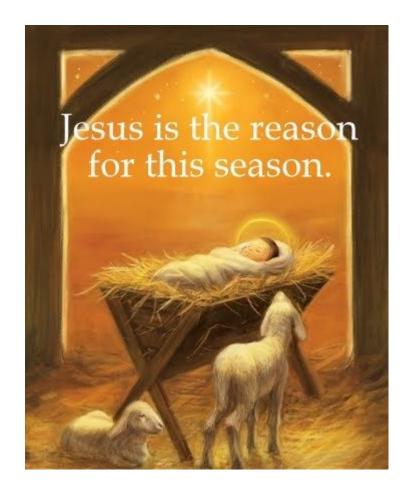


Trinity Times

December 2021

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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 Office...trinityelca@bex.net



Will we be tired of Christmas before it gets here? I know I am showing my age, but I remember when Christmas didn't begin until Christmas Eve. Oh, yes, we did do Christmas shopping early, but not until after Thanksgiving. We didn't start to hype Christmas before Halloween. In some respects, our Fall and early

winter holy days (holidays) have gotten blown out of proportion.

For example, Halloween is actually All Saints Eve, the Eve of All Saints Day, a time when we remember those who have died in the faith. Then came the idea that those who had not died in the faith, would come back into the world to haunt those still living in the faith to try to take away their souls. And so, we have all the nightmare, spooky stuff, giving gifts to the spooks to buy them off, forgetting what the evening and next day are all about.

And then, as mentioned above, there is Christmas. Granted it is a grand and glorious day, as we remember that great Gift that God gave us in the birth of His Son. And because of St Nicholas, a European Saint, who decided to share gifts with children in His community to show the love of God, as time went on, the giving of gifts to children on the Eve and day of Christ's birth, became a loving action. I remember as a child, going to bed on Christmas eve with hope and expectation. There were no tree or gifts to be seen. Then, when I woke up the next day and went downstairs, lo and behold, there was the tree lit up with the gifts under it. What a great way to be reminded of the gift of God in Jesus.

As I have told you before, one of my devotional resources is from a Franciscan priest by the name of Richard Rohr. Recently commented that addiction is more than being addicted to drugs and alcohol. We can be addicted to power, money and many other things. Addiction might be defined by the overuse of just about anything.

So, question I am asking myself as we approach Christmas, am I addicted to Christmas for all the wrong reasons. Does this addiction cause me to over hype the material aspect of Christmas (gifts, parties, eating and drinking, etc.)? Am I so into those things that I rush the season in order to enjoy those benefits? I want to start before Halloween, so that I can enjoy all the fun a little longer, forgetting what Christmas is all about. Am I so exhausted by all this month-long pre-Christmas hype, that when the actual day comes, I am too exhausted to really remember and enjoy what the day is all about?

And then, when it comes to the real Christmas Season, (Christmas to Epiphany), I am tired of all that stuff and want to move on.

Let's make sure that through all the hype, we remember what Christmas really is all about and celebrate the love that God has shown us through the gift of His Son.

May you all have a blessed Christmas season.

Pastor Ralph Schibler

DO NOT PRINT

DO NOT PRINT

Youth and Family

with SALLY WARNER, Trinity's Youth and Family Ministries Coordinator

OUR ANNUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will be on Sunday, December 12 at 4:00 pm. "The Lights of Christmas" will be held at Tyler Yetter's barn at 6460 CR 247 (Vickery Road) Vickery. Watch for the camel with the Bethlehem sign on him so you will know where to go! Please bring your own chair as there will not be any there.





THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN have been busy making Christmas coasters that they will be selling, for a donation, after the worship services in the area where the coffee hour was. The money they raise is going to help them in buying Christmas gifts for a child they are sponsoring through Project Noelle. You can stop by and look at all the different coasters and gifts made with the coasters and make your donation to help them with this project. These would make great teacher, bus driver, mailperson, and anyone special gifts you like to give a little something to for Christmas! And in advance, THANK YOU!

UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER! Start looking for the ugliest Christmas sweater you can find OR make up one on your own. We're asking you to wear those sweaters on Sunday, December 19. No prizes, just a little thing to do as we hopefully can still be worshiping together! Please keep these sweaters nice, no dirty sayings or pictures, and let's just be happy to do something different during the Holiday season together!



