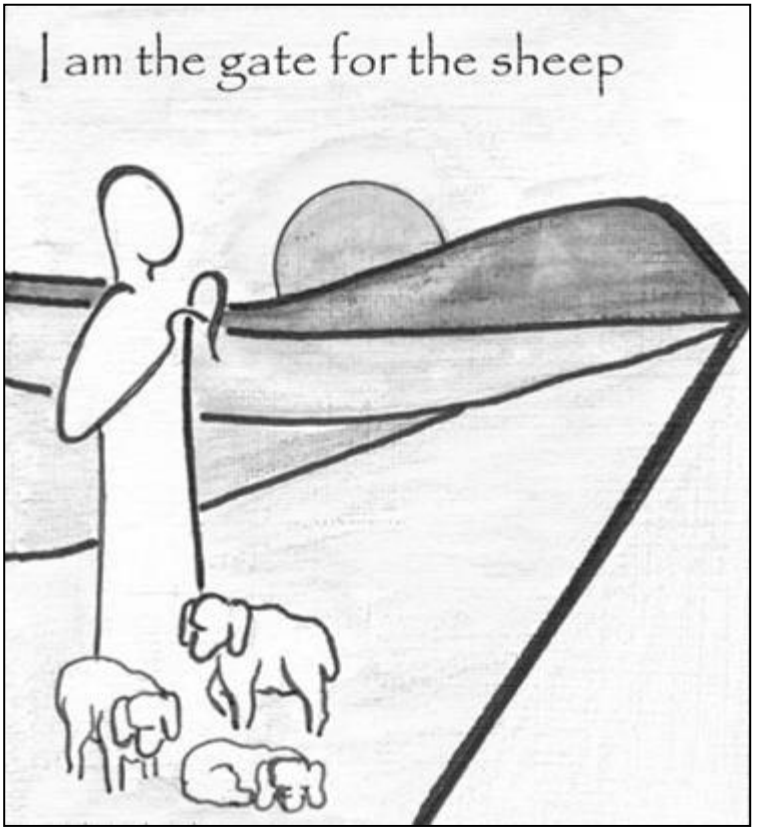


St. Martin's Lutheran Church

203 S. Defiance Street + Archbold, OH 43502
www.the-welcome-place.org

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

Please sing unison on Verse 4

Fourth Sunday of Easter *April 26, 2026*

Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us in the midst of the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

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

THE CHURCH GATHERS

PRELUDE **"BRADBURY"** *– ARR. CALLAHAN*

BELL & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN** ***"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Amen

Rejoicing in the resurrection news, let us confess our sins and seek God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,

we confess that we are held captive to doubt and fear, dismissing the resurrection news. We place trust in ourselves and fail to love our sisters and brothers as you have first loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy. Let your Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the abundant life given through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

This is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent Jesus Christ to die for us. *(1st John 4:10)* In the name of Jesus, your sins are forgiven. Let the perfect love of God cast out fear, fill you with joy, and inspire you to live for others proclaiming the glorious news of Christ's resurrection.

Amen.

