St. Martin's Lutheran Church
Archbold, Ohio

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost - Sunday, July 26, 2026
Summer Sermon Series – The Questions God Asks

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

THE CHURCH GATHERS

PRELUDE **"EINFACH – ADAGIO"** ***FROM NACHTSTÜCKE***
-Robert Schumann

BELL & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives. We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son, ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God, and one another.

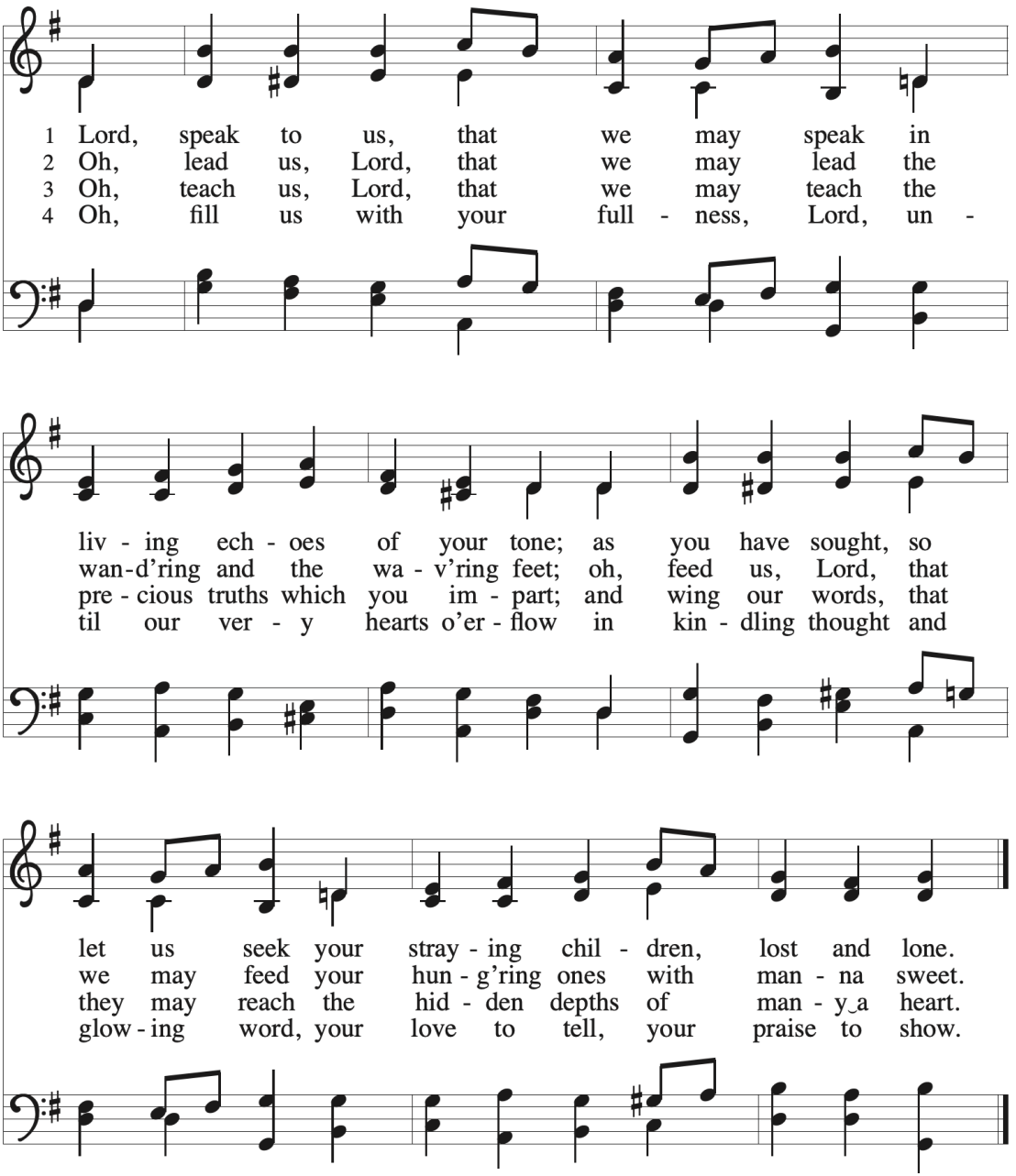
Silence is kept for reflection.

