



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

May 2015

Volume 31, No. 5

My name is Sandy Van Cleave and my family became Covenant/Kingdom T!LC partners in 2006 after some major life changes. My father became ill requiring my parents to move in with us. Due to his situation and health requirements, we wanted a church close to home; and with T!LC just two blocks away it was a perfect fit. Once we began to attend services, however, we knew the convenient location was just an added benefit! God had led us here to our TLC family! He truly is good all the time!



Sandy

I have to admit, when I was asked to write this, my first response was, why me? My story isn't dramatic or powerful and in no way do I feel like I have a strong testimony for Christ. I am just an ordinary person who is learning to accept Christ's gift of salvation! Some days even that seems like a struggle for me. Perhaps I am not alone in that!

I grew up with God as a part of my life through church, bible camps, and confirmation. The most dramatic thing for me was after saying the 'Sinner's Prayer' at age 10, discovering that I still knowingly commit sins! What a hypocrite, right? This devastation slowly began to separate me from God. In fact, Satan used scripture from Isaiah 64:6 "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags...", to drive me to the point of not believing God could love me. I mean even my best attempts at doing 'good' were all but filthy rags. I felt I was lost and completely unworthy.

Mercifully, God did not leave me in that state of mind. Instead, he brought truth into my life in various ways. He used people, sermons and T!LC classes such as Cleansing Stream to begin the process of changing my perspective. Now I cling to truths such as Romans 5:8 "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." In other words, God loves me filthy rags and all! These truths inspire me to love and serve others. Volunteering is one of the ways that allows me to serve God. Sharing the love of Christ through my actions and by serving my church; not in an effort *earn* His love or others love but to serve because He has given me so much more! The funny thing is that by volunteering as a Sunday School teacher, leading an ESL (English as a Second Language) team, and assisting with offering preparation, I have found that the more I serve the more God blesses me with rich, meaningful relationships. Somehow even in serving God, I always seem to be the one blessed!

# PASTOR'S PAGE

## *Jesus Style Radical Hospitality*

Luke 19:1-10

In their book, Why Nobody Wants to go to Church Anymore, Thom and Joani Schultz cite four main reasons that people are walking away from the American Church. 1) They feel judged. 2) They don't want to be lectured. 3) They think Christians are hypocrites. 4) They believe God is irrelevant to their lives. What I love about the book, however, is that they offer four irresistible expressions of love that can win them back. One of those is Radical Hospitality.

Do you remember the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus? Jesus had entered Jericho and was making his way through the town. There was a man there named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector in the region. This immediately tells us that he was despised by his fellow Jews and was considered a traitorous collaborator with the Roman occupiers. Zacchaeus had become very rich by cheating and overcharging his fellow countrymen on their taxes. All of this also made Zacchaeus a social and religious outcast, and a very lonely man. When Zacchaeus heard that Jesus – a famous itinerant teacher – was passing through Jericho, he wanted to get a glimpse of him. But because of the crowds, he was unable to see because of his shortness of stature. What Luke's text doesn't say, but which we might surmise, is that when the crowd saw Zacchaeus they may have likely kept him from getting close to Jesus by using such tactics as verbal threats, elbow jabs, or linked arms. Consequently, the little man ran ahead and climbed up into sycamore tree next to the road on which Jesus was traveling. All of this set up a dramatic encounter between the two men that ended up changing Zacchaeus' life forever!

When Jesus reached the point on the road where Zacchaeus was perched squirrel-like in the tree, the Lord stopped and looked at him and said, "Zacchaeus! Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today." At first glance from our modern western eyes, Jesus' words might have sounded rather rude as he invited himself into the man's home. But from an eastern cultural perspective there was much more going on. To enjoy the hospitality of a home and to eat with someone, meant that you were in fellowship with them; and that is what Jesus was offering to this hated scoundrel. Jesus was essentially inviting Zacchaeus into a relationship with him; and this lonely, marginalized man jumped at the opportunity! He quickly climbed down from the tree and with "great excitement and joy" welcomed the Lord into his home. What was the reaction of the people who witnessed the encounter? Some of them got their legalistic noses bent all out of shape, and they grumbled, "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner." (Think ... judgment, lecturing, hypocrisy, and irrelevancy!)

**But in the** meantime, Zacchaeus' life was being transformed by the gracious presence and friendship of Jesus. Suddenly the man stood before the Lord and, in front of other witnesses, declared: "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!" And Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

This is a remarkable story on so many different levels, but it also illustrates for us the power of radical hospitality motivated by the love of Jesus. It is something that Jesus practiced so beautifully and naturally, and therefore something which we want to aspire to as his followers. In their book mentioned above, the authors suggest eight ways to live out Jesus-style radical hospitality.

