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

February 2026

Wednesday Night
Lent Schedule
Starting February 18
5:15—Meal
6:00 Adult Circle
6:00 Kids Club
6:00 Bell Choir
6:15 Catechism
7:00 Lenten Worship
7:30 Chancel Choir

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 ...

- **February 1- Annual Meeting after Service & Puerto Rico Coffee Hour after Meeting**
- **February 8- Souper Bowl of Caring Chili Cookoff**
- **February 8-Concert Series: Cleveland Celtic Ensemble & Reception**
- **February 15- Middle School Mafia Night**
- **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 : Joan Meyer & Peg Bjorlin
Sound: Darren Sonnenberg , Cameron Thompson, & Bill Phelps
Usher Team Leader: Ziegler
Offering Counter: February 1-Jan Delaney
February 8- Jay Schnitkey
February 15- Jane Sonnenberg
February 22-Janet Wyse

Communion: February 1, 15, & 18
March Newsletter Deadline -February 19

January Attendance & Offering

January 4- $ 3,589.00
99/22/127
January 11- $ 9,644.57
159/19/178
January 18- $8,973.08
103/22/125
January 25- $2,215.12
0/20

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

2026 Lenten Theme: **Lord, Teach Us to Pray...**

The Lord's Prayer

The season of Lent begins **February 18** with Ash Wednesday. The three pillars of Lent are: Prayer, Fasting & Works of Love. We will be focusing on **prayer** as we explore the petitions of The Lord's Prayer during our Wednesday worship at 7pm each week.

Additionally, you are encouraged to consider joining the Monday Night Zoom Study Group as we continue our look at Martin Luther's Small Catechism. That group's focus will also be The Lord's Prayer as we consider Luther's words on each of the petitions. That study will begin on Monday, **February 16** at 7pm. Please email Pastor Steve if you'd like to join.

WEDNESDAY SERIES: *Each Wednesday at 7pm*

Lord, Teach Us to Pray...

FEBRUARY 18 – OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME

FEBRUARY 25 - THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.

MARCH 4 - GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.

MARCH 11 - AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US.

MARCH 18 - AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL.

MARCH 25 - FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY. AMEN

MONDAY NIGHT ZOOM STUDY GROUP: *Each Monday at 7pm*

begins February 16.

Feb. 23, Mar. 2, Mar. 9, Mar. 16, Mar. 23

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.

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/

Darren Sonnenberg
Evangelism/Outreach Network

THANK YOU

I want to say how much we as a family appreciate all the love and support we have received for Emma, Hayden and Liam. It's been so overwhelming I haven't been able to respond to each individual but each outreach means so very much to us. We are taking this day by day. Thank you for your continued prayers.
-Nancy Bannister

Souper Bowl of Caring 2026

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.

Parkinson's Group

The Parkinson's Support Group meets Tuesday, February 3rd at 1pm at Sullivans Restaurant in Wauseon.

St. Martin's Lutheran Church (ELCA)
Church Council Meeting
January 12, 2026

St. Martin's Church Council met on January 12, 2026, with Janet Wyse, Jan Delaney, Cameron Thompson, Jay Schnitkey, Jane Sonnenberg, Steve Basselman, Nona Rupp(via Zoom), Jo Ann Benecke, Kayla Benecke, Ellison Benecke, and Gina Benecke present. Nona called the meeting to order and Cameron led devotions and prayer.
·Minutes from December 2025 council meetings were reviewed and approved.
·Financial report from December 2025 was reviewed and approved.
·Council approved HSA payments to full-time staff as recommended by the Mutual Ministry Team.
·Pastor Steve reported that a candidate is replacing Mary Beth Smith-Gunn as she retired from Bryan at the end of 2025. The after school program will be starting up soon, and will begin with about six students in grades 1-4 from the elementary school.
·No reports from Property Team, Youth Network, Worship Network, Stewardship Network, Education Network and Technology Team.
·Susan Short provided year-end reports on the memorial accounts.
·Puerto Rico Mission Trip Update - Darren Sonnenberg provided council with their budgeted expenses and fundraising for their February 2026 Trip. Council approved that a resolution to provide $10,000.00 to the group for their trip be brought before the congregation for consideration at the annual meeting.
·Nominations for Council positions were approved and will be voted on at the annual meeting.
·Council members will share in the responsibility of proof-reading the annual report and report any suggestions to Whitney.

