



Trinity Times

502 Bardshar Road, Sandusky, OH 44870
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

March 2025

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Rejoice always, pray continually,
give thanks in all circumstances.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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

Dear Church,

As we journey through Lent, a season of reflection, repentance, and renewal, and it being Women's history month, it feels particularly fitting to acknowledge women's contributions to the Lutheran Church. Lent invites us to examine our past, consider our present, and look forward with hope, and this includes recognizing the often-overlooked stories of women who have shaped our faith.

The women of the new testament: Mary, mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, Mary and Martha of Bethany, the Samaritan woman, and the woman with a hermitage, Junia, Priscilla, Dorcas, Lydia, Phoebe and countless unnamed women are part of the church's story.

The early church's monastic women wrote and spoke of their faith. Katharina von Bora, Luther's wife, who managed their household, raised their children, and even ran a farm and brewery, demonstrated her incredible strength and resourcefulness. Many women have been the quiet workers in our congregations, the passionate advocates for social justice, and the insightful interpreters of scripture.

During Lent, we are called to a time of self-examination and repentance. How have we overlooked people based on gender or stereotypes? Women can be in leadership roles and Men can be in caregiving roles. What do our assumptions prevent us from seeing?

Lent is also a season of hope and anticipation. May we strive to create a Church where all people, no matter what gender, are empowered to use their talents and share their wisdom, contributing to the ongoing work of God's kingdom. This Lent let us remember the past, embrace the present, and looking forward to a future where the light of Christ shines brightly through all of God's people.

In Christ's love,

pastor Jen



a note from secretary Stephanie

When I tell area folks that I am sometimes found at Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center on the weekends, I usually receive a curious glance. Nestled on holy grounds thirty minutes from Sandusky is a 150-year-old mansion with walking paths, a gift shop with unique spiritual items, a chapel, grotto, meditation deck, stations of the Cross, and a walking labyrinth — all open to the public, regardless of domination or lack of therefore. Across the street is a preserved land overlooking the Sandusky River, a peaceful spot to pray, meditate, or relax.



Our Lady of the Pines in Fremont, OH is truly a preserved secret beckoning for further embracement. The retreat center is sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, who also reside onsite at St. Bernadine Home. On a sunny day, you will usually find a sister strolling on the paths, or even deer or turkeys. I have a penchant for naming the beautiful wildlife, such as Deliah the Deer!

The grounds contain over 50 different species of pine trees that were originally planted by a prominent landscaper. Many of the lumber mills in NW Ohio saved their matching butternut and walnut for the interior of the retreat house, which today boasts the original woodwork. The mansion once contained a third floor, a ballroom for the sisters to dance, but was tragically lost to an electrical fire.

I invite everyone to visit and enjoy this beautiful area treasure! I have been at Our Lady of the Pines for over three years and have enjoyed all retreat groups from Baptist to Buddhist.

Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center
250 Tiffin St, Fremont, OH 43420
(419) 332-6522

Stephanie



Youth & Family

Thanks to everyone who supported our youth with their sub sale this year. We're truly blessed to have such GREAT people who support us!

And thanks to the parents and kids who helped to assemble and pack up the subs. Another great group of workers to get these kind of things done. You are awesome!



Community Mission

We've become aware of a need at Margareta Elementary School. The teachers need assistance in replenishing their supplies for the remainder of the school year. The following items have been requested: glue sticks, white glue bottles, highlighters, and sticky notes. We've placed a basket in the hallway for your contributions. We will be collecting through Sunday, March 16th. We didn't collect items for the school at the beginning of the school year due to our congregational involvement in several other projects. Your help for school supplies is greatly appreciated!



Congregational Care Committee

Sunday, March 2nd will be a **MARDI GRAS** theme! Wear purple, green, or gold and come enjoy king cake style cupcakes in the gathering area after each service. Some of the cupcakes will contain the traditional plastic baby.

King Cake takes its name from the Three Kings who journeyed to visit the infant Jesus on Epiphany. The gold on the king cake stands for power, the green represents faith and the purple represents justice, and overall, the cake symbolizes the unity of faiths. All king cakes come with a tiny plastic baby hidden inside, and if you are lucky enough to find a baby, it is said that you will receive good fortune!

