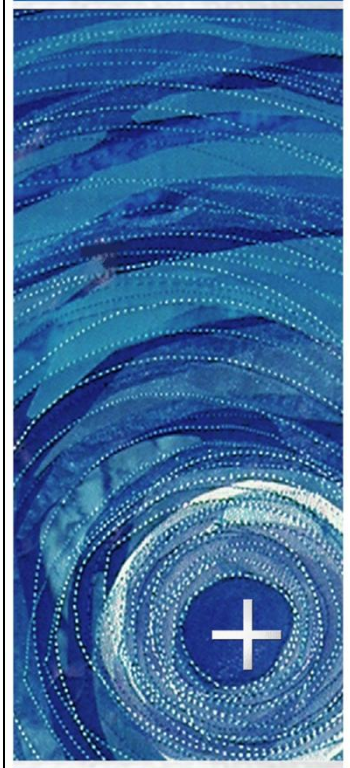
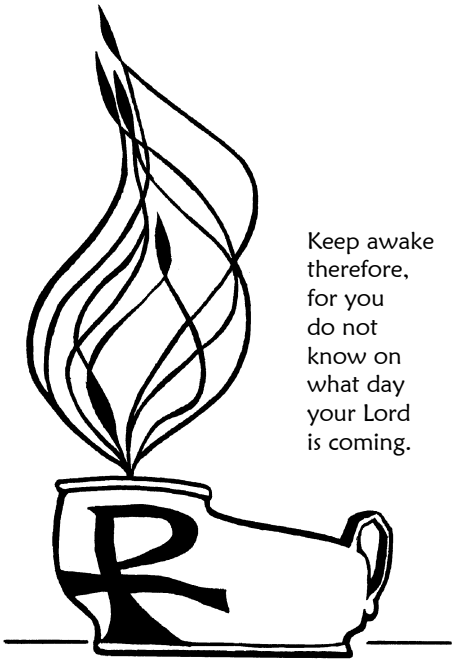




Keep awake
therefore,
for you
do not
know on
what day
your Lord
is coming.

THE FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT

NOVEMBER 30, 2025

St. Martin's Lutheran Church
203 South Defiance Street + Archbold, Ohio
www.the-welcome-place.org

First Sunday of Advent *November 30, 2025*

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

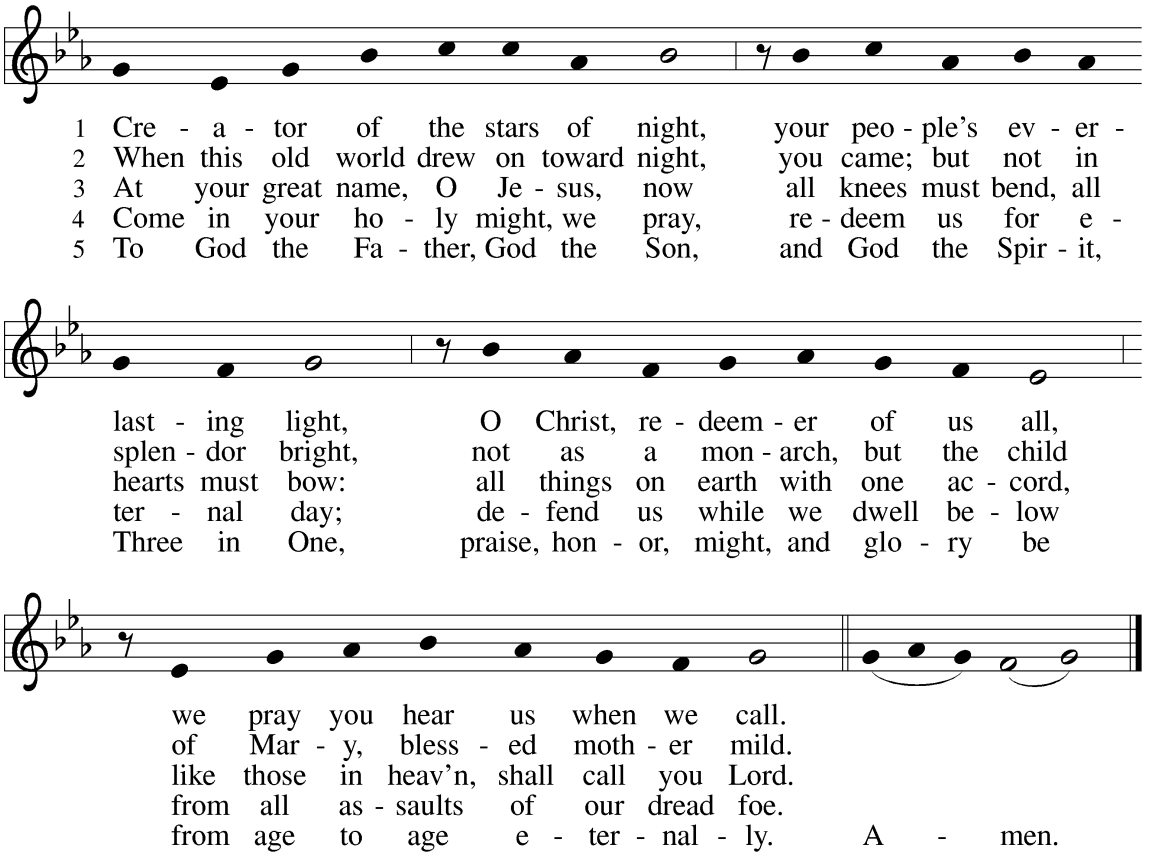
Regular text is spoken by the Worship Leader
Bold text is spoken by the Congregation

