



# Trinity Times

502 Bardshar Road, Sandusky, OH 44870  
**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

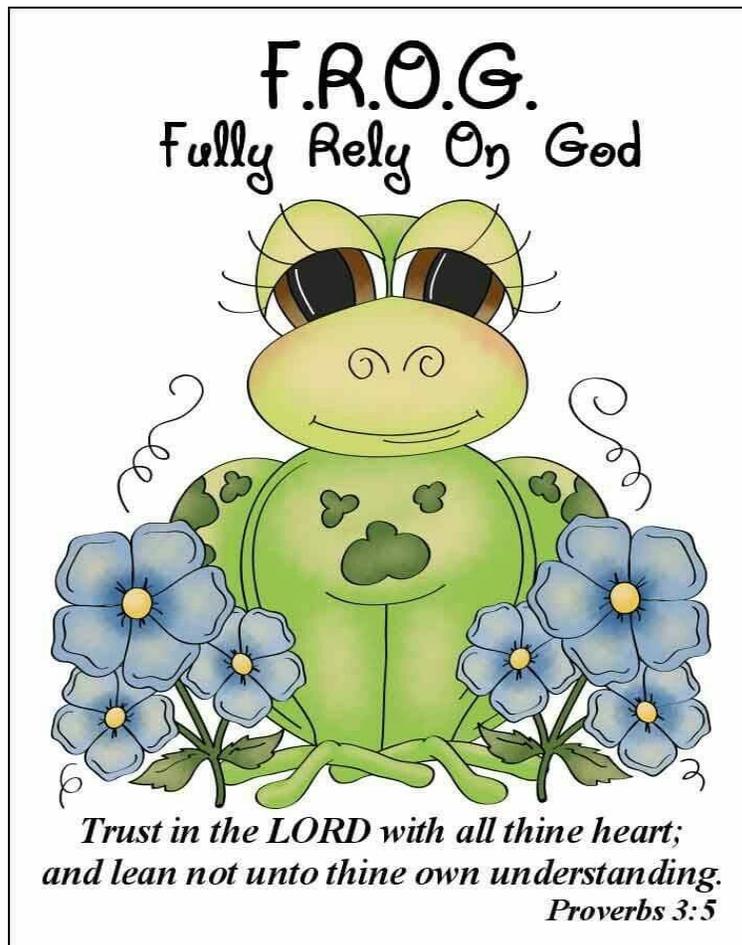
March 2026

«Mailing Label»

«Address 1 (family main)»

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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

Give it up!

What did you give up for Lent? It used to be asked a lot more than it is these days, but it's still a good question. Lot's of times, people have tried to use the 40 days of Lent as a reset of their New Year's resolutions! Too many sweets? Give up extra sugar. Too much caffeine? Give up coffee. That's not exactly the fasting that Lent calls us to...We are to give up something that will make us stop and think about God and faith. And, truly sometimes giving up the coffee (or Diet Coke) might make you pause and consider God, so it's okay if that's what you want to do. But, sometimes what we need to give up for Lent are things that will draw us closer to what Jesus asks of us. Give up your criticism and gossip. Let go of anger and fear. Stop the cycle of letting things be "us vs them" and give up hate. Honestly, giving up Diet Coke for 40 days sounds easier after typing all that.

I share some passages from The Message – a contemporary interpretation of the bible. It's not exactly a translation but it helps us hear things in a new way:

From Luke 6

*"To you who are ready for the truth, I say this: Love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the supple moves of prayer for that person. ...Here is a simple rule of thumb for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you; then grab the initiative and do it for them! If you only love the lovable, do you expect a pat on the back? ...I tell you, love your enemies. Help and give without expecting a return. You'll never—I promise—regret it. Live out this God-created identity the way our Father lives toward us, generously and graciously, even when we're at our worst. Our Father is kind; you be kind"*

Jesus really does challenge us!

Beloved people; Continue to grow closer to God. Continue to seek ways to practice the faith you profess. Continue to follow Jesus even through the hard stuff. As we wander though this Lenten season, we go out together to bring the reign of God's love, the community of Heaven, near.

Grace and Peace,  
*Pastor Jen*



# Congregational Life News

Join us **Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> 1:30—3:30pm** for an afternoon of FROG including games, trivia, how to rely on God questions, and bingo. If you can, please bring a prize or two for the Bingo game (wrapped if possible), and a green snack to share. Drinks will be provided. Dollar General has cute frog items in their outdoor section, and green cupcakes, cookies, celery, or broccoli are snack ideas. And of course, we need to **WEAR SOMETHING GREEN!** So, come if you can, stay as long as you can, and remember this is for EVERYONE!

