

www.thanksgiving.church

January 2017 Volume 33, No. 1

### Change the Story!



Have you ever looked at someone and wondered about their story? Everyone's life has a story, but for far too many people their life stories are filled with disappointment, failure, tragedy, hopelessness, boredom, conflict, aimlessness, or despondency. What a very sad way to live. While Christians are not immune from such feelings or experiences, we know that the secret to living lives of meaning, significance, and joy is found in knowing and following Christ alone.

So, what if we could partner with God in his *mission* to reach people who do not yet know him? And what if we didn't need years of training, classes and preparation to do so? What if we didn't need to know all the answers? What if

God could use you or me if we simply made ourselves available to him? What if we could discover the missional heart of God, and begin to live missional lifestyles? What if living a missional lifestyle was as simple as discovering the people that God puts in our lives to encourage, to love, and to serve? And finally, what if God wants to use us to change the stories of our communities, businesses, neighborhoods, and schools ... one life at a time?

Our theme for 2017 is "**Change the Story!**" While keeping our eyes on Jesus (Up), and while continuing to love and serve one another (In), we will be focusing on discovering and living missional lifestyles (Out).

At worship services the weekend of January 15, you will hear a powerful and moving testimony of a young man's conversion from Islam to Christianity. This is going to be a weekend you will not want to miss, and one you will want to invite your friends to attend with you! Born in Tehran, Iran, Ali Farhadi's story will awaken and inspire God's missional calling on your life! (The following three Sundays at 9:30 am, Ali will also be teaching a course titled, "*Loving Muslims Without Fear.*") And then, beginning the weekend of January 22, we will embark together on our journey to **Change the Story!**

Pastor Glenn



Please join us in welcoming Billy Czaplá, our Next Generation Pastor. Billy, his wife Denise, and daughter, Camille, will be joining us the weekend of January 7 and 8 as Pastor Billy preaches at all four services. In addition, we will be officially installing Pastor Billy as our Next Generation Pastor. TILC family and friends are invited to welcome and congratulate him at a reception following the Saturday night service and in between services on Sunday. We look forward to partnering with Pastor Billy and his family to

reach our community with the good news of Jesus!





*Have you ever felt powerless to help a loved one discover the goodness of God?*

*Would you like to grow in confidence that God can use you in His Kingdom work in significant ways?*

*Do you believe that through the power of God, we can change the story of our friends, schools, families and even strangers?*

Beginning **Wednesday, January 18**, we will begin a 5-week training to help you walk out your missional calling with your family, friends and co-workers. Training will be 6:30-8:00pm (at the same time as kids programming, nursery is available) in the Heritage Sanctuary.

*Topics will include:* Compassion, how to communicate your God-story, how to recognize and answer spiritual needs in others, how to discern God's voice in your missional calling, understanding the unchurched and their openness to God, growing in confidence in sharing your faith.

Please email [Janine.Wegner@thanksgiving.church](mailto:Janine.Wegner@thanksgiving.church) to register.



### **Adult Education Calendar**

#### **Sundays @ 9:30am**

- January 15 - Pastor's Forum
- January 22 - Loving Muslims Without Fear
- January 29 - Loving Muslims Without Fear
- February 5 - Loving Muslims Without Fear
- February 12 - Faith Lessons on Death and Resurrection of the Messiah

#### **Wednesdays @ 6:30pm**

- January 18 - Change the Story Training
- January 25 - Change the Story Training
- February 1 - Change the Story Training

#### **BEGINNING FEBRUARY 12**

##### **Faith Lessons on the Death and Resurrection of the Messiah**

Beginning February 12, we will hold a 10 - week study to prepare our hearts for Lent and Easter. Using DVD lessons produced by teacher and historian Ray VanderLaan - and filmed in historically significant sites such as the Sea of Galilee, Mount of Olives and Gethsemane - participants will study the area's history, culture and geography as it pertains to Jesus' last week of ministry, His death and resurrection, as well as the Holy Spirit's visit on Pentecost. Join us in the Heritage Sanctuary at 9:30am Sundays. Questions? Call leader Ken Eakins at (402) 657-0330.



CONNECT

FIND A LIFE GROUP OR  
MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY!

**Are you looking to Get Connected at T!LC?**

Please go to [tconnect.church](http://tconnect.church) for a complete list and detailed information of connection opportunities or review the list below:

**NEW Life Group meeting on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00pm** at the church during kids programming. Please email [Janine.Wegner@thanksgiving.church](mailto:Janine.Wegner@thanksgiving.church) for more info.