The Church Gathers

PRELUDE **"Creator of the Stars of Night"**
Rebecca Groom Te Velde

BELL & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN** ***"Creator of the Stars of Night"



*Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, and come.
Make all things new.

For past wrongs that prevent us from moving forward:
Stir up our hearts, Lord, and make all things new.

For any lingering bitterness that scratches our soul:
Stir up our hearts, Lord, and make all things new.

For any action that has wounded us or by which we have wounded others:
Give us the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.

In this season of hope and expectation, let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for personal reflection

God of advent,
restore our hearts with your loving presence. In this season of decreasing daylight, we confess the shadows of sin in our lives. We cling to the worldly things around us and we put ourselves above all. We often fail to serve you when we do not serve others. Free us from the power of sin and lead us to live as your holy people, in the light of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Hear the Good News: God's Son, the light of the world, was sent to free us from sin, to show God's infinite love and forgiveness for all. Jesus Christ has come into the world, has led the way through death that we may have life, and is coming again to make all things new.

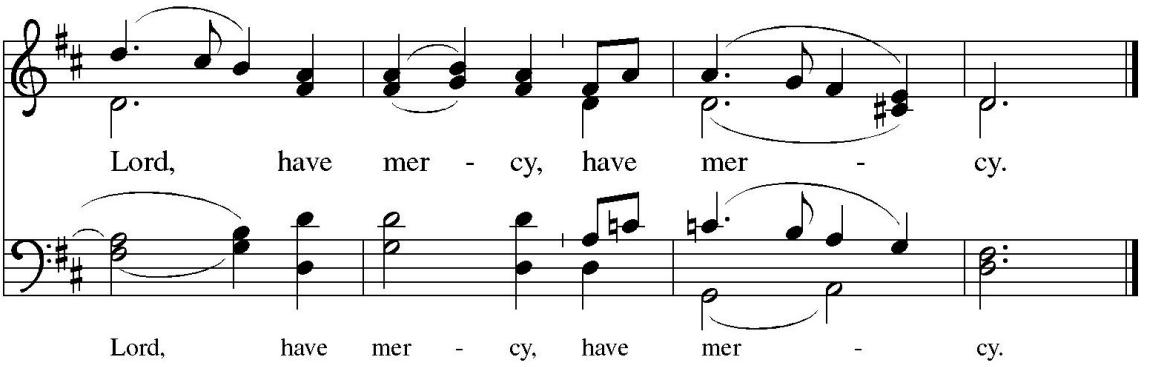
Amen. Thanks be to God.

*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.