*GREETING

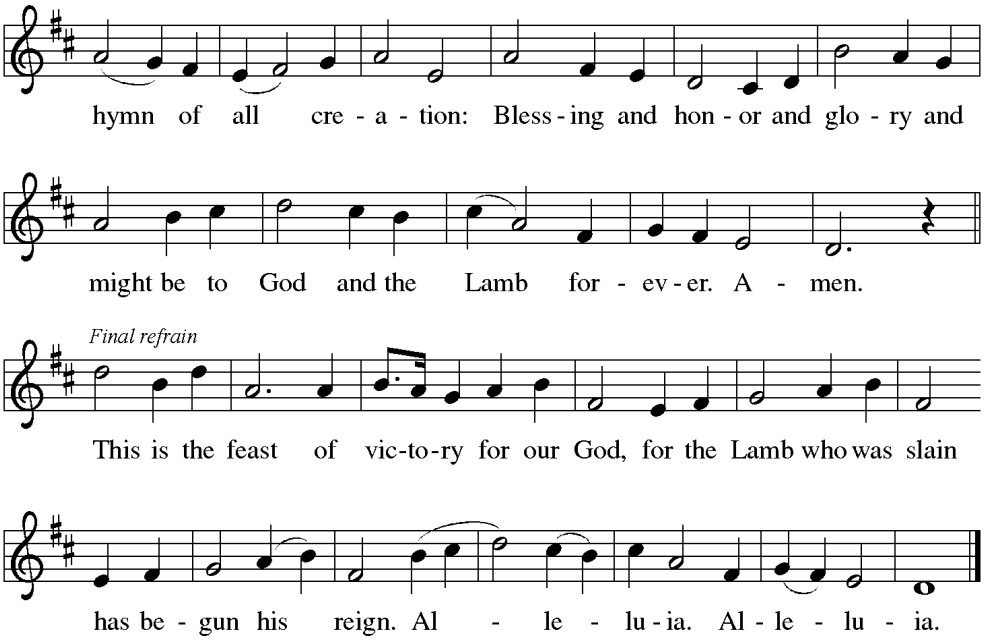
Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

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.

*HYMN OF PRAISE *Isaiah 25:6-9, Revelation 5:12-13*



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the dark valleys. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

THE CHURCH LISTENS

FIRST READING — Acts 2:42–47

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of
bread and the prayers.
43 Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the
apostles. 44 All who believed were together and had all things in common; 45 they would
sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.
46 Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home
and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having the goodwill
of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being
saved.

The word of the Lord…**Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody — PSALM 23

REFRAIN

Psalm Tone

SUNG BY ALL:

1 The LORD | is my shepherd;
I shall not | be in want.
2 The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters. **Refrain**

3 You restore my | soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.
4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me. **Refrain**

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.
6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever. **Refrain**

SECOND READING 1 Peter 2:19–25

[19]For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly.
[20]If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. [21]For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

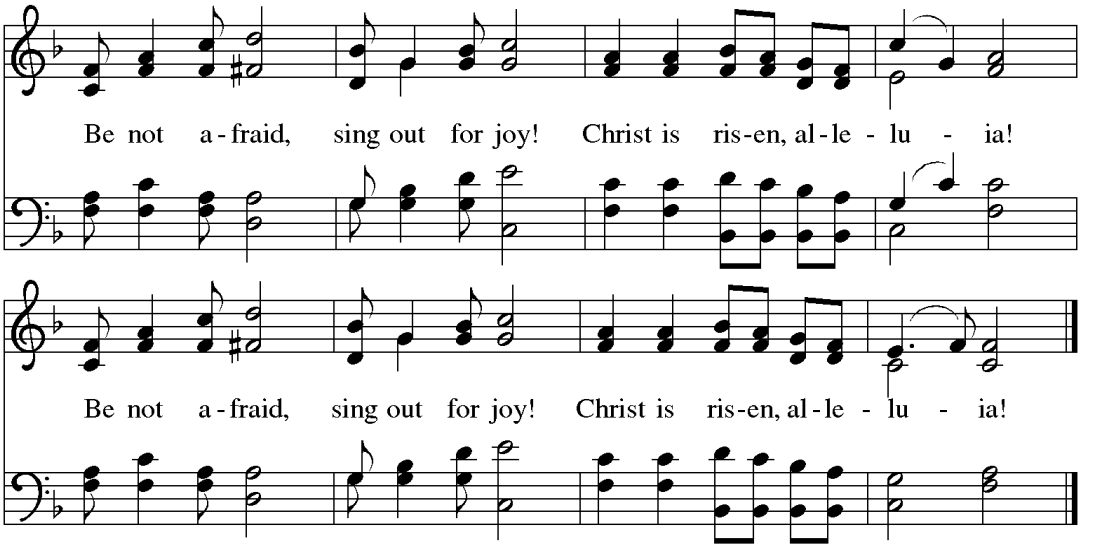
[22]"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

[23]When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. [24]He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

[25]For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord…**Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – *please sing two times*



*HOLY GOSPEL — John 10:1-10

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord!