To connect in a ministry, contact Aly Vrosh at [Aly.Vrosh@thanksgiving.church](mailto:Aly.Vrosh@thanksgiving.church) about the following ministries:

**Worship:** Instrumentalists

**Nursery:** Volunteer aides

**Hospitality:** Weekend Welcome Team members

**Blessings Women's Group:**  
A blessing to your day in every way!

Moms of all ages and stages! Join us for a morning filled with Bible study, prayer, fellowship, encouragement and friendship! We will meet from 9:00am - 11:00am in the Heritage Conference Room on the **1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month starting in January**. We will be studying the book Hoodwinked by Karen Ehman this year along with additional speakers and activities.

Childcare is available for infants through preschool in the church nursery. If you would like to know more, please contact Lisa Ferguson at [lisakayef2002@yahoo.com](mailto:lisakayef2002@yahoo.com) or (402) 290-4091.

**Women's Book Study**

The group decided at the November meeting that that we **will** meet in January.

The meeting will be held at 7:00pm Monday, January 9 at the Leawood III home of Karen Rowell, 13406 S. 27<sup>th</sup> Circle in Bellevue.

Study Leader Karen asks us to do the study on pages 40-51 on Zechariah and pages 52-54 on John the Baptist. We will watch the video on John the Baptist and then do the study on pages 55-61.

For questions or if you can not attend, please contact Karen, [kjpenguin@cox.net](mailto:kjpenguin@cox.net), (402) 291-2401 or co-hostess, Diane Heying by email at [dianeheyng@aol.com](mailto:dianeheyng@aol.com), or by phone at (402) 677-5509. If you need directions, call Diane Wink at (402) 292-1012.

We look forward to seeing all of you after our December break. Remember, this is a "scent-free" evening.



**Food Pantry Needs**

**Bellevue Food Pantry Needs :**

T!LC supports the Bellevue Food Pantry and they are in need of the following items:

- |                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Tuna           | Canned meat        |
| dried potatoes | canned pasta items |
| Rice           | stuffing           |
| large soup     | pasta sauce        |
| Condiments     |                    |

\*We are also in need of most non-perishable food items.

**WARM CLOTHING AND BLANKET DRIVE**  
**for Salvation Army Night Watch Program**

Collection dates: January 1 - January 31

There will be boxes in the Lobby for your donations.

We are in need of warm clothing, coats, hoodies, gloves, mittens, socks and blankets; anything new or lightly used .

From the first Monday in December to the last Saturday in February, the mobile unit travels to where people in need congregate. It delivers hot meals and warm clothing and blankets. Fixed locations allow The Salvation Army to feed people seeking help and to talk to them about additional services and provide spiritual counseling.

**Thank you for your generosity to this important outreach to our community.**

**Questions: call Kathy or Johann Onnen (402) 593-1407**

**Become a "Lunch Lady"**

Join other ladies from T!LC for lunch at a local restaurant the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month at 11:30 for good food and conversation.

Contact Becki Abdouch at (402) 331-4561 or [abecki@hotmail.com](mailto:abecki@hotmail.com) for lunch location monthly.

## Discipleship Pathways

Lisa Zaloudek

Lisa.Zaloudek@thanksgiving.church

### **Cleansing Stream Seminar & Retreat**

*Experience the Power of God's Love*

**Sundays, February 5 – May 7, 2017 at 9:30am – 10:30am in the T!LC Heritage Conference Room**

Cleansing Stream is one of the core components of our discipleship pathways at Thanksgiving!. It equips believers in Jesus Christ to strengthen their relationship with God and experience the power of living in the Kingdom. The 12-week seminar and retreat are designed to help people experience God's *healing, freedom, and transformation*.

The only fee for the Seminar is for the required books (\$50 Total for hardcopy, E-book versions also available).

Retreat cost is \$50 which includes workbook & catered lunch. (\$40 for alumni)

Books can be purchased in advance at the T!LC Office or will be available at the first class.

Register online at <http://www.thanksgiving.church/cleansing-stream-basic-seminar-and-retreat/>



### **Advanced Cleansing Stream Discipleship**

**Going Deeper!**

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays starting in January – March 2017 at 6:30pm – 8:30pm  
in the Alpha Room at the Bellevue Christian Center**

#### **Cleansing Stream Discipleship Seminar**

Seminar Leaders: Denise May, Al Kyles & Rob Wegner

Cost: \$50 for workbook

*Would you like to continue your Cleansing Stream journey & go deeper?*

*Have you previously attended CSD but would like to reconnect and refresh?*

*Interested in becoming part of the Cleansing Stream Ministry team as an intercessor or anointer?*

If so, then the upcoming Cleansing Stream Discipleship Seminar may be the perfect next step for you. T!LC and Bellevue Christian Center (BCC) are partnering to offer the advanced Cleansing Stream Discipleship Seminar. Module 1 of the 3-module seminar begins Tuesday, **January 10 and runs through March 28**. If you are interested in continuing your journey please contact Lisa Zaloudek at [Lisa.Zaloudek@thanksgiving.church](mailto:Lisa.Zaloudek@thanksgiving.church), call the T!LC Church Office at (402) 292-2695, or pick up a form at the Welcome Center to register.

