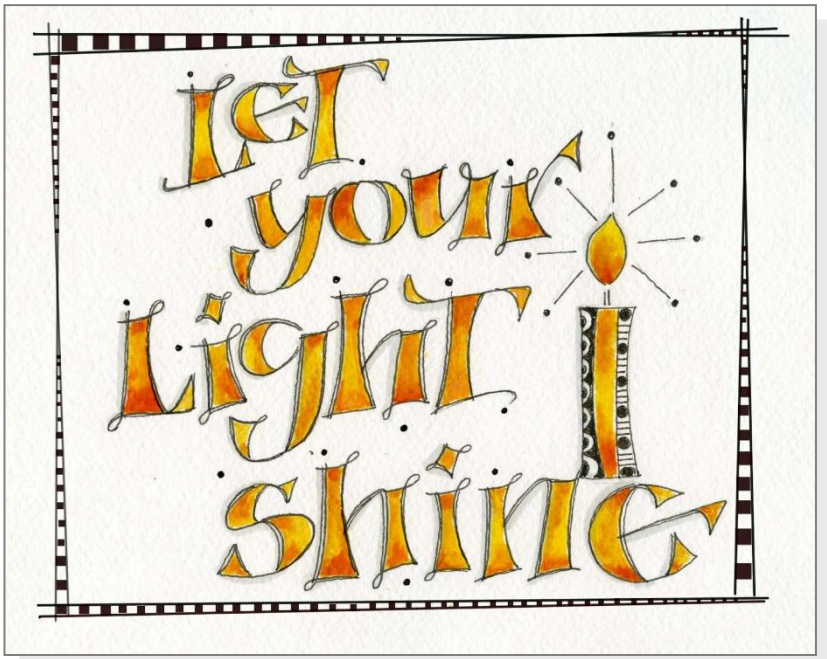


St. Martin's Lutheran Church
203 S. Defiance Street + Archbold, OH 43502
www.the-welcome-place.org

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 8, 2026

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY — *FEBRUARY 8, 2026*

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

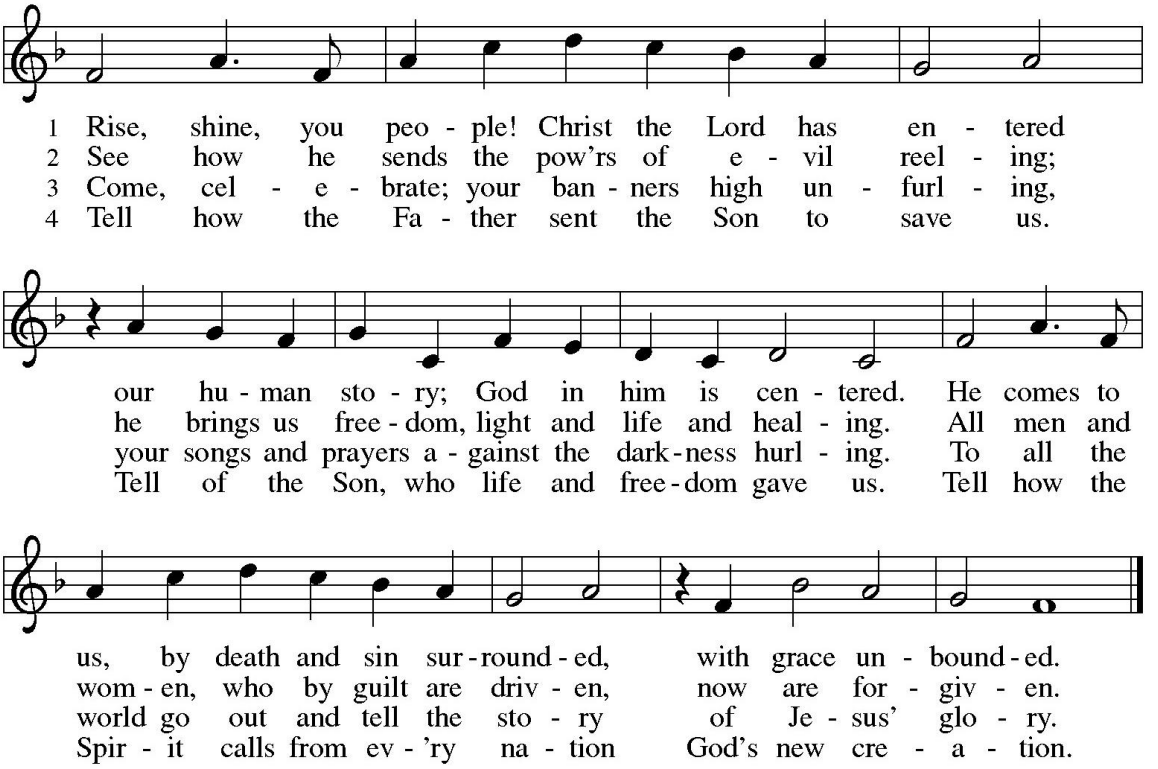
Regular text is spoken by the Worship Leader or Pastor
Bold text is spoken by the congregation

