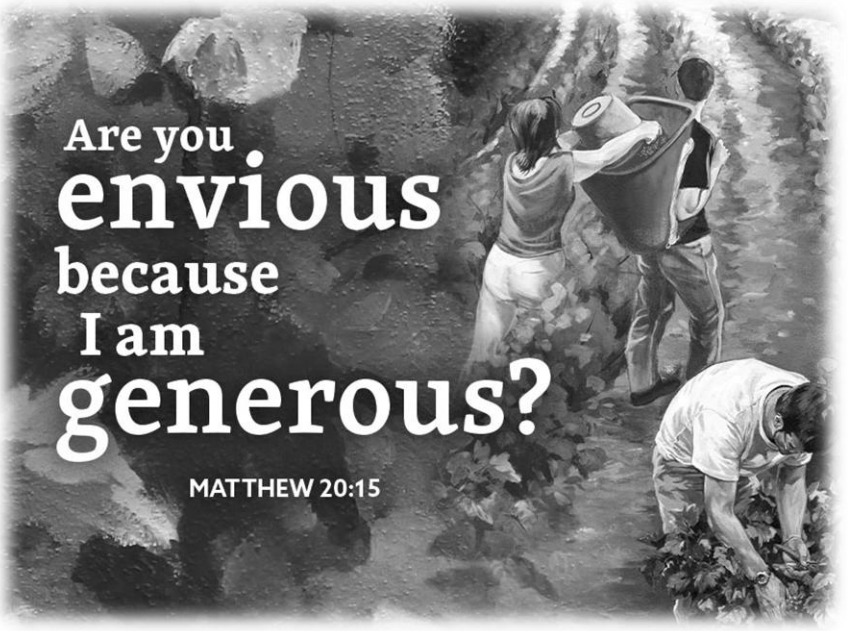



# St. Martin's Lutheran Church

**203 S. Defiance Street + Archbold, OH 43502**
**Pastor Steve Basselman**

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026

## “Gracious Spirit, Head our Pleading”

*(Verse 2 – Women and High Voices; Verse 4 – Men and Low Voices; All Refrains – ALL)*

4 Not mere knowledge, but discernment,
nor rootless liberty;
turn disquiet to contentment,
doubt into certainty.

5 Keep us fervent in our witness,
unswayed by earth's allure.
Ever grant us zealous fitness,
which you alone assure.

## *Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost* *September 20, 2026*

*When God changes his mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, "…in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars." We also hear from Matthew's gospel where Jesus says, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations."*

---

Regular text is spoken by the Worship Leader
**Bold text is spoken by the Congregation**
*****_Indicates to stand as you are able_

## THE CHURCH GATHERS

**PRELUDE** ***"Kingsfold"*** *– arr. Anne Krentz Organ*

*i. Sturdily*
*ii. Reflectively*
*iii. Warmly*
*iv. Boldly*

**BELL & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***OPENING HYMN** ***"Gracious Spirit, Head our Pleading"***

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Almighty God, the secrets of our hearts are not hidden from you. We stand in your presence knowing that we have felt hatred toward others and that we have made bad choices in our lives. When we are faced with the call to forgive we realize the depth of your forgiveness. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts and minds as we confess our sin in your presence.

*A moment of silence is held for personal reflection:*

Merciful God,
**we confess that we cannot save ourselves from the power of sin, but we still trust in ourselves and not in you.**

Gracious God,
**forgive the envy we have of others in their happiness.**

Merciful God,
**forgive our indifference to those around us that need our help.**

Gracious God,
**forgive the things we have done to harm others and the things we have failed to do to prevent harm.**

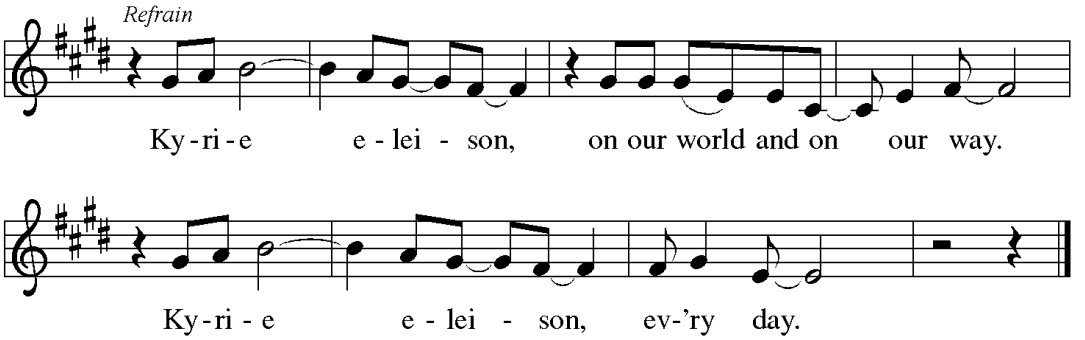
Have mercy on us, O God,
**forgive our sins, renew our lives and lead us to faithful service in your holy name. Amen**

