

MARTIN LUTHER NEWS

MARCH 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'S INSPIRING WORDS

HOLY LISTENING – Engaging in Crucial Conversations

A number of years ago I read a book entitled “*Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When the Stakes Are High*” by Kerry Patterson. While there are many valuable insights offered, the basis for all healthy conversations, of course, is effective listening. I have to admit this is something I will always have to work on in both my personal life and as a

parish pastor. Let's face it, when it comes to listening, we're all a work in progress! With that in mind, much of the work I've done with congregations in recent years has focused on cultivating a listening stance.

The first crucial conversation for Martin Luther was held in January, where we “*mined our history and named our values*” as a congregation. The results of that event were shared in the Weekly Word (email) that was sent prior to

worship on February 1st. The top five values that rose to the surface were COMMUNITY, COOPERATION, SACRAMENTAL, GENEROSITY, and SERVING. These values say a lot about who we are as a congregation and what we hope to become as we live them out.

The second crucial conversation will take place on **Saturday, March 21st from 11:30 to 3:00.** (The third conversation

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40
days
of Lent

**MCLC Wednesday
Lenten Services
with Communion
& Fellowship
6:00 pm ~ Soup meal
7 pm ~ Worship
(details on page 3)**

MARCH SCRIPTURE READINGS

*Below is a list of scripture readings for the Sundays in March,
to allow you to prepare for worship.*



	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
March 1 2nd Sunday of Lent	Genesis 12:1-4a	121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17
March 8 3rd Sunday of Lent	Exodus 17:1-7	95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
March 15 4th Sunday of Lent	1 Samuel 16:1-13	23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
March 22 5th Sunday of Lent	Ezekiel 37:1-14	130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45
March 29 Palm/Passion Sunday	Isaiah 50:4-9a	31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 26:14— 27:66

Pastor Barb Holzhauser	Church staff
Congregational Council	Ministry Teams
Bill Richardson	Ron Mang
Deborah Vesey	Rick Straight
Charity Welton	Bryan Givens
Patty DeAcentis (LuAnn's Friend)	Lori Richards, & the Lloyd Murray Family
Eleanor Guimarin (Rick & LuAnn's niece)	Jeff Keller B-I-L of Bob McDowall
Tiffany Porter (Friend of Sue Straight)	Luke Haus (Friend of LuAnn)
Peace & kindness	Kathy Anthony (Friend of Terri Ciccone)



Please note:

*Family members or
friends may be added
to our prayer list by
calling the church office
at 330-788-8707.*

*If you are in need of
pastoral care you
may contact
Pastor Barb Holzhauser
at
440-465-3405*



(Continued from page 1)

will take place in mid-May.) Lunch will begin the day and a time for deeper reflection will follow. The intention for our time together is to become more aware of God’s “holy nudges” and listen more attentively to one another. That is why the name of this event is HOLY LISTENING.

“Holy Listening” is defined as the kind of listening that occurs when we seek to discern the presence and activity of God in the joys, struggles, and hopes of the ordinary activities of congregational life, as well as the uncertainty and opportunity for change and transition. This kind of listening is holy because when we engage in it, we are hoping and expecting to encounter God. Holy Listening is indispensable because it builds con-



nection and fosters understanding in congregations that goes beyond our everyday, albeit superficial, type of conversation. As we are open to God and to each other we just may hear that “still small voice” offering wisdom for the path ahead.

I recognize that this is probably the most challenging practice for many congregations. As a faith community we haven’t exactly done a stellar job at spiritual reflection and communal prayer. The result is that we find ourselves uncomfortable with the inward discipline and stillness it requires. However, in order for

true discernment to happen in the context of the church, listening to God is THE place to begin. It is also true that we need to listen to each other and to our neighbors, without judgement, as we identify a way forward. Our passions, dreams, and hopes for the future need to God-directed and discovered in community.

Dear friends, please make every effort to be present for this important conversation. Again, that’s **MARCH 21st from 11:30 to 3:00**. As a community of faith, we can only move forward in any meaningful way by doing the holy work of listening to God and each other. Can’t wait to find out what God has in store for us! How about you?

In Christ’s service,
Pastor Barb



Lent



MCLC Wednesday Lenten Services & Fellowship
6 pm Soup and bread meal
7 pm Worship & meditation service
Please join us for this Lenten fellowship opportunity!