*KYRIE

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord,
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ,
Lord,
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord,
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice. Awaken us now to your coming, and bend our angers into your peace, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

The Church Listens

FIRST READING **Isaiah 2:1-5**

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2 In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. **3**Many peoples shall come and say,

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. **4** He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.

5 O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 122 – *read responsively*

I was glad to hear them say,

"Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

Jerusalem, we are standing inside your gates.

Jerusalem, what a strong and beautiful city you are! →

Every tribe of the LORD goes there to praise God's name.
David's royal throne is there, where justice rules.
Jerusalem, we pray that you will have peace.
We pray that good things will happen to those who love you.
May there be peace inside your city walls and in your palaces.
Because of my friends and my relatives, I will pray for peace.
And because of the house of the Lord our God, I will work for your good.
I was glad to hear them say, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

SECOND READING — Revelation 22:1-4, 12-13, 20-21

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb [2] through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. [3] Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; [4] they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. [5] And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

[12] "See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. [13] I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."

[16] "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

[20] The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

[21] The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Chamber Singers — ***"E'en So Lord Jesus, Quickly Come"***

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him
Who freed us from our sins
Who loved us all and shed his blood
That we might saved be

Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord
The Lord, Almighty God
Who was, and is, and is to come
Sing Holy, Holy Lord

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell within
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below
For Christ is coming, is coming soon
For Christ is coming soon

E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come
And night shall be no more
They need no light nor lamp nor sun
For Christ will be their All!

(Revelation 22)

* HOLY GOSPEL — Matthew 24:36-44

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 24th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

36But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son,
but only the Father. 37For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of
Man. 38For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and
giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, 39and they knew nothing until the
flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. 40Then
two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41Two women will be grinding
meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. 42Keep awake therefore, for you do
not know on what day your Lord is coming. 43But understand this: if the owner of the house
had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and
would not have let his house be broken into. 44Therefore you also must be ready, for the
Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Caleb Wyse

MESSAGE — *"Are You Ready for Advent?"*

The Church Responds

*** HYMN OF THE DAY** ***"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"***

* 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 greet one another with the words "Peace be with you")

OFFERING OF GIFTS

"Reprise: Reflections on *E'en So, Lord Jesus*"
Paul Manz

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Lord of Advent,
accept the offerings we bring this day, the work of our hands, the gifts of our labor, our lives to serve you. Gladden our hearts as we watch for your coming and help us to share that gladness with all. Amen

We Share in the Meal

*THE 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.

*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, King of glory. You sent your only Son, Jesus Christ, into the darkness of our world to be a light among us.

In weakness, he took on our flesh in the form of a child to live and grow as one of us. In weakness and strength, he showed forth your love and followed your call, even to death upon a cross for the sake of our sins. Then you raised him from the dead to reign with you in glory, and promised his return to us in power to bring us into your everlasting kingdom.

For all this, we thank you, O God. We live in that hope and await his coming again, raising our voices in prayer.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Be with us at our table, O God, in our eating and in our drinking, that the Spirit of hope is kindled in our hearts and in our lives, uniting us in him who came and will come again, Jesus Christ our Lord.