The king cake is traditionally eaten during Carnival season, which is from Jan. 6th through Fat Tuesday, the day before Lent begins.

The sign-up for the PB&J EVENT on Sunday, March 9th has begun. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the office, for both events or just one. **Family and friends are welcome as well! Starting at 1pm,** Courtney Orshoski will give a presentation 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.



Following the presentation, we'll continue with a PB&J afternoon of fun! **Popcorn, Bingo, and Jesus!** We'll furnish the popcorn and bottled water, and you may B.Y.O.B. (bring your own beverage). To enhance the fun, please bring a white elephant gift or a new gift, around \$1.00. A bingo receives a prize. An official bingo dealer, Jay Brisker – member Bonnie Lieb's brother – will lead the game.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Sandusky, Ohio - Sandusky OH
Balance Sheet as of February 28, 2025

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Page 1 of 1

Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance
<i>Assets</i>		
1.100.102	Checking Account	23,598.49
1.100.104	Petty Cash Fund	20.00
1.100.106	Thrivent Bond Fund Checking	44,392.85
1.200.113	Thrivent Youth Gathering M/M	708.10
1.200.114	Thrivent Money Market Account	1,732.91
1.220.116	Endowment Savings Thrivent	106,546.57
1.220.118	Mission Plus Investments (3 CD's)	4,123.14
1.220.120	Edward Jones Mutual Fund	279,726.17
1.220.122	Edward Jones CD	21,017.47
1.400.110	Thrivent Moderate Fund (Reserve)	63,786.96
1.400.112	Thrivent Moderate Fund - Pavement	886.27
	Total Assets	\$546,538.93
<i>Liabilities</i>		
2.100.210	Financial_Agent	2,731.86
2.100.216	Ohio Treasurer of St	277.00
2.100.218	R.I.T.A.	154.22
2.100.220	Board of Pension	110.84
	Total Liabilities	\$3,273.92
<i>Fund Balances</i>		
3.100.300	Current Fund Balance	7,033.60
3.210.300	Community Mission Fund Balance	12,890.51
3.220.300	<i>Designated Giving Fund Balance</i>	
3.221.300	Memorial Fund Balance	17,522.01
3.222.300	Endowment Fund Balance	110,292.71
3.223.300	Building Improvement Fund Balance	51,126.78
3.225.300	Pavement Fund Balance	886.27
3.227.300	Charity Fund Balance	279,726.17
	<i>Total Designated Giving Fund Balance</i>	<i>\$459,553.94</i>
3.400.300	Reserve Fund Balance	63,786.96
	Total Fund Balances	\$543,265.01
	Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$546,538.93

COUNCIL UPDATE

TRINITY CONGREGATION COUNCIL Meeting Highlights - February 20th 2025 - 7:00 pm

(These are unapproved meeting minutes)

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

Meeting called to order by President – Carrie Wiedenheft

Opening devotions were given by Carrie Wiedenheft

Minutes of previous meeting (January 2025) were reviewed. No corrections were offered; Pat motioned and Bill 2nd.

Treasurer's report: \$20,000 taken out of reserve account. Jim confirmed his authorization and removed one inactive member. \$7,500 sent out for Community Mission Fund. P.J. confirmed insurance of parsonage's contents. Bill motioned to approve; Betsy 2nd.

President's Report: \$952 profit from Souper Bowl Sub Sale. Over 730 subs and 7 dozen cookies were made. A high school youth class was discussed, including performing skits. It was decided to cancel the February 16th worship due to inclement weather.

Pastor's Report: P. Jen evaluated homebound & prospective homebound members. 11 visits were conducted in the past week. "Tales of Trees" skits during the Wednesday AM Lent service; need two people each week. Streaming services on Facebook will no longer be permanently available; Youtube was suggested. P.Jen is looking into Google Classroom for youth.