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### **Keys to Victorious Living Seminar**

**T!LC Heritage Sanctuary**

Friday, 1/20/17 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, 1/21/17 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, 1/28/17 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Register at [www.godslivingstones.org](http://www.godslivingstones.org)

Registration fee is waived for T!LC participants.

*Restoring the Foundations* book is required and may be purchased at the T!LC office for \$35.





## Want To See People Set Free From Life's Troubles?

Come to a *Restoring The Foundations*  
Issue-Focused Activation Training Seminar

February 13, 16-18, 2017; Hosted at Thanksgiving! Lutheran Church

**T!LC Member Cost: \$20/Regular Cost: \$150**

**Be Trained to Help Others Receive God's Healing**

Have you completed the *Keys to Victorious Living Seminar* and desire to go deeper? Do you minister to others? Do you desire to be better equipped to help hurting people? Are you a church leader, missional community leader, or small group leader and long to be more effective in helping those in your care? If so, then this training seminar is for you! You will experience hands on training designed to increase your understanding of God's promises and how to receive them for yourself and for others. Register at [www.godslivingstones.org](http://www.godslivingstones.org).

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**Got Issues??**

**God's Got Solutions!!!!**

*Restoring the Foundations*

**Issue Focus Ministry**

Please contact Lisa Zaloudek if you would like more information about receiving Issue Focus Ministry (IFM) or check out *RTF Ministry* under the **Care Ministry** tab on the T!LC Web site. IFM sessions are confidential, scheduled for three hours in the T!LC Prayer Chapel, and are led by a team of two trained IFM prayer ministers who are trained in the *RTF Integrated Approach to Healing*. We would love to come along side you to help you experience the love of our Heavenly Father and encounter the healing power of the Holy Spirit in the midst of whatever issue you may be

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### **Barnabas Prayer Ministry**

At T!LC, we believe in the power and importance of prayer. If you are in need of physical, emotional or spiritual healing, we invite you to consider scheduling a time of prayer with a Barnabas Prayer Ministry Team. A small number (2-3) of trained, compassionate Barnabas Ministers will pray with you during a scheduled prayer session to seek breakthrough in the area or concern.

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### **Let Us Pray for You!**

If you are not able to fill out a prayer request or communication card during church services there is a Prayer & Communication box located at the Welcome Center in the T!LC Lobby for you to fill out and drop in your prayers!

The Prayer & Communication box will be checked daily and your prayer requests will be directed to the prayer team.

# T!LC Care Ministry

Providing Care Ministry for the Whole Person

Spirit ~ Soul ~ Body



## Care Minister Training!

Do you have a compassionate and empathetic heart? Do you find it meaningful to care for people who are hurting? Have you ever been involved in a lay care ministry like Stephen Ministry? Would you consider becoming part of our lay care ministry team at T!LC? We want to hear from you!

We are now moving forward with the process of revitalizing our Care Ministry by recruiting, training, and releasing members of our church family to care for people who are discouraged, hurt, or broken by life's circumstances.

**Training** – Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm - 9:30pm in the South Campus Conference Room beginning January 11. Training continues January 18, 25, and February 1, 8, 15, 22, and will include a meal.

**Supervision & Continuing Education** – The 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month beginning March 24 from 7:00pm - 9:00pm in the South Campus Conference Room.



## Christmas Baskets

*Thanks to the life groups, families, and individuals that blessed several families in our community with gifts!*

I pray that through both the Thanksgiving and Christmas outreaches we revealed the light and love of our Lord Jesus to those we served. We are reminded in Hebrews that God blesses us and equips us to do good and share with others:

*"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (Hebrews 13: 15-16, 20-21)*



## Calling moms, grandmas, aunts!

Any woman desiring to pray for children and schools, whether public, private or homeschool, from preschool through college - experience the joy of replacing anxiety with peace and hope when you pray scripturally and specifically for your child and their school with other moms.

Praying together provides hope and strength to moms who carry heavy burdens for their children.