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Bell & Announcements

*Opening Hymn — *"Rise, Shine, You People"*



*Confession and Forgiveness

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

Amen

Rise, shine; for your light has come,

and the glory of the LORD has risen upon us. *(Isaiah 60:1)*

Happy are the people who know the festal shout,

who walk, O LORD, in the light of your presence. *(Psalm 89:15)*

For with you is the fountain of life;

in your light we see light. *(Psalm 36:9)*

Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God's mercy.

Silence is kept for personal reflection.

God of peace,

we confess that we are not at peace. We bring to you all that causes pain in our lives and the lives of others: discord in our families, violence in our world, our own conflicted hearts.

In your mercy, restore us. Reconnect us to one another and to you.

Let peace reign over all the earth, through the Prince of peace, the Light of the world, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Through the Word who has come to dwell with us, God has given us grace: forgiveness that is stronger than our sins, love that can heal every broken heart. Hear this word of God's pardon and peace: in the name of Jesus our Savior, we are free from all our sins. Rise, shine, for our light has come.

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.

And also with you.

God of Light, as you shone in the life of Jesus, so shine in us and through us, that we may become beacons of truth and compassion, enlightening your whole creation with deeds of justice and mercy, all done in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Reading — Isaiah 58:1-10

"Shout with the voice of a trumpet blast. Shout aloud! Don't be timid.
Tell my people Israel of their sins!
2 Yet they act so pious! They come to the Temple every day and seem delighted to learn all
about me. They act like a righteous nation that would never abandon the laws of its God.
They ask me to take action on their behalf, pretending they want to be near me.
3 'We have fasted before you!' they say. 'Why aren't you impressed? We have been very
hard on ourselves, and you don't even notice it!'
"I will tell you why!" I respond. "It's because you are fasting to please yourselves. Even
while you fast, you keep oppressing your workers.
4 What good is fasting when you keep on fighting and quarreling? This kind of fasting will
never get you anywhere with me.
5 You humble yourselves by going through the motions of penance, bowing your heads like
reeds bending in the wind. You dress in burlap and cover yourselves with ashes. Is this
what you call fasting? Do you really think this will please the LORD?
6 "No, this is the kind of fasting I want:
Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you.
Let the oppressed go free and remove the chains that bind people.
7 Share your food with the hungry and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those
who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.
8 "Then your salvation will come like the dawn, and your wounds will quickly heal. Your
godliness will lead you forward, and the glory of the LORD will protect you from behind.
9 Then when you call, the LORD will answer. 'Yes, I am here,' he will quickly reply.
"Remove the heavy yoke of oppression. Stop pointing your finger and spreading vicious
rumors!
10 Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the
darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.

New Living Translation

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Psalm 112 – *read responsively*

[1]Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD and have great delight in God's commandments! [2]Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. [3]Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.

[4]**They will be kind and merciful and good; they will be a light in the dark for others.**

[5]It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice. [6]For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

They will be kind and merciful and good; they will be a light in the dark for others.

[7]They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD. [8]Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies. [9]They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

They will be kind and merciful and good; they will be a light in the dark for others.

New Testament Reading — 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

When I first came to you, dear brothers and sisters, I didn't use lofty words and impressive wisdom to tell you God's secret plan. **2** For I decided that while I was with you, I would forget everything except Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified. **3** I came to you in weakness—timid and trembling. **4** And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. **5** I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God.

