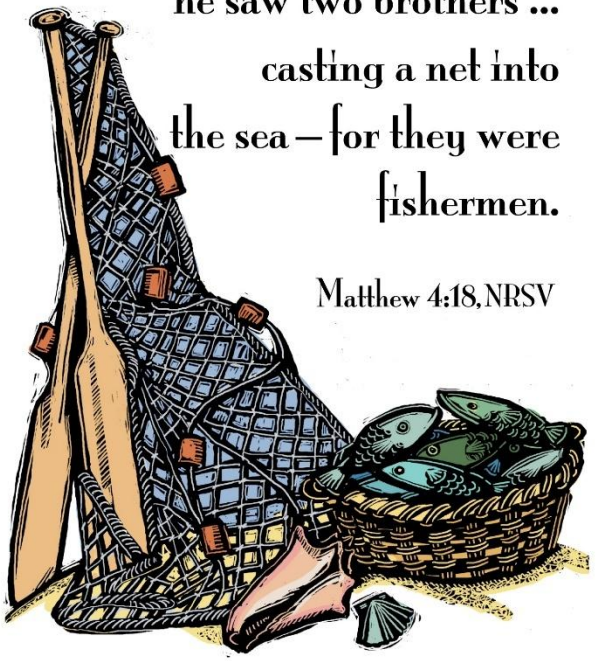
As he walked by the
Sea of Galilee,
he saw two brothers ...
casting a net into
the sea – for they were
fishermen.

Matthew 4:18, NRSV



St. Martin's Lutheran Church

203 S. Defiance Street + Archbold, OH 43502
www.the-welcome-place.org

Third Sunday after Epiphany
February 1, 2026

HOLY SPIRIT, EVER DWELLING

(Please sing Verse 3 in Unison)

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY *FEBRUARY 1, 2026*

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be "caught" in the net of God's grace and mercy.

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

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE **"THE SUMMONS"** *-ARR. ANNE KRENTZ ORGAN*

BELL & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***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

OPENING HYMN** ***"Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling"

*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.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of blazing light, through the power of the cross you shattered our darkness, scattering the fears that bind us and setting us free to live as your children. Give us courage and conviction that we may joyfully turn and follow you into new adventures of faithful service, led by the light of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING — Isaiah 9:1–4

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

[2]The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.
[3]You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
[4]For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord.

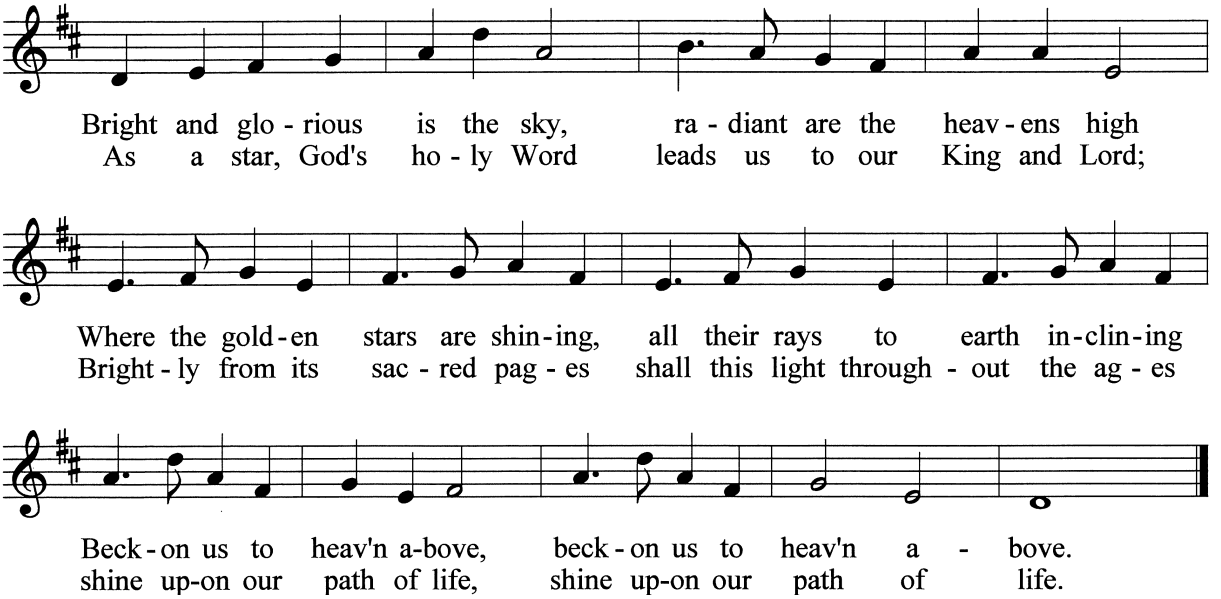
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING — 1 Corinthians 1:10–18

10 Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that
all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united
in the same mind and the same purpose. 11 For it has been reported to me by Chloe's
people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. 12 What I mean is that
each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I
belong to Christ." 13 Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you
baptized in the name of Paul? 14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus
and Gaius, 15 so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. 16 (I did baptize
also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone
else.) 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with
eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.
18 For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us
who are being saved it is the power of God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*HOLY GOSPEL — Matthew 4:12-23

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 4th chapter.

