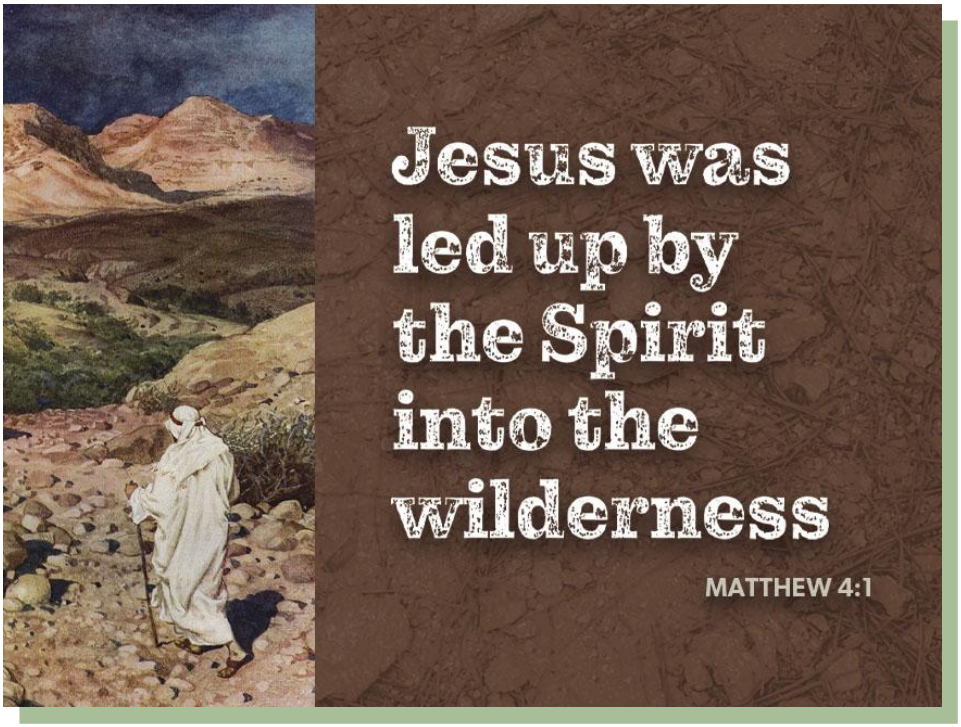


St. Martin's Lutheran Church

203 S. Defiance Street + Archbold, OH 43502

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT *FEBRUARY 22, 2026*

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues; to receive the gifts of God's grace; to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus; and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares.

Regular text is spoken by the Worship Leader
Bold text is spoken by the congregation
**Indicates to please stand as you are able*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE **PRELUDE AND FUGUE IN G MINOR, BWV 535**
– JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

BELL & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN** ***"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

"Return to me with all your heart," says the Lord.
Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love *(Joel 2:12-13)*

God so loved the world that while we were yet sinners Jesus Christ was given to die for us. Through the power of the Holy Spirit God promises to heal us and forgive us. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are held captive to the power of sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

*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.**

*KYRIE

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING — Genesis 2:15—3:7

15 The Lord GOD took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.
16 And the Lord GOD commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden;
17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord GOD had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; 3 but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; 5 for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

New Revised Standard Version

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY *Based on Psalm 32*

Happy are they whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

SECOND READING — Romans 5:12-19

[12] When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread
to everyone, for everyone sinned. [13] Yes, people sinned even before the law was given.
But it was not counted as sin because there was not yet any law to break. [14] Still, everyone
died—from the time of Adam to the time of Moses—even those who did not disobey an
explicit commandment of God, as Adam did. Now Adam is a symbol, a representation of
Christ, who was yet to come. [15] But there is a great difference between Adam's sin and
God's gracious gift. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even
greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other
man, Jesus Christ. [16] And the result of God's gracious gift is very different from the result
of that one man's sin. For Adam's sin led to condemnation, but God's free gift leads to our
being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins. [17] For the sin of this
one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful
grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and
death through this one man, Jesus Christ.