HELP BRING JOY TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE LUTHER HOME OF MERCY, many



Sharing Resources • Enhancing Lives

without family to provide a Merry Christmas. This year the "Helping Hands" tree is devoted to them. Please take one, two or more "hands" off the tree in our sanctuary, shop and return your gifts with the hands attached by Sunday, December 19th. Your gifts do not need to be wrapped. We will deliver the items on December 20th.



A slight change to our Sock & Mitten Tree this year. Care and Share and Crossroads have a good supply of hats and mittens for the season so this year we are asking for <u>Seats and Feets</u>, (<u>underwear and socks</u>). If you already have hats and mittens then please feel free to bring them in. The tree is now up in the back of the sanctuary







Our ELCA Good Gifts Tree is back again this year also. This is our annual wider church mission support event. Take an ornament and fill out an envelope with your information on it and place your purchase amount inside. Put your envelope in the collection plate and take your ornament with you!







Thankoffering Boxes

Are now in the church sanctuary. If you can not make it to church call the church office and Carol will mail one out to you or meet you at the church door.

Make a daily contribution
Thanksgiving Day through
Christmas Eve

Return on Christmas Eve

Donations support Trinity's Community Mission Fund





This will be your **LAST MAILED** Trinity Newsletter unless you have contacted the church office and asked to still have it mailed to you. We are encouraging members to find the newsletter on our new updated website trinityelca.com under the news tab. If you would like to receive a copy via email please let the church office know by emailing Carol at trinityelca@bex.net she will send you one each month. There will be several paper copies available at the church for you to pick up on Sunday mornings if you would like to do that. If you are unable to access the newsletter by any of these means please call the church office at 419-626-0204 and let Carol know that you still need a mailed copy and she will send one out.

This change is a big one for us and we are giving it a try. If we find this just doesn't work we will consider going back to mailing everyone's.





AS THE END OF THE YEAR DRAWS NEAR, the Worship and Music committee is asking that you consider joining in and helping with our worship services by participating in any of the following services you can do here at Trinity, Altar Committee, Ushers, Lectors, and Communion Assistant. Please see either Nancy Volmer or Sally Warner if you are willing to be a part of these wonderful ways to serve your church and our Lord.



No update since November.

Please continue to pray for our new pastor to find their way here.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Sandusky, Ohio - Sandusky OH Balance Sheet as of October 31, 2021

Wednesday, No	ovember 24, 2021	Page 1 of 1
Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance
Assets		
1.100.102	Checking Account	35,097.32
1.100.104	Petty Cash Fund	20.00
1.100.106	Thrivent Bond Fund Checking	62,702.14
1.200.114	Thrivent Money Market Account	456.60
1.220.116	Endowment Savings Thrivent	104,915.67
1.220.118	Mission Plus Investments (3 CD's)	3,864.14
1.400.110	Thirvent Moderate Fund (Reserve)	56,659.59
1.400.112	Thrivent Moderate Fund - Pavement	2,708.59
	Total Assets	\$266,424.05
Liabilities		
2.100.216	Ohio Treasurer of St	37.00
2.100.218	R.I.T.A.	48.13
2.100.219	Ohio Department of Taxation	6.23
	Total Liabilities	\$91.36
Fund Balances		
3.100.300	Current Fund Balance	25,128.80
3.210.300	Community Mission Fund Balance	5,212.08
3.220.300	Designated Giving Fund Balance	
3.221.300	Memoral Fund Balance	32,012.78
3.222.300	Endowment Fund Balance	108,779.81
3.223.300	Building Improvement Fund Balance	35,831.04
3.225.300	Pavement Fund Balance	2,708.59
	Total Designated Giving Fund Balance	\$179,332.22
3.400.300	Reserve Fund Balance	56,659.59
	Total Fund Balances	\$266,332.69
	Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	<u>\$266,424.05</u>

COUNCIL UPDATE

TRINITY CONGREGATION COUNCIL Meeting Highlights - November 18, 2021 - 7:00 pm

(These are unapproved meeting minutes)

Attending: Carrie Wiedenheft, Jim Bertsch, Candy Beatty, Pastor Ralph, Sally Warner, Judy Driscoll, Bonnie Lieb, and secretary, Carol Dahs. Not in Attendance: Mike Markley, Barb Wobser

Visitors to Council: Nancy Volmer, Betsy Stierhoff, and Phyllis Nuber

Meeting called to order by President, Carrie Wiedenheft

Opening devotions were given by Sally Warner

Minutes of previous meeting (October) were reviewed. Jim made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as submitted. 2nd by Candy. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report for October was reviewed. Jim stated that the \$9000 from Mission Endowment was dispersed to the approved recipients. Sally made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. 2nd by Bonnie. Motion passed.

