

Trinity Times

502 Bardshar Road, Sandusky, OH 44870
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

February 2025

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Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Congregation

Northwestern Ohio Synod - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
502 Bardshar Road, Sandusky, Ohio 44870 - 419 626-0204 - www.trinityelca.com

trinityelcasandusky@gmail.com

Pastor Jennifer Herrmann

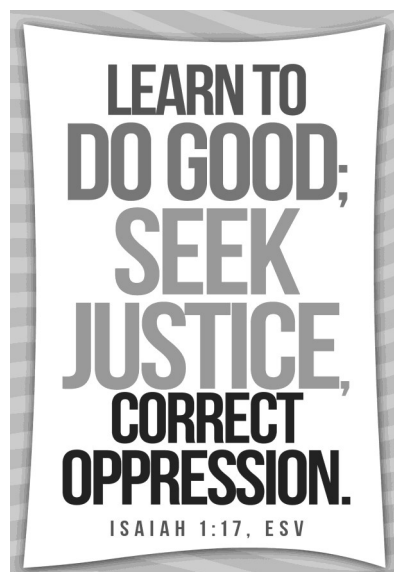
a note from pastor Jen

2025 Month Two!

I still hold that the shortest month of the year feels like the longest because of the weather. February brings Black History Month, the Super Bowl, Valentine's Day, President's Day and my favorite Groundhog's day.

Last month, I said I'd like to look at the bests and the worsts of the church universal. Since it's Black History month, I thought I'd start there. It isn't hard to see where Christians got things very very wrong during the time of slavery in the United States. Even those Christians who did not participate in chattel slavery were far often too silent. The false notion that any race, nationality, or ethnicity was inferior to another led many down a broken path. We see this in the treatment of Native Americans and the people of African descent in our early American history. Through the work of those convinced of this falsehood, things were slowly changed. In 2019, the ELCA wrote a statement of apology for the injustices. But why? It's old history now right?

It is history, but it's part of our whole history. In the church year, we go through the same things over and over. Every year, we look at both the really hard stuff and the really joyful stuff. It helps us keep things in perspective. Easter Sunday is a joyous time, but it means even more if we've kept Lent, and remembered the history and pain of Good Friday. So, we learn that it's by acknowledging the brokenness, pain, and sin, that we are enabled to move on and bring about wholeness, connection, and joy. Acknowledging the long history of injustice and inequality (which wasn't over even after the 13th Amendment) is what is able to keep us moving forward toward the Reign of Christ when all injustices of any kind cease.



So, I share one more bit of history that moved the Lutheran church forward. In August of 1979, the Reverend Earlean Miller was ordained as the first Black woman pastor in the LCA (one of the predecessor bodies of the ELCA) Pastor Miller served in various places until she retired from Hope Lutheran Church, Columbus Ohio in 2000. Her ministry, and that of so many others, is part of the blessing we receive when we remember our history.

If you're interested in learning more, there are resources on the ELCA website or see me to print some things off for you! God's blessings in this LONG short month.

pastor Jen

A thank-you from Stephanie and Carol

In an world of pervasive personal, political, and societal suffering, how may we define kindness? Is it an intentional act of altruism? Or, are we a predetermined vessel for a greater energy to pass through; as Bob Dylan noted, “all the songs are written, I just write them down.”

The kindness exhibited at Carol and I’s secretary reception on January 12th was both: remarkably organic and purposefully driven. It was palpable with the committee’s thoughtful organization, the caterers, and the Sunday school children offering their helping hands. Indisputably, all bore an immeasurable love for the Lord and outwardly projected it to the best wishes of Carol and I.

In a world of pervasive occupation and excessiveness, we bear the tendency of pause-refrainment. When looked upon closer, each flower in the cake was once a humble seed in patience for nourishment; the breakfast potato enshrouded by darkness; the working hand of a child learning to grasp something greater in growth. When being introduced to the gathering, I grappled with my humanness — my performance anxiety — and allowed a snippet of pause. Present was an assembly of familiar and unfamiliar, of my loved ones comingling with future associations, a unique yet unstable intersection of life. And with the gift of kindness, the instability was challenged to stability.



In world of incessant possibilities, such is the possibility of simply being a recipient of kindness, without resistance or humility’s threat. As a recipient, I may offer this small note of gratitude towards that morning of bountiful blessings.

