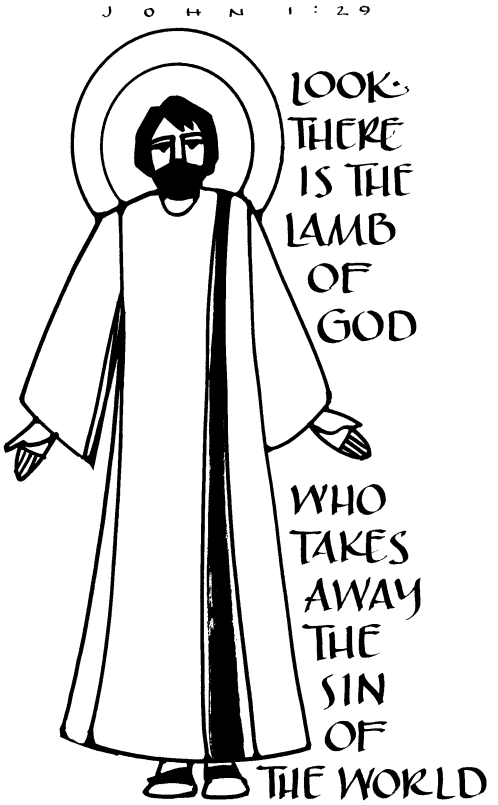


St. Martin's Lutheran Church

203 S. Defiance Street + Archbold, OH 43502

www.the-welcome-place.org

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 18, 2026

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY — *JANUARY 18, 2026*

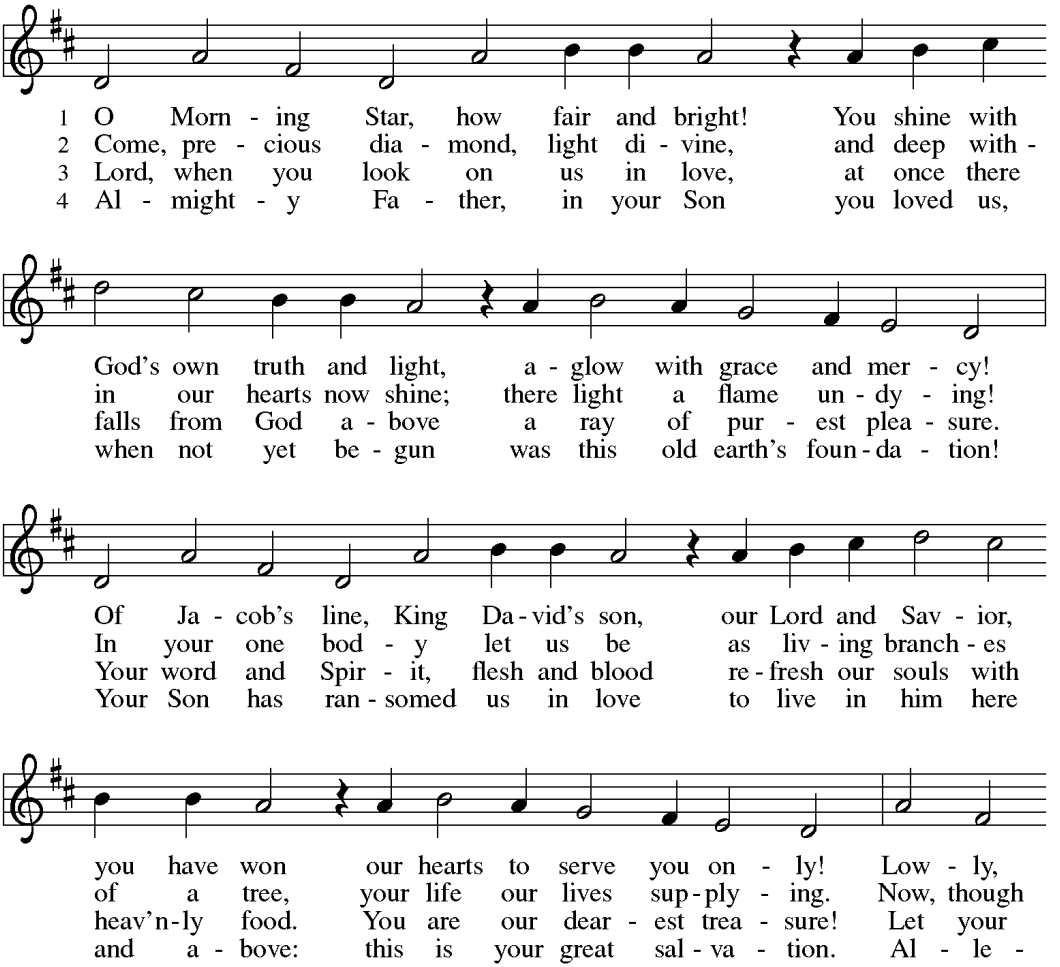
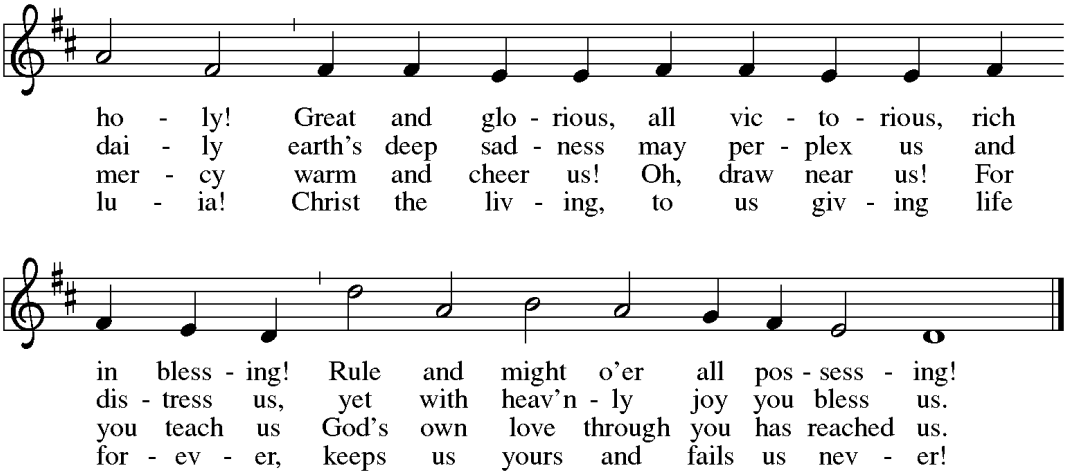
Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One, and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.