6 Yet when I am among mature believers, I do speak with words of wisdom, but not the kind of wisdom that belongs to this world or to the rulers of this world, who are soon forgotten. **7** No, the wisdom we speak of is the mystery of God—his plan that was previously hidden, even though he made it for our ultimate glory before the world began. **8** But the rulers of this world have not understood it; if they had, they would not have crucified our glorious Lord. **9** That is what the Scriptures mean when they say,

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined
what God has prepared for those who love him."

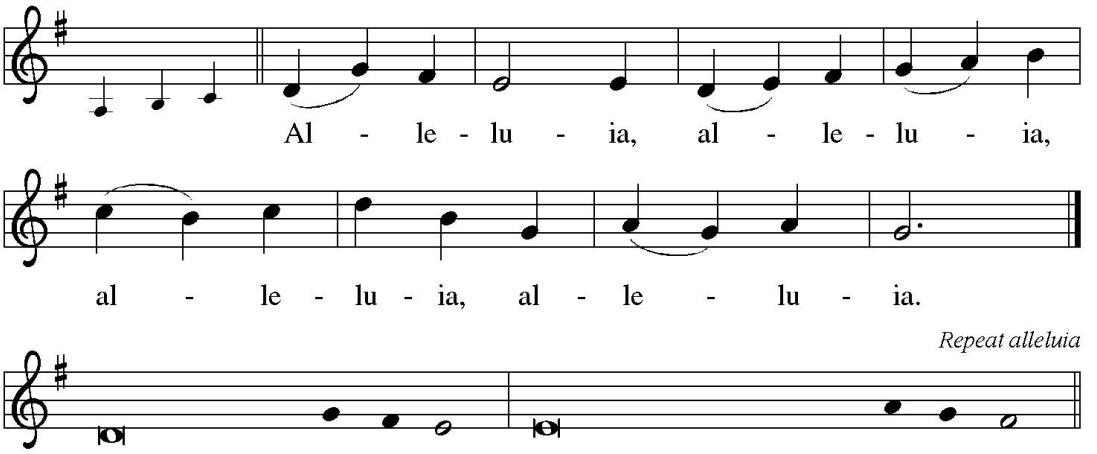
10 But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets. **11** No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. **12** And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us.

New Living Translation

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

*Gospel Acclamation



Jesus says,
I am the light of the world;
whoever follows
me will have the light of life.

*Gospel Reading — Matthew 5:13-20

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 5th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord

13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be
restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.
14 "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15 No one after
lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to
all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may
see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.
17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to
abolish but to fulfill. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one
letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.
19 Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches
others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does
them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you,
unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never
enter the kingdom of heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord.

