St. Martin's Lutheran Church
203 S. Defiance Street
Archbold, Ohio 43502

419-445-4656
Website: www.the-welcome-place.org
E-mail: stmartin@the-welcome-place.org

January 2026

Bell Choir at St. Paul

Kid Club Christmas Party

Sunday Morning Worship
9am-In Person & Live Broadcast
10:20 Sunday School

Wednesday Worship
6pm in Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE
5:15- Meal
6:00-Worship
6:00-Kids Club
6:30-Catechism
6:30-Adult Circle
6:30-Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:30-Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Upcoming at St. Martin's ...

- **January 7th-All Wednesday Night Activities Resume (Kids Club, Catechism, Choirs, & Welcome Place Wednesday)**
- **January 11-Baptism of Our Lord**
- **January 25- Annual Meeting after Service**
- **February 8-Concert Series: Cleveland Celtic Ensemble**
- **February 18-Ash Wednesday**
- **February 22-March 1-Puerto Rico Mission Trip**

Office Hours:

Pastor Steve Basselman
steveb@the-welcome-place.org
Monday-PM
Tuesday-All Day
Wednesday-PM
Thursday-All Day
Friday-AM

Matthew Wachtman
matthew@the-welcome-place.org
Music & Worship Director
Tuesday- All Day
Wednesday- PM
Thursday-AM
Friday -AM

Jake Keil
jakek@the-welcome-place.org
Youth Director
Sunday- All Day
Tuesday-AM
Wednesday-PM

Whitney Wyse
stmartin@the-welcome-place.org
Office Manager
Tuesday- AM
Friday-AM

Coffee Hour & Wednesday Meal Sign Up

COFFEE HOUR AFTER WORSHIP
There are many open spots for Coffee Hour! Please sign up in the entryway if you are able and willing to help out!

WEDNESDAY MEAL HELP
Erinn Thompson is coordinating the meals for Wednesday nights. Scan below or connect with Erinn.

This Month in worship...

Altar Guild : Cristie Sevey & Robin Trudel
Sound: Darren Sonnenberg , Cameron Thompson, & Bill Phelps
Usher Team Leader: Butch & Amy Blankenship
Offering Counter: January 4 – Jo Ann Benecke
January 11 – Janet Wyse
January 18 – Jan Delaney
January 25 – Jane Sonnenberg

Communion: January 4, 11, 18
February Newsletter Deadline -January 22

December Attendance & Offering

December 7- $ 13,006.01
135/22/157
December 14- $7,910.00
198/22/220
December 21- $17, 943.14
156

Online Giving

If you would like to access the giving page by mobile you can scan the QR code and set up recurring donations or make a one-time donation. TO make changes or stop recurring donations you will still need to go to https://givingtools.com
If there are any questions about electronic giving email Jo Ann Liechty at the email treasurer@the-welcome-place.org

Contact the Church Office: stmartin@the-welcome-place.org to receive our Friday Emails!

Visit our Website www.the-welcome-place.org for updates on Youth & Concert Series as well as bulletins for Live Broadcasts

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.

All our travel arrangements are complete, airfare, housing, and van rentals are reserved. We even have photos of the home we'll be repairing.

Thanks so much for supporting us at the brunch after the kids Christmas program on December 14th.It was very successful, and we feel that most of our travel expenses should be covered.

The team is hosting a Coffee hour after service February 1st. Please make plans to stay and support our mission trip. Come, visit, and wish our team good luck.

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

- **$200 – Groceries for the team**
- **$300 – Housing for one volunteer for the week**
- **$1,500 – An airfare ticket**
- **$600 – Van rental**

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

Meet the Team
Bill & Diane Phelps
Albert & Yanira Reyes
Darren & Jane Sonnenberg
Aaron & Gabe Short
Aden McCarty
Jane Trudel
Barry Johns
Mike Short
JoAnn Liechty

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

https://www.facebook.com/techospamigente.pr/
https://www.tpmgcorp.org/

TECHOS PA' MI GENTE

Darren Sonnenberg
Evangelism/Outreach Network

Church Directory Update

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. By the end of the month of January, 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.

