St. Martin's Lutheran Church

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter + First Communion

May 3, 2026

“Now All the Vault of Heav’n Resounds”

Fifth Sunday of Easter *May 3, 2026*

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

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

THE CHURCH GATHERS

PRELUDE **"NOW ALL THE VAULT OF HEAV'N RESOUNDS"** *– arr. Paul Manz*

BELL & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN** ***"Now All the Vault of Heav'n Resounds"

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen
Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Come, you who seek the way, the truth, and the life. Christ the living cornerstone gathers us and builds us into a holy people.
Once we were no people, but now we are God's people, called into marvelous light. *(1 Peter 2:10)*
Yet we come with troubled hearts, aware of our need for mercy… Let us confess our sin and trust the grace that makes us new.
Silence for personal reflection

Risen Lord,
we confess that we have not trusted your promise or rested in the place you prepare for us. We have stumbled over fear, doubt, and self-reliance. We have resisted being shaped into your spiritual house. Forgive us, renew us, and make us your people shaped by the resurrection. Amen

Hear the good news. Christ, the cornerstone, has been set in place for you. In Christ you are chosen, forgiven, and made new. You are God's own people, called out of darkness into God's marvelous light.
Amen. Alleluia.

*GREETING

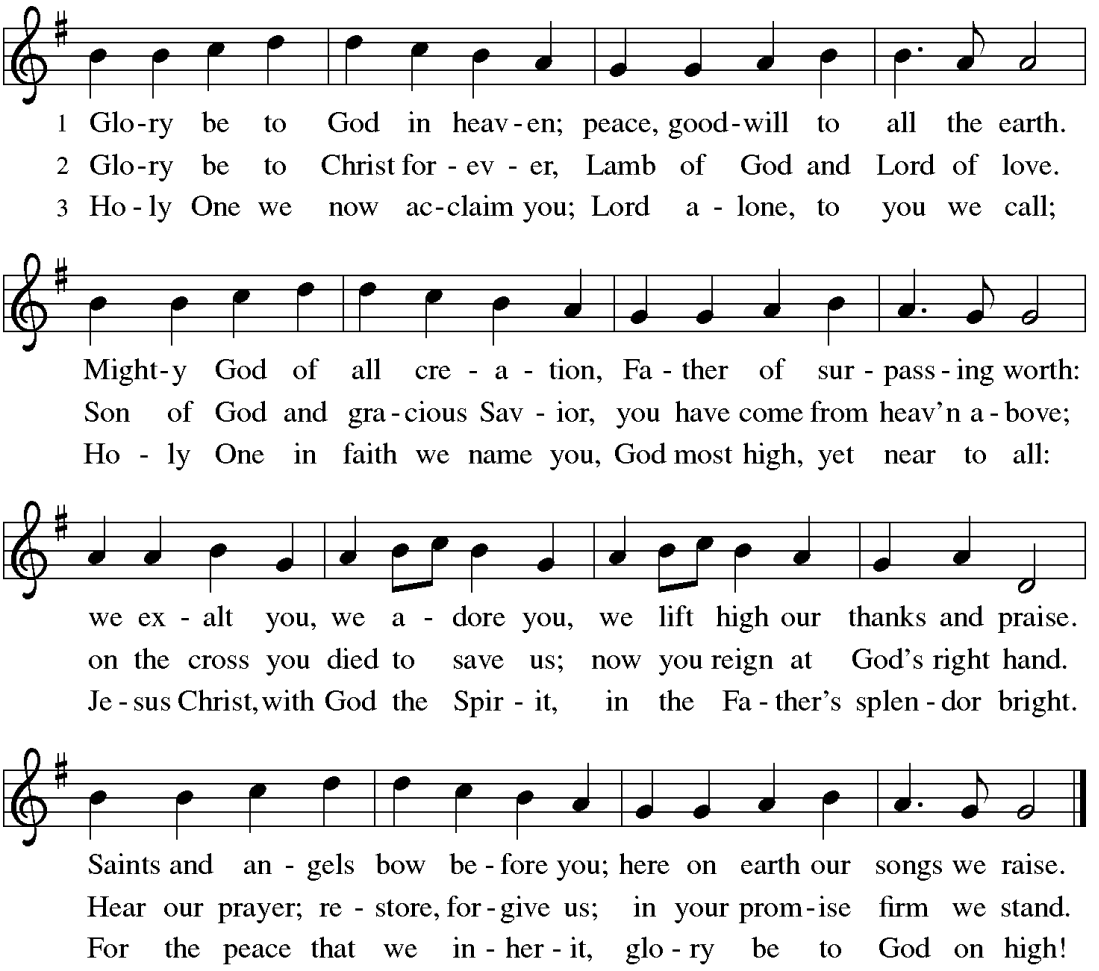
Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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



*Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

The Church Listens

First Reading — Acts 7:55-60

55 Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and
Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and
the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" 57 But they covered their ears, and with
a loud shout all rushed together against him. 58 Then they dragged him out of the city and
began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named
Saul. 59 While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my
spirit." 60 Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin
against them." When he had said this, he died.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading — 1 Peter 2:2-10

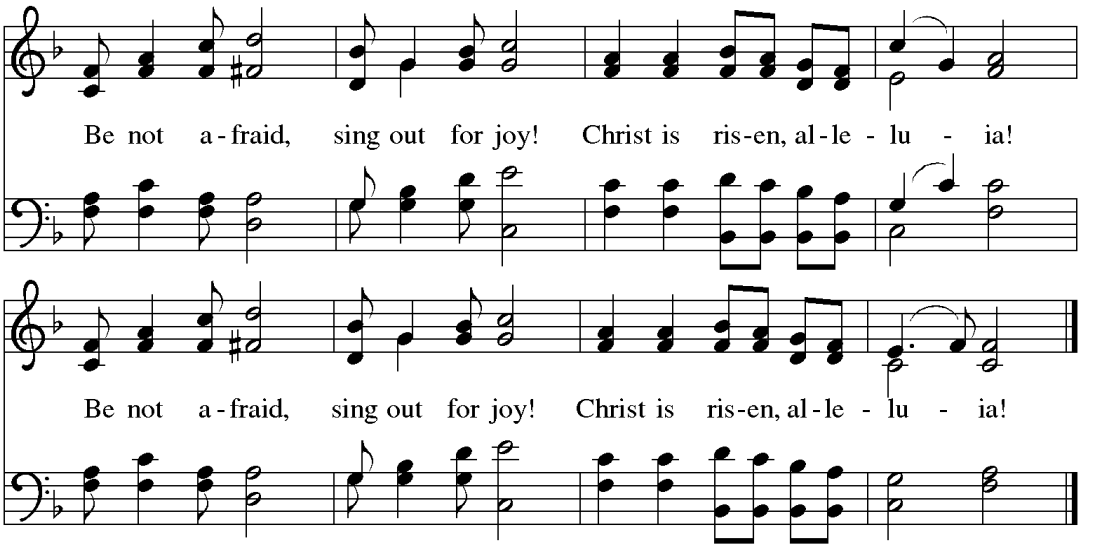
2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into
salvation 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.
4 Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in
God's sight, and 5 like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy
priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For it
stands in scripture:
"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."
7 This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,
"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,"
8 and
"A stone that makes them stumble
and a rock that makes them fall."
They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.
9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in

order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

10 Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – *please sing two times*



*HOLY GOSPEL — John 14:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord!

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe
also in me. 2 In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would
I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for
you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be
also. 4 And you know the way to the place where I am going." 5 Thomas said to him, "Lord,
we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I
am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If
you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have
seen him."

8 Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." 9 Jesus said to
him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever
has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Do you not
believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do
not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. 11 Believe me that
I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the
works themselves. 12 Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the
works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the
Father. 13 I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the
Son. 14 If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE — *Caleb Wyse*

MESSAGE — *"Show Us the Father"*

THE CHURCH RESPONDS

HYMN OF THE DAY** ***"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"

