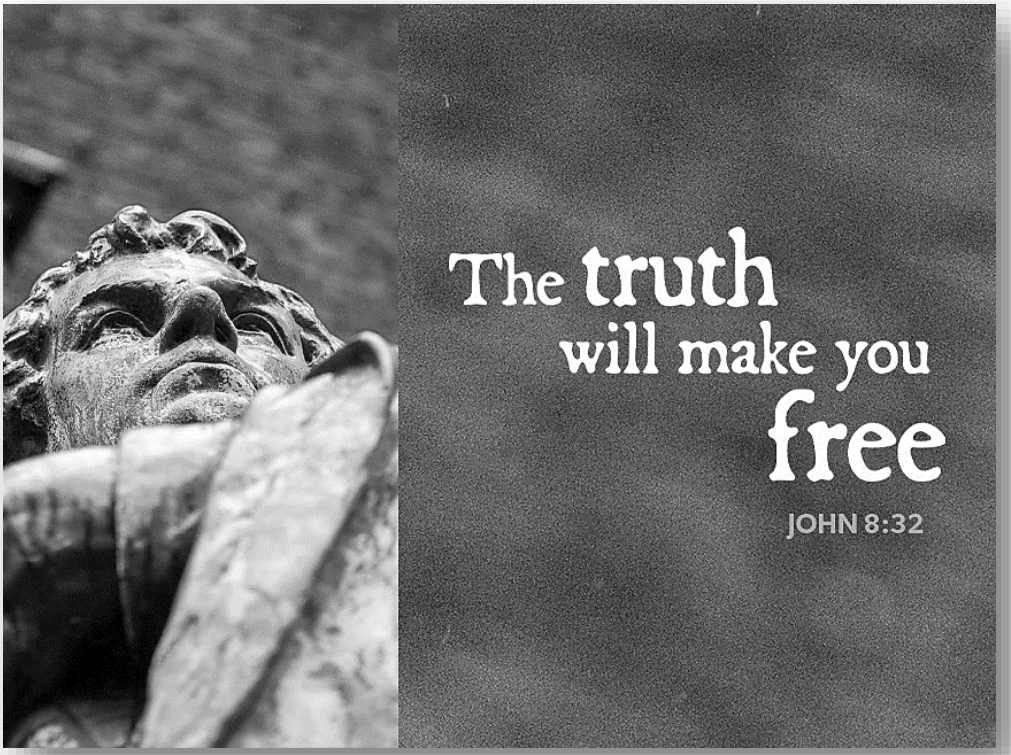


St. Martin's Lutheran Church

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

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
Reformation Sunday + October 25, 2026

REFORMATION SUNDAY **OCTOBER 25, 2026**

On this day we celebrate the heart of our faith: the gospel of Christ—the good news—that makes us free! We pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to unite the church today in its proclamation and witness to the world. In the waters of baptism, we are made one body; we pray for the day that all Christians will also be one at the Lord's table.

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

THE CHURCH GATHERS

PRELUDE **PRAELUDIUM ON "EBENEZER"**
-arr. M. Wachtman

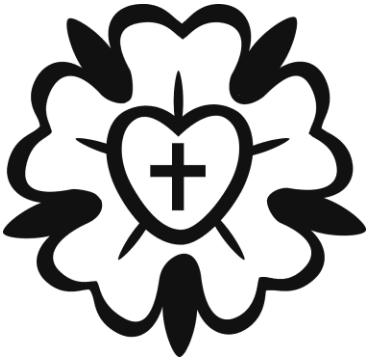
BELL

OPENING HYMN** ***"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"
(Please sing unison on Verse 4) ***ELW 504*** *(Red Hymnal)*

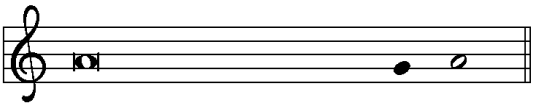
***GREETING**

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** – *Ps. 51:1, Matthew 20:30, Luke 17:13*