**Radical Hospitality** is ...

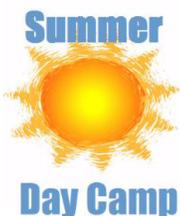
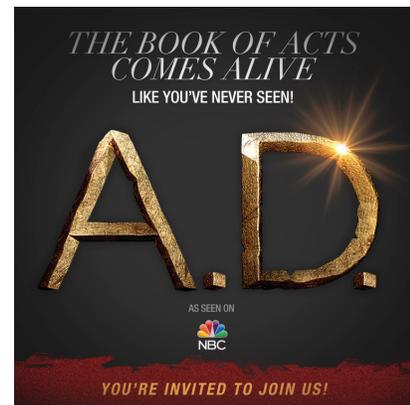
- Seeking to understand.
- Authentically welcoming others and being glad to be with them.
- Caring curiosity.
- Being a friend even though it's not your 'job.'
- Accepting, no matter what.
- Profoundly relational.
- Something that takes time.
- Unnerving, surprising, and messy.

I'll let you explore each of those as you seek to live them out as a follower of Christ, but I'll leave you with this. Loving people in the ways mentioned above, is in some ways so easy, and yet it is so hard. Perhaps that is why it is called radical, and why such loving hospitality is so powerful and so much Like Jesus!

Pastor Glenn

**A.D. Easter Was Just the Beginning**  
**12 week preaching series**

- Week 1: The Grave Robber
- Week 2: The Reality of the Resurrection
- Week 3: The Work of the Holy Spirit
- Week 4: Stand
- Week 5: You Can't Stop the Unstoppable
- Week 6: The Pebble Plan
- Week 7: The Dragon Dilemma
- Week 8: Undeniable: What Even Skeptics Know
- Week 9: The Significance of Nobody
- Week 10: The Barnabas Factor: When An Enemy Needs a Friend
- Week 11: Too Hot To Handle
- Week 12: The First Roman Pygmy



**Kids of the King Summer Camp**

**For children entering Kindergarten up to children exiting 6th grade**

**June 1st—August 7th**

**Monday –Friday 6:30AM-6:00PM**

**Ryan Cinfel ♦ 402-957-5497 or rkcinfel@gmail.com**

**\$35—Registration Fee per family ♦ \$25—per day or \$105—per week**

The staff at Kids of the King consists of teachers, nurses, and college/high school students who love working with children and teaching about the Lord. Our counselors make each child their priority throughout the summer to help them become more like Jesus. Our staff members are blessed each day with the knowledge that they are changing the lives of children.

Download a registration form from our website or pick one up in the lobby of the church!

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 March 2015 were \$196,311.24 or 78.8% of the estimates of giving. Additional principal payments from the Pathway to Freedom campaign and *Staying the Course* campaign (May 2012 - March 2015) now total \$616,537.36 and has saved approximately \$492,744 in interest payments over the loan period and effectively reduces the loan period by fifteen years and nine months. We will continue to make regular

additional principal payments from the *Staying the Course* capital campaign as they are received.

**Lenten Offering**

Again this year 100% of all offerings received during our mid-week Lenten services will go to support the work of Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County. At the time of this writing we had received \$15,604. Thank you for your generous support of this wonderful ministry.

**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 "Give" at the top right hand corner at the top of

the home page. You can also contact our *Simply Giving* Coordinator, Harold Carlson 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.

**GENERAL FUND**

**Thanksgiving! Lutheran Church  
 General Fund - March 2015**

Income				
Line Item	March Actual	March Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Estimates of Giving	118,518.10	123,047.00	311,162.46	327,497.00
Non-pledged Giving	82,521.11	24,153.00	150,233.46	78,762.00
Other Revenue	22,743.12	25,781.00	59,487.66	64,348.00
Ministry Challenge	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
From Savings Acct.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Expense				
Line Item	March Actual	March Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Facility/Operations	43,303.96	37,434.00	113,841.38	101,402.00
Ministry	51,381.78	46,522.00	129,315.64	122,161.00
Personnel	90,705.76	82,820.00	254,338.42	245,284.00

<b>Total Income</b>	<b>223,782.33</b>	<b>172,981.00</b>	<b>520,883.58</b>	<b>470,607.00</b>
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<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>185,391.50</b>	<b>166,776.00</b>	<b>497,495.44</b>	<b>468,847.00</b>
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**T!LC Council Highlights (April 16<sup>th</sup>)**

- ◆ Carol Umberger opened the meeting with prayer.
- ◆ Pastor Glenn lead the huddle discussion from the book [Why Nobody Wants To Go To Church Anymore](#) by Thom & Joani Schultz
- ◆ Pastor and coordinator reports were accepted as presented.
- ◆ Approved council minutes posted on bulletin board in Heritage facility across from T!LC Library.

## Sudanese Apartment Donations

Thank you so much for all the generous donations given to furnish 2 apartments for the families of our Sudanese Lost Boys. Your generosity will make life so much easier for these young families. The apartments look great and they have all the basics needed to start their lives with their families in America.