Stephanie, Incoming secretary

To my Trinity friends: Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity to me over the last 10 years. It was my pleasure to work with you all and getting to know some of you personally. I will take with me many wonderful memories of our times together. I hope you continue this kindness with Stephanie. Again, thank you for your generosity and your donations. With love and prayers,

Carol, outgoing secretary

Youth and Family

The Sunday school children would like to **thank everyone** who donated cereal boxes for their New Years celebration. This year, 130 boxes were donated! With the help of Eli Conner, Mason Russell, and Tyler Wiedenheft, the boxes were set up in the fellowship hall like a domino. Ryan Wiedenheft started the domino, and when the last one fell, “Happy New Year!” was cheered.

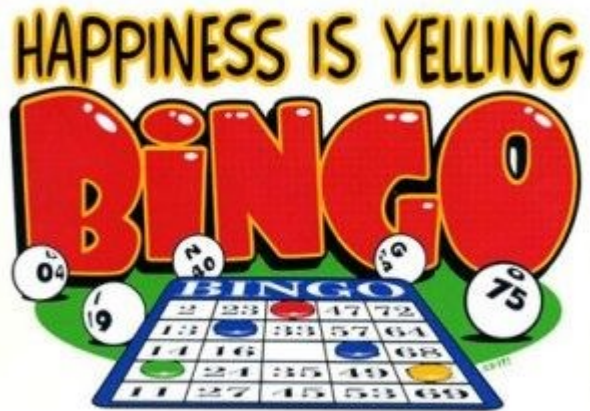
The children also taped a prayer card to each box and some boxes received a packet of instant milk. The cereal will be divided up between Grace’s Table and Care & Share. We truly appreciate everyone who supported our Sunday school children, and other children as well!



News from the Congregational Care Committee

Sunday, March 9th, from 1-3pm the Congregational Care team invites you to a presentation from Courtney Orshoski about her recent mission trip to Burundi Africa. Courtney was baptized and confirmed at Trinity. She currently is an active member of the Chapel where she is involved with leading youth groups. She is excited to share her story! This will be for everyone, young or older!

Following the presentation, we'll continue with a PB&J afternoon of fun! **Popcorn, Bingo, and Jesus!** We'll furnish the popcorn and hope you will join us for an afternoon of old-fashioned BINGO! To enhance the fun, please bring a white elephant gift or a new gift, around \$1.00. A bingo receives a prize! As the time gets closer, we'll give out more information on this event.



We would like to thank everyone who came to the breakfast reception for Carol and Stephanie. Showing your support for these two ladies meant a lot to them. We thank Carol for her 10 years of work to our church and welcome Stephanie to our church as our secretary. She will be a good fit for our needs here at Trinity.

And, some of you asked who made the scrumptious cakes for the reception: Janice Baum | Cakes & Cupcakes. Her contact number is 419-271-0244.



**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Sandusky, Ohio -
Sandusky OH**

**Balance Sheet as of January 31, 2025
Friday, January 31, 2025 Page 1 of 1**

Assets

1.100.102 Checking Account 13,505.47
1.100.104 Petty Cash Fund 20.00
1.100.106 Thrivent Bond Fund Checking 64,392.85
1.200.114 Thrivent Money Market Account 1,732.91
1.220.116 Endowment Savings Thrivent 106,129.57
1.220.118 Mission Plus Investments (3 CD's) 4,123.14
1.220.120 Edward Jones Mutual Fund 271,971.93
1.220.122 Edward Jones CD 21,017.47
1.400.110 Thirvent Moderate Fund (Reserve) 63,786.96
1.400.112 Thrivent Moderate Fund - Pavement 886.27
Total Assets \$547,566.57

Liabilities

2.100.210 Financial_Agent 1,938.24
2.100.216 Ohio Treasurer of St 753.00
2.100.218 R.I.T.A. 439.26
2.100.219 Ohio Department of Taxation 24.60
2.100.220 Board of Pension 189.54
Total Liabilities \$3,344.64

Fund Balances

3.100.300 Current Fund Balance 17,876.76
3.210.300 Community Mission Fund Balance 11,313.51
3.220.300 *Designated Giving Fund Balance*
3.221.300 Memorial Fund Balance 17,502.01
3.222.300 Endowment Fund Balance 110,212.71
3.223.300 Building Improvement Fund Balance 50,671.78
3.225.300 Pavement Fund Balance 886.27
3.227.300 Charity Fund Balance 271,971.93
Total Designated Giving Fund Balance \$451,244.70
3.400.300 Reserve Fund Balance 63,786.96
Total Fund Balances \$544,221.93
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances \$547,566.57