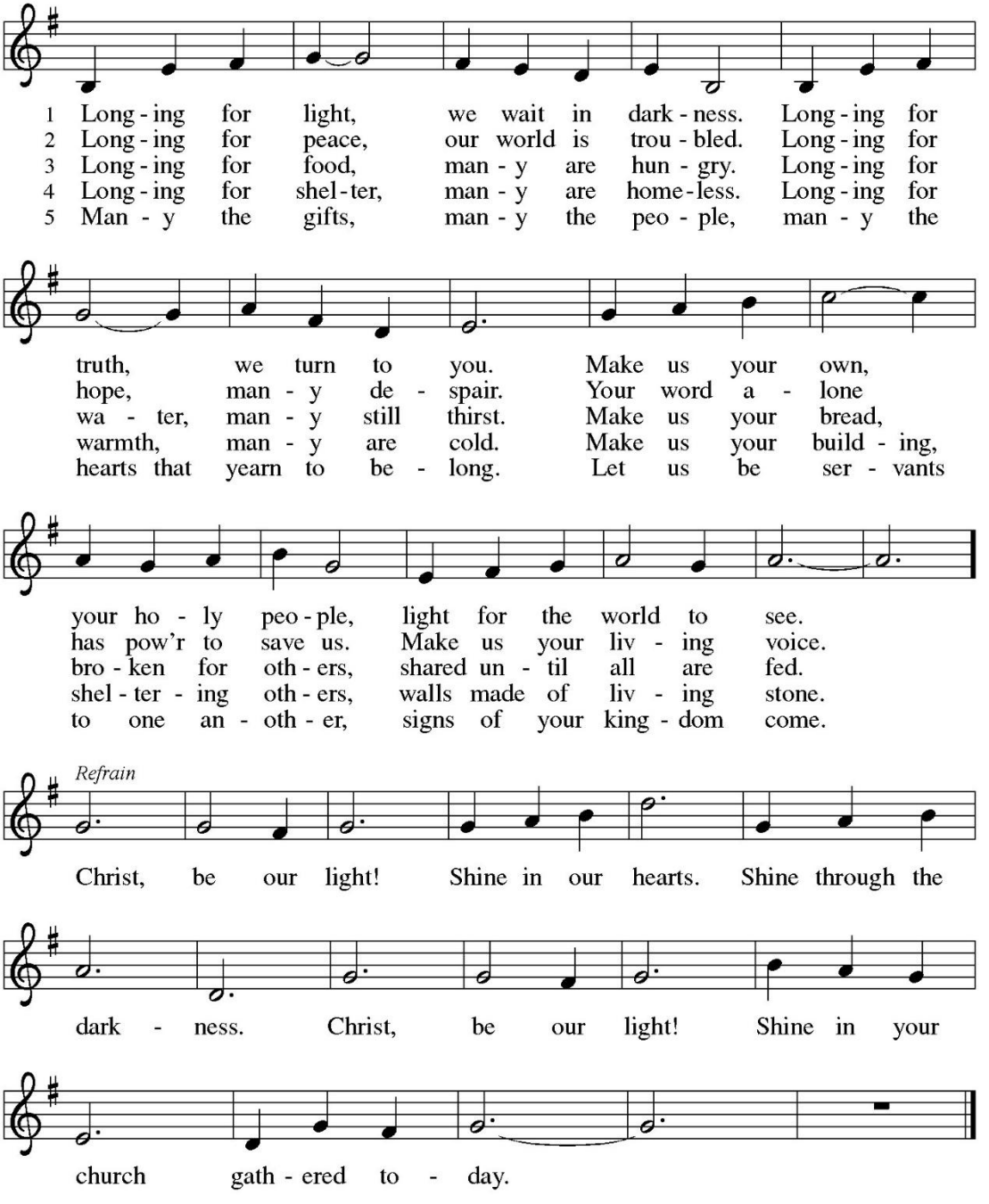
Praise to you, O Christ!

Children's Message — Susan Short

Message — *"Salty & Bright"*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day** ***"Christ, Be Our 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

