"Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old?

"...no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. +

St. Martin's Lutheran Church

203 S. Defiance Street + Archbold, OH 43502

www.the-welcome-place.org

Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

"Trading My Sorrows"

VERSE *I am pressed but not crushed, persecuted, not abandoned, struck down, but not destroyed. I am blessed beyond the curse, for His promise will endure, that His joy's gonna be my strength. Though the sorrow may last for the night, His joy comes with the morning.*

CHORUS

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT *MARCH 1, 2026*

In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as daughters and sons of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

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

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

PRELUDE **"HILLS AND VALLEYS"** – *WELLS, BUTLER, AND SMITH*

BELL & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***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

OPENING SONG** ***"Trading My Sorrows"

*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 grace, you loved your world so much that you gave us your Son, and you call us to be a blessing to the world. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing so that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love for all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

GOD'S PEOPLE LISTEN

FIRST READING — Genesis 12:1-4

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." 4So Abram went, as the LORD had told him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 121

1I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

2My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.

3The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

4Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;

5the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

6the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

7The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

8The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

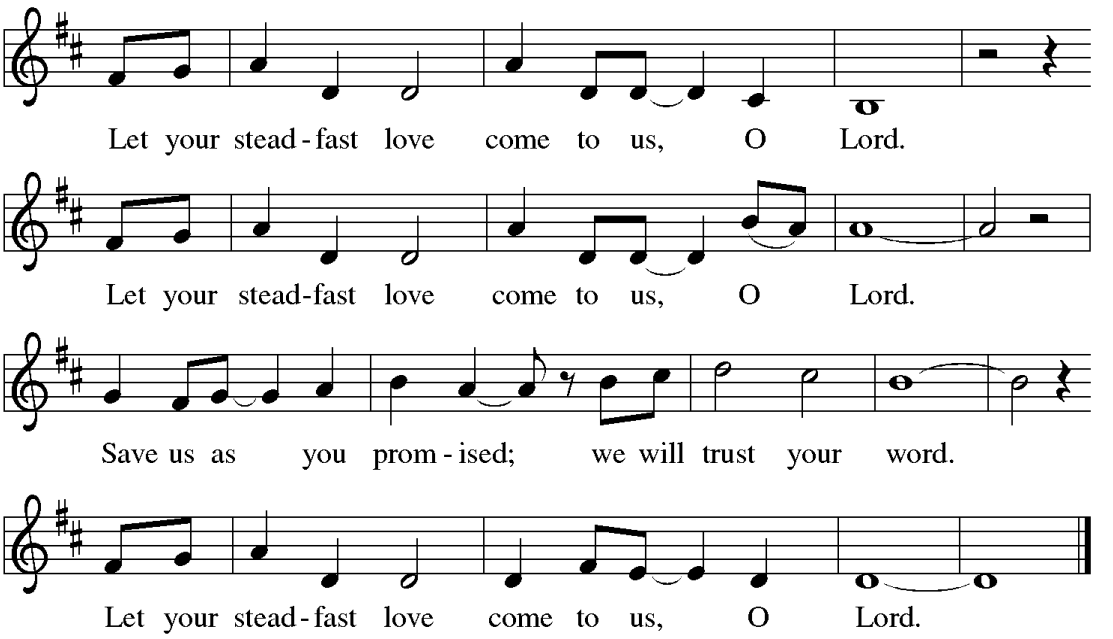
SECOND READING — Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh?
[2]For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3]For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4]Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5]But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. [13]For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14]If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15]For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

[16]For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, [17]as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") — in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*HOLY GOSPEL — John 3:1-17

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord!

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 2He came to Jesus
by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God;
for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." 3Jesus
answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being
born from above." 4Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown
old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" 5Jesus answered,
"Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and
Spirit. 6What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7Do not be
astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' 8The wind blows where it
chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where
it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." 9Nicodemus said to him, "How can
these things be?" 10Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not
understand these things?

11Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet
you do not receive our testimony. 12If I have told you about earthly things and you do not
believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13No one has ascended
into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14And just as
Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15that
whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

16For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes
in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

17Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that
the world might be saved through him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

MESSAGE

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

SONG OF THE DAY** ***"How Deep the Father's Love For Us"

*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

*Each petition ends…*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

Chancel Choir ***"Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy"***
arr. Christopher

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and soar;
Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love and power.

I will arise and go to Jesus; He will embrace me in His arms;
In the arms of my dear Savior, Oh, there are ten thousand charms.

Come, ye thirsty, come and welcome, God's free bounty glorify;
True belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh.

Come ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall;
If you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all.

*OFFERTORY

GOD'S PEOPLE SHARE THE MEAL

*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.

*Eucharistic Prayer

Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you. You led your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from the rock. We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert pouring out his life for the world.

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 in 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 in remembrance of me."

Remembering, therefore, his life, death and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived in our Lenten journey by the love of Christ.

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.