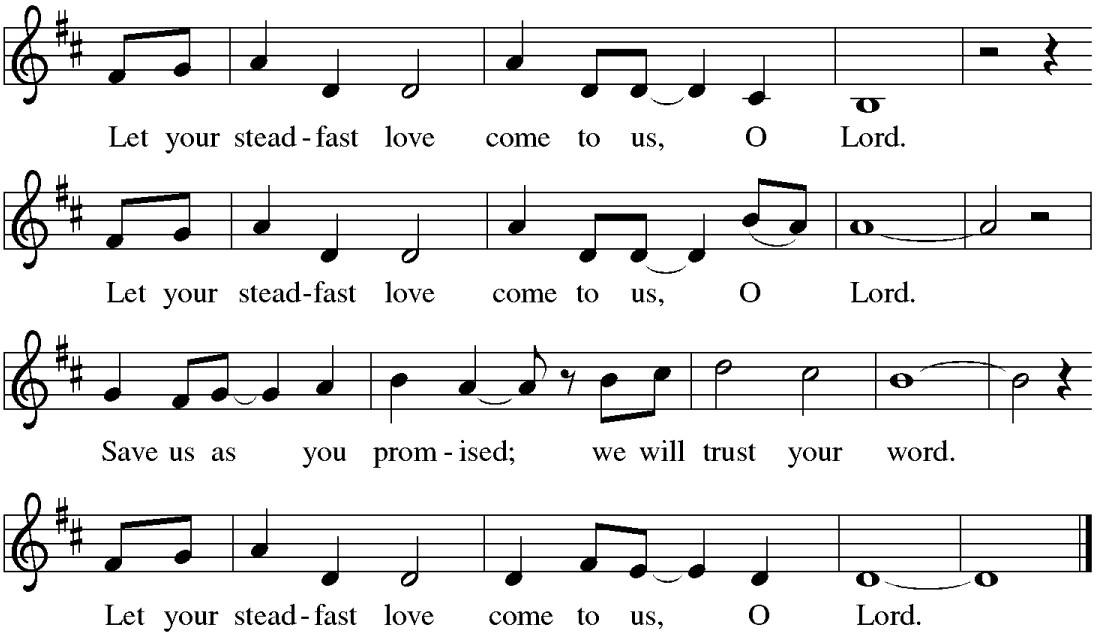
[18] Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of
righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. [19] Because
one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed
God, many will be made righteous.

New Living Translation

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*HOLY GOSPEL — Matthew 4:1-11

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

Glory to you, O Lord!

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. 3The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." 4But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

5Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

7Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

8Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; 9and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." 10Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

11Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

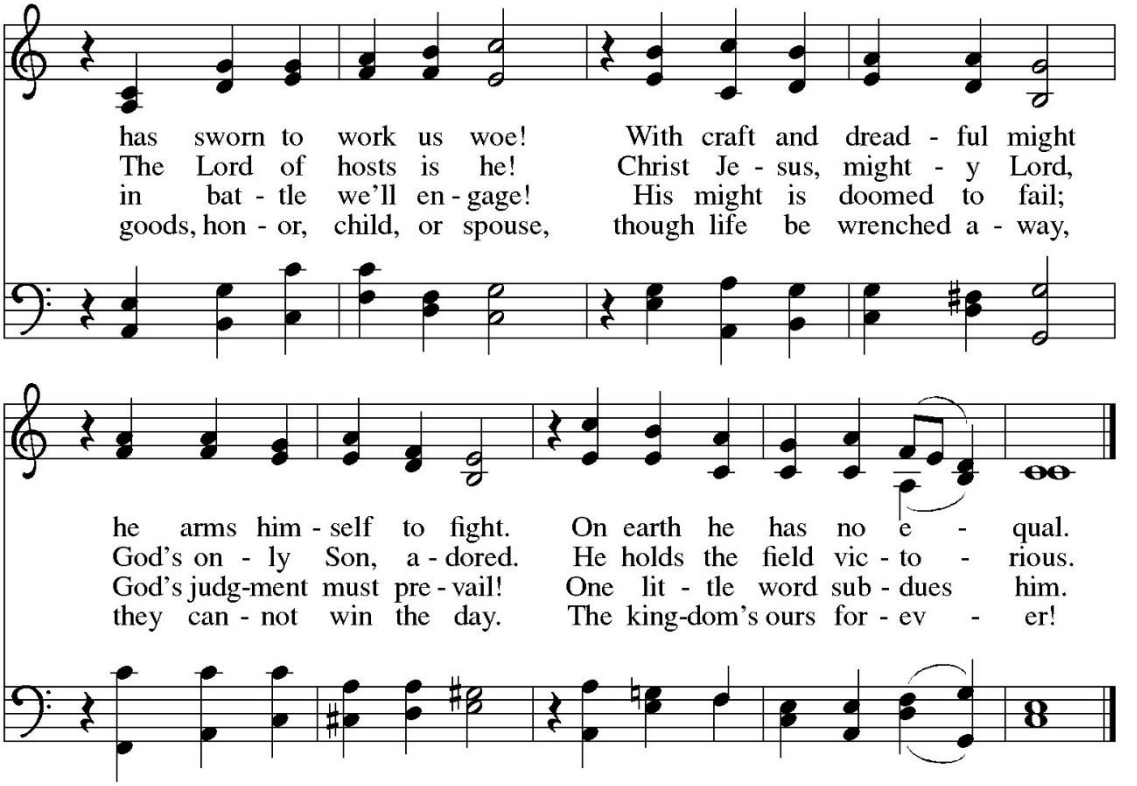
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE — *MacKenna Whitacre*

MESSAGE — *"Trust In Ourselves, or God?"*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

(Please remain seated during the hymn introduction)

***HYMN OF THE DAY** **"A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD"**



***PROFESSION OF FAITH** – *Apostles Creed and St. Martin's Mission Statement*

As the people of God building a welcome place, we confess the faith of the Church as the values by which we live, the faith in which we welcome all people, the faith in which we baptize.

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

As a church commanded by our Lord to make disciples of all nations, we confess our mission according to the word of God. Called to make disciples, we are

Welcoming friends and strangers with God's love.

Called to teach all that our Lord commanded, we are

Working to build deeper relationships with Jesus.

Called to go out to serve all nations, we are

Witnessing to share God's love with everyone

As a church led by the biblical vision that we should all be united by our faith and understanding of the Son of God, to become mature, and completely like Jesus *(Ephesians 4:11-13),* we affirm God's vision for us.

We shall be people serving one real God, living one real faith, making one real difference.

Together we have made profession of this vision grounded in the faith of the Church. In building a welcome place, we pray for the gifts of the Spirit upon us all.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Amen. *(Galatians 5:22-23)*

*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

NOTTURNO, OP. 53, NO. 4
-EDVARD GRIEG

*OFFERTORY HYMN *"Thy Holy Wings"*

*Prayers of the Church

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.

We Are Sent to Serve

* Benediction

As you go on your way may Christ go with you.
Christ before you to lead you;
Christ behind you to encourage you;
Christ beside you to befriend you;
Christ above you to watch over you;
Christ within you to give you peace.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

*Closing Hymn — *"Lead Me, Guide Me"*

*Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+

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WORSHIP MATTERS

What changes happen in our worship during Lent? Throughout the "church year" different colors are displayed in the church. Purple was an expensive dye to obtain and the color of royalty. Jesus wore a purple garment when he was ridiculed and beaten before being crucified. Purple is used as the color of Lent, also signifying repentance. We also remove the word "Alleluia" from our worship during these weeks and place a strong emphasis on the words of the Kyrie. We who come into Jesus' healing presence proclaim Kyrie (Lord) eleison (have mercy). We proclaim our faith that Jesus is the only one who can truly help. Our prayer is for peace for ourselves, the whole world, and those gathered for worship as we make this Lenten journey together. This season provides us with a yearly "spring cleaning" of our hearts as we prepare for the celebration of Easter.

