



[www.thanks-giving.org](http://www.thanks-giving.org)

February 2015      Volume 31, No.2

I have been a Lutheran – a church goer – all of my life. I was baptized, confirmed and married in the same church that still sits out in the middle of the country in southeast Nebraska. I have been married for 35 years – we have 2 sons and 3 beautiful grandchildren.

Shortly after I was married – I recommitted my life to God. I belonged to a church that reconnected me. Then came a baby, moving away from our families and losing some of the “fire” that had been re-ignited. We have always belonged to a church and served in some way – but didn’t have Christ at the core of our lives. More moves, another child, jobs and activities – and God was slowly getting squelched out of my life. The importance of Him in my life was diminishing.

In 2007 – I was laid off my job. I began re-evaluating my life. I looked at myself and these are the things I saw: I was depressed, anxious, offended easily, fearful, guarded – I could go on – the point is – I had a lot more bad days than good ones. I was going through the motions – trying and striving to do the right things – but it wasn’t working. I realized – the only time I opened my Bible – was in church or for a Bible study.

About this same time we started attending T!LC. I was still lost – so I began trying to get connected at church. I joined a couple of groups and it helped me get to know people and feel like a part of something. Then I began taking several classes – the Cleansing Stream course, attending Sunday morning classes – I continued to seek Him. In December 2013 – I went through RTF as a ministry receiver. It is still difficult for me to express how freeing this experience was for me – but I think Proverbs 3:5-6 sums it up – “Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and do not rely on your own understanding – acknowledge Him in all your ways and He will make your paths straight”. I get a visual



picture of a tangled, winding, mess of a road when I was trying to lead my life and a picture of a straight as an arrow road when I surrender it all to God and let Him lead it.

As I kept knocking - the doors continued to open up for me . . . the doors to a relationship with God that I now experience every day!

My life isn't perfect – but I now have some of the tools I need to be aware of when I am being attacked by the enemy and how to deal with it. Where I am today didn't happen overnight – it's been a journey with many twists and turns.

Now - the most important part of my day is spending time with God. One of the most precious gifts God gives us – His time with us. Sometimes it's the thing we covet the most – our time – or at least it was for me.

Continued on page 2.....

As I look back – I see when I seek Him – He meets me where I am. He met me where I was 7 years ago – a wounded, hopeless, striving Christian. I believe that God made me in HIS image – and if I do believe that – then I know He didn't make me to be fearful, prideful, or judgmental.

I am a journaler - so I want to share an entry I made on January 20, 2014 (about a month after my RTF experience) as it kind of sums up my journey . . .so far. . .

As I was sitting on the couch and looking out the window – I saw the hard, sharp, pokey branches swirling in the wind – but behind them was the beautiful sky – calm with puffy white clouds and very peaceful. Because of what I know about God and the seasons – God will turn those hard, brittle branches into soft, beautiful green leaves in the spring. Then it will be easier to walk through them and not get scratched and battered by the hard branches. Be patient – wait on the Lord. God will do the transforming of the hard into the soft. He will make HIS path easier to follow. It will be full of calmness and peace on the other side of the hardness.

— Laurie Piper

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## 2015 Lent and Easter Schedule

### February 18—Ash Wednesday

Services including imposition of ashes and Celebration of the Lords' Supper

6:30am in the Heritage Sanctuary

6:00pm in the Family Life Center

7:30pm in the Heritage Sanctuary

Mid Week Lenten services will be held Thursday, February 26—March 26 beginning at 6:30pm. Each Thursday a TILC Ministry will host a Soup Supper from 5:00pm-6:15pm with all free will donations going toward various ministries in our community or church. The schedule is listed below.

<b>February 26</b>	Student Ministry	Student camp and trip scholarships
<b>March 5</b>	Boy Scout Troop 231	Scholarships for camp and summer trips
<b>March 12</b>	Diane Heying and her Bible Study	Women's Advent Devotional and Dessert
<b>March 19</b>	Awana Club	Paul Harkness Awana Missionary
<b>March 26</b>	REACH Missional Community	Abide Network

### Holy Week and Easter Schedule

<b>April 2—Maundy Thursday</b>	7:00pm	Family Life Center
<b>April 3—Good Friday</b>	7:00pm	Family Life Center

### Easter Sunday April 5, 2015

Sunrise Service	7:00am	Family Life Center
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*\*\*Easter Breakfast served in the Lower Level Gathering Room from 8:00am—10:00am*

Traditional Service	8:30am	Heritage Sanctuary
Contemporary Service	9:30am	Family Life Center
Traditional Service	10:00am	Heritage Service
Contemporary Service	11:00am	Family Life Center

# PASTOR'S PAGE

**The 2015 Annual Meeting of the Congregation is February 7, at 6:30 pm.** We will begin our evening at 5:30 pm to worship together. The message time will be used to hear testimonies of how God is working in and through the people of T!LC. Then, at 6:30 pm, we will convene the business portion of our meeting (child care will be available) with the following action items on the agenda.

- ◆ Vote to elect three persons to the Congregation Council.
- ◆ Vote to elect two persons to the 2015 Nominating Committee.
- ◆ Vote on the Proposed 2015 Budget.

Candidate Bios and copies of the Proposed 2015 Budget will be available in the lobby of the building and on our website under the About Us tab.

**Ash Wednesday is February 18**, and marks the beginning of the liturgical season of **Lent** – the 40 days, not counting Sundays, which lead up to the celebration of Easter. Our Ash Wednesday worship service schedule will be as follows:

- ◆ 6:30 am – Devotional Service, with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion
- ◆ 6:00 pm – Full Service, with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion
- ◆ 7:30 pm – Full Service, with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

**Ashes** in the Jewish and Christian traditions are a sign of God's judgment and condemnation of sin. The "imposition of ashes" on our foreheads, therefore, is meant to be a visible reminder to us – the Body of Christ – that we are frail sinners entering into a season of reflection, confession, and repentance.

**Lent** is from an Anglo-Saxon word meaning 'springtime' and so is to be understood as the holy springtime of the soul, a time for preparation, planting, and growth" – (LBW – Manual on the Liturgy) . The ancient custom of burning fields in the springtime to destroy the old and to prepare for new life is therefore also related to the ashes imposed on Ash Wednesday.