Distribution of Communion

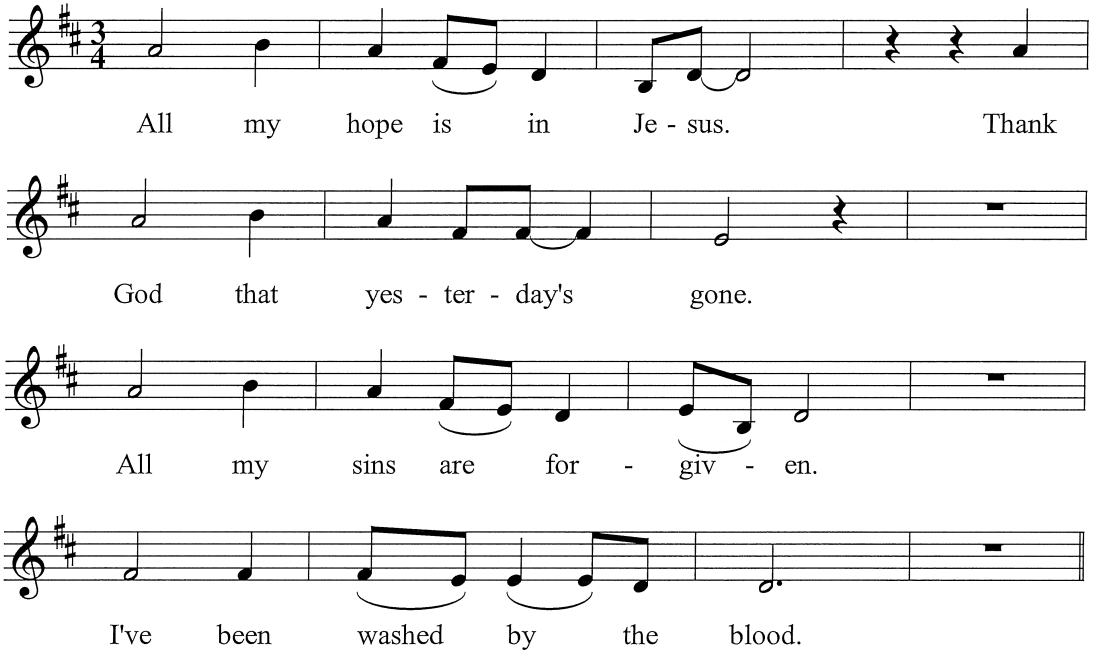
“Behold the Lamb”

"All My Hope"

Please join on the CHORUS each time

I've been held by the Savior. I've felt fire from above.
I've been down to the river; I'm not the same, a prodigal returned.

CHORUS



I'm no stranger to prison; I've worn shackles and chains.
I've been freed and forgiven; and I'm not going back. I'll never be the same. ***CHORUS***

There's a kind of thing that just breaks a man, break him down to his knees.
God, I've been broken more than a time or two, yes, Lord;
then He picked me up and showed me what it means to be a man. ***CHORUS 2 times***

GOD'S PEOPLE ARE 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

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

* 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 SONG *"My Lighthouse"*

*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, 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. Visually, we also had a Lenten candle cross to mark the time of Lent with its decreasing light throughout the season. Lent is not a 6-week funeral for Jesus, but it provides us with a yearly "spring cleaning" of our hearts as we prepare for the celebration of Easter.

St. Martin's Worship Servants . . .

Acolyte	-Jalen Thompson
Pianists	-Rick Breier, Matthew Wachtman
Vocalists	-MacKenna Whitacre, Jade Whitacre
Guitarist	-Adam Grisier
Percussion	-Jacob Thatcher
Lector	-Ross Miller
Usher Team Leader	- Aaron Short
Sound System	-Cameron Thompson
Altar Guild	-Jan Delaney & Janet Wyse
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 continues exploring Luther's Small Catechism with the Lord's Prayer, also 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.

The Parkinson's Group will be meeting this Tuesday, March 3, at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall for a special meeting with Guest Comedian Matthew Moore. His presentation of "Laugh With Parkinson's!" will share his journey living with Parkinson's through a routine that blends humor, honesty, and heart. All are welcome to attend!

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.

Pancake and Sausage Breakfast, hosted by the Ridgeville Township Fire & Rescue is **TODAY**, March 1, at the Ridgeville Legion from 7am-1pm. It is 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.

Today is the last day to get your Easter Flower Order in! The form is on the back of this bulletin and can be turned into the church office with money today!

After School Tutoring – Thanks be to God!

"Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." - Matthew 19:14

Our newest outreach ministry, the ***After School Tutoring (AST)*** program launched Wednesday, February 25th at 3 p.m. Jake K. used St. Martin's bus to gather five students (with parent and school permission) at the Archbold Elementary building and chauffeured them to church.