Offering counters for February:
February 1 – Jan Delaney
February 8 – Jay Schnitkey
February 15 – Jane Sonnenberg
February 22 – Janet Wyse

Pastor Steve will provide devotions for the February meeting, which will be held on February 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 Twelve Months Ending December 31, 2025

	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget
Revenues				
Operating Income	$ 48,435.89	$ 31,207.25	$ 346,865.20	$ 374,487.00
WPW Meals Inc	0.00	0.00	755.00	0.00
Johnson House & Short Haven	1,100.00	550.00	6,600.00	6,600.00
Interest	0.31	0.00	8,940.77	0.00
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES	49,536.20	31,757.25	363,160.97	381,087.00
. SALARIES	6,382.02	15,748.10	178,694.49	188,977.20
. BENEFITS	7,485.11	8,057.18	91,607.66	96,686.16
. OFFICE EXPENSES	550.99	947.50	9,559.48	11,370.00
. OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE	0.00	44.00	0.00	528.00
. YOUTH NETWORK	974.57	750.00	8,889.65	9,000.00
. WORSHIP NETWORK	3,629.29	916.00	10,222.77	10,992.00
. EDUCATION NETWORK	229.68	489.00	3,802.93	5,868.00
. EVANGELISM & OUTREACH	399.22	1,047.00	10,105.04	12,564.00
. PROPERTY NETWORK	4,113.99	3,758.50	43,917.81	45,102.00
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	23,764.87	31,757.28	356,799.83	381,087.36
NET OPERATING INCOME/(DEFICIT)	**$ 25,771.33**	**($ 0.03)**	**$ 6,361.14**	**($ 0.36)**
NET BALANCE OPERATING	$ 25,771.33	($ 0.03)	$ 6,361.14	($ 0.36)
NET BENEVOLENCE INCOME/(DEFICIT)	$ 16,866.00	$ 0.00	$ 0.00	$ 0.00
NET SUMMARY INCOME(DEFICIT)	***$ 42,637.33***	***($ 0.03)***	***$ 6,361.14***	***($ 0.36)***

Other Income

	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget
Christmas Cheer	$10.00			
FISH	$200.00			
Friendship House	$25.00			
Solid Rock	$10.00			

MAFIA NIGHT
HIDE & SEEK WITH A TWIST
GRADES 5TH-8TH
PARENT CONSENT FORM MUST BE SIGNED
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 15TH
6:30PM - 8:30PM
JAKE KEIL
C: 419.450.7380
jakek@the-welcome-place.org
ST. MARTIN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
203 S. Defiance St.
Archbold, OH 43502

Service, Fellowship, & Bible Study Groups

Mary- Martha Circle February 4 @ 1pm
led by Kris Jemmot

Parkinson's Group February 3 @ 1pm
led by Bonnie Lauber

Sewing February 10 & 24 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 February 9 @ 7pm
led by Bridget Lovejoy

All are welcome and invited to participate in these groups!

Health Piece

Volunteering is good for your health

METRO CREATIVE

Volunteering makes an immeasurable difference in the lives of volunteers and those they help. Many people may be surprised to learn how positive volunteering can be for volunteers. Indeed, studies show that volunteering leads to better physical and mental health, among other benefits.

According to an article published by the American Heart Association and Jeffrey Burr, a professor of gerontology at the University of Massachusetts Boston, "compared to non-volunteers, volunteers have less depression, less anxiety, higher self-esteem, greater happiness, and a greater sense of meaning in life." Burr and the AHA note the health benefits of volunteering occur among all ages, and a deep look at how volunteer efforts are good for personal health shows just how profound giving back can be.

• **Reduces stress:** The Mayo Clinic reports that volunteering reduces stress and increases positive, relaxed feelings by releasing dopamine. When volunteers spend time in service to others, they report feeling a sense of meaning and appreciation, both of which can have stress-reducing effects.

• **Lowers depression:** Research has shown that volunteering leads to lower rates of depression and anxiety, particularly among people 65 and older.

• **Provides a sense of purpose:** AmeriCorps reports volunteering can provide a sense of purpose in older adults, which can help replace feelings of inadequacy due to loss of major role identities, such as wage earner or parent. This sense of purpose can improve life satisfaction and happiness.

• **Reduces blood pressure:** According to researchers at Carnegie Mellon University, older adults who volunteered for at least 200 hours annually decrease their risk of high blood pressure by 40 percent. This also may lower risk of heart disease and stroke.

• **Eliminates feelings of isolation:** Volunteers working together link people to others and their communities. This can help people overcome feelings of isolation, which may come from being new to a community or being a senior and having a smaller social circle.

• **Increases happiness:** Those who volunteer regularly tend to be happier and more empathetic towards others. Volunteering also instils a sense of pride that can make people happier.

