



St. Martin's Lutheran Church
203 S. Defiance Street + Archbold, OH 43502
Rev. Paul Reichert

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Thankoffering Sunday
November 15, 2020

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Our readings during November speak of the end times. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ’s coming among us.

Regular text is spoken by the Worship Leader or Pastor

Bold text is spoken by the Congregation

**Indicates to stand as you are able*

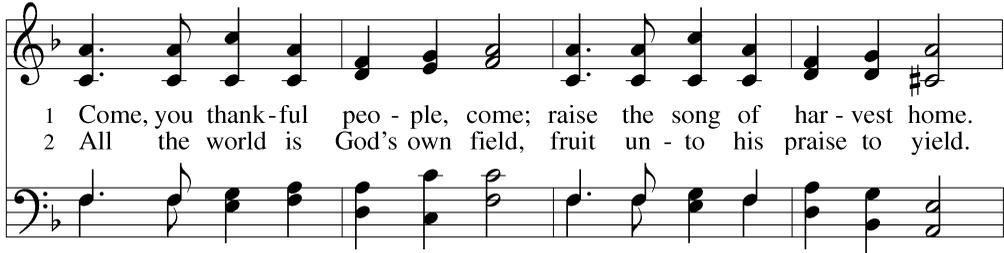
THE CHURCH GATHERS

GATHERING MUSIC

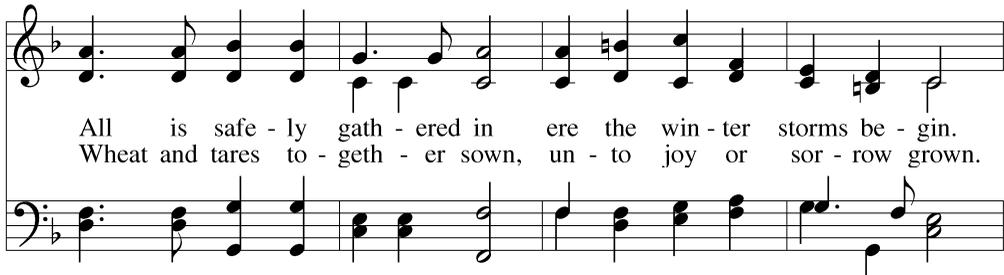
BELL & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*OPENING SONG

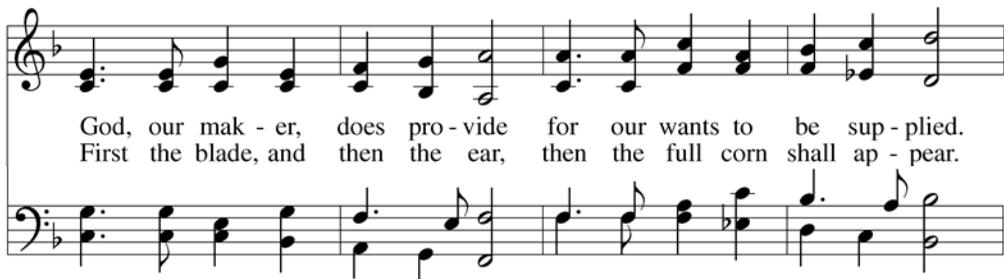
“Come, You Thankful People, Come”



1 Come, you thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
2 All the world is God’s own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield.



All is safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
Wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.



God, our mak - er, does pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.

Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity; Father, Son † and Holy Spirit; who forgives all our sins,
 whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Seeking reconciliation with God and neighbor, let us remember the gift of baptism
 and confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy, we confess that we are not awake for you.

We are not faithful in using your gifts.

We are worried and distracted by many things,

and we fail to love you above all else.

Open our hearts to your coming,

Open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,

Open our hands to serve your creation.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us. Amen.

Jesus Christ our Savior gave himself for us, redeeming us from all sin and cleansing
 us to be people who are eager to do what is good. Through the water of rebirth
 and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, God saves us, renews us in grace, and gives
 us eternal life. Rejoice in this good news!

Amen.

***GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its people, and you
 give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and
 prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior
 and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
 forever.

Amen

THE CHURCH LISTENS

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 90:1-12

¹ Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

² Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

³ You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

⁴ For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.

⁵ You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;

⁶ in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

⁷ For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed.

⁸ You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

⁹ For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years come to an end like a sigh.

¹⁰ The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;
even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

¹¹ Who considers the power of your anger?

Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.