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### FREEMAN & BONNEMA, PLLC

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

P.O. BOX 514, CIRCLE PINES, MN 55014

WWW.FREEMANBONNEMACPAS.COM



To The Church Board  
Thanksgiving! Lutheran Church  
Bellevue, Nebraska

#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Thanksgiving! Lutheran Church (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2014 and 2013 and the related statement of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

#### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Thanksgiving Lutheran Church as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

*Freeman & Bonnema, PLLC*

March 31, 2015

**T!LC CARE MINISTRY**  
**Providing Care Ministry for the Whole Person**  
**Spirit~ Soul ~ and Body**



The 64th annual National Day of Prayer, **May 7, 2015**, will have profound significance for our country. It is an unprecedented opportunity to see the Lord's healing and renewing power made manifest as we call on citizens to humbly come before His throne.

Our theme for 2015 is **Lord, Hear Our Cry**, emphasizing the need for individuals, corporately and individually, to place their faith in the unfailing character of their Creator, who is sovereign over all governments, authorities, and men. To further highlight our theme, we've chosen **I Kings 8:28** as our Scripture for this year: **"Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day."**

For the May 7th observances, Dr. Jack Graham, the 2015 Honorary Chairman, wrote a special prayer (see below) to be simultaneously read throughout the nation at noon (EDT). This recitation will create a huge wave of prayer, flowing from one coast to the other, illustrating the unity of God's people and acknowledging His dominion over the circumstances facing us

At this crucial time for our nation, we can do nothing more important than pray. Thank you in advance for making this spiritual discipline a personal priority and for standing with us as we encourage others to incorporate prayer in their lives. The Lord has graciously anointed our efforts, empowering them to touch and change many hearts and lives. We look forward to seeing His hand move across our land in exciting ways each May in response to our petitions! May the Lord's peace fill your heart as you rest in Him throughout the days ahead.

Heavenly Father,

We come to You in the Name that is above every name—Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Our hearts cry out to You. Knowing that You are a prayer-answering, faithful God—the One we trust in times like these—we ask that You renew our spirits, revive our churches, and heal our land.

We repent of our sins and ask for Your grace and power to save us. Hear our cry, oh God, and pour out Your Spirit upon us that we may walk in obedience to Your Word.

We are desperate for Your tender mercies. We are broken and humbled before You. Forgive us, and in the power of Your great love, lift us up to live in Your righteousness. We pray for our beloved nation. May we repent and return to You and be a light to the nations. And we pray for our leaders and ask that You give them wisdom and faith to follow You.

Preserve and protect us, for You are our refuge and only hope. Deliver us from all fears except to fear You, and may we courageously stand in the Truth that sets us free. We pray with expectant faith and grateful hearts.

In Jesus' name, our Savior. Amen.

**The T!LC Golf League is forming. If you are interested in a little fun and fellowship, please see the information and sign-up sheets located in the lobby of the church.**

**The primary goals of this league is to have fun and hopefully improve your game. Questions contact Corky Rice by e-mail [cgrice3@cox.net](mailto:cgrice3@cox.net) or call 402-292-9310 (if no answer, please leave a message).**



## **T!LC Golf League**



**Thanks!Cycle** is a fun bicycling group of couples and singles interested in biking.... casual pace (*the average pace is 10 mph*). Suggestions regarding locations to begin our rides, directions to get there and the route to be taken are always welcome! With this information we can have a variety of bicycle trips.

Beginning Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 we will begin our ThanksCycle! Adventures for 2015. Please join us.

The weather/wind dictates if we ride and the distance to be ridden. If the weather is questionable, I do not send out an e-mail to cancel. It is up to the individual to choose, if you do or do not want to ride due to weather concerns. *We leave for our rides promptly at the times indicated.*

**May 3, Sunday, at 2:00** Our first ride will begin at the Penny's parking lot in Council Bluffs. Take I-80/29 into Iowa. For those of you coming from Nebraska, the interstate has changed configurations. As you come East over the bridge, stay in the right lane and take the exit for 24<sup>th</sup> street. After exiting, turn right. At the first stop light turn left (Verizon store on the corner and Penny's parking lot will be insight). We will ride to the pedestrian bridge and into downtown Omaha (7 miles one-way) for a treat of sorts and back. There are many coffee/pastry restaurants.

**May 10<sup>th</sup>** – Mother's Day AND **May 24<sup>th</sup>**—Memorial Day, no scheduled bike ride

**May 17, Sunday at 2:00** - We will begin at the trailhead behind Culvers located near 36<sup>th</sup> and 370. There is a parking lot for riders located behind Culvers, 3602 Raynor Parkway, Bellevue. This is also near the Marcus Twin Creek theaters. We will return to Culvers for a light snack/cool drink.

**May 31, Sunday at 2:00** – We will begin at the trailhead at Seymour park located at Harrison and 72<sup>nd</sup> street. Enter the park on Drexel Street, drive past the splash pad and you will see a large parking lot. On our way back to Seymour Park we will stop for refreshments.