**Fasting** was practiced for 40 days in the early church by converts preparing for baptism at Easter. This practice of fasting, which also is meant to remind us of Jesus' 40 day fast before his baptism, is also a spiritual discipline still kept by many Christians during the season of Lent. Many believers will fast from some kind(s) of food or drink as a personal reminder of the spiritual preparations they are making during this season.

**Other Lenten Disciplines** which are now being chosen by some Christians may include a specific prayer focus, a commitment to acts or words of kindness, or the "giving up" of television or some other enjoyable activity which causes that believer to remember and to reflect on the perfect sacrifice of Jesus.

**Mid-Week Lenten Services** will be held on Thursday evenings during Lent at 6:30 pm. We will be using Voices, by J. B. Quisenberry. Each week you will hear a short dramatic dialogue between *Everybody* (representing each of us) and a biblical figure. Each of these dialogues will be followed by a Lenten homily by one of the pastors. We will also have a children's message. **Note:** We are *not* planning to continue our Thursday 6:30 am devotional services this year during Lent.

**Lenten Dinners** will be served from 5pm to 6:15pm every Thursday before the midweek Lenten service. The meals will be served by different T!LC groups or ministries. Donations will be received to support the missional endeavors of each group.

**Holy Week and Easter**—Please find the schedule on page 2 of this newsletter.

UPDATE from T!LC's Operations Manager, Harold Carlson  
 Any Questions or Comments about the information below can be directed to  
 Harold Carlson: [harold.carlson@thanks-giving.org](mailto:harold.carlson@thanks-giving.org)

**Staying the Course**

Is the name of our 2-year capital campaign that began the weekend of May 4, 2014. Like our former capital campaign, the goal of *Staying the Course* will be debt reduction as we continue to retire the mortgage on the Family Life Center. Estimates of giving received were; 102 estimates of giving for \$249,074 over a 2-year period. Actual contributions received through December were \$156,558.72 or 62.9% of the estimates of giving. Additional principal payments from the Pathway to Freedom campaign and *Staying the Course* campaign (May 2012-Dec. 2014) now total \$571,537.36 and will save approximately \$484,140 in interest payments over the loan period and effectively reduces the loan period by fifteen years. We will continue to make regular additional principal payments from the *Staying the Course* capital campaign as they are received.

**Christmas Eve Offering**

The total Christmas Eve offerings were \$23,484.00 and will be split between the Open Door Mission and the T!LC Emergency Fund to support individuals and families in need of assistance and/or shelter in our local community. Thank you Covenant/Kingdom partners for your generosity!

**2015 Offering Envelopes**

Offering envelopes for 2015 were again sent to our Covenant/Kingdom partners via the U.S. Postal Service. If you did not receive your envelopes please contact Harold Carlson by email or call the church office at 402-292-2695.

**Simply Giving**

Did you know that T!LC has the ability to receive electronic funds transfers (EFT) through a program called *Simply Giving*? *Simply Giving* is a safe and reliable electronic funds transfer

program. To enroll go to our website ([www.thanks-giving.org](http://www.thanks-giving.org)) and click on *Simply Giving* under the member quick links at the top of the home page. You can also contact our *Simply Giving* Coordinator, Harold Carlson at the church office at 402-292-2695 or by email for more information about the *Simply Giving* program.

**Automobile Donation Needed**

Do you or someone that you know, have a reliable automobile that could be donate to T!LC? We continue to receive requests from families in need of reliable transportation. Please contact Harold Carlson at the church office for more information.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns please feel free to e-mail me, call or stop by my office.

**GENERAL FUND**

**Thanksgiving! Lutheran Church  
 General Fund - December 2014**

Line Item	Income			
	December Actual	December Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Estimates of Giving	124,589.38	116,008.00	1,283,060.02	1,260,956.00
Non-pledged Giving	142,834.32	39,486.00	460,764.40	420,065.00
Other Revenue	28,268.34	19,661.00	335,490.48	301,678.00
Ministry Challenge	0.00	0.00	307.00	65,000.00
From Savings Acct.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Line Item	Expense			
	December Actual	December Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Facility/Operations	37,124.38	33,861.00	491,916.70	449,787.00
Ministry	51,269.75	57,434.00	624,699.72	619,080.00
Personnel	85,266.66	85,455.00	963,005.33	978,831.00

<b>Total Income</b>	<b>295,692.04</b>	<b>175,155.00</b>	<b>2,079,621.90</b>	<b>2,047,699.00</b>
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<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>173,660.79</b>	<b>176,750.00</b>	<b>2,079,621.75</b>	<b>2,047,698.00</b>
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**T!LC Blood Drive  
 Monday, Feb 16th 2:00-7:00pm**



Please consider donating because blood products are essential for the treatment of accident victims, surgical & sickle cell disease patients, those receiving cancer treatments, premature babies, and others. Every day in the US, roughly 44,000 pints of blood are needed. It's simple: There is no substitute for blood. To schedule your donation appointment please go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) (sponsor code ThanksgivingLutheranBellevueNE) or call Shari at 402-339-8226.

## NOTES FROM THE T!LC FINANCE MINISTRY

Happy New Year! Thank you to those of you who are using your offering envelopes. That really helps us record your contributions correctly. Need envelopes? We have some for you; contact Harold Carlson at the church office at 402-292-2695, or [harold@thanks-giving.org](mailto:harold@thanks-giving.org).

Your envelopes have different numbers each year. For those of you making your gifts through online banking, if you update your envelope number in the template for T!LC, it will help us credit your payment to the correct person. Thank you for taking a minute to do that. You can also save a note in the template if you want your contribution split between funds.

Please list your current address on your checks, even if you need to hand-write it. We realize people move, and it takes time to get new checks printed. We want to send your giving statement to the correct address, and we strive to credit all of your contributions to the right person. Address changes and name changes can be noted on the attendance slips, as well, and the office staff will update your records.

