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

January 4, 2026

Second Sunday after Christmas

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS JANUARY 4, 2026

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

PRELUDE *"Joy to the World"*

Stan Schmidt

BELL & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*OPENING HYMN *Congregation's Choice*

*RESPONSIVE READING BASED ON PSALM 147: 12-20

12 Extol the Lord, O Jerusalem!
Praise your God, O Zion!
**13 For he strengthens the bars of your gates;
he blesses your children within you.**
14 He grants peace within your borders;
he fills you with the finest of wheat.
**15 He sends out his command to the earth;
his word runs swiftly.**
16 He gives snow like wool;
he scatters frost like ashes.
**17 He hurls down hail like crumbs—
who can stand before his cold?**
18 He sends out his word and melts them;
he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.
**19 He declares his word to Jacob,
his statutes and ordinances to Israel.**
20 He has not done this with any other nation;
they do not know his ordinances.
Praise the Lord!

*GREETING & 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.

And also with you.

All-powerful God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, whom with you and the Holy Spirit we worship and praise, one God, now and forever.

Amen

First Reading — Jeremiah 31:7-14

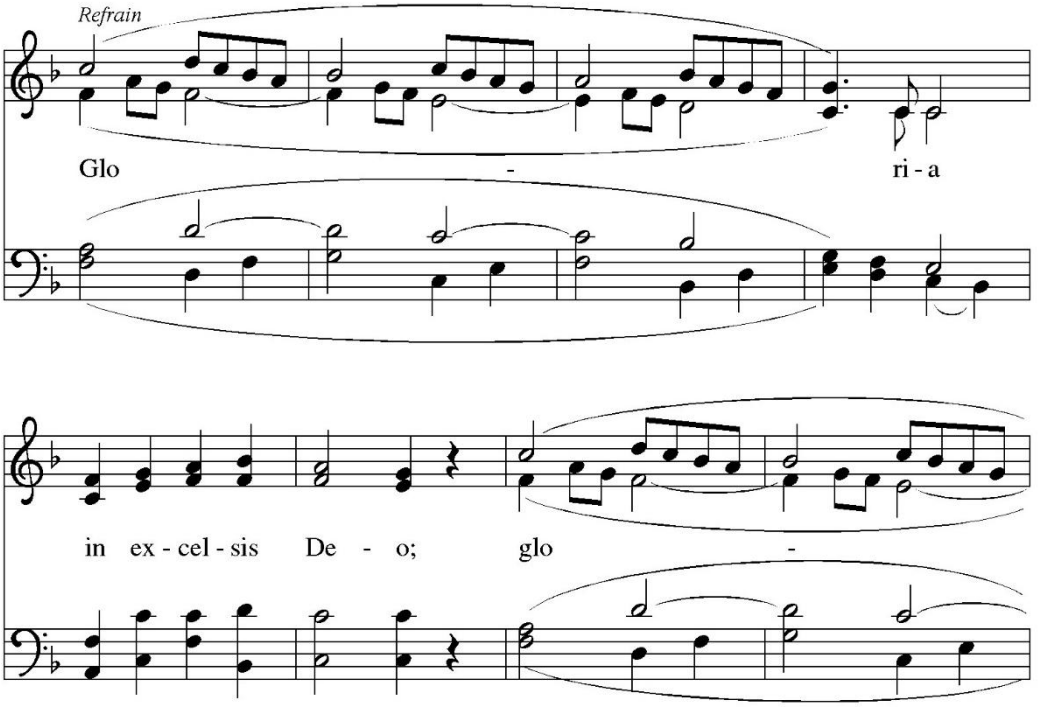
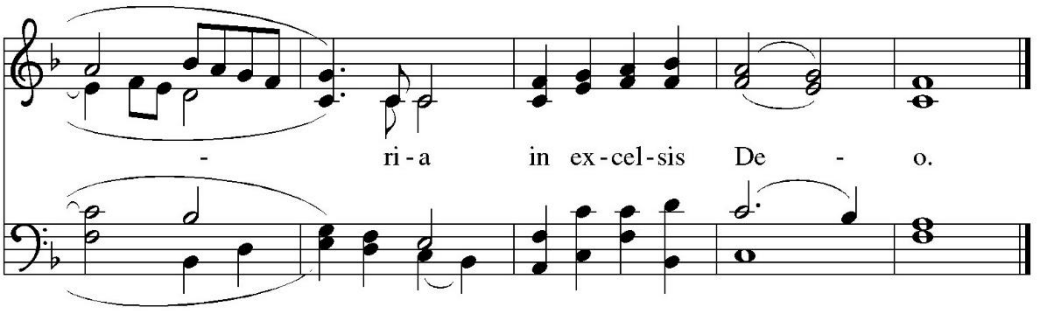
7 Now this is what the Lord says:
"Sing with joy for Israel.
Shout for the greatest of nations!
Shout out with praise and joy:
'Save your people, O Lord,
the remnant of Israel!'
8 For I will bring them from the north
and from the distant corners of the earth.
I will not forget the blind and lame,
the expectant mothers and women in labor.
A great company will return!
9 Tears of joy will stream down their faces,
and I will lead them home with great care.
They will walk beside quiet streams
and on smooth paths where they will not stumble.
For I am Israel's father,
and Ephraim is my oldest child.
10 "Listen to this message from the Lord,
you nations of the world;
proclaim it in distant coastlands:
The Lord, who scattered his people,
will gather them and watch over them
as a shepherd does his flock.
11 For the Lord has redeemed Israel
from those too strong for them.
12 They will come home and sing songs of joy on the heights of Jerusalem.
They will be radiant because of the Lord's good gifts—
the abundant crops of grain, new wine, and olive oil,
and the healthy flocks and herds.
Their life will be like a watered garden,
and all their sorrows will be gone.
13 The young women will dance for joy,
and the men—old and young—will join in the celebration.
I will turn their mourning into joy.
I will comfort them and exchange their sorrow for rejoicing.
14 The priests will enjoy abundance,
and my people will feast on my good gifts.
I, the Lord, have spoken!"

