



Trinity Times

502 Bardshar Road, Sandusky, OH 44870

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October 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

Dear Church,

“By this everyone will know you are my disciples, if you love one another” John 13:35

It's so easy to quote a Bible verse and use it to say what it is you want. Yet it's always important to know what is surrounding the verse to understand it. It's important to ask, “Why was this written and how do we come to understand it yet today?” For the verse I just quoted, Jesus is saying this to his disciples after the Passover meal he shared with them and after he had just washed their feet. He tells them that he has given them a new commandment: To love one another just like he has loved them. It's in that kind of love that people will know that they are his disciples. It's a love that is based in service more than words and a love that doesn't seek to shame or change even Judas who was to betray him.

The Christian church universal has done both incredibly amazing things in that kind of love and yet has also done devastating things in Jesus's name. It is easy to look back in history to point those places out because we aren't pointing fingers at ourselves. It's easy to see the terribleness of the crusades and inquisitions, the horrific-ness in using God to justify slavery, the abuse of the gospels by allowing the Holocaust. Time and space help us have a clearer vision. Those who perpetrated these atrocities were people who fervently believed they were being faithful.

I think that is the important thing to remember. Horrible things were done by people who fully believed themselves to be faithful followers of Jesus. That scares me a bit to be honest because it makes me slow down and have to examine my own beliefs and actions. I hope it slows you down too! Are their people being hurt by my beliefs and actions? Am I causing direct harm? Do I support those who use their Christian faith to justify things that hurt others? Just because someone is a Christian, does that make all they are saying and doing good? It's easy to say lots of loving things while still doing harm. We are sinners and saints at the same time after all.

Here are some questions to ask both of ourselves and others to check our positions of love:

Do I recognize the dignity and intrinsic value in people with whom I disagree? Do I respect everyone as my equal even if they are younger/older, different, or disabled? Can I love someone without asking or expecting them to change? Do my actions bring about separation or inclusion? Can I answer these questions without a “Yes, but....”

Barbra Brown Taylor's quote is often cited because it sums up things beautifully: “The only clear line I draw these days is this: when my religion tries to come between me and my neighbor, I will choose my neighbor.” This is the love to which we have been called, love that sees God in the reflection of all people.

With all my love too,

Pastor Jen



Recently, Trinity experienced a spoofing scam. An e-mail was distributed claiming to be Pastor Jen, requesting donations for a charitable cause. Unfortunately, this is a common issue in the digital age, even with churches across the nation, with scammers appealing to emotions (e.g. requesting help for cancer care). Pastor Jen, church staff, and council members will never request your personal information or solicit donations for a vague cause not clearly announced in the bulletin, newsletter, or during worship announcements. If you receive a message that seems suspicious, **do not respond** or click any links provided. Doing so may cause identity theft. Instead, call the church office to confirm the message's validity.



Anatomy of an Electronic Scam

Even if the sender claims to be a real person you know, always check the e-mail address or phone number. If it's unusually long, contains many numbers and characters, or doesn't match the real sender's address, it's likely fraudulent.

Banks, credit card companies, government institutions, businesses, or churches will never request your personal information or passwords. For important communications, snail mail is often used, not electronic.

Ohio Department of Vehicles(BMV) Final Notice: Enforcement Penalties Begin on June 11.
Our records show that as of today, you still have an outstanding traffic ticket. In accordance with ohio State State Administrative Code 15C-16.003, if you do not complete payment by June 10, 2025, we will take the following actions:

1. Report to the BMV violation database
 2. Suspend your vehicle registration starting June 11
 3. Suspend driving privileges for 30 days
 4. Transfer to a toll booth and charge a 35% service fee
 5. You may be prosecuted and your credit score will be affected
- Pay Now:

<http://bmv.ohiogovdyt.vip/pay>

Please pay immediately before enforcement to avoid license suspension and further legal disputes.
(Reply Y and re-open this message to click the link, or copy it to your browser.)

Are there spelling or grammatical errors? Does the message match the personality of the sender and is logical (e.g. if Pastor Jen claims to be so busy in meetings all day, how did she find time to send a congregation-wide e-mail?)