A couple of notes about check writing . . . whether you are writing a check to T!LC, or anyone else, choose a pen with either black or blue ink. Modern check processing utilizes scanned images of your checks. Checks written with colored ink scan as blank checks. The colored ink on the check is invisible on the scanned image. Extra handling is required to process those checks. And while every check you write to T!LC will be processed for the intended amount, you can imagine that there is a heightened opportunity for fraud with a check that scans as blank. Just make it a habit - - always - - to use black or blue ink. If you are giving to a special offering, please make your check out to T!LC, with the designated fund noted on the memo line. And do take a moment, after writing any check, to confirm both of the amounts, the date, and your signature.

If you have an eye for detail, are a good proof-reader, can operate a ten-key adding machine or do data entry, we would welcome your help! If you are interested in trying out our ministry, contact me a [jgladbach@cox.net](mailto:jgladbach@cox.net), or 402-292-4201.

Thank you for your generous support of the ministries and missions of Thanksgiving! Lutheran Church!

Julie Gladbach—T!LC Financial Secretary

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### Mission Trip Announcement June 1<sup>st</sup> - June 9<sup>th</sup>

You are invited to join the T!LC 2015 short-term mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

We will stay in Sosua and work in one or more Samaritan Foundation villages. We will also visit Aqua Negra and meet Sandra Tineo and learn of the work that she and her family do in that area.

The primary focus of our activity will be to help in the construction of a home which will be given to a poor family once completed. We will have the honor and privilege to meet the family and dedicate the home to them. We will visit many hospitals, retirement centers, orphanages, families, and individuals. These visits will give us opportunities to help and pray for them.

This is the kind of trip that can change how you look at life, how you live life, and give you a greater appreciation for the life you have.

Please call or email to sign up or for more information about the trip.

Mike Albers 402-490-1556 [malbers@qualitytm.com](mailto:malbers@qualitytm.com)

T!LC Director of Dominican Missions



# MISSION MOMENTS

from Pastor David



**Mission.** What is our mission statement by the way? ***Our mission is to reach out and gather people into the family of God, equipping them to be disciples of Jesus Christ in our community, nation, and world.***

**It's February, so you know.....it's time....to get ready for the Hunt!!!**

Yes, it is time!!! (I know you can't believe it!) T!LC's spring outreach, a community-wide, 30,000 egg (no, that's not a misprint) Easter egg hunt is scheduled for **2pm Saturday, March 28th at Lakewood Villages Park**, located just south of 370 and 48<sup>th</sup> Street, beside Bellevue Elementary School. In just two short months 30,000 plastic eggs need to get filled with candy. Mission impossible, you say???. Not so when you have a family like T!LC who embraces opportunities to reach out to our community. Each of you can help get ready for the hunt. How can you help?

- ◆ **Donate candy.** We need lots small individually-wrapped pieces of candy (small to fit inside plastic eggs). Take advantage of the post-Valentine's Day candy sales! Collection will begin on Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. Put your donations in the Easter basket in the church lobby.
- ◆ **Donate plastic eggs.** Put your donations in the lobby Easter basket.
- ◆ **Fill eggs!** Come to our egg stuffing parties at T!LC on Saturdays, March 7th and 21st from 9am-noon. Youth earn service hours for stuffing the eggs! Also, small groups can stuff eggs (one piece of candy per egg please!) during weekly meetings. Put the filled eggs beside the lobby basket.

Look for additional ways for you to "help the hunt" in the March newsletter. Contact the Egg Lady, Karen Harned, at [harnedco@hotmail.com](mailto:harnedco@hotmail.com) or 402-301-8016 if you have questions.



**Food for thought:** Does hunting for Easter eggs have anything to do with Lent? Read more in next month's newsletter!

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## KIDS AGAINST HUNGER 2015

**Kids  
Against  
Hunger.**

A program of Feeding Children International

Kids Against Hunger, in partnership with Omaha & the surrounding community, will aim to pack one million meals for hungry children and adults all over the world. Also, 10% of the meals are kept for the local food pantries. This year, all sponsors will do packing at the KAH Warehouse located at 13823 Industrial Rd (138<sup>th</sup> & L), and all meals packed between Jan 1 and May 31 will count towards the million meals goal. T!LC will once again participate in this effort.

**We will have our T!LC Family and Friends packing event at the KAH Warehouse** On Saturday, April 18, 2015 The times will be 10:00 to 12:00 and 12:30 to 2:30. Up to 200 people can be accommodated at each time slot and there is plenty of free parking available. **Sign up dates are March 28 & 29 and April 11 & 12.**

As you know, we raise money to purchase the supplies, and then we help pack the meals. A mere 25 cents buys a meal that is not only filled with nutrients, but also reverses the starvation process. T!LC, with the Lord's help, would like to feed as many people as we can, and to allow as many people as possible, to participate in the packing event.

**God has blessed this ministry with over \$10,000 so far, and our goal is to get to \$15,000.** A Special Offering was taken the weekend of January 31/February 1. If you missed that opportunity, you can make donations at any time, by writing a check payable to T!LC with KAH in the memo line.

If you would like more information on KAH, please check their website at [kahomaha.com](http://kahomaha.com).

Your generosity and participation has been most remarkable in the past, and we thank you so much for that. We look forward to your support again.

# Children's Ministry Newsletter



Children's Ministry

February 2015

Connie Barnhart

Children's Ministry Director

In the wonderful world of Sunday School we are learning how to become like Jesus in every way- Living life Up, In and Out. As part of our "out" we have 2 activities planned.

- ◆ **We are collecting new winter hats, gloves and mittens** (children's or adult sizes) to donate to the Open Door Mission.
- ◆ **On Sunday, February 8 we will make Valentines** to give to Community 360- Connecting Generations (Formerly Desert Ministries). This organization will deliver the Valentines to residents of nursing homes and assisted living residences.

## Laughter- God's Gift

We tend to laugh quite often during Kingdom Kids time. We laugh at funny jokes, things others do, and even at ourselves, especially when we mess up. In Sunday School we teach the children that this is a "safe" zone. We don't set out to make mistakes, but if we happen to, we know that we are loved anyway- just like God's great love and grace for us.

A few weeks ago a Kingdom Kids' teacher shared with me one of those smile moments that can only come from a preschooler. A little boy excitedly told her, "I know what d-o-g spelled backwards is!" When the teacher responded, "Really? What?" His answer was, "Jesus!"