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

THE CHURCH GATHERS

PRELUDE ***Improvised Partita on "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"***
Dance, Ritornello, and Toccata

BELL & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN** ***"O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"



5 Oh, let the harps break forth in sound!
Our joy be all with music crowned,
our voices gaily blending!
For Christ goes with us all the way—
today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out!
Jubilation!
Exultation!
Tell the story!
Praise to Christ, who reigns in glory!

6 What joy to know, when life is past,
the Lord we love is first and last,
the end and the beginning!
He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
transport us to that happy place
beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen!
Come, Lord Jesus!
Crown of gladness!
We are yearning
for the day of your returning.

*Confession and Forgiveness

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

Amen

All-powerful and ever-living God, your gift of water brings life and freshness to the earth; by the waters of Baptism we are cleansed from sin and receive eternal life. Renew in us the living fountain of your grace and defend us, body and soul, from evil, that we may approach you with pure hearts and worthily receive your gift of salvation. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one another.

Silence for personal reflection

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. Help us to look beyond ourselves and our own wants and needs. Help us to share your love with the world. Forgive us, Lord, and turn us again to you. Amen

God's love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children. Hear God say to you now: Your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed on us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

*Greeting and 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. *(2 Corinthians 13:13)*

And also with you.

Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

THE CHURCH LISTENS

FIRST READING — Isaiah 49:1–7

Listen to me, all you in distant lands! Pay attention, you who are far away!
The Lord called me before my birth; from within the womb he called me by name.
2 He made my words of judgment as sharp as a sword. He has hidden me in the shadow
of his hand. I am like a sharp arrow in his quiver.
3 He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, and you will bring me glory."
4 I replied, "But my work seems so useless! I have spent my strength for nothing and to no
purpose. Yet I leave it all in the Lord's hand; I will trust God for my reward."
5 And now the Lord speaks—
the one who formed me in my mother's womb to be his servant, who commissioned me
to bring Israel back to him. The Lord has honored me, and my God has given me
strength.
6 He says, "You will do more than restore the people of Israel to me. I will make you a light
to the Gentiles, and you will bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."
7 The Lord, the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel, says to the one who is despised and
rejected by the nations, to the one who is the servant of rulers:
"Kings will stand at attention when you pass by. Princes will also bow low because of
the Lord, the faithful one, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

New Living Translation

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 40:1-5 – *read responsively*

I waited patiently upon the LORD, who stooped to me and heard my cry.
The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.
The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God;
many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the LORD.
Happy are they who trust in the LORD!
They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.
Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God! In your plans for us, none can be compared with you!
Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than I can count.