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING — EPHESIANS 1:3-14

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 just as he chose us in Christ before
the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. 5 He destined us
for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his
will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7 In
him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according
to the riches of his grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight 9 he has
made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth
in Christ, 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven
and things on earth. 11 In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been
destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his
counsel and will, 12 so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for
the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel
of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy
Spirit; 14 this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to
the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*HOLY GOSPEL — JOHN 1:1-18

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

Glory to you, O Lord

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He
was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him
not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was
the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake
it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to
testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but
he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into
the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not
know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to
all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of
God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of
God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory
as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. 15 (John testified to him and cried out, "This
was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before
me.' ") 16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 The law indeed was
given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen
God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him
known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

***HYMN OF THE DAY** **Congregation's Choice**

***PROFESSION OF FAITH** – *Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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 share God's peace with each other with the words "Peace be with you")

OFFERING **"WE THREE KINGS"**
STAN SCHMIDT

OFFERTORY HYMN **CONGREGATION'S CHOICE**

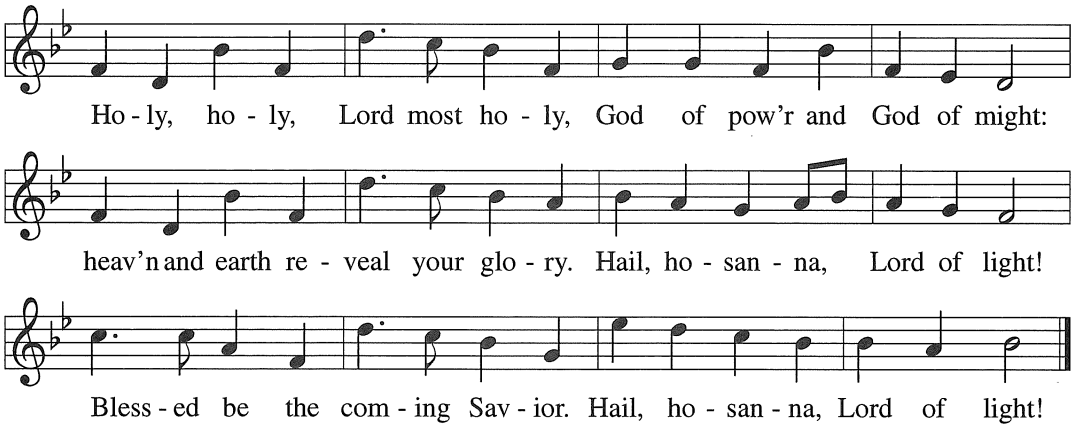
*Offertory Prayer

God of abundance,
receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

*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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



*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

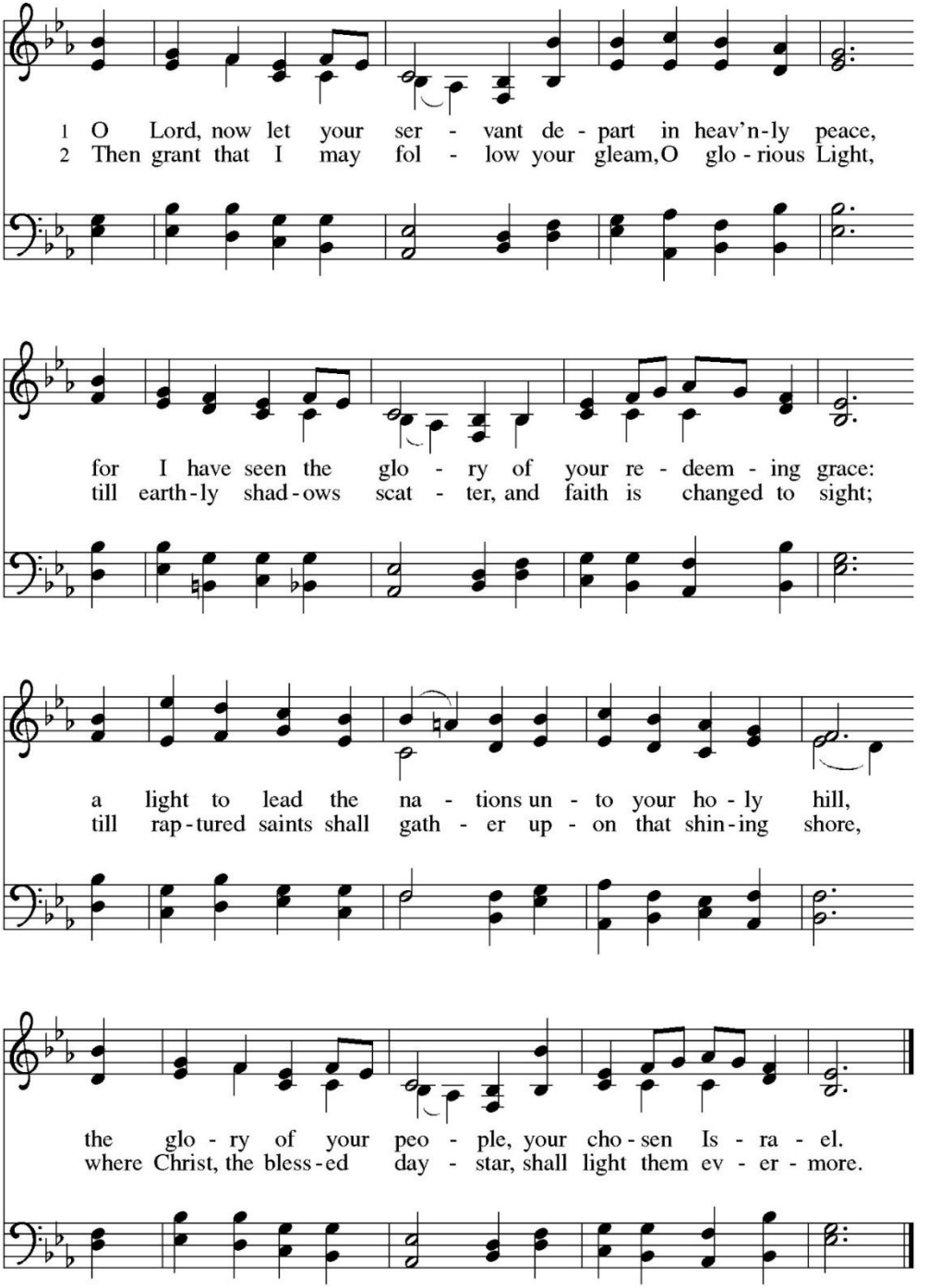
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*BLESSING