God is generous and faithful, forgiving sins without number, welcoming all to the feast, and giving us a place among the saints. Through Jesus Christ, who went to the cross for our sake, we are forgiven and made whole. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ forgave you. *(Ephesians 4:32)*
**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 *(Refrain – ALL; Verses – Leader)*




*For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;*
*for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,*
*let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord*

*That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;*
*that we may live out truth and justice and grace,*
*let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord*

*For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;*
*for life and for love, for our work and our play,*
*let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord*

*For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;*
*that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,*
*let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord*

## *PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
**And also with you.**

Gracious God, you send us into the world to share your peace and your love. Open our eyes to see where your Spirit is already at work. Give us humble hearts that are ready to listen, generous hands that are eager to serve, and joyful voices that begin with your praise. Strengthen our fellowship with Christians around the world, and help us bear faithful witness to Jesus Christ wherever you send us; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen**

## THE CHURCH LISTENS

## FIRST READING — Jonah 3:10—4:11

10When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed
his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not
do it.
But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. 2He prayed to the
LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country?
That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God
and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from
punishing. 3And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to
die than to live." 4And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" 5Then Jonah
went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there.
He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.
6The Lord GOD appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade
over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the
bush. 7But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked
the bush, so that it withered. 8When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind,
and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he
might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."
9But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said,
"Yes, angry enough to die." 10Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the
bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a
night and perished in a night. 11And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that
great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who
do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

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

## PSALM 145:1–8 *– read responsively*

I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

**Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.**

One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power. I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

**Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.**

They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness. They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

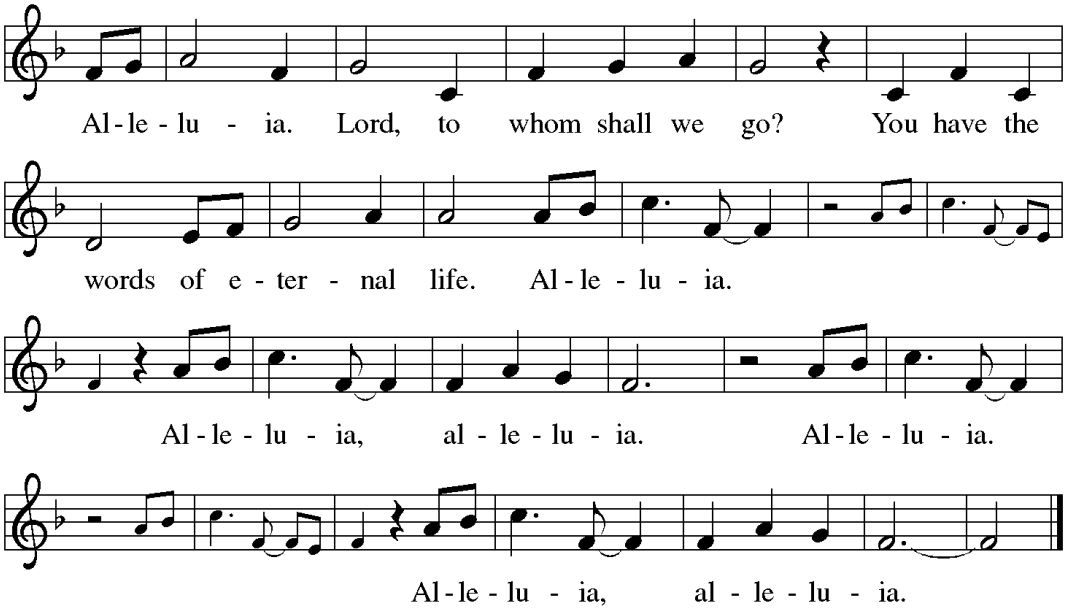
**The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

## SECOND READING — Philippians 1:21–30

21 For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means
fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. 23 I am hard pressed between
the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; 24 but to remain
in the flesh is more necessary for you. 25 Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will
remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, 26 so that I may
share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.
27 Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I
come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing
firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, 28 and
are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their
destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. 29 For he has graciously
granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well
— 30 since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I
still have.

