



www.thanks-giving.org

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Our apologies to Debbie Bernhardt! The November Newsletter featured Debbie's testimony on the front page and we failed to mention her name! Our sincere apologies to Debbie - thank you for sharing your story!

Hello, my name is Molly Miller. Have you ever felt like God really wanted you to do something? Have you ever felt like He wouldn't give up until you said yes? I want to share a recent experience with you when God did just that.

God has done great things in my life through T!LC. I have had the pleasure of attending T!LC since 2012. Not long after joining, I started volunteering with Children's Ministry and Jr. High Ministry and I loved it. A year after that, I interned part-time at T!LC over the summer, mainly focusing on the 5th and 6th grade ministry.



In 2013 I left for a year to become a missionary in Madagascar. T!LC supported me graciously throughout this time and for that I will always be thankful. When I arrived back from Madagascar in 2014, Pastor David approached me with a new opportunity. He wanted to give me a chance to work full-time in student ministry at T!LC. I accepted. Today, I am the Student and Family Ministry Director at T!LC, but I believe God is calling me on a new adventure.

Over the last year, the open children's ministry position at T!LC has been constantly on my mind. A couple months ago, I couldn't sleep and prayed late into the night about this position because I had a few problems with it. One, I knew I'd love it, but I wasn't sure I was qualified. Two, I love working with the student ministry at T!LC and didn't want to leave that role. Three, I thought there were probably many people in the world who could do a better job than me. So I prayed. As I prayed, I felt God told me to apply. He assured me he had a great plan in place for it all. I trusted God and applied.

God gave me peace as I wrote the application, submitted it and participated in the interviews. Now it is my great joy to let you know that I was accepted for the Family and Children's Ministry Director. I am so excited for this new adventure, and here's why:

- I believe parents and families are designed by God to build faith that sticks throughout a child's life.
- I believe children have the ability to understand God's love and grace in profound ways.
- I believe God has uniquely called the whole community of Thanksgiving, as He has called me, to pour into the lives of the next generation.

Prayer has been the core of this decision. I prayed, the pastors prayed, the search committee prayed and God answered. This has been such an amazing experience and I am elated to walk alongside T!LC on this new journey! I will begin my new role on June 1st, 2016. Until that time I will continue to pour my heart into the junior and senior high students and their families. My new responsibilities as family and children's ministry director will also include Club 56. I covet your prayers in this time of transition and the beginning of a new season in ministry.

2016 Strategic Vision Update



In June we began a process of evaluating the overall ministry of T!LC. The process was designed to seek input from the congregation in key areas and through multiple ways, all while be guided by the Holy Spirit, to understand how we were to move forward with the information that was obtained.

From this process, we gleaned the following priorities for T!LC for 2016:

1. Create more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships.
2. Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them.
3. Strengthen the process by which members are called and equipped for ministry and leadership.
Develop ministries that work towards healing those broken by life's circumstances.

After reviewing all of the data, the Strategic Committee embarked upon a very methodical process, which you can understand more fully by reviewing their written presentation on our website. (<http://www.thanks-giving.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Strat-Team-Proposal-Revised1.pdf>)

After much prayer, discernment and discussion, the team concluded, and the council has accepted, the recommendation that in order to achieve the priorities of the church and be in alignment with where God desires for our focus to be at this time, we need to restructure our staffing and create 5 new positions:

1. Adult Ministry Director-*temporary*
2. Life Group Director
3. Communications Director
4. Connections Director
5. Care Ministry Team Leader

If you were not able to hear Pastor Glenn's message about the vision, please go to our website and listen to the sermon online. It can be found under the worship tab and is the sermon for November 8, 2015.

There are several questions that we have received over the past months and we desire for the questions to continue. The questions will be answered via multiple avenues throughout the coming months. These include: having a monthly section in the newsletter where we will update the strategic process overall; an FAQ section on the website under the "more" tab; budgetary forums in January; council meetings; council forums and you can always speak to a pastor or council member.

Most importantly, we are asking for the church to join in prayer for this vision. Please be praying for God's will, for God to move hearts for the finances and for the unity in the body as we embark on the next phase of this bold vision.

Janine Wegner, T!LC Planning Team Chair



New Dinner Fellowship Group Beginning

Beginning in January, Ivan and Becki Abdouch will be “hosting” a monthly dinner club for T!LC adults who are for a way to make new friendships within the church.

The club will meet the second Sunday of each month in a different member's home who will serve as the hosts for the month. (Becki and Ivan will provide the home for members not able to host it in their home). The designated host couple for month will be responsible for the main dish and everyone else will sign up for sides, desserts, etc. The first club meeting will be on Sunday, January 10. Space is limited to ten people so please sign up early if you are interested by contacting Becki at abecki@hotmail.com or 402-331-4561.

If you are interested in forming a dinner club, please contact Janine Wegner at janine.weger@thanks-giving.org.