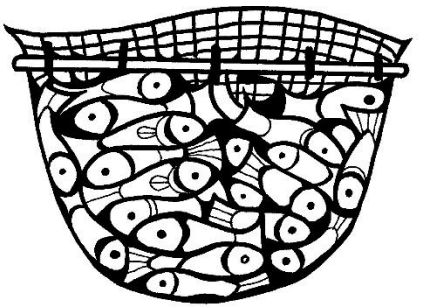
Glory to you, O Lord!

12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. 13 He left
Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and
Naphtali, 14 so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:
15 "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles — 16 the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."
17 From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come
near." 18 As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called
Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea — for they were fishermen. 19 And
he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." 20 Immediately they left
their nets and followed him. 21 As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James
son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their
nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed
him. 23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the
good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the
people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

MESSAGE — *"Unlikely People from Unlikely Places"*



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF THE DAY** *(Please remain seated for the introduction)* ***"The Summons"

*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

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 **"LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING"**

CHANCEL CHOIR *-ARR. ROLLO DILLWORTH*

Lift ev'ry voice and sing
till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise
high as the list'ning skies;
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun
of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died.
Yet with a steady beat,
have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.
We have come, treading our path thru' the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way,
Thou who hast by thy might
led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee.
Shadowed beneath thy hand,
may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

*OFFERTORY

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.