COUNCIL UPDATE

TRINITY CONGREGATION COUNCIL Meeting Highlights - January 23rd, 2025 - 7:00 pm

(These are unapproved meeting minutes)

Attending: Pat Wiedenheft, P. Jen, Carrie Wiedenheft, Bill Bertsch, Betsy Stierhoff, Nancy Vollmer, Jim Bertsch, Barb Sessler, and Stephanie Lehr. Absent: Gayle Thompson, Sally Warner

Meeting called to order by President – Carrie Wiedenheft

Opening devotions were given by Pastor Jen

Minutes of previous meeting (December 2024) were reviewed. Correction to Worship/Music: Lenten Sundays will have 11am service. Bill made a motion to approve, Pat 2nd.

Treasurer's report for December was reviewed. No changes noted, but the janitor wage was overpaid; \$600 will be deducted at the end of January. The February audit date was discussed. Jim discussed the possibility of the youth group amount \$708.10 being put into a money market. Nancy motioned, Betsy 2nd.

President's Report: Carrie requested self-evaluations. Lutheran World Relief for the California wildfires will be distributed via bulletin and newsletter.

Pastor's Report: P. Jen is getting caught up on visits due to personal illness; she is calling as needed. She noted the transition of the office to the new secretary. The Lent Sunday youth skits were discussed; participation will be confirmation and high school demographic. A youth room mural was proposed, with the theme GLOW!. The Hispanic church has not followed up regarding hall rental.

Congregational Life – Carrie reported for Sally. The secretary farewell/welcome reception meal totaled \$875. 65 individuals signed up; 67 participated. A Team Spirit event for the Super Bowl was discussed; members may wear any team shirt and Trinity will be distributing "Team Jesus" pins. In March, there will be a PB&J event with a guest speaker from 1-2:30pm. White elephant prizes will awarded. Christmas cards are currently being accepted for crafting. Per Sally, the information will be published in bulletin.

Faith Builders – Pat Wiedenheft – Souper Bowl submarine event was discussed, along with clarification of cookie size. The amount of cereal boxes for the New Year event totaled 170.

Community Mission –Betsy Stierhoff – In the progress of establishing a meeting date. A family movie night was discussed.

Property –Bill noted the edited contract for Columbia Gas. The fellowship hall (in corners, etc) received a paint touch-up; floor under trophy case fixed; downstairs toilet fixed; Janotta & Herner evaluated the locks. P. Jen noted the outside hose modified by an anonymous individual.

Stewardship and Finance – Jim Bertsch – The annual audit was discussed. Stephanie was informed that she may contact Carol if questions shall arise.

Worship and Music – Nancy Vollmer/Barb Sessler – The possibility of skits for the children was optimistic. Acolytes were discussed as older children wish to resign. The schedule may need editing. An acolyte may not be necessary for the second service.

Young at Heart – Nancy Vollmer – Young At Heart will decorate cookies on February 12th. A light lunch will be provided.

Old Business – N/A

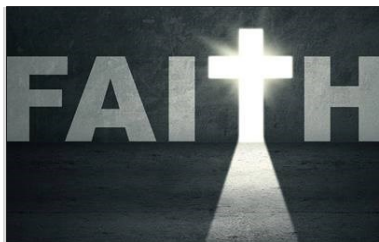
New Business – N/A

Council Thank-yous: Individuals who dissembled Christmas decoration in the sanctuary, Cold Creek Café Caterers, Sunday School children, and Congregational Care for the secretary reception.

Assistant to count offering until the next meeting is Bill Bertsch.

The devotion leader for the next meeting is Carrie.