Monthly Ladies Lunch Bunch

Are you looking for an easy opportunity to connect with other women at T!LC? Beginning in January, there will be a monthly “Ladies Lunch Bunch” who will get together for lunch at a local restaurant. This outing is intended for adults only. If you would like more information, please contact Becki Abdouch at abecki@hotmail.com or 402-331-4561.



Beth Moore is coming to Omaha!

Early bird seats are \$59 before January 29th!
Save the date for April 15th and 16th.

Lifeway.com/livingproof for more details

Contact Barbara Olson for information
about a T!LC Group attending together!
barbarajo2002@yahoo.com



Looking for that special gift for you and your spouse this Christmas? The Weekend to Remember Getaway makes the perfect gift. This two-and-a-half day getaway weekend is a time to be together as a couple to invest in

and strengthen the foundation of your marriage, no matter how firm or fragile your marriage is. Some things you'll learn are how to receive your spouse as a gift, resolve conflict, and increase your commitment to each other creating an even deeper level of intimacy. 2016's Omaha area getaway will be held at Hilton Omaha, March 18-20. For more details and registration information please visit www.familylife.com/weekendtoremember2015.

PASTOR'S PAGE



Sent – Every year Americans spend significant dollars to send Christmas packages to friends and loved ones; and sometimes the cost of the mailing even surpasses the cost of the gift. Furthermore, it won't be too long and we'll begin to hear warnings about the final date to mail a package and still have guaranteed delivery by Christmas Eve. This year for Advent and Christmas, I want to encourage you to spend some time reflecting on the precious and extraordinary gift of God's Son *sent* to us on that first Christmas. In the midst of holiday activities that can be both hurried and stressful, be sure to watch and prepare your heart yet again to receive the perfect gift *sent* from heaven! Open your heart, and He's guaranteed to arrive on time!

*For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son,
that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*

*For God **sent** the Son into the world not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through Him.*

John 3:16-17 RSV

Let Me Tell You A Story! - A January Preaching Series on the Bible. When our children were small, Suzanne and I spent many, many hours reading to them at all different times of the day. They loved climbing into a chair or into the bed with us to listen to their favorite stories, and we loved reading to them. Over time, they actually memorized parts of the stories, so that if we were tired and tried to skip over part of the narrative, they would correct us with verbatim quotes from the book. They grew up with a love for reading and for books. It occurred to me recently that reading the bible is much like hearing our Heavenly Father's invitation, "Let Me Tell You a Story." What if each day we chose to sit down with Him, and to read (listen to) His story? How long would it be before we began to see how His story intersects with the story of our own life? At first the stories might seem strange and difficult to understand, but soon they would start to come alive to us and to become a part of our lives ... and then suddenly we would see our lives interwoven into His story! During the first four Sunday's in January we will be doing a very basic introduction to the bible. Each message will be designed to encourage one another to respond to the Father's invitation to daily spend time with Him reading the bible. In addition, I also want to challenge you to be part of a group of "300" (remember the movie by the same name) people in our church family, who will commit to reading through the bible in one year, and praying daily for our church.

The 2015 Nominating Committee is receiving names of potential candidates to serve a three-year term on the Congregation Council, and of potential candidates to serve a one-year term on the 2016 Nominating Committee. We are looking for individuals who love and follow the Lord, and who love T!LC. In addition, we are looking for candidates for the Congregation Council who have an interest in and gifting for Spirit led strategic planning. You may pass on your name or the name of someone you would like considered to the 2015 Nominating Committee; Mike Dunn, Laurie Piper, Dave Madden, or Pastor Glenn.

Q. & A. on Calling a Third Pastor, Sunday, December 6, 9:30 am, Heritage Sanctuary. Pastor Glenn and members of the Congregation Council will be present to lead the discussion.

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

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 October 2015 were \$286,781.12 or 115.1% of the estimates of giving. Additional principal payments from the Pathway to Freedom campaign and *Staying the Course* campaign (May 2012 - October 2015) now total \$701,537.36 and has saved approximately \$501,904 in interest payments over the loan period and effectively reduces the loan period by seventeen years and one month. We will continue to make regular additional principal payments from the *Staying the Course* capital campaign as they are received.

Heritage Sanctuary Rejuvenation

At the time of writing this article the Heritage Sanctuary Rejuvenation project is almost complete and we are excited to see the beautiful transformation of this worship space. Thank you to everyone who has supported this project with your financial contributions. If you would still like to make a contribution to this project, envelopes are available at the Welcome Center and on the Heritage Sanctuary reading rack or you may write "Heritage Sanctuary" on the memo line of your check and place it in the weekend offering. Please know that any size gift is welcomed!

2016 Stewardship Campaign

Thank you to everyone who has returned an estimate of giving card indicating your financial support of our vision of discipleship for 2016. Contributions to T!LC's general operating fund support a number of ministries that are *Transforming Lives in Christ*. If you have not yet returned an estimate of giving card please consider setting aside time to be in earnest prayer to discern how God is calling each of us to be in *Covenant* relationship to build the *Kingdom* and then return your estimate of giving in the offering plate, drop it off at the church office, or mail it back to the church. Consider stepping out in faith and increasing your contributions by 1% of your household income and if you are already tithing (10% of your household income) consider stepping out in faith beyond the tithe.

