

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wapakoneta, Ohio

**Be still,
and know
that I am God.**

Psalm 46:10



REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 25, 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 and Altar Candles** are given to the Glory of God
by Mark and Chris Nagel in celebration of their granddaughters,
Nora's 8th and Falyn's 7th Birthdays.

MINISTERS for TODAY

Audio/Visual.....	Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
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Lector.....	Chris Nagel
Ushers	Ken Frame and Chad Sterner
Worship Assistant	Ken Frame
Musician	Darla Frame
Pastor	Michelle Kouse
Greeter	Chris Nagel
Altar Guild	Marsha Jackson and Char Curry
Fellowship Cleanup.....	Marsha Jackson and Char Curry
Acolyte.....	Lillian Schlegel

*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**

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD
(ELW504)

***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 God, heavenly Father, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your grace and truth, protect and comfort them in all temptation, defend them against all enemies of your Word, and bestow upon the Church your saving peace; 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

Rebecca Van Meter

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Revelation 14:6-7

I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.

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

PSALM 46

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;

Though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of her; she shall not be overthrown; God shall help her at the break of day.

The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Come now and look upon the works of the Lord, what awesome things he has done on earth.

It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

"Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

Word Of God, Word Of Life. **Thanks Be To God**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia (ELW p. 18)

GOSPEL: John 8: 31-36

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord**
Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free? Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does

not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE

Michelle Kouse

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word
(ELW517)*

***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.

Lord Jesus, strengthen, sustain and guide your bride, the Church, to proclaim your love and demonstrate the power of your Holy Spirit. Make her bold and courageous in the face of ridicule and persecution in the world. We give you thanks for the life of Martin Luther, Reformer, teacher, saint and sinner, and all he contributed to the faith of generations that followed him. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Father, grant that the Holy Spirit would give us a clarity of vision and a firm sense of your mission. And through our faithful participation in God's mission, the kingdom of heaven may be extended through us and through the gifts we bring. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

God of compassion and concern, in your great love you have given us to one another, to live together in families, communities, and congregations. By your great grace and power, move us to have concern for one another, and in bearing each other's burdens we would fulfill the law of Christ. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Jesus pointed his disciples to the Truth of his life and identity so that they would be free. We pray for all those who do not know Christ that they would hear and respond to the Truth. I invite you now, either quietly or aloud to speak the names of someone in need of prayer. 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

<i>HERE IS BREAD</i>	<i>(ELW483)</i>
<i>YOU ARE MINE</i>	<i>(ELW581)</i>
<i>WE ARE CALLED</i>	<i>(ELW 720)</i>

***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 eternal God, we thank you for nourishing 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**

BUILT ON A ROCK (ELW720 v1,3,5,)

***DISMISSAL**

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

MINISTERS for Next Week 11-1-26

Audio/Visual..... Noah Kirby & Jeff Ritchie
 Lector.....Richard Yocum
 Ushers Richard Yocum and Doug Thrush
 Worship Assistant..... Susan Miller
 Musician Recorded- Georgeann
 Pastor.....Pastor Lorenzo
 Greeter Frank and Nancy Hefner
 Altar Guild.....Denise Kantner and Joy Kantner
 Fellowship Cleanup Denise Kantner and Chris Nagel
 Acolyte Mckenna Roode

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
10-11-26	29	74	\$6153.90	\$ 20.00
10-18-26	18	79	\$1101.00	\$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, Michelle Wannamacher, Mike Nuss, Carolyn Eakin, Carlene Koch, 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 OCTOBER- OPERATION

SHOEBOX 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.
October Items-Paper towels, ravioli, noodles, and cereal bars. 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

Operation Shoebox - Boxes for this mission are on the table in the
Chapel. Deadline to have returned will be Nov. 22nd.

**REQUEST- Please do not leave coats or personal items in the
back foyer during worship.**

FELC Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sun, Oct. 25	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship – Michelle Kouse
Thurs Oct. 29	4:30pm	Community Loaves & Fishes
	9-11:30 am	God's Storehouse
Fri, Oct. 30	9-11:30 am	God's Storehouse
Sat, Oct. 31	9-11:30 am	God's Storehouse
Sun. Nov. 1	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship- Pastor Lorenzo

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 – 11:30 am

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 Pastor Lorenzo Thomas; pastor.lorenzo@myfelc.org

Bookkeeper Anderson Accounting

Music Director Darla Frame; darlaframe@gmail.com

Audio-Tech Dave Curry; dlcy@bright.net; 937-307-8596



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Wapakoneta, Ohio

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