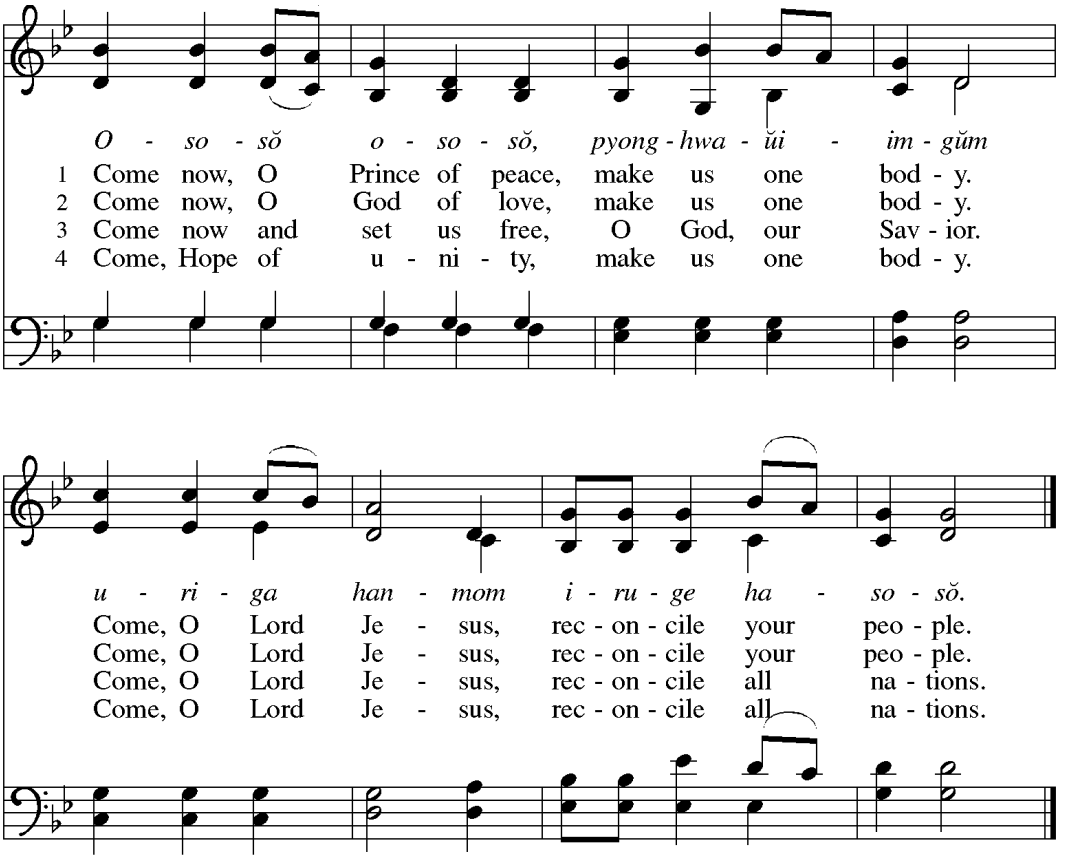
Amen

* 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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

"Come Now, O Prince of Peace"



"My Lord, What a Morning" **WOV 627** *(Blue Hymnal)*

The Church Is Sent to Serve

***BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

***POST COMMUNION VERSE** *("Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" verse 3)*

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice:
Now we need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

***PRAYER**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for nourishing us with your body and blood, and reminding us of your grace. As we await the coming of our Savior, prepare our hearts to receive him in faith and joy. Strengthen us in hope, that we may live as your faithful people. Grant us peace and joy in this Advent season, that we may reflect Your light in a world in need of your love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

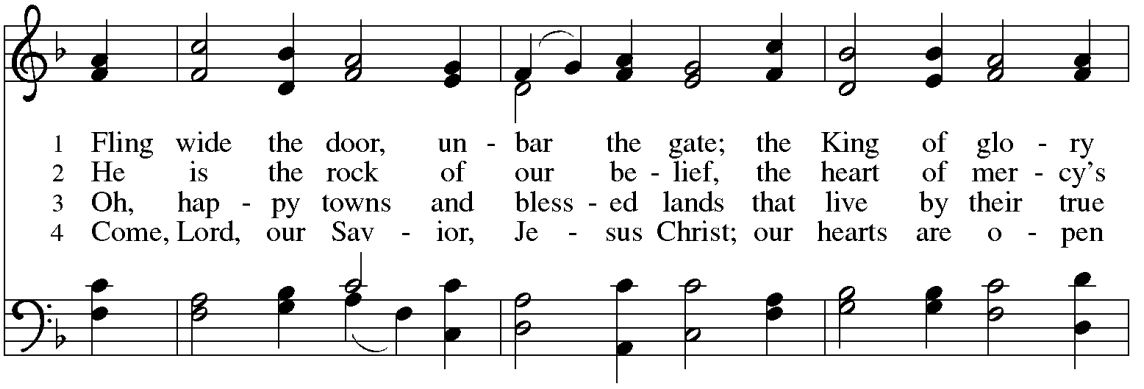
Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

In all of our Advent preparations,
may we remain watchful with our eyes on Christ,
whose birth in a manger is but a promise of his coming again in glory.
And may the blessing of Almighty God, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit
be with us now and forever.