### Join us for an Informational Meeting

**Thursday, January 5 at 7:00pm in the T!LC South Campus Conference Room. For more information, please contact Mary Belford at [mbelford@cox.net](mailto:mbelford@cox.net) or to find out more about Moms in Prayer, visit [MomsInPrayer.org](http://MomsInPrayer.org).**

## Weekend to Remember



Great marriages don't just happen! Remember how captivating it was when you first fell in love with your spouse? Every moment was special. As real life takes over, that memory can grow less vivid, and you might not feel like the center of their world as often.

That's where the **Weekend to Remember®** marriage getaway from FamilyLife comes in. The 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 it is. By getting away from the distractions of life, you can fortify your most important relationship and work toward building wonderful memories together, for decades to come. This year's Omaha area getaway will be held at Hilton Omaha March 10-12, 2017. For more details and registration information please visit <http://www.familylife.com/weekend-to-remember>. Please register using the group name "**thanksgivinglc**" to receive a group pricing discount. There's also BOGO (buy one get one free) pricing available from January 9-23!

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## Dominican Republic Short Term Mission Trip 2017

If you feel a calling to help the poorest of the poor or feel inspired by listening to stories of people whose lives were changed by missional work, please consider going on our next mission trip to the Dominican Republic. The trip will be late May to early June 2017. We will be partnering with local ministries that T!LC has an existing partnership with and walk alongside them as they meet the spiritual and physical needs of those in their care. Some ways this may occur include: Vacation Bible School activities with children, prayer walking in the villages, spending time with those in need and listening to their stories and helping with construction work. In short, this is a ministry of "ordinary people doing extraordinary things."

As you walk alongside the Haitian and Dominican people, you will have the opportunity to learn how they live, what their lives are like, and what they do to survive in a beautiful environment with little employment opportunity. You will also learn more about your faith, yourself, and the rest of the mission team.

*"To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps." (1 Peter 2:21,NIV)*

**There will be an informational meeting on Tuesday, January 10 at 7:00pm in the Heritage Conference Room.** If you are interested in the trip, please plan to attend to have questions answered and receive more details including dates and estimated costs. For more information or to begin a dialogue, please contact Rob Wegner at [robwegs@cox.net](mailto:robwegs@cox.net).



Haitian children enjoying opportunity to go to school

### Prayer Team

If you would like to be part of the DR trip prayer team, please contact Rob Wegner, [robwegs@cox.net](mailto:robwegs@cox.net)

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## Men Stepping Up

Be a better husband, father, and leader by stepping up to higher ground in your spiritual life. Learn from such leaders as Tony Dungy, Bill Bennett, Dennis Rainey, and many others.

**When:** Saturday, January 28 from 7:30am - 4:00pm

**Where:** Heritage Hill Church of the Nazarene, 6909 Cornhusker Road in Papillion

**Cost:** \$10.00 (lunch included)

Register by January 8 at [hhnazoam@gmail.com](mailto:hhnazoam@gmail.com).

Information at [mensteppingup.com](http://mensteppingup.com)





### Orange Impact

Wendy Lundquist

Wendy.Lundquist@thanksgiving.church



### 5th & 6th Grade Students

Molly Miller

Molly.Miller@thanksgiving.church

## Junior High

### 7th & 8th grade Students

Pastor Billy Czapla

PastorBilly@thanksgiving.church

## High School

### 9th-12th Grade Students

Jonathan Miller

Jon.Miller@thanksgiving.church



### Upcoming dates for Orange Impact:

**January 11:** Orange Impact resumes with a Drive-in movie night. Bring a decorated box from home to sit in and watch the movie! *Popcorn provided*



### Don't forget to register and fill out a new health form for the 2016-2017 year:

<http://www.thanks-giving.org/club56/>

### Upcoming Dates for Club 56:

**January 1:** No Sunday School, Happy New Year!

**January 8:** No Sunday School

**January 15:** Sunday School Resumes!

### Upcoming Dates for Children's Ministry:

**January 1:** No Sunday School, Happy New Year!

**January 8:** No Sunday School

**January 15:** Sunday School resumes

## Junior High

### Don't forget to register and fill out a new health form for the 2016-2017 year:

<http://www.thanks-giving.org/junior-high/>

### Upcoming dates for Jr. High:

**January 11:** Jr. High LIVE resumes

## High School

### Don't forget to register and fill out a new health form for the 2016-2017 year:

<http://www.thanks-giving.org/senior-high/>

### High School Young Women's Retreat

Our desire is to help you understand what it means to be **Cherished** in the eyes of your Heavenly Father and discern how this will impact every aspect of who you are and your personal relationships.