Christmas Eve Offering

As a reminder to all of us that Joseph and Mary were in need of shelter that first Christmas night, all of the contributions received during Christmas Eve services will be split between the Open Door Mission and the T!LC Emergency Fund to support individuals and families in need of shelter in our local community.

2015 Year End Contributions

If your financial plans for 2015 include tax deductible contributions to T!LC, the last day we can process these contributions is Wednesday, December 30th or if mailed must be post marked no later than December 31, 2015 to comply with IRS regulations. The church office will be closed Thursday, December 31st and Friday, January 1st. Contributions received after these dates will be reflected in your 2016 contribution statement.

2016 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2016 will again be sent to our Covenant/Kingdom partners via the U.S. Postal Service the last week of December 2015.

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) 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 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.

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

General Fund

Thanksgiving! Lutheran Church General Fund - October 2015

Income				
Line Item	October Actual	October Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Estimates of Giving	86,725.48	99,577.00	951,171.85	1,056,796.00
Non-pledged Giving	35,006.00	29,978.00	414,380.42	283,490.00
Other Revenue	26,934.77	43,496.00	247,645.92	253,986.00
Ministry Challenge	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
From Savings Acct.	24,585.77	0.00	49,877.68	0.00

Expense				
Line Item	October Actual	October Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Facility/Operations	46,372.70	34,014.00	405,172.28	332,167.00
Ministry	46,918.81	63,818.00	444,373.59	455,487.00
Personnel	79,960.51	80,978.00	813,530.00	820,782.00

Total Income	173,252.02	173,051.00	1,663,075.87	1,594,272.00
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Total Expense	173,252.02	178,810.00	1,663,075.87	1,608,436.00
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The Cost of Christmas

The Christmas season is the most expensive time of the year. 25% of all personal spending in the United States occurs during the holiday shopping season, beginning on the day after Thanksgiving and going through Christmas (www.statisticbrain.com).

A [2010 Time article](#) reported that in December of that year, 13.6 million Americans were still paying off debts from Christmas shopping the previous year! Time went on to list several reasons that 2010 saw the lowest usage of credit cards in 27 years, based on information from TransUnion credit reporting agency. Sadly, that trend reversed the following year, according to an article on the [Washington Post website](#).

[ABC News](#) reports consumer counseling agencies see a 25% rise in the number of people seeking help in January and February, mostly driven by holiday bills. And no wonder: [DailyFinance.com](#) reported in 2013 that 57 percent of parents indicated that they were going to take on debt to buy gifts for their kids.

Christmas gifts are easily the most expensive part of Christmas for most Americans, but these are not the only expenses we need to be ready for. Travel, entertaining, food, events – the list can be daunting. More importantly, while we may think to budget for gift-giving, many will not think of the other expenses that come with the season.

To help you prepare for the Christmas season, Dave Ramsey has added a new tool to his website. Called "My Christmas Budget", the tool is relatively simple but will help you not only to think through what you plan to spend on Christmas, but also to document what you actually spent. You can print your budget (including what you actually spent) or e-mail it to yourself. This can be a great starting point for keeping records this year and planning for next. Check it out at <http://www.daveramsey.com/blog/custom-christmas-budget>.

Community Partners Program



If you participate in the Baker's Shopper Plus program you can now support the ministries of T!LC also when you purchase grocery items at your local Baker's store. T!LC has been accepted into the Dillions Community Rewards Program that provides cash contributions back to community non-profit organizations. T!LC will get credit for every purchase its members make using their registered Baker's Plus card.

Visit their website at www.bakersplus.com/communityrewards for more information and to register your Baker's Plus card today and begin supporting T!LC ministries every month. If you already have a Baker's Plus card simply click on "sign in" and enter your email address and password you will then be asked to enter the organizations name or NPO number. T!LC's NPO number is 25366. Once you select T!LC as your community partner all of your purchases associated with your Baker's Plus card will continue to provide you credits for gasoline purchases and also support T!LC.

If you have questions please contact Dillions at 1-800-576-4377 option 3 or email at DCR@dillionstores.com.

Christmas at Thanksgiving!

Tuesday, December 1 - Women's Advent by Candlelight; 6:45pm; Family Life Center



The Holiday hustle and bustle is almost upon us. Join other women in fellowship as we prepare our hearts with music and celebration for the true meaning of the Season - the coming of our Lord. Hostesses can have tables of up to 7 guests. Please call early if you would like to host a table or attend. Seating is by reservation only, through your hostess or Diane Heying. Call Diane at 402-677-5509 or email her at dianeheyings@aol.com.

Saturday, December 5 - Bring the Hope of Christmas to North Omaha Children



Like to wrap presents? Join us from 9 to noon at T!LC to help wrap the presents at our gift wrapping party. Youth can earn service hours and this is a great family activity!!

Thank you for bringing the love of Christmas to these North Omaha children. Contact the T!LC office or Karen Harned at harnedco@hotmail.com if you have any questions.