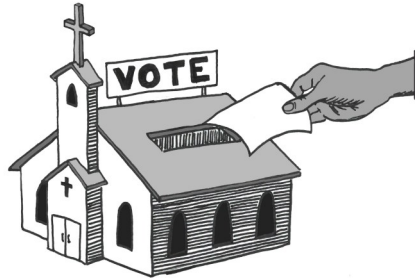
The message demands the reader to click on external sources or respond. Government websites always end with .gov. Responding or clicking on links may transfer sensitive information or cause your device to be susceptible to a virus.

Scams are written so the receiver acts urgently without thinking. Often there are deadlines or consequences listed.

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Sunday, October 19th at 9:15am is the annual congregation meeting. The church council election will be held for four available committee chairs: Worship and Music, Witness and Welcome, Community Mission, and Stewardship and Finance. Descriptions for each committee's responsibility are in the church by-laws and are also available in the church office.

The length of each term is two years, with a maximum of three consecutive terms (six years). Committee meetings are at the discretion of the chair, and church council meets monthly. If you're interested in serving Trinity as a chairperson for one of committees below, please contact the church office by **October 6th**. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration!



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Sandusky, Ohio - Sandusky OH
Balance Sheet as of October 31, 2025

Monday, September 22, 2025

Page 1 of 1

Account # Account Name YTD Balance

Assets

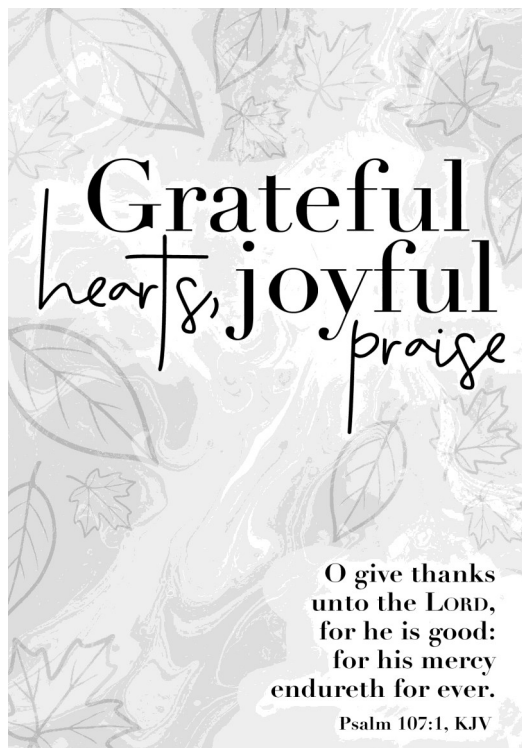
1.100.102	Checking Account	32,644.14
1.100.104	Petty Cash Fund	20.00
1.100.106	Thrivent Bond Fund Checking	25,900.39
1.200.113	Thrivent Youth Gathering M/M	3,562.62
1.200.114	Thrivent Money Market Account	1,746.36
1.220.116	Endowment Savings Thrivent	112,505.39
1.220.118	Mission Plus Investments (3 CD's)	4,236.57
1.220.120	Edward Jones Mutual Fund	300,848.91
1.400.110	Thrivent Moderate Fund (Reserve)	66,307.54
1.400.112	Thrivent Moderate Fund - Pavement	1,015.02
Total Assets		\$548,786.94

Liabilities

2.100.210	Financial_Agent	765.40
2.100.216	Ohio Treasurer of St	475.00
2.100.218	R.I.T.A.	272.11
2.100.220	Board of Pension	240.96
Total Liabilities		\$1,753.47

Fund Balances

3.100.300	Current Fund Balance	(17,542.96)
3.210.300	Community Mission Fund Balance	2,552.21
3.220.300	Designated Giving Fund Balance	
3.221.300	Memorial Fund Balance	18,398.01
3.222.300	Endowment Fund Balance	116,756.96
3.223.300	Building Improvement Fund Balance	58,697.78
3.225.300	Pavement Fund Balance	1,015.02
3.227.300	Charity Fund Balance	300,848.91
Total Designated Giving Fund Balance		\$495,716.68
3.400.300	Reserve Fund Balance	66,307.54
Total Fund Balances		\$547,033.47
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances		\$548,786.94



Attending: Pat Wiedenheft, Jim Bertsch, PR. Jen, Carrie Wiedenheft, Bill Bertsch, Barb Sessler, Betsy Stierhoff, Nancy Vollmer, Stephanie Lehr

Meeting called to order by President Carrie Wiedenheft. A devotion was given by PR. Jen.