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

## *Gospel Acclamation




## *Holy Gospel — Matthew 28:16-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 28th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed
them. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. 18 And Jesus came and
said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and
make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of
the Holy Spirit 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And
remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The Gospel of the Lord.

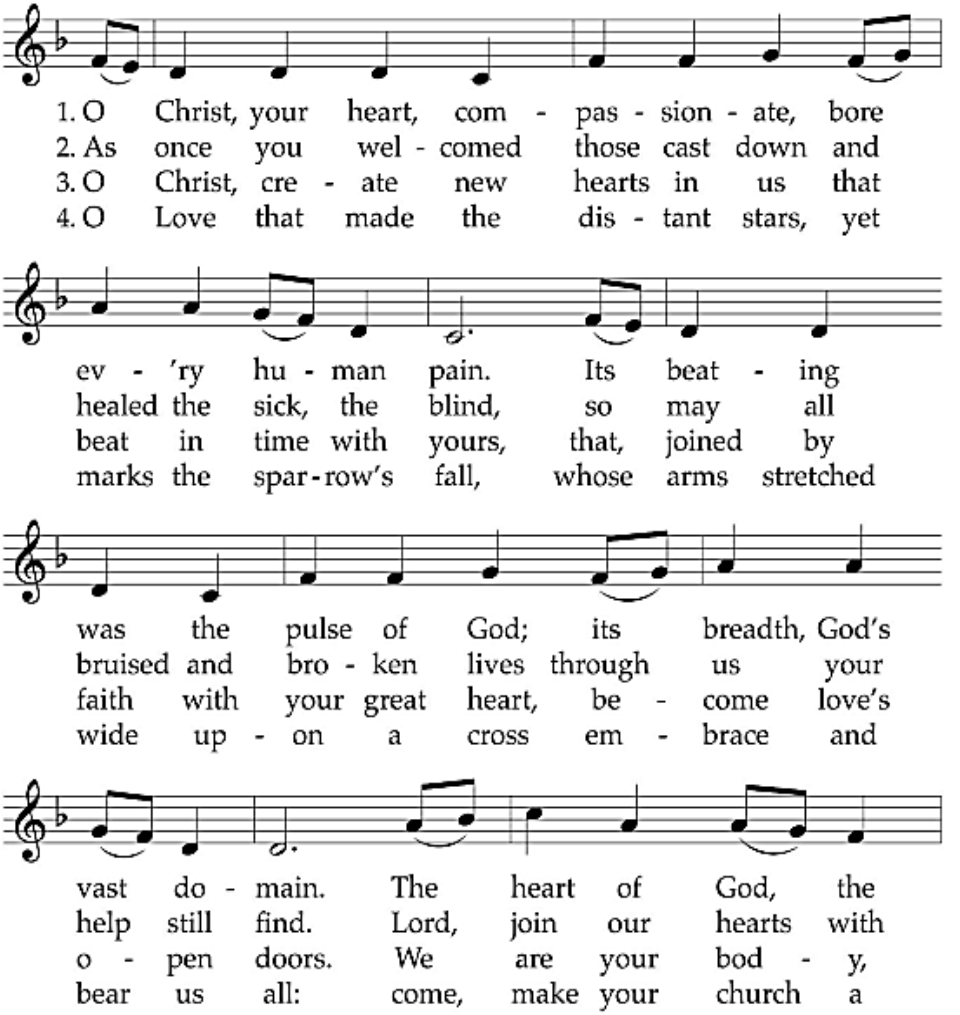
**Praise to you, O Christ!**

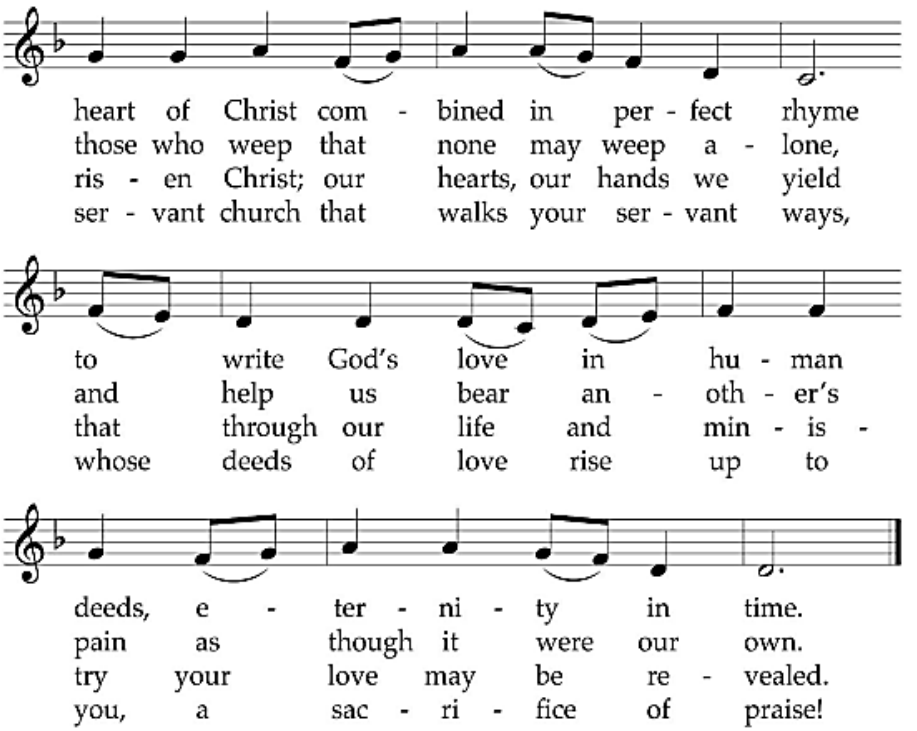
## Children's Message — *Pastor Sarah Schaaf*

**MESSAGE** ***Pastor Sarah Schaaf***

## THE CHURCH RESPONDS

***HYMN OF THE DAY** ***"O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate"***






***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**

***BIBLE