

MARTIN LUTHER NEWS

APRIL 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

What does it mean to be an "EASTER PEOPLE"? Many years ago, I learned a song that contained these lyrics:
 Ev'ry morning is Easter morning from now on!
 Ev'ry day's resurrection day, the past is over and gone! --
 I am one of the Easter People!
 My new life has begun!
("Every Morning is Easter Morning from Now On" written by

Donald Marsh & Richard Avery)
 Yes, the resurrection of Jesus on that first Easter is cause for rejoicing because, in rising, he has conquered the power of sin, death, and evil in our world. The reality of this world is that sin, death, and evil appear to have a stranglehold on our lives, but the good news is that they DO NOT have the last word. God will

always and forever have the last word about what happens to us, and that word is — LIFE!
 We celebrate with great joy the Resurrection of our Lord each and every year, but did you know that each and every DAY in the life of God's people is EASTER ... over and over and over?

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***Faster
 Sunday
 Worship
 10:30 am
 Join us!***

APRIL SCRIPTURE READINGS

Below is a list of scripture readings for the Sundays and Principal Festival Days in April, to allow you to prepare for worship.

	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
April 2 Maundy Thursday	Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14	116:1-2, 12-19	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
April 3 Good Friday	Isaiah 52:13—53:12	22	Hebrews 10:16-25	John 18:1—19:42
April 5 Easter Sunday	Acts 10:34-43	118:1-2, 14-24	Colossians 3:1-4	Matthew 28:1-10
April 12 2nd Sunday of Easter	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	16	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
April 19 3rd Sunday of Easter	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	116:1-4, 12-19	1 Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35
April 26 4th Sunday of Easter	Acts 2:42-47	23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10



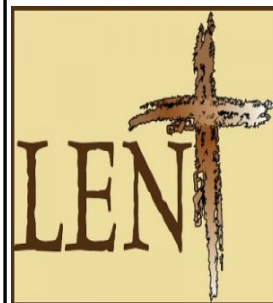
Bible
STUDY
Join us!

Join us each month on the third
Wednesday at 1 pm in our
Fellowship hall for a time of
faith and fellowship!

Wednesday, April 15th at 1 pm

LOVE 
one another
AS I HAVE
loved
 *you*
John 13:34

LOVE THY
NEIGHBOR
(no exceptions)



LENTEN GIVING OFFERINGS

should be given as
soon as possible after
Good Friday.

*Thank you for your
generous offerings!*

(Continued from page 1)

The resurrection of Jesus, and the power it has in our lives, is not just a one-time event. It is something to be embraced and celebrated each and every day, regardless of what's going on around us. The resurrection of Jesus redefines our lives and is the basis for being Easter People. Jesus' resurrection has "staying power" and forever changes how we view the past, the present, and the future. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:

"If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead!"

As an Easter People we proclaim with boldness that "Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again". That bold proclamation completely re-frames how we look at our lives and the world in which we live — and gives us HOPE.

If that bold confession is something we trust as true, it also impacts what it *means* to be the CHURCH — a church that faces many challenges and an uncertain future. I believe that the current struggle facing many of our congregations just may God's way of getting our attention ("knocking us on the noggin"), compelling us to reassess who we are (identity) and what we do together (mission) as the Body of Christ. It's a way for us to "get real" about the impact our presence has on the world around us. Not to pay attention to our calling as the church places our very existence in jeopardy.

Let's consider what our own constitution has to say about the



purpose of the church.

"The Church exists both as an inclusive fellowship and as local congregations gathered for worship AND Christian service. [The Church therefore] exists in and through congregations . . ."

In addition, Martin Luther has this to say about the church:

". . . A 7-year-old child knows what the church is, namely, holy believers and sheep who hear the voice of their Shepherd. So, children pray, 'I believe in one holy Christian church.' Its holiness does not consist of surplices, tonsures, albs, or other ceremonies . . . over and above the Holy Scriptures, but it consists of the Word of God and true faith . . . The nature of the church is defined by the Word of God." (The Smalcald Articles, Part III - Article XII)

As your intentional interim pastor, it is my responsibility to "equip you" — offering Bible Study opportunities and trying to engage you so that you can "hear the voice of the Shepherd". In Ephesians 4 we read that some are called to be "pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry". Without a solid spiritual foundation, we run the risk of "losing our way", rather than

being shaped by God for the sake of the world.