Minutes of previous meeting were reviewed with a change of spelling and the acolyte list remaining the same. Barb motioned to approve, Bill 2nd.

Treasurer's report: Community mission money was distributed during the end of July; total of checks was \$500. The church budget remains in a deficit; donations in July were \$12,632 and \$16,971 was spent. Betsy motioned to approve, Barb 2nd.

President's Report: No report given.

Pastor's Report: PR. Jen and Cathy Wobser performed visits. They will also review the columbarium guidelines. The ELCA assembly was held recently and elected a new bishop. PR. Jen is preparing for Sunday school & confirmation, which will start in September. Campfires at the parsonage will also be held.

Congregational Life (Sally Warner): No report given.

Faith Builders (Pat Wiedenheft): Sunday school letter distributed. Carrie Killingsworth and Shelby Koch will continue teaching.

Community Mission (Betsy Stierhoff): Wreaths Across America was discussed; December 13th at noon at Castalia cemetery. Met goal on World Relief collection kits.

Property: Flag light was recently fixed. The gathering room project is moving forward with quotes on cabinets. Jim noted several cracks in the sidewalk.

Stewardship and Finance (Jim Bertsch): Stephanie sent the stewardship letters to congregation members.

Worship and Music (Nancy Vollmer/Barb Sessler): No report given.

Young at Heart (Nancy Vollmer): The group will be meeting soon.

Old Business: Portals of Prayer will be discussed next month.

New Business: The storage of choir robes was discussed, and it was decided a cover will be purchased. Pat motioned, Nancy 2nd. Bill will investigate the ping-pong table in the Sunday school room. Mission teams must submit their budgets. The October council meeting was changed to October 9th. The congregation meeting will be held October 19th at 9:15am. A nominating committee is needed. A date reminder will be written in the bulletin two weeks prior. The council discussed a possible revision of facility rental rules. Guy Miller was approved for rental on September 21st from noon-4pm. Jill Connor was approved for rental on October 25th from 4-10pm. Nancy motioned, Pat 2nd. PR. Jen needs committee volunteers for the 100th anniversary in 2026.

Council Thank-yous: Patty Swartz for Music Department donation. Russ Stephens (guitar), iPad operators Kathy Bango, Cathy Wobser, Shelby Koch. Carrie Killingsworth, Chris Nielsen

Assistant to count offering until the next meeting: Pat Wiedenheft. The devotion leader for the next meeting: Betsy Stierhoff
October meeting is 10/9. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

love it live it talk it
Walk It
Faith
own it loan it grow it
Show It



FAITH Member Ministry

Friends and Family Abiding in Christ In Their
Homes/Hospitals/Healthcare Center

FAITH Members (as of 10/01/2025)

Commons of Providence, 5000 Providence Drive, Sandusky

Ruth Sieb Apt #107

Birthday: Sept. 19

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

Ruby Stierhoff Rm #114

Birthday: July 26

Parkvue Community, 3800 Boardwalk Blvd, Sandusky OH 44870

Ray Remy Apt. 112
Mary Ann Neidler

Birthday: Feb 9

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

Alice Bertsch Rm #43

Birthday: April 25

Patty Swartz

Birthday: June 5

In their homes:

Judy Welser 5619 Debra Drive, Castalia 419-684-7232

Laura Allen 2015 Cedar Point Rd, Sandusky

Pat Nielsen 1502 Martins Point Rd, Sandusky

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.



**Altar
Servers**

*Barb Sessler
Bonnie Lieb*



**Praise
God
with
Music**

JAM!

