

# Trinity Times

502 Bardshar Road, Sandusky, OH 44870

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

February 2026

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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](http://www.trinityelca.com)

[trinityelcasandusky@gmail.com](mailto:trinityelcasandusky@gmail.com)

Pastor Jennifer Herrmann

## *A note from Pastor Jen*

Dear Church,

Happy Groundhog's Day!  
Happy Candlemas Day!  
Happy 100th Anniversary!  
(And happy baptismal birthday to Malachi as a personal aside!)

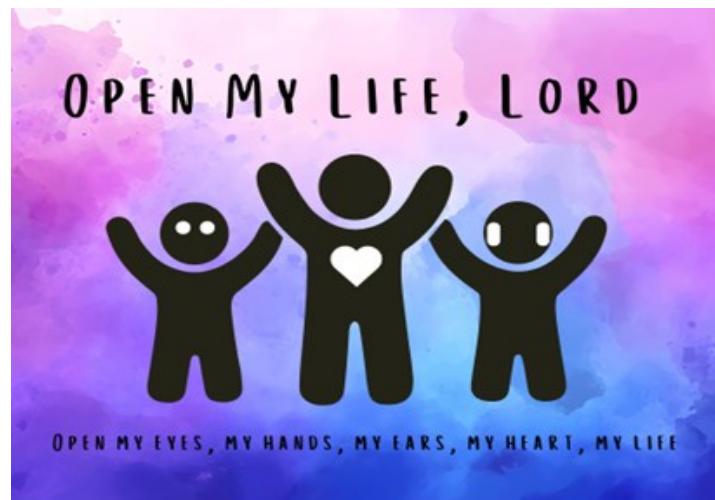
Growing into a church took time. From the first of the Sunday School classes in 1892 and 1897 to the first of the afternoon worship services twice a month in 1907, our congregation was being conceived. In 1913 the cornerstone of the chapel was placed and our sanctuary began to take shape. In January of 1926 the time was ripe and the choice to form a distinct congregation apart from Zion was made. It was February 2, 1926 when Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Venice was established. From there, things have continued to grow for 100 years.

We will have a 100 year celebration on September 13, 2016! Please mark your calendars for a special worship service and meal that day. Starting on June 5 we will begin a One Hundred Day Countdown to our celebration. Anniversary plans are taking shape. If you are interested, we are looking for people willing and able to work on sorting and archiving some of the history of the church. If you would like to submit a memory that you have, you may write it up and get it to me before June 5th. (Preferably email/digital or typed. If it's hand written please get it to me as soon as possible so that I can work on transcribing!) There will be more information and things to celebrate and remember this year, so just keep your eyes and ears open!

Lent will be upon us very soon. Ash Wednesday services will be held on February 18th, And our Lenten services will start that next week. The theme this year is: Open My Life, Lord. I will be looking for dialogue partners for our services this year –similar to last year but even less “acting” so if you can read out loud, you could do it! I invite you to join me after our Lenten service for a “bring your own bag lunch” if you’d like.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Jen*



**BEWARE:** Our church was recently scammed again. This is a **common** issue for everyone in the modern age, especially churches. A Spoofing Scam is defined as a scammer posing as a credible person or company to obtain funds. Unfortunately, due to accessibility in the digital world, there is no way to prevent scams. It is best to look out for red flags.

**REMEMBER:** Pastor Jen, church staff, or council members will never request your personal information or financial assistance. Any charity or fundraising will **not** be announced through personal messaging. It will be announced officially in the bulletin, newsletter, or before worship. **Never provide any response to a suspected scam.** Block the sender immediately. If you receive an unusual message claiming to be Pastor Jen and are unsure, please call the church office at 419-626-0204 or call Pastor Jen's cell phone directly.