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

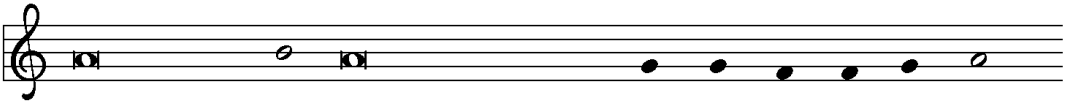
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

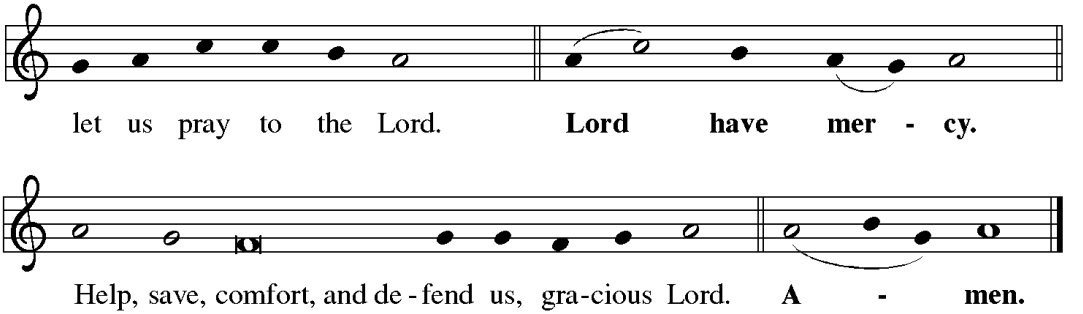
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

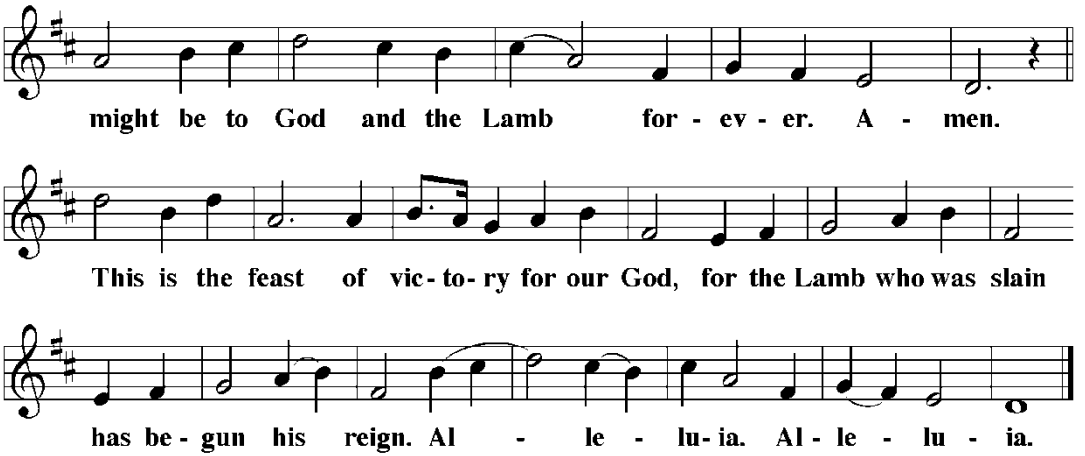
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



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



***PRAYER OF THE DAY** *Using "Luther's Morning Prayer"*

I thank You, my heavenly Father,

through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CHURCH LISTENS

FIRST READING **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

31 "The day is coming," says the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the people
of Israel and Judah. 32 This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when
I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant,
though I loved them as a husband loves his wife," says the LORD.
33 "But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel after those days," says
the LORD. "I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I
will be their God, and they will be my people. 34 And they will not need to teach their neighbors,
nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, 'You should know the LORD.' For everyone,
from the least to the greatest, will know me already," says the LORD. "And I will forgive their
wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