October 12th

Crossroads Meal by Jim Bertsch

**Chicken & noodles
Corn
Salad
Bread & butter
Angel food cake & raspberry topping**



If you would like to support this ministry, please mark your church donation as "Homeless Meals."





OCTOBER

birthdays & anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

Todd Stierhoff & Hemi Palmison
 Betty Miller & Audre House
 Joyce Patterson & Rosemarie Canter
 Athena Haynes & Brock Parker
 Casey Miller
 Deborah Sharp & Trent Hershey
 Mark Markley, Sally Hershey, Chris Nielsen
 Ron Werner, Geoffrey Saunier, Emma Killingsworth

Adam Davis, Kathy Parker, Elisa Kurth
 William Hirt
 Roger Huff
 Halle Miller & Joshua David Canter
 Denise Casanova & Emily Strauss
 Bret Hirt
 Gayle Thompson
 Kellie Beiser
 Charlie Bango, AJ Oeder, Cameron Swartz
 Amy Baum, Kevin Cox, Glen Bango
 Bradley Pooock
 Mary Kuhn
 Susan Corbin

10/01

10/02

10/04

10/05

10/08

10/09

10/10

10/11

10/13

10/14

10/15

10/16

10/17

10/18

10/19

10/20

10/22

10/23

10/24

10/25

10/27

Sally & Robert Hershey 10/04

Glen & Patti Bango 10/07

Dana & Matthew Savage 10/09

Robert & Melissa Wiedenheft 10/10

Hollynn & Allen Hipp 10/10

Carrie & Kenneth Killingsworth 10/10

Max & Valri Didion 10/11

Jeffrey & Chris Nielsen 10/21

Rhonda & Dean Matus 10/22

Jeff & Shelly Robbins 10/23

YEARS

17

30

21

10

10

15

11

36

2

43

MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

Thank you to those who offered thoughts and prayers during this difficult time of unexpectedly losing my uncle/godfather. I am grateful to be in a space where one's humanness is uplifted and supported, not condemned. Your thoughtfulness is so appreciated.

Stephanie Lehr




Trinity would like to thank:

- Mike Markley for installing the parsonage overhead light & fan
- Those donated and assisted with God's Work, Our Hands
- Sally and Dave Warner for providing ham for Crossroads



October 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 AA 9am NA 7pm	2	3	4 NA 11am
5 Pentecost 17 Communion Service 8:00 & 10:30am Sunday School 9:15am	6	7	8 AA 9am NA 7pm	9 Council mtg 7pm	10	11 NA 11am
12 Pentecost 18 Word & Prayer Service 8:00 & 10:30am Sunday School 9:15am JAM Session 9:30am	13	14	15 Crossroads AA 9am NA 7pm	16	17	18 NA 11am
19 Pentecost 19 Communion Service 8:00 & 10:30am Sunday School 9:15am Congregational Mtg 9:15am	20	21	22 AA 9am NA 7pm	23	24	25 Fellowship hall reserved 7:30— 10pm NA 11am
26 Reformation Sunday Word & Prayer Service 8:00 & 10:30am Sunday School 9:15am	27	28	29 AA 9am NA 7pm	30	31 	

HELPERS AT WORSHIP - October & November 2025

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

Alter Care: Barb Sessler & Bonnie Lieb Communion Assistant – 8:00 Sally Warner 10:30 Gayle Thompson

October 5	David & Cathy Wobser	Peggy Kingsborough	Roy Patterson & Sally Warner	Erica Miller	Tyler Wiedenheft	Bob Troike & David Wobser	Gayle Thomson	Mason Russell
October 12	Carrie Killingsworth	Wendy Wiedenheft	Roy Patterson & Sally Warner	Joyce Patterson	Carlie Wiedenheft	Bob Troike & David Wobser	Natalie Thompson	Malachi Herrmann
October 19	Linda & Sam Wilcox	Greg Norman	Roy Patterson & Sally Warner	Russ Stephens		Bob Troike & David Wobser	Chrissy Nielsen	
October 26		Candy Beatty	Roy Patterson & Sally Warner	Carrie Wiedenheft	Zane Warner	Bob Troike & David Wobser	Candy Beatty	Natalie Thompson