From AARP: Clergy Scams: How Impious Imposters Prey on the Faithful

Written by Katherine Skiba

Believed to be a growing problem, clergy scams occur across faith groups and across the U.S. They've besieged Christians and Jews, Catholics and Protestants, Buddhists and Muslims. Talking about the scourge, Daniel Aronson, a 56-year-old rabbi, says, "There is no word other than sacrilegious." Since he joined Congregation Ahavas Achim in Keene, New Hampshire, in August, his identity has been hijacked in scam attempts "maybe five or six times — I've kind of lost count." Every time it happens, the synagogue sends out a warning to members. Aronson was told that one congregant reportedly lost about \$600 in a gift-card scam, but says the victim refuses to come forward.

The deceit unfolds like this:

- 1. The bad actors hijack the identity of a religious leader or, say, an administrative staffer at a house of worship.
- 2. They text or email congregants with a sob story: A cancer patient is hurting for cash. A man was tossed out of work. A family's home has flooded after the pipes burst.
- 3. There's always an excuse as to why the religious leaders can't help at that moment. That they are unavailable is often the rationale for seeking outside help.

Sabrina Price, 60, a widow living near Hattiesburg, Mississippi, got an email one evening in February from a criminal masquerading as her Christian pastor. She thought it was legit because the email address looked like his. The "pastor" said he was out of town and needed a favor: \$100 gift cards for five women undergoing cancer treatment. He specified eBay or Amazon cards, and Price says he assured her "he'd pay me back, cash or check." She snapped up \$500 in Amazon cards at Walgreens, took photos of their numbers and texted them. The numbers gave the impostor instant access to the funds. But he didn't stop there. That same evening, he texted, asking for more cards; the next morning, he said he wanted 10 cards worth \$100 each. That's when Price smelled a rat and fired off a text: "You are a thief and a liar. God sees what you did to me and are doing to others," she fumed.

According to news accounts, Catholic parishes in Ohio have been targeted, along with synagogues in Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina and Tennessee. In Delray Beach, Florida, an 80-year-old woman bought \$10,500 in gift cards for a man she thought was her pastor. In Madison, Wisconsin, a 78-year-old man purchased \$900 in cards for someone he was led to believe was his pastor.

On **February 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am**, Young At Heart will be decorating Valentine cookies for our shut-ins and community service groups. You're invited to join us. It has been a lot of fun in the past. Please bring something to share for lunch and, of course, cookie donations are welcome. If you think you might join us, please sign up on the sheet in the hall to give us an estimate.



Grace Lutheran in Castalia is having a free community dinner on **Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> 5-6pm**. Menu is hamburger gravy over mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, bread & dessert. Delivery is available for shut-ins; call 419-357-3672.

## Sunday School News

We would like to thank some special people who helped to make our Sunday school Christmas program a wonderful event. First, Sunday school teachers **Carrie Killingsworth and Shelby Koch**.

Next, our Sunday school music

teacher **Adele Hoffman**. And finally, all our students who did such a wonderful job with their reading parts or playing music on different musical instruments. They certainly did make a Joyous Noise with their talents playing Christmas music!

And we also need to thank **Denise Casanova** for helping behind the scenes with the decorating for the photo ops and also for making the corsages for the Crazy Christmas Sweaters day. Thank you **Deann McKillips and the Tux World** for letting us use their tuxes for the photo ops. And a huge thank-you to everyone who got pictures taken after the Christmas program and participated in wearing ugly or cute Christmas sweaters/tops on the following Sunday. Your participation certainly makes us closer as a Family of Faith!

## Congregational Life News

The Congregational Life team has started to put together medical equipment that members can use in case of an accident or medical emergency. We currently have one wheelchair, two knee scooters, crutches, and a walking cane. Other items may be added as we get them. These items are for you to use at no charge. All we ask is that you sign out and list an approximate date of return. These items are being stored under the steps off the fellowship hall. If and when more items are added, we will let you know.



Create in me a clean heart, O God.  
Psalm 51:10



### Super Bowl Sub Sandwich Sale

Pre Order Now  
Pick Up February 8  
After each Service



\$7 Meal Includes:  
Sub (Ham or Turkey)  
Chips & Pickle  
Cookie (PB, M&M, or 2xChocolate)

**SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> 1:30 — 3:00pm** WE'RE GOING GREEN and focusing on the topic of " F. R. O. G". We'll be playing bingo like last year and hopefully you will join us. If you want to participate in the prizes for Bingo, start looking for something green to share. Also, for snacks, we're asking you to bring in green-colored snacks to share. Mark your calendars for this fun event!