SECOND READING — 1 Corinthians 1:1–9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

[2]To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

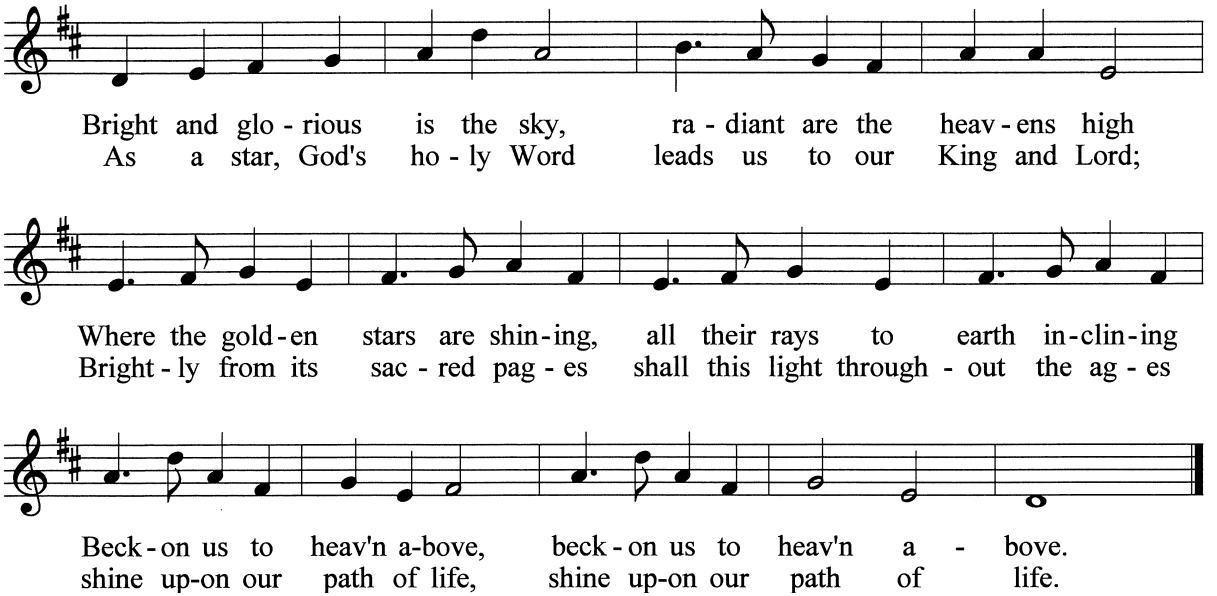
[3]Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

[4]I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, [5]for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind — [6]just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you — [7]so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. [8]He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9]God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION — *"Bright and Glorious"*



*HOLY GOSPEL — John 1:29-42

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord!

29The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of
God who takes away the sin of the world! 30This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a
man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' 31I myself did not know him;
but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel."
32And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it
remained on him. 33I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with
water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who
baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the
Son of God."
35The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, 36and as he watched
Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" 37The two disciples
heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. 38When Jesus turned and saw them
following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which
translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" 39He said to them, "Come and
see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It
was about four o'clock in the afternoon. 40One of the two who heard John speak and
followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41He first found his brother Simon and
said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). 42He brought
Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be
called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

