MARTIN LUTHER NEWS

JANUARY 2026

Martin Luther Lutheran Church ~ 420 Clearmount Drive ~ Youngstown, Ohio 44511
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OUR MISSION IS: Martin Luther Lutheran Church shares the love of Jesus Christ in Word and Deed with each other, our neighborhood, community, and beyond.

OUR VISION IS : Martin Luther Lutheran Church is a community of faith, a beacon of light, united in a unique ministry that breaks down barriers through the power of sharing God's love.

PASTOR BARB EXPLAINS "LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE"

How the Service became a Christmas Tradition

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first held at King's College in London on Christmas Eve 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who at the age of 34 had just been appointed Dean of King's College in Cambridge after experience as an army chaplain which had convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. *(He devised an Advent Carol Service in 1934 and was a liturgical pioneer and authority during his twenty-two years as Dean of York.)*

The music was then directed by Arthur Henry Mann, Organist 1876–1929. The choir originally included only men's voices. A revision of the Order of Service was made in 1919, involving rearrangement of the lessons, and from that date the service has always begun with the hymn 'Once in Royal David's City'. In almost every year some

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Due to the holiday schedule, this issue of the newsletter was created in an abbreviated form. The traditional version will return in February. Thank you and Happy New Year!

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carols have been changed and some new ones introduced by successive organists. Yet, the backbone of the service, the lessons and the prayers, has remained virtually unchanged.

The original service was, in fact, adapted from an order drawn up by E.W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for use in a wooden shed, which then served as his cathedral in Truro, at 10 pm on Christmas Eve 1880. His son, A.C. Benson, recalled: "*My father arranged from ancient sources a little service.*

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols Today

Almost immediately other churches adapted the service for their own use. A wider frame began to grow when the service was first broadcast in 1928 and, with the exception of 1930, it has been broadcast annually, even during the Second World War, when the ancient glass (and also all heat) had been removed from the Chapel and the name of King's College could not be broadcast for security reasons.

In 1932 the BBC began broadcasting the service on overseas programs. It is estimated that there are millions of listeners worldwide, including those listening to BBC Radio in the United Kingdom. In recent years it has become the practice to broadcast a repeat digital recording on Christmas Day.

The first television recording of a shortened version of the Christmas Eve service took place in 1954, and regular TV broadcasts took place from 1963. The televised recording was named 'Carols from King's College' and is shown by BBC on Christmas Eve. This is recorded by the BBC early in December and is a different service from A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

In these and other ways the service has become public property. From time to time the college receives copies of services held, for example, in the West Indies or the Far East and show how widely the tradition has spread. The broadcasts, too, have become part of Christmas for many far from Cambridge.

Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, whether the music is provided by choir or congregation, the pattern and strength of the service, as Dean Milner-White pointed out, derive from the lessons and not the music. 'The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God ...' seen 'through the windows and words of the Bible'.

Local interests appear in the prayers and contemporary concerns are brought forth in different parts of the service. Many of those who took part in the first service must have recalled those killed in the Great War (WW 1) when it came to the famous passage 'all those who rejoice with us but on another shore and in a greater light'. The center of the service is still found by those who 'go in heart and mind' and who are willing to follow where the story leads.

***** This background material is taken directly from the King's College website. Should you wish to listen to the service you may click on the following link*:**

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols | King's College Cambridge

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR

The Flower Chart for 2026 is available in the church entrance hallway. If you would like to provide flowers to either honor or remember a loved one for a particular Sunday, please note your name and whether you would like to provide one or two vases. The cost is $31 for one vase and $50 for two vases. When writing your check, please note "Altar Flowers" on the memo line and on the envelope. Payment and completion of the "Altar flower order form" is due the week prior to your selected Sunday. **YOU MAY ALSO TRY ORDERING WITH OUR QR CODE!** ***Thank you for helping to beautify our altar with lovely flowers for our worship services !***

Worship

January Ushers—Team One
Denny Lyden, Gary Mott, Edna Slanco,
Donald Thomas & Eileen White