Have mercy, O God,

against you, you alone, we have sinned.
In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt.
Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit.
Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.

As tender as a parent is to child, so deep is God's compassion for you.
As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God's love for you. *(Psalm 103)*
As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through Jesus Christ.
Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.
Thanks be to God.

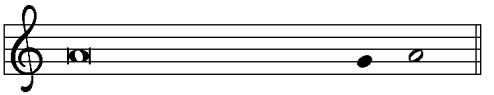
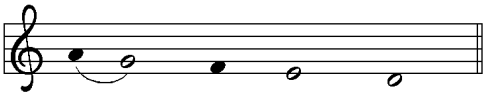
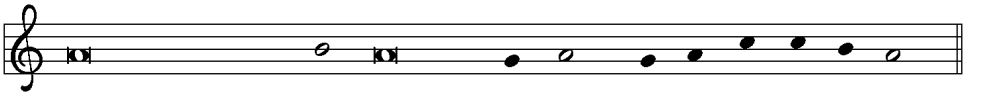
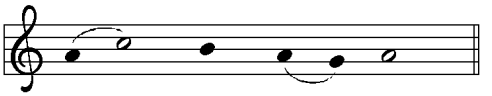
OPENING HYMN** ***"Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak"

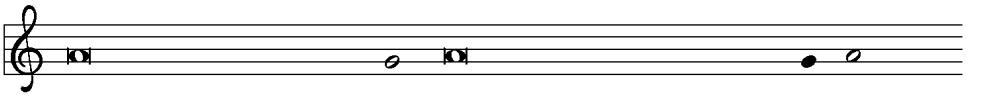
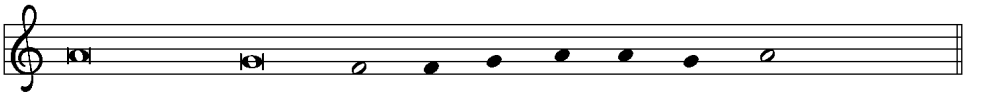
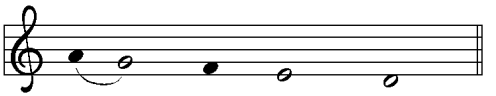
(Please sing Verse 4 in Unison)

*GREETING

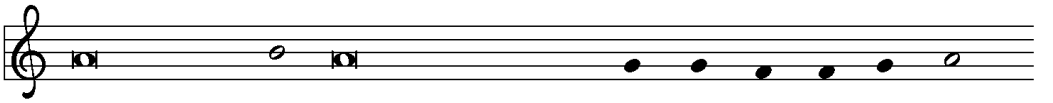
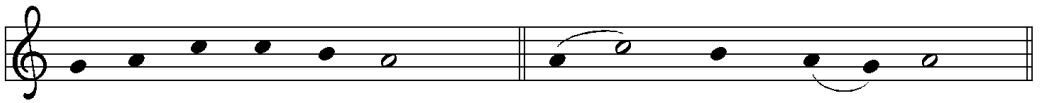
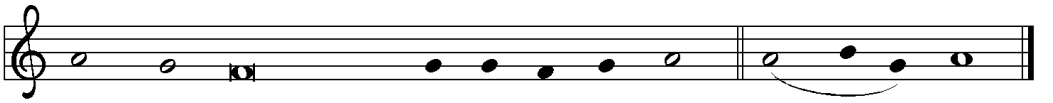
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. *(2 Corinthians 13:13)*