St. Martin's Worship Servants . . .

Acolyte	-Kayla Benecke
Pianist	-Jacob Thatcher
Organist	-Matthew Wachtman
Lector	-Jerry Rohrs
Usher Team Leader	-Ziegler/Pinter/Gericke Family
Sound System	-Cameron Thompson
Altar Guild	-Joan Meyer & Peg Bjorlin
Offering Counters	-Janet Wyse

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.

Mission Team Update

13 volunteers from St. Martin are traveling to **Puerto Rico from February 22–March 1** to help repair a home whose roof was destroyed by hurricanes. We are so excited that the time is now here. All the preparation is complete and now we will be the hands and feet of Christ to a family that has been without a roof. Just imagine what it would be like to start the week with no home and end the week with a new roof and hope for the future.

If you are reading this on February 22nd at the church service, we will be just taking off from Detroit. Hopefully if things go well, we will arrive in San Juan Puerto Rico at 2:00pm AST (Atlantic Standard Time). The following week on March 1st we will be in a church service at Union Church San Juan Puerto Rico. We look forward to worshiping with our friends and fellow Christians in Puerto Rico. Then we will head to the airport and fly back to Detroit before driving back to Archbold.

Thanks to Mark Weaver and Jess Short for driving. Follow us on the St. Martin Facebook page. We will try to post pictures and updates at least once a day. It will depend on how busy and tired we are. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and generosity as we prepare to serve our neighbors in Puerto Rico.

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

The season of Lent began February 18. 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. Please email Pastor Steve if you'd like to join.

WEDNESDAY SERIES: *Each Wednesday at 7pm*

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

This Week at St. Martin's

Sunday – February 22- First Sunday in Lent
Worship, 9am
Sunday School, 10:20am
High School Youth, 10:30am
Middle School Youth, 6:30pm

Monday- February 23
Adult Zoom Study, 7pm

Tuesday – February 24
Men's Breakfast, 7am @ McDonald's
Sewing, 9am
Community Meal, 5pm @ St. John's Christian

Wednesday- February 25
After School Program, 3:15pm
Welcome Place Meal, 5:15pm
Adult Circle, 6pm
Kids Club, 6pm
Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6pm
Catechism, 6:15pm
Lenten Worship, 7pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm

Thursday- February 26
Women's Breakfast, 7am @ The Home Restaurant
Bulletin Deadline, 8am

Next Sunday – March 1-Second Sunday in Lent
Worship, 9am
Sunday School, 10:20am
High School Youth, 10:30am
Middle School Youth, 6:30pm

Pancake and Sausage Breakfast, hosted by the Ridgeville Township Fire & Rescue is March 1, 2026, at the Ridgeville Legion from 7am-1pm. It is a Free-will donation, and all proceeds go towards Fire & Rescue Equipment.

Two local Blood Drives are coming up in March. Tuesday March 3rd at the Ruiley Park Pavilion from 11am-5pm and Monday, March 9th at Zion Mennonite Church from 12pm-6pm. More details are available in the entryway.

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
Mon, Tues, Thurs. All Day
Wed. PM

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 2/15/2026, Budget and Year to Date

Operating Contributions	$6,718.58	Budgeted Weekly Operating Need	$7,381.00
Benevolence Received	$346.00	Budgeted Weekly Benevolence Need	$760.00
Other Designated Income	$2,655.00	**AS OF 12/31/2026**	
Total Income	$9,719.58	YTD Operating Received	$20,468.94
Worship: Sun/Wed/Total	110/112/222	YTD Operating Expenses	($39,966.16)
		Net Income/(Deficit)	$(19,497.22)

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
Colleen Kelly
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.**