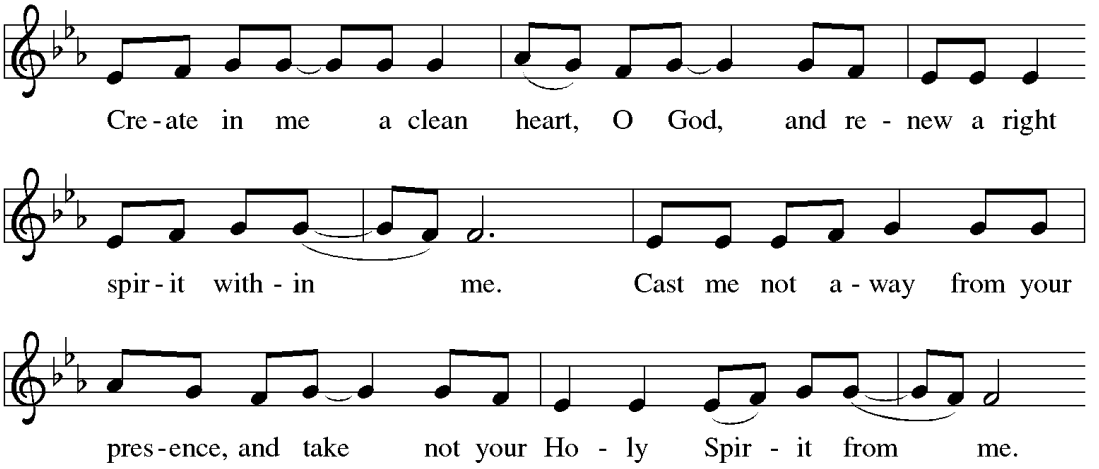
*SHARING OF THE PEACE

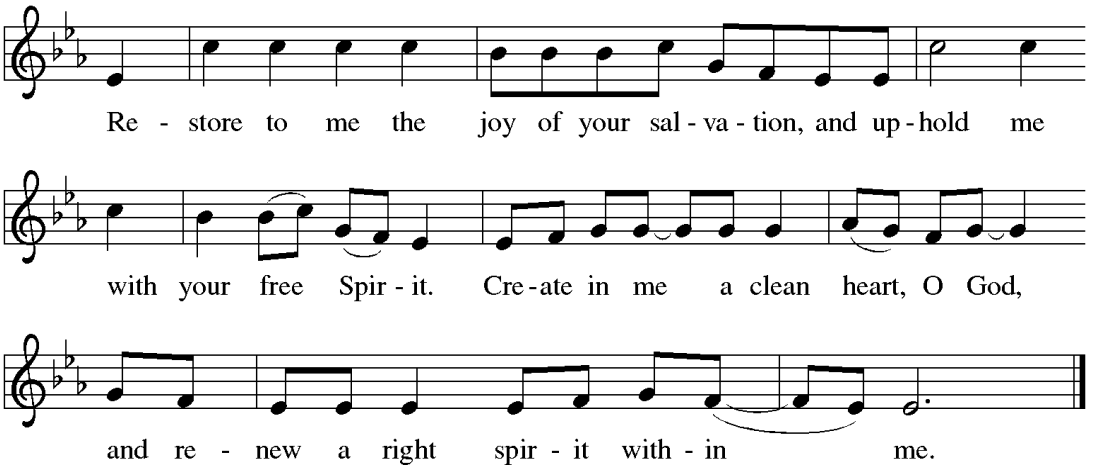
The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.
(We greet one another with the words "Peace be with you")

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Bell Choir ***"Peal con Brio"***
arr. Thompson

*OFFERTORY ***"Create in Me"***





*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition ends…

Lord, in your mercy…

hear our prayer.

*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.

THE CHURCH IS SENT TO SERVE

* BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

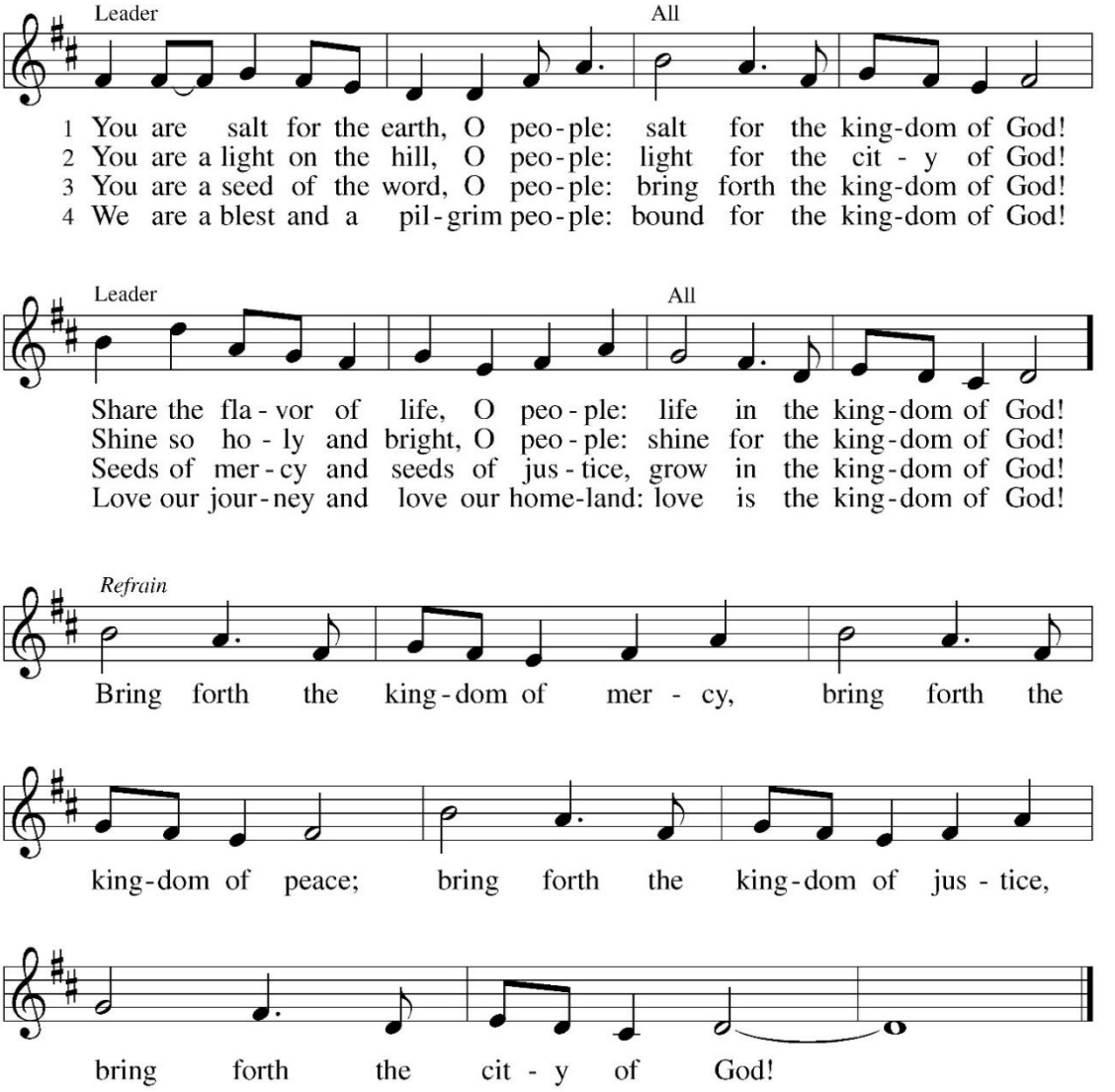
The Lord's face shine brightly upon you and be gracious to you.