Sunday, December 6 - Sarpy Serenaders Concert; 3pm in the Family Life Center



Join the Sarpy Serenaders Barbershop Chorus along with other local choruses and choirs. T!LC's Heritage Choir will also be performing.

December 12 & 13; Believe Christmas Play - Dec. 12 @ 5:30pm; Dec 13 @ 9:30am & 11:00am



It's ten days before Christmas, and 15-year-old Alex Norton is struggling. He's always loved Christmas, but the shine has left his favorite holiday. He sees Christmas as nothing more than an over-hyped, greedy, present-grabbing time of year. Where is the peace in this season that's supposed to be all about the Prince of Peace? Alex wants to believe in something... but what?

December 13; Kingdom Kids Sunday School Happy Birthday Jesus Party; 9:30am; Lower Level



We will break a Piñata, eat Birthday cupcakes, sing songs and have fun!! Every child will also receive a **goody bag** to take home.

Sunday, December 13—T!LC's Annual Ring and Sing; 6:30pm-8:00pm—Heritage Sanctuary



T!LC's Joyful Noise Bell Choir invites you to join them for the 14th annual Ring and Sing. Bring the family to enjoy a concert of holiday music and sing along of traditional Christmas carols. You can even try your hand at ringing along! (no experience required). Stay for cookies afterwards! You are welcome to bring cookies to share, but it is not required! All extra cookies will be delivered to the military folks living at Offutt Air Force Base dorms.

December 19 & 20, Love Came Down at Christmas - T!LC Cantata; All Worship Services; Family Life Center



The cantata is called Love Came Down at Christmas. It is a beautiful cantata that combines original music with many of the familiar carols we all know and love. Whether you're a seasoned pro or sing in the shower we would love to have you join us.

Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Services



3pm - Family Service
5pm - Contemporary Service
7pm - Contemporary Service
9pm - Traditional Service
11pm - Traditional Service

Child Care for children birth -3 years available during 3pm, 5pm & 7pm services.

You Can Bring the Hope of Christmas to North Omaha Children



Every year, over 300 children and their families seek out the Lutheran Family Services North Omaha Center for Healthy Families. Once a week, twice a week. Sometimes just to seek encouragement. At the Center, these highly-stressed families with young children find a community to support them and they find the tools they need to break generational cycles of child abuse and poverty. Through education and assistance, parents find support to rewrite a better future for their children. Through an incentive program that rewards positive parenting decisions, moms and dads are able to purchase the items necessary to raise a child. Critical items, like diapers, shoes or winter coats.

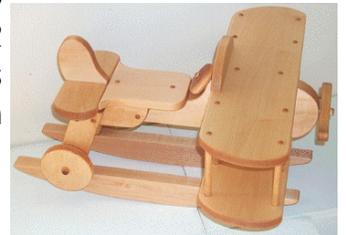
Like to wrap presents? Join us on Saturday, December 5th from 9 to noon at T!LC to help wrap the presents at our gift wrapping party. Youth can earn service hours and this is a great family activity!!

Thank you for bringing the love of Christmas to these North Omaha children. Contact the T!LC office or Karen Harned at harnedco@hotmail.com if you have any questions.



Help Support the Dominican Republic Mission Group! December 12 & 13 in the church lobby.

Each year one-of-a-kind Christmas gifts are offered during worship services to help feed people in the Dominican Republic. Our DR mission group will be offering jewelry made in the DR, wooden toys and crosses as well as custom made pens and pencils. Shop on December 12 and 13th for some unique Christmas gifts!!



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

How to 'Craft' a Prayer

"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions we have asked of Him." 1 John 5:14-15

The Bible encourages us to pray without ceasing, with all kinds of prayers and in all situations. The Lord has even ordained praise from the lips of infants! But have you ever considered that perhaps there was more to learn about praying? Surely the first disciples were familiar with prayer as they were all raised in the Jewish tradition. Yet even they asked Jesus, 'teach us to pray'. There must have been something special and powerful in Jesus' prayers that they wanted to imitate. Jesus granted their request and gave them, and us, a crafted prayer model in the Lord's Prayer. As we pray the petitions and personalize them to apply to our personal circumstances we can be assured that our prayers are answered as we are praying aligned with the heart of our Heavenly Father.

Just as the first disciples *learned* to pray from Jesus, we can also learn and grow in the art of praying according to our Father's will. Crafted prayer is a term that Graham Cooke coined in His book titled 'Crafted Prayer' (available at the T!LC office for \$5). The definition of 'craft' in this context is skill or art as in 'the art of choosing the right words'. Crafted prayer is all about developing the skill and art of listening for the voice of the Lord regarding your circumstance, testing what you discern the Lord saying against His Word, 'crafting' your prayer to align with God's heart, and then praying back to Him what He has revealed. In other words, we are praying 'His will be done' – versus our own.