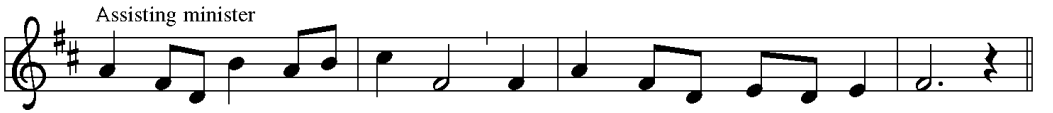
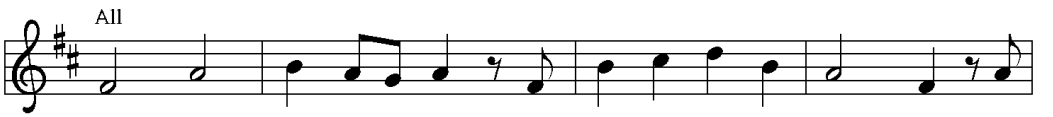
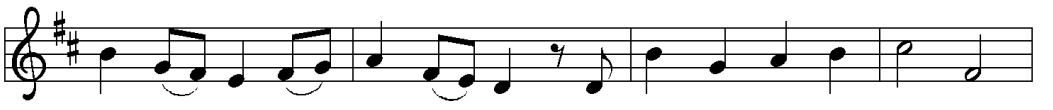
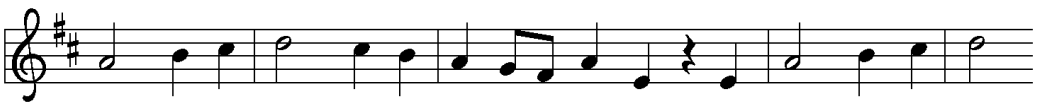
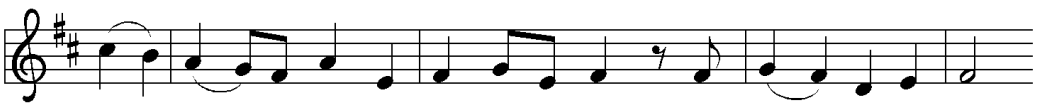
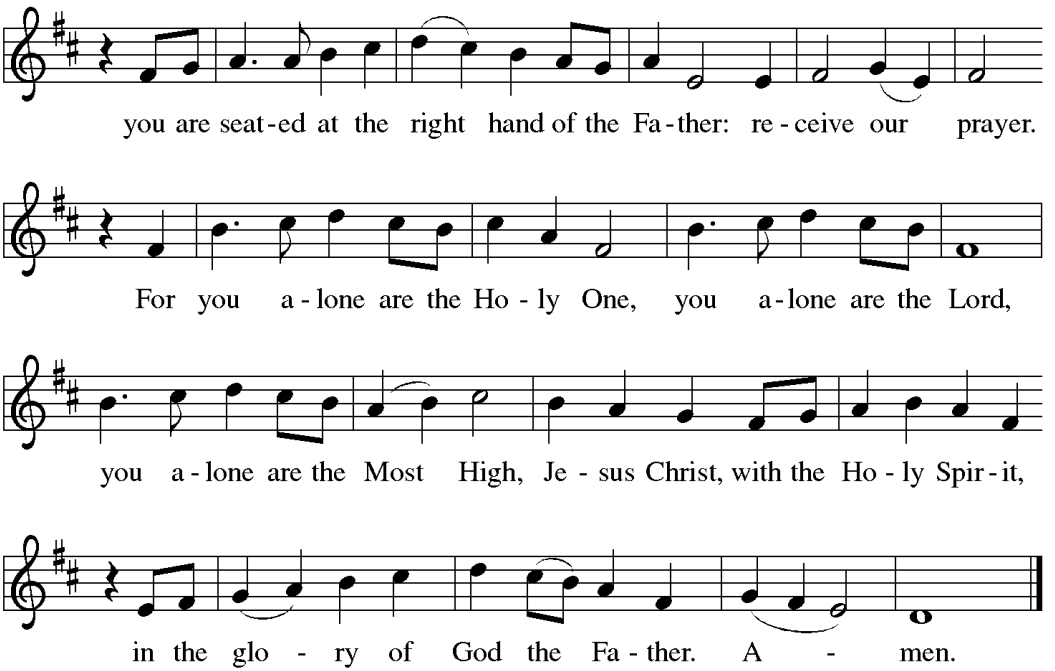
And also with you.

*KYRIE







*Hymn of Praise



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Gracious Lord, you meet us on the shores of our lives and speak words that restore our identity and renew our calling. By your Spirit, help us hear your question, "Do you love me," not as a test but as an invitation into deeper trust and faithful service. Strengthen us to feed your sheep with compassion, courage, and joy. Remind us each day that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus. Make us the disciples the world needs, for the sake of your gospel and your glory.

Amen.