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

*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.**

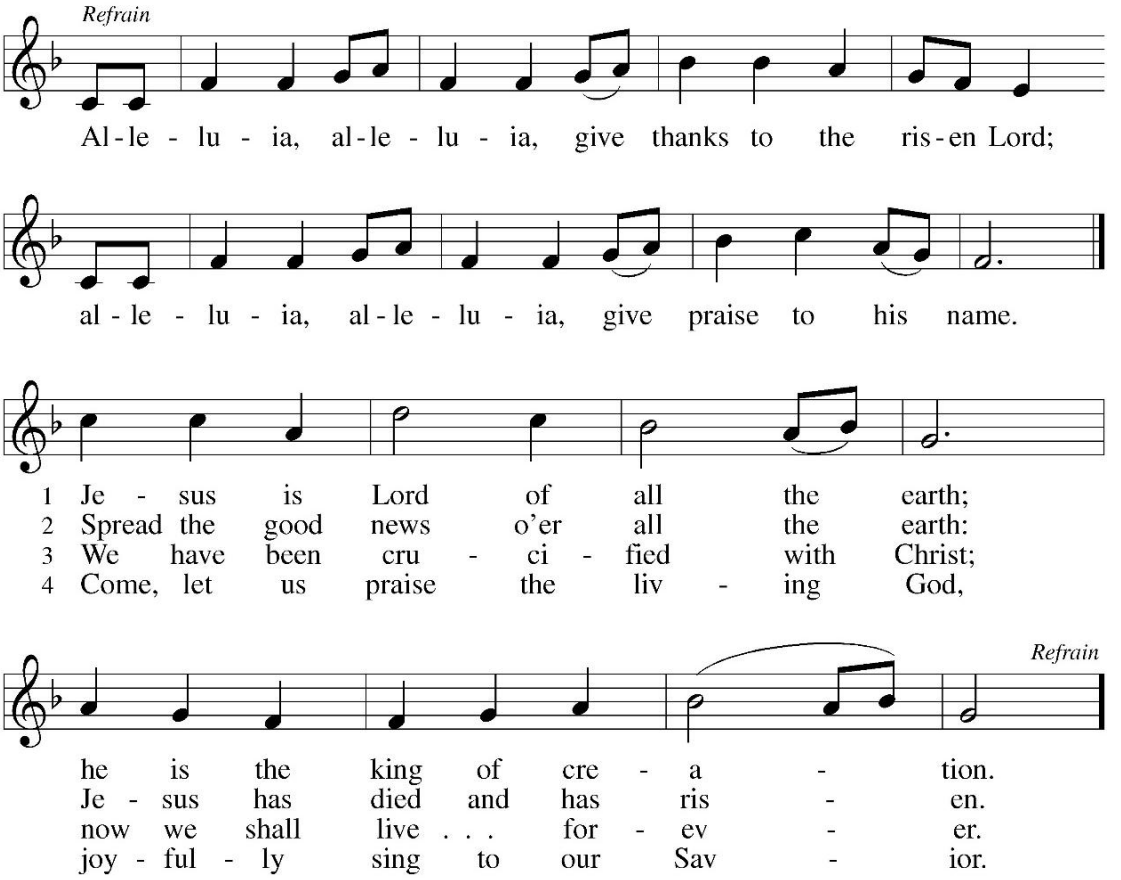
*SHARING OF THE PEACE

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.

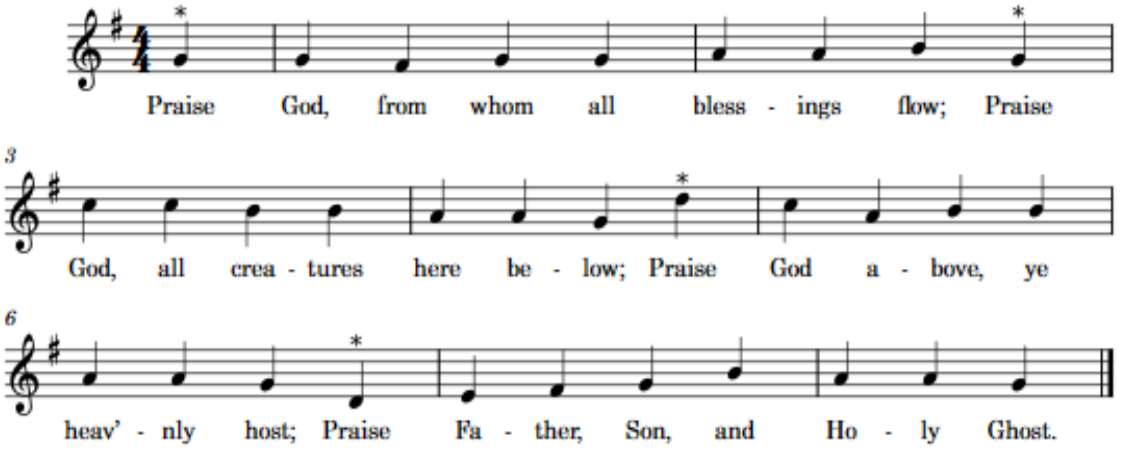
And also with you.

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

OFFERING HYMN — "ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, GIVE THANKS!"



*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.