	Sun, Jan 4 10:30 am	Sun, Jan 11 10:30 am	Sun, Jan 18 10:30 am	Sun, Jan 25 10:30 am
Altar Set up	Amy Andersen	Amy Andersen	Amy Andersen	Amy Andersen
Altar Clean up	Edna Slanco	Edna Slanco	Edna Slanco	Edna Slanco
Lector:	Amy Diefenderfer	Anne Davies	Rick Straight	Jenn Straight
Communion Asst	Tim Ritter & Eileen White	Rick Vesy & Karen Thompson	Rick & Sue Straight	Amy Andersen & Anne Davies
Counters:	Team 3 Rick Vesy, Captain	Team 4 Eileen White, Captain	Team 1 Jerry Baker, Captain	Team 2 Tim Ritter, Captain
Video Camera:	Stuart Smith	LuAnn Vesy	Jennifer Straight	Stuart Smith
Coffee Hour Hosts:	Volunteers needed	Volunteers needed	Volunteers needed	Volunteers needed

Please Note: If you are unable to serve on your assigned Sunday, please find a replacement and notify the church office about the change. Those setting up for communion in the sanctuary please check the church year calendar (located in the hallway and the preparation room) or check with the office for the correct color of the frontal cloth on the altar.

Any questions or concerns for the altar duties and lectors should be directed to Anne Davies; for ushers, Jerry Baker; for video camera & counters, LuAnn Vesy; for coffee hour, Eileen White.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation is **Sunday, January 25th** immediately following 10:30 a.m. worship.

Annual reports from staff, officers, ministry team chairpersons and MLCW are due in the office by MONDAY, January 5th. ***Thank you.***

Ideally, the report should be typed and emailed as an attachment to mlcyoungstown@yahoo.com and be ready to print.

Please plan to attend our annual meeting!

The Mahoning Cluster Epiphany Service
TUESDAY, January 6th
7 pm ~Epiphany Day
Christ Lutheran Church
250 Sexton St, Struthers.
Pastor Barb is preaching.

Birthdays

Birthdays are noted from the 1st day of the issue month through the 15th day of the following month to allow for advance planning in sending birthday wishes.

BIRTHDAYS
(January 1-31)

Jessica Bailey	10
Rhys	11
Paul Ericson	12
Geneva Joachim	12
Elizabeth Masternick	23
Jason Clark	26
Christopher Sugar	27

BIRTHDAYS
(February 1-15)

Norma Lyden	5
Charity Welton	12
Ryan MacDonald	13
Tim Barreiro	14

Please Note: Church records are checked for birthdates each month. However, if you would like a milestone birthday or wedding anniversary noted, you need to contact the church office with that information. We will be happy to present that information in the newsletter.

Have You Changed Your Address??

We are working on preparing our new phone directory for the church. So, if you, or someone you know, have had a change of address, please notify LuAnn in the church office as soon as possible. It is very important that we have our church records correct so that we can:

1) be sure you get your church mail
2) avoid fees that the post office charges for return mail and/or for notifying us of address changes.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

It's official!! QR codes are ready for use by simply using this QR code to take you to the various options available for your donation.

Please try it... it's so easy!

Thank you !

See LuAnn for any questions you may have.

impact

You never really know the true impact you have on those around you. You never know how much someone needed that smile you gave them. You never know how much your kindness turned someone's entire life around. You never know how much someone needed that long hug or deep talk. So don't wait to be kind. Don't wait for someone else to be kind first. Don't wait for better circumstances or for someone to change. Just be kind, because you never know how much someone needs it.

MLLC is thankful to all those who supported the ELCA Good Gifts bulletin board Love Tree. Your donations to provide life sustaining gifts to others all around the world is such a generous and thoughtful blessing!!
Wishing you all Health & Happiness in the New Year!

MLC gives thanks to those who donated scarves, hats and mittens to our Love Tree to benefit needy children.
God is Good...All the Time!!