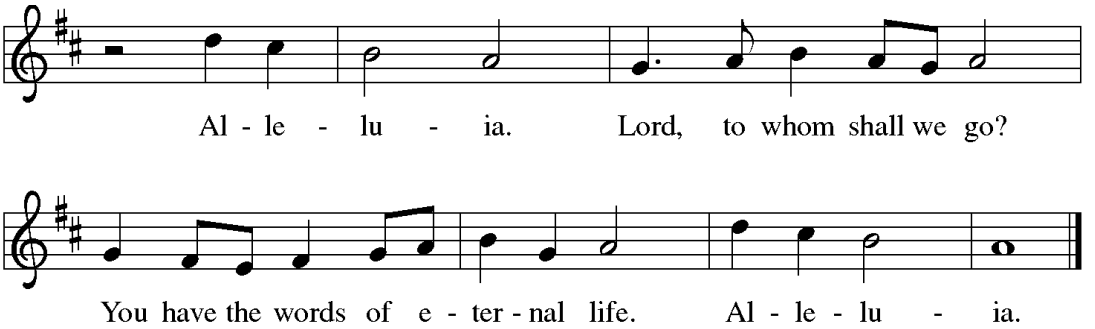
SECOND READING — Romans 3:19-28

19 Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law,
so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to
God. 20 For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for
through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

21 But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is
attested by the Law and the Prophets, 22 the righteousness of God through the faith of
Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, 23 since all have sinned and fall
short of the glory of God; 24 they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the
redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by
his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in
his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; 26 it was to
demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he
justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.
27 Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of
works? No, rather through the law of faith. 28 For we hold that a person is justified by faith
apart from works prescribed by the law.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – *John 6:68*



*GOSPEL READING — John 8:31-36

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord!

31 Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word,
you are truly my disciples; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you
free." 33 They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been
slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

[34]Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. [35]The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. [36]So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE **MacKenna Whitacre**

MESSAGE **"FREE INDEED"**

THE CHURCH RESPONDS

HYMN OF THE DAY** ***"Salvation Unto us Has Come"
(Verse 1 is sung by Soloist; Verses 2—5 sung by All) ***LBW 297*** *(Green Hymnal)*

***CONFESSION OF FAITH**
Today we use Martin Luther's explanation to the Second Article of the Apostles Creed:

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, Son of the Father from eternity, and also true human being, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.
He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person.
He has freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil—not with gold or silver, but with his holy and precious blood and his innocent suffering and death.
He has done all of this in order that I may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules in eternity.
This is most certainly true.