Congregational Life – March 2nd: king cake cupcakes and Mardi Gras theme; PB&J event March 9th and open to family & friends. Sally proposed removal of giving statements from the hallway. Easter: cookies will be provided after each service; no breakfast this year. A candy sale will occur two weeks before Easter and will contain pretzel sticks, cake pops, etc.

Faith Builders – Pat Wiedenheft – N/A.

Community Mission –Betsy Stierhoff – A basket for school supplies was discussed, along with "Laundry Love" for homeless hosted by a local UCC. Summer lunches and chicks via Good Gifts were mentioned.

Property – Rumpke Trash has a \$0 monthly lease. No updates regarding the front door lock. P.J requested a cover for the AC unit. Sally proposed renovation of the upstairs gathering room. Bill Bertsch was nominated as Vice President; passed.

Worship and Music – Nancy Vollmer/Barb Sessler – N/A

Young at Heart – Nancy Vollmer – 551 cookies were decorated for Valentine's Day; excellent reception by receivers. Some cookies were frozen, to be served after worship.

Old Business – 2024 Congregation Report: Stephanie reported lack of access to website. P.Jen currently has the login instructions.

New Business – Facility rental for Maree Markley's baby shower was confirmed for April 12th. The puzzle library is finished and approximately has 40 puzzles. Lent times & special donation envelopes to Community Mission Fund will be distributed via snail mail to members.

Council Thank-yous: Rumpke Sanitation for graciously providing services free of charge; Jim Bertsch for shoveling sidewalks & parking lot; Bonnie Lieb, Jill Connor, and Sally Warner for organizing the puzzle library, printing photos of events, and designing the bulletin boards.

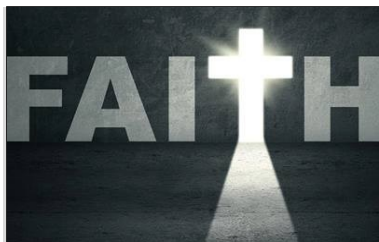
Assistant to count offering until the next meeting is Nancy Vollmer

The devotion leader for the next meeting is Bill Bertsch

April's council meeting will be April 10th. Adjournment motion made by Pat. 2nd by Sally. 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 03/01/2025)

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

Pork stew & gravy
Biscuits
Green Jello Cake
Salad

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!

MARCH 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.

March Milestones

BIRTHDAYS

Bryce Cullen 03/01	Mason Hermes 03/18
William Bertsch 03/02	Robin Thrash 03/18
Ryan Wiedenheft 03/03	Emily Tordi 03/19
Judith Howard 03/03	Sue Claus 03/19
Justin Stierhoff 03/04	John Harris III 03/19
Richard Miller 03/04	Jerzie Bohn 03/19
Cynthia Norman 03/05	Dominic Carrozzino 03/21
Arlayne Mischler 03/06	Scott Ramon 03/21
Tyler Wiedenheft 03/06	Joseph Sessler 03/22
Tracy Carrozzino 03/07	Joshua Johnson 03/24
Carter Jones 03/08	Holly Harris 03/25
Jeff Neill 03/09	Miah Miller 03/25
Ryan Troike 03/09	Mason Miller 03/25
Steve Miller 03/09	Wesley Miller 03/26
Jason Overmyer 03/10	Jean Cline 03/26
David Wiedenheft 03/10	Bastian Hipp 03/26
Elise Kleinoeder 03/10	Linda Wilcox 03/27
Paige Brogle 03/10	Eli Conner 03/28
Barbara Sessler 03/14	Joanna Hemmer 03/29
Kate Didion 03/15	Roland Wriker 03/29
Sean Cullen 03/17	John Huff 03/29
Robin Dwight 03/17	Denise Stallard 03/31
Paul Warner 03/17	Sloane Brogle 03/31
Cory Paseka 03/18	

ANNIVERSARIES

Don & Cindy Bowers 03/10	36th
Barry & Karen Gill 03/22	34th
Kevin & Robin Dwight 03/24	35th

MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

Thank you to those who donated in memory of Jane Lehrer: Larry & Pat Wiedenheft, Larry & Linda Velliquette, Wes & Betty Miller, Adele & Gene Hoffman, Chuck & Sandy Paseka, James Bertsch, David Wiedenheft, Russ Stephens, Jean & Jeff Smith, Dave & Sally Warner, Fred Wobser, and Gary Lieb

A big thank you to all those that sent cards, expressed condolences and made dishes for the bereavement meal for my mom, Jane Lehrer. There's a lot of coordination that goes into planning and preparing for the meal, and all the efforts are very much appreciated. A special thanks to Pastor Jen and those that prepared, served, and cleaned.