March 4	Grace Lutheran	162 S Raccoon Rd, Yo,
March 11	Bethel Lutheran	425 Crestview Dr, Boardman,
March 18	Martin Luther Lutheran	420 Clearmount Dr, Yo,
March 26	Price of Peace Lutheran	2985 Center Rd, Yo,



**MLLC Annual
Congregational
Meeting
February 8, 2026
with a lunch of
various types of
homemade chili,
bread and
dessert.
Faith, food and
fellowship!**



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 (March 1-31)

Justin McClellan	3
Tim Ritter	8
Alex McClellan	11
Karen Willig	11
Karen Thompson	12
Alayceona Thomas	12
Bill Richardson	14
Eric McClellan	15
Ron. J. Mang	17
Kendall Bailey	19
James McClellan	20
Evan Diefenderfer	21
Justin Fincham	24
John Armeni	25
Britta Carson	25
Valerie Patterson	26
Miranda KantorVesey	27



Should you have a special birthday or anniversary, please notify LuAnn in the church office. Thank you!

BIRTHDAYS (April 1-15)

Rick Straight	1
Anne Davies	4
Terri Ciccone	15



**Begins Sunday,
March 8th!!**

MAY YOUR TROUBLES

BE LESS

and your
Blessings

BE MORE

AND NOTHING BUT

HAPPINESS

COME THROUGH YOUR

Door



Fast



Give

LENT

Prepare



Pray

THE HISTORY OF MARTIN LUTHER LUTHERAN CHURCH

~ A MONTHLY EDITION RESEARCHED & SUBMITTED BY GORDON MITCHELL

We began a new chapter in our history of Martin Luther Lutheran Church last May with our Interim Pastor Barbara Holzhauser to lead us with new ideas and programs. She will help us review our goals and our vision of where we are heading and how we will get there under God's guidance and help. We intend to review some of our past history to show the problems that were faced and the how past members decided to deal with them. We, like our forefathers, will face the unknown, and like them, will work together to provide a successful continuance to our history. This historical journey is taken from published Martin Luther Church records.



MARTIN LUTHER LUTHERAN CHURCH HISTORY—PART I

Among the earliest settlers of Mahoning County were men and women of German descent; and of these many were Lutherans who had emigrated to America that they might embrace the opportunities which our land, so rich in resources, offered them. They came to Canfield and to Boardman where they not only demonstrated that they could be diligent and thrifty farmers and workmen, but where, as true Lutherans always do, they likewise gave evidence of the faith that was in them by the establishment of congregations and the erection of churches in these centers. They meant to have the Word of God preached to them and the sacraments administered in truth and purity, as behooves earnest Christians. But there was a paucity of ministers to serve them. The few that were available had to come great distances and had as many as fifteen other congregations to serve. But these faithful Christians were undaunted; when no pastor was available they had their worship nevertheless, one of their number reading the sermon from the books they had brought with them from the Fatherland.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, when Youngstown was a mere village extending from Spring Commons to Basin Street, and from the river to the hill, there were also Lutheran families among the inhabitants. These walked to Boardman or Girard to attend divine worship. In 1857 a committee of which Mr. Philip Ludt was chairman, came to Boardman for an interview with the Rev. Kranz, desiring of him that he should preach the Gospel to the Lutherans of Youngstown. He consented to make this new field a part of his parish and thus became the first Lutheran pastor of Youngstown.

Not long after this, certain Protestants of Youngstown agreed to build a "community" church and the Lutheran constituency of the village were invited to join the enterprise. A small frame church was built beyond the Mahoning river. However, it was not long until our Lutheran people learned that they were not to enjoy equal advantages with the other Protestants, but that the community church was eventually to become one of Reformed persuasion. Dissatisfied with this movement the Lutheran membership withdrew and on May 1, 1859, organized the Evangelical Lutheran Martin Luther Congregation, twenty-two men joining as charter members. We copy the following names from the historical sketch of the Rev. E. A. Boehme; Karl Scheidhauer, George Vogel, Philip Ludt, George Krichbaum, John Roedel, Martin Weimer, Andrew Stieble, John Coppersmith, John Hartwig, Fred Schroeder, John Brunswig, Fred Coppersmith, Joseph Weimer, Bernard Gestalter, John Baertele, Nicholas Krichbaum, Fred Rensenhauser, Karl Spatholt, John Eichhorn and Christopher Brossi. *(To be continued.....)*

(Summary Comment: The beginning of Martin Luther Lutheran Church: twenty-two brave men and their families organized and accepted the responsibility to provide God's word to other believers....of course, with the help of God!)

EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM

IN CELEBRATION OF EASTER, FLOWERS WILL ONCE AGAIN ADORN
OUR SANCTUARY.

Flowers can be purchased *In Memory* or *In Honor of* someone or *For Blessings Received*. Should you wish to purchase flowers, please complete this order form and place it in an offering plate, in the mail slot of the office closet door, or mail it to the church office. **Payment must accompany the order form.** Please make checks payable to Martin Luther Lutheran Church.

The deadline for placing orders is Sunday, March 15th.

*****No extension will be made.*****

	Easter Lilies 6 inch pot @ \$10 each	
	Daffodils 6 inch pot @ \$9 each	
	Tulips 6½ inch pot @ \$9 each	
	Hydrangeas 8 inch pot @ \$24 each	
	Hyacinths 6 inch pot @ \$9 each	
	Azaleas 6 inch pot @ \$17 each	
	Ferns 10 inch basket @ \$22 each	
	Palms Potted 4-5 ft tall @ \$27 each (for Palm Sunday)	
	Total	



Your Name _____

Your Phone _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

For Blessings Received: _____ (Check if this option is preferred)

Given By (as you would like it to appear in the bulletin): _____



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Holy Week

<i>Palm/Passion Sunday</i>	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>Easter Sunday</i>
<i>March 29th 10:30 am</i>	<i>April 2nd 6:00 pm</i>	<i>April 3rd 6:00 pm</i>	<i>April 5th 10:30 am</i>
<i>With communion</i>	<i>With communion</i>	<i>No communion</i>	<i>With communion</i>

PASTOR BARB'S NEXT MEETING EVENT

The second event is called “Holy Listening: Listening to God, to Each Other, and to the Community”. This event will be held on SATURDAY, MARCH 21st, beginning at 11:30 until 3:00. Lunch will be provided.

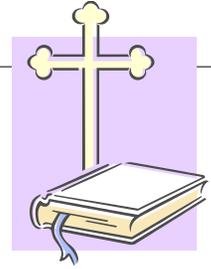
Holy Listening is a way of listening to God, while listening to each other, and in this way is a type of “double listening”. As we appreciate others’ points of view it allows us to offer interest and acceptance instead of judgment and allows us to see how others understand an issue. This only enriches everyone. When we engage in holy listening with each other we will inevitably meet God in new ways.

The third event is called “**Weighing the Possibilities**” and will take place on Sunday, May 17th, immediately following worship. This “possibility thinking” event will consider various avenues for forward movement. John Maxwell (author and pastor) defines this type of thinking in this way “*the willingness to see possibilities everywhere, instead of limitations. It requires seeing more than just the problems before us. Instead, possibility thinking sees the possibilities within the problems. – This creates options, and options allow us to move forward with hope. As we move forward, we discover that others are inspired to join us in moving forward too.*” Discerning an agreed upon path (or multiple paths) is the goal of this event.



I can't stress enough how important it is for everyone to be “at the table” for each of these gatherings. Why? Because the effectiveness of any discernment (literally, “sifting”) process depends on the investment of as many people as possible, so that all voices have a say in what happens moving forward. When we give in to apathy and absent ourselves, we weaken the process and potentially skew the outcome. Of course, God's voice is included in this process and has something to say about how a congregation lives out its witness in the world.

Worship Participants



March Ushers—Team One

Denny Lyden, Danny Lyden, Gary Mott,
Edna Slanco, Eileen White

	Sun, March 1 10:30 am	Sun, March 8 10:30 am	Sun, March 15 10:30 am	Sun, March 22 10:30 am	Sun, March 29 10:30 am
Altar Set up	Judy Armeni	Judy Armeni	Judy Armeni	Judy Armeni	Judy Armeni
Altar Clean Up	Norma Lyden	Norma Lyden	Norma Lyden	Norma Lyden	Norma Lyden
Lector:	Stu Smith	Anne Davies	Rick Vesey	Amy Andersen	Cynthia Koonce
Communion Asst	Tim Ritter & Karen Thompson	Rick Vesey & Eileen White	Sue Straight & Anne Davies	Amy Andersen & Stu Smith	Julianne Smith & Doris Givens
Counters:	Team 3 Rick Vesey, Captain	Team 4 Eileen White, Captain	Team 1 Jerry Baker, Captain	Team 2 Tim Ritter, Captain	Team 3 Rick Vesey, Captain
Video Camera	Jenn Straight	Stu Smith	LuAnn Vesey	Jenn Straight	Stu Smith
Coffee Hour Hosts:	Congregational Life	Congregational Life	Congregational Life	Congregational Life	Congregational Life



PARISH REGISTER



MLLC was happy to welcome Jeniffer Hernandez as a member January 18, 2026! Jeniffer has been worshipping with us for over a year but has decided to make it official!