"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. 2The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." 6Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

7So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. 9I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. 10The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE — *MacKenna Whitacre*

MESSAGE

THE CHURCH RESPONDS

HYMN OF THE DAY** ***"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

Verse 2 – Women and High Voices only; Verse 3 – Men and Low Voices only

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thine unction grace bestoweth;
and, oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

*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

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. *(2 Corinthians 13:11)*

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(We greet one another with the words "Peace be with you")

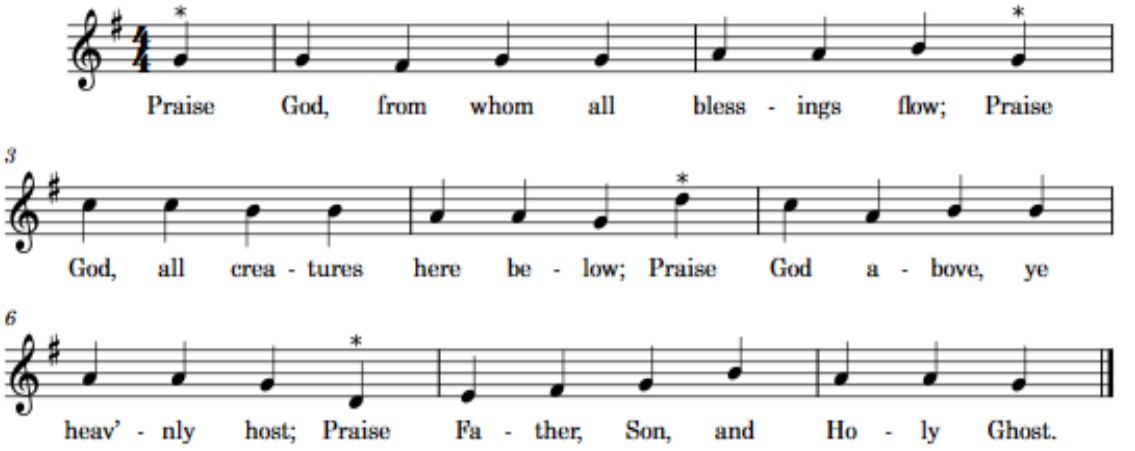
OFFERING OF GIFTS — "Lord of the Dance"

Chancel Choir — *- arr. Carter*

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth:
At Bethlehem I had my birth.
Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.
I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me;

I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
They came with me and the dance went on:
I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame:
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high,
And they left me there on a cross to die:
I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone;
But I am the dance, and I still go on:
They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that'll never, never die.
I'll live in you if you'll live in me:
I am the Lord of the dance, said he.

*OFFERTORY



*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God,

You are the ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE CHURCH SHARES 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, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel, your chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