Adele Hoffman



- Rumpke Sanitation for graciously providing services free of charge
- Jim Bertsch for shoveling sidewalks & parking lot — keeping our members safe!
- Bonnie Lieb, Jill Connor, and Sally Warner for organizing the puzzle library, printing photos of events, and designing the bulletin boards — using creativity!



March 2025

	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1 NA 11:00 am
2 Transfiguration of our Lord Communion Service 8:00 & 10:30 am	3	4	5 Ash Wednesday 11am Service w/ lunch	6	7	8
1 Lent Worship Service 8:00 & 10:30 am Sunday School 9:15 am Jab Session PB & J Event 12-4pm	10	11	12 Lent #1 "Trees of Eden" 11am AA 9 - 10 am NA 7:00 pm	13	14	15 NA 11:00 am
2 Lent Communion Service 8:00 & 10:30 am 9:15 am St. Gay School	17 	18	19 Lent #2 "Trees of the Field" 11am AA 9 - 10 am NA 7:00 pm Crossroads Meal 1pm	20 Council Mtg 7:00 pm	21	22 NA 11:00 am
3 Lent Worship Service 8:00 & 10:30 am 9:15 am Sunday School	24	25	26 Lent #3 "Sycamore Tree" 11am AA 9 - 10 am NA 7:00 pm	27	28	29
4 Lent Worship Service 8:00 & 10:30am	30	31				

LENT

MARCH & APRIL

2025

05

WED

ASH WEDNESDAY
11 AM WORSHIP WITH LUNCH FOLLOWING
7 PM WORSHIP

12

WED

LENT #1 "THE TREES OF EDEN"
11 AM @ TRINITY

19

WED

LENT #2 "TREES OF THE FIELD"
11 AM @ TRINITY

26

WED

LENT #3 "SYCAMORE TREE"
11 AM @ TRINITY

02

WED

LENT #4 "FIG TREE"
11 AM @ TRINITY

09

WED

LENT #5 "TREE OF SALVATION"
11 AM @ TRINITY

March Prayers, Readings & Psalms

March 2: Transfiguration of our Lord

Exodus 34:29-35

Coming down from Mount Sinai, Moses' face shone

Psalm 99

Proclaim the greatness of the LORD; worship upon God's holy hill. (Ps. 99:9)

2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2

With unveiled faces we see the Lord's glory as we are transformed

Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

Jesus is transfigured on the mountain

Prayer of the Day: Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

March 9: First Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways. (Ps. 91:11)

Romans 10:8b-13

If you confess that Jesus is Lord, you will be saved

Luke 4:1-13

The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty

Prayer of the Day: O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

March 16 : Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

The covenant with Abram and his descendants

Psalm 27

In the day of trouble, God will give me shelter. (Ps. 27:5)

Philippians 3:17—4:1

Our citizenship is in heaven from where we expect a Savior

Luke 13:31-35

I have desired to gather Jerusalem as a hen gathers her brood

Prayer of the Day: God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

March 23: Third Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9

Everyone who thirsts, come to the water; seek the LORD

Psalms 63:1-8

O God, eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you. (Ps. 63:1)

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Israel, baptized in cloud and seas, ate the same spiritual food as Christians

Luke 13:1-9

Unless you repent, you will perish: parable of the fig tree

Prayer of the Day: Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

March 30: Fourth Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12

Israel eats bread and grain, the produce of the land

Psalms 32

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD. (Ps. 32:11)

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

The mystery and ministry of reconciliation

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The parable of the prodigal father and the repentant son

Prayer of the Day: God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