The crafted prayer for T!LC and the new ministry startup, God's Living Stones that was published in the November T!LC Newsletter incorporated ingredients from Graham's book on how to craft a corporate prayer. Below are some of the key points to consider when crafting a prayer. These same principles apply for individual or group crafted prayers:

1. Begin with thanksgiving & worship
2. Come to a stillness inside – prepare your heart to **listen** to God
3. Clarify & simplify the area for prayer
4. Ask the Lord to reveal what He wants to accomplish in the situation, group, and/or yourself.
5. Pray and note the thoughts and words and impressions that God gives you.
6. What are the common themes? Write these insights down. For a group, come together and share what you believe the Lord has revealed.
7. Pray over the themes, impressions, and words that were recorded and ask the Lord for further clarity. Do the themes align with Scripture?
8. Write a prayer for the specific circumstance you are praying that incorporate only the themes that align with God's Word.
9. Accept the fact that God will do things in His own time and way.
10. Individually, as God leads you, continue to pray and proclaim with confidence what God has shown you until resolutions comes.

The primary scripture that kept coming up regarding the congregational insights that are the basis for the T!LC and God's Living Stones (GLS) crafted prayer is Ephesians 4:4-17. We invite you to join us in prayer as we pray into this Scripture and the T!LC/GLS crafted prayer. Please pray as the Holy Spirit leads you. Word and Sprit!!

Children's Ministry Newsletter

December 2015



Connie Barnhart

childmin@thanks-giving.org

402-292-2695

Sunday School Kingdom Kids We are having a Happy Birthday Jesus Party and you are invited!

When: December 13-during the regular 9:30 Sunday School time.

What: We will break a Piñata, eat Birthday cupcakes, sing songs and have fun!! Every child will also receive a **goody bag** to take home.

Kingdom Kids Sunday School Outreach In the wonderful world of Sunday School we continue learning how to be like Jesus-living our life up, in and out. To serve others (out) we are collecting new hats, gloves and mittens to give to the Open Door Mission until January 17th.

Important Dates:

December 19/20 and 26/27- We will not have Saturday night Kidz Church and Kingdom Kids Sunday School. We will resume on January 2/3. Hope to see you then!

SonShine Place Nursery is hiring! If you love to play with children up to 3 years of age and/or cuddle babies and can work Tuesday mornings, Wednesday evenings and during worship services on Sunday, then please pick up an application at the nursery! We are looking for people who are available during church related events that require the nursery to be open and also available for Saturday night worship service and Sunday worship services. If you have any questions please contact the Nursery Director, Bonnie Carpenter, at 402-292-2695, Ext 403 or Bonnie.Carpenter@thanks-giving.org.

FAITH MILESTONES

First Graders and their parents will learn about the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples. The Lord's Prayer provides an example of how we can talk to God.



Class will be January 24, 2016 from 11:00am – 12:30pm in the Lower Level of the church.

Presentation of the class will be held on Saturday, January 30 during the 5:30pm service and Sunday, January 31 during the 8:15am and 11:00am services.

Register for this class at www.thanks-giving.org/faith-milestones



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

Themes for December:

12/9: Spark's Store Night

12/16: T & T Store Night

12/16: Bring something to decorate your leader (like a Christmas Tree) AND Happy Birthday Baby Jesus Party.

23: NO CLUB



30: NO CLUB



It's Christmas Time!

It's Christmas time! What does that mean? Presents, good food and NO SCHOOL! But in this busy month it's important to remember the "REAL" meaning of Christmas. It's also important for you to tell your friends and family the real reason for the season.



Jesus was born to die on the cross for our sins and He died so that we could live forever. He is the greatest gift ever given! We encourage you to take some family time together by drinking hot chocolate, singing Christmas Carols (discussing what the words mean) and reading the Christmas story in your Bibles.

HEY KIDS!!! Even though we don't have club or school for 2 weeks, it's important for you to keep working on your verses. Remember if your goal is to finish your book by the end of the year you should be halfway done by January!



A look ahead!!!

Drive In Movie is next month (January 20th). This is the night where you come to club to watch a movie in your home made car! You can google "drive in movie box cars" to get ideas from simple to more elaborate! It's also fun when leaders make a car too!



As winter approaches, please remember when Bellevue Public Schools cancels school or evening activities, there will not be Awana that evening.



Volunteers are still needed! You can sign up by going to www.signupgenious.com look up email awana@thanks-giving.org to sign-up for various dates. We still need 10 volunteers on December 9th for our Sparks Store!



December 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 Olson & Molly Miller
gary.olson@thanks-giving.org

High School

For 9th—12th Grade Students!

Jon Miller & Molly Miller
jon.miller@thanks-giving.org

Club 56

December 6; 2:00pm-4:00pm; Christmas Party; Youth Room

December 20; No Sunday School; Enjoy the Cantata

December 27; No Sunday School; Merry Christmas!

January 10; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mahoney State Park; \$5 /person or \$20/family and \$5 parking

Save the Date! April 29-May 1 Recharge/Retreat at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp

Junior High

December 13; 2:00pm-4:00pm; Christmas Party; Youth Room

December 20; No Sunday School; Enjoy the Cantata

December 27; No Sunday School; Merry Christmas!