President's Report: Carrie has not heard anything from the Call Committee since our last meeting. The annual Congregational Meeting Minutes were reviewed, and it was decided to pull the voting count numbers out of the minutes. Dave Wobser and Linda Gantz have volunteered to help with the 2021 Financial Audit in February of 2022. Carrie spoke to Greg Norman and Rex Stierhoff about the Property chair position. They both declined but Rex said he would help if it was needed. Betsy Stierhoff accepted the Community Mission chair starting in 2022. There will be a Thanksgiving Eve Lay-Lead Service here at Trinity with Grace in Castalia.

Mission Service – Judy Driscoll - The pork and sauerkraut meal made \$1572 with 144 meals being made. The money from Thrivent covered almost all of the food costs. Sally and Judy are working together on our Helping Hands tree for the Luther Home of Mercy this year.

Property – Carol submitted a Facility Use Form for December 11. Council declined approval of the request. Carol will let them know and return their check.

Worship and Music – Sally reported that Pastor Cathy will be doing a mid-week Advent devotion service. Dates are December 2, 9, and 15. They will have some devotion time and then do a craft at the first two services. On the 15th they will be caroling at some of our shut-in's houses. Christmas Eve service will start at 6:45 pm outside at the nativity scene and then move inside by 7:00 pm. Jim asked about doing an 11:00 pm service to help spread out the amount of people at one service. Sally said she would ask Pastor Cathy about it. December 26th will have only one service at 9:00 am. January 30, 2022 will be a fifth Sunday of the month so it will be a lay-lead service. Sally will put together a special mailing for December to explain all of the events going on for the month. Jim made a motion to take \$250 of the Council Discretionary Fund to help Project Share (Tiffany Fisher) with a few more kids they would like Trinity to sponsor. 2nd by Judy. Motion passed.

Old Business – Sally and Jim will work on taking pictures for inventory for insurance after the first of the year. They will have this completed by the end of January 2022. Carol has gotten some feedback on people responding to how they would like to receive their newsletter starting in 2022.

New Business – Candy Beatty volunteered to do the December offering count to replace Barb. Carol asked if council had any issues with her recreating our baptismal, confirmation, and membership certificates to print on the big copier. With this change the small printer will not be needed anymore. Jim made a motion that we donate the printer to a charity that could use it. 2nd by Candy. Motion passed. Carol will get some picture to Jim and Phyllis and see if they can find someplace to take it. American Home Elevator was in and did an inspection. It was brought to Carol's attention that there is an old law that is being enforced now that states we must change the ropes (cables) on our elevator every two years instead of the current five. This cost approximately \$1600 each time. They said there is a variance that can be applied for which if approved would take it back to every 5 years for the life of the elevator. If this variance is approved, it would cost Trinity \$200 for the variance. Council decided to do the variance and see if we can get it approved. Carol has the paperwork and will get that submitted.





Today's Christian Music in a Spirit-filled Atmosphere! Come, Worship, and Sing!

DECEMBER 12, 2021

BETWEEN SERVICES, 9:30-10:00 am, IN THE SANCTUARY.





Again this year, the church office is asking that you include your dedication on the signup sheets. This is to help you remember why you signed up for that particular date plus it helps the church office in not having to chase everyone down to get this information. If you do not want to write your dedication on the sheets Carol will still call you to see what you would like placed in the bulletin. If you have any questions you can call the church office and speak to Carol.



Crossroads Homeless
Shelter Meal
for December 15, 2021

Ham
Sweet Potato Casserole
Corn Pudding, Cranberry Salad
Rolls
Maraschino Cherry Cake

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.



FAITH Member Ministry

Friends and Family Abiding in Christ In Their 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 11/3/2021)

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

Ruth Sieb Rm #107 Birthday - Sept. 19

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

Ruby Stierhoff Rm #114 Birthday - July 26

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

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

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

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

Shirley Miller Birthday - April 3

Danbury Senior Living, 33770 Bagley Rd., North Ridgeville, Ohio 44039

Viola Liptok Rm #230 419-684-5840 Birthday - Dec. 9

Parkvue Community, 3800 Boardwalk Blvd, Sandusky OH 44870

Ray & Nancy Remy R: Feb 9 N: Sept. 9

In their homes:

Brian & Mary Ann Hickman 51 N. Harbors End, Port Clinton 419-732-7398 B: May 25 MA: July 10

Dan & Gwen Miller 5708 Bogart Road, Castalia 419-684-5274 D: May 24 G: Oct. 5

Bernie Neidler 1305 Ogontz St, Sandusky 419-625-4839 B: Nov. 16 MA: Dec. 30

Pat Nielsen 1502 Martins Point Road, Sandusky 419-684-5627 June 6

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

Ron Wriker 101 Caswell Drive, Castalia Apr. 6

Send mail to: 5316 Bardshar Rd, Sandusky OH 44870

Paul Wiedenheft 4216 Homegardner Rd., Sandusky OH 44870 Oct. 11

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.