Welcome to the MLLC family!

**Bible Study
Wednesday
March 18th
at
1 pm
In fellowship hall**

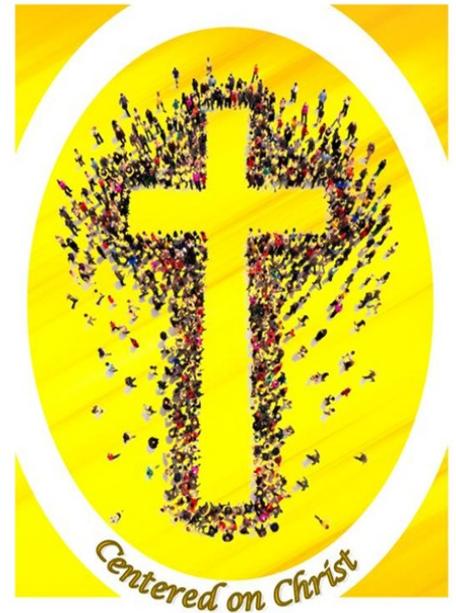




2026 NORTHEASTERN OHIO SYNOD ASSEMBLY JUNE 5TH AND 6TH

We are in need of one volunteer to represent Martin Luther Lutheran Church for the Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly which is being held at John S. Knight Center in Akron, Ohio.

Interested members may contact Pastor Barb or Stu Smith.



THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS PROGRAM

If you are a Thrivent member, please consider selecting Martin Luther Lutheran Church as the recipient of your Choice Dollars. The Thrivent Choice Dollars program allows you to select the charitable organization close to your heart to receive a fraternal monetary gift from Thrivent. **PLEASE NOTE: These "Choice Dollars" are yours to allocate, if you do not make a choice, Thrivent will get to make the allocation to an organization of their choosing, DON'T LOSE THIS CHANCE to direct your own "Choice Dollars" to MLLC!**

Choice Dollars must be directed by March 31, 2026 for 2025.



Martin Luther Lutheran Church received \$921 from Thrivent Choice members in past years!!
Let's make 2026's donations even better!

Call the Member Connection Center at 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" at the prompt and you will be instructed on how to direct your Thrivent Dollars.
Thank you for your continued support!



THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®



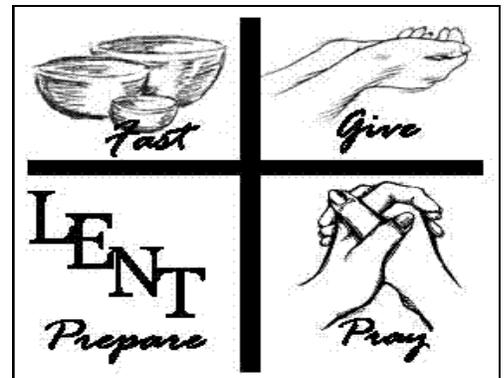
Martin Luther News

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Youngstown, Ohio 44511

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



MARCH 2026
Martin Luther Lutheran Church
VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICES



Watch our weekly services on our Facebook page MLLC Youngstown

Church Office:

Monday—Wednesday 9am — 5pm
.Phone No: 330-788-8707
E-mail: mlcyoungstown@yahoo.com
Facebook: mllc youngstown

QR codes are ready for use through Vanco



Financial services! This code will take you to the various options available for your donation. Safe & Secure!
Thank you for your support!

Interim Pastor... ..Rev. Barb Holzhauser
President of the Congregation Stuart Smith
Church Secretary/Newsletter creator.....LuAnn Vesey
Financial SecretaryJoseph Heard
Choir Director.....Garry Adair
Organist.....Mark Halls
Custodian Tom Davis

Worship Schedule

Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m. with communion



MCLC LENTEN WEDNESDAYS WORSHIP SERVICE at 7:00 pm with communion 6 pm Soup meal