Contact: Deb Bernhardt at [DABernhardt3@cox.net](mailto:DABernhardt3@cox.net).

# Children's Ministry Newsletter



Children's Ministry

May 2015

Connie Barnhart

Children's Ministry Director

Saying goodbye can be difficult. As I prepare to retire from the Children's Ministry Director position I have been surprised at the varying degrees of emotions that I have experienced. I have loved working with God's smallest disciples and know that God has a plan for me that He has not yet revealed. Before I had the peace of knowing and following Jesus, I would have been a bundle of nerves about not knowing **exactly** what was coming next in my life, but I do not have any of those anxious thoughts. God will show me the way.

What will I miss? Here are just a FEW :

- ◆ Maddie with the beautiful curly hair, who loves all things Mickey Mouse (we share that love) and whose Grandfather faithfully brings her to Sunday School.
- ◆ Toby and Nate who are best buddies- the first thing they ask when they see me on Sundays is if their friend has arrived yet.
- ◆ Elizabeth who skips into the room with a smile full of joy on her face.
- ◆ Robert who loves to share with me what fun things he has learned at school during the week.
- ◆ Esther, a 4 year old who proudly told me that she was named after a queen!
- ◆ Kristen who has a natural aptitude of understanding the Word and how it applies to her life.
- ◆ **All the preschoolers** who dance, jump and sing with me with that childlike abandonment of not being embarrassed! (I think I possess some of that also.)
- ◆ Twins, Gavin and Faith who give me the best hugs!
- ◆ The very best Children's Ministry Team in the whole state! The love and compassion of the volunteer Sunday School teachers is amazing!

"For I know the plans I have for you," declared the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." *Jeremiah 29:11*

Miss Connie



## **BLAST into summer with an EXPLOSIVE VBS program!**

Thanksgiving! is hosting B.A.S.I.C. Elements Science VBS

**June 22-26, 2015 from 9:00am-12:00pm**

Please pray about how God has gifted you and how you might share your gift through the VBS experience.

There are many opportunities for both adults and youth to serve before and during VBS.

**Decorations ◆ Large Group Worship ◆ Preschool ◆ Promotions ◆ Science Devotionals**  
**Skits and Dramas ◆ Small Group Leaders ◆ Science Projects ◆ Snacks**

Contact Lisa Witkop ([lisa.witkop@thanks-giving.org](mailto:lisa.witkop@thanks-giving.org)) if you have any questions or would like to volunteer your time, gifts and/or talents



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 May

May 6: T and T Store

May 13: Frantic  
 Finish/ Last Awana  
 Night

May 20: Award's  
 Night

**Finishing Up For The Year**

As we end our 2014-2015 Awana year, we would like to take some time to let all of the clubbers know how proud we are of their accomplishments this year. Taking time to study for AWANA each week can be challenging with other commitments going on in life, and needs to be praised.

Studying and memorizing God's word will only strengthen your faith and prepare you to battle a sinful world.

However, even though Awana is coming to an end for this year, it doesn't mean that you need to finish learning God's word. We encourage you to keep reviewing the verses that you learned and even challenge yourself to learn new scripture.

**Thank you!**

Our Leader

Appreciation was a success! Thank you to everyone who brought in yummy treats!

**Parents:** We are looking for parents to help out during our Leader Banquet on May 14. We will need parents to volunteer to serve dinner, make desserts, help set up, and clean up. If you are interested in helping, please contact Lisa Sager.

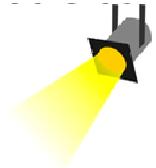


**KUDOS!**

Kudos to our clubbers for raising \$539.27 to help reach other children in Awana Clubs in other countries. This money will help 54 other clubbers know the Gospel of Jesus!

***You're Invited!***

To help celebrate all of the work that the clubbers have accomplished, please join us in our sixth annual Awards Night on May 20, from



**Volunteer Spotlight**

This is Ms. Katherine's second year in volunteering at Awana. Her interaction between the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade girls is always positive and fun! You can usually see Ms. Katherine playing with the clubbers at Game Time! Her favorite thing about Awana is watching the clubbers mature through the year.



May 2015

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

## Club 56

For 5th and 6th Grade Students!

Molly Miller  
[molly.miller@thanks-giving.org](mailto:molly.miller@thanks-giving.org)

## Junior High

For 7th and 8th Grade Students!

Gary Olson & Molly Miller  
[gary.olson@thanks-giving.org](mailto:gary.olson@thanks-giving.org)

## High School

For 9th—12th Grade Students!

Gary Olson & Jon Miller  
[jon.miller@thanks-giving.org](mailto:jon.miller@thanks-giving.org)

### Club 56

It's hard to believe the school year has almost come to a close. We have had such a great time together this year! From movie-making to can-collecting for the local food pantry, from paintball to the first-ever TILC 'TP the neighborhood' event, from retreats to everything in-between, we've been praising God the whole time. Be on the lookout for ways to connect over the summer but we want you to know, the big one is already on the schedule. Check it out below!