¹² So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:14-30

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 25th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE

“Using the Gifts”

THE CHURCH RESPONDS

*HYMN OF THE DAY

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

Refrain



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!



***PROFESSION OF FAITH** – *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,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended into 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 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**

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(We share a “distanced” peace with the words “Peace be with you”)

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Gratitude”

***THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

In the name of our Lord – Father, Son and Holy Spirit -- who calls us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

Amen

To you we lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving for the many blessings you have given us.

To you we renew our Christian promise to help those in need - to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, comfort the weary and outcast, welcome the stranger, and be a loving neighbor to all people of the earth.

We humbly dedicate our gifts of love to you. We ask that you bless the fruits of our labor and the whole work of Lutheran World Relief and Fulton County Christmas Cheer. We dedicate these gifts to your service, trusting that your love will go wherever each item is sent, making them an expression of Your love. May the comforters, school kits, baby care kits, personal care kits, baptismal quilts, backpacks and coats be a means to spread the love of Jesus Christ to a hurting world and may they be used in your service and become blessings for all those who receive them.

These gifts represent the work of this congregation's outreach to our members, community and the world.

To you be all glory and honor, now and forever.

Amen.

***PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Guided by the light of Christ made known to the generations, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

God who made all things good, you create us to be caretakers and stewards of your creation. You equip us to provide for the people, places and ministries that you have entrusted to our care. Draw us together in the light of faith and hope, so that we may recognize our calling to this work. We pray in abundance,

Creating God, draw us in.

God who blesses our labor, you light our paths with the histories of women and men who acted boldly on their faith to change the world. Bring their influence to our attention and their stories to our lips and ears. May we see in them our own potential to live boldly. We pray in abundance,

Redeeming God, draw us in.

God who provides, you endow us with all we need to nurture, harvest and share the fruits of creation. In this abundance, direct our eyes and feet to our neighbors who are on the margins, both near and far. Give us curiosity and courage to live into the fullness of our communities. We pray in abundance,

Creating God, draw us in.

God who was and is and will be, through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Women of the ELCA, you have called us more deeply into relationship with you and the world. Bless every church, everywhere, that through our work, all may know your grace and accept your call to love one another. We pray in abundance,

Redeeming God, draw us in.

Lord God, friend of those in need, we lift our prayers for those burdened, those seeking healing. In this moment we lift to you those on our thoughts and minds this day... Quiet their troubled hearts and minds, and fashion us to be helpful agents of your grace and love. We pray in abundance,

Creating and Redeeming God, draw us in.

God who reaches every people, strengthen us in the power of your Holy Spirit, turn our hearts to see those with us now, gathered at this Thankoffering service to give thanks and praise to you. Urge us on to the fullness of life, in the name of Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

THE CHURCH IS SENT TO SERVE

*** BENEDICTION**

Made in God's image, baptized and set free as children of God; may we go from this place to proclaim the saving power of Jesus Christ. The almighty God; Father, Son + and Holy Spirit bless us now and forever.

Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“We Praise You, O God”

1 We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and mo - thers;

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.

We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,

we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.
and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.

*** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, serve the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

*Please be seated and you will be dismissed from your pew,
starting with the back pews and moving toward the front.
Please proceed directly outside and do not linger in the Narthex.*

POSTLUDE

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We Welcome All to St. Martin’s Lutheran Church this Sunday as you join us in person and online to worship our Savior, Jesus Christ.

St. Martin’s Worship Servants . . .

- Ministers of Worship -Everyone Present both near and far
- Pianist -Beth Reichert
- Usher Team -Butch Blankenship
- Sound System -Darren Sonnenberg
- Offering Counters -Jo Ann Liechty, Philip Riley



Sharing the Warmth

Free Coats! For men, women, & children



Saturday, November 21st from 9am – 12 pm

St. Martin’s Fellowship Hall – must wear masks

To qualify: must live in Archbold or children attend Archbold Schools

St. Martin's Lutheran Church

203 S. Defiance Street Archbold OH 43502
Phone Number: 419-445-4656 Fax: 419-445-2952
Web Site: www.the-welcome-place.org

Office Hours:

Pastor Paul Reichert	Deacon Steve Basselman	Brenda Shibler
Mon & Tues, by appt.	Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri. morning	Tues. – Fri. 8:00-12:30
Wed & Thurs, 9-3	Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri. afternoon	

e-mail: stmartin@the-welcome-place.org pastorpaul@the-welcome-place.org
steveb@the-welcome-place.org

Worship Services: 9:00 am each Sunday
7:00 pm each Wednesday, Informal Service
-9:00 Sunday & 7:00 Wednesday live broadcast on Facebook and YouTube

Building The Welcome Place

Who Are We? We are The Welcome Place

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.
- Romans 15:7

What Is Our Mission As A Church And As Members? WWW

We are...**Welcoming** friends and strangers with God's love.