PRESENTATION, SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER INSTALLATION**

***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

**Bell Choir** **"Song of Gladness"**

*-arr. Sherman*

## *OFFERTORY *"Create in Me"*

## *Offertory Prayer

God of life,

**we belong to you, our life and our labor, and all that we are. In great thanksgiving we offer ourselves to your service for work in your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.**

## The Church Shares in the Meal

## * 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

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, the Resurrection and the Life, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to us all.

*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.*

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

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

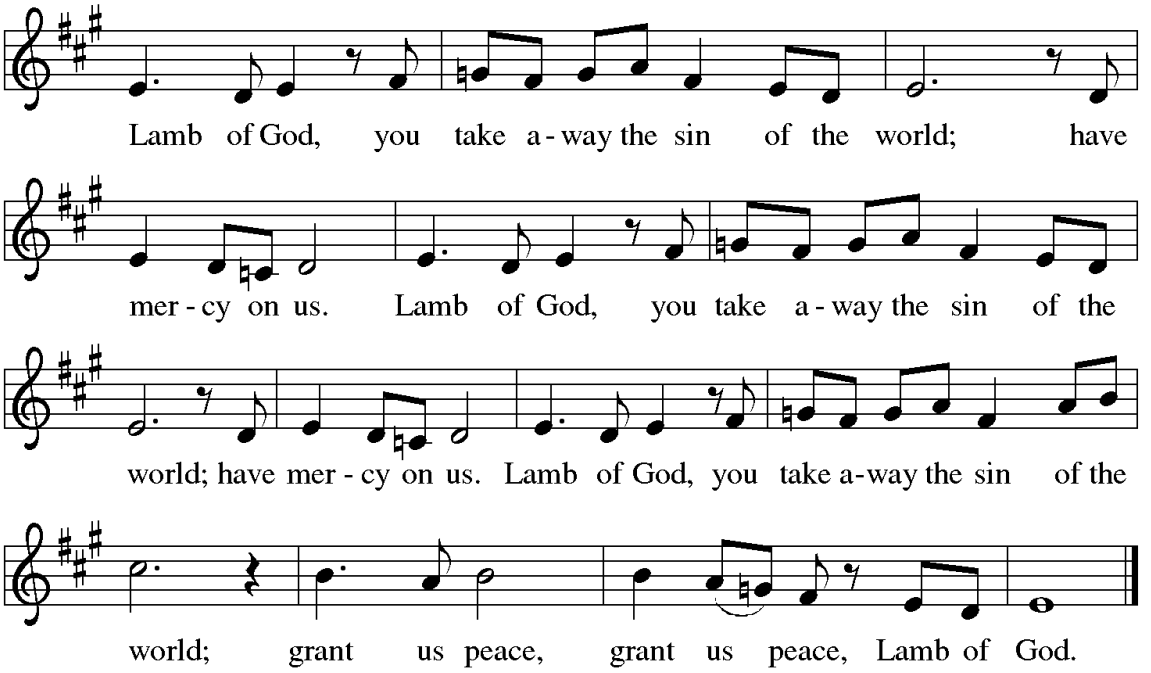
Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**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