Whitney Wyse -Office Manager
stmartin@the-welcome-place.org

Church Council

The Nominating Team intends to submit the following candidates to Council for approval and ensuing vote at the January Congregational Annual Meeting. As per our bylaws, members may submit write-in candidates for consideration by the Nominating Team for possible ballot inclusion. Write-in names must be submitted no later than January 4th, 2026. Requirements for elected office include voting membership, regular worship attendance and reception of Holy Communion, and active participation in at least one team or ministry.

President - Darren Sonnenberg
Secretary- Jane Trudel
Council-at-Large- Mark Weaver
Endowment Team- Chris Ziegler

Write-in Candidate Name(s):

_____
Position(s): _____

Parkinson's Group

The Parkinson's Support Group meets Tuesday, January 6th at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall. The topic for the January meeting is, "What Is a Support Group?"

Health Piece

Cancer myths vs. facts

Fish out reality from a sea of untruths

In previous generations, a cancer diagnosis may have seemed like a death sentence. But long-term survival rates across all types of cancer have significantly improved, from about 49% in the 1970s to close to 70% today. Giant leaps have been made in how medical professionals understand cancer, a term used to describe a group of more than 200 diseases that share certain common features. This knowledge has resulted in major improvements in screening, early detection and treatment.

Because of these breakthroughs, people diagnosed with most types of cancer have much better odds of living longer than in previous generations. People with cancer also are better able to remain healthy enough to enjoy life during and after treatment. However, that hopeful picture is still accompanied by a flood of myths, misinformation and too-good-to-be-true products, affecting people's understanding. Below, learn about common myths — and get the facts.

MYTH

Using a smartphone increases the risk of brain cancer and other cancers.

Fact: There's no evidence to support this claim. While cellphones do emit radiation, the frequency and energy of that radiation is comparatively very low and not at a level that can affect human DNA. Researchers have noted that in this era when seemingly everyone has a smartphone, the cancers predicted to be associated with them haven't increased. If you remain concerned about radiation, consider using headphones, ear pods and other devices that allow you to use your phone without pressing it against your head.

MYTH

Ingredients in antiperspirants and deodorants can cause breast cancer.

Fact: Some reports have suggested that these products contain harmful substances such as aluminum compounds and parabens that can be absorbed through the skin or enter the body through nicks caused by shaving. But the evidence to date suggests that these products don't cause cancer.

MYTH

Cancers of the colon and rectum mostly are a concern for older adults.

Fact: Colorectal cancer represents the second-highest cause of death among all cancer types in the U.S. Although the risk of colorectal cancer is higher as people age, the rate of new colorectal cancer cases is increasing in people under 50. In fact, the rates of colorectal cancer in people under 50 have doubled since 1990. In light of this, it's now recommended that colorectal cancer screening begin at age 45 for people at average risk.

In people over 65, the diagnosis rates have been decreasing. This is possibly because of colorectal cancer screening starting earlier, which may lead to higher rates of diagnosis for younger people.

MYTH

Microwaving food in plastic containers and wraps releases cancer-causing substances.

Fact: There's no clear evidence that you should avoid microwaving plastic containers and wraps labeled as microwave safe. However, it is important to avoid microwaving plastic containers that were never intended for the microwave, such as margarine tubs, takeout containers or whipped topping bowls. Evidence suggests that plastic containers not intended for use in the microwave could melt and potentially leach chemicals into your food.

MYTH

Cancer is contagious, and it's best to stay away from someone wh has it.

Fact: You don't need to avoid someon who has cancer. You can't catch it. It's OK to touch and spend time with someone who has cancer. Your support may never be more valuable.

Though cancer itself isn't contagious some contagious viruses do lead to certain cancers. Examples include human papillomavirus (HPV) leading to cervical cancer and both hepatitis B and C leading to liver cancer. Talk to your healthcare team about vaccines and other ways to protect yourself.

MYTH

Smart people would never fall for bogus cancer products or services.

Fact: It's increasingly difficult to avoid exposure to convincing ads for unproven, untested products — and to at least consider them if not outright fall for them. That's because companies hawking these supposed cures are sophisticated in their marketing efforts. And they're targeting people with a frightening disease who may be vulnerable.