Working to build deeper relationships with Jesus.

Witnessing to share God's love with everyone

What Is Our Vision Of Who God Wants Us To Be? ORG

People who are serving...**One Real God**,

living **One real faith**,

making **One real difference**.

How Do We Remind Ourselves?

www.the-welcome-place.org

Welcome to worship today and join us in building The Welcome Place Jesus calls us to be.

This Week at St. Martin's

Today – November 15 – Thankoffering Sunday

Worship, 9:00 am, live broadcast
Adult Sunday School, via Zoom, 10:30 am
Virtual Sunday School
Catechism, 2:00, via Zoom

Monday – November 16

Monday Night Bible Study, 7:30 pm, Zoom Meeting, check your email

Tuesday – November 17

Men's Breakfast Bible Study, 6:45, St. Martin's Fellowship Hall

Wednesday – November 18

Welcome Meal, 5:15 pm, drive through pick-up
Worship, 7:00 pm, live broadcast
Catechism, 7:35, via zoom

Thursday – November 19

Women's Breakfast Bible Study, 7:00, Home Restaurant
Bulletin Deadline, 9:00 am
Newsletter Deadline, 9:00 am

Saturday – November 21

Sharing the Warmth, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, see note
Fish Pantry Food Drive, 9-Noon, see note

Next Sunday – November 22 – Christ the King Sunday

Worship, 9:00 am, live broadcast, Holy Communion
Food for the Poor Sunday
Adult Sunday School, via Zoom, 10:30 am
Virtual Sunday School

Thankoffering Ingathering, Today, November 15 . . . you may share your monetary offering today, drop them off in the Office this week or mark your offering envelope, Women's Thankoffering. Deadline is December 13th.

Fish Food Drive, Saturday, November 21, 9 am – Noon . . . bring your canned good donations to the parking lot of Fish to be distributed to those in need in our community for the holidays.

“Operation Christmas Child” is a Christmas Shoebox ministry through Franklin Graham. A shoebox filled with toys, clothes personal gifts or many other things are handed out to boys and girls around the world. North Clinton Church will be a Relay Center for collecting, packing and shipping the boxes. They will be open November 18 - 24 from 10:00-4:00 to accept your gifts. North Clinton’s address is 831 W. Linfoot St. Wauseon. For more information contact Lowell & Linda Richer at 419-335-7164.

Christmas Poinsettia Sale . . . cost is \$10.00 each. Order blanks are available in the Church Office or Newsletter. Deadline to order is December 6th.

Two Sunday School Class You Are Invited to Join . . .

Cecily’s Adult Sunday School Class meet on Zoom. The class has returned to the summary study of the books of the Bible. Even if you haven’t been involved before, if you would like to receive a link to the study class, just let Cecily know and she’ll send it to you: cecily@rteceexpress.net

Worship Rewind will be led by Deb Schmidt and Janet Wyse. They meet on Zoom. Please contact Deb Schmidt if you would like to receive a link and participate in their discussion on Sunday mornings after worship. Email djschmidt@hotmail.com and put “Sunday School” in your subject line. Their topic of discussion is that Sunday’s Worship theme, message, hymns and how they apply to our daily lives.

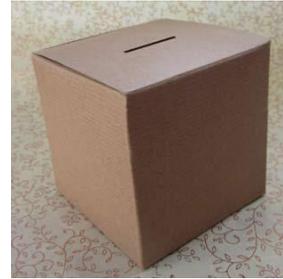
Last Week at St. Martin’s. . .

Receipts Week of November 8, 2020 Budget and Year to Date

Operating Contributions	\$3,418.00	Budgeted Weekly Operating Need	\$5,402.00
Benevolence Received	\$5.00	Budgeted Weekly Benevolence Need	\$538.71
Other Designated Income	\$278.00	As of 10/31/2020	
Total Income	\$3,701.00	YTD Operating Received	\$226,373.27
		YTD Operating Expenses	(\$222,053.71)
Attendance – 37		Net Income/(Deficit)	\$4,319.56

Thankofferings: Our History

Beginning in the late 19th century, Lutheran women were given small Thankoffering boxes to place in a special location in their homes as a visible reminder of blessings received. Women would add coins to those boxes almost daily as particular blessings were noted. From their use came the idea of an annual church service to celebrate their collection, and so the women of the congregation would come together for a Thankoffering service.