# *"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"*

## 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

Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore.

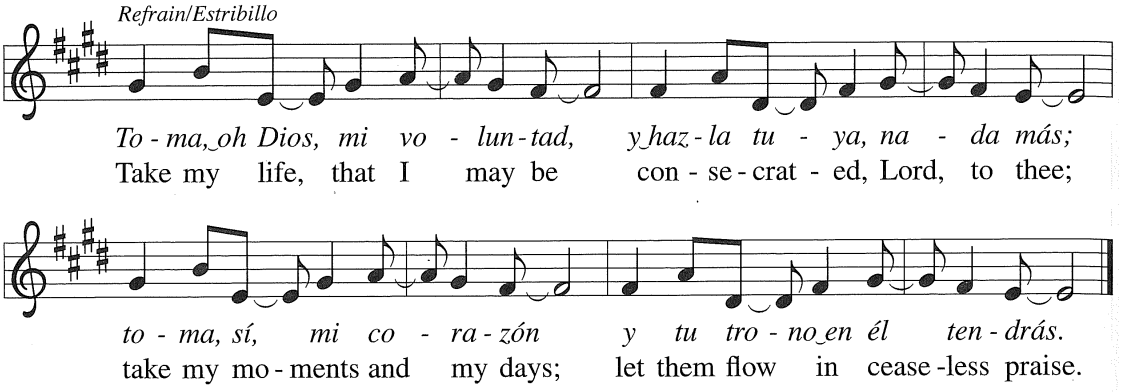
**Amen.**

### * 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 HYMN *"Take My Life"*



## * DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

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Liturgical text and music for Gospel Acclamation and Offertory from Evangelical Lutheran Worship ©2006 Augsburg Fortress.

| | |
|---|---|
| Acolyte | -Emma Thatcher |
| Pianist | -Matthew Wachtman |
| Percussion | -Jacob Thatcher |
| Clarinet | -Jo Ann Benecke |
| Vocalist | -Courtney Grisier |
| Usher Team Leader | -Jim & Janet Wyse |
| Sound System | -Cameron Thompson |
| Altar Guild | -Cristie Sevey & Peg Bjorlin |
| Offering Counters | -Jane Trudel & Diana Ziegler |

# BIBLE PRESENTATION

**Spark Bible-Preschool**
**Eric Grisier**

**Hands On Bible- 4th Grade**
**Khalyci Smith**
**Quinn Elting**
**Jessa Meyer**

**Confirmation Bibles-7th Grade**
**Emma Thatcher**
**Jordyn Schmidt**

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**The flowers today are in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Jim and Bonnie Badenhop on September 25th by their St Martin's Friends.**

**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.

**After School Tutoring-**We are expanding our After School Tutoring program this year! Last year, we started with 6 students who needed a little extra support after school. That support can look different for every student. It might mean helping with homework, having a child read to you, working through a difficult assignment, or simply being a safe and encouraging adult in their life. With the full launch of the program this year, **we are looking for more volunteers.** We are opening the program to 10 elementary students and 2 middle school students, with the goal of providing each student with one-on-one time in the fellowship hall. We can only make that happen with the help of volunteers**.** One of the things that's great about this program is that you can create a schedule that works for you. You could help every time we meet, once a month, or even just 4 times throughout the school year. Any amount of time you can give makes a difference. If you are interested in helping or would like more information, feel free to contact Jake. **AST begins October 7.**

**Snacks for Kids Club & Middle School-**Another current need is snacks for Kids Club and Middle School Youth on Sunday nights. We ask that snacks be non-perishable, such as graham crackers, fruit snacks, chips, water, and juice boxes for Kids Club.
We have been incredibly fortunate and thankful for how willing everyone has been to donate to our youth ministry. Because of your generosity, we have been able to keep snacks stocked throughout the entire school year and even use them for summer activities. There have been a few times when snacks have been left in the kitchen, in the refrigerator, or I'm informed of a donation in passing. We truly appreciate the donations, but unfortunately, those items don't always get used because Jake is rarely in that part of the building during the week. **To make sure everything gets seen, stored properly, and used, please drop snack donations off in my office or at the top of the staircase leading to the basement with a note that says "Youth & Kids."** That way Jake knows the snacks are there and can get them where they need to go. Thank you again for continuing to support our youth and kids' ministry. Your generosity makes a real difference!