***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

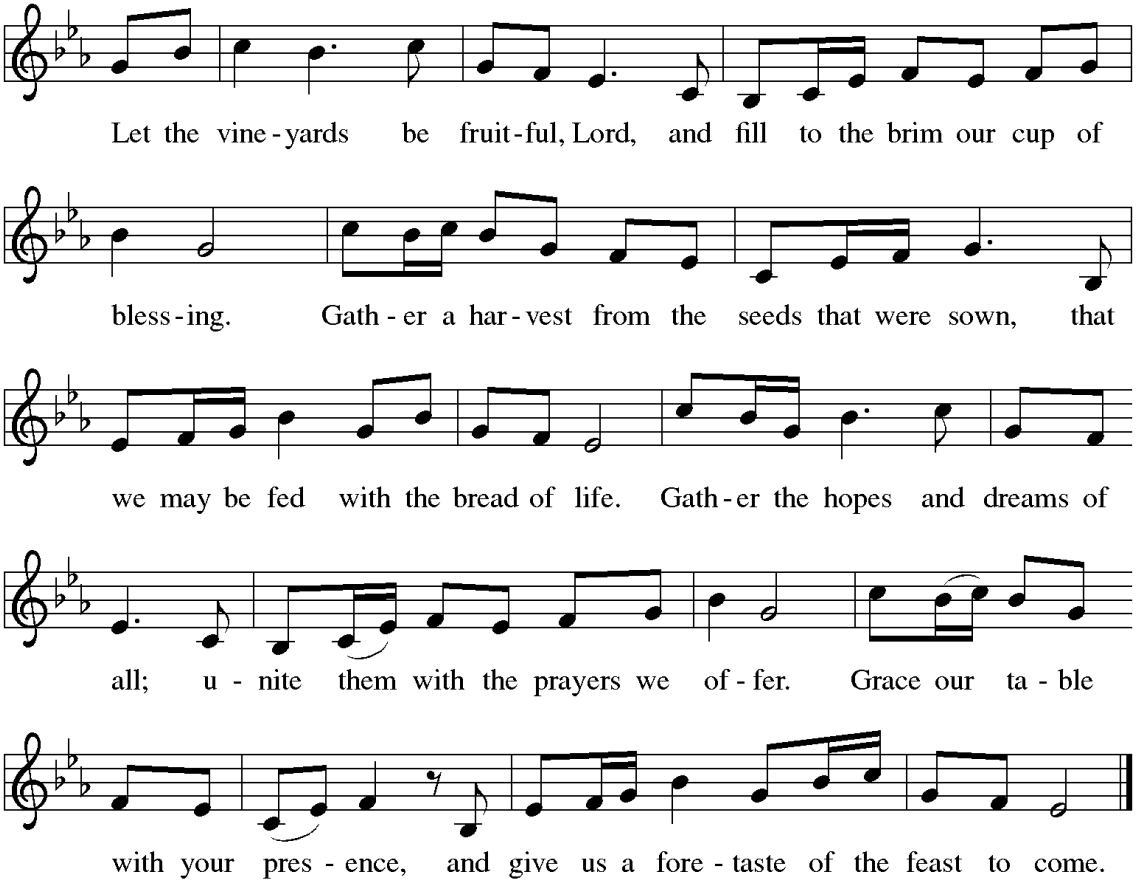
CHANCEL CHOIR

"God is Our Refuge" -Psalm 46

-Allen Pote

God is our refuge and strength; a present help in time of trouble. Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though the waters roar and foam, we will not fear. Come and behold the work of the Lord, the awesome acts of God. He is in the midst of his people, in all the earth. He is the Word, we are his hands, he will lead us. He is the air, we are his song. We will celebrate his presence all the day long.