## Community Mission News

The following are the distributions made in January and July from Christmas, Thanksgiving, Anniversary, and misc. donations to Community Mission Fund. Thank you for your support to these community organizations!

Care & Share	\$1,300.00
Project Share	\$975.00
Luther Home of Mercy	\$650.00
Grace's Table	\$975.00
Kinship House	\$325.00
Victory Kitchen	\$812.50
Habitat for Humanity	\$650.00
Safe Harbour	\$162.50
Sandusky Artisans	\$162.50
Crossroads Shelter	\$162.50
Care & Share	\$162.50
The Center	\$162.50

**Total: \$6,500.00**

## Community Events

Enjoy a spring craft show sponsored by Firelands Chorus on **March 28th, 10:00-3:00pm** at Zion Lutheran Church. Come browse handmade goods, take your picture with the Easter Bunny, and bring the kids for free crafts. Tickets are available to purchase for raffle baskets.

On Sunday, **March 22nd from 1:00-3:00pm** join EHOVE for a community expo. There will be demonstrations in the labs, free food, prizes, and a tour of police and EMS vehicles. A perfect event for those wanting to explore a new career!

Grace Lutheran's dinner is March 11th from 5:00-6:00pm. Menu is pulled pork, au gratin potatoes, buttered peas, and dessert. For shut-in delivery, call 419-357-3672.



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

Friday, February 27, 2026

Page 1 of 1

Account # Account Name YTD Balance

#### Assets

1.100.102	Checking Account	43,841.07
1.100.104	Petty Cash Fund	20.00
1.100.106	Thrivent Bond Fund Checking	26,714.19
1.200.113	Thrivent Youth Gathering M/M	5,484.61
1.200.114	Thrivent Money Market Account	1,781.20
1.220.116	Endowment Savings Thrivent	107,033.89
1.220.118	Mission Plus Investments (3 CD's)	4,327.56
1.220.120	Edward Jones Mutual Fund	288,426.73
1.400.110	Thrivent Moderate Fund (Reserve)	45,512.99
1.400.112	Thrivent Moderate Fund - Pavement	1,042.07
	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$524,184.31</b>

#### Liabilities

2.100.200	Accounts Payable/Vendors	(56.00)
2.100.216	Ohio Treasurer of St	203.00
2.100.218	R.I.T.A.	225.79
2.100.220	Board of Pension	80.96
	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$453.75</b>

#### Fund Balances

3.100.300	Current Fund Balance	6,108.92
3.210.300	Community Mission Fund Balance	5,517.44
3.220.300	Designated Giving Fund Balance	
3.221.300	Memorial Fund Balance	1,405.93
3.222.300	Endowment Fund Balance	111,658.70
3.223.300	Building Improvement Fund Balance	64,057.78
3.225.300	Pavement Fund Balance	1,042.07
3.227.300	Charity Fund Balance	288,426.73
	<i>Total Designated Giving Fund Balance</i>	<i>\$466,591.21</i>

3.400.300	Reserve Fund Balance	45,512.99
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**Total Fund Balances** **\$523,730.56**

**Total Liabilities and Fund Balances** **\$524,184.31**

# Council Update

TRINITY CONGREGATION COUNCIL  
Meeting Highlights - January 16th, 2026 - 9:00am

Attending: Pat Wiedenheft, Jim Bertsch, PR. Jen, Bill Bertsch, Chrissie Nielsen, Adele Hoffman, Sally Warner, Stephanie Lehr.

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

Minutes of previous meeting were reviewed with one change in spelling. Bill motioned to approve; Pat 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Treasurer's report:** There is no longer a need to pull money from funds. Community Mission money still needs to be distributed. Pat motioned to approve, Sally 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**President's Report:** Self-evaluations for committees were distributed. The council money counter format was changed to a month-by-month basis.

**Pastor's Report:** Christmas service went well and Pastor Jen thanks Pastor Mike Shelley for substituting. She is getting ready for the Trinity anniversary committee. She and Cathy Wobser met to discuss columbarium guidelines. There was a discussion about Nancy Vollmer wishing to purchase a columbarium niche. Jim motioned for approval for Nancy's purchase; Sally 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Congregational Life (Sally Warner):** No report given.

**Faith Builders (Pat Wiedenheft):** 80 boxes of cereal were collected for the New Year dominoes. February 8<sup>th</sup> is the upcoming sub sandwich sale; chocolate candies will not be added this year and will be replaced by cookies. There was a discussion about the new arrangement of the bulletin boards in the hallway and where to display church events.