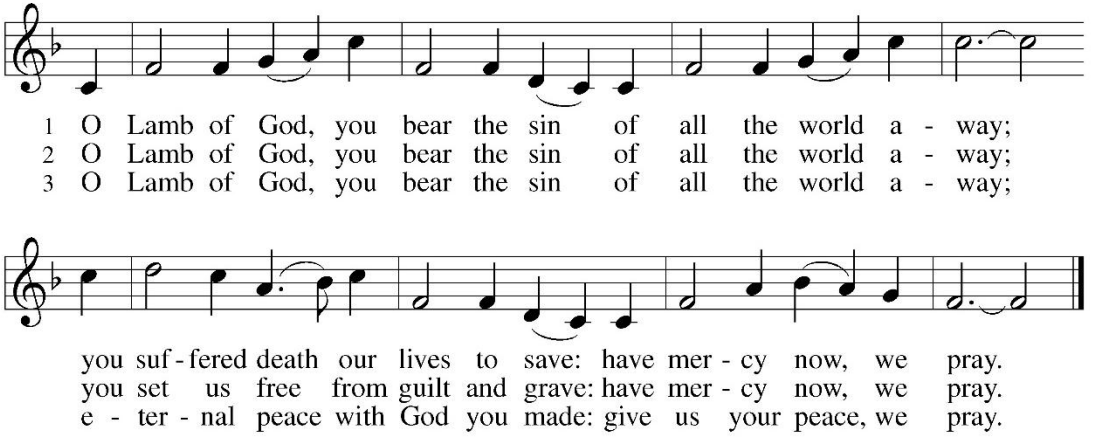
Amen

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

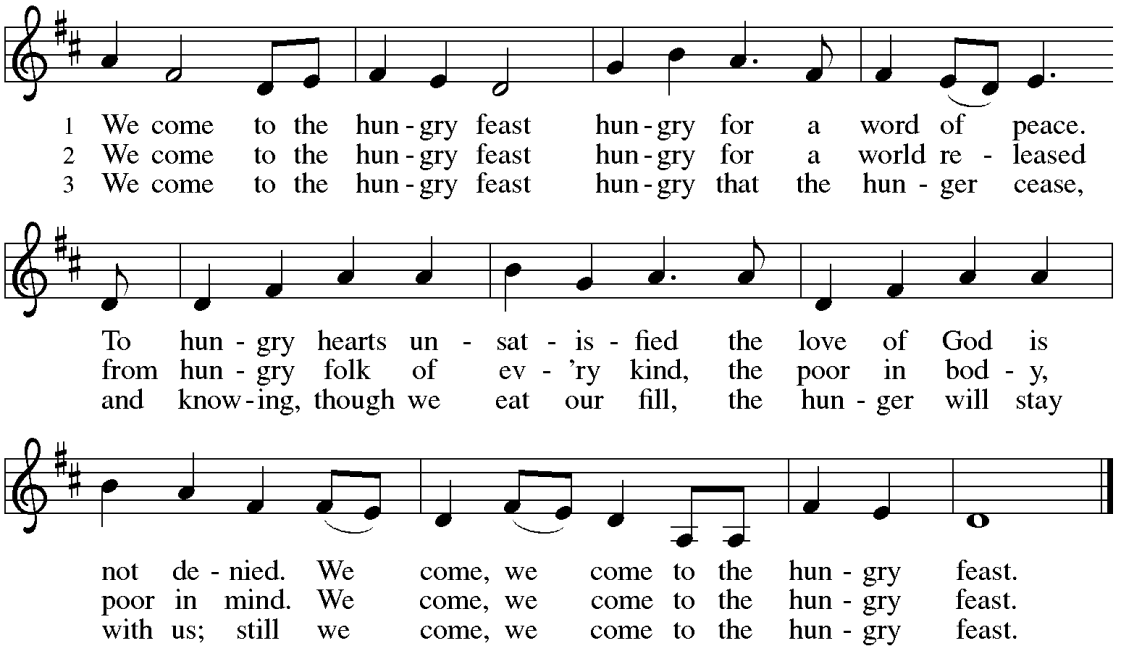
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

"Lamb of God" *(Agnus Dei)*



"We Come to the Hungry Feast"



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

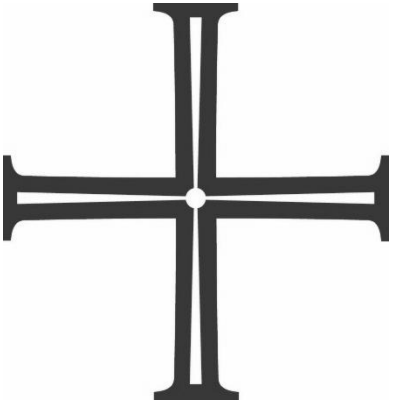
Ever-faithful God, you have taken us into your arms through the waters of baptism and nourished us as your dear children at this table. Lead us and guide us, that we may share our bread and your healing light with those who hunger and thirst. Embolden us to share the story of your never-ending love and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