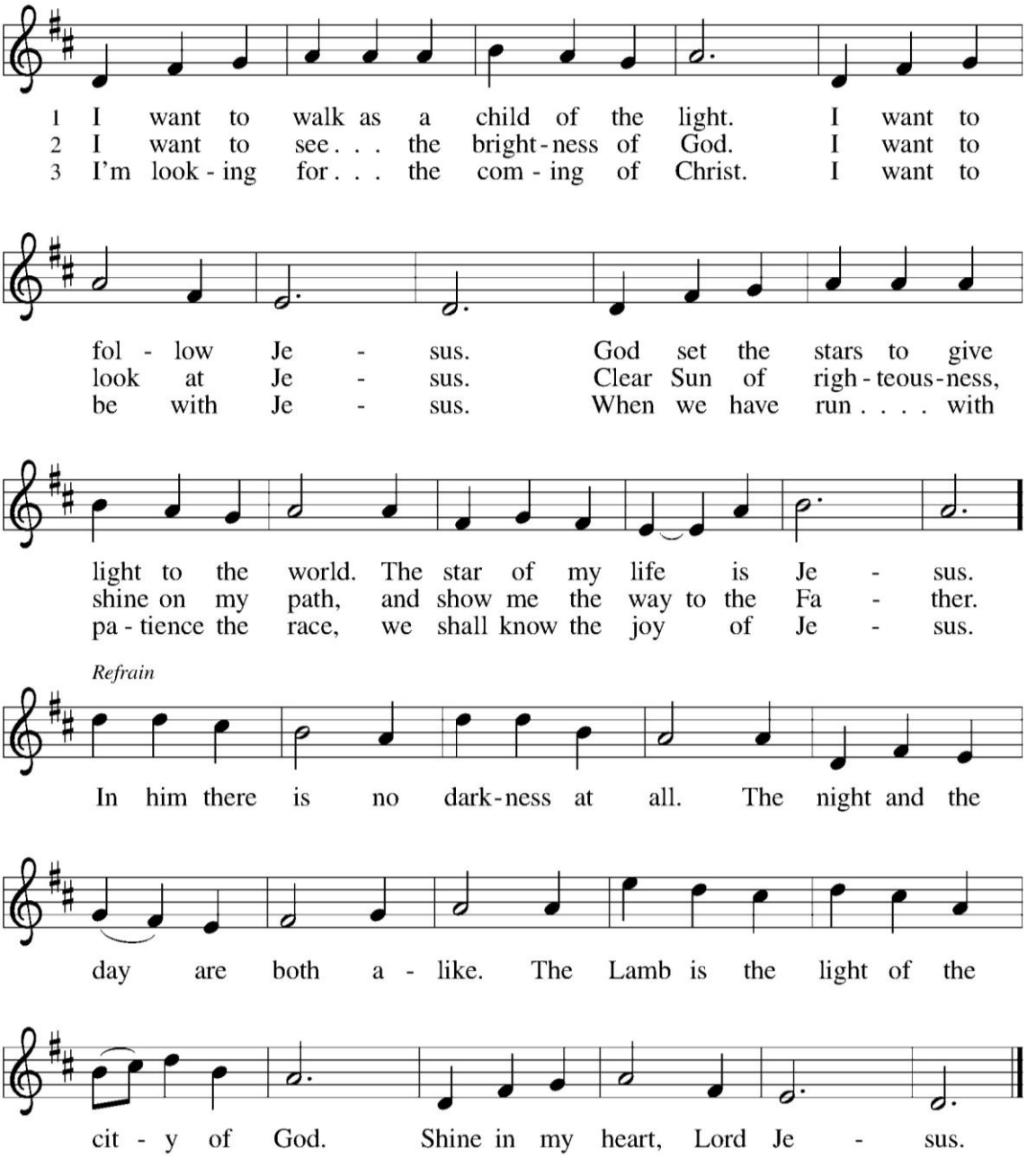
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE — *Susan Short*