This summer we are going to Riverside Lutheran Camp in Story City, Iowa from July 19-24 (Juniors camp). We still have a few spots to fill so we hope if you have registered you, you will make a commitment to join us! Register online at, <http://www.riversidelbc.org/programs/register>. Please make a check payable to TILC for \$210. To receive the discounts our church receives you **must** pay the church, **not** the camp. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Molly Miller at [molly.miller@thanks-giving.org](mailto:molly.miller@thanks-giving.org).

#### Upcoming Events

**July 19 -24** - Summer Camp @ Riverside Lutheran Camp; details on website

### Junior High

May is here which means - **Confirmation**. Thank you for allowing us to come alongside you during this important moment in your student's faith life. The week of confirmation will be a busy week so please take special note of all the important dates to keep in mind.

**May 4-8, 2015** All projects, life verse selections, and confirmation requirements are due to the TILC office no later than May 8, 2015. This will allow ample time for us to properly prepare for the banquet.

**Wednesday May 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm** is Confirmation pictures and rehearsal. All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who plan to be confirmed need to be present for the group picture and rehearsal. Order forms have been mailed to your homes and will also be available when photos are taken.

**Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm** is the Confirmation Banquet. **RSVP with payment and number of people attending to the TILC office no later than May 1, 2015!**

**Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm** is Baptism/Reaffirmation of Baptism. This is your son or daughter's opportunity to be baptized if they haven't been baptized or to reaffirm their baptism. We encourage all to attend as it is a meaningful time. This will be held in the Family Life Center.

**Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:15am or 11:00am** is Confirmation Sunday. Students may choose to participate in one or both of the services. The 8:15am is a traditional style service and 11:00am is a contemporary style service.

#### **Fees:**

- \$15.00 robe rental fee
- \$5.00 per person banquet tickets

If the fees impose a financial hardship, please let us know, as scholarships are available.  
If you have any questions or concerns regarding Confirmation please be sure to talk to your student's mentor or a Jr. High leader.

## High School

With summer fast approaching, it's natural that we turn our attention to proms, graduation and the end of the school year. We are making plans to stay together over the summer months and as always, we are looking for your input as well. We're also planning on offering student leadership classes again this year.

Remember to save the date for our summer trip to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. We will be attending MOVE, a week-long event with an organization called Christ in Youth. The cost will be \$200. Seating is limited! Contact me or check out our web page for more information.

### Upcoming Events

**July 6-10** – MOVE Conference @ University of NE – Lincoln; COST: \$200/student plus the cost of one meal.



### **ATTENTION GRADUATES**

(high school, college, trade school, nursing, graduate school, etc.)

So that we can recognize your accomplishments,  
please answer the following:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

School Name, City & State

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Degree \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Future Plans (college major, job, additional education, etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out the above information and bring to the office, contact the Church Office at 402-292-2695 or email [sara.zivny@thanks-giving.org](mailto:sara.zivny@thanks-giving.org) with your information. Or visit our website and fill out the **ONLINE FORM**

We will include a list of all graduates in the *Messenger* and Newsletter in June, so please let us know by May 19th.



## Restoring the Foundations

*"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ."*

1 Corinthians 3:11

The Restoring the Foundations (RTF) vision is to "provide hope for healing, freedom from life's deepest struggles, and renewed purpose for living through a personal encounter with the power of God's love". In March T!LC commissioned 15 prayer ministers who are trained in RTF prayer ministry. In April, a T!LC RTF leadership team (Staff & Lay leaders) trained another 14 people from three congregations (T!LC, Bellevue Christian Center, & Christ Lutheran Church, Blair) on the first steps of becoming RTF Issue Focus Minister. It's exciting to be a part of a ministry that is bringing healing and freedom to God's people around the world and to see it beginning to spread here in the Midwest as well!

Since the founding of RTF by Chester & Betsy Kylstra 25 years ago, RTF has expanded to Europe, Africa, South America, Australia, and the Asia Pacific regions. The Kylstra's travel around the world to share the RTF vision and train leaders and T!LC is privileged to be hosting them here in Bellevue on the weekend of August 15-16, 2015. We'll share more details as they are finalized so please be watching for further updates on the Kylstra's visit. In the meantime if you, your small group, or family on mission group would like more information on RTF please contact [Lisa.Zaloudek@thanks-giving.org](mailto:Lisa.Zaloudek@thanks-giving.org), [Pastorbruce@thanks-giving.org](mailto:Pastorbruce@thanks-giving.org) or call the T!LC office at 402-292-2695. We'd love to meet with you or your small group to share more about the RTF vision.

