St. Martin's Lutheran Church
203 S. Defiance Street + Archbold, OH 43502

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rally Day

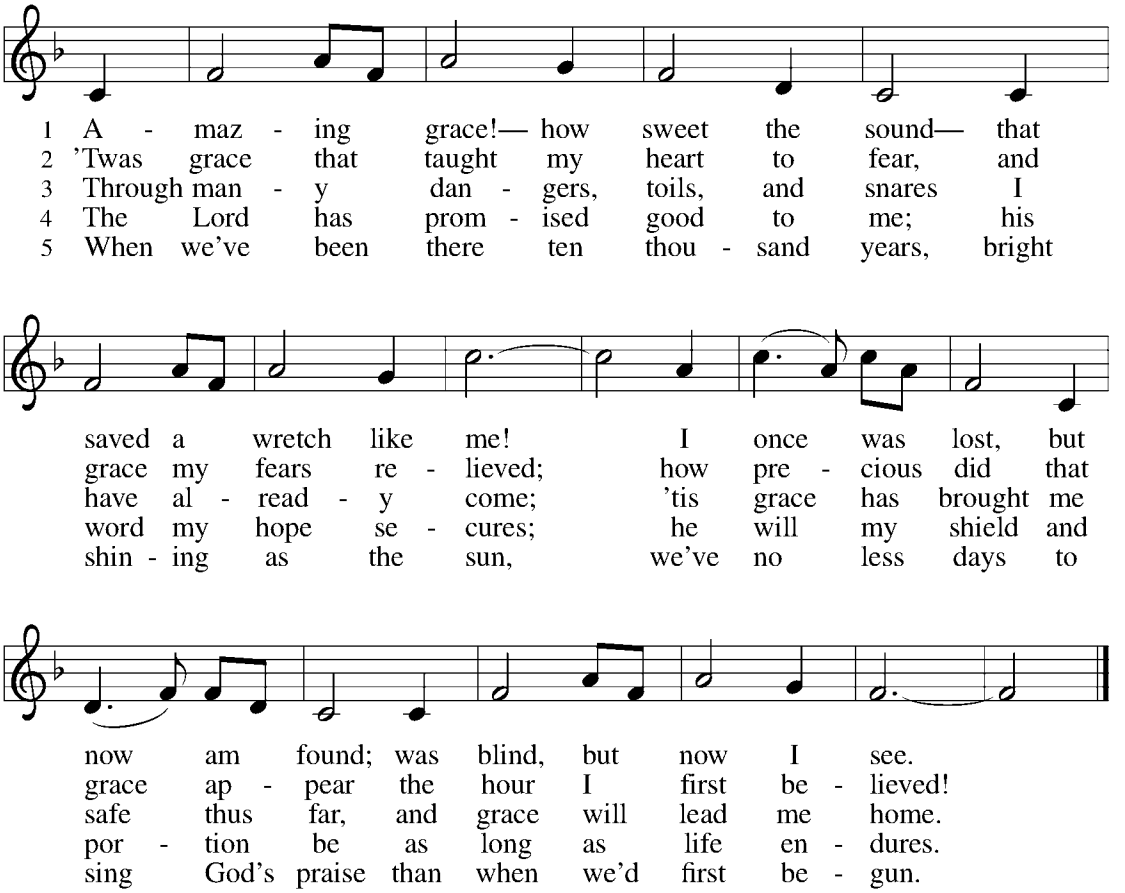
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

PRELUDE — **"The Old Account was Settled Long Ago"**
"He Paid a Debt He Did Not Owe"
"The Old Rugged Cross"

BELL & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMNS** — ***"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"



*Confession and Forgiveness

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

Gracious God, we thank you for making one human family of all the peoples of the earth and for creating all the wonderful diversity of cultures.
Enrich our lives with wider circles of fellowship and show us your presence in those who differ most from us.

Lord God, set us free,
from the sin within us that convinces us it is acceptable to do nothing: Lord, have mercy.

Lord God, set us free,
from the sin that actively hurts those around us: Christ, have mercy.

Lord God, set us free.
from the sin that will not recognize the work of your Spirit in those around us: Lord, have mercy.

Empower us to speak boldly for justice and truth and help us to deal with one another without hatred or bitterness, working together with respect.
And to work through our struggles to accomplish your purposes.

O God of unconditional love,
you who show no partiality to people or nations; we are all your children.
We have heard your good news of great joy for all the people.
We hear that good news, and in hearing, believe.
We know that your sanctuary is a house of worship for all people.
As we worship you, knit us into a people.
May we celebrate our unity, made whole in our diversity.
Forgive us for our inability to let our "old selves" die to the world.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace we have been saved. Almighty God, strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith. *(Ephesians 2:4-5, 3:16-17)*
Amen

*Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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.