Marriage is defined by memories. They can be memories of joy and fulfillment or pain and heartbreak. It all depends on how well you apply the principles that make marriage thrive. For thirty years, the **Weekend to Remember** getaway has been helping couples create the kind of memories that build a healthy marriage. Remember your marriage. Remember this weekend.

**Weekend to Remember** is a weekend marriage getaway that teaches God's design for marriage and family. The environment is fun, non-threatening, and sometimes hilarious. And it's a wonderful time for couples to refresh good marriages or heal troubled ones. There are over 75 conferences in cities all across the U.S. each year. Registration is open to individuals, couples, or groups. Whether you're engaged, newlywed, or remarried, enrich your marriage and begin a godly legacy for your family by attending a conference in a city near you. Or plan a memorable getaway to a destination of your choosing. Designed for you to talk, laugh, learn & reconnect.

Join the TILC group and attend ANY Weekend to Remember getaway. **Group rate SAVES you \$100.00 per couple!!** (regular rate is \$299.99 per couple, group rate is \$199.99)

In Omaha – February 27 – March 1, 2015

In Des Moines – March 6 – 8, 2015

In Kansas City – March 13 – 15, 2015

In Lincoln – March 27 - 29, 2015

Group number is **13498**, group name is **thanksgivinglc**.

Contact Al & Jeanne Zamiska, 402-292-5789, for details

Or, visit [www.familylife.com/weekend](http://www.familylife.com/weekend) for more info.

Call 1-800-FL-TODAY or go to

[www.familylife.com/groups/thanksgivinglc](http://www.familylife.com/groups/thanksgivinglc) to register.



Questions? Contact Lisa Sager at [awana@thanks-giving.org](mailto:awana@thanks-giving.org) or (402) 292.2695  
Or visit <http://thanks-giving.org/awana-club>



### Themes for February

4: Twin Night and Halfway night.  
Earn a prize if you're halfway through your book!

11: Crazy Clubber Night (crazy clothes, shoes, and hair) and Jeopardy Night: Come and play jeopardy!

18: **No Club** - Ash Wednesday  
Join us for services at 6 & 7:30

25: Adopt-a-Club Fundraiser

### It's Awana Love!

Jesus said that the greatest commandment is to love God with all your heart, soul and mind. He also said to love your neighbor as yourself. During the month of February, (the month of LOVE), we're challenging you to show your love for God and the Bible by sharing what Awana is all about!

Since there isn't Awana on February 18, because of Ash Wednesday, we are encouraging our clubbers to wear your uniform to school. When others ask you about Awana, be sure to share with them all about the Bible, maybe even share a verse! When you go out and share about your love for God, God smiles and rejoices! Your love for God may even teach your other friends about God!

### Looking Ahead...



- March 18: Family Fun Night
- April 8: Leader Appreciation Night
- April 29: Spark's Store Night
- May 6: T and T Store Night
- May 13: Last Club Night
- May 20: Award Night

### Drive-In Movie Night was so much fun!



### Volunteer Spotlight!

Meet Lindsey Drew! This is her second year as a Spark's Kindergarten Leader. Lindsey and her husband Jamie have three children and live in Bellevue. When asked about her favorite thing about Awana her quick response was "The Children!!". If you see Lindsey, please introduce yourself and thank her for her dedication to the Awana program.





February 2015

www.thanks-giving.org

## Club 56

For 5th and 6th Grade Students!

Molly Miller  
molly.miller@thanks-giving.org

## Junior High

For 7th and 8th Grade Students!

Gary Olsen & Molly Miller  
gary.olsen@thanks-giving.org

## High School

For 9th—12th Grade Students!

Gary Olsen & Jon Miller  
jon.miller@thanks-giving.org

### Club 56

**Okoboji Spring Recharge; May 1-3; Leave church at 5:00 pm and return at 4:30 pm.**

We have an opportunity to go to camp at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp May 1-3. The theme is Not Ashamed, here is what Okoboji has to say about the weekend: *"Fear...Doubt...Anxiety...Confusion – These are usually the kinds of words people use when they think about sharing their faith with others. Yet the gospel of Jesus Christ is the life-giving message we are called to share with the world. Loaded with fun games and activities, this recharge will provide campers with foundational knowledge, inspirational examples, and practical ways to share the Christian faith with someone else in a loving, non-threatening way. Then we can join Paul in saying that we, too, are "NOT ASHAMED."*

We know it will be a great time. T!LC has reserved spots but they will go fast so register today! Please register online at, <http://www.okoboji.org/programs/recharges/> **but make a check payable to T!LC for \$74.** Our church receives a discount for reserving spots early. In order to take advantage of this benefit - **do not pay online.**

This summer we are going to **Riverside Lutheran Camp in Story City, Iowa from July 19-24.** The theme this summer is Transformed. Here is what Riverside has to say about this awesome week: *"Jesus Christ lived and died so that we can all be transformed into sons and daughters of the King, and we continually need to be transformed as we continue to walk in His ways. The theme this summer is Transformed, because when we meet Jesus, everything in our lives transforms to be more like Him. We unplug from the things of this world, anchor into the hope of Christ, renew our minds, rise up, and go tell the world the good news of Jesus Christ!"*

Again, we have reserved spots but they go fast so register today! Register online at, <http://www.riversidelbc.org/programs/register>. **Please make a check payable to T!LC for \$210.** To receive the discounts our church receives **you must pay the church, not the camp.**