The Food and Drug Administration lists common sales pitches used to market sham cancer cures. Watch out for these phrases:

- "Treats all forms of cancer."
- "Miraculously kills cancer cells and tumors."
- "Shrinks malignant tumors."
- "Selectively kills cancer cells."
- "More effective than chemotherapy."
- "Attacks cancer cells, leaving healthy cells intact."

Also be wary of products that point to conspiracy theories, often characterized by language such as "what the government won't tell you about ..." When encountering products with any of these claims, do your best to avoid them and steer others away too. ■

St. Martin's Lutheran Church (ELCA)
Church Council Meeting
December 11, 2025

St. Martin's Church Council met on December 11, 2025, with Janet Wyse, Jan Delaney, Cameron Thompson, Jay Schnitkey, Jane Sonnenberg, Steve Basselman, Nona Rupp and Jo Ann Benecke present. Nona called the meeting to order and Janet led devotions and prayer.

·Minutes from November 10, 2025 meeting as well as from a vote to replace the water heater in the rental property were reviewed and approved.
·Financial report from November 2025 was reviewed and approved. Council approved that the 2025 deficit be offset with funds from the Distributable Endowment Fund. Proposed 2026 budget was reviewed and approved to present to the congregation.
·Pastor Steve advised that he is the president of the Archbold Area Ministerial Association. He also informed Council that Mary Beth Smith-Gunn will be retiring from Bryan at the end of the year.
·No reports from Memorial Committee, Youth Network, Worship Network, Stewardship Network, Education Network and Technology Team.
·Council approved an estimate from Creighton Electric for $1,375.00 to replace some track lighting in the sanctuary with LED lighting. This will mean that ALL track lighting will now be LED, which is much more cost-effective.
·Puerto Mission Trip Update – the following people will be going on the trip: Bill and Diane Phelps, Albert & Yanira Reyes, Darren & Jane Sonnenberg, Aaron & Gabe Short, Aden McCarty, Jane Trudel, Barry Johns, Mike Short and Jo Ann Liechty. Housing, van rental, and airfare have been secured. This group is hosting the Christmas Brunch after the kids' program on December 14 as a fundraiser and another coffee hour fundraiser in February.

Offering counters for January:
January 4 – Jo Ann Benecke
January 11 – Janet Wyse
January 18 – Jan Delaney
January 25 – Jane Sonnenberg

Cameron Thompson will provide devotions for the January meeting, which will be held on January 12, 2025, at 7:00 PM.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jo Ann Benecke, Council Secretary

***Pending Church Council approval.**

St Martin's Lutheran Church

Income Statement

For the Eleven Months Ending November 30, 2025

	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget
Revenues				
Operating Income	$ 28,273.30	$ 31,207.25	$ 298,429.31	$ 343,279.75
WPW Meals Inc	170.00	0.00	755.00	0.00
Johnson House & Short Haven	0.00	550.00	5,500.00	6,050.00
Interest	0.27	0.00	8,940.46	0.00
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES	28,443.57	31,757.25	313,624.77	349,329.75
. SALARIES	15,664.77	15,748.10	172,312.47	173,229.10
. BENEFITS	7,619.76	8,057.18	84,122.55	88,628.98
. OFFICE EXPENSES	676.70	947.50	9,008.49	10,422.50
. OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE	0.00	44.00	0.00	484.00
. YOUTH NETWORK	306.48	750.00	7,915.08	8,250.00
. WORSHIP NETWORK	1,023.39	916.00	6,593.48	10,076.00
. EDUCATION NETWORK	53.55	489.00	3,573.25	5,379.00
. EVANGELISM & OUTREACH	2,082.39	1,047.00	9,705.82	11,517.00
. PROPERTY NETWORK	5,772.08	3,758.50	39,803.82	41,343.50
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	33,199.12	31,757.28	333,034.96	349,330.08
NET OPERATING INCOME/(DEFICIT)	**($ 4,755.55)**	**($ 0.03)**	**($ 19,410.19)**	**($ 0.33)**
NET BALANCE OPERATING	($ 4,755.55)	($ 0.03)	($ 19,410.19)	($ 0.33)
NET BENEVOLENCE INCOME/(DEFICIT	($ 257.00)	$ 0.00	($ 16,866.00)	$ 0.00
NET SUMMARY INCOME(DEFICIT)	***($ 5,012.55)***	***($ 0.03)***	***($ 36,276.19)***	***($ 0.33)***
Other Income				
Christmas Cheer	$470.00			
FISH	$250.00			
Friendship House	$20.00			
Solid Rock	$40.00			