# Council Update

## TRINITY CONGREGATION COUNCIL Meeting Highlights - December 28th, 2025 - 7:00 pm

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

Meeting called to order by President Carrie Wiedenheft. A devotion was given by Bill Bertsch.

Minutes of previous meeting were reviewed with a change of Gayle being present by phone. Bill motioned to approve; Barb 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Treasurer's report:** The budget has seen significant improvements. The Pastor's House Equity Allowance still needs to be reported. The 2026 housing value is \$14,600. Portico is done monthly

**President's Report:** No report given.

**Pastor's Report:** PR. Jen is getting ready for Christmas services. She thanked Carrie & Sally who substituted when she was ill. She proposed her vacation time December 28<sup>th</sup> through (tentatively) January 4<sup>th</sup>. Confirmation class will resume in January. There will be a personnel committee & anniversary meeting in January. A meeting will be done the following week to review the columbarium.

**Congregational Life (Sally Warner):** Sally proposed to have mobility devices such as crutches, wheelchairs, etc. stored under the stairwell. There will be another bingo afternoon in 2026. The Wreaths Across America went well.

**Faith Builders (Pat Wiedenheft):** Youth will have a pajama day and will begin collecting cereal boxes. Approximately 40 bags of puppy chow were sold.

**Community Mission (Betsy Stierhoff):** No report given.

**Property:** Painting is underway and council was shown samples. The elevator has been fixed and the parsonage heating is finished. The big basement boiler is awaiting inspection. The flag has been changed.

**Stewardship and Finance (Jim Bertsch):** There will be an annual audit in February.

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

**Young at Heart (Nancy Vollmer):** The luncheon and Firelands Chorus event had good turnout.

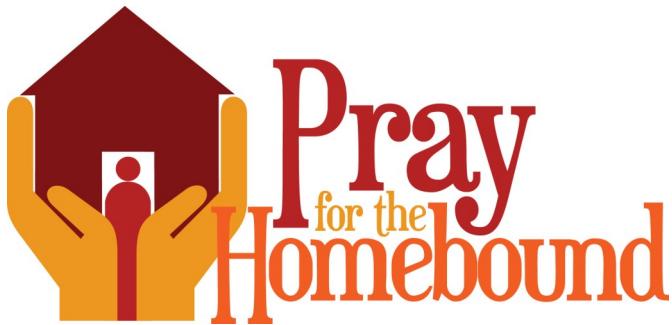
**Old Business:** Barb discussed the usher schedule.

**New Business:** No report given.

**Council Thank-yous:** Jim for cleaning sidewalks; Mark, Tyler, Ryan, Rob, Eva, Oliver for nativity scene; Rumpke trash; decoration helpers

### Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Sandusky, Ohio - Sandusky OH Balance Sheet as of February 28, 2026

Friday, January 30, 2026		Page 1 of 1
Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance
<b>Assets</b>		
1.100.102	Checking Account	49,533.12
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	5,346.61
1.200.114	Thrivent Money Market Account	1,746.36
1.220.116	Endowment Savings Thrivent	98,630.39
1.220.118	Mission Plus Investments (3 CD's)	4,306.39
1.220.120	Edward Jones Mutual Fund	284,312.25
1.400.110	Thrivent Moderate Fund (Reserve)	41,307.54
1.400.112	Thrivent Moderate Fund - Pavement	1,015.02
	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$512,118.07</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
2.100.216	Ohio Treasurer of St	203.00
2.100.218	R.I.T.A.	112.67
	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$315.67</b>
<b>Fund Balances</b>		
3.100.300	Current Fund Balance	149.45
3.210.300	Community Mission Fund Balance	10,880.57
3.220.300	Designated Giving Fund Balance	
3.221.300	Memorial Fund Balance	8,128.01
3.222.300	Endowment Fund Balance	102,996.78
3.223.300	Building Improvement Fund Balance	63,012.78
3.225.300	Pavement Fund Balance	1,015.02
3.227.300	Charity Fund Balance	284,312.25
	<i>Total Designated Giving Fund Balance</i>	<i>\$459,464.84</i>
3.400.300	Reserve Fund Balance	41,307.54
	<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$511,802.40</b>
	<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$512,118.07</b>