### Upcoming Events

**February 1** Movie Making Competition 2:00pm-4:00pm; Cost: FREE!

**February 15** OUTreach Event

**February 26** Student Ministry Lenten Dinner; Help needed with food prep and serving (5pm-6:15pm)

**March 1** Bowling @ Papio Bowl 2:00pm-4:00pm; Cost: \$5/student

**March 7 & 21** Egg Stuffing Parties for the Easter Egg Hunt

**March 15** Food Drive Scavenger Hunt 2:00pm-4:00pm; Cost: FREE!

**March 28** Easter Egg Hunt; Help needed with helping small children line up and collect eggs.

**April 5** Easter Breakfast; Help needed with food prep and serving (8am-10am)

**April 19** Papio Fun Park 2:00pm-4:00pm; Cost: \$16/student (Last Club 56 Event for the School Year)

**May 1 - 3** Spring Recharge @ Okoboji Lutheran Camp

**July 19 -24** Summer Camp @ Riverside Lutheran Camp

## Junior High

### UNO Hockey Night from the view of Tyler Henningsen

An important part of our Student Ministry movement is building relationships with our students. We recently had the chance for four mentors and about 30 of our Jr. High guys went to a UNO hockey game. Tyler Henningsen shares the following about his experience that night:



"A couple of weeks ago on a Friday night, 30 guys from Jr. High Live! and I went to a UNO Mavericks hockey game. We met at the youth room and started off the night by going to McDonald's where we hung out together eating cheeseburgers, french fries and ice cream. This was followed by a 20-minute, loud, music-filled car ride and finally—we were there (sort of). To save a few bucks, Pastor David had us park about a thousand miles away so we could enjoy a long walk in

the zero degree cold. When we arrived, Mr. Gary got our tickets and we started our long climb up the steep stairs all the way to the top of the stadium; into the nosebleed section. The seats were actually great and we were able to see and enjoy the entire game. The Mavericks were awesome, crushing Colorado in a very intense game. We ate way too much food at the concession stand and yelled until we lost our voices! Hanging out with my friends from church is way different than with my friends from school. We can talk about more important stuff when we want to or we can just hang out with each other. I can't wait until next time!"



There is no greater community than when we gather with Christ at the center.

**This summer we are going to Riverside Lutheran Camp in Story City, Iowa from July 12-17.** The theme this summer is Transformed. Here is what Riverside has to say about this awesome week: "Jesus Christ lived and died so that we can all be transformed into sons and daughters of the King, and we continually need to be transformed as we continue to walk in His ways. The theme this summer is Transformed, because when we meet Jesus, everything in our lives transforms to be more like Him. We unplug from the things of this world, anchor into the hope of Christ, renew our minds, rise up, and go tell the world the good news of Jesus Christ!"

We have reserved spots but they go fast so register today! Register online at, <http://www.riversidelbc.org/programs/register>. **Please make a check payable to T!LC for \$210.** To receive the discounts our church receives **you must pay the church, not the camp.**

### Upcoming Events:

**February 26** Student Ministry Lenten Dinner—Help needed with food prep and serving (5pm-6:15pm)

**March 7th and 21st** Egg Stuffing Parties for the Easter Egg Hunt—earn services hours!

**March 27th & 28th** Spring Retreat @ Camp Kitaki

**March 28** T!LC Easter Egg Hunt 2pm at Lakewood Villages Park

**April 5th** Easter Sunday Breakfast (8am-10am) help needed for food donations and serving.

**April 24th & 25th** 30 Hour Famine @Youth Room, 6:30pm Friday - 6:30pm Saturday

**May 13th** Confirmation Pictures @FLC, 6:30pm

**May 15th** Confirmation Banquet @FLC, 6:30pm

**May 16th** Baptism and Reaffirmation of Baptism

**May 17th** Confirmation Sunday @TLC, 8:15am and/or 11:00am

**July 5-10** Summer Camp @ Riverside

## High School

Our High School Discipleship teams (D-teams) are an important part of our Student Ministry team. We currently have 10 of these small groups that meet in our homes on various nights of the week. The following is a testimony from one of our students who wanted you to know about the impact God has made in his life.

My name is Cameron Cattano. I am a junior at Bellevue East High School. I joined a D-team small group about a year ago because a friend from school invited me. I'd gone to church and stuff in the past, but it just wasn't for me. This group was different though. We would eat food, play video games and just hang out. Our leader would do a lesson and we would talk about where God was showing up in our lives. At first I didn't know what to say, but after a while I started to notice and hear Him speaking to me. I started bringing my bible with me to school and reading it a few times a week during study hall. My group leader even let me lead a lesson at our D-team one time. Then I got to go on the summer trip to Chicago which was really cool. Seeing how we can serve and help others made me realize that God can use even me to impact the lives of others. I hope to continue to do things like that here and find other opportunities to learn to serve God more and more.

If you would like more information about how to get involved with a D-team, please contact Gary Olson at the church office.

### Upcoming Events

**February 1** SuperBowl Party 5:00pm-10:00pm in the Youth Room

**February 8** Family PotLuck 6:30pm-8:00pm in the Youth Room - We'll announce the Summer Trip!!!

**February 15** Living A Life of Thankfulness; Youth Room

**February 26** Student Ministry Lenten Dinner; Help needed with food prep and serving 5pm-6:15pm)

**March 1** Family PotLuck; Youth Room

**March 7 & 21** Egg Stuffing Party for the Easter Egg Hunt 9-12noon in the lower level of the church.

**March 15** How To Live A Life of True Worship; Youth Room

**March 28** T!LC Easter Egg Hunt; Help needed spreading out eggs and helping with groups of kids

**April 5** Easter Breakfast; Help needed with food donations and serving 8am-10am

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### **ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT**

An event like Advent-by-Candlelight for Women is an opportunity for women to gather together and spend some time focused on Jesus and the real meaning of Christmas. This, our Fourth year did just that for 225 women as we gathered for prayer, entertainment, singing and refreshments. A free will offering was collected and with this generous donation we were able to provide 20 sets of bath towels, 20 sheet sets, blankets, pillows and kitchen towel sets to Lydia House. At the time of delivery one woman stopped and said "God does answer our prayers, we were out of towels and bedding. Praise be to God and to your group of women who helped us. Thank you, thank you!"

**Big  
Thanks  
You!**

I would like to thank Thrivent for their support of our evening. Blessings to all those who helped in making this evening a memorable event in our lives. I hope that you will be able to join us this December. Please save the date of Tuesday, December 2. Watch for more details in the Fall.

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:17



## The T!LC Library Corner

### It's Your Library

February 2015

Can you believe it? We are in the second month of the New Year already! There is still time to pick up another devotional book for the year as there are many from which to choose sitting on the shelves in the library.