Volunteers assisted students off the bus and into St. Martin's where the excitement began. As students made their way into bathrooms for a quick break and washing of hands, one sweet child said, "Wow, this bathroom is beautiful." Just little things can make "littles" smile and happy! Before the mental work began, the students were given a "lots of steps" tour of St. Martin's with comments like, "How many steps does this church have? Are we going to get lost in here?" Finally, my favorite, "This church is beautiful from up here!"

Once the "steps" spilled out into the Fellowship Hall, students were asked to have a seat and enjoyed a healthy snack while sharing their names and being introduced to the volunteers/tutors. Fun chatter ensued with Jake leading the chat session. "Thanks Jake!"

Finally, tutoring began with students taking seats at tables with an individual tutor. We had 8 tutor volunteers and 5 students, what a Blessing! Each student was given time to complete their homework, and take a break, when necessary, just to rest their brains a bit. Thanks to the tutors and cooperation of each student, **ALL** homework assignments were completed! Thank you, Jesus! Total success was felt by all involved in this first session of ***AST***. Shortly before 5 p.m., students packed their belongings and were directed to the basement for a short game of drop the hanky (actually a stuffy☺). We had a lot of laughs for sure. Thanks to **ALL** who came to make the first ***AST*** session a success! **God is Good!**

Spring Cleaning? Puzzles, fidgets, simple games? If those items happen to be in that cleaning out process, please consider donating them to the new ***After School Tutoring*** *(AST)* ministry here at St. Martin's. Our next session is March 18th. Simply put those items on a table in the Fellowship Hall and label them ***AST*** and we'll make good use of them. *You are appreciated!*

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*

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*

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

This Week at St. Martin's

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

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

Tuesday – March 3
Men's Breakfast, 7am @ McDonald's
Parkinson's Group-Comedian, 1pm
Community Meal, 5pm @ St. John's Christian

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

Next Sunday – March 8-Third Sunday in Lent
Worship, 9am
Sunday School, 10:20am
High School Youth, 10:30am

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
mattheww@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

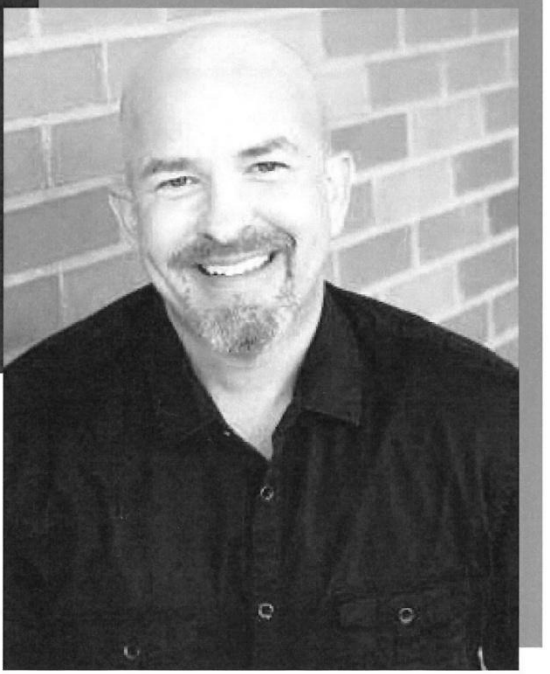
Mobile users can now access the giving page to set up recurring donations or make one-time donations directly from phones using this QR code.
To change or delete recurring donations you will still need to go to: **https://givingtools.com** and sign in to your account.

Welcome Place Parkinson's Group & Black Swamp Arts Council Presents:

Matthew Moore Live

Laugh With Parkinson's!

Join us for a FREE Stand-Up Comedy Presentation



Playwright, actor, comedian, and performance artist, Matthew Moore, shares his journey living with Parkinson's, through a routine that blends humor, honesty and heart.

"We don't laugh at Parkinson's — we laugh with it!"

Tuesday, March 3, 1:00 PM
St. Martin's Lutheran Church
203 S. Defiance Street, Archbold, OH
Questions or RSVP:
Bonnie R. Lauber, Facilitator
419-445-9516
Email: brlauber@yahoo.com

To learn more about Matthew Moore scan the QR code or visit:
https://www.lampandlightproductions.com/about-matthew

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.**

Easter Flower Order

The Altar Guild is sponsoring their annual Easter Flower Sale. You will have an option to pick from four different flowers and choose the color you would like for some. Proceeds will be added to the Altar Guild Fund. The plants are **$13.00** each and may be given in memory or in honor of someone.

Below is an order blank you may use to order your flowers. Please place it, along with payment (checks made payable to St. Martin's Lutheran Church), in the offering plate or the box provided on the counter in the Church Office.

Deadline - March 1

Name _____

# of plants _____ X **$13** - Total Amount _____
_____ Lilies - white
_____ Hyacinths (choose color)
_____ deep blue
_____ white
_____ pale pink
_____ Tulips (choose color)
_____ red
_____ yellow
_____ pink
_____ purple
_____ Daffodils - yellow

In Memory of _____

_____

In Honor of _____

_____