## FAITH Member Ministry

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

## FAITH Members (as of 02/01/2026)

**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      Birthday: Feb 9  
Mary Ann Neidler

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

Alice Bertsch	Rm #43	Birthday: April 25
Patty Swartz	Rm #52	Birthday: June 5

**Admirals Point, 1920 Cleveland Rd W, Huron, OH 44839**

Sam Wilcox

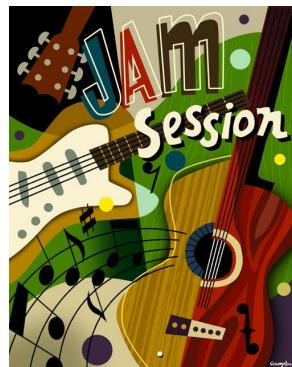
## In their homes:

Judy Welser	5619 Debra Drive, Castalia	419-684-7232
Laura Allen	2015 Cedar Point Rd, Sandusky	
Pat Nielsen	1502 Martins Point Rd, Sandusky	
Marilee Werner	5110 McCartney Rd, Sandusky	
Orpha Densmore	7138 SR 412, Clyde	

## **Crossroads Meal by Jim Bertsch February 18th**

# Spaghetti Salad Roll Cupcakes

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



February 8th, 2026

## Altar Care

Linda Gantz & Cindy Norman





## BIRTHDAYS

Tal Streat 02/05  
 Paul Stierhoff 02/07  
 Erika Thiede 02/07  
 Ronald Cox 02/08  
 Noah Savage 02/08 R  
 Raymond Remy Jr. 02/09  
 Nathaniel Parker 02/10  
 Judy Welser 02/11  
 Dean Matus 02/12  
 Randy Patten 02/13  
 Barbara Swain 02/14  
 David Parker 02/14  
 John Lynn 02/14  
 Mya Smith 02/21  
 Allen Miller 02/23  
 Peggy Kingsborough 02/26  
 Noah Velliquette 02/27



## ANNIVERSARIES

	YEARS
Daniel & Amy Baum	02/10 36
Rex & Charlene Stierhoff	02/18 37
Adele & Harold Hoffman	02/27 48

## MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

*In memory of Judy & Vern Smith & Amy Sargent  
 from Don & Alice Kuns*



Pastor Jen may be contacted at  
 419-822-7630 (call or text) or  
 jen.herrmann@gmail.com

Mike and Maree Markley  
 3714 Ronald Dr. Apt A  
 Castalia, OH 44824



### On behalf of Trinity, we thank:

- Rex & Charlene Stierhoff for the candles
- Mark, Tyler, Carlie, Ryan, Rob, Eva & Oliver Wiedenheft for taking down manger scene



February 2026

S U N	M O N	T U E S	W E D	T H U R S	F R I	S A T
1 4 Epiphany Communion Service 10:30am Sunday School 9:15am	2 8 & Bible Study 10:00am	3 Bible Study 10:00am	4 AA 9:00am NA 7:00am	5	6	7 NA 11:00am
5 & Epiphany Service of Word & Prayer 8 & 10:30am Sunday School 9:15am	9 10 Bible Study 10:00am	11 Bible Study 10:00am	12 AA 9:00am NA 7:00am	13 NA 11:00am	14 	
15 Transfiguration of our Lord Communion Service 10:30am Sunday School 9:15am	16 8 &  Bible Study 10:00am	17 18 Crossroads 1:00pm AA 9:00am NA 7:00am	19 Council Mtg. 7:00pm	20 NA 11:00am	21 NA 11:00am	
22 1 Lent Service of Word & Prayer 8 & 10:30am Sunday School 9:15am	23 24 Bible Study 10:00am	25 AA 9:00am NA 7:00am	26 NA 11:00am	27 NA 11:00am	28 NA 11:00am	