This month I will continue featuring Spiritual Growth books. Just look at the selection below that can be found on the cart as well as others in the library

**God's Transforming Power** by Smith Wigglesworth - "Through Wigglesworth's insights, you will find out God's plans for you in this life and what He has in store for you in heaven. Using several dramatic, real-life examples as illustrations, Smith explains how to prepare for your future life after death while experiencing the power and joy of the Holy Spirit in transforming power.

**Dare to Believe** by Smith Wigglesworth - "God loves taking ordinary people and transforming them into extraordinary examples of faith and power. At the turn of the century God captured Smith's soul and filled him with the Holy Spirit. This event propelled this plumber into a world-wide ministry. "Believe and have faith." A wonderful book of meditation.

**Power To Serve** by Smith Wigglesworth - "Do you want to be used by God to do miraculous? In these illuminating pages, Smith Wigglesworth explains how you can."

**The Little Way of the Infant Jesus** by Caryll Houselander - "How the Christ Child Leads You to God. The infant Jesus – sure, He's cute, but you may be missing His crucial spiritual lessons. A must read for all who wish to grow in faith."

**The Gifts and Ministries of the HOLY SPIRIT** by Lester Sumrall -The gifts of the Spirit can destroy any force the devil might use against Christians. You are a candidate for the gifts of revelation, power and inspiration. Read what Dr. Sumrall has to say about five various topics where you can be included in the great outpouring of God's Spirit.

**Holy Spirit revivals** by Charles Finney -"The joy of living in God's power. Charles reveals the secrets to maintaining the power of God in your personal walk with Him. Finney's life was one that was truly modeled after the life of Christ."

**Let Go, Let God** by John E. Keller - "Surrendering Self-Centered Delusions in the Costly Journey of Faith."

**Transforming Discipleship** by Greg Ogden author of Discipleship Essentials -"Greg Ogden addresses the need for discipleship in the local church and recovers Jesus' method of accomplishing life change by investing in just a few people at a time."

**Battlefield of the Mind** by Joyce Meyer -"Worry, doubt, confusion, depression, anger and feelings of condemnation ...all of these attacks on the mind. If you suffer from negative thoughts, take heart! Joyce Meyer has helped millions win these all important battles...and she can help you, too."

**The Amazing Treasure Bible Storybook** from Zondervan -"With a final click, a hidden message is decoded. A rumbling sound fills the ancient chamber...and the top of a tall stone pedestal lowers to reveal a huge, ornate Bible. This book through story tells the one big story of God's plan for the world and teaches the basics of the Christian to the young. "

Enjoy your free library and remember no due back dates apply. Just when you are finished with them!

God's Peace.....Vicki D

## ***FEBRUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS***

Heritage (Traditional) Worship: Sun 8:15am Jubilation! (Contemporary) Worship: Sat 5:30pm, Sun 9:30 & 11:00am

<b>Time</b>	<b>Worship Assistant Team</b>	<b>Ushers All of February</b>
<b>January 31 &amp; February 1—Holy Communion</b>		
5:30pm Jubilation Service	Saturday Night Worship Team	
8:15am Heritage Service	Team 2—Shelly Haer & Melissa Polson	Ron Overby, Tom Schwendtner Ambrose Heying, Roger Johnson
9:30am & 11:00am Jubilation Services	Team 5—Amber Zakaras	(9:30) Lynn Aarhus, Kari Balaberde Jon Peterson, Michelle Gaulin Lasenburg (11:00) Pat Meyer, Joy Stumme, Mark Dreier, Amy & Doc Nelson
<b>February 7 &amp; 8</b>		
5:30pm Jubilation Service	Saturday Night Worship Team	
8:15am Heritage Service	Team 3—Diane Heying & Tami Maxwell	
9:30am & 11:00am Jubilation Services	Team 1—Sue Hoogeveen & Pam Engelbart	
<b>February 14 &amp; 15—Holy Communion</b>		
5:30pm Jubilation Service	Saturday Night Worship Team	
8:15am Heritage Service	Team 1—Molly & Gary Baumert	
9:30am & 11:00am Jubilation Services	Team 2—Finerty's & Boever's	
<b>February 21 &amp; 22</b>		
5:30pm Jubilation Service	Saturday Night Worship Team	
8:15am Heritage Service	Team 2—Shelly Haer & Melissa Polson	
9:30am & 11:00am Jubilation Services	Team 3—Rhonda Wiebers & Chrys Frey	
<b>February 28 &amp; March 1—Holy Communion</b>		
5:30pm Jubilation Service	Saturday Night Worship Team	
8:15am Heritage Service	Team 3—Diane Heying & Tami Maxwell	
9:30am & 11:00am Jubilation Services	Team 4—Deb Brandt	

### **QUESTIONS OR NEED A REPLACEMENT? PLEASE CALL ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

**Alter Guild:** Karla Koval—712-323-4559

**Usher Director:** Kirk Engelbart 402-292-6249; Usher Captains (5:30) Steve Tyler 402-291-7192  
(8:15) Tom Riggs 402-292-3653  
(9:30) Terry Wilson 402-215-5135  
(11:00) Craig Christians 402-658-9647

**WE APPRECIATE OUR VOLUNTEERS**

# Parish Events

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

02/01 Jacob Harlow  
 02/01 John West  
 02/02 Dennis Hollenbeck  
 02/02 Matthew Carnley  
 02/02 Karen Rowell  
 02/02 Alicia Heiden  
 02/02 Alex Althof  
 02/02 Jennifer Winslow  
 02/02 Gerrad Dreesen  
 02/02 Mary Belford  
 02/02 Lisa Kadow  
 02/02 Brian VanOrman  
 02/03 Delores Belsaas  
 02/03 Johnathon Harter  
 02/03 Pierce Atkinson  
 02/03 Bryan Saggau  
 02/03 Janine Wegner  
 02/03 David Mounce  
 02/03 Brandon Evans  
 02/03 Anika Kothe  
 02/03 Kim Allen  
 02/04 Brayden Mussman  
 02/04 Brian Childers  
 02/04 Chris Baumert  
 02/05 Alex Liberty  
 02/05 Adam Hoogeveen  
 02/05 Eliot Althof  
 02/06 Kathy Owens  
 02/06 Douglas Belsaas  
 02/06 Sydney Skarda  
 02/06 Derek Nielsen  
 02/06 Matt Fundus  
 02/06 Shannon Triggs  
 02/06 Katelyn Dyrstad  
 02/06 Jady Stahr  
 02/07 Sterlin Blackwell  
 02/07 Michael Connett  
 02/07 Kelsey Woodard  
 02/07 Gregory Clark  
 02/07 Raymond Pollard  
 02/08 Addison Johnson  
 02/08 Beverly Mussman  
 02/09 Cynthia Maynard  
 02/09 MicKala Carnley  
 02/09 Timothy Stork  
 02/09 Maggie Sutton  
 02/09 Deborah Gadeken  
 02/09 Rick Albanez  
 02/09 Libby Walls