THE CHURCH LISTENS

NEW TESTAMENT READING — ROMANS 8:35-39

35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or
famine or nakedness or peril or sword? 36 As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed
all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."
37 No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. 38 For I am
convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to
come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to
separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

PSALMODY — PSALM 23 *(Please read in unison)*

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;
3 he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil,
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

GOSPEL READING — John 21:15-19

15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John,
do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you."
Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." 16 A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John,
do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him,
"Tend my sheep." 17 He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"
Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to
him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my
sheep. 18 Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt
and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands,
and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to
go." 19 (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this
he said to him, "Follow me."

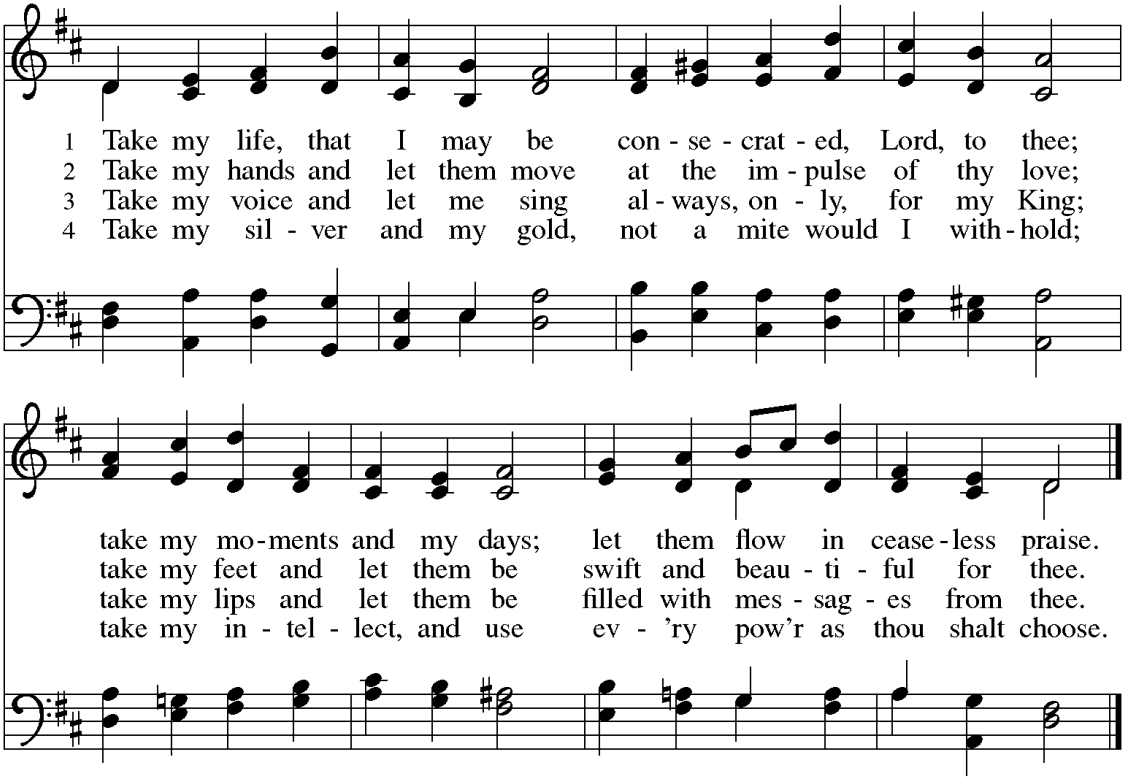
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE **THE QUESTIONS GOD ASKS: "DO YOU LOVE ME?"**

THE CHURCH RESPONDS

HYMN OF THE DAY** ***"Take My Life, That I May Be"

(Please stand after an extended hymn introduction; please sing verses 5 & 6 in unison)



5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

*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")