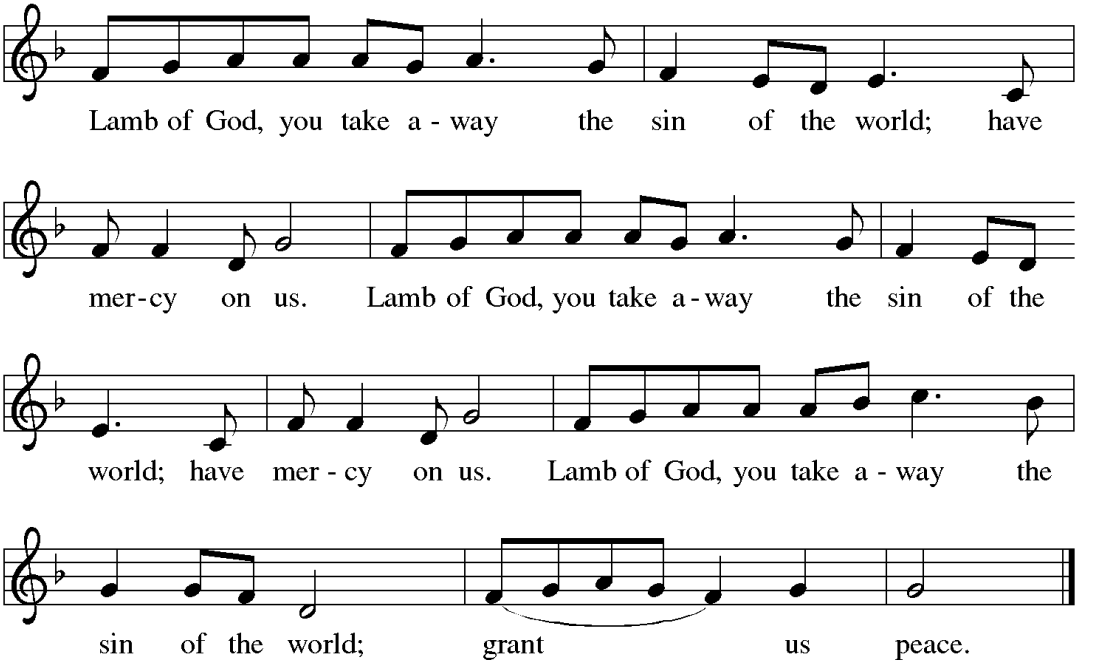
Amen

*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.

RECOGNITION OF FIRST COMMUNION

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION *"Lamb of God"*



SPECIAL MUSIC *"Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life"*

-Ralph Vaughan Williams

Come, my way, my truth, my life:
such a way as gives us breath;
such a truth as ends all strife;
such a life as killeth death.

Come, my light, my feast, my strength:
such a light as shows a feast;
such a feast as mends in length;
such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my joy, my love, my heart:
such a joy as none can move;
such a love as none can part;
such a heart as joys in love.

HYMN: "O JESUS, I HAVE PROMISED" **LBW 503** *(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 — *"Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!"*

(Please sing Verse 5 in Unison)

*Dismissal

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

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

Liturgical texts and music for Hymn of Praise, Prayer of the Day and Gospel Acclamation from Evangelical Lutheran Worship ©2006 Augsburg Fortress Publishers

St. Martin's Worship Servants . . .

Acolyte	-Violet Schneider
Organist	-Matthew Wachtman
Pianist	-Rick Breier
Lector	-Jim Hartman
Usher Team Leader	-Mark Weaver
Sound System	-Bill Phelps
Altar Guild	-Peg Bjorlin & Michelle Collins
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!*

It's time for the annual community-wide Burger Bash, **TODAY**, 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.

Graduation Bibles & Gifts: The table in the entryway with Bibles is available for you to highlight meaningful verses and add notes of encouragement using the provided pens and sticky notes. These Bibles will be given to each graduate as a reminder of your support and prayers. There will also be designated baskets for each student where you can drop off gifts or items they may need as they continue their education or enter the workforce.

First Communion will be celebrated for 3 young people during worship today. Please remember **Ezekiel Schmidt, Hayden Thatcher and Liam Thatcher** in your prayers this week.

Music Sunday will be next Sunday, May 10. All our music ministries will lead worship. Music Sunday has traditionally been the end of our program year, so it is the last day of Sunday School.

May Concert Series is May 17th at 3pm… These are the songs you already know and love. On our St. Martin's Concert Series, Dreams and Delights is all about great tunes—from Over the Rainbow and Memory to You'll Never Walk Alone and What a Wonderful World. It's a mix of show tunes, familiar classics, and a few surprises, all centered around themes of dreams, struggle, and joy. Nothing heavy or hard to follow, just memorable melodies and music that speak for itself. Mezzo-soprano Lisa van der Ploeg brings warmth, personality, and a beautiful voice to these favorites. With a background in classical voice study and a career that has taken her to opera stages and concert halls across the U.S., she brings both polish and approachability to this music.

This Week at St. Martin's

TODAY-Sunday May 3- 5th Sunday in Easter
Worship, 9am
Sunday School, 10:15am
Adult Sunday School, 10:30am
High School Youth, 10:30am
Middle School Youth, 6:30pm

Monday-May 4
High School Bible Study, 7am
Adult Zoom, 7pm

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

Wednesday- May 6
Mary-Martha Group, 1pm
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- May 7
Women's Breakfast, 7am @ The Home Restaurant
Bulletin Deadline, 8am

Next Sunday – May 10- Music Sunday
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
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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 4/26/2026 Budget and Year to Date

Operating Contributions	$4,441.57	Budgeted Weekly Operating Need	$7,381.00
Other Designated Income	$2,396.00		
Total Income	$6,837.57	**AS OF 3/31/2026**	
		YTD Operating Received	$88,276.89
		YTD Operating Expenses	($105,944.69)
Worship: Sun/Wed/Total	107/19/116	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
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.**