January 10; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mahoney State Park; \$5 /person or \$20/family and \$5 parking

High School

December 13; 6:00pm-8:00pm; Christmas Party; Youth Room

December 20; No Sunday School; Enjoy the Cantata

December 27; No Sunday School; Merry Christmas!

January 10; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mahoney State Park; \$5 /person or \$20/family and \$5 parking

Have you ever felt like names for programs can be obscure or odd? We want to be clear and to the point. So we are now calling our High School Ministry at T!LC exactly that, High School Ministry or HSM for short.

What is High School Ministry (HSM)? Well, what is ministry? We believe ministry is described as: *servicing selflessly*. HSM, then, has two definitions that go along with Covenant and Kingdom.

Covenant side of HSM: we are *Ministering to High School* students to help them see their **identity** based on their **relationship** with the **Father**.

Kingdom side of HSM: we are empowering *High School* students to *Minister* to the world and transform their communities. They will be given God's **authority** and **power** to revolutionize the world when they live out of their relationships with the Father and act **obediently** to His will.

These two definitions of HSM encompass the vision for our entire High School Ministry.



The T!LC Library Corner

December 2015

We are coming to the end of another year the LORD has given us and in doing so we are celebrating Advent and the birth of Jesus. The library has many books, CD's and DVD's to help you celebrate the season as well as recently shelved Devotionals that will be a good way to kick off the New Year walking hand in hand with our Lord.

Our Christmas shelves are full of new books. Look to your immediate right as you enter the library. Devotional and spiritual growth books are to your immediate left. Put the library at the top of your list as "free entertainment" for you and your family. Start a tradition of reading together in the evening with the tree sparkling in the background!

The Book Cart this month features items to enjoy during the Christmas season as well as spiritual growth books.

CD's: Lullabye Christmas; Northsound-Nutcracker Dreams; Festive Christmas Music; A Family Christmas; Chicken Soup for the Soul – Inspirational stories for the Holidays and more to be found in the library.

DVD's: The Nativity Story; The Christmas Storykeepers; The Christmas Tree; The Nuttiest Nutcracker and more to be found in the library.

CHRISTMAS BOOKS:

"The Christmas Hope" by Donna VanLiere – The author of "The Christmas Shoes and The Christmas Blessing"

"A Creed Country Christmas" by Linda Lael Miller

"A Chesapeake Shore Christmas" by Sherryl Woods

The Little Way of the Infant Jesus" by Caryll Houselander

"On Strike for Christmas" by Sheila Roberts

"Santa Cruise" by Carol Higgins Clark

"Homespun Christmas" by Birdie L. Etchison; Renee DeMarco; Colleen L. Reece; Janelle Burnham Schneider. Four Novellas about a modern small town is unified by love."

"Christmas on the Prairie" by Tracey V. Bateman, Pamela Griffin, Maryn Lancer, Jill Stegl

"Samantha's Surprise – A Christmas Story" The American Girl Collection

"The World's Christmas" by Olive Wyon – Stories from many lands

Many books for the young children, too numerous to list are also on the cart as well as many on the shelves in the library.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH:

"Life Together – The Classic Exploration of Christian Community" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"Freedom in the Spirit" by Dr. Lloyd John Olgilvie – "Experience the release of God's Power in your Life"

"What Should I Do, Lord?" by Eddie Rasnake – "Following the Signs That Lead to God's Will"

"Experiencing The Presence of God" by Charles Finney

Devotional books will be featured in the January Newsletter. Stop by and check one out of the library so that you have it for the beginning of the New Year.

I want to express my appreciation to all who have donated time and items to the library. Once again you have made our library a huge success. A thank-you to those of you who purchased books from our library sale.

God's peace and blessings to you this Christmas season
Vicki DeRoo

DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

Time	Worship Assistant Team	Ushers All of December
December 5 & 6 Holy Communion		
5:30pm Jubilation Service	Saturday Night Worship Team	Johann Onnen, Steve Tyler
8:15am Heritage Service	Team 3 Diane Heying & Tami Maxwell	Ron Overby, Tom Schwendtner, Ambrose Heying, Roger Johnson
9:30am & 11:00am Jubilation Services	Team 3 Rhonda Wiebers/Chris Frey	9:30am Terry Morgan, Nora & Steve Wright 11:00am Pat Meyer, Joy Stumme, Amy & Doc Nelson, Mark Dreier
December 12 & 13		
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	
December 19 & 20 Holy Communion		
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	
December 26 & 27		
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