MESSAGE — *"Give Your Best and Follow the Lamb"*

THE CHURCH RESPONDS

HYMN OF THE DAY** ***"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

*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

*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition ends…

Lord, in your mercy…**hear our prayer.**

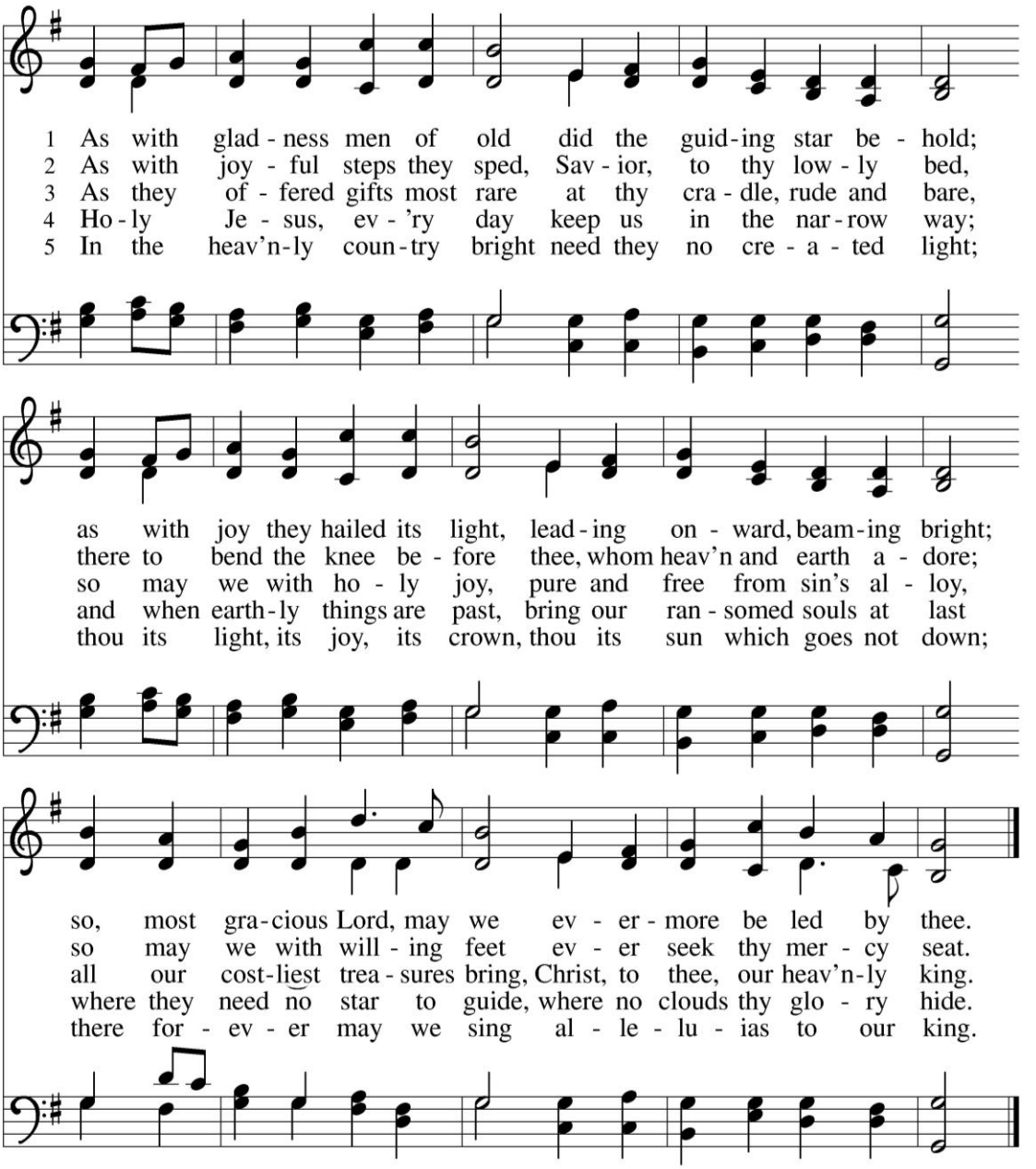
*SHARING OF THE PEACE

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 "AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD"

(Please stand to sing Verse 5)

*Offering Prayer

Blessed are you,

O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Church Shares the Meal

* 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 holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful Word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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."

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this holy food and all the baptized gathered for this feast. Refresh us so that we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

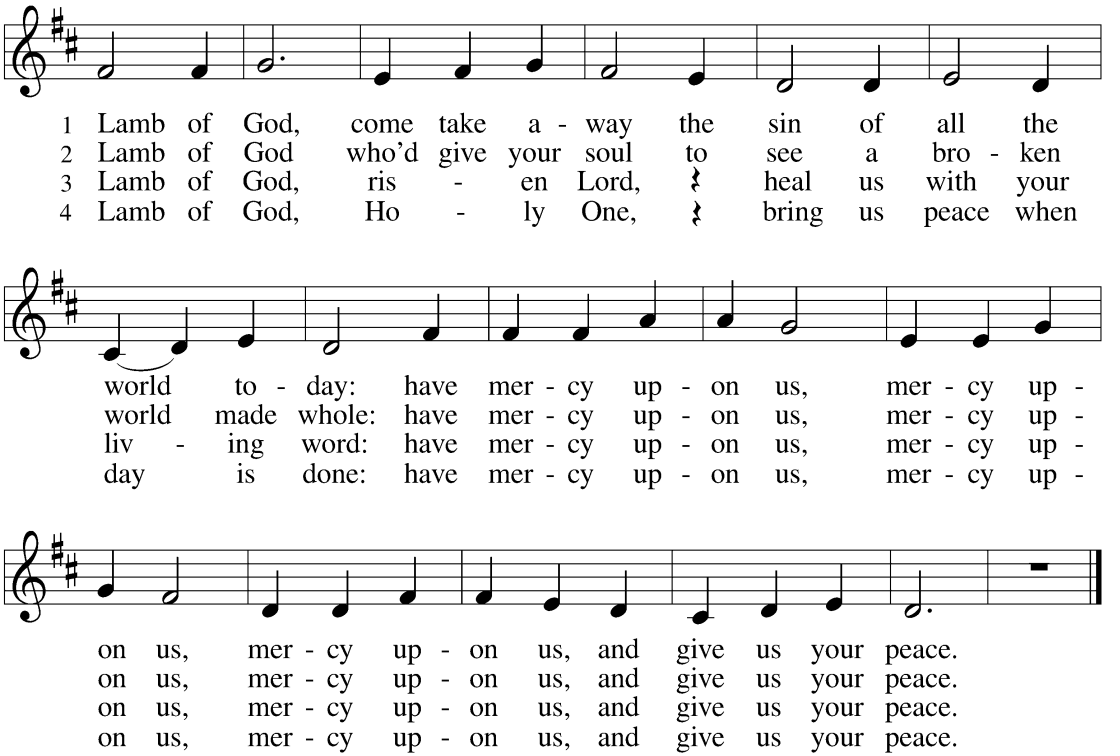
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