Amen.

*** CLOSING HYMN** ***"Fling Wide the Door"***



comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his
king's com-mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the
wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -
Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows
hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly
to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and
Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -
Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We
praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.
a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.
praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

*DISMISSAL

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

+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+

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Worship Matters

What is Advent? Advent means "coming" or "arrival". It is the first season of the new Church Year, a season of preparation that looks toward the celebration of Christmas. The color for Advent is blue, a tradition that began in Swedish churches centuries ago. Blue suggests hope, a primary theme of Advent. Knowing that Jesus already came once in a manger, on the Sundays of Advent we focus on the second coming of Jesus, John the Baptist as he heralds the coming of Christ, and the virgin Mary as the obedient servant chosen to bear the Son of God.

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come — by Paul Manz
Written in 1953 by Paul and Ruth Manz during a time when their young son was gravely ill, *E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come* was born out of faith. As they prayed at their child's bedside, Ruth penned words drawn from the final chapter of Revelation — "And night shall be no more... for Christ will be their all" — and Paul set them to music. Their son recovered, and the piece has since become one of the most beloved choral works of all time, sung by choirs around the world. Its quiet longing for light amid darkness echoes the Advent hope: that Christ will come again to bring healing, peace, and joy to all creation.

St. Martin's Worship Servants . . .

Acolyte	-Elli Benecke
Lector	-Eliza Avers
Organist/Pianist	-Matthew Wachtman
Percussion	-Mike Short
Usher Team Leader	-Jim & Janet Wyse
Sound System	-Darren Sonnenberg
Altar Guild	-Joan Meyer & Jessica Short
Offering Counters	-Cameron Thompson & Jo Ann Liechty

The St. Martin's Webstore is open! If you would like to order some apparel you can go to https://stmartinsarchbold.itemorder.com, click the link in your Friday email, or scan the QR code provided.

We are looking for people who would like to **provide the Wednesday Night meals**. Erinn Thompson is organizing this, so you can contact her if you would like to help. You can also scan the QR code provided or click the link in your Friday email to sign up!

The Nominating Team is requesting members of Congregation to prayerfully consider serving in any of the upcoming vacancies on Church Council listed below. Any member may submit a name for consideration, but please keep in mind that candidates must be voting members, attend worship and participate in Holy Communion regularly, and be an active participant in at least one ministry team. The following vacancies are available for the 2026-2028 term:

Council President
Council Secretary
Member-at-Large

Please contact Cameron Thompson or a member of the Nominating Team (Janet Wyse or Jan Delaney) no later than December 1st, 2025, with your considerations. Thank you!

End of Year Giving: If you would like your end of year giving to go toward 2025, please have it in to Jo Ann Liechty by December 20th.

There will be a Parent's Night Out Event on December 13th! Drop your kids at the Outback from 6-8:30pm and get any last-minute Christmas Shopping or wrapping done! It will be a night of games, friends, & faith-filled activities for the kids. Sign up through Jake or the QR code listed in the Friday email or on our website!

NEW MINISTRY CONVERSATION! Jake and Pastor Steve have been having conversations with the Archbold Elementary Principal since the end of last school year. If anyone is interested in being part of developing and implementing an after-school program to provide possible tutoring assistance for students, please reach out to Jake or Steve.

The Church Directory has been up and running for a year and a half now! We are noticing it as a helpful tool for our congregation as it gets a lot of traffic week to week. We'd like to remind you that you can go online and make any changes for you and your family or contact the church office to do it for you. Any changes of address, please send to the church office so the directory and database can be updated. At the beginning of every year, the church office will update anything that we notice needs refreshed. Thank you all for your help and participation making the directory a helpful tool for our congregation.

CHRISTMAS SIP & SING: Come join us at Knotty Vines Winery, **on Monday December 8th** from 5:30-7:30pm for our Christmas Sip & Sing Event. Come with your amateur singing voices and join the holiday spirit with your St. Martin's family. Knotty Vines will have their menu items available.