**FALL MUM SALE-Order your mums by TODAY, September 20 to support the ELCA Youth Gathering trip in 2027**.

**Sunday School begins, TODAY, Sunday, September 20 – 10:20 am**
**Classes for all ages**
Preschool thru 8th Grades – meet in the basement
Cecily Rohrs' Adult Class – Fellowship Hall
Worship Rewind Class – in the Library

***Welcome to Pastor Sarah Schaaf**, Assistant to Northwestern Ohio Synod Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, for Emerging Church and Community Engagement. Since May of 2025, the people of God in the Northwestern Ohio Synod have raised more than $84,000 to purchase 52 piki pikis (motorbikes) to support the work of our Tanzanian companions who serve as Evangelists, supporting the faith of communities in remote locations. This project was created in collaboration with our global companions in the Tanzanian Lutheran Church in Dodoma, where support for the work of evangelists is a top priority. St. Martin's has been an important partner in this work, gifting $2,000 towards this project with a distribution through our Endowment Fund. Pastor Sarah Schaaf joins us to share stories of gratitude from Evangelists who have received motorbikes and provide an update about the amazing impacts of Project Piki Piki.*

## This Week at St. Martin's

**TODAY- Sunday – September 20-Holy Communion**
Worship, 9am
Sunday School, 10:15am
High School Youth, 10:30am
American Guild of Organists, 3pm
Middle School Youth, 6:00pm

**Tuesday – September 22**
Men's Breakfast, 7am McDonald's
Newsletter Deadline, 8am
Boy Scouts, 6:30pm

**Wednesday- September 23**
Welcome Place Meal, 5pm
Worship, 6pm
Kids Club, 6pm
Chancel Choir, 6pm
Adult Circle, 6:30pm
Bell Choir Rehearsal, 7:15pm
Catechism, 7:15pm

**Thursday- September 24**
Women's Breakfast, 7am The Home Restaurant
Bulletin Deadline, 8am

**Next Sunday – September 27**
Worship, 9am
Sunday School, 10:15am
High School Youth, 10:30am
Concert Series, Hymn Festival, 3pm
Middle School Youth, 6:00pm

**HYMN FESTIVAL NEXT SUNDAY at 3pm, led by Dr. David Cherwien and St. Martin's Chancel Choir. Hymn Festivals are events where the audience is an active participant. It's a community hymn singing event. The theme that David will present in readings and music is "For Everything There Is a Season." Bring your voice!**

Watch for details on a series of Bible Studies and Topic Discussions with **Pastor Steve's Monday Night Zoom Study Group**. They will begin October 5. Each topic will last about 4 to 6 weeks. You can jump in or jump out at any time. Email Pastor Steve if you're interested. steveb@the-welcome-place.org

# 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

**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 9/13/2026 Budget and Year to Date

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Operating Contributions | $7.729.56 | Budgeted Weekly Operating Need | $7,848.00 |
| Other Designated Income | $2,818.00 | | |
| Total Income | $10,547.56 | **AS OF 8/31/2026** | |
| | | YTD Operating Received | $252,428.34 |
| | | YTD Operating Expenses | ($268,222.53) |
| Worship: Sun/Wed/Total | 116/24/140 | Net Income/(Deficit) | $(15,794.19) |

# 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.
- Family and Friends of Jodi Downey, Mark Weaver's sister, who passed away Sept 16.

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
Shanté Armstrong, Jake's fiancée
Bonnie Badenhop, pancreatic cancer
Beverly Bettison, friend of Angie Avers, health concerns
Jeff Cook, Ann Ott's son
Laurie Fetzer, Greg Rupp's niece
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
Chuck Rupp
Nona Rupp, knee replacement
Eric and Susan Rupp, Greg Rupp's brother and sister-in-law, health concerns
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

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.**