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

12/01 Frank Mitchell
 12/01 Jared Graff
 12/01 Justin Brandt
 12/01 Rhonda Rupert
 12/01 Jaime Anderson
 12/01 Katie Wallman
 12/01 Thomas Camp
 12/01 Emily Zakaras
 12/02 Blake Smith
 12/02 John Skarda
 12/02 Nakayla Fabry
 12/03 Vivian Peterson
 12/03 Mitchell Gettman
 12/03 David Witkop
 12/03 Mitchell Creamer
 12/03 Gary Findlay
 12/03 Amy Nelson
 12/03 Rosella Pavel
 12/03 Joshua Jackson
 12/03 Nytagoa Wuor
 12/03 Dawson Rafteseth
 12/04 Ronald Brandt
 12/04 Nicholas Moeser
 12/04 T.J. Simmons
 12/04 Jill Irwin
 12/04 Tara McVicker
 12/04 Annaliesa Schneider
 12/04 Andrew Riker
 12/04 Trevor Borer
 12/04 Peggy Seibel
 12/05 Jonathan Paz
 12/05 Matthew Dreessen
 12/05 Alexander Long
 12/05 Lillian Kauk
 12/05 Matthew Goetz
 12/05 Holly Smith
 12/06 Richard Wells
 12/06 Kevin Nichols
 12/06 Brett Homme
 12/06 Regina Foutch
 12/07 Debra Kruger
 12/07 James Hurley
 12/07 Jennifer Flegle
 12/07 Candice Peterson
 12/07 Mark Wegner
 12/07 Rama Lalljie
 12/08 Nick Stankus
 12/08 Burnell Mussman
 12/08 Joshua Ryan
 12/08 Jan Elliott
 12/08 Leah Braunschweiler
 12/08 Jack Wegner
 12/08 Lynn Muller
 12/09 Robert Schroder
 12/09 Lisa McKnight
 12/09 Kim Cobelens
 12/09 Dick Rupert
 12/09 Daniel James
 12/09 Brianna Pinguoch
 12/10 Beth Dyrstad
 12/10 Ramon Lewis
 12/10 Cheryl Lienemann

12/11 Caleb Lee
 12/11 Emmah Church
 12/11 Tracy Townsend
 12/11 Anthony Belford
 12/11 Chrystal Frey
 12/11 Stan Cisar
 12/11 Payton Willrich
 12/11 Matt Koth
 12/12 Karli Green
 12/12 Zachary Jeppesen
 12/12 Brad Thrasher
 12/12 Natalie Strohmyer
 12/13 Mike Johnson
 12/13 Justin Laabs
 12/13 Damon Lutterman
 12/13 Brian Neemann
 12/13 Joni Tyson
 12/14 Zachary Mohr
 12/14 Glenn Harless
 12/14 Katrina Nicholson
 12/14 Brandon Clark
 12/15 Aaron Maxwell
 12/15 Shelly Haer
 12/15 Lillith Peterson
 12/15 Erik Holo
 12/15 Dalan Hardester
 12/15 Jared Saggau
 12/15 Madison Saggau
 12/15 Derrin Hansen
 12/15 Rhonda Norman
 12/15 Ava Boyce
 12/15 Maddie Lodes
 12/15 Geoff Sager
 12/15 Jadyrn Turnipseed
 12/16 Elizabeth Hellbusch
 12/16 Daniel Zaloudek
 12/16 Donna Gilbert
 12/16 Matt Waszak
 12/16 Benjamin Foutch
 12/17 Liz Hamilton
 12/17 Jenni Davis
 12/17 Marissa McDonald
 12/18 Shane Conley
 12/18 Dennis Lutterman
 12/18 Abigail Nielsen
 12/18 Elsa Dawson
 12/18 Barb Johnson
 12/18 Caitlyn Camp
 12/18 Natasha Bagnall
 12/18 Andrew Beckham
 12/19 S.J. Harless
 12/19 Sharon Hofman
 12/19 Taylor Gilfillan
 12/19 Skyler Towne
 12/19 Renee Hardester
 12/19 Craig Patzer
 12/19 Kenneth Eakins
 12/20 Natalie Livingston
 12/20 Ethel Urbain
 12/20 Roger Gemar
 12/20 Douglas McAcy
 12/20 Robert Sohm
 12/21 Tom Riggs

12/21 P.J. Cabbage
 12/21 Sherry Kalk
 12/21 Kevin Howell
 12/21 Kevin Howell
 12/21 Trisha Davidson
 12/21 Marsha Culbertson
 12/21 Ginny Dyess
 12/21 Barbara Olson
 12/22 Lauren Johnson
 12/22 Karen Roe
 12/22 Holly Scarpello
 12/22 Colleen Griffith
 12/23 Caden Turner
 12/23 Marian Shimonek
 12/23 Keith Balaberda
 12/23 Chuck Grancer
 12/23 Steven Schlange
 12/23 Gerald Gaule
 12/23 Chad Ballain
 12/23 Aiden Riker
 12/23 Audrey Heidenescher
 12/24 Cheri Peoples
 12/24 Aaron Woodard
 12/24 Melissa Reichardt
 12/24 Jacob Mounce
 12/25 Brent Livingston
 12/25 Emmanuel Akol
 12/25 Connie Barnhart
 12/25 Scott Pfender
 12/25 Suzanne Patterson
 12/25 Joseph Long
 12/25 Sean Needham
 12/25 Ray Gadeken
 12/26 Jana Meyer
 12/26 Lois Hansen
 12/26 Randy Norman
 12/26 Ingrid Furby
 12/26 Maurice Schriever
 12/27 Hazel Carlson
 12/27 Marie Covi
 12/27 Brittany Kalk
 12/27 Jill Tyler
 12/27 Mary Hebert
 12/28 Kailey Conley
 12/28 Angie Osborn
 12/28 Diane Lansman
 12/28 Renee Norman
 12/28 Corinne Schmitz
 12/28 Jason Mashek
 12/28 Brent Jensen
 12/29 Todd Smith
 12/29 Peggy Harlow
 12/29 Jarred Thorne
 12/29 Michael Ask
 12/29 Susan Betchel
 12/29 Alissa Hinz
 12/29 Kathryn Biermann
 12/29 Maddox Lewis
 12/30 Jeffrey Creamer
 12/30 Macoy Martensen
 12/31 Amelia Kerstetter
 12/31 Tami Koeppen
 12/31 Rhonda Wiebers
 12/31 Patrice Andersen
 12/31 William Raymond