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you. Reshape our hearts by your grace, that, forgiven in Christ, we may forgive one another, and let your mercy move through our hands in service to every neighbor; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

Old Testament Reading — Genesis 50:15-21

15 Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a
grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?"
16 So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died,
17 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in
harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your
father."
Joseph wept when they spoke to him. 18 Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him,
and said, "We are here as your slaves." 19 But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I
in the place of God? 20 Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good,
in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. 21 So have no fear; I myself
will provide for you and your little ones."
In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading — Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.
2 Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. 3 Those who eat must
not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who
eat; for God has welcomed them. 4 Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It
is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to
make them stand.
5 Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let
all be fully convinced in their own minds. 6 Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of
the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, snce they give thanks to God; while
those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.
7 We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 8 If we live, we live to the Lord,
and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the

Lord's. [9]For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

[10]Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. [11]For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

[12]So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – *please sing two times*

*HOLY GOSPEL — Matthew 18:21-35

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord!

21Then Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against
me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" 22Jesus said to him, "Not seven
times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.
23For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle
accounts with his slaves. 24When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand
talents was brought to him; 25and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold,
together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. 26So
the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you
everything.' 27And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the
debt. 28But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed
him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' 29Then
his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.'
30But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 31When
his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and
reported to their lord all that had taken place. 32Then his lord summoned him and said to
him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33Should
you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' 34And in anger his
lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. 35So my heavenly
Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your
heart."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ!

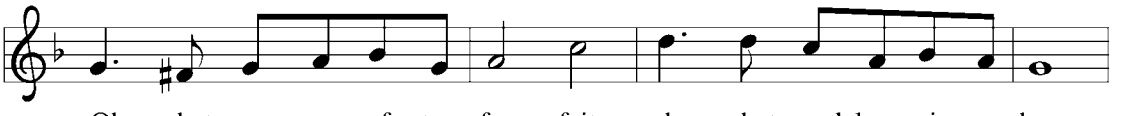
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE — *"Put the Calculator Away"*

*HYMN OF THE DAY *"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"*

1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

*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

Brothers and sisters, 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 — "JESUS PAID IT ALL"

*OFFERTORY — "LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS"

*Prayers of the Church

Each petition ends…

Lord, in your mercy…

hear our prayer.

*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

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 — *"Send the Light"*

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE "I'LL FLY AWAY"

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Acolyte	- Violet Schneider
Lector	-Diane Phelps
Music	-Maumee Rivergrass Band, special thanks to Michael Nicols
Usher Team Leader	-Jim & Janet Wyse
Sound System	-Darren Sonnenberg
Altar Guild	-Cristie Sevey & Peg Bjorlin
Offering Counters	-Jay Schnitkey & Diana Ziegler

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 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.

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.

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 September 20 to support the ELCA Youth Gathering trip in 2027**.

Rally Day Schedule
TODAY – September 13

- ✞ *9am Worship*
- ✞ *Brunch following Worship*
- ✞ *Packing the Lutheran World Relief Kits after Brunch*
- ✞ *Ages 3 years old through 4th grade: kids activity at church*
- ✞ *Ages 5th grade through High School: Detroit Tigers Game*

Welcome Place Wednesday begins September 16 . . .

5:00 – Welcome Place Meal
6:00 – Informal Worship, Fellowship Hall
6:00 – Chancel Choir
6:30 – Adult Small Group, Fellowship Hall
7:15 – Adult Bell Choir
7:15 – 7th & 8th Grade Catechism, basement classroom

Wednesday Kids Klub starts Wednesday, **September 16th** from 6:00pm – 7:15pm. This program is for kids in kindergarten through 4th grade. We will get together, play games, sing fun worship songs, and have an age-appropriate bible lesson that will help kids grow in their faith. **INVITE A FRIEND!**

Sunday School begins 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

This Week at St. Martin's

TODAY- Sunday – September 13-RALLY DAY
Worship, 9am
Bell Choir to Evansport, 10:15am
Brunch & Kit Packing, 10:15am
Kids Activities, 10:30am

Monday – September 14
Friendship Circle, 7pm

Tuesday – September 15
Men's Breakfast, 7am McDonald's
Sewing, 9am
Boy Scouts, 6:30pm

Wednesday- September 16
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 17
Women's Breakfast, 7am The Home Restaurant
Bulletin Deadline, 8am

Next Sunday – September 13
Worship, 9am
Sunday School, 10:20
American Guild of Organist, 3pm

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. 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 9/6/2026 Budget and Year to Date

Operating Contributions	$3,000.56	Budgeted Weekly Operating Need	$7,848.00
Other Designated Income	$724.00		
Total Income	$3,724.56	**AS OF 8/31/2026**	
		YTD Operating Received	$252,428.34
		YTD Operating Expenses	($268,222.53)
Worship: Sun/Wed/Total	105/25/130	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.

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
Jodi Downey, sister of Mark Weaver, health concerns
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
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.**