

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio



12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 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 soon to be 3 great-grandchildren.
They have been richly blessed.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God
in honor of Kay Ault's Birthday and wishing all a great school year
All glory to God !

MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual.....	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
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Lector.....	Carly Craft
Ushers	Ken Frame & Chad Sterner
Worship Assistant	Jon Schmidt
Musician.....	Susan Miller
Pastor	Michelle Kouse
Greeter.....	Amelia & Chad Sterner
Altar Guild	Jon & Carrie Schmidt
Fellowship Cleanup.....	Jon & Carrie Schmidt

*Please rise if abl

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING OF THE BACK PACKS

PRELUDE

St. Denio by Michael Burkhardt

*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

Jesus Shall Reign (LBW 434 verses 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 yo**

***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: **Almighty, eternal God, increase in us your gifts of faith, hope and love; and in order that love may abide in us, help us to celebrate what your love has done for us. Grant this, 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:

." First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 1Thus says the Lord: "Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come, and my righteousness be revealed." And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant — these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." The Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, "I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered."

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

PSALM 67

May God be merciful to us and bless us, show us the light of his countenance and come to us.

Let your ways be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God, let all the peoples praise you

The earth has brought forth her increase; may God, our own God, give us His blessing

May God give us His blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of Him.

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SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew...

Now I am speaking to you Gentiles, In as much then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead?

As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, so they too have now been disobedient in order that by mercy shown to you they may also now receive mercy. For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia (ELW p. 188)

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

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

Jesus went away from {Gennesaret} and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your

faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly

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

MESSAGE

Michelle Kouse

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Healer of Our Every Ill (ELW 612)

***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 are the source of our strength in this life. Grant us strength in the face of trials and help us to fully rely on you as we struggle through the storms of life. Give us courage to let go of that which we cannot control and trust that you have our best interests in mind always, because of your great love for us. *Lord in your mercy ... **hear our prayer.***

Father, we ask that you would watch over those who serve in the armed forces or who serve as peace officers in our community. Protect them and bring them home safely to their families. *Lord in your mercy ... **hear our prayer.***

We pray for the Bride of Christ, dear Lord, the holy catholic and apostolic Church. Empower us to follow Jesus with our whole lives and to make disciples of all nations that your name may be praised and honored in all the earth. Be with church leaders and help them lead with integrity and faith, trusting in the Holy Spirit to guide them. *Lord in your mercy ... **hear our prayer.***

God of healing, be with all those who are sick or injured and are in the hospital or recuperating at home. Bring strength to their weary bodies and hope to their hearts and minds. We pray for those who are aging and are bound to their homes. Give them good friends to visit with and loved ones to care for them. We remember all those who are suffering this day, especially... *Lord in your mercy ... **hear our prayer.***

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

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need by Carl Schalk

***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

One Bread, One Body (LBW 496)

Let Us Go Now to the Banquet (LBW 523)

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service (LBW 712)

***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**

In Christ There Is No East or West (ELW 650)

***DISMISSAL**

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

MINISTERS for Next Week 8-23-26

Audio/Visual	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
Lector	Jennie Grundey
Ushers	Jon Schmidt and Maeson Roode
Worship Assistant	Deanna Ronan
Musician	Recordings
Pastor	Pastor Lorenzo Thomas
Greeter	Frank and Nancy Hefner
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>
07/12/2026	23	67	\$7,267.00	\$140.00
07/19/2026	11	60	\$1,179.00	\$25.00
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

2026

OUR PRAYER CORNER

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

The Gardens
Otterbein-Cridersville
Homebound

Betty Lietz
Jim Walls
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 persons are making mats for the homeless. There is a collection container located at the back door.

Ladies' Dinner is scheduled for 6:00pm on Tuesday, August 18th at La Neta in Wapakoneta. All women are encouraged to come and bring a friend!!

Christian Education Meeting August 23, 2026 following Worship

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.

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sun, Aug 16th	9:00am 10:00am	Adult Sunday School Worship – Michelle Kouse Backpack Blessing
Tues, Aug 18 th	6:00pm	Ladies' Dinner at La Neta
Wed, Aug 19 th	10:00am	Quilting
Thurs, Aug 20 th	9-11:30am 4:30pm	God's Store House Community Loaves & Fishes
Fri, Aug 21 st	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sat, Aug 22 nd	9-11:30am	God's Store House
Sun, Aug 23 rd	9:00am 10:00am	Adult Sunday School Worship- Pastor Lorenzo Thomas Christian Ed meeting following Worship

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.*