Shortly after Bishop Elizabeth Eaton was elected Presiding Bishop of our denomination, she shared four emphases for the ELCA that have direct bearing on what that means:

We are church.

We are Lutheran.

We are church together.

We are church for the sake of the world.

Those four emphases speak to our fundamental identity as a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

All of this brings us, once again, to the bold claim that we are EASTER PEOPLE. The resurrection of Jesus presents us with a unique opportunity to reframe how we look at what's happening around us. The last word about Martin Luther and its future has not yet been written. Yes, we will have to relinquish some things to move forward, but Christ's death leads to new life even when all seems lost. Regardless of what we go through or how hard it is, the resurrection of Jesus is the basis for us being an EASTER PEOPLE . . . people of resurrection hope!

Remember —

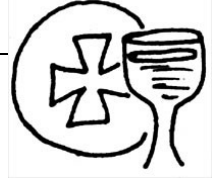
Ev'ry morning is Easter morning from now on! Ev'ry day's resurrection day, the past is over and gone! -- I am one of the EASTER PEOPLE!

My new life has begun!

Of course, that new life won't necessarily look like the old one, but no matter what comes our way, God always has the last word — LIFE!

Pastor Barbara Holzhauser

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS



April Ushers—Team Two

Team Two—Jerry Baker, Burt Ciccone, Paul Ericson, Doris Givens,
Bob McDowall & Tim Ritter

	Easter Sunday, April 5 10:30 am	Sunday, April 12 10:30 am	Sunday April 19 10:30 am	Sunday April 26 10:30 am
Altar Set up	Sue Straight	Sue Straight	Sue Straight	Sue Straight
Altar Clean Up	Anne Davies	Anne Davies	Anne Davies	Anne Davies
Lector:	Danny Lyden	Rick Straight	Jenn Straight	Eileen White
Communion asst	Rick & Sue Straight	Shirleyah Peakes & Marguerite Craciun	Doris Givens & Joyce Peakes	Anne Davies & Sue Straight
Coffee hour hosts	Volunteers needed	Volunteers needed	Volunteers needed	Volunteers needed
Counters:	Team 4 Eileen White, Captain	Team 1 Jerry Baker, Captain	Team 2 Tim Ritter, Captain	Team 3 Rick Vesey, Captain
Video	LuAnn Vesey	Stu Smith	LuAnn Vesey	Stu Smith

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 please contact Anne Davies; ushers, Jerry Baker**

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 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)
Anita Baresal Marguerite Craciun cousin	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, please contact Pastor Barb at

440-465-3405



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 (April 1-30)

Rick Straight	1
Anne Davies	4
Terri Ciccone	15
Victoria Patterson	16
Linda Remias	16
Lois Klein	18
Joyce Peakes	18
Joe Korda	21
Amy Diefenderfer	25



BIRTHDAYS (May 1-15)

Rick Vesey	3
Pastor Charles Hudson	10
Patricia Mealy	13

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.

Happy 40th Anniversary to
 John & Judy Armeni
 Married April 26, 1986
 May God Bless you with many
 more!



Happy 26th Anniversary to
 Thomas & Peggy Bailey
 Married April 29, 2000
 May God Bless you with many
 more!

HAPPY Easter...

May the renewal of life at Easter bring new blessings of love, hope, peace, good health & happiness to you and your loved ones..



Spire POSITIVE
soul sensations

Embrace the

renewal of Life

-Babz

GRATITUDE

God, we come before you with grateful hearts for the gift of your son, Jesus Christ.

We thank you for his sacrifice on the cross and for the hope of eternal life that his resurrection brings.

May we never take for granted the magnitude of your love for us, and may we always be filled with gratitude for your blessings in Jesus' name.

AMEN

CHURCH HUMOR ~ Time for a chuckle...or two!

Church bulletin board

The following appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'



Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.



Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.



Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.



For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.



The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing 'Break Forth Into Joy'.



Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.



Potluck supper Sunday at 5pm – prayer and medication to follow.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.



At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.



The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.



This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.



Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.



The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge – Up Yours.'



This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Compiled by Max Bowen



Holy Week

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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




EASTER SUNDAY
Join Us For Breakfast

9:15 am to 10:15 am

Thanks to our MLC
Congregational Life Team

Easter Dinner Giveaway

Our Outreach Committee is planning to deliver a complete Easter Ham dinner to 20 of our neighbors in need **Friday, April 3rd at 10 am.**

We thank our volunteers for being part of this wonderful outreach opportunity.







MCLC Lenten Wednesday
worship and Soup Supper!
6 pm Soup
7 pm Worship service
Thanks to all who joined us from
other Lutheran churches in the
Mah. Co. Lutheran Cluster!



Martin Luther thanks all the
volunteers who made soup for
the supper! We provided 9 soups
to choose from for those attending
from neighboring Lutheran
Churches & MLC!

REMEMBERING OUR SHUT-INS

During this Easter & springtime season of renewal, let us take time to remember our shut-ins, whose day would be brightened by an uplifting card, phone call or visit. Below are their addresses and phone numbers:



Ron Mang	Beeghley Oaks, 6505 Market Street, Long Term Care Unit, Boardman, Oh 44512	No number given
Charity Welton	Assumption Asst Living 9802 Market St Room 111, North Lima , Oh 44452	330-259-2402

*You may also want to consider a card or a phone call to others in our Martin Luther Church family .
Hearing from a friend can really make someone's day!!*

HOLY SATURDAY - EASTER VIGIL

**APRIL 4, 2026
3:00 pm**

**Lord of Life,
550 N Broad St,
Canfield, OH 44406**



Pastor Barb's Bible Study

**Sunday, April 12th
9 am—9:45 am**

Join us for Pastor Barb's first bible study!! Come be part of the discussion!



~ Believe ~



*So after all these late night prayers
I'm looking up to heaven's stairs
A child of God stands alone reflecting
Regretful for the things I've done
And all the folks I ever shunned
Without a hope a heart of stone lies bleeding
And for all the roads I followed
And for all I did not find
And for all the dreams I thought I left behind*

*He is the way he is the light
He is the voice inside the night
He heals your hopes he feels your dreams
And in the dark he hears your screams
Don't turn away just take his hand
And when you take your final breath
He'll be right there he'll never leave
All he'll ask of you is believe*

*My childhood eyes were so intense
While learning 'bout his loving sense
For love he gives provides the wings I'm needing
But when I try to fly alone I find that they are not
enough
To get me in and pay for sins repeated
And for all years I've borrowed
And for all the tears I hide
And for all the fears I've tried to keep inside*

*He is the way he is the light
He is the voice inside the night
He heals your hopes he feels your dreams
And in the dark he hears your screams
Don't turn away just take his hand
And when you take your final breath
He'll be right there he'll never leave
And all he'll ask of you... Believe*

*I always wanted to know
I always wanted to see
The life that he planned so I would believe
Never wanted to sin, tried to follow his ways
'cause the person I am are the parts you can't see
So I sing and I dance I shout and I pray
Giving thanks to my God for the life that I have
And I'm holding on tight to the promise he made
If he judges my years I can't pay*

*He is the way he is the light
He is the voice inside the night
He heals your hopes he feels your dreams
And in the dark he hears your screams
Don't turn away just take his hand
And when you take your final breath
He'll be right there he'll never leave
All he'll ask of you is believe*

Believe...



*Submitted by Martin Luther Church member Tim Ritter , who had
sung this during our Sunday Worship service a while ago. Printed
here by request from some MLC members. Thank you Tim!*



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420 Clearmount Drive
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



April 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: [mlc Youngstown](https://www.facebook.com/mlcYoungstown)
Website: mlcyoungstown.org

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 Pastor Barbara Holzhauser
Church Secretary/Newsletter creator. LuAnn Vesey
Financial Secretary Joseph Heard
Organist. Mark Halls
Choir Director. Garry Adair
Custodian Tom Davis

Worship Schedule

Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m.