Adjournment motion made by Nancy. 2nd by Betsy. Motion passed. Closed with the Lord's Prayer



FAITH Member Ministry

Friends and Family **A**biding in Christ **I**n **T**heir
Homes/Hospitals/Healthcare Centers

“You never know when a moment and a few sincere words can have an impact on a life forever.” – Zig Ziglar

FAITH Members (as of 12/24/2024)

At the Commons of Providence, 5000 Providence Drive, Sandusky

Ruth Sieb Apt #107 Birthday - Sept. 19

At the Commons of Providence Memory Care Unit, 4901 Providence Drive, Sandusky

Ruby Stierhoff Rm #114 Birthday - July 26

At Parkvue Community, 3800 Boardwalk Blvd, Sandusky OH 44870

Ray Remy Apt. 112 Birthday - Feb 9

At Providence Care Center, 2025 Hayes Avenue, Sandusky, Ohio 44870

Alice Bertsch #43

At Portland Place, 3808 Venice Rd, Sandusky OH 44870

At The Meadows of Osborn Park, 3916 Perkins Avenue, Huron, Ohio 44839

At Otterbein Senior Life, 9400 North Shore Blvd, Lakeside-Marblehead OH 43440

At the Commons of Providence Assisted Living Building, 5000 Providence Drive, Sandusky

At the Willows of Bellevue, 101 Auxiliary Drive, Bellevue, Ohio 44811

At Heritage Village, 700 Helen Street, Clyde, Ohio 43410

In their homes:

Judy Welsler 5619 Debra Drive, Castalia 419-684-7232 Feb. 11

Laura Allen 2015 Cedar Point Rd, Sandusky

Pat Nielsen 1502 Martins Point Rd, Sandusky June 6

Should you like to join our team in making home visits, where we offer conversation, prayers and communion, please contact Patty Swartz at 419-626-4970.



Crossroads Homeless Shelter Meal
for February, 19 2025

Chili
Cornbread & butter
Valentine cookies

Jim is still cooking monthly meals for Crossroads. If you would like to support this ministry please send your donation to the church and mark it Homeless Meal.

JAM!
FEBRUARY 9TH,
2025

9



The Congregational Life Team will continue the “Cookie and Coffee” fellowship time in 2025 on the first Sunday of every month. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the office hallway. Remember you can bring store bought cookies/donuts or ask a friend or two to help you by donating a dozen homemade cookies for this event.

February Milestones

BIRTHDAYS

Alyssa Neill 02/01
 Scott Fall 02/02
 Rebecca Lynn 02/04
 Tal Streaan 02/05
 Linda Huff 02/05
 Aiden Nemitz 02/06
 Paul Stierhoff 02/07
 Erika Thiede 02/07
 Ronald Cox 02/08
 Noah Savage 02/08
 Raymond Remy Jr. 02/09
 Nathaniel Parker 02/10
 Judy Welser 02/11
 Dean Matus 02/12
 Karilyn Harper 02/12
 Shelby Harris 02/13
 Randy Patten 02/13
 Adam Miller 02/14
 Barbara Swain 02/14
 David Parker 02/14
 John Lynn 02/14
 Mark Lieb 02/15
 Dana Savage 02/15
 Deborah Bahnsen 02/20
 Mya Smith 02/21
 Allen Miller 02/23
 Thomas Pooock 02/23
 Melissa Hacker 02/25
 Amanda Nielsen 02/25
 Peggy Kingsborough 02/26
 Noah Velliquette 02/27

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ANNIVERSARIES

Daniel & Amy Baum — 35th 02/10
 Frederick & Elaine Drossman — 63rd 02/17
 Rex & Charlene Stierhoff — 36th 02/18
 Adele & Harold Hoffman — 47th 02/27

MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

Greg, Susanne, and Carrie Lemert in memory of Nancy Sessler

IN LOVING 
Memory



Gail Lococo
 Parkview Residence #130
 Sandusky, OH 4480

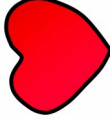
Stephanie Lehr would like to thank Larry & Pat Wiedenheft for the Christmas gift.

On behalf of the people of Trinity, our Congregation Council thanks:



- To members who dissembled Christmas decorations in the sanctuary
- Cold Creek caterers, Sunday School children & Congregational Care for organizing the secretary farewell/welcome party

February 2025

	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	
						1 NA 11:00 am	
2	Presentation of our Lord Communion Service 8:00 & 10:30 am 9:15 am Sunday School	3	4	5 AA 9 - 10 am Worship & Music Committee 1:00 pm	6	7	8 NA 11:00 am
9	Worship Service 8:00 & 10:30 am 9:15 am Sunday School Jam Session	10 Dartball - 7:30 pm	11	12 AA 9 - 10 am NA 7:00 pm	13	14 	15 NA 11:00 am
16	6 Epiphany Communion Service 8:00 & 10:30 am 9:15 am Sunday School	17 Presidents' Day Dartball - 7:30 pm	18	19 AA 9 - 10 am NA 7:00 pm Crossroads Meal 1pm	20 Council Mtg 7:00 pm	21	22 NA 11:00 am
23	Worship Service 8:00 & 10:30 am 9:15 am Sunday School	24 Dartball - 7:30 pm	25	26 AA 9 - 10 am NA 7:00 pm	27	28	