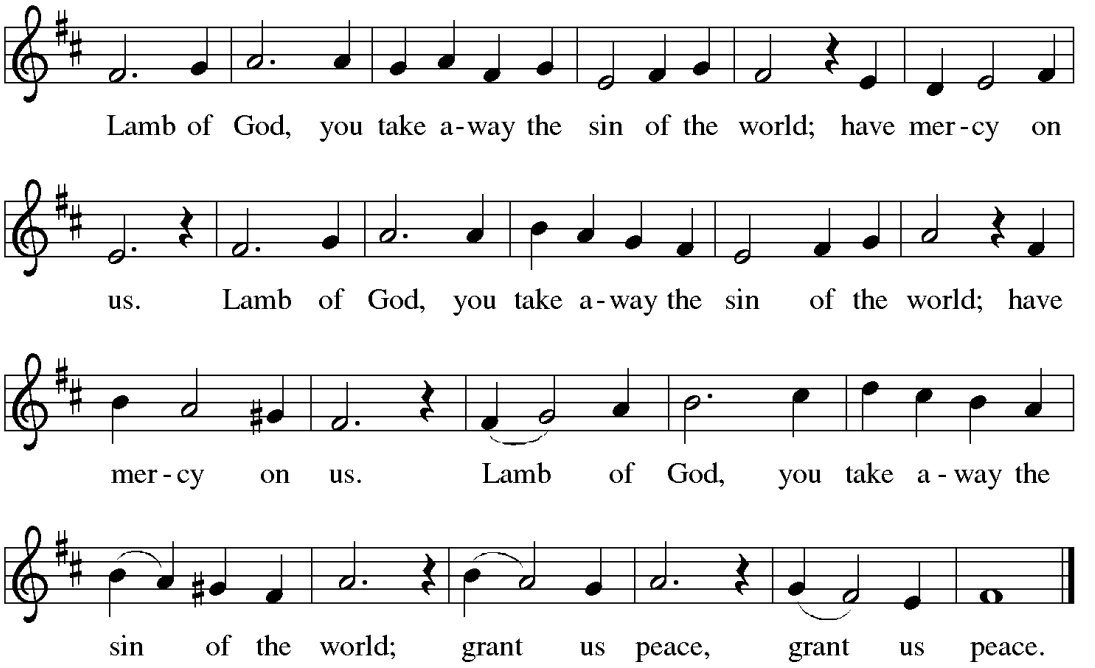
Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now 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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION *"Lamb of God"*



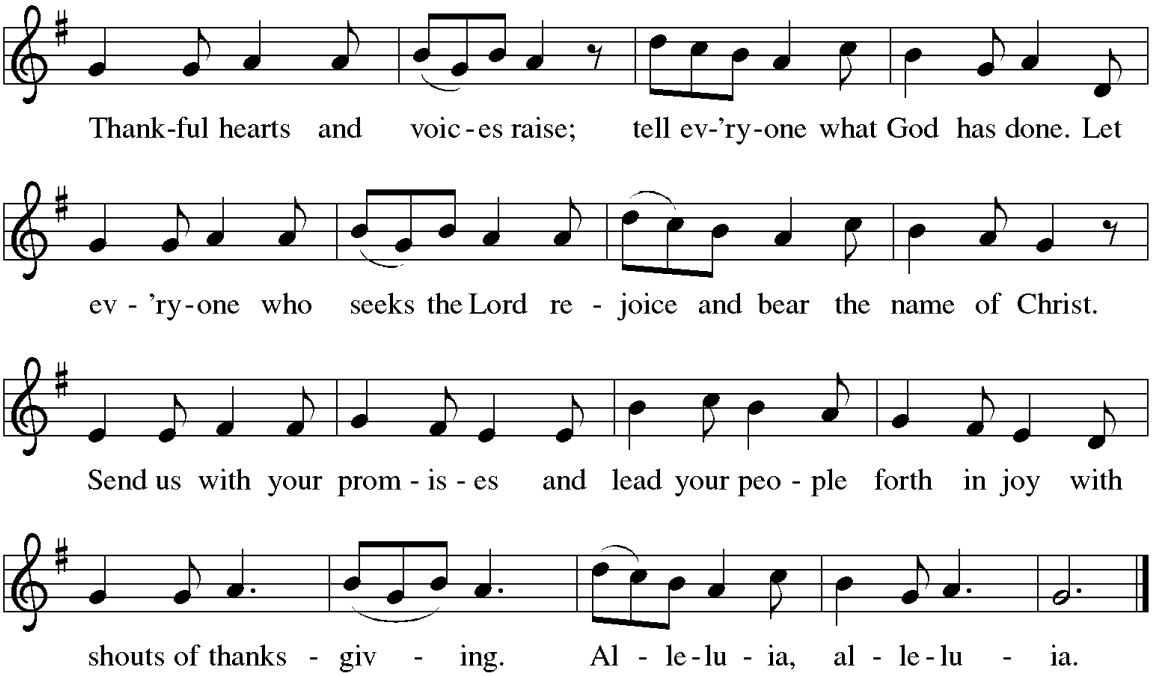
"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" LBW 481 (Green Hymnal)

THE CHURCH IS 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

Life-giving God, we give you thanks for nourishing us with the bread of heaven and the wine of love, Jesus our risen Savior. Bless those that are sent to share this sacrament with the homebound of this faith community, and send us all as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to the entire world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

* 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 *"Good Christian Friends Rejoice and Sing"*

*Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!
Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord!
Thanks be to God!