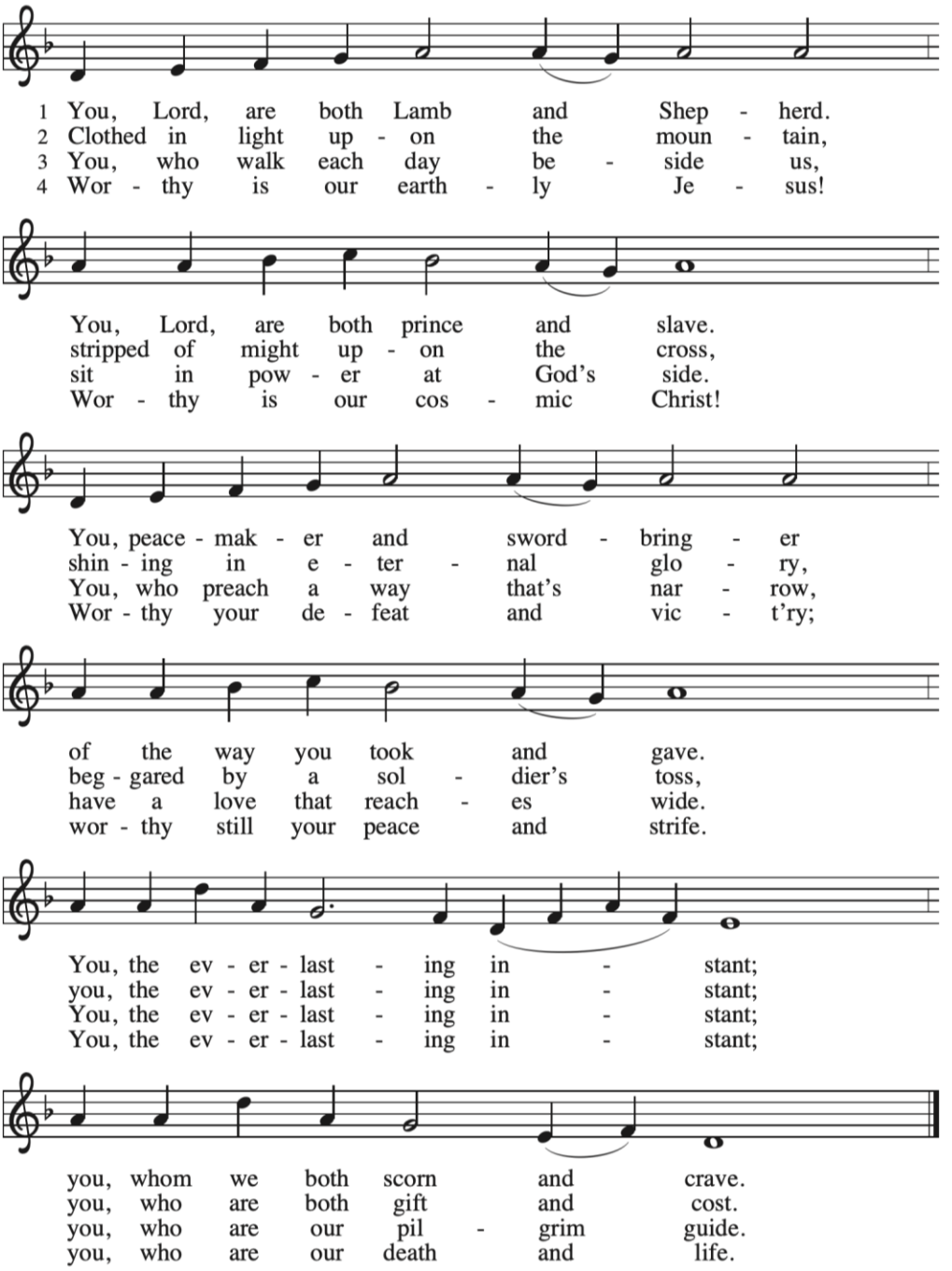
Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