HELPERS AT WORSHIP - January 2025 and February 2025

Date	Alter Flowers	Memorial Flowers	8:00 am Service			10:30 am Service		
			Ushers	Lector	Acolyte	Ushers	Lector	Acolyte

Alter Care for January: Pat Wiedenheft

Communion Assistant – 8:00 Guy Miller 10:30 Candy Beatty

January 5		Greg Norman	Rich Miller Cindy Norman	Joyce Patterson	Lincoln Smith	Ken Schenk Bonnie Lieb	Chrissy Nielsen	Eli Conner
January 12	Jim Bertsch		Rich Miller Cindy Norman	Russ Stephens	Carlie Wiedenheft	Ken Schenk Bonnie Lieb	Candy Beatty	Mason Russell
January 19	David & Cathy Wobser		Rich Miller Cindy Norman	Carrie Wiedenheft	Mariska Farlow	Ken Schenk Bonnie Lieb	Cathy Wobser	Natalie Thompson
January 26			Rich Miller Cindy Norman	Sally Warner	Zane Warner	Ken Schenk Bonnie Lieb	Gayle Thompson	Claire Conner

Altar Care for February: Linda Gantz & Cindy Norman

Communion Assistant - 8:00 Sally Warner 10:30 Gayle Thompson

February 2	David & Cathy Wobser		Greg Norman Brad Stierhoff	Guy Miller	Emma Killingsworth	Denny Sessler Bonnie Lieb	Natalie Thompson	Malachi Herrmann
February 9	Rhonda & Dean Matus		Greg Norman Brad Stierhoff	Erica Miller	Ryan Wiedenheft	Denny Sessler Bonnie Lieb	Chrissy Nielson	Eli Connor
February 16	Rex & Charlene Stierhoff		Greg Norman Brad Stierhoff	Joyce Patterson	Tyler Wiedenheft	Denny Sessler Bonnie Lieb	Candy Beatty	Mason Russell
February 23	Pat & Larry Wiedenheft		Greg Norman Brad Stierhoff	Russ Stephens	Drew Killingsworth	Denny Sessler Bonnie Lieb	Cathy Wobser	Malachi Herrmann

February Prayers, Readings & Psalms

February 2: Presentation of our Lord

Malachi 3:1-4 *My messenger is a refiner and purifier*

Psalm 84 *How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD. (Ps. 84:1)*

Hebrews 2:14-18 *Jesus shares human flesh and sufferings*

Luke 2:22-40 *The child is brought to the temple*

Prayer of the Day: Almighty and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

February 9: 5 Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13] *Isaiah says, Here am I; send me*

Psalm 138 *I will bow down toward your holy temple. (Ps. 138:2)*

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 *I am the least of the apostles*

Luke 5:1-11 *Jesus calls the disciples to fish for people*

Prayer of the Day: Most holy God, the earth is filled with your glory, and before you angels and saints stand in awe. Enlarge our vision to see your power at work in the world, and by your grace make us heralds of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

February 16: 6 Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-10 *Blessed are those who trust the LORD, they are like trees by water*

Psalm 1 *They are like trees planted by streams of water. (Ps. 1:3)*

1 Corinthians 15:12-20 *Christ has been raised, the first fruits of those who have died*

Luke 6:17-26 *Jesus speaks blessings on the poor and hungry; woes on the rich and full*

Prayer of the Day: Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

February 23: 7 Epiphany

Genesis 45:3-11, 15 *Joseph forgives his brothers*

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 *The lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace. (Ps. 37:11)*

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 *The mystery of the resurrection of the body*