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

Amen

*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE *(NUNC DIMITTIS)*

*Post Communion Prayer

In this meal, O God, you have come to us and we are renewed in body and soul. Strengthen us in our calling to proclaim the good news of your redeeming love to all who are in need. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*Benediction

May we be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless us now and forever.

Amen

*Closing Hymn — Congregation's Choice

*Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the Good News.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

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St. Martin's Worship Servants . . .

Acolyte	-Kayla Benecke
Lector	-Deb Schmidt
Organist	-Matthew Wachtman
Pianist	-Stan Schmidt
Usher Team Leader	-Butch & Amy Blankenship
Sound System	-Bill Phelps
Altar Guild	-Cristie Sevey & Robin Trudel
Offering Counters	-Jo Ann Benecke & 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!

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. **There will be a meeting for those interested on Wednesday, January 7 at 5:30pm.**

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.

Monday Night Bible Study will continue on Zoom resuming on January 5. We finished a series on the 10 Commandments. Next will be the Apostles Creed as we continue exploring Luther's Small Catechism. Join us anytime. This is an informal discussion-based format! No previous experience required. Send Steve an email if you'd like to join.

Whitney will be out of the church office from December 28-January 5. If there are any immediate needs, please reach out to Steve or Matthew.

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

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.

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

TECHOS PA' MI GENTE

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

Darren Sonnenberg
Evangelism/Outreach Network

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 Candidates Name(s):_____

Position(s):_____

This Week at St. Martin's

Next Sunday – January 4-Holy Communion
Worship, 9am
Sunday School, 10:15am
High School Youth, 10:30am
Middle School Youth, 6:30pm

Monday- January 5
Adult Zoom Group, 7pm

Tuesday – January 6
Men's Breakfast, 7am @ McDonald's
Parkinson's Group, 1pm
Community Meal, 5pm @ St. John's Christian

Wednesday- January 7
Mary-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- January 8
Women's Breakfast, 7am @ The Home Restaurant
Bulletin Deadline, 8am

Next Sunday – January 11
Worship, 9am
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
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 12/28/2025, Budget and Year to Date

Operating Contributions	$11,194.12	Budgeted Weekly Operating Need	$7,329.00
Benevolence Received	$195.00	Budgeted Weekly Benevolence Need	$713.00
Other Designated Income	$1,375.00	**AS OF 11/30/2025**	
Total Income	$12,764.12	YTD Operating Received	$313,624.77
Worship: Sun/Wed/Total	89/0/89	YTD Operating Expenses	($331,734.96)
		Net Income/(Deficit)	($18,110.19)

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

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.
- Family and Friends of Mark Thatcher who passed away December 31.

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
Anne McCarty, health concerns
Ann Ott
Dorothy Gifford, Diane Parsons' sister, cancer
Max Miller, Pastor Steve's cousin, 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
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.**