**Community Mission (Chrissie Nielsen):** No report given.

**Property (Bill Bertsch):** The new window for the parsonage will be installed the following week, and the electrician will be present on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Recently, a breaker blew during office hours. The gathering room remodeling project is progressing; cabinets are ordered. Pat suggested new handicap parking signs for the parking lot.

**Stewardship and Finance (Jim Bertsch):** The audit still needs to be completed.

**Worship and Music (Adele Hoffman):** The worship & music committee is meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Young at Heart:** No report given.

**Old Business:** No report given.

**New Business:** The personnel committee was discussed.

Council Thank-yous: Mark, Tyler, Carlie, Ryan, Rob, Ava & Oliver Wiedenheft for dissembling manger scene; Rex & Charlene Stierhoff for donating candles

Assistant to count offering until the next meeting: Pat Wiedenheft finishing January; Chrissie for February.

The devotion leader for the next meeting: Sally Warner  
Sally moved to adjourn; Adele 2<sup>nd</sup>. Closed with Lord's Prayer.





FAITH Member Ministry

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

FAITH Members (as of 03/01/2026)

**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  
March 15th**

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



**March 12th , 2026**

**Altar Care**

Pat Wiedenheft & Cathy Wobser



## BIRTHDAYS

William Bertsch	03/02
Ryan Wiedenheft	03/03
Judith Howard	03/03
Richard Miller	03/04
Cynthia Norman	03/05
Arlayne Mischler	03/06
Tyler Wiedenheft	03/06
Steve Miller	03/09
David Wiedenheft	03/10
Barbara Sessler	03/14
Paul Warner	03/17
Wesley Miller	03/26
Jean Cline	03/26
Bastian Hipp	03/26
Linda Wilcox	03/27

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

## ANNIVERSARIES

Don & Cindy Bowers 03/10  
Barry & Karen Gill 03/22

## YEARS

37

35

**JESUS**  
LOVES YOU  
*and so do we!*

## MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

*In memory of Wanda Stewart from Gene & Adele Hoffman*

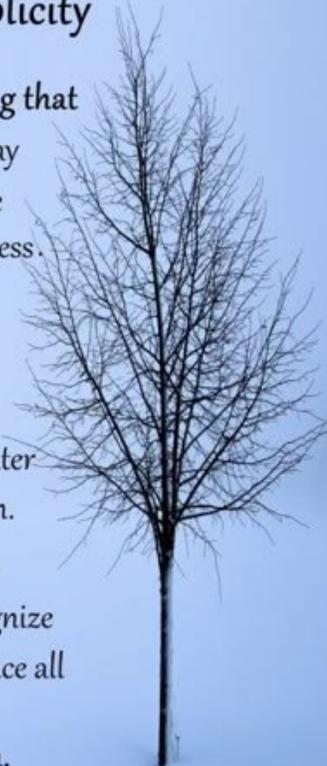
### A Prayer for Lenten Simplicity

Free me, Lord Jesus, from anything that obstructs my way to you. Clear away the clutter of petty grudges. Remove smudges of resentment and bitterness. Cleanse me of thoughts filled with anger envy, or self-pity.

Create space in my life for more kindness and less spitefulness, greater generosity and stronger compassion.

Enlarge my heart with a spirit of gratitude this Lent, so that I recognize the simple gifts that lay in abundance all around me.

In your sacred name, I pray. Amen.



# March 2026

SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THURS

FRI

SAT

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2 Lent Communion Service 8 & 10:30am Sunday School 9:15am				Lenten Service 11am AA 9:00am			
3 Lent Service of Word & Prayer 8 & 10:30am Sunday School 9:15am JAM Session 9:15am				11 Lenten Service 11am AA 9:00am NA 7:00am	12	13	14 NA 11:00am
15 4 Lent Communion Service 8 & 10:30am Sunday School 9:15am FROG Event 12-4pm				18Lenten Service 11am Crossroads 1:00pm AA 9:00am	19 Council Mtg. 7:00pm	20	21 NA 11:00am
22 5 Lent Service of Word & Prayer 8 & 10:30am Sunday School 9:15am				25 Lenten Service 11am AA 9:00am NA 7:00am	26	27	28 NA 11:00am
29 Palm Sunday Service of Word & Prayer 8 & 10:30am Sunday School 9:15am							