Alter Care: Betty Miller & Cathy Wobser Communion Assistant – 8:00 Guy Miller 10:30 Cathy Wobser

November 2	Ken Schenk		Fred Wobser & Kent Miller	Sally Warner	Emma Killingsworth	Bonnie Lieb & Dennis Sessler	Cathy Wobser	Mason Russell
November 9	Craig & Betsy Stierhoff	Rex & Charlene Stierhoff	Fred Wobser & Kent Miller	Guy Miller	Ryan Wiedenheft	Bonnie Lieb & Dennis Sessler	Gayle Thompson	
November 16	Carrie Killingsworth		Fred Wobser & Kent Miller	Erica Miller	Lincoln Smith	Bonnie Lieb & Dennis Sessler	Natalie Thompson	
November 23	Gary & Bonnie Lieb		Fred Wobser & Kent Miller	Joyce Patterson	Drew Killingsworth	Bonnie Lieb & Dennis Sessler	Chrissy Nielsen	Natalie Thompson
November 30	Mark & Carrie Wiedenheft		Fred Wobser & Kent Miller	Carrie Wiedenheft	Tyler Wiedenheft	Bonnie Lieb & Dennis Sessler	Cathy Wobser	Mason Russell

October Prayers. Readings & Psalms

October 5th: Seventeenth Sunday Of Pentecost

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

Wicked surround the righteous; wait for the LORD

Psalms 37:1-9

Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD. (Ps. 37:5)

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Guard the treasure entrusted to you: faith and love in Christ

Luke 17:5-10

Faith the size of a mustard seed

Prayer of the Day

Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

October 12th: Eighteenth Sunday Of Pentecost

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

Naaman washes in the Jordan and is cleansed

Psalms 111

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart. (Ps. 111:1)

2 Timothy 2:8-15

If we die with Christ, we will live with Christ

Luke 17:11-19

One leper made clean by Jesus gives thanks to God

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and most merciful God, your bountiful goodness fills all creation. Keep us safe from all that may hurt us, that, whole and well in body and spirit, we may with grateful hearts accomplish all that you would have us do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

October 19th: Nineteenth Sunday Of Pentecost

Genesis 32:22-31

Jacob's struggle with the angel: I'll not let go until you bless me

Psalms 121

My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth. (Ps. 121:2)

2 Timothy 3:14—4:5

In the presence of Christ the judge, proclaim the message

Luke 18:1-8

The widow begs for justice; God grants justice to those who cry to him

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



October 26th: Twentieth Sunday Of Pentecost

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22

Jerusalem will be defeated

Psalms 84:1-7

Happy are the people whose strength is in you. (Ps. 84:5)

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

The good fight of faith

Luke 18:9-14

A Pharisee and tax collector pray together

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, our righteous judge, daily your mercy surprises us with everlasting forgiveness. Strengthen our hope in you, and grant that all the peoples of the earth may find their glory in you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.



Five Practical Ways to Express Pastor Appreciation

1. Write Personal Notes of Encouragement

Handwritten notes can have lasting impact. Share how a sermon shaped your life, or recall a time their prayer strengthened you. Keep it heartfelt and specific—those words may become treasures they return to during hard days.

2. Organize a Church-Wide Appreciation Day

Dedicate a Sunday to celebrate your pastor's ministry. Invite testimonies from members, prepare a special meal, or create a slideshow of memories. Collective gratitude leaves a powerful imprint.

3. Provide a Family Getaway

Pastoral life can be exhausting. Pool resources to give your pastor and their family a weekend retreat or vacation. The gift of rest refreshes both body and spirit.

4. Support Continuing Education

Many pastors long for further study but lack resources. Consider funding a conference, retreat, or class. Investing in their growth strengthens the whole congregation.

5. Offer Practical Help at Home

Simple acts—mowing the lawn, babysitting children, or bringing meals—lift burdens. These small kindnesses communicate care beyond church walls.

From churchleaders.com

Blessings and gratitude for Pastor Jen for all you do!