*OFFERTORY



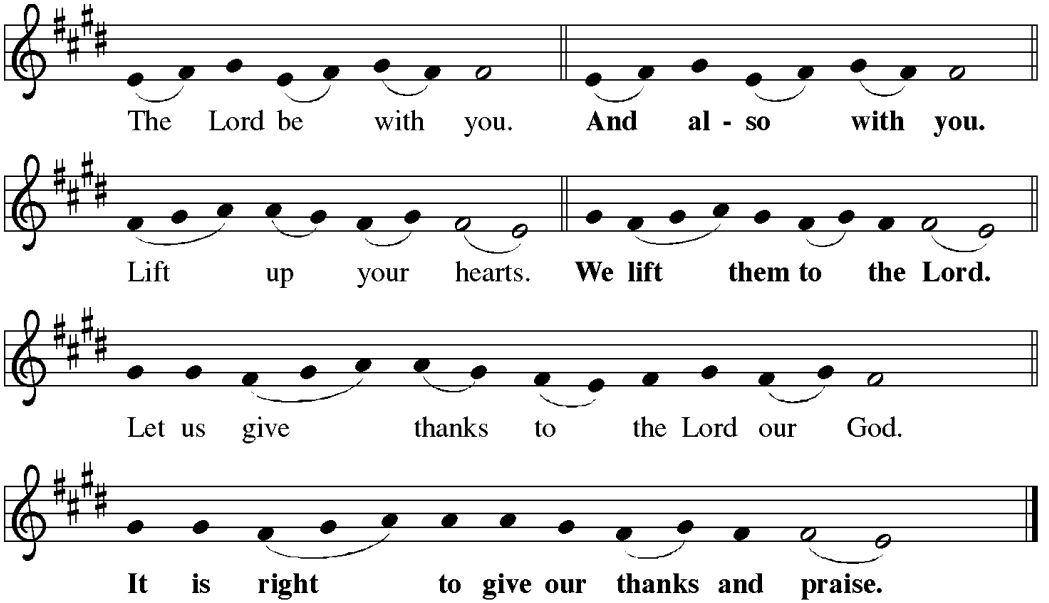
THE CHURCH SHARES THE MEAL

*OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful Father,

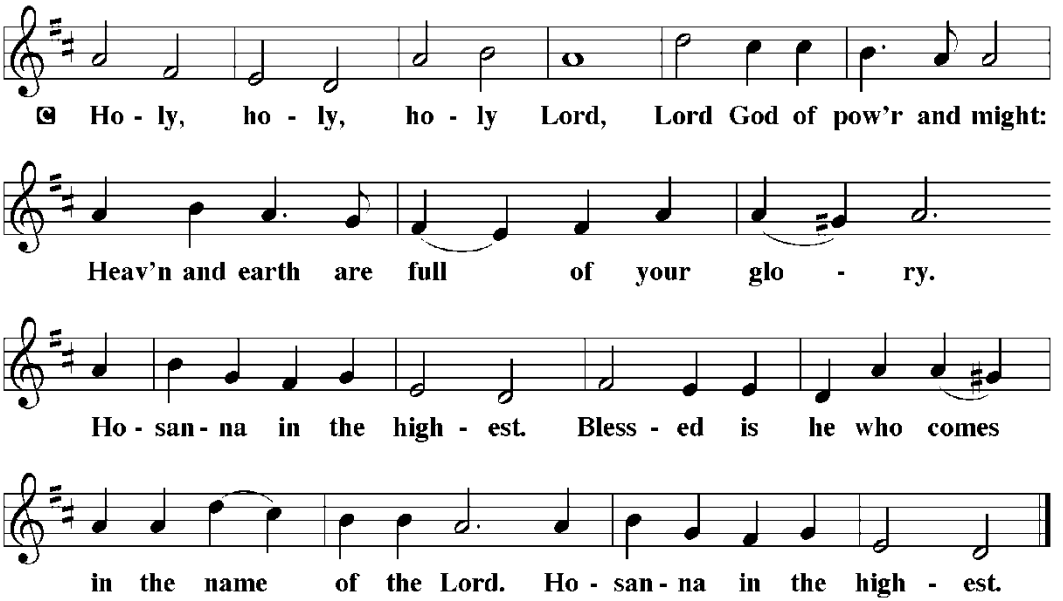
we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*THE THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the witness of the saints you show us the hope of our calling, and strengthen us to run the race set before us, that we delight in your mercy, and rejoice with them in glory. And so, with all the saints, with the choirs of angels and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***SANCTUS**



*** WORDS OF INSTITUTION** – *1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this in 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 in 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.

*** 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

HYMN	***"Lamb of God"***	***ELW 195*** *(Red Hymnal)*
HYMN	***"O Sing to the Lord"***	***ELW 822*** *(Red Hymnal)*

The Church is Sent to Serve

*Blessing & Prayer

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

Almighty God, we give you thanks that you have fed us with this heavenly food. In your grace and by your Spirit, help us to be what we celebrate, the body of Christ in the world. Send us out, renewed by this meal, to do the work you have given us to do: to witness for Christ, to love you with singleness of heart, and to serve you with clarity of purpose; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

*Benediction

Go in peace and with the courage of faith. Love God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind,

and love your neighbor as yourself. *(Matthew 22:37-39)*

Whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,

giving thanks to God through him. *(Colossians 3:17)*

Go into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage;
hold fast to that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honor all people;
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit bless us now and forever. **Amen**

*Closing Hymn

"The Church of Christ in Every Age"

(Please sing unison on Verses 4 & 5)

ELW 729 *(Red Hymnal)*

*Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Worship Matters

Reformation Day is October 31. It is observed within the Lutheran Church on the last Sunday of October each year. This observance recalls the event where Martin Luther began his movement to reform the church in 1517 in Wittenberg, Germany. Martin Luther never wanted to create a separate church, but his followers were labeled as "Lutherans." At the heart of the gospel, in Luther's estimation, was the doctrine of justification by faith--the teaching that Christ's own righteousness is given to those who believe, and on that ground alone, they are accepted by God. In 2022, the 500th anniversary of Luther's translation of the New Testament in 1522 is celebrated.