# Congratulations

*Peter I. Iverson on the competition and award of his  
Eagle Scout Court of Honor on April 25, 2015.*

To Our T!LC Congregation Family

Thank you for all your prayers for our family. We so appreciate the flowers for DeLores, all the help with desserts for the luncheon and all the many details that were done for us that we are not even aware of. As a community you surrounded us with your love and concern and we rested in that peace.

Pastor Bruce, Barb, Katie and Nate Kotila

# Thank You



## The T!LC Library Corner

### It's Your Library

May 2015

Jesus is ascending to his father at the end of this month and in keeping with the Holy Spirit, let's continue to expand our horizons by utilizing all that the T!LC Library has to offer to help you along on your spiritual journey. You will find fictional stories to fill your heart and mind with the love of God. New reference books to help you expand your knowledge of the people, places and times from ancient history spiritual growth books that help you to develop the Holy Spirit. All these opportunities are available in your Library.

The books listed below can help you to continue on with your spiritual journey. These books can be found on the library cart across from the Welcome Center as well as additional books for all ages in the Library.

#### **WASH THE FEET OF THE WORLD with Mother Teresa by Charles Ringma**

"Mother Teresa once said she wanted to "do something beautiful for God. These 120 daily reflections allow you to take in this masterpiece of a life and challenge you to look for ways you too can do something beautiful with your life."

#### **I SAW THE LORD-a wake up call for your heart by Anne Graham Lotz**

"Ann shares the revival lessons she has carried to audiences throughout the world showing you how you can experience an authentic, deeper, richer relationship with God in a life changing, fire blazing revival. "

#### **DEAR AMERICA BOOKS by various authors**

Check out these books written as diaries by individuals that experienced God in different times of their timeline in life. "The Alamo Diary of Lucinda Lawrence is among others to be found in the library.

#### **HOLY SPIRIT POWER by Smith Wigglesworth**

"You can be so filled with the Holy Spirit that you will know you are in the presence of God. Christ's love, power and joy will flow through you to others." This book is a journey!

#### **LIFE IN CHRIST by John Stott**

" In this classic book, John Stott explores a Christianity of prepositions. By looking at these "insignificant little words" – living our life through Christ, on him, in him under him, unto him, for him and like him – we can learn great things about our relationship to Jesus Christ."

#### **PROMISES FOR SPIRIT-LED LIVING by Smith Wigglesworth**

"A promise is a promise. Especially when it's God's promise to his children. So we can trust and hope in the promises of Scripture. Wigglesworth believed in the truth and power of God's Word. This book shows you how you, too, can depend upon the promises of God.

#### **SPIRITUALITY @ WORK by Gregory F.A. Pierce.**

"Inviting us to pause, reflect, and act with the God who is already present, Pierce boldly confronts and honestly evaluates our struggle to impose religion on the world of work, spirituality @ work.

Once again, come to the library and browse through the Spiritual Growth section (orange dots). Discover all the treasures generously donated by members of our congregation. For those who have donated these wonderful books, CD and DVD's, thank-you once again. Any additional books you wish to pass along for our library or fall book sale are always appreciated.

God's peace,

Vicki D

## **MAY 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 May</b>
<b>May 2 &amp; 3 Holy Communion</b>		
5:30pm Jubilation Service	Saturday Night Worship Team	Johann Onnen, Steve Tyler
8:15am Heritage Service	Team 2 Shelly Haer & Melissa Polson	Steve Lebedz, Rich Kral John Taylor, Bob Maxwell
9:30am & 11:00am Jubilation Services	Team 2 Boever & Finerty	<b>9:30am</b> Mike Hegarty, Gary Muhle, Terry Wilson, Bill Clausen <b>11:00am</b> Scott Pfender, Nick Pfender, Phil Davidson, Bill Richards
<b>May 9 &amp; 10 Mother's Day!</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 3 Rhonda Wiebers & Chrys Frey	
<b>May 16 &amp; 17 Holy Communion and Confirmation Weekend</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 4 Deb Brandt	
<b>May 23 &amp; 24</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 5 Lisa Sager	
<b>May 30 &amp; 31</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	