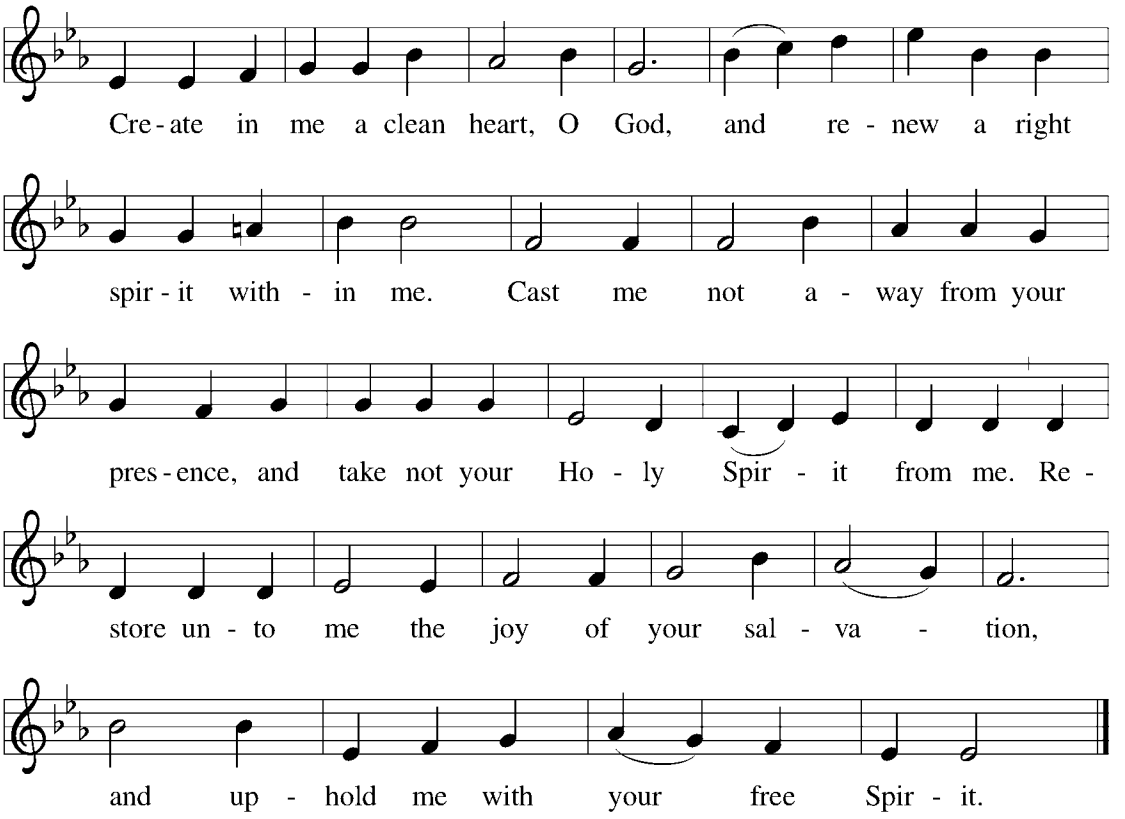
OFFERING OF GIFTS

"SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US"