The concept of Thankoffering celebrations dates back more than 100 years and beyond Lutherans. The Episcopal Church Women held their first recorded Thankoffering service in 1889, and the World Thank Offering service of the United Methodist Women has been a tradition for over 100 years. In the Lutheran tradition, the General Synod's Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society created their first Thankoffering service in 1889 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the organization. At that first Thankoffering, \$6,100 was collected. Today, Women of the ELCA collect more than \$1 million in Thankofferings annually for the ministries and mission of our women's organization.

Thankofferings: Continuing the Tradition

Thankofferings show gratitude for God's blessings and give us an important and tangible way to express that gratitude. It is a tradition grounded in our celebration of community, of meeting together to joyfully give thanks for what God has given us. Thankofferings have always been, and still are, our opportunity to say thank you to God in both significant and ordinary moments.

And stewardship is not just about providing assistance to others. It is also about provoking others to recognize their power to implement change through their offerings. It was this hope of change that motivated the women's cent societies 200 years ago, and it is the same today. Inspired by our spiritual foremothers, we continue to see our witness to the gospel, our capacity to serve and our community of women growing through our offerings.

Thankofferings: For 2021

There are tags for you to use in 2021. Tie them on a Cool Whip container, butter tub, coffee mug, etc. When God blesses you in the coming year, drop in some noisy or folding money. Then in November bring the container for Thankoffering Sunday and give thanks back to God for all his blessings.



St. Martin's Prayer Line

For our prayers in worship this morning and our daily devotions in the coming week, we remember:

- All Believers as we look for the coming Messiah, may we be ready to see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory
- All in Need both body & soul that we might know the joy we have in the presence of our Lord, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and King
- Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, Synod Staff members and all the office staff, that they may be supported in their ministry to the Church
- The Bethel Parish of Dodoma, St. Martin's Companion Congregation, may they continue to carry out God's ministry and mission in Tanzania
- Mission Partner Congregation of Redeemer Lutheran, Toledo may they continue to carry out God's ministry and mission in the Toledo Area
- All First Responders, Hospital Staff, Caregivers who have been in harm's way since the outbreak of the coronavirus, may we know the ever-present grace of God
- All who have lost family members and friends to the corona virus, may we know the comforting presence of our Lord Jesus Christ

For those who need healing, may they know the healing hand of God

Members of St. Martin's

Jerry Geiger
Sharon Heckel
Dick Nagel
Mike Short
Al Siewert
Joe Wyse

Family & Friends of St. Martin's

Margaret Benecke, Dan & Jeff Benecke's aunt
Paul Bockelman, Deb Schmidt's father
Phillip Calvin, Tanya Howell's brother
Jeff Cook, Ann Ott's son
Steven DeNault, June Hayes' friend
Patricia Grover, friend of Melanie Nagel, ACT friends, cancer
Sue Hurst, Archbold area friend
Greg Jenkins, Pastor Paul's brother-in-law
Shelly Kammeyer, daughter in law of Sharon, Leukemia
Mary McLennen, friend of Pastor Paul's sister with Covid-19
Lois Minger, June Hayes' cousin
Joan Mortenson, Pastor Paul's sister-in-law
Ana Perry, Andi Erbskorn's niece
Doug & April Saville, friends of Gene & Jan Delaney
Janice Siegel, Dustin Bailey's mother, cancer
Jim Shiley, Beth Reichert's father
Jennifer Smith, Bill Poston's daughter
Lu Wolf, Judy (Paul) Wyse's mother

Our Shut-ins Rex Detwiler, Henry & Dorothy Huner, Irene Liechty, Ada Thrasher, Louise Wyse

For those who need God's protection and the assurance that he is near

All St. Martin's Members as they prepare for Ministry

Our College students both close to home and far away

All members, family & friends who serve in our military, Steve & Sara (Delaney) Adams, Patrick Cirenza (June Hayes), Bradley Nilsson (Pat Richards), Christopher Goertz, Brendon Johns, Kasyn Schaffner, Christopher Shirley, Spencer Short

①① Prayer requests for the people of St. Martin's ①①
(Note, we include a person's name with permission.)