Christmas Cheer Tree: Please support Fulton County Christmas Cheer by taking tags from the tree in the Narthex and purchasing the items on the tags. Your donations help to put food on the table of local families & gifts into the hands of children on Christmas morning. Please bring the items back to church by 10am on 12/7/25. If you're not able to pick up tags, you can donate monetarily via fultoncountychristmascheer.org. Together we can do great things!

OUR MISSION TEAM IS READY!

We are excited to share that a team of **13 volunteers from St. Martin** will be traveling to **Puerto Rico from February 22–March 1** to help repair a home whose roof was destroyed by hurricanes. This project is coordinated through **Techos Pa' Mi Gente** ("Roofs for My People"), a local organization dedicated to restoring safe housing for families in need.

With our team assembled, we are now moving into the planning phase—booking **airfare, housing, and van rentals**. We even have photos of the home we'll be repairing.

How You Can Help

Your support makes this mission possible. Would you consider giving a gift toward the trip?

- **$100** – Groceries for the team
- **$500** – Housing for one volunteer for the week
- **$1,000** – An airfare ticket
- **$700** – Van rental

Gifts of any size are deeply appreciated. Please note *"mission trip"* on your donation so it can be directed appropriately.

Upcoming Fundraisers

The team will host a **brunch on December 14**, following the children's Christmas program. We hope you'll stay, enjoy a meal, and support our mission efforts. We also plan to host a **coffee hour** early in the new year—more details to come!

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and generosity as we prepare to serve our neighbors in Puerto Rico.

Darren Sonnenberg
Evangelism/Outreach Network

You are invited: We will begin a **new Bible Study in January** for those who are interested in Growing Older and Wiser! **Mary Martha Circle** has selected this topic for their next study. We would love to have you join us starting on January 7th at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

If you are interested and would like the Bible Study guide, please let Kris Jemmott know by December 15th so that the guides can be ordered.

The Welcome Place- Parkinson's Group will be celebrating 10 years of the support group at St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Archbold on Tuesday, December 2, with a potluck sharing, & praying that there will not be another 10 years before a cure is found. We always remember: GOD'S WORK! OUR HANDS!

This Week at St. Martin's

TODAY – November 30-Advent 1
Worship, 9am
Sunday School, 10:20am
Adult Sunday School, 10:30am
High School Youth, 10:30am

Monday – December 1
Adult Catechism Zoom, 7pm
Chosen Zoom, 8pm

Tuesday – December 2
Men's Breakfast, 7am @ McDonald's
Parkinson's Group, 1pm
Community Meal, 5pm @ St. John's Christian

Wednesday – December 3
Women's Circle, 1pm
WPW Meal, 5:15pm
Worship, 6pm
Kids Klub, 6pm
Adult Circle, 6:30pm
Catechism, 6:30pm
Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:30
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm

Thursday – December 4
Women's Breakfast Study, 7am
Bulletin Deadline, 9am

Next Sunday – December 7-Advent 2
Worship, 9am
Sunday School, 10:20am
Adult Sunday School, 10:30am
High School Youth Load Christmas Cheer, 10:30am
Middle School & High School to Christmas Cheer
Youth Christmas Party, 6:30pm

St. Martin's Lutheran Church

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

Office Hours:

Pastor Steve Basselman
steveb@the-welcome-place.org
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri. morning
Tues, Wed, Thurs, afternoon
Cell Phone: 419-572-6091

Matthew Wachtman, Music & Worship
matthew@the-welcome-place.org
Tues, All Day
Wed. PM
Thurs, & Fri, AM

Jake Keil, **Youth**
jakek@the-welcome-place.org
Sun, Tues, Thurs. morning
Mon, Tues, Wed. afternoon & Sunday PM

Whitney Wyse, Office Manager
stmartin@the-welcome-place.org
Tues. 8:30-12:00 & Fri. 8:30-12

Worship Services: 9:00 am each Sunday, live broadcast on Facebook
6:00 pm each Wednesday, Informal Service

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

Online Giving - Mobile Access

Mobile users can now access the giving page to set up recurring donations or make one-time donations directly from phones using this QR code.
To change or delete recurring donations you will still need to go to:
https://givingtools.com and sign in to your account.