Lector	-Deb Schmidt
Acolyte	-Emma Thatcher
Organist	-Matthew Wachtman
Trumpet	-Philip Hoverman & Anita Roth
Usher Team Leader	-Mark Weaver
Sound System	-Cameron Thompson
Altar Guild	-Robin Trudel & Michelle Collins
Offering Counters	-Jay Schnitkey & Diana Ziegler

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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.

The Nominating Team **(Cameron Thompson and Janet Wyse)** is seeking prayerful suggestions for two leadership positions on the **Congregation Council: Vice-President and Treasurer** as well as **one position on the Endowment Committee.** The Council positions terms of office are for two-year terms while the Endowment Committee member is a three-year term.
Eligible candidates must be voting members (confirmed members who have communed and made a contribution on record in the preceding calendar year), regularly attend worship and receive Holy Communion, have actively served in at least one ministry team, and are **not** paid staff members of the Congregation.
If you feel called to serve or would like to suggest names of potential candidates contact the Nominating Team (Cameron Thompson and Janet Wyse) as soon as possible.

If you are out and about and see Halloween Candy on sale, please consider buying to donate to our Parade of Lights Float in November. Please mark and leave for Jake on the stairway to the basement.

Pastor Steve's **Monday Night Bible Study** group this year we'll follow a series of Bible Studies and Topic Discussions. 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 **The first topic of Pastor Steve's Bible Study will be a series of 4 sessions as a "Bible 101" format: *"What is the Bible?"* October 5, 12, 19, & 26. *"We know we should read the Bible, and maybe even have tried, but somehow, we don't find ourselves pulled into its pages the way we have been by other books. So, what is it with this book, the Bible?"***

The Online Church Directory has been up and running for a few years now & many have found it a helpful resource for our congregation. As a reminder to all, please make sure you are keeping your information up to date. If you have had any changes that need updated, please do so yourself online, or contact the church office with the changes you would like made. You can email stmartin@the-welcome-place.org for any changes.

This Week at St. Martin's

TODAY- Sunday – October 25- Reformation Sunday
Worship, 9am
Sunday School, 10:15am
High School Youth, 10:30am
Middle School Youth, 6:00pm

Monday- October 26
Zoom Study-Bible 101, 7pm

Tuesday – October 27
Men's Breakfast, 7am McDonald's
Sewing, 9am
Community Meal @ St. Johns, 5pm
Boy Scouts, 6:30pm

Wednesday- October 28
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-October 29
Women's Breakfast, 7am The Home Restaurant
Bulletin Deadline, 8am

Next Sunday – November 1 – All Saints Sunday
Worship, 9am
Sunday School, 10:15am
High School Youth, 10:30am
Middle School Youth, 6:00pm

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 10/18/2026 Budget and Year to Date

Operating Contributions	$3,907.81	Budgeted Weekly Operating Need	$7,848.00
Other Designated Income	$871.00		
Total Income	$4,778.81	**AS OF 8/31/2026**	
		YTD Operating Received	$278,369.34
		YTD Operating Expenses	($306,088.47)
Worship: Sun/Wed/Total	115/19/134	Net Income/(Deficit)	$(27,719.13)

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
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
Linda Reinhart, friend of Jan Delaney, critical injury
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
Janette Trudel
Brad Welsh, brother-in-law of John & Chris Shafer, cancer
Joyce Winzeler
Paul Wyse, hospice care
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.**