02/10 Kurt Kramer  
 02/10 Adam Bateman  
 02/10 Kylie Wegner  
 02/10 Jeff Wiitanen  
 02/10 Susan Jensen  
 02/11 Brittany Townsend  
 02/11 Timothy Melvin  
 02/11 Collin Dunn  
 02/11 Macy Gould  
 02/11 Timothy Butts  
 02/11 Charlotte Armstrong  
 02/12 Ron Wink  
 02/12 Hannah Griffith  
 02/12 Stephanie Shoning  
 02/12 Pamela Denman  
 02/12 John Whetzal  
 02/12 Kimberly Avery  
 02/12 Michael Haire  
 02/12 Jared Pelzer  
 02/13 Hannah Joyce  
 02/13 Jennifer Long  
 02/13 Tanner Martensen  
 02/13 Christopher Dow  
 02/13 Mark Erickson  
 02/14 Julie Flores  
 02/14 Anna Covi  
 02/14 Jett Stephens  
 02/14 Kenneth Heidzig  
 02/15 Henry Kafonek  
 02/15 Andrew Johnson  
 02/15 Brian Lebeck  
 02/15 Susan Benson  
 02/15 Laurie Hanna  
 02/15 Staci Martensen  
 02/15 Loeatice Finerty  
 02/16 Ava Finley  
 02/16 Patsy Meyer  
 02/16 Brittany Maughan  
 02/16 Hailey Parker  
 02/17 Trevor Peacock  
 02/17 Andrew Kadow  
 02/18 Trisha McArthur  
 02/18 Terri Kane  
 02/18 Cade Evans  
 02/18 Michael Patterson  
 02/19 Kathy Onnen  
 02/19 Devin Ivy  
 02/19 Piper Peterson  
 02/19 Michele Oman  
 02/19 Kellie Stoessel  
 02/19 Josephine Stoessel

02/19 Rita Nicholson  
 02/19 Seth Zaloudek  
 02/19 Andrew Kowalski  
 02/20 Mary Walters  
 02/20 Natalie Iwai  
 02/20 Ryan Needham  
 02/20 Ryan Bushek  
 02/20 Kay O'Connell  
 02/21 Scott Heckens  
 02/21 Josiah Akol  
 02/21 Martin Delahanty  
 02/21 Kyla Dyrstad  
 02/21 Robert Wegner  
 02/22 Brittany Hoffman  
 02/22 Karen Chandler  
 02/22 Christopher Gladbach  
 02/22 Marion Trumble  
 02/22 Joseph Fullenkamp  
 02/22 Philip Vogel  
 02/22 William Mashek  
 02/23 Cassandra Kallhoff  
 02/23 Akela Dramse  
 02/23 Maya Camp  
 02/23 Abby Borer  
 02/23 Russell Bagnall  
 02/24 Ben Elliott  
 02/24 Christopher Kadow  
 02/24 Robert Jenkner  
 02/24 Thomas Pederson  
 02/25 Tyler Anderson  
 02/25 Chelsie Schiro  
 02/25 Hunter Marz  
 02/25 Benjamin McVicker  
 02/25 Wendy Lundquist  
 02/26 Heidi Johnson  
 02/26 Debbie Shortino  
 02/26 Catherine Carrier  
 02/27 Erin Pauley  
 02/27 Maylene Haslett  
 02/27 Marc Conley  
 02/27 Erik James  
 02/27 Sarah Biermann  
 02/28 Collin Neumann  
 02/28 Lanea Jackson  
 02/28 Angela Ask  
 02/28 Matthew Bateman  
 02/28 Sherry Albracht  
 02/28 Kristin Hanna  
 02/29 Sonja Wegner

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

02/24/1952 Jim & DeEtt Harless  
 02/04/1964 Roger & Sharen Sievert  
 02/24/1968 Richard & Kathryn Biermann  
 02/16/1979 Rick & Betty Albanez  
 02/17/1979 John & Vicki DeRoo  
 02/11/1983 Tom & Marsha Culbertson  
 02/12/1983 PK & Pam Simmons  
 02/13/1988 Frank & Margaret Bruch  
 02/13/1988 Gary And Mary Findlay  
 02/29/1992 Roger & Linda Christensen  
 02/29/1992 Judd & Belinda Bessey  
 02/27/1993 Erik & Brenda Johnson  
 02/10/1996 Travis & Carla Hall  
 02/14/1997 Charles Carlsen & Kay Brooks  
 02/14/1997 Andy & Devon Cutinella  
 02/07/1998 Charlie & Dannie Daubs  
 02/27/1999 Michael & Sharra Smith  
 02/12/2000 Carl & Cheri Peoples  
 02/10/2001 Tom & Tessa Turner  
 02/09/2002 John & Pamela Whetzal  
 02/08/2003 Kevin & Bridget Stork  
 02/08/2003 Nathan & Katie Wallman  
 02/25/2009 Josiah & Rebekah Akol

## GODS PEACE AND COMFORT

**Jerry & Helen Johnson** in the death of their daughter Tonia on September 29, 2014

**Sherry & Larry Pilgrim** in the death of Sherry's brother Keith on November 9, 2014

**Wayne & Rita Nicholson** in the death of Rita's mother Elizabeth Phillips on December 21, 2014

**Janice Bjorkman** in the death of her husband Calvin on December 22, 2014

**Brenda & Charlie Batchelor** in the death of Brenda's aunt, Abby Underwood on December 22, 2014

**Tracy & Von Townsend** in the death of Tracy's brother, Scott Swigart, on December 22, 2014; Tracy's uncle and Von's uncle.

