

MARTIN LUTHER NEWS

MAY 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

DISCERNMENT PROCESS (Phase 3) POSSIBLE PATHS

We will soon gather for our third conversation in the discernment process as we weigh possible, and real-

istic, paths forward for Martin Luther's future. The next discussion takes place on Sunday, May 17th, following worship. Rev. Nathan Krause, assistant to the bishop

for Congregational Vitality and Evangelical Mission, will be with us that day to preach and accompany us in this important conversation.

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PASTOR BARB'S THIRD MEETING EVENT



**Rev. Nathan Krause,
assistant to the bishop,
will also be joining us**

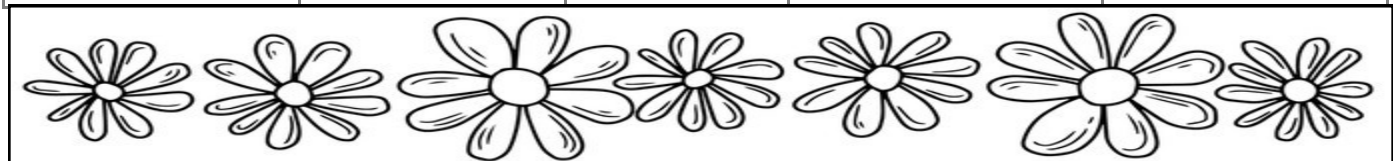
**Sunday
May 17, 2026
at 10:30 am
Meeting Following
worship**

MAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

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



SUNDAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
May 3 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER	Acts 7:55-60	31:1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
May 10 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER	Acts 17:22-31	66:8-20	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
May 17 7th SUNDAY OF EASTER	Acts 1:6-14	68:1-10, 32-35	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11	John 17:1-11
May 24 Day of Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21	104:24-34, 35b	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	John 20:19-23
May 31 The Holy Trinity	Genesis 1:1—2:4a	8	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Matthew 28:16-20



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 you may contact Pastor Barb Holzhauser at 440-465-3405



Continued from page 1)

The following quote from John C. Maxwell, author, leadership coach, and pastor, sums up our time together:

“Possibility Thinking is 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. -- Possibility thinking creates options. And options allow us to move forward in life with hope. As we move forward, we discover that others are inspired to join us in moving forward too.”

We will consider the “landscape” in which the church currently exists, learn of the resources needed to realistically move forward, and identify possible paths we could take. As a way to support and supplement this information, the Sunday morning bible study on the book of Acts, reflects on the difficult choices the early church had to make when they had no idea what to do next. Please join us for this ongoing “spirited” conversation.

Consider these questions as we weigh the possible paths forward:

- What do we want?
- What can we do?
- Who will do it?

How realistic is what we want and what can be done?

What would have to be true for us to continue as we are?

What would make us vital and sustainable and what resources would be needed?

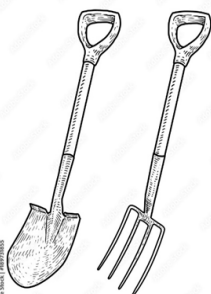
The ultimate goal of this phase of the discernment process is to identify one or two preferred pathways as we envision a new and renewed future. See you on May 17th following worship!

Pastor Barb Holzhauser



Community garden tools are needed!

We need to restock our garden tools. We have a budget but if you have a spare



good garden spade, sharp-end shovel, or potato fork (the hefty 4-tine kind) and wish to donate, that puts them to work and saves funds for other purposes. When buying, we intend to buy quality, and if possible, USA-made tools.

 * Join the fun, *
 * food and *
 * fellowship *
 * each Sunday *
 * following *
 * worship in our *
 * Fellowship Hall!! *
 * Think about getting together with *
 * another member of the congregation to *
 * provide a light snack to go along with *
 * the coffee and fellowship!! *
 * Coffee and tea are provided. *
 * Who’s in???





- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| SCRIPTURE | SALVATION | PRAYER |
| TESTAMENT | REDEMPTION | PRAISE |
| COVENANT | RIGHTEOUSNESS | THANKSGIVING |
| COMMANDMENTS | HOLINESS | MINISTRY |
| PROPHECY | SANCTUARY | SERVANT |
| MIRACLE | TABERNACLE | FAITHFUL |
| PARABLE | TEMPLE | OBEDIENCE |
| APOSTLE | ALTAR | REPENTANCE |
| DISCIPLE | SACRIFICE | FORGIVENESS |
| GOSPEL | WORSHIP | ETERNAL |



WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS



May Ushers—Team One

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

	Sun, May 3 10:30 am	Sun, May 10 10:30 am	Sun, May 17 10:30 am	Sun, May 24 10:30 am	Sun, May 31 10:30 am
Altar Set up	Eileen White	Eileen White	Eileen White	Eileen White	Eileen White
Altar Clean Up	Karen Thompson	Karen Thompson	Karen Thompson	Karen Thompson	Karen Thompson
Lector:	Karen Thompson	Paul Ericson	Shirleyah Peakes	Stu Smith	Danny Lyden
Counters:	Team 4 Eileen White, Captain	Team 1 Jerry Baker, Captain	Team 2 Tim Ritter Captain	Team 3 Rick Vesey, Captain	Team 4 Eileen White, Captain
Communion Asst	Amy Andersen & Rick Straight	Rick Vesey & Julianne Smith	Tim Ritter & Eileen White	Stu Smith & Doris Givens	Anne Davies & Karen Thompson
Coffee Hour	Congregational life	Congregational life	Congregational life	Congregational life	Congregational life
Video Camera	Jennifer Straight	Stuart Smith	LuAnn Vesey	Jennifer Straight	Stuart 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 may be directed to Anne Davies; for ushers, Jerry Baker; for coffee hour, Eileen White; for video camera, LuAnn Vesey.**



Bible STUDY
Join us!

Pastor Barb's Bible Study
Sunday Mornings
9:00 am —9:45 am
In Fellowship Hall
Join us each Sunday!

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

Wednesday, May 20th at 1 pm



EASTER BREAKFAST WAS A HIT!!

Thanks to our Congregational Life team for the delicious meal and the opportunity for fellowship!! (I went in to take photos too late so food and people were mostly gone...so no pics! But that tells us that everyone enjoyed!!)

Great Job Eileen White and all who helped make it possible!!



Easter Breakfast

Martin Luther Lutheran Church would like to thank everyone who purchased flowers to help create a glorious place of worship for our Celebration of Easter. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



MLC Easter Food Giveaway consisting of a complete dinner from a Ham to dessert for 25 families in need was delivered to the Needles Eye for distribution! We are so thankful to all who donate to support our Food and Personal Care pantry to make this possible!



Thank You!
Volunteers!

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 (May 1-31)	
Rick Vesey	3
Eileen White	20
Garry Adair	22
Alison Burns	24
Molly Lowe	30



BIRTHDAYS (June 1-15)	
Bob Patrick, Sr.	4
Tracy Pinter	4
Eric Ensley	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.



*Special Anniversary Wishes
to the following couples!!
God Bless You All!!*



<i>Carol & Anthony Sugar</i>	<i>Sue & Rick Straight</i>	<i>Nancy & Ron Evans</i>
<i>Wedding Date May 4, 1973</i>	<i>Wedding Date May 18, 1974</i>	<i>Wedding Date May 26, 1973</i>
<i>53 years together</i>	<i>52 years together</i>	<i>53 years together</i>

PAUL & ALMA KLINGER SCHOLARSHIP

Applications forms are available in the church office for The Paul and Alma Klinger Scholarship Fund Trust. Scholarship funds are available for full-time students pursuing a bachelors, masters, or doctorate degree. To be eligible, a student must be a member of Martin Luther for at least four years and must have received a minimum of a 2.0 grade point average for the last school grading period. A transcript of the last grading period should accompany the application. Applications will be received through July 1, 2026.



Martin Luther welcomes newly baptized members Henry Parker Davis, Oliver George Davis and Micah William Davis on April 19, 2026. May God Bless them and keep them in his care.



CALLLED BY NAME
HENRY MICAH
OLIVER



From your council president ~ *Stuart Smith*

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (NIV): “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.”

I use this quote often in my usual reports to your council, who embody that spirit (and Spirit) – thank a council member when you can – and it relates to our mission and purpose here in the Martin Luther community. We’re in the process of asking “what are we here for?” and I hope you are participating in these discussions. I see us as a mission outpost. It is why Julianne and I chose to become active members here.



Why the tree included here? Some of you know that I am part owner of a water well drilling company in Tanzania in eastern Africa. The acacia (or umbrella) tree – a relation to our locusts – is a common tree across the country. Besides shade and food for giraffes, its branches support bird nests, bee hives that produce flavorful *asali* (honey), and leafcutter ants that farm certain fungi. Birds perch there. Termites do their work in the roots, producing paths to recharge our aquifers with rainfall. In short, it’s a productive system, but all the tree wants to do is grow and reproduce.

A congregation is something like that in a place – I say especially so where we are. We produce value here and support people here and offer a welcoming community. We bring the love of Christ. The primary election will again remind us that our structure is a community resource.

Being open to possibilities: A series of events led me into the work here in Tanzania, and some steps were taken out of necessity. But a conversation the other evening with my partner here and fellow Lutheran lay leader Naftal brought out how blessings come that we can’t even truly anticipate. This work – this calling – of bringing fresh water from the earth gets into your soul. After 40+ years, I still love to see the water flowing. This work is more than a task for Naftal, he has this calling, and it has extended to our team. Spreading the Gospel is like that. Building a Christian community is like that.