**Dates:** Friday, January 27 (leaving church at 6:30pm) through Saturday, January 28 (return to church about 8:00pm)

**Where:** Camp Carol Holling in Ashland, NE

**Cost:** \$69.00 (*Registration Deadline: January 12*)

Please contact Lisa Witkop for further information at (402) 290-1451.

As many of you know, my husband Jonathan and I are expecting our first child in mid-January. We, like many first-time parents are working diligently to prepare everything for our baby boy's arrival. There is one thing that Jonathan and I would both say we are so glad we took (and continue to take) the time to do, and that is invest in our own spiritual growth. We realize our lives are going to drastically change very quickly but above all else, we want to make sure we are growing in our relationship with God and with each other.

At Thanksgiving, there are many opportunities to deepen our relationship with God. One of those is called *Cleansing Stream*. We are living out the principles taught in the class daily and intend to teach them to our son. **The next *Cleansing Stream* class starts February 5 and runs through May 7. The class is held during the 9:30am hour on Sunday mornings.**

For a season, I'd love to challenge parents to attend the *Cleansing Stream* class at 9:30am while the children are in Sunday School and then to worship as a family unit on Saturday at 5:30pm, 8:15am, or 11:00am. I know it is an extra time commitment to add to an already busy schedule, but I see two huge wins for the Kingdom. The first, is you growing in your relationship with God that will bear fruit that only God can foresee right now. The second, is children being exposed to worship and better yet to worship as a family. God blesses and multiplies the time that we give him. So I encourage you to pray about this opportunity and act according to the way God prompts you.

*If you have any questions, please feel free to ask me or to refer to the discipleship page in the newsletter for more details on Cleansing Stream.*

**Blessings,**

**Molly Miller**



# The T!LC Library Corner It's Your Library January 2017 - Happy New Year!

Happy New Year to all of you! Once again, the library had a surprise visit from an angel that left us more books that will be categorized and available soon. The Library Corner is undergoing its yearly clean up and organizational period so soon you will be able to find new and exciting items on the shelves. We look forward to a visit from you to see all it has to offer. This area should be on the top of your list as "free entertainment" for you and your family in this new year.

Please continue to check your homes to see if you have any items checked out in 2016 or in previous years and have yet to be returned as this list continues to grow. This includes VHS, CD's, DVD's and audio tapes.. Thank-you in advance for checking and to all those who have already returned items.

This month we are featuring books for all ages in Prayer and Spiritual Growth area on the cart and in the library.

### Books on Prayer:

The Lord's Prayer - A hard paged book for the youngest in your family to turn the pages while you read the prayer together.

The Power of Praying by Stormie Omartian: "Experience the beauty of a close relationship with your Creator through these reflections, Scriptures and prayers. "

Prayer - God's Comfort for Today's Family by Beverly LaHaye: "When we pray we walk in God's strength."

I'm Listening Lord by Marilyn Willett Heavilin: "Hearing God's voice when you pray."

Praying the Prayers of the Bible by James Banks: My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk with me." And my heart responds, "Lord, I am coming." Psalm 27:8

Prayer A Holy Occupation by Oswald Chambers

Approaching God - How to Pray by Steve Brown

Praying The Ten Commandments by Cleddie Keith



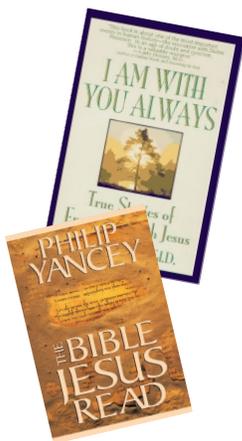
### Books on Spiritual Growth;

Finding God in Unexpected Places by Philip Yancy: "God may not be as far away as you think."

The Power in Praising God by Charles Spurgeon: "While pointing to the rewards of thankful prayer, Charles Spurgeon shows Christians how to unlock the power of prayer by praising God."

I Am With You Always by G. Scott Sparrow: They were just ordinary people when something extraordinary changed their lives.

The Bible Jesus Read by Philip Yancy: "If you think it is just a mysterious, outdated book, think again!"



**God's peace and blessing be yours in the New Year!**

**Vicki D**



## Let's Be Healthy Together!



Do you have high cholesterol or high blood pressure? Have members of your family suffered from these ailments? Do you have a poor diet? If you answer "yes" to any of these questions, you may want to consider being screened through the services of Life Line Screening. Life Line Screening uses ultrasound technology to view the plaque build up in your carotid arteries, the main arteries that carry blood to the brain. Blockages in these arteries are a leading cause of stroke. We are pleased to host this Life Line Screening event on January 6, 2017 at Thanksgiving Lutheran Church. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit [www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners).**

**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@thanksgiving.church

**Preparing for the Future**

This is the name of our new capital campaign that began in May of this year and the goal is to position T!LC to be debt free and financially strong by April of 2019 so that we will be ready for what God might be preparing for our congregation in the future. We received 203 estimates of giving and \$1,217,281 has been pledged as of November 30, 2016 and we have received \$365,070.95 (30% of the estimates of giving) in contributions. Thank you to for your faithful financial support.