- William Bradbury

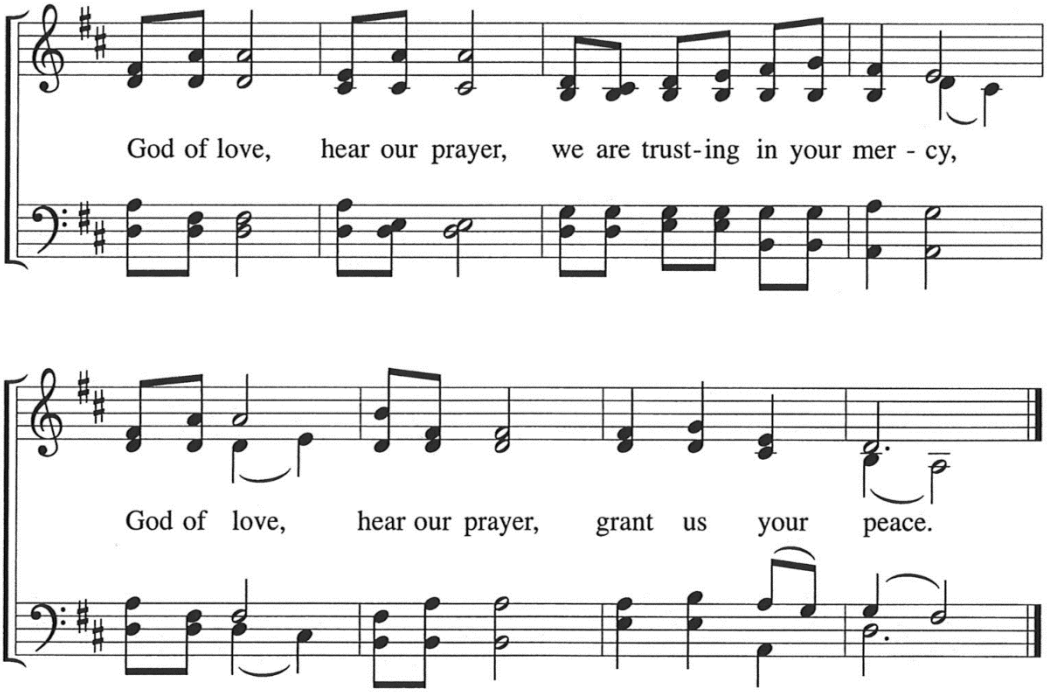
*OFFERTORY

"Create in Me a Clean Heart" *(Psalm 51)*



*Prayers of the Church

We begin with this response, and sing it again after each prayer petition:

In confidence and hope, we pray…

*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.