I again encourage you to stay engaged as we work out God’s intent for us here: We have a third community conversation this month, spending time with Pastor Barb’s Weekly Word (quite the resource), joining the Bible study on Acts, hey even working in the garden. There is a lot of conversation about present and future uses of our facilities for more community engagement. There is much conversation about doing more together as congregations. I’ll be so bold to say that perceived weaknesses here or at Bethel or others is God’s way of pushing us toward new paths of which we may not see the ending.

It’s what we’re here for. I sense discouragement or fatalism sometimes. “How long are we going to last?” “Do we have the people?” If you remember the story of Gideon, God pared his troop down to next to nothing, and Jesus had a handful under the cross. But what happens next? My life experience is, you stick with it, good things happen. Julianne and I raised good people. Congregations struggling stabilized and flourish. Water flows. People are inspired and empowered. I’m sure some version is true for you. *Baraka kwenu nyote* (blessings to y’all).

PARISH REGISTER



Martin Luther Lutheran Church is happy to welcome newly baptized members: Henry, Oliver & Micah on April 19, 2026!

Henry Parker Davis and Oliver George Davis **Parents:** Adam & Annie Davis
Grandparents: Jim Davis, Anne Davies, John & Julie Dunlap
Sponsors: Andrew Davis, Lisl Bruns, Jaelyn Daniels

Micah William Davis **Parents:** Andrew & Sarah Davis
Grandparents: Jim Davis, Anne Davies, Bob McDowall, Bill & Cathy Mumaw
Sponsors: Ben & Lisl Bruns

May God Bless them and keep them in his care.

**Want to help beautify our
May 24th Pentecost Sunday
Altar with RED GERANIUMS???**



We do too!! In the past we have had some disappointing blooms on the geraniums that were delivered with our order and discontinued ordering them. So...now, we would like to have donations toward purchasing big full baskets for the altar that would then be used to plant on the church grounds only.

There will be no geraniums taken home by members.

If interested in contributing, please complete the order form and return with payment.

DUE BY MAY 17TH. NO EXTENSION WILL BE MADE.

DONATION AMOUNT: \$10

NAME FOR BULLETIN: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

FOR BLESSINGS RECEIVED: _____

Thank you for helping to beautify our altar with lovely flowers for our worship service !

Hope Community Garden news!

It's May, it's May Dadadadada (from the musical Camelot)

It's May and construction and planting continues. Neena, Don and Donyelle are out there with me.

We can always use more volunteers, especially but not always on Saturday morning.

*We still have lots to mow, and if you can handle a big rider mower or get behind the self-propelled push mower, that would help the team.

*Signs and tables: The nice garden signs need some attention and the nice picnic tables too: Old growth knocked off and finish applied. Again, if the garden team can focus on crops and volunteers take on aesthetics like this, that really helps.

*Picking up litter: Some community members leave us trash to remove. Keeping it picked up leaves the message that this is a nice place.

*Fence mending: We have these rail fences that need maintenance. Some muscle is from time to time welcome.

*We would like to revive a children and youth gardening program.

*When we get flowers, how about buying a bundle? Maybe even for the altar (why always commercial grown from halfway around the world)

A side benefit is being outside working, talking with the team, and meeting the neighbors. ~ *Stu Smith*





I am a Christian

When I say that "I am a Christian," I am not shouting that "I am clean living." I'm whispering "I was lost, but now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say "I am a Christian," I don't speak of this with pride. I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say "I am a Christian," I'm not trying to be strong. I'm professing that I'm weak and need His strength to carry

on.

When I say "I am a Christian," I'm not bragging of success. I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean my mess.

When I say "I am a Christian," I'm not claiming to be perfect. My flaws are far too visible, but God believes I am worth it.

When I say "I am a Christian," I still feel the sting of pain. I have my share of heartaches, so I call upon His name.

When I say "I am a Christian," I'm not holier than thou. I'm just a simple sinner who received God's good grace, somehow!



A Mother's Love

Helen Steiner Rice

*A Mother's love is something
that no one can explain,
It is made of deep devotion
and of sacrifice and pain,
It is endless and unselfish
and enduring come what may
For nothing can destroy it
or take that love away...
It is patient and forgiving
when all others are forsaking,
And it never fails or falters
even though the heart is breaking...
It believes beyond believing
when the world around condemns,
And it glows with all the beauty
of the rarest, brightest gems...
It is far beyond defining,
it defies all explanation,
And it still remains a secret
like the mysteries of creation...
A many splendoured miracle
man cannot understand
And another wondrous evidence
of God's tender guiding hand.*

Martin Luther News

Martin Luther Lutheran Church
420 Clearmount Drive
Youngstown, Ohio 44511

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MOM
Happy Mother's Day

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

Worship with Communion