### **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

## MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

05/01 Piper VanOrman  
05/01 Ciara Kerstetter  
05/01 Heather Waring  
05/01 Andrew Jeppesen  
05/01 Daniel Belford  
05/01 Michael Strohmyer  
05/01 Nathan Wegner  
05/01 Madelyn Clark  
05/02 Lisa Hagen  
05/02 Charles Daubs  
05/02 Lynelle Kowalski  
05/02 Pamela Vacek  
05/02 Lori Morgan  
05/03 Truman Smith  
05/03 Tegan Owens  
05/03 Kerry Markowsky  
05/04 Braylon Fjell  
05/04 Chris Schuttler  
05/04 Tayler Schnitker  
05/04 Janiece Hudelson  
05/04 Riley Martensen  
05/04 Elizabeth Wayt  
05/04 Sean Wayt  
05/04 Jackson Andersen  
05/05 Ryan Oaks  
05/05 Nicholas Kramer  
05/05 Maria Wiebelhaus  
05/05 Kevin McArthur  
05/05 Summer Hill  
05/06 Cathy Muhle  
05/06 Jennifer Weitzel  
05/06 Kelli L. Athay  
05/06 Susan Hoogeveen  
05/07 Mariah Filip  
05/07 Phil Smith  
05/07 Lisa Hubka  
05/07 Trista Owens  
05/07 Abby Tipton  
05/07 Julee Sauer  
05/08 Ryan Johnson  
05/08 Ken Tonn  
05/08 Cole Goduto  
05/08 Zachary Lebeck  
05/08 Breanna Carter  
05/08 Marilyn Glasnapp  
05/09 Rob Liberty  
05/09 William Moses  
05/09 Linda Jensen  
05/09 Joy Jackson  
05/09 Kyle Wederquist  
05/09 Malynda Mulvany  
05/09 Brooke Harre  
05/10 Chris Ross  
05/10 Lana Fox  
05/10 James Andersen  
05/11 Mary Stork  
05/11 Christopher Andrews  
05/12 Nelson Smith  
05/12 William Wayt  
05/12 Landon McVicker  
05/12 Carol Schuster  
05/12 Malathi Erickson  
05/13 Brian Klausen

05/13 Karen Griffith  
05/13 Amanda Dreessen  
05/13 Barbara Howery  
05/14 Linda Pauley  
05/14 Tod Ellis  
05/14 Emma Mounce  
05/14 Kristi Woodard  
05/14 Luke Blasey  
05/14 Janet Paulsen  
05/14 Caleb Long  
05/14 Mark Lewis  
05/15 Patty Barnes  
05/15 Terry Harlow  
05/15 Matt Peterson  
05/15 Todd Gould  
05/15 Jeremy Tipton  
05/15 Jacqui Joyce  
05/15 Adam Vogel  
05/15 Kendyl Lewis  
05/15 McKenna Lewis  
05/16 Roger Davick  
05/16 Vicki Boyd  
05/16 Lynn Spady  
05/16 Ann Mason  
05/16 Tori Reichardt  
05/16 Nicholas Gilbert  
05/17 Carol Kellison  
05/17 Sandra Livingston  
05/17 Joseph Gershon  
05/17 Jordan Graff  
05/17 Maci Jensen  
05/17 Noah Turnipseed  
05/17 Allison Jarvis  
05/17 John Creech  
05/18 Joseph Snook  
05/18 Sharon Snook  
05/18 Vickey Anderson  
05/18 Neva Covi  
05/18 Gavin Turner  
05/18 Jaxon Fyerer  
05/18 Brock Hebert  
05/18 Gunnar Drew  
05/19 Micaela Hoogeveen  
05/19 William Smith  
05/19 Morgan Harris  
05/19 Erika Walker  
05/19 Emerson Hebert  
05/19 Elizabeth Sullivan  
05/19 Mya Weber  
05/20 Jackie Fuxa  
05/20 Travis Hall  
05/20 Kristine Gould  
05/20 Pam Engelbart  
05/20 Janelle Walls  
05/20 Alex Bruzzano  
05/20 Anne Swales  
05/20 Julie Nichols  
05/21 Lily Hybner  
05/21 Andrea Skarda  
05/21 Sarah Anderson  
05/21 Hannah Sager  
05/22 Sarah Griffith  
05/22 Travis Ivy  
05/22 Katelin Leaders

05/22 Meghann Winslow  
05/22 Marissa Carter  
05/22 Joshua Homme  
05/22 Amanda Culbertson  
05/23 Brian Lacy  
05/23 Brandon Lacy  
05/23 Traci Johnson  
05/23 Pam Rice  
05/23 Makenna Wallman  
05/23 Corrie Mounce  
05/23 Rebecca McIntyre  
05/23 Ethan Aschenbrenner  
05/24 Chelsea Shaw  
05/24 Abby Buechler  
05/24 Riley Adams  
05/24 Lisle Babcock  
05/25 Joyce Pancoast  
05/25 Thomas Mohr  
05/25 Gloria Jean Matthews  
05/25 Molly Baumert  
05/26 Carole Davick  
05/26 Barb Kotila  
05/26 Brooke Bowman  
05/26 Chris Jackson  
05/27 Thomas Pauley  
05/27 Brayden Woodard  
05/27 Henry Kallhoff  
05/27 Amy Isaacson  
05/27 Melissa Polson  
05/27 Bailey Oaks  
05/28 Myles Carnley  
05/28 Karen Anderson  
05/28 Kristina Riker  
05/29 Larissa Hayes  
05/29 Marsha Gunderson  
05/29 Russell Brandt  
05/29 Morgan Anderson  
05/29 Charles Stroberg  
05/29 Marlene Schuttler  
05/29 Grant Engelbart  
05/29 Jessie Curry  
05/30 Bridget McGovern  
05/30 Jordan Krambeer  
05/30 Taylor Cobelens  
05/30 Ronald Overby  
05/30 Ronda Holtzen  
05/30 Adalyn Wolken  
05/30 Lovelyn Wright  
05/31 Jamie McGovern  
05/31 Hailey Jackson  
05/31 Nancy Kunkle  
05/31 Larry Habrock