Martin Luther Lutheran Church would like to thank everyone who purchased poinsettias or wreaths to create a beautiful worship space for our Christmas Eve service.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Dear MLLC,

Please accept my deepest heartfelt thanks for your Christmas gift. It was very kind and generous of you to think of me this past Christmas.

I also want to thank you for your constant support of our music ministry.

May God's peace and love dwell within you and yours throughout this coming year and always.

Garry Adair

Dear MLLC Family,

A special note of thanks and appreciation for your cards and gifts during the busy holiday season!

Also, many thanks to my helpers who volunteer throughout the year…you are truly a blessing!

Wishing you Health & Happiness in 2026 !!

Love & peace,
LuAnn

PHOEBE CIRCLE "THANK YOU" CELEBRATION DINNER

Thank you to our MLC Phoebe Circle for hosting a wonderful dinner catered by ELMTREE CATERING and even included MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT BY DEAN ZAWAKI.

What a great time of food and fellowship!

Dear Martin Luther Lutheran Church,

Our heartfelt gratitude for your faithful service. Our highest thanksgiving comes from the gift of Jesus Our Savior.

With God's Blessings!
Your NEO Synod Staff

Community Outreach Opportunities

16 Ways to Impact Your Community This Winter—Helping Hands!

Written by: **CV Daily Editors**

As we approach the winter season it brings to mind the extreme cold, snow, ice, and other wintry conditions we expect to see this time of year. So grab a cup of hot chocolate and consider these creative ways people at your church can serve their community this winter.

1. Offer to take an elderly neighbor to the store to stock up on winter supplies/groceries, or have your neighbor make a list for you to pick up while you're out.
2. Shovel your neighbor's walkway. Or, get your exercise in for the day and do the whole street!
3. Place salt on someone's front door steps or that neglected bit of sidewalk between houses.
4. If others lose power, offer your house as a location for cell phone/laptop charging.
5. Invite neighborhood kids/families to build snowmen if schools are cancelled.
6. Create a free hot chocolate stand outside a busy shopping area.

7. Offer to help someone scrape the ice off their car or scrape someone's car when you do yours in the morning/after work.
8. Send thank you notes to police, firefighters, road crews, etc.
9. Order a PIZZA for your local police, fire station, or road crew!
10. Carry extra winter supplies in your car to assist distressed motorists.
11. Contact local emergency shelters to learn how you can support their efforts.
12. Offer hand warmers to people standing at bus stops or to school crossing guards.

13. If your kids have had school cancelled, help them write appreciation notes to their teacher.
14. Offer to watch your friend/neighbor's kids while they run out for groceries or during their work hours.

15. If a friend/neighbor has mobility issues, offer to walk their dog—or better yet, keep your kids occupied and have them offer to walk the neighbor's dog!
16. Share or post the locations of heating stations in your area on your social media pages or church website.

Whatever you decide to do—please be sure to do it safely and with good judgment. After all, it can be slick out there!

MLLC Christmas Food Giveaway

MLLC Outreach Ministry Team was able to give 25 community neighbors a full Christmas dinner, from the ham to the dessert and everything in between! We thank Giant Eagle for helping us with the hams, our volunteers and everyone who gives to support our Food and Personal Care Pantry.

Martin Luther News

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420 Clearmount Drive
Youngstown, Ohio 44511

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

January 2026

Martin Luther Lutheran Church
VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICES

Watch our weekly services on our Facebook page MLLC Youngstown

Church Office Hours:
Monday-Wednesday

QR codes are ready for use by simply scanning this QR code to take you to the various options available for your donation!

Please try it... it's so easy!

Thank you for your support!

Pastor… ...……...Rev. Barbara Holzhauser
President of the Congregation . ...……..….Stuart Smith
Church Secretary/Newsletter creator…...LuAnn Vesy
Financial Secretary …..…...……..Joseph Heard
Organist…… ……..……...Mark Halls
Choir Director…….…….…….……...Garry Adair
Custodian . . . . ……...…..…. Tom Davis

In–Person
Worship with Communion
Sundays at 10:30 a.m.