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 SONGS *"Lamb of God"*

"You, Lord, are Both Lamb and Shepherd"



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

*PRAYER

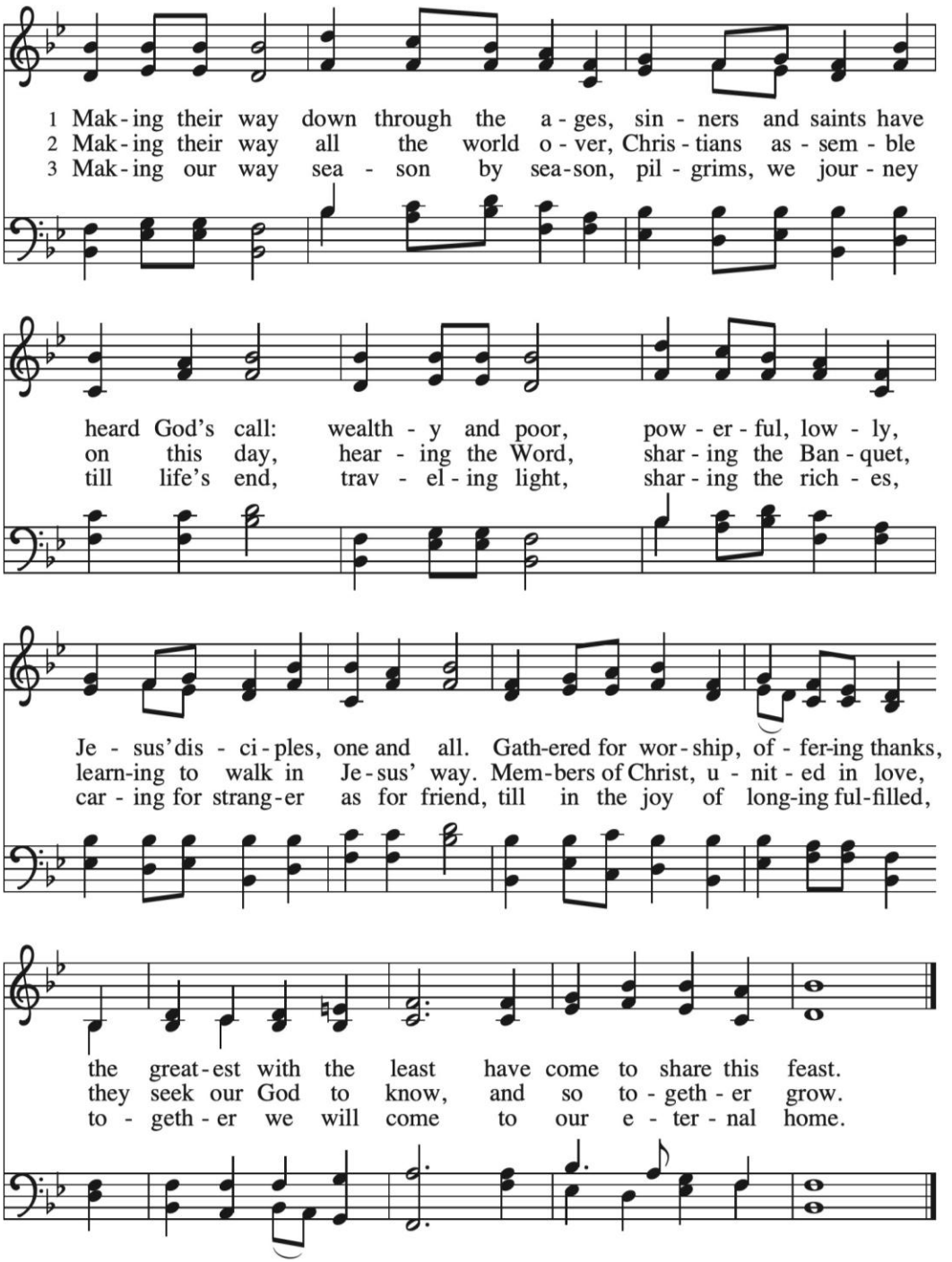
Ever-faithful God, you have taken us into your arms through the waters of baptism and nourished us as your dear children at this table. Lead us and guide us, that we may share our bread and your healing light with those who hunger and thirst. Embolden us to share the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever.

