



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
December 4, 2022

**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
106 Scheid Road, Sandusky, OH 44870  
(419) 625-2192 [www.stjohnlcsandusky.com](http://www.stjohnlcsandusky.com)  
Sanctuary Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor**

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**December 4, 2022**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

Welcome to Worship! At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

As Lutheran Christians, we believe and teach that Christ is truly present in the celebration of Holy Communion as he is God with us. Christians of all denominations are encouraged to come to the Lord's table. We commune children of any age who have received communion instruction at St. John or another Christian church. Children who have not yet received communion instruction will receive a blessing. Both red wine and white grape juice are offered to accommodate various traditions. Gluten free wafers are provided for those with dietary restrictions. Please make the pastor aware of your need.

We welcome and thank Pastor Mary Ann Harris Siefke for leading our worship today while Pastor Stacy is away on vacation. Pastor Mary Ann is from Trinity Lutheran Seminary Columbus.

If you are visiting today, please sign the guest register after worship. Plan to worship with us again next Sunday.

Prelude

Morgan Noon

Bells

Welcome and Announcements

*Please stand*

## **Gathering**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**Gathering Hymn**

*"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"*

**ELW 249**

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings!

2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;  
make straight the way for God within,  
and let us all our hearts prepare  
for Christ to come and enter there.

3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
without your grace we waste away  
like flow'rs that wither and decay.

4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,  
and make us rise to fall no more;  
oh, let your face upon us shine  
and fill the world with love divine.

5 All praise to you, eternal Son,  
whose advent has our freedom won,

whom with the Father we adore,  
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

### **Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### **Advent Candle Lighting**

#### **Advent Hymn**

*"Christ Be Our Light"*

Congregation sings Verses 2

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**Cantu Family**

**ELW 715**

### *Refrain*

Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice. *Refrain*

### **Responsive Litany**

### **Hope for Those Who are Weary**

The Light shines in the darkness,  
**but the darkness has not overcome it.**

During Advent our weary souls seek God's daily strength.

**The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.**

We grow weary when fear overshadows faith.

**The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.**

We grow weary when destructive actions erupt in the world around us.

**The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.**

For all of us feeling weary this Advent season:

**Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.**

### **Candle Lighting**

Today we light two candles. The **first candle** illuminates patience in the areas of our lives where God has called us to wait. The **second candle** extends the promise of strength to all who feel weary and weak in the shadows of this world. As we continue our Advent journey, may our hope be kindled as the light grows brighter.

### **Prayer of the Day**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

*Please be seated*

### **First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10**

A reading from Isaiah.

*Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.*

<sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup>The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;

<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup>On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord.                      **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (Read responsively)**

<sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;

<sup>2</sup>**that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**

<sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup>**Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.

<sup>6</sup>**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**

<sup>7</sup>In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

<sup>18</sup>**Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;  
you alone do wondrous deeds!**

<sup>19</sup>And blessed be your glorious name forever,  
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

## **Second Lesson: Romans 15:4-13**

A reading from Romans.

*God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.*

<sup>4</sup>Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name”;

<sup>10</sup>and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

<sup>11</sup>and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him”;

<sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.      **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

## **Gospel Acclamation**

*“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”*

**ELW 857**

Text and music © 1989 Maranatha Praise, Inc., admin. Capitol Christian Music Group

Lord, I lift your name on high, Lord, I love to sing your

prais - es. I'm so glad you're in my life,

I'm so glad you came to save us. You came from heav - en to earth

to show the way, from the earth to the cross,

my debt to pay; from the cross to the grave,

from the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.

**Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.*



<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,

<sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

<sup>10</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of the Lord     **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

**Sermon**

*Please stand*

**Pastor Mary Ann**

**Hymn of the Day**

*“Prepare the Royal Highway”*

**ELW 264**

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

1 Prepare the royal highway;  
the King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley  
a level road appear!  
Then greet the King of glory,  
foretold in sacred story:

Refrain

Hosanna to the Lord,  
for he fulfills God's word!

2 God's people, see him coming:  
your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before him!  
Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you!  
No more shall doubt assail you!  
Refrain



3 Then fling the gates wide open  
to greet your promised king!  
Your king, yet ev'ry nation  
its tribute too may bring.  
All lands will bow before him;  
their voices join your singing: Refrain

4 His is no earthly kingdom;  
it comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom  
and justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding  
for kindness so abounding: Refrain

### **The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

**Prayers of the people:** God, in your mercy.     **Hear our prayer.**

### **Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

### **Offering**

"Advent Hymn"

Choir

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*Please stand*

## Offertory

*"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"*

ELW 674

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1 Let us talents and tongues employ,  
reaching out with a shout of joy:  
bread is broken, the wine is poured,  
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

### Refrain

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

2 Christ is able to make us one,  
at the table he sets the tone,  
teaching people to live to bless,  
love in word and in deed express.

### Refrain

3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out  
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
gives us love to tell, bread to share:  
God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! Refrain

## Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: 'Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

## Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*Please be seated*

## Distribution



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## Distribution Hymns:

*"Borning Cry"*

ELW 732

Text and music © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker

1 "I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized  
to see your life unfold.  
I was there when you were but a child,  
with a faith to suit you well;  
in a blaze of light you wandered off  
to find where demons dwell."

3 "In the middle ages of your life,  
not too old, no longer young,  
I'll be there to guide you through the night,  
complete what I've begun.  
When the evening gently closes in  
and you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been,  
with just one more surprise."