# HELPERS AT WORSHIP - February & March 2026

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

## Altar Care — Linda Gantz & Cindy Norman

## Communion Assistant — 8:00 Sally Warner 10:30: Gayle Thompson

February 1	Dean & Rhonda Matus	Greg Norman & Brad Stierhoff	Carrie Wiedenheft	Emma Killingsworth	Denny Sessler & Barb Sessler	Denny Sessler	Gayle Thompson	Natalie Thompson
February 8	Jim Bertsch	Betty Roeser	Guy Miller	Ryan Wiedenheft	Denny Sessler & Barb Sessler	Denny Sessler	Natalie Thompson	Natalie Thompson
February 15	Rex & Charlene Stierhoff	Greg Norman	Greg Norman & Brad Stierhoff	Joyce Patterson	Tyler Wiedenheft	Denny Sessler & Barb Sessler	Candy Beatty	Mason Russell
February 22	David & Cathy Wobser	Greg Norman & Brad Stierhoff	Russ Stephens	Drew Killingsworth	Denny Sessler & Barb Sessler	Chrissy Nielsen	Chrissy Nielsen	Chrissy Nielsen

## Altar Care — Pat Wiedenheft & Cathy Wobser Communion Assistant — Guy Miller 8:00 10:30: Cathy Wobser

March 1	Mark & Carrie Wiedenheft	Mark Wiedenheft & Rex Stierhoff	Sally Warner	Lincoln Smith	Ken Schenk & Bill Bertsch	Mason Russell	Cathy Wobser	Mason Russell
March 8	Mark & Carrie Wiedenheft	Mark Wiedenheft & Rex Stierhoff	Carrie Wiedenheft	Carlie Wiedenheft	Ken Schenk & Bill Bertsch	Ken Schenk & Bill Bertsch	Cathy Wobser	Cathy Wobser
March 15	Sally Warner	Fred Wobser	Guy Miller	Emma Killingsworth	Ken Schenk & Bill Bertsch	Ken Schenk & Bill Bertsch	Gayle Thompson	Gayle Thompson
March 22	Gary & Bonnie Lieb	Mark Wiedenheft & Rex Stierhoff	Joyce Patterson	Drew Killingsworth	Ken Schenk & Bill Bertsch	Ken Schenk & Bill Bertsch	Natalie Thompson	Natalie Thompson
March 29	Cindy Norman	Mark Wiedenheft & Rex Stierhoff	Carrie Wiedenheft	Zane Warner	Ken Schenk & Bill Bertsch	Ken Schenk & Bill Bertsch	Chrissy Nielsen	Chrissy Nielsen

## February 1st: 4 Epiphany

### **Micah 6:1-8**

*The offering of justice, kindness, humility*

### **Psalm 15**

LORD, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)

### **1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

*Christ crucified, the wisdom and power of God*

### **Matthew 5:1-12**

*The teaching of Christ: Beatitudes*

## February Prayers. Readings & Psalms

## Prayer of the Day

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## February 8th: 5 Epiphany

### **Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]**

*The fast God chooses*

### **Psalm 112:1-9 [10]**

Light shines in the darkness for the upright. (Ps. 112:4)

### **1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]**

*God's wisdom revealed through the Spirit*

### **Matthew 5:13-20**

*The teaching of Christ: salt and light*

## Prayer of the Day

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## February 15th: Transfiguration of our Lord

### **Exodus 24:12-18**

*Moses enters the cloud of God's glory on Mount Sinai*

### **Psalm 2**

You are my son; this day have I begotten you. (Ps. 2:7)

### **2 Peter 1:16-21**

*The apostle's message confirmed on the mount of transfiguration*

### **Matthew 17:1-9**

*Revelation of Christ as God's beloved Son*

**Prayer of the Day:** O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## February 22nd: 1 Lent

### **Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

*Eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil*

### **Psalm 32**

Mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD. (Ps. 32:10)

### **Romans 5:12-19**

*Death came through one; life comes through one*

### **Matthew 4:1-11**

*The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days*



**Prayer of the Day:** Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**