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

St. Martin's Worship Servants . . .

Acolyte	-Jalen Thompson
Organist	-Matthew Wachtman
Pianist	-Rick Breier
Lector	-Gwen Grisier
Usher Team Leader	-Jim & Janet Wyse
Sound System	-Cameron Thompson
Altar Guild	-Michelle Collins & Jessica Short
Offering Counters	-Darren Sonnenberg & 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!

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!*

Northwestern Ohio Synod Assembly is Saturday, May 30 at St. Mark's, Bowling Green. St. Martin's is allowed at least 2 voting members. A third voting member is allowed as a youth or young adult member. Please see Pastor Steve if you'd be willing to consider serving.

It's time for the annual community-wide Burger Bash, set for Sunday, May 3rd in the Ruihley Park Pavilion from 11am to 1pm. A free-will donation covers a picnic-type lunch to share beside your neighbors and friends. With those Burger Bash donations over the last two decades, our community has been able to send almost $785,000 to our mentors and teachers in Third World countries who stand ready to help the agricultural communities there.

April Concert Series- Harpsichord Hors d'oeuvres –TODAY, April 26, 3pm

Most of us have probably never heard a harpsichord live—and it's a completely different experience than you might expect. On our St. Martin's Concert Series, Dylan Sanzenbacher invites you into the sound world of the 16th–18th centuries, where composers wrote music full of humor, dance, and surprising drama. Instead of long, heavy pieces, this program is made up of short, engaging works—variations on popular tunes, elegant court dances, and showy toccatas that would have impressed listeners just as much then as they do now. Dylan, a peer of Matthew's at Baldwin Wallace, and specialist in early keyboard music, has a gift for making this repertoire approachable and alive. If you've ever been curious about early music—or just want to hear something genuinely different—this is an easy and enjoyable place to start.

This Week at St. Martin's

TODAY-Sunday April 26- 4th Sunday in Easter
Worship, 9am
Sunday School, 10:15am
Adult Sunday School, 10:30am
High School Youth, 10:30am
Concert Series, 3:00pm
Middle School Youth, 6:30pm

Tuesday – April 28
Men's Breakfast, 7am @ McDonald's
Sewing, 9am
Community Meal, 5pm @ St. John's Christian

Wednesday- April 29
After School Program, 3:15pm
Welcome Place Meal, 5:15pm
Worship, 6pm
Kids Club, 6pm
Adult Circle, 6:30pm
Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm

Thursday- April 30
Women's Breakfast, 7am @ The Home Restaurant
Bulletin Deadline, 8am

Next Sunday – May 3- First Communion
Worship, 9am
Sunday School, 10:15am
Adult Sunday School, 10:30am
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
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 4/19/2026 Budget and Year to Date

Operating Contributions	$4,611.57	Budgeted Weekly Operating Need	$7,381.00
Other Designated Income	$2,451.00	Budgeted Weekly Benevolence Need	$760.00
Total Income	$7,062.57	**AS OF 3/31/2026**	
		YTD Operating Received	$88,276.89
		YTD Operating Expenses	($105,944.69)
Worship: Sun/Wed/Total	150/20/170	Net Income/(Deficit)	$(17,667.80)

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, Iran; 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
Dana Bjorlin, health concerns
Jeff Cook, Ann Ott's son
Jan Delaney, surgery
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
Bill Knause, Jess Short's father, health issues
Bonnie R. Lauber
Ann Ott
Dorothy Gifford, Diane Parsons' sister, cancer
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
Joan Smith
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.**