and Maeson Roode
Worship Assistant.....	Deanna Ronan
Musician	Recordings
Pastor	Video Sermon by Pastor David Wendel
Greeter	Frank and Nancy Hefner
Altar Guild	Jon & Carrie Schmidt
Fellowship Cleanup	Jon & Carrie Schmidt

*Please rise if able

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*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

The Church's One Foundation (ELW 654 vs 1,2,5)

*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**

***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**

Glory to God (ELW p. 185)

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray: **Almighty God, your mercy endures forever, revealed through your Son's life, death, and resurrection. With faithful followers of all generations, make us boldly declare Jesus as Lord and proclaim his redeeming and reconciling work to all people; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Jennie Grundey

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 51 1-6

. "Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. 2Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him. 3For the Lord comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. 4Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples. 5My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait. 6Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they

who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed
who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed.”

Word of God, Word of Life **Thanks Be to God.**

PSALM 138

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise.

I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your Name, because of your love and faithfulness;

For you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.

All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord, when they have heard the words of your mouth.

They will sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory| of the Lord.

Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly; he perceives the haughty| from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

The Lord will make good his purpose for me, O Lord your love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

Second Reading: Romans 11:33-12:8 33

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness .Word of God, Word of Life **Thanks Be To God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia (ELW p. 188)

Gospel: Matthew 16: 13-20

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall

not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ. Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE

Pastor David Wendel

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Built on a Rock (ELW 652 vs 1,3,5)

* 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

Loving Lord, help us to take up our cross and follow Christ, turning away from the ways of the world in order to put Jesus first in our lives. Conform our lives to his and continue to form us for service in your kingdom. *Lord in your mercy ... **hear our prayer.***

God of light, grant your grace and mercy to all students, teachers, administrators and aids who are returning to school. Ensure that each classroom would be a place of learning and growth. Bless all those who teach and all those who learn, that your knowledge would enlighten their lives. *Lord in your mercy ... **hear our prayer.***

God of all glory, grant that those who hold offices of authority would govern with equity and honesty, serving the needs of their constituents and acting fairly amongst all peoples. Let their hearts be attuned to your Holy Spirit as you work in their lives to accomplish your will. *Lord in your mercy ... **hear our prayer.***

God of healing and wholeness, grant new life to those who are in pain, that their suffering would end and they would be rejuvenated. Give your peace to those who are distraught or dejected, that they might have the strength to face the day, trusting in your mercy and healing power. We also bring before you those who are in our hearts. I invite you now, either quietly or aloud to speak the names of someone in need of prayer. (Pause for silence and spoken names) *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.

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

***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.**

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.**

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 Savior, Precious Savior (ELW 820)

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

MINISTERS for Next Week 8-30-26

Audio/Visual Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector Joyce Brincefield
Ushers Jim Kantner and Steve Stienecker
Worship Assistant Marsha Jackson

Musician Greg Tabler
 Pastor Michelle Kouse
 Greeter Amelia and Chad Sterner
 Altar Guild Jon & Carrie Schmidt
 Fellowship Cleanup Jon & Carrie Schmidt

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
08/02/2026	17	66	\$2,694.00	\$185.00
08/09/2026	16	62	\$2,609.00	\$15.00
08/16/2026	12	76	\$2,167.00	\$125.00

OUR PRAYER CORNER

Those who would love a visit or a card...

The Gardens	Betty Lietz
Otterbein-Cridersville	Jim Walls
Homebound	Marty Rostorfer, Eloise Katterhenry, Marsha Henderson

We especially remember in our prayers...

Betty Lietz, Jim Walls, Marty Rostorfer, Marsha Henderson, Ted Gibson, Hunter Smith, Seth Thuman, Jim Zwiebel, JJ Truesdale, , Bennett Douglas, Kay, Richard & Don Ault, Jerry Dicus, Diane Peterson, Connie Krites, Roman Schlegel, Jill Newland, Lynnette Swink Chestnut, Carol Horrom, Michelle Wannamacher, , Mike Nuss, Allison Heffner & Baby Lydia.

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 AUGUST: SERVANT’S DAY Offering pans are located in the chapel and at the back of the church. Donations are accepted during the entire month.

Bingo at the Gardens in Wapakoneta **at 1:30pm** on the second Tuesday of the 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 AUGUST 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 pers making mats for the homeless. There is a collection container located at the back door.

Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 23, 2026, 4:30pm-6:30pm, with St. Mark Lutheran Church, Clay Twp to have freewill donation benefit Kenzlee & Barrett Randall. See more details on fliers around church bulletin boards.

September 3, 2026 First English will be hosting Loaves and Fishes meal. We are asking for cookie donations. If you don’t want to run your ovens, you can always donate them from the Grocery. We appreciate your help.

Rally Day- September 13, 2026 We will be having a day of fellowship with a carry in meal following worship. Meat will be provided by our committee. More news to follow!

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Aug. 23rd	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
Thursday Aug 27 th	9-11:30am	God’s Store House
	4:30pm	Community Loaves & Fishes

Fri, Aug 28 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sat, Aug 29 th	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sun, Aug 30 th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship- Michelle Kouse

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

Church Staff & Volunteers

Pastor	Rev. Lorenzo Thomas
Seminarian	Michelle Kouse
Bookkeeper	Anderson Accounting
Music Director	Darla Frame; darlaframe@gmail.com
Audio-Technology	Dave Curry; dlcy@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.*