**Christmas Eve Offering**

As a reminder to all of us that Joseph and Mary were in need of shelter that first Christmas night, contributions received during Christmas Eve services were 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. The contribution figures were not available at the time of this publication and will be reported next month.

**2017 Offering Envelopes**

Offering envelopes for 2017 were again sent to our Covenant/Kingdom partners via the U.S. Postal Service. If you did not receive your envelopes, please contact Harold Carlson at the church office.

**2017 Budget**

The 2017 annual meeting of the congregation will be Saturday, February 11, 2017 at 7:00pm in the Family Life Center immediately following services Saturday night. Copies of the 2017 proposed budget will be available for review at informational meetings the weekends of January 21-22 and 28-29, 2017.

**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 [www.thanksgiving.church](http://www.thanksgiving.church) 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 at the church office for more information about *Simply Giving*.

If you participate in the *Simply Giving* automated contribution system and would like to make a change in your contribution; you may make the change on your own by logging into your personal account that you set up or by filling out a *Simply Giving* form and returning it to Harold Carlson at the church. Forms are available on the reading rack outside of the Heritage Sanctuary or can be downloaded from the T!LC website.

**Automobile Donation Needed**

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

If you have any questions, comments or concerns please feel free to call me at the church at (402) 292-2695, stop by my office, or e-mail me at [harold.carlson@thanksgiving.church](mailto:harold.carlson@thanksgiving.church).

**Thanksgiving! Lutheran Church  
 General Fund - November 2016**

Line Item	Income			
	November Actual	November Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Estimates of Giving	101,700.00	99,577.00	1,200,466.95	1,121,164.00
Non-pledged Giving	35,524.00	29,978.00	428,355.09	386,083.00
Other Revenue	23,931.00	29,381.00	252,261.02	278,567.00
Ministry Challenge	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
From Savings Acct.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Line Item	Expense			
	November Actual	November Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Facility/Operations	37,640.98	30,117.00	484,943.47	372,266.00
Ministry	97,679.71	58,178.00	572,128.27	559,278.00
Personnel	72,269.19	82,317.00	797,524.18	868,188.00

<b>Total Income</b>	<b>161,155.00</b>	<b>158,936.00</b>	<b>1,881,083.06</b>	<b>1,785,814.00</b>
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<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>207,589.88</b>	<b>170,612.00</b>	<b>1,854,595.92</b>	<b>1,799,732.00</b>
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# T!LC Congregation Council Report

Carol Umberger - Council President  
Carol.Umberger@thanksgiving.church



As 2016 ends, I am amazed and gratified by how God has blessed our church council in the past year and I am excited for where He will lead us in the coming year.

**Beginning in January, regular council business meetings will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month, at 7:00pm in the Heritage Conference Room.** In keeping with the needs of a church our size, we have begun to formalize the way we do business by following a set agenda and creating detailed minutes of our transactions. You are always welcome to attend and listen, or you may request to be on the agenda if you wish to speak at the meeting.

One of my goals from the start of my term was to divide up the workload of the council so that each council member has an area of responsibility. Not in the way of heading a committee, although from time to time they may need to engage a team of congregational members - a lay ministry team - to accomplish a council initiative. Indeed, we have one such team in place - our policy task force. To be clear, this does not entail oversight of staff. Staff needs are brought to the council by the Senior Pastor and our job is to create policies that provide guidance and to write action plans/initiatives that help us to manage strategic projects.

The main duties of each council member would be twofold: 1)to formulate policy as needed, and 2)to write initiatives and be the council champion for the initiatives that fall in their area of responsibility. Each council member will keep a

## Council Report

notebook with written copies of their efforts, research and correspondence. The notebook will provide continuity and can be passed to the next person who champions that area.

My goal was to have this proposal ready to go in February for the new council but the current council jumped on this as an opportunity to serve by using their respective gifts. They each volunteered for an area of interest and we will take this idea for a test run in 2017. It will be a work in progress as we refine methods and work out any bugs.