• **Keeps the mind active:** Individuals who volunteer can improve their cognitive health. That's because volunteering engages a person in new skills, requires them to solve problems and keeps them mentally stimulated through various activities.

• **Improves physical health:** Some volunteer activities will involve physical tasks that can contribute to improved physical health because they constitute moderate exercise.

Volunteering offers a number of benefits that can improve both physical and mental health for those donating their time to help others.

February Birthdays

1—Steven Kammeyer
Bev Miller
2—Jim Badenhop
Boede Wyse
Sharon Ziegler
3—Amy Blankenship
4—Kay Badenhop
Mark Lange
5—Jerry Geiger
6—Jeff Benecke
Michael Ziegler
Willow Wyse
8—Lisa Dickman
Erin (Erbskorn) Mazza
9—Brandi Meyer
Brittni Meyer
10—Will Fraker
11—Jan Delaney
Joan Meyer
Robyn Reeves
Mark Weaver
15—Jo Ann Liechty
16—Amy Whitacre
18—Aaron Schmidt
19—Butch Blankenship
Nick Kammeyer
Maddox Schneider
Harrison Wyse
Marissa Schmidt
22—Leta Rae Beck
Levi Rupp
23—Beckett Thiel
27—Diane Phelps
28—Andrew Manahan

February Anniversaries

8—Richard & Karen Phlipot
14—Zeno & Bev Miller
19—Zach & Jessica Gericke
25—Jim & Cathy Hayes

Prayer Concerns

Angie Avers
Bonnie Badenhop
Bonnie R. Lauber
Ann Ott
Dick Nagel
Bill Phelps
Peg Roth
Al & Lois Siewert
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,

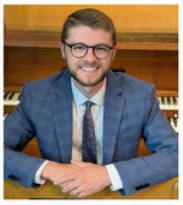
2025-2026 Season

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

February

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion 9:00—Worship 10:00—Annual Meeting 10:00—Sunday School 10:15—Puerto Rico Breakfast 10:30—High School Youth 6:30—Middle School Youth	**2** 7:00am—High School Bible Study 7:00—Zoom Bible Study	**3** 7:00—Men's Breakfast 11:00—Staff Meeting 1:00—Parkinson's Group 5:00—Community Meal	**4** 1:00—Women's Circle 5:15—WPW Meal 6:00—WPW Worship 6:00—Kid Club 6:30—Adult Circle 6:30—Catechism 6:30—Bell Choir 7:30—Chancel Choir	**5** 7:00—Women's Breakfast 9:00—Bulletin Deadline	**6**	**7**
8 9:00—Worship 10:15—Sunday School 10:15—Souper Bowl of Caring 10:30—High School Youth 3:00—Concert Series 6:30– Middle School Youth	**9** 7:00—Friendship Circle	**10** 7:00—Men's Breakfast 9:00—Sewing 11:00—Staff Meeting 5:00—Community Meal	**11** 5:15—WPW Meal 6:00—WPW Worship 6:00—Kid Club 6:30—Adult Circle 6:30—Catechism 6:30—Bell Choir 7:30—Chancel Choir	**12** 7:00—Women's Breakfast 9:00—Bulletin Deadline 7:00—Church Council	**13**	**14**
15 Communion 9:00—Worship 10:15—Sunday School 10:30—High School Youth 6:30– Middle School Youth Mafia Night	**16 President's Day** 7:00—Zoom Bible Study	**17** 7:00—Men's Breakfast 11:00—Staff Meeting 5:00—Community Meal	**18 Ash Wednesday** 5:15—WPW Meal 6:00—Adult Circle 6:00—Bell Choir 6:15—Catechism 7:00—Ash Wednesday Worship Service 7:30—Chancel Choir	**19** 7:00—Women's Breakfast 9:00—Bulletin Deadline 9:00—Newsletter Deadline	**20**	**21**
22 9:00—Worship 10:15—Sunday School 10:30—High School Youth 6:30– Middle School Youth Mafia Night	**23** 7:00—Zoom Bible Study	**24** 7:00—Men's Breakfast 9:00—Sewing 11:00—Staff Meeting 5:00—Community Meal	**25** 5:15—WPW Meal 6:00—Adult Circle 6:00—Bell Choir 6:15—Catechism 7:00—Ash Wednesday Worship Service 7:30—Chancel Choir	**26** 7:00—Women's Breakfast 9:00—Bulletin Deadline	**27**	**28**

St. Martin's Lutheran Church
203 S. Defiance Street
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SINCE 1866
ANCHORED in the CROSS
Our story is still unfolding
ST. MARTIN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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