Last Week at St. Martin's. . .
Week of 11/23/2025, Budget and Year to Date

Operating Contributions	$3,888.13	Budgeted Weekly Operating Need	$7,329.00
Benevolence Received	$738.00	Budgeted Weekly Benevolence Need	$713.00
Other Designated Income	$1,100.00	**AS OF 10/31/2025**	
Total Income	$5,726.13	YTD Operating Received	$285,181.20
Worship: Sunday/Wed/Total	131	YTD Operating Expenses	($299,835.84)
		Net Income/(Deficit)	($14,654.64)

St. Martin's Prayer Line

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

- The Bethel Parish of Dodoma, Tanzania, and Mission Partner Congregation of Redeemer, Toledo, may they continue to carry out God's ministry in their areas of mission.
- Those caught in the fighting between Israel and Palestine, the Ukraine; those recovering from recent natural disasters and the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief and other relief agencies.

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

Bob Alley, Louise Beldon's brother-in-law, health concerns
Tim Anderson, Bjorlin cousin, cancer
Bonnie Badenhop, health concerns
Beverly Bettison, friend of Angie Avers, health concerns
Jeff Cook, Ann Ott's son
Jan Delaney, knee replacement
Jim Hayes, brother of June Hayes, health concerns
Jeanise Hoeffel, Jane Sonnenberg's sister
Jayne Jewell, Diana Ziegler's cousin
Shelly Kammeyer, daughter in law of Sharon Blair, Leukemia
Sue Keil, Jake's mom
Bonnie R. Lauber
Anne McCarty, health concerns
Ed Miller, Joan Smith's son-in-law
Ann Ott
Dorothy Gifford, Diane Parsons' sister, cancer
Thana Morong
Dick Nagel, health concerns
Conrad and Karen Perry, Andi Erbskorn's brother and sister-in-law
Bruce Pearson, Trudel family friend, cancer
Bill Phelps
Peg Roth
Eric and Susan Rupp, Greg Rupp's brother and sister-in-law, health concerns
Mary Schwartz, Dianne Parsons' sister
Al & Lois Siewert
Joan Smith
Mark Thatcher, health concerns
Brad Welsh, brother-in-law of John & Chris Shafer, cancer
Joyce Winzeler
Paul Wyse, health concerns
Joe Wyse
Homebound – Milla Kohv, Jerry & Alice Geiger

For those who need God's protection and the assurance of God's presence:

All members, family & friends who serve in our military: Patrick Cirenza (June Hayes), Bradly & Victoria Nilsson, Kennedy Hartung, Brendon Johns, Kasyn Schaffner

Any prayer requests to add or remove can be sent to the Church Office by Thursday of each week: stmartin@the-welcome-place.org **We include a person's name and details only with their permission.**

Take Up Your C.R.O.S.S.

2025 Stewardship Reminder of St. Martin's Lutheran Church

Connect | Relate | Offer | Study | Serve

Serve others with love and your God given abilities

- It's not about you
- Do you clang?
- Without limits
- Give it a try

It's not about you

Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So use your gift well.

1 Peter 4:10

It's Friday. Pay day. And your company payroll clerk is flipping through the week's paychecks and stops on yours. Their mind starts to churn. They think, "man, this could get me that new TV" or "this could take care of a big chunk out of that credit card bill." So, they fold it up and put it in their pocket. They pass it off as their own and are watching the latest movie on a big screen that weekend.

How would you feel? Most of us would be infuriated – and rightly so. They took something that wasn't meant for them and used it for their own personal benefit.

Just like the company entrusted that payroll clerk with your paycheck, our Lord has entrusted you with something even more valuable. He has given you a set of gifts that will touch the hearts of others and show them His love. But like that payroll clerk, we often get caught up with how those gifts could benefit ourselves. Our mind wanders to how our financial skills can provide security for our family. Or how our abilities can help us get ahead at work. Now our Father does not intend for us to neglect our own needs (there was a paycheck in that stack for the payroll clerk as well), but are we using some of the gifts God intended for others for our own benefit? We need to remember that it's not about us. God entrusted us with a wonderful complement of gifts to serve others – not ourselves.

C.R.O.S.S. Challenge Use the talents we are given to be the hands and feet of God.