Amen

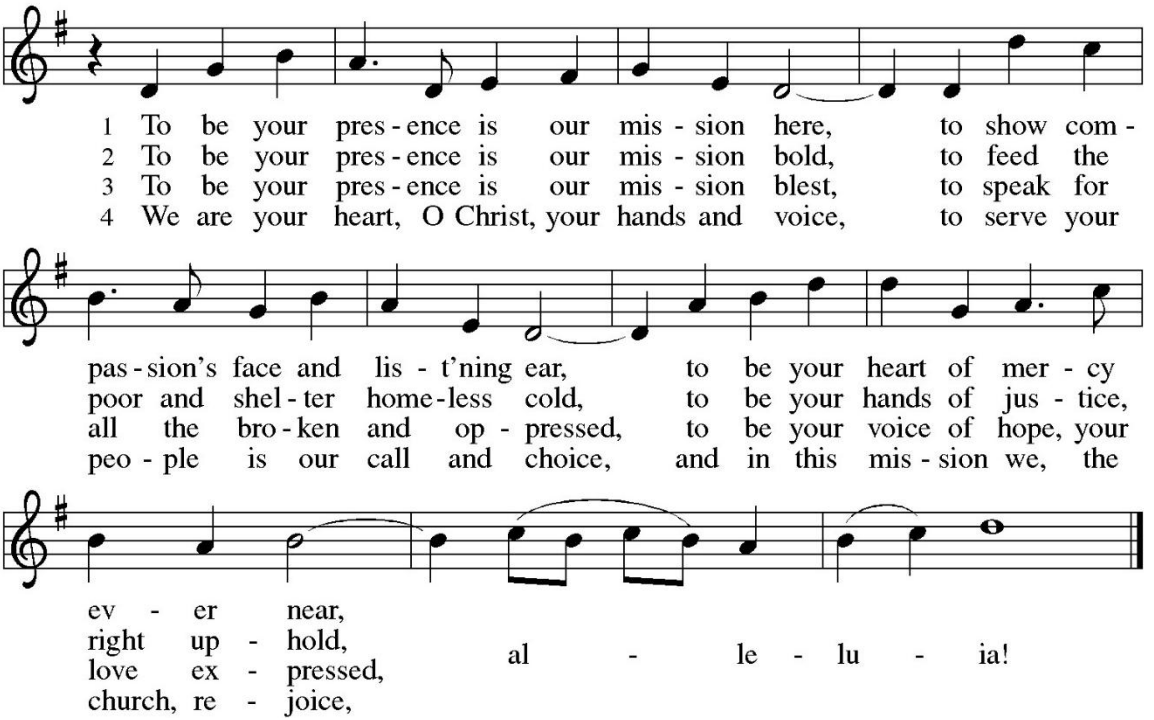
* BENEDICTION

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 *"To Be Your Presence"*



*Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Annual Meeting

+*+

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WORSHIP MATTERS

What is Epiphany? The word epiphany comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia,* which means appearance or manifestation. January 6 is the day of Epiphany in the Church Year and the Sundays that follow is a part of this season of Light. On the Sundays in Epiphany we here about the beginnings of Jesus' ministry in the gospel texts. Having the season of epiphany in the months of January and February is no accident. It is purposely put at this time of the year so that as the days lengthen, we are reminded that Christ came as the Light of the World. Christ's light is for all.

St. Martin's Worship Servants . . .

Acolyte	- Emi Pinter
Lector	-Jo Ann Benecke
Organist	-Matthew Wachtman
Flugelhorn	-Philip Hoverman
Usher Team Leader	-Ziegler/Pinter/Gericke
Sound System	-Darren Sonnenberg
Altar Guild	-Joan Meyer & Peg Bjorlin
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. Tomorrow night is the 3rd Article. Next week there will be a discussion on the Nicene and Athanasian Creeds. After a brief break, we'll resume February 16 with the Lord's Prayer. This is an informal discussion-based format on Zoom! No previous experience required, jump in when you can. Send Steve an email if you'd like to join.

St. Martin's is hosting the community meal on Tuesday, February 3 at St. John's Christian and need a few volunteers. If you would like to help serve, please get in touch with Jane Trudel.

The Annual Meeting will take place after church **TODAY**. Additionally, the cookie hour fundraiser for the Puerto Rico mission trip will take place immediately following the Annual Meeting.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING 2026 is almost here. Now through Sunday, February 8, we will be participating in Souper Bowl of Caring.

Each year, we collect spare change and canned goods to donate to the FISH Food Pantry. For the past few years, we have had a friendly competition between the younger kids and the older kids, and we are bringing it back again this year. There will be two pots at the Souperbowl of Caring table:

- Littles through 4th grade
- Middle School and High School students

Kids will place their donations in their group's pot, and congregation members are welcome to add to either pot. We will also be collecting canned food items to donate. So, the big question is this: will Littles through 4th grade defend their title once again, or will the older Students come in and take the win this year?

But that is not all. This year, we are introducing our very first Souperbowl of Caring Chili Cook-Off. If you would like to participate, sign up at the table with your name and phone number for a chance to take home the St. Martin's Chili Cook-Off trophy, earn a year of bragging rights, and win a gift card. Once you sign up, Jake will be in touch with all the details.

The Cook-Off will be held as a part of Coffee Hour after worship when you will have the chance to sample and vote for your favorite.

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 worship and the meeting TODAY, Sunday, 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 play historic instruments including pipes, flute, violin, whistle, and harp. Come spend your afternoon listening to this talented group.

Parkinson's Group will meet this Tuesday, February 3rd at 11:30am at Sullivan's Restaurant in Wauseon.

This Week at St. Martin's

TODAY – February 1
Worship, 9am
Annual Meeting, 10am
Puerto Rico Coffee Hour, 10:15am
Sunday School, 10:20am
High School Youth, 10:30am
Middle School Youth, 6:30pm

Monday- February 2
High School Bible Study, 7am
Zoom Bible Study, 7pm

Tuesday – February 3
Men's Breakfast, 7am @ McDonald's
Parkinson's Group, 1pm, @ Sullivans Restaurant
Community Meal, 5pm @ St. John's Christian

Wednesday- February 4
Marty-Martha Circle, 1pm
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- February 5
Women's Breakfast, 7am @ The Home Restaurant
Bulletin Deadline, 8am

Next Sunday – February 8
Worship, 9am
Souper Bowl of Caring Chili Cook-Off, 10:15am
Sunday School, 10:20am
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 1/25/2026, Budget and Year to Date

Operating Contributions	$1,710.12	Budgeted Weekly Operating Need	$7,381.00
Benevolence Received	$5.00	Budgeted Weekly Benevolence Need	$760.00
Other Designated Income	$500.00	**AS OF 12/31/2025**	
Total Income	$2,215.12	YTD Operating Received	$363,160.97
Worship: Sun/Wed/Total	0/20/20	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
Angie Avers, health concerns
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
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
Deb Schnitkey, friend of Deb & Stan Schmidt
Mary Schwartz, Dianne Parsons' sister
Al & Lois Siewert
Megan Spengler, cousin of Whitney Wyse, cancer
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

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 <u>only</u> with their permission.**

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