# HELPERS AT WORSHIP - March & April 2026

Date	8:00 am Service		10:30 am Service		
	Ushers	Lector	Acolyte	Ushers	Lector

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

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

## Altar Care — Pat Wiedenheft & Candy Beatty Communion Assistant — 8:00: Sally Warner

Date	Altar Flowers	Memorial Flowers	Ushers	Lector	Acolyte	Ushers	Lector	Acolyte
April 5	Mark & Carrie Wiedenheft		Roy Patterson Guy Miller	Russ Stephens	Ryan Wiedenheft	Gary Lieb Charles Howard	Candy Beatty	Natalie Thompson
April 12	Rhonda & Dean Matus		Roy Patterson Guy Miller	Sally Warner	Tyler Wiedenheft	Gary Lieb Charles Howard	Mason Russell	Mason Russell
April 19	Jim Bertsch		Roy Patterson Guy Miller	Carrie Wiedenheft	Carlie Wiedenheft	Gary Lieb Charles Howard	Cathy Wobser	
April 26	Craig & Betsy Stierhoff		Roy Patterson Guy Miller	Guy Miller	Lincoln Smith	Gary Lieb Charles Howard	Gayle Thompson	

## March 1st: 2 Lent

### Genesis 12:1-4a

*The blessing of God upon Abram*

### Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills; my help comes from the LORD. (Ps. 121:1, 2)

### Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

*The promise to those who share Abraham's faith*

### John 3:1-17

*The mission of Christ: to save the world*

**Prayer of the Day:** O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world 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.

## March Prayers, Readings & Psalms

## March 8th: 3 Lent

### Exodus 17:1-7

*Water from the rock in the wilderness*

### Psalm 95

Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. (Ps. 95:1)

### Romans 5:1-11

*Reconciled to God by Christ's death*

### John 4:5-42

*Baptismal image: the woman at the well*



**Prayer of the Day:** Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## March 15: 4 Lent

### 1 Samuel 16:1-13

*David is chosen and anointed*

### Psalm 23

You anoint my head with oil. (Ps. 23:5)

### Ephesians 5:8-14

*Awake from sleep, live as children of light*

### John 9:1-41

*Baptismal image: the man born blind*

**Prayer of the Day:** Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## March 22: 5 Lent

### Ezekiel 37:1-14

*The dry bones of Israel brought to life*

### Psalm 130

I wait for you, O LORD; in your word is my hope. (Ps. 130:5)

### Romans 8:6-11

*Life in the Spirit*

### John 11:1-45

*Baptismal image: the raising of Lazarus*

**Prayer of the Day:** Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



## March 29: Palm Sunday

**Isaiah 50:4-9a**

*The servant of the LORD submits to suffering*

**Psalms 31:9-16**

*Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)*

**Philippians 2:5-11**

*Humbled to the point of death on a cross*

**Matthew 26:14—27:66**

*The passion of the Lord*



# PALM Sunday

**Prayer of the Day:** Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



## Lent Word Find



K	R	K	Z	Y	B	F	M	D	P	O	F	P	A	Y	A	K	B
N	E	P	G	O	P	M	J	L	Y	R	T	J	E	P	G	L	R
D	S	O	U	N	Y	A	D	R	U	T	A	S	Y	L	O	H	J
F	U	I	N	R	I	S	L	S	B	X	X	Y	E	U	G	J	L
V	R	N	B	C	P	T	Y	M	A	E	C	A	E	I	J	D	G
I	R	T	U	P	U	L	S	A	A	C	I	U	F	R	R	P	B
X	E	F	O	R	E	H	E	A	D	Z	R	T	M	Z	D	P	J
H	C	Z	P	O	R	X	R	S	F	Y	Y	I	S	F	Z	J	Y
M	T	Q	O	E	Z	E	O	H	N	J	T	A	F	O	X	I	K
H	I	Y	M	V	B	L	T	E	J	E	P	R	D	I	D	A	H
C	O	B	W	M	G	T	L	S	T	Y	S	R	O	N	C	Y	K
K	N	L	M	H	Z	Q	H	E	A	O	E	I	P	F	U	E	B
M	L	J	Y	D	I	P	P	T	N	E	L	O	R	T	T	S	D
Y	W	U	X	T	A	T	Q	K	D	F	Q	Z	U	R	I	T	G
Q	R	Z	M	C	I	L	E	G	M	Q	D	J	E	S	U	S	M

Purple

Prayer

Sunday

Forty Days

Resurrection

Lent

Holy

Palm

White

Ashes

Risen

Priest

Jesus

Easter

Fasting

Sacrifice

Forehead

Holy Saturday