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

12/23/1951 Ted & Jean Pryor
 12/27/1964 Norman & Rosella Pavel
 12/27/1969 Tom & Linda Pauley
 12/12/1970 Joe & Pam Gershon
 12/18/1970 Mike & Eunice Niebaum
 12/26/1971 Allan & Sharon Schur
 12/06/1975 David & P.J. Cabbage
 12/27/1981 Duane & Robin Wyatt
 12/28/1985 Von & Tracy Townsend
 12/20/1986 Jeff & Lisa Strohmyer
 12/27/1986 Rob & Ruth Schindler
 12/31/1987 Don & Nancy Smith
 12/31/1987 Hugh & Loeatice Finerty
 12/03/1988 Randy & Janet Neville
 12/31/1988 Phil & Maria Smith
 12/08/1990 Angela & Steve Hansen
 12/29/1990 Scott & Lorna Cassell
 12/05/1992 Shawn & Beverly Dawson
 12/11/1993 Tom & Kirstin Mohr
 12/15/1994 David & Sonia Bewley
 12/17/1994 Darin & Michelle Catterson
 12/29/1995 Larry & Janelle Walls
 12/30/1995 Al & Terry Dinkins
 12/21/1996 Scott & Lisa Vance
 12/31/1999 John & Alison Toman
 12/30/2000 John & Cassie Leaders
 12/30/2000 Ben & Lisa Kadow
 12/29/2001 David & Lisa Witkop
 12/07/2002 Aaron & Jessica Woodard
 12/18/2004 Roger & Carole Davick
 12/29/2004 Alan & Jeanne Zamiska
 12/10/2005 Zach & Rebecca McIntyre
 12/21/2007 Roger & Cindy Duros
 12/13/2013 Sean & Shelly Jones

BAPTISM

November 1, 2015

Wyatt Andrew Hinz, son of Chelsea & Luke Hinz. Sponsors are Jacob Hinz & Allison Ostrander

SYMPATHY

David and Lisa Witkop & Family in the death of Lisa's mother, Katy Popenhagen on October 16, 2015.

Steve and Sara Zivny & Family in the death of Steve's mother, Kathy Vacek on October 19, 2015.

Bryan and Pat Beckham & Family in the death of Pat's father, Jack Graber on October 26, 2015.

Johann and Kathy Onnen in the death of Kathy's father, Gyle Tye on October 31, 2015.

Daniel and Tonya Ludwig & Family in the death of Tonya's father, Everett Masters on November 5, 2015.

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.



Dates to Remember:

December 1 - Women's Advent by Candlelight

December 5 - Wrapping gifts for N. Omaha

December 6 - Question and Answer Session with Pastors and council @ 9:30am
Sarpy Serenaders Concert 3pm

December 12 & 13 Believe Christmas Play during all worship services

December 13 Kingdom Kids "Happy Birthday Jesus Party" @ 9:30am

December 13 T!LC Annual Ring and Sing

December 19 & 20 T!LC's Annual Christmas Cantata, during all worship services.

December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight services
3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm & 11pm

December 25 - TLC Offices Closed
Merry Christmas

December 26 & 27 Carol Services
Saturday @ 5:30pm
Sunday @ 8:15am, 9:30am, 11:00am

December 31 & January 1 - TLC Office Closed
Happy New Year!

The January
Newsletter
Deadline is:
Monday, December 14

NewsLetter
DEADLINE



Women's Book Study

As is our custom, Book Study will not be meeting in December, but we hope to see many of you at the Advent gathering. Our next meeting will be Monday, January 11th at the home of Charlaine Schmidt with Lynn Erickson co-hosting. More details later. Have a blessed Christmas season!

THANKSGIVING! LUTHERAN CHURCH
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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	Richard Zolnowski/Traci Johnson
Kidz Church Leaders	Lisa Sager, Meagan Cinfel
Awana Director	Pastor David Witkop
Student Ministry Director	Kelly Marz
Student Ministry Admin Asst.	Bonnie Carpenter
Nursery Director	Ryan Cinfel
Kids of the King Director	

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