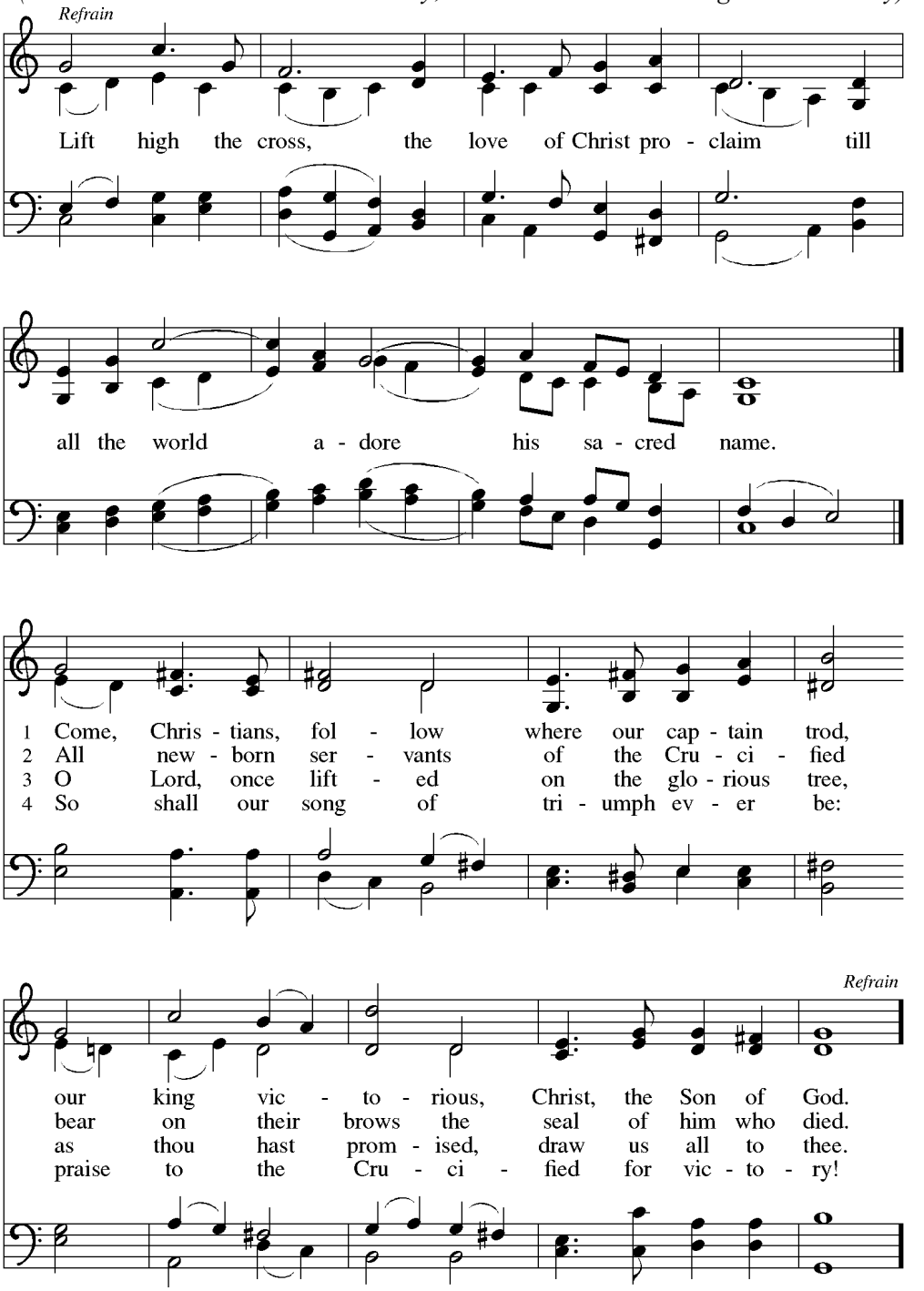
* Benediction

May the God who breathed life into creation be our joy.
May Christ Jesus give hope to our dreaming,
and may the Holy Spirit, set our hearts ablaze.

The blessing of the living God; Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, sustain us in our ministry now and always.

Amen

*CLOSING HYMN *"Lift High the Cross"*

(Verse 2 – Men and Lower Voices only; Verse 3 – Women and Higher Voices only)

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE **"LIFT HIGH THE CROSS"**
- arr. Paul Manz

St. Martin's Worship Servants . . .

Organist	-Matthew Wachtman
Acolyte	-Emma Thatcher
Trumpet/Flugelhorn	-Philip Hoverman
Usher Team Leader	-Ziegler Family
Sound System	-Bill Phelps
Altar Guild	-Joan Meyer & Janet Wyse
Offering Counters	-Mark Weaver & Jo Ann Liechty

The St. Martin's Webstore has some new items! If you would like to order some apparel you can go to https://stmartinsarchbold.itemorder.com, click the link in your Friday email.

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!

We are looking for several people who would be interested in being part of an usher team. Each team only ushers every five months and usually once or twice during that month. If you would be interested in considering doing this or have any questions, please reach out to Jim or Janet Wyse.

THANK YOU to those volunteers that helped with **Vacation Bible School** last week: Susan Dominique, Angie Avers, Jodi Grime, Caleb Wyse, Bill Phelps, Pastor Steve, Jake Keil, Jordyn Schmidt, Allison Reyes.

We invite you to a Two-Part Funeral Preplanning Event. TODAY, July 26, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., join Pastor Steve and Matthew Wachtman, along with Adam Grisier, St. Martin's member and experienced funeral director, for an informational session. The first evening will focus on the peace of mind that comes with planning ahead, covering topics like worship service planning, basic funeral choices, financial considerations, and more.
Then, on Monday, July 27, at 6:30 p.m., we offer an optional workshop, where participants can return to apply what they've learned—beginning the process of choosing specific worship service elements, scripture readings, music, and having those wishes recorded with St. Martin's. All are welcome to attend both or just one evening. In these conversations, clarity is

an act of love—giving your loved-one's peace of mind so that when the time comes, they can focus on grieving, not guessing. Expect each evening to end by 8pm.

DONATIONS REQUEST: Many of you know Dianne Parsons. Pastor Steve announced the unfortunate death of her young grandson, Tristan, last Sunday. With his passing the family has incurred some unexpected expenses. My Aunt (a friend of Dianne's) and I are going to host a fundraising "garage sale" at St. Martin's on July 31 and Aug 1. If anyone or any family has items they would like to donate to the cause, you can take items to the church on Thursday July 30 up to 6pm. If Thursday does not work for anyone, please contact Diana Ziegler at tdzglr@rtecexpress or cell phone 419-630-5262 and other arrangements can be made.

GARAGE SALE info: Fundraising garage sale for the family of Tristan (Dianne Parsons' grandson) will be held on July 31 from 9am to 6pm and Aug 1 from 9am to 2pm. All items will be available for a free will donation. Come and see what treasures you might find. Please pass the word on to other community members

This Week at St. Martin's

TODAY- Sunday – July 26
Worship, 9am
Funeral Planning Workshop Part 1, 6:30pm

Monday-July 27
Funeral Planning Workshop Part 2, 6:30pm

Tuesday – July 28
Men's Breakfast, 7am @ McDonald's
Sewing, 9am

Wednesday- July 29
Welcome Place Meal, 5:15pm
Worship, 6pm

Thursday- July 30
Women's Breakfast, 7am @ The Home Restaurant
Bulletin Deadline, 8am
Rummage Sale (Thurs-Saturday) in fellowship hall

Next Sunday – August 2
Worship, 9am

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. AM & Fri. AM

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 7/19/2026 Budget and Year to Date

Operating Contributions	$8,005.57	Budgeted Weekly Operating Need	$7,848.00
Other Designated Income	$487.00		
Total Income	$8,492.57	**AS OF 6/30/2026**	
		YTD Operating Received	$175,138.97
		YTD Operating Expenses	($200,892.43)
Worship: Sun/Wed/Total	92/20/112	Net Income/(Deficit)	$(25,753.46)

CHECK THOSE SCHOOL SALES AND GARAGE SALES . . .