DECEMBER MILESTONES

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Tara Jones
- 2 Janis Miller
- 3 David Canter C.J. Stierhoff
- 4 Regan Patten
- 5 Jeffrey Wright Jack Wright
- 7 Ray Chapman Joseph Miller Alinor Stephens Ian Nemitz Cayden Orshoski
- 9 Robert Moser Viola Liptok Sharon Swartz
- 10 Natalie Powell Melissa Stierhoff
- 11 Edward Grahl David Warner
- 13 Christopher Casanova
- 14 James Bertsch
- 15 Joshua Miller
- 16 Nancy Vollmer Larry Velliquette Connor Swartz
- 17 Carrie Lemert
- 19 Patsy Troike Emily Trout Lilah Werner
- 20 Alice Kuns Jeff Canter



- 21 Rachel Haynes
 Ryan Patten
 Lincoln Smith
 Remy Schenk
 Dawn Smith
 Mark Wiedenheft
- 22 Jeffrey Miller Tiffany Bohn Mary Miller
- 23 James Yantz Joanne Browne
- 24 Jan Jenkins
- 25 Barry Gill
- 26 Mackenzie Todd
- 27 Shelby Stallard Tiffany Bahnsen Douglas Stierhoff
- 29 Jacob Stierhoff
- 30 Liam Jones Ross Patten Jason Hemmer Krista Schill Mary Ann Neidler

ANNIVERSARIES

- 5~ Mark & Carrie Wiedenheft $12\mathrm{th}$
- 6 Russell & Leigh Howard- 24th
- 7 Chet & Penny Solem 14th
- 29 Weston & Laura Miller 9th



Michael & Susan Cullen, Paul & LaVonne Gysan, Bob & Alice Bertsch, Dave & Cathy Wobser in memory of Dorothy Miller





Thank you to Jim Bertsch, Rhonda Neill, and Barb Wobser for taking the time to put together the 2022 budget and the recommendations for the Endowment Fund Proceeds.

Viola Liptok and her family would like to thank everyone for all their thoughts, well wishes, and prayers over the last months as Viola has worked on regaining her strength. They are very much appreciated.



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

- Jim Bertsch for the donation of the new rug for the educational wing doors
- Bonnie Lieb and Barb Sessler for their work on the pork & sauerkraut meal.
- To the kitchen help for the pork & sauerkraut meal: Sally, Judy, Trevor, Denise, Jim, Gary, Angie, Missy
- To our outgoing council members for all their work over the years: Mike

Markley, Sally Warner, Judy Driscoll, Bonnie Lieb, and Barb Wobser

ECEMBER 2021

3 1 S U N	M o N	TUES	W E D	Тникѕ	FRI	SAT
				2	3	4
			Pr Ralph in Office AM NA 7:00 pm	Advent Devotion Service 6 pm	Office Closed (Carol on Vac)	NA 11:00 am
5 Second Sunday of Advent	9	PEARL T	∞	6	10	11
Communion Service 8:00 & 10:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am	Pr Ralph in the office AM		Pr Ralph in the office AM	Advent Devotion Service 6 pm		NA 11:00 am
			NA 7:00 pm			
Third Sunday of Advent	13	14	15 Dr. Ralah in the office	16	17	18
Worship Service 8:00 & 10:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Jam Session 9:30 am S.S. Christmas Program 4:00 pm	Pr Ralph in the office AM		Crossroads Meal 1pm Advent Service 6 pm NA 7:00 pm	Council Mtg 7:00 pm	Office Closed (Carol on Vac)	NA 11:00 am
19 Fourth Sunday of Advent	20	21	22	23	24	25
Communion Service 8:00 & 10:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am	Pr Ralph in the office AM		Pr Ralph in the office AM		Christmas Eve Worship Services	Christmas Day
Wear your ugly sweater!			NA 7:00 pm		Office Closed	NA 11:00 am
First Sunday of Christmas	27	28	29	30	31	
Worship Service 9:00 am only	Pr Ralph in the office AM					
	Fellowship Hall Reserved 4 - 8 pm					