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 *"Bring Forth the Kingdom"*

Please follow the "Leader" and "All" directions. All join in the Refrain each time.

*Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

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St. Martin's Worship Servants . . .

Acolyte	-Violet Schneider
Lector	-Jan Delaney
Usher Team Leader	-Ziegler/Pinter/Gericke Family
Sound System	-Cameron Thompson
Altar Guild	-Joan Meyer & Peg Bjorlin
Offering Counters	-Jay Schnitkey & 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 just finished the Apostles Creed as we continue exploring Luther's Small Catechism. We'll resume February 16 with the Lord's Prayer, which will also be the theme for our Wednesday Lenten worship this year. 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.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING 2026 is **TODAY!**

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 Souper Bowl of Caring Chili Cook-Off. Please join us during coffee hour after church today for the chili cook-off.

Mission Team Update

13 volunteers from St. Martin will be traveling to **Puerto Rico February 22–March 1** to help repair a home whose roof was destroyed by hurricanes.

Thanks so much for all the donations from the coffee hour we hosted on February 1st. It was a great success. We should have enough now to cover our travel expenses. Also, thanks for supporting the mission trip resolution at the annual meeting. This $10,000 will go directly to TPMG that will support the organization and be used to purchase the building supplies and provide staff during our week at the construction site.

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

TODAY, 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.

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

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 join 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*

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 - 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.

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

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

This Week at St. Martin's

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

Monday- February 9
Friendship Circle, 7pm

Tuesday – February 10
Men's Breakfast, 7am @ McDonald's
Sewing, 9am
Community Meal, 5pm @ St. John's Christian

Wednesday- February 11
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 12
Women's Breakfast, 7am @ The Home Restaurant
Bulletin Deadline, 8am
Church Council, 7pm

Next Sunday – February 15 – Transfiguration Sunday
Worship, 9am
Sunday School, 10:20am
High School Youth, 10:30am
Middle School Youth Mafia Night, 6:30pm

St. Martin's Lutheran Church
203 S. Defiance Street Archbold OH 43502
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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 2/1/2026, Budget and Year to Date

Operating Contributions	$4,325.01	Budgeted Weekly Operating Need	$7,381.00
Benevolence Received	$335.00	Budgeted Weekly Benevolence Need	$760.00
Other Designated Income	$1,200.00	**AS OF 12/31/2025**	
Total Income	$5,860.01	YTD Operating Received	$363,160.97
Worship: Sun/Wed/Total	122/24/146	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.
- Charlotte Lillian Wachtman, born February 5 to Matthew & Emma Wachtman.

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
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 only with their permission.**