### **We defined 12 areas of responsibility:**

1. *Nominating Committee:* President and Senior Pastor. Duties as stated in constitution and continuing resolution
2. *Council Training:* President and Senior Pastor
3. *Personnel Issues:* President and Executive Pastor
4. *Senior Pastor/staff oversight:* President and Vice - President
5. *Finance Committee Liaison:* Oversee budget process and make any recommended changes. Identify need for written policy. Write initiatives as needed. *(Terry Lucas)*
6. *Benevolence Committee Liaison:* Attend quarterly meetings. Identify need for policy and write initiatives. *(Mary Belford)*
7. *Policy Task Force:* Duties include overseeing a lay ministry team whose primary purpose is to write a specific policy when a council member identifies a need. Each council champion would work with this team to draft policy for council approval. *(Sandy Van Cleave)*
8. *Communication Issues:* Duties would include oversight of

ongoing communications via the website, email, print, etc. Council web page: provide info to staff to keep the page (once it is developed) up-to-date. Identify policy needs and write initiatives. *(Kristi Waszak)*

9. *Technology:* Identify policy needs and write initiatives. *(Gary Baumert)*
10. *Retreat Coordinator:* Duties include reserving a space and setting up meals and snacks within a specified budgeted amount. Formulate policy and write initiatives. *(Hugh Finerty)*
11. *Staff Appreciation Coordinator:* Reservations, gifts, decorations. Identify policy needs and write initiatives.
12. *Operations Issues:* Work with business manager to identify policy needs and write initiatives. *(Mike Hegarty)*

A final note: I had raised the possibility of having a non-council member as secretary, but after discussion and research, council has decided to continue with our current practice.

I am looking forward to 2017 and the work we have begun. I know that God has plans for us, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:11-13

Happy New Year!

Carol Umberger

T!LC Council President

## JANUARY 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 January</b>
<b>December 31 &amp; January 1 - Holy Communion</b>		
5:30pm Jubilation Service	<b>Saturday Night Worship Team</b>	<b>5:30pm</b> Johann Onnen, Steve Tyler
8:15am Heritage Service	<b>Team 1</b> Molly & Gary Baumert	<b>8:15am</b> Steve Lebedz, Rich Kral, John Taylor, Bob Maxwell
9:30am & 11:00am Jubilation Services	<b>Team 2</b> Boever & Flnerly	<b>9:30am</b> Chuck Scott, Joe Fullenkamp, Dennis Lutterman, Kenn Tonn
		<b>11:00am</b> Phil Davidson, Scott Pfender, Nick Pfender, Mike Pfender

### January 7 & 8

5:30pm Jubilation Service	<b>Saturday Night Worship Team</b>
8:15am Heritage Service	<b>Team 2</b> Shelly Haer & Melissa Polson
9:30am & 11:00am Jubilation Services	<b>Team 3</b> Rhonda Wiebers & Chrys Frey

### January 14 & 15 - Holy Communion

5:30pm Jubilation Service	<b>Saturday Night Worship Team</b>
8:15am Heritage Service	<b>Team 3</b> Diane Heying & Tami Maxwell
9:30am & 11:00am Jubilation Services	<b>Team 4</b> Deb Brandt

### January 21 & 22

5:30pm Jubilation Service	<b>Saturday Night Worship Team</b>
8:15am Heritage Service	<b>Team 1</b> Molly & Gary Baumert
9:30am & 11:00am Jubilation Services	<b>Team 5</b> Kate Bischoff

### January 28 & 29

5:30pm Jubilation Service	<b>Saturday Night Worship Team</b>
8:15am Heritage Service	<b>Team 2</b> Shelly Haer & Melissa Polson
9:30am & 11:00am Jubilation Services	<b>Team 1</b> Pam Engelbart & Sue Hoogeveen