Service, Fellowship, & Bible Study Groups

Mary- Martha Circle January 7 @ 1pm
led by Kris Jemmot

Parkinson's Group January 6@ 1pm
led by Bonnie Lauber

Sewing January 13 & 27@ 9am

Men's Breakfast Every Tuesday @ 7am
led by Johnathon Poulson at McDonalds

Women's Breakfast Every Thursday @ 7am
led by Gwen Grisier at the Home Restaurant

Friendship Circle January 12 @ 7pm
led by Bridget Lovejoy

All are welcome and invited to participate in these groups!

St. Martin's Weekly Schedule of Programs

Sunday
9am Worship
10:15am Cookies & Coffee
10:15am Sunday School for all ages 3-year-old to Adult
10:15am Worship Rewind
10:30am High School Youth
6:30pm Middle School Youth

Monday
7pm Friendship Circle- Once a month on the 2nd Monday of the month
7pm Adult Zoom Discussion
8:00pm Chosen Zoom Group

Tuesday
7am Men's Breakfast at McDonalds
9am Women's Sewing- every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month
1pm The Welcome Place Support Group-the first Tuesday of every month

Wednesday
1pm Women's Circle- First Wednesday of every month
5:15pm Welcome Place Wednesday Meal
6pm Worship Service
6pm Kids Klub- Kids ages 5 -5th grade
6:30pm-Adult Circle Discussion
6:30pm- 7th & 8th grade Catechism
6:30pm- Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:30pm- Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday
7am Women's Breakfast at The Home Restaurant

January Birthdays

2 Sharon Blair
Pat Richards
5 Reese Collins
6 Tom Heckel
Maddox Pinter
8 Greg Whitacre
9 Glenn Badenhop
Lee Opdyke
10 Jim Stevens
Ashley(Reyes) Zimmerman
12 Louise Beldon
Scott Schnitkey
13 Clara Thatcher
Steve Rettig
14 Autumn Benecke
Shelly Conway
Maureen (Dominique)Bernath
16 Dana Bjorlin
17 Katelyn (Short) Boone
18 Andy McCarty
19 Nona Rupp
Steve Meyers
June Schultz
20 Jane Stevens
Leo Hagge
21 Erinn Thompson
Benjamin Stewart
23 Amy (Schnitkey) Maassel
24 Derek Schultz
26 Dick Nagel
27 Kennedy Bailey
Jane Sonnenberg
28 Alan Schweinhagen
29 Diane Sonnenberg
30 Maura Riley
Julie Stevens
31 Hanna Blankenship

January Anniversaries

16—Mike & Patty Jones
19—Scott & June Schultz
Tim & Deb Smith

Prayer Concerns

Bonnie Badenhop
Bonnie R. Lauber
Anne McCarty
Ann Ott
Thana Morong
Dick Nagel
Dianne Parsons
Bill Phelps
Peg Roth
Al & Lois Siewert
Joan Smith
Mark Thatcher
Joyce Winzeler
Paul Wyse
Joe Wyse

Homebound-Milla Kohv and Jerry & Alice Geiger
Those who serve in our military- Patrick Cirenza, Bradly & Victoria Nilsson, Kennedy Hartung, Brendon Johns, & Kasyn Schaffner

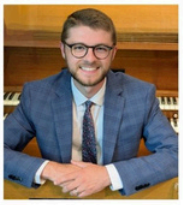
2025-2026 Season

St. Martin's Concert Series

Sunday, Sept. 28, 3:00pm

Of Spirit, Strife, and Serenity

St. Martin's own Matthew Wachtman kicks off the season with a spirited organ recital.