Amen

* BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine brightly upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

*CLOSING HYMN *"Making Their Way"*

*DISMISSAL

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

Postlude

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Today's Opening Hymn, "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" *was originally written by Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608) and translated into English by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878).*

This 16th century hymn has been a standard in Lutheran hymnody and was sung for many funerals, weddings and church occasions for generations in Germany. It is known as the "Queen of Chorales" because it provided an excellent example of Lutheran theology and hymn form. With its imagery of light, it is commonly found in the Epiphany section of most hymnals.

We join the voices and tradition of singing this hymn as it has been for over 400 years.

+*+

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St. Martin's Worship Servants . . .

Acolyte	-Jalen Thompson
Lector	-Diana Ziegler
Organist	-Matthew Wachtman
Usher Team Leader	-Butch & Amy Blankenship
Sound System	-Cameron Thompson
Altar Guild	-Cristie Sevey & Robin Trudel
Offering Counters	-Jan Delaney & 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!

Monday Night Bible Study started again with the Apostles Creed as we continue exploring Luther's Small Catechism. This is an informal discussion-based format! No previous experience required. Send Steve an email if you'd like to join.

Our annual meeting will take place NEXT Sunday, January 25th immediately following worship. The Annual Report is available TODAY at the back of the sanctuary. An email will be sent to you with a copy and it is also available on the church website.

We are participating in the 2026 Souper Bowl of Caring! Starting January 25, we will start collecting canned goods and other food items for the FISH Food Pantry here in Archbold as well as any change you would like to donate, Kettles will be set out for the donations. **We will be collecting until Sunday, February 8th.** On February 8th we will be hosting a Souper Bowl of Caring Chili Cookoff during coffee hour, so bring your world-famous recipes and enter to win bragging rights as well as a trophy!

OUR MISSION TEAM IS READY!

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. 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. There is still time to donate towards **airfare, housing, supplies, and van rentals.** Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and generosity as we prepare to serve our neighbors in Puerto Rico.

On February 8th at 3:00pm we welcome the **Cleveland Celtic Ensemble** as part of our 2025-2026 Concert Series. They are a group of NE Ohio musicians that include the pipes, flute, violin, whistle, and harp. Come spend your afternoon listening to this talented group.

This Week at St. Martin's

TODAY – January 18
Worship, 9am
Sunday School, 10:15am
High School Youth, 10:30am
Middle School Youth, 6:30pm

Monday- January 19
Adult Zoom Group, 7pm

Tuesday – January 20
Men's Breakfast, 7am @ McDonald's
Community Meal, 5pm @ St. John's Christian

Wednesday- January 21
Welcome Place Meal, 5:15pm
Worship, 6pm
Kids Club, 6pm
Adult Circle, 6:30pm
Catechism, 6:30pm
Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm

Thursday- January 22
Women's Breakfast, 7am @ The Home Restaurant
Bulletin Deadline, 8am
Newsletter Deadline, 8am

Next Sunday – January 25-Annual Meeting
Worship, 9am
Annual Meeting, 10am
Sunday School, 10:15am
High School Youth, 10:30am
Middle School Youth, 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
Mon, Thurs.,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 1/11/2026, Budget and Year to Date

Operating Contributions	$7,592.29	Budgeted Weekly Operating Need	$7,381.00
Benevolence Received	$15.00	Budgeted Weekly Benevolence Need	$760.00
Other Designated Income	$2,037.28	**AS OF 12/31/2025**	
Total Income	$9,644.57	YTD Operating Received	$363,160.97
Worship: Sun/Wed/Total	141/19/160	YTD Operating Expenses	($356,799.83)
		Net Income/(Deficit)	$6,361.14

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 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, pancreatic cancer
Beverly Bettison, friend of Angie Avers, health concerns
Jeff Cook, Ann Ott's son
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
Ann Ott
Dorothy Gifford, Diane Parsons' sister, cancer
Max Miller, Pastor Steve's cousin, cancer
Dick Nagel, health concerns
Conrad and Karen Perry, Andi Erbskorn's brother and sister-in-law
Bruce Pearson, Trudel family friend, cancer
Bill Phelps
Jim Roemer, friend of Dana & Peg Bjorlin,
Peg Roth
Eric and Susan Rupp, Greg Rupp's brother and sister-in-law, health concerns
Deb Schnitkey, friend of Deb & Stan Schmidt
Mary Schwartz, Dianne Parsons' sister
Al & Lois Siewert
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.**