Prayers, Readings and Psalm for the month of December

December 5 - Second Sunday of Advent

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

Luke 1:68-79 - In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us. (Lk. 1:78)

Philippians 1:3-11 - A harvest of righteousness on the day of Jesus Christ

<u>Luke 3:1-6</u> - Prepare the way of the Lord

Prayer of the Day: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

December 12 - Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20 - Rejoice, the LORD is in your midst

<u>Isaiah 12:2-6</u> - In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Is. 12:6)

Philippians 4:4-7 - Rejoice, the Lord is near

<u>Luke 3:7-18</u> - One more powerful is coming, baptizing with fire

Prayer of the Day: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

December 19 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a - From Bethlehem comes a ruler

<u>Luke 1:46b-55</u> - You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)

Hebrews 10:5-10 - I have come to do your will

Luke 1:39-45 [46-55] -Blessed are you among women / My soul magnifies the Lord

Prayer of the Day: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

December 24 - Christmas Eve

<u>Isaiah 9:2-7</u> - Light shines: a child is born for us

<u>Psalm 96</u> - Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad. (Ps. 96:11)

Titus 2:11-14 - The grace of God has appeared

<u>Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]</u> - God with us

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

December 26 - First Sunday of Christmas

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 - The boy Samuel grew in favor with the LORD and the people

Psalm 148 - The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven. (*Ps. 148:13*)

Colossians 3:12-17 - Clothe yourselves in love; let the peace of Christ rule your hearts

<u>Luke 2:41-52</u> - The boy Jesus increased in wisdom, and in divine and human favor

Prayer of the Day: Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



FREE COMMUNITY DINNER

Free and open to anyone in the community!

Grace Lutheran Church 203 S. Washington St. Castalia, OH 44824



- Wed., Dec. 8th
- 5:00 pm 6:00 pm (or until gone)
- Drive-thru pickup (free) in the back of church

Delivery is available for shut-ins, call 419-357-3672 to schedule a delivery.



Directing Choice Dollars® and Personal Giving: A How-To Guide

Direct Choice Dollars Online

- 1. Visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice.
- 2. Click Direct Choice Dollars.
- Log in by entering your User ID and password. (If you haven't yet registered on thrivent.com, click Register for account access.)
- 4. Choose the organization to which you want to direct Choice Dollars:
 - a. To direct to a previous organization:
 - Click Direct Now next to the organization's name or
 - Click on the View activity history link, scroll down and click on the name of the desired organization.
 - To direct to a new organization, enter keyword(s) like organization name, ZIP code, cause, etc. Click Search.
- Choose Direct All or enter a specific number and click Direct Now. Follow the prompts on the confirmation page to direct Choice Dollars.

Direct Choice Dollars by Phone

- Call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say Thrivent Choice.
- Press 1 to direct Choice Dollars or 2 to hear Thrivent Choice Dollars program Terms and Conditions. (If prompted, say or enter your phone number and date of birth.)
- A representative will work with you to direct Choice Dollars.

Want to make an even bigger impact?

Make a personal donation at thriventchoice. Thrivent pays the processing fees so 100% of your donation goes to help.* Click Make a personal donation and search the Thrivent Choice Catalog. Once you locate the organization to which you wish to donate, click Make a Personal Donation. You'll then be sent to InFaith Community Foundation to make the donation.

Thrivent will pay the online processing fees for personal donations made through InFaith Community Foundation up to \$100,000 per calendar year. The Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program engages Thrivent clients with membership and Thrivent Member Networks in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering Thrivent's mission and its purposes under state law. All grant decisions, including grant recipients and amounts, are made at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Directing Choice Dollars® is subject to the program's Terms and Conditions available at thrivent.com/thriventchoice.



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Page 2 of 2—Only valid with all pages.

29100 R8-20

Firelands Chorus, Inc. presents

"Memories of Christmas Past"

Jeffrey Kearney, Director Morgan Noon, Accompanist

Friday, December 10th & Saturday December 11th

Doors open at 7:00 pm

Program at 7:30 pm

FREE CONCERT
Freewill Offering Collected

Zion Lutheran Church 503 Columbus Ave. Sandusky, Ohio

Masks are optional, but suggested to help prevent the spread of Covid-19