2 "When you heard the wonder of the Word  
I was there to cheer you on;  
you were raised to praise the living Lord,  
to whom you now belong.  
If you find someone to share your time  
and you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme  
from dusk till rising sun."

4 "I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized  
to see your life unfold."

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

2 Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child, and yet a king;  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

*Please stand*

### **Post Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

**Amen**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Sending**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

### **Sending of Communion**

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**Amen**

## Sending Hymn

*“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”*

ELW 244

1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,  
and let your lights appear;  
the evening is advancing,  
and darker night is near.  
The bridegroom is arising  
and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;  
at midnight comes the cry.

2 The watchers on the mountain  
proclaim the bridegroom near;  
go forth as he approaches  
with alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting;  
the gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory;  
the bridegroom is at hand.

3 The saints, who here in patience  
their cross and suffrings bore,  
shall live and reign forever  
when sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory  
the Lamb they shall behold;  
in triumph cast before him  
their diadems of gold.

4 Our hope and expectation,  
O Jesus, now appear;  
arise, O Sun so longed for,  
o'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted,  
we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth's redemption  
that sets your people free!

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

Morgan Noon

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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is:  
***"A Family of Disciples, Faithfully Making Christ Known"***  
And a congregation of the  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)**

**PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN'S, MINISTERS**

Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor

Church: 419-625-2192

Pastor Stacy's Day Off – Friday

Cell: 419-680-0358

Mrs. Sandy Thompson, Secretary

419-625-2192

E-mail: Sandy8110@gmail.com

Morgan Noon, Organist

Lay Reader: Chuck Thompson

Ushers: Chuck Thompson

Communion Assistant: Paula Laws

Audio/Visual Tech.: Melinda Zorn

Att.: Nov. 27 – 39

Website: [www.stjohnlcsandusky.com](http://www.stjohnlcsandusky.com)

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**The Year of Scripture Memory Verse2022:** "And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'" (Revelation 21:5a)

**Council asks the congregation to pray** to hold hope and wonder in our hearts as we await the coming of the Christ child, and to pray for strength and comfort for those among us who need it most.

**Pastor on Vacation:** Pastor Stacy will be on vacation beginning December 3<sup>rd</sup> through December 10<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Mary Ann Harris Siefke will lead worship December 4<sup>th</sup>. She is from Trinity Lutheran Seminary. If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact the church office at 419-625-2192. Pastor Ann Marshall will be on call while Pastor Stacy is away.

**Address Change:** Ruth Knupke is now residing at Admiral's Pointe, Rm. 111. Please keep Ruth and her family in your prayers as they all make adjustments to her new residence.

**Happy Birthday** to Myrna Schlessman and Lori Stacy.

**Christmas Worship Opportunities:**

**Youth Christmas Program:** Our youth will share the Christmas story "Come to the Manger" on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. Don't miss this special worship opportunity! Worship will be followed by our traditional sandwich and cookie potluck lunch. Please bring something to share. **Youth practice December 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.**



**Christmas Eve:** Two opportunities to worship on Saturday, December 24th. Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with special evening worship services at 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm. The two services will be essentially the same, featuring both Holy Communion and candlelight. The 4:00 pm service will be live streamed to Zoom. Spread the word; invite family and friends to come for Christmas Eve worship! **TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALL THESE SPECIAL WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES TO PREPARE YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR THE COMING OF THE LORD!**

**Mark your calendars:** St. John's 2022 Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2023 after worship.

**Teams and Committees:** Team/committee reports for the 2022 annual congregational booklet will be due by January 15<sup>th</sup> to Sandy Thompson. Please send your report in a Word doc to [sandy8110@gmail.com](mailto:sandy8110@gmail.com) or mail to the church at 106 Scheid Rd Sandusky, OH 44870 attention Sandy Thompson

### ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> THRU DECEMBER 18<sup>th</sup>

Sunday, Dec. 4	9:30 am 10:30 am	Intergenerational Sunday School Sanctuary Worship live streamed to Zoom
Tuesday, Dec. 6	1:00 pm	Faith Life Team
Wednesday, Dec. 7	6:00 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday, Dec. 8	1:00 pm 6:00 pm	Small group Bible Study with Sandy Art with Allison
Sunday, Dec. 11	9:00 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Youth Christmas Program practice Small group with Lynn in Upper Room Sanctuary Worship live streamed to Zoom
Tuesday, Dec. 13	10:00 am	Book Discussion in Upper Room
Thursday, Dec. 15	11:00 am	Meditation and Movement Zion Huron
Sunday, Dec. 18	9:00 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Youth Christmas Program Practice Sanctuary Worship/Youth Program Sandwich/Cookie Luncheon

**Surprise Card Shower:** Attention members! Two of our oldest members, August and Beverly Hohman will be celebrating 70 years of marriage on Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>. Beverly resides at Admiral's Pointe Nursing Facility and Augie visits her daily reading the bulletin and daily devotions. Let's surprise them by showering them with anniversary cards that Augie can share with his love of 70 years. Please send your cards to Mr. & Mrs. August Hohman, 5619 Mason Rd. Berlin Hts., OH 44814.

## **Community Christmas Events:**

The Firelands Chorus Inc. will present their annual Christmas program “Songs for the Season” held Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m., doors open at 7:00 p.m. Both concerts will be held at Zion Lutheran Church, 503 Columbus Ave. in Sandusky. This is a FREE concert with FREEWILL OFFERING collected. Zion Lutheran Church is a Handicap accessible facility. Be sure to attend!!