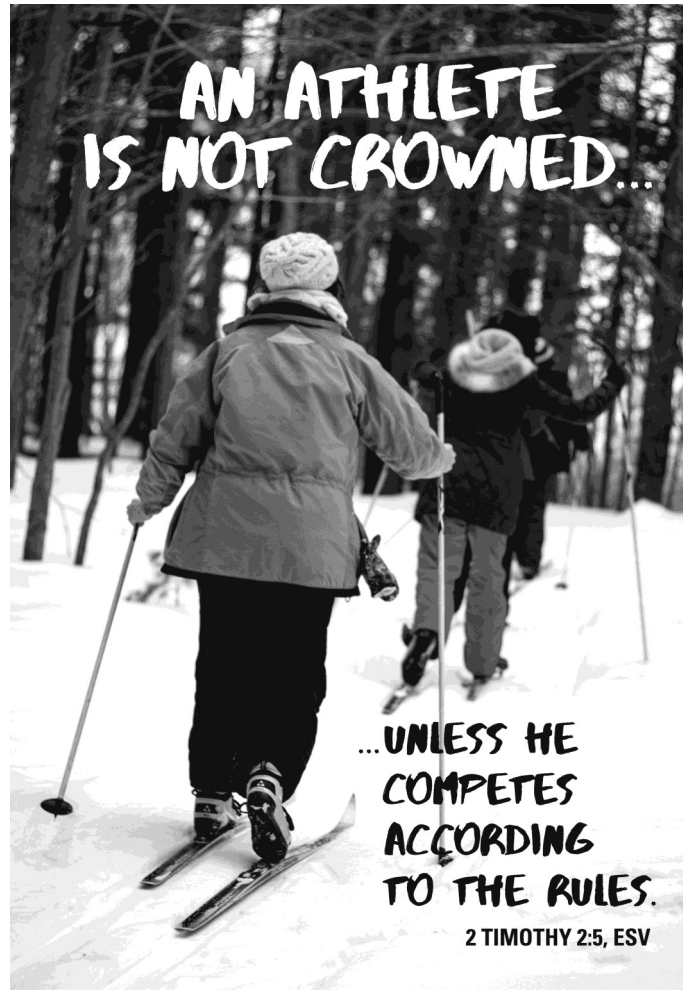
Luke 6:27-38 *Love your enemies*

Prayer of the Day: O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.



Toledo Sports Faith & Family Nights



Are you, your spouse, or your children a sports fan? Do you enjoy listening how faith impacts athletics? If so, mark your calendars for March 9th, 2025 for a Faith & Family Night sponsored by Toledo Walleye. Tom Fraser, the team's captain, will lead a special Q&A during pregame. You will not want to miss the coaches and players discussing their stories. Tickets may be purchased by calling 419-725-9255 or toledowalleye.com.

Winter blues have you down? Enjoy the warmer weather and baseball season with another Faith & Family Night starting the Mud Hens on June 29th!

Compass Point Senior Enrichment Center

About Us:

Compass Point empowers seniors with Alzheimer's and dementia through specialized care, engaging activities, and a supportive community.

Hot lunch & snacks daily, open Monday - Thursday 7:00am-5:00pm with transportation available!

Have a special talent? Want to contribute in another way? Contact us to join the center in a volunteer capacity.



Home & Community Based Services

Person-centered physical and cognitive care, care coordination, support services



Community

Shared stories, laughter, and genuine connections make every day brighter and fulfilling.

Contact Us:

419-502-1020

AdultDay@ECHDOhio.org



795 Bardshar Rd.
Sandusky, OH

www.ErieCoHealthOhio.com/adult-day-services/

Serving Our Seniors has a program that assists with paying daily services. You can notify them of what you're able to afford and request if they could pick up the difference.

To qualify, you must complete financial information.

Full Day is \$81.05

Half Day is \$45.00

Serving Our Seniors
310 Boalt Street #A
Sandusky, OH 44870
419-624-1856



LWR.ORG/FIRES

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

YOUR LOVE IS NEEDED

The needs of our neighbors in California are growing every hour as wildfires completely destroy homes and communities. Houses, schools, churches, grocery stores, businesses ... all reduced to ashes.

Our partners at Lutheran World Relief are already preparing a response, including sending LWR Quilts and Kits to affected families. The destruction and need are overwhelming.

Right now, the number one need is financial gifts so that the team at Lutheran World Relief can reach our neighbors as quickly as possible.

HOW TO GIVE

You can give directly through Lutheran World Relief at lwr.org/fires, by scanning the QR code below or by mailing a check to Lutheran World Relief, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061. Please write **FIRES** in the memo line.

Gifts can also be made through our congregation. Designate "**LWR FIRES**" when making your gift and we will rush a gift from the church to Lutheran World Relief.

Thank you for sharing God's love with our neighbors when and where they need it most.

**Until your love reaches
every neighbor.**



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

LWR.ORG/FIRES