**Goef & Lisa Sager** in the death of Geoff's father and uncle.

**Yvie & Scott Pfender and family** in the death of Yvie's mother Denise Holmes on January 7, 2015.

## WEDDINGS

**Molly Erikson and Jon Miller** on January 3, 2015. Jon is the son of TLC members Mike and Dee Miller.

## BIRTHS

**Robert Clay MacDonald** born on December 21, 2014. Grandparents are Mary & Gary Findlay

## BAPTISMS

**January 17, 2015**

**Everliegh Jae Roth**, daughter of Chris and Sarah Roth. Sponsors are Payton, Grace and Bergen Roth.

Weekly updates on events and church happenings are located on our website! Registration for several events are available! Check it out at:  
[www.thanks-giving.org](http://www.thanks-giving.org)

CHECK OUT OUR



WEB SITE!

Did you know.....

You can receive this newsletter publication via email? If you would like to begin to receive the Newsletter via email in place of your mailed copy send your name and email address to

[sara.zivny@thanks-giving.org](mailto:sara.zivny@thanks-giving.org).

You can also read it on our website at:

[www.thanks-giving.org/newsletters](http://www.thanks-giving.org/newsletters)



ARE YOU IN NEED OF PRAYER?  
VISIT OUR NEW! PRAYER  
REQUESTS LINK ON T!LC  
WEBSITE

You can now submit prayer requests to the T!LC Prayer Team through the website at: [www.thanks-giving.org](http://www.thanks-giving.org), on the homepage under Daily Links/Prayer Requests.

For Care  
Ministry  
Assistance . .  
During Church



Office Hours:

Please call 402.292.2695

All Other Times:

Please call our dedicated 24/7 voice mail number **402.292.7633** and leave a message. Rhonda Rupert, Care Ministry Coordinator will contact you.

The March  
Newsletter  
Deadline is:  
February 20

Newsletter  
DEADLINE



## Dates to Remember:

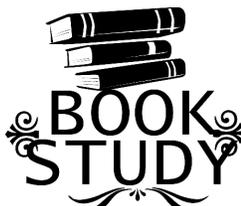
February 1 Cleansing Stream Begins

February 7—Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Youth Group from Minn...here.

February 18 Ash Wednesday  
Morning Service 6:30am  
Evening Services 6:00pm & 7:30pm

February 26 Soup Supper and Lenten Service  
Dinner 5:00pm-6:15pm  
Lenten Service 6:30pm



Women's Book Study will meet at 7:00 PM on Monday, February 9th at the Leawood III home of Karen Rowell, 13406 S. 27<sup>th</sup> Circle, Bellevue. To reach the Rowell home, drive South on 25<sup>th</sup> Street,

passing Capehart Road and the Base Hospital. Turn right onto Nottingham Drive and then immediately left onto Sheridan Road. Turn right onto S. 27<sup>th</sup> Circle. Karen's home is first house on the left.

We will be continuing our study of *Gideon: Your Weakness, God's Strength*. Study leader Karen asks that we read and complete pages 95 through 116. We will watch Session 5 with viewer guide on pages 118 & 119.

If you are a regular attendee and cannot attend the session, please email or call Karen ([kjpenguin@cox.net](mailto:kjpenguin@cox.net); 402-291-2401) or co-hostess Marlene Schuttler ([hmschut@cox.net](mailto:hmschut@cox.net); 402-291-3789).

Remember this is a scent free evening. Hope to see you there.

THANKSGIVING! LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



### OUR VISION STATEMENT

*Our Vision is for All People to Live Transformed Lives by **Belonging** to the Family of God, **Believing** in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and **Becoming** Spirit-Empowered Servants of Christ!*

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*Our mission is to reach out and gather people into the family of God, equipping them to be disciples of Jesus Christ in our community, nation, and world.*

### OUR IDENTITY STATEMENT

*We are followers of Christ who aspire to Be Like Jesus in every way, living life Up, In and Out!*

### CHURCH OFFICE

Hours: Monday-Friday - 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Phone: 402.292.2695  
Fax: 402.292.0248  
E-mail: sara.zivny@thanks-giving.org  
Website: www.thanks-giving.org  
Care Ministry: 402-292.7633  
T!LC Preschool: 402.292.0315

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

5:30 p.m. Saturday *Jubilant!* Service  
Sunday: 8:15 a.m. Heritage Services  
9:30 & 11:00 a.m. *Jubilant!* Services  
Nursery Available for All Services  
Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Weekends

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

September through May.....

- \* Saturday Night Kidz Church (during 5:30 Worship)
- \* Children's Sunday School 9:30am
- \* Youth Sunday School 9:30am
- \* Adult Sunday School 9:30am
- \* Wednesday Night Awana (PreK—6th grade)
- \* Confirmation (Grades 7 & 8)
- \* Numerous Weekly Senior High Youth and Adult Small Group Bible Studies

### T!LC STAFF

Pastors:

Rev. Glenn J. Harless, Senior Pastor  
Rev. David S. Witkop, Executive Pastor  
Rev. Bruce L. Kotila, Pastor of Discipleship Training

Operations Manager	Harold Carlson
Facility Manager	Ambrose Heying
Office Manager	Sara Zivny
Care Ministries Coordinator	Rhonda Rupert
RTF Ministry Director	Lisa Zaloudek
Worship & Music Coordinator	Michael Treachler
Handbell Choir Director	Liane Kirmis
Preschool Director	Dana Crosgrove
Children's Ministry Director	Connie Barnhart
Kidz Church Leaders	Richard Zolnowski/Traci Johnson
Awana Director	Lisa Sager, Meagan Cinfel
Student Ministry Director	Pastor David Witkop
Student Ministry Admin Asst.	Kelly Marz
Nursery Director	Bonnie Carpenter
Kids of the King Director	Ryan Cinfel

***Life Change  
through  
Life in Christ!***