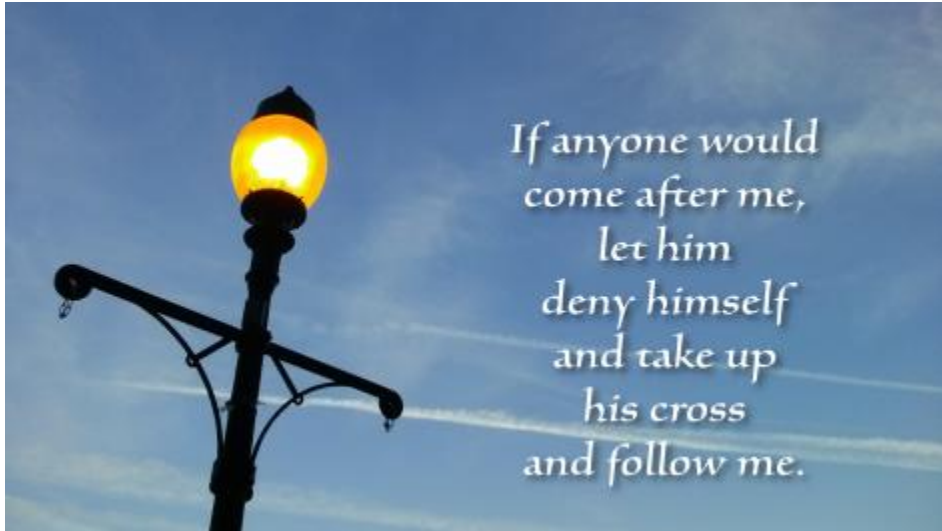


FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



14th Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 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 by Chad and Amelia Sterner in
celebration of Harriet, Cody, Grace & Lilly's birthdays.

MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual.....	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
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 & Chad Sterner
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**

Son of God, Eternal Savior (655)

***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 Lord, mercifully continue to purify and defend your Church. Since she cannot stand firmly without your power, govern her always by your 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

Michelle Kouse

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21

O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me and take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance take me not away; know that for your sake I bear reproach. Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. I did not sit in the company of revelers, nor did I rejoice; I sat alone, because your hand was upon me, for you had filled me with indignation. Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will you be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail? Therefore thus says the Lord: "If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as my mouth. They shall turn to you, but you shall not turn to them. And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, declares the Lord. I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless."

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

PSALM 26:1-12

Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

Test me, O Lord, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.

For your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.

I have hated the company of evildoers. I will not sit down with the wicked.

I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord, that I may go in procession round your altar,

Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

Lord, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.

Do not sweep me away with sinners, nor my life with those who thirst for blood,

Whose hands are full of evil plots, and their right hand full of bribes.

As for me, I will live with integrity; redeem me, O Lord, and have pity on me.

My foot stands on level ground; in the full assembly I will bless the Lord.

SECOND READING: Romans 12-9-21

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia (ELW p. 188)

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

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

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming into his kingdom.:

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

MESSAGE

Michelle Kouse

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *Will You Come and Follow Me* 798 (VS 1,2,5)

***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**

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

Holy God, you protect us from the evil one and give us strength to withstand temptations that come our way. Help us to overcome evil with good and work for the best in the lives of all whom we encounter. Give us your love that we would love our enemies and do good to those who hate us. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, the angels glorify you with songs of endless praise. Inspire the music of our praise as we raise a joyful noise so our songs and hymns may glorify your name. As you have blessed your church with musicians and composers through the ages, inspire your people to sing your praise; until, by your grace in Jesus Christ, we join our voices with the saints and angels in the life to come. Lord in your mercy ... **hear our prayer**

Almighty God, grant courage and wisdom to our national leaders, to all who serve in government, and to the members of our armed forces. Guide them in the way of justice, truth, and peace. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mighty Healer, you encourage us not to worry about tomorrow, but instead to take up our cross and follow you. Grant us grace in the midst of trials and watch over those who are hurting or ill. I invite you now, either quietly or aloud to speak the names of someone in need of prayer. (Pause for silence and spoken names). Clothe your children in the glory of your loving presence today and always. 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

***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)

***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. The bread and wine we share today has already been consecrated by an ordained pastor for this meal. Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God (ELW p. 191)

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

Selections by Greg Tabler

***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** *For The Beauty of the Earth (879 vs 1,2,5)*

***DISMISSAL**

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

MINISTERS for Next Week 9-6-26

Audio/Visual..... Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector..... Richard Yocum
Ushers Ken Frame and Richard Yocum
Worship Assistant..... Darla Frame
Musician..... Recordings
Pastor
Greeter..... Chris Nagel
Altar Guild..... Lisa Kirby & Deanna Ronan
Fellowship Cleanup..... Lisa Kirby & Deanna Ronan

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
07/26/2026	9	55	\$808.00	\$10.00
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
08/23/2026	21	63	\$1,419.00	\$35.00

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....

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE.

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 **THEY ARE IN NEED** **of** food items each month for the based on a monthly request. **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 persons are making mats for the homeless. There is a collection container located at the back door.

Men's Night is scheduled for 6:00pm on Thursday, September 10th at Mason Jar.

Ladies' Night is scheduled for 6:00pm on Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at Woody's K-Ville. All women are encouraged to come and bring a friend!!

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

Sun., Aug 30 th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Michelle Kouse
Thurs., Sept. 3 rd	4:30pm	Community Loaves & Fishes
Sun., Sept. 6 th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
Thurs. Sept. 10 th	6:00pm	Men's Night at Mason Jar
Sun., Sept. 13 th	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship & Rally Day

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

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.*