Sunday, Nov. 9, 3:00pm

Piano Duo

Jeff and Vanessa Nicholas perform works for 4-handed piano by Brahms, Dvorak, and more!

Sunday, Feb. 8, 3:00pm

Cleveland Celtic Ensemble

NE Ohio musicians play on pipes, flute, violin, whistle, and harp.

Sunday, April 26, 3:00pm

Baroque and Roll

Dylan Sanzenbacher presents a concert of early music, with a hands-on harpsichord demonstration.

Sunday, May 17, 3:00pm

Dreams and Delights

Mezzo soprano Lisa van der Ploegs explores the power of dreams through music.

All programs are free and take place at:

St. Martin's Lutheran Church + 203 S. Defiance St + Archbold, OH

(419) 445-4656 + www.the-welcome-place.org

Yes! I want to help support St. Martin's Concert Series!

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Email: _____

____ Patron ($150 or more)

____ Sustainer ($75-150)

____ Friend ($25-75)

Include me on the Concert Series

____ email list

To sponsor an entire concert, contact Matthew Wachtman at matthew@the-welcome-place.org

St. Martin's Concert Series

Please return this form and your check made out to St. Martin's Lutheran Church (Concert Series on the memo line) to:

St. Martin's Lutheran Church
203 S. Defiance St.
Archbold, OH 43502

January 2026

St. Martin's Lutheran Church 203 S. Defiance Street Archbold, OH 43502 Phone: 419-445-4656

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:00—Bulletin Deadline	**2**	**3**
4 Holy Communion 9:00—Worship 10:15—Sunday School 10:15—High School Youth 10:30—Adult Sunday School 6:30—Middle School Youth	**5** 7:00—Adult Zoom Group	**6** 7:00—Men's Breakfast 11:00—Staff Meeting 1:00—Parkinson's Group 5:00—Community Meal	**7** 1:00—Womens Circle 5:15—WPW Meal 6:00—WPW Worship 6:00—Kids Klub 6:30—Catechism 6:30—Adult Circle 6:30—Bell Rehearsal 7:30—Music Rehearsal	**8** 7:00—Women's Breakfast 9:00—Bulletin Deadline	**9**	**10**
11 Holy Communion 9:00—Worship 10:15—Sunday School 10:15—High School Youth 10:30—Adult Sunday School 6:30—Middle School Youth	**12** 7:00—Friendship Circle 7:00—Church Council	**13** 7:00—Men's Breakfast 9:00—Sewing 11:00—Staff Meeting 5:00—Community Meal	**14** 5:15—WPW Meal 6:00—WPW Worship 6:00—Kids Klub 6:30—Catechism 6:30—Adult Circle 6:30—Bell Rehearsal 7:30—Music Rehearsal	**15** 7:00—Women's Breakfast 9:00—Bulletin Deadline	**16**	**17**
18 Holy Communion 9:00—Worship 10:15—Sunday School 10:15—High School Youth 10:30—Adult Sunday School 6:30—Middle School Youth	**19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day** 7:00—Adult Zoom Group	**20** 7:00—Men's Breakfast 11:00—Staff Meeting 5:00—Community Meal	**21** 5:15—WPW Meal 6:00—WPW Worship 6:00—Kids Klub 6:30—Catechism 6:30—Adult Circle 6:30—Bell Rehearsal 7:30—Music Rehearsal	**22** 7:00—Women's Breakfast 9:00—Bulletin Deadline 9:00—Newsletter Deadline	**23**	**24**
25 Annual Meeting 9:00—Worship 10:00—Annual Meeting 10:15—Sunday School 10:15—High School Youth 10:30—Adult Sunday School 6:30—Middle School Youth	**26** 7:00—Adult Zoom Group	**27** 7:00—Men's Breakfast 9:00—Sewing 11:00—Staff Meeting 5:00—Community Meal	**28** 5:15—WPW Meal 6:00—WPW Worship 6:00—Kids Klub 6:30—Catechism 6:30—Adult Circle 6:30—Bell Rehearsal 7:30—Music Rehearsal	**29** 7:00—Women's Breakfast 9:00—Bulletin Deadline	**30**	**31**

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