We are collecting items for School, Baby Care and Personal Care Kits for Rally Day. Since school supply sales begin earlier and earlier, here is the list of supplies needed for each kit. Also be watching garage sales for baby care kit items. When you see good sales, take advantage of them and bring the supplies to the Fellowship Hall beginning now! We will pack them on **Rally Day, September 13.**

Watch your bulletin in August. We will keep you updated on the amount of each item still needed.

Each kit contains:

School Kits . . .

-4-70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10
-1-pencil sharpener
-1-blunt scissors (ex: safety scissors with embedded steel blades)
-5-unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
-5- black or blue ballpoint pen
-1-box of 24 Crayola crayons
-1-2½" "pink" eraser

Personal Care Kits . . .

-1-light-weight bath-size towel (maximum 52" X 27"), dark color recommended
-2-bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping
-1-adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging*
-1-sturdy comb, remove packaging
-1-metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

Baby Care Kits(104) . . .

-2-sleepers with no feet
-2-blankets
-2-pairs of socks
-2-bars of gentle soap
-hand towels

Want to help financially instead? You can help with shipping. St. Martin's does not pay for shipping, but Lutheran World Relief does when they ship the kits and comforters to their destinations all over the world. Mark your offering envelope "LWR Shipping" and drop it in the Offering plate.

We're excited to share that starting this fall, we're adjusting our Wednesday night schedule to better serve everyone! By shifting rehearsal times and activities, we're creating a more seamless, family-friendly evening. Chancel Choir rehearsal, Circle Group discussion, and Kids Club will now pair together, helping all ages participate in ministry groups under the same roof. We hope this brings renewed energy and added connection to our midweek gatherings. This makes it the perfect time to plug in, try something new, and get involved in a way that speaks to you—whether it's joining a choir, helping with Kids Club, serving at the community meal, or participating in worship or circle discussion. Join us! If you feel called to create a new study group to meet on Wednesdays, please reach out to Pastor Steve.

<table>
<tr><th></th><th colspan="3">New Wednesday Schedule</th></tr>
<tr><td>3:00-3:15</td><td colspan="3" rowspan="8">After School Program
(3-5pm)</td></tr>
<tr><td>3:15-3:30</td></tr>
<tr><td>3:30-3:45</td></tr>
<tr><td>3:45-4:00</td></tr>
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<tr><td>4:30-4:45</td></tr>
<tr><td>4:45-5:00</td></tr>
<tr><td>5:00-5:15</td><td colspan="3" rowspan="4">Community Meal
(5-6pm)</td></tr>
<tr><td>5:15-5:30</td></tr>
<tr><td>5:30-5:45</td></tr>
<tr><td>5:45-6:00</td></tr>
<tr><td>6:00-6:15</td><td rowspan="2">Wednesday Worship
(6-6:30pm)</td><td rowspan="3">Chancel Choir
Rehearsal
(6-7pm)</td><td rowspan="4">Kids Club
(6-7:15pm)</td></tr>
<tr><td>6:15-6:30</td></tr>
<tr><td>6:30-6:45</td><td rowspan="3">Circle Discussion Group
(6:30-7:15pm)</td></tr>
<tr><td>6:45-7:00</td></tr>
<tr><td>7:00-7:15</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>7:15-7:30</td><td rowspan="5"></td><td rowspan="3">Bell Choir Rehearsal
(7:15-8:00pm)</td><td rowspan="3">Catechism Class
(7:15-8pm)</td></tr>
<tr><td>7:30-7:45</td></tr>
<tr><td>7:45-8:00</td></tr>
<tr><td>8:00-8:15</td><td colspan="2" rowspan="2"></td></tr>
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