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

05/29/1954 Don & Lois Hansen  
05/31/1969 Thomas & Adeline Pederson  
05/08/1970 Larry & Sharyl Pilgrim  
05/24/1971 Rick & Carol Power  
05/30/1971 Terry & Dot List  
05/05/1972 Roger & Jean Gemar  
05/18/1973 Joe & Sherry Snook  
05/12/1976 Tom & Kim Riggs  
05/14/1977 Warren & Debbie Koehler  
05/14/1977 Chip & Carol Coy  
05/06/1978 Terry & Corliss Bunas  
05/24/1980 Mark & Candy Masek  
05/28/1983 Jeff & Dee Ryan  
05/26/1984 Shawn & Sandra McAcy  
05/26/1984 Guy & Shirley Alther  
05/17/1985 Sanford & Amy Nelson  
05/31/1986 David & Melanie Lempke  
05/27/1989 Todd & Kristi Gould  
05/26/1990 Cary & Lisa Sutton  
05/05/1991 Ryan & Becky Mahr  
05/18/1991 Chris & Monica Andrews  
05/25/1991 Jason & Sharon Stahr  
05/25/1991 Jeff & Lisa Rippe  
05/02/1992 Scott & Yvie Pfender  
05/16/1992 Ken & Stephanie Shoning  
05/23/1992 Steve & Beth Bateman  
05/08/1993 Tim & Deb Dydyk  
05/28/1994 Jerry & Kristine Wiebelhaus  
05/20/1995 Rob & Dawn Liberty  
05/20/1995 Mike & Angela Ask  
05/11/1996 Mike & Lee Taylor  
05/19/1996 Andrew & Kristina Riker  
05/31/1996 Louis & Jill Hoeft  
05/10/1997 Steve & Sara Zivny  
05/31/1997 Bryan & Dawn Boyce  
05/22/1998 Matt & Amy Peterson  
05/30/1999 Chuck & Jean Duros  
05/20/2000 Mike & Donna Michelson  
05/27/2000 Tom & Jamie McGovern  
05/18/2002 Tony & Tyna Lewis  
05/27/2003 Christopher & Amy Dow  
05/28/2005 Terry & Peggy Harlow  
05/27/2006 Adam & Micaela Hoogeveen  
05/27/2006 Mick & Laura Jackson  
05/27/2006 Luke & Billie Jo Kothe  
05/07/2007 Jeremiah & Megan Bowen  
05/26/2007 Michael & Andrea Nelson

Baptisms, Births and God Peace and Comfort  
can be found on the back page of this  
newsletter.

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)



**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)

## Dates to Remember:

May 1 & 2 Club 56 Spring Recharge – Camp Okoboji

May 10—Papillion Graduation

May 10—Mother’s Day!

May 14—Awana Volunteer Appreciation Banquet

May 15—Confirmation Banquet

May 17—Confirmation Sunday (8:15am or 11:00am)

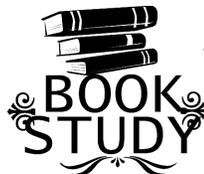
May 23—Bellevue Graduation

May 25—Memorial Day—T!LC Offices Closed



**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.



## Women’s Monday Night Book Study

We have completed our Priscilla Shirer study of Gideon. There will be no meeting in May.

We will gather at the home of Diane Wink for a salad supper on Monday, June 15th. More details will be published in the June Newsletter.

**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.

### GODS PEACE AND COMFORT

**Ken & Sharon Hoffman** in the death of Ken’s mother, Elsie Hoffman on April 16, 2015.

**Jan and Bill Elliot** in the death of Jan’s brother, Brian Nordby, on March 31, 2015.

### BAPTISMS

**April 12, 2015**

**Vera Rose Konkin**, daughter of Nelly & Vyacheslav Konkin. Sponsors are Ashley & Michael Patterson.

**Scarlet Clarice Patterson**, daughter of Ashley & Michael Patterson. Sponsors are Nelly & Vyacheslav Konkin.

**April 26, 2015**

**Dexter Charles Klamann**, son of Kristin & Shawn Klamann. Sponsors are Denise & Michael Hebert.

**The June  
Newsletter  
Deadline is:  
May 15**

**Newsletter  
DEADLINE**

### BIRTHS

**Jenna Marie Shipman** on Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup>. Proud parents Jon and Jeannie Shipman

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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 *Jubilation!* Service  
Sunday: 8:15 a.m. Heritage Services  
9:30 & 11:00 a.m. *Jubilation!* 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!*