### 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 – December Birthdays & Anniversaries

## Happy Birthday!

01/01 Greg Schneider  
01/02 Charles Scott  
01/02 Lisa Peterson  
01/02 Elly Dow  
01/02 Kevin O'Donnell  
01/02 Ailey Marburger  
01/02 Abiegayle Gorhau  
01/02 Kayla Walters  
01/03 Lacey Cedillo  
01/03 Douglas Roe  
01/03 Bill Clausen  
01/03 Nicholas Schriever  
01/03 Makayla Lewis  
01/03 Steve Lebedz  
01/04 Jennifer Ventura  
01/04 Carol Coy  
01/04 Scarlet Patterson  
01/05 William Coy  
01/05 Marsha Schneider  
01/05 Samantha Lodes  
01/05 Brett Engelbart  
01/06 Frances Taylor  
01/06 Amy Hegarty  
01/06 Megan Brannen  
01/06 Jack Irwin  
01/06 Christopher Buck  
01/06 Corey Dyrstad  
01/06 Janet Larson  
01/06 Megan Schaaf  
01/06 Barbara Johnson  
01/07 Greg Ryba  
01/07 John Taylor  
01/07 John Johnson  
01/07 Marlee Ferguson  
01/07 Maren Ferguson  
01/08 Chong Cha Furby  
01/09 Joyce Kamrath  
01/09 Hunter Tonn  
01/09 Easton Scofield  
01/09 Ron Brockhaus  
01/10 Cassie Broniecki  
01/10 Tom Schwendtner  
01/10 Tom Culbertson  
01/10 Walter Marz  
01/11 Elijah Cameron  
01/11 Sheri Heckens  
01/11 Kristine Wiebelhaus  
01/11 Lauren Hull  
01/11 Emily Rohn  
01/11 Jackson Dorn  
01/12 John Thomas  
01/12 Jaden Dramse  
01/12 Emily Phillips  
01/12 Tate Gauchat

01/12 Angela Bowman  
01/12 Nick Greiner  
01/13 Jessica Hicks  
01/13 Danielle Ackerman  
01/13 Ryan Dick  
01/14 Michael Smith  
01/14 Kjersten Schuttler  
01/14 Jenna Lempke  
01/14 Kirsten Grove  
01/15 Andrew Zamiska  
01/15 Taylor Wiitanen  
01/16 Frank Bruch  
01/16 Leslie Mason  
01/17 Rachel Smith  
01/17 Kari Balaberda  
01/17 Grace Overby  
01/17 Larry Wedel  
01/17 Aaron Atkins  
01/18 Austin Klausen  
01/18 Jenny Fundus  
01/18 Phillip Marburger  
01/19 Hannah Velehradsky  
01/19 Darrel Jensen  
01/19 Rachel Sager  
01/20 Kirk Mass  
01/20 Jill Hoeff  
01/20 Sarah Aschenbrenner  
01/21 Matt Neumann  
01/21 Dennis O'Connell  
01/21 Breck Williams  
01/21 Carter Brandt  
01/22 Kristen Lee  
01/22 Corky Rice  
01/22 Gerrit VanSteenbergen  
01/22 Aaron Homme  
01/23 Connor VanOrman  
01/23 Stephen Burkholder  
01/23 Rudi Thrasher  
01/23 Jeanie Shipman  
01/24 Joy Lee  
01/24 Larry Sand  
01/24 Karen Harned  
01/24 Dawn Dramse  
01/24 Dave Rickers  
01/25 Linda Simodynes  
01/25 Carson Ahlers  
01/25 Karli Ahlers  
01/26 Hudson Willrich  
01/26 Emilia Toelle  
01/26 Jazlynn Ferry  
01/27 Ashley Bruch  
01/27 Stephanie Burkholder  
01/27 Lori Woodard  
01/27 Angela Wolken  
01/27 Blake Schaaf

01/28 Macie Nichols  
01/28 Robert Jensen  
01/29 Wendy Ellis  
01/29 Tina Haeder  
01/29 Kimberly Frederick  
01/29 Kimberly Ecklund  
01/29 Rilee Albanex  
01/30 Gisela Lacy  
01/30 Jana Koth  
01/31 Magnus Johnson  
01/31 Melanie Anderson  
01/31 Emma Evans

## Happy Anniversary!

01/02/1959 Gerald & Phyllis Leseberg  
01/16/1971 Joe & June Towne  
01/30/1971 Tex & Shari Teixeira  
01/22/1972 Johann & Kathy Onnen  
01/19/1979 Joe & Julie Fullenkamp  
01/03/1983 Maurice & Patricia Schriever  
01/26/1985 Kirk & Pam Engelbart  
01/03/1987 Trevor & Becky Peacock  
01/19/1990 Charles & Deborah Kinzer  
01/14/1992 Corey & Jennnifer Weitzel  
01/07/1995 Steve & Kathy Broniecki  
01/03/1998 Mike & Melanie Anderson  
01/07/2005 Greg & Rose Ryba  
01/19/2008 Jason & Amy Isaacson

**For Care  
Ministry  
Assistance . .**



**During Church  
Office Hours:**

Please call 402.292.2695

**All Other Times:**

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

**The  
Newsletter  
Deadline is:  
Friday, January 20**

**Send all submissions to  
Laura.Mallatt@thanksgiving.church**

**SYMPATHY**

**Jill Sigmund** in the death of her mother, LeAnna Wagner, on November 24, 2016

**Chrys & Dirk Frey** in the death of Chrys' brother, Doug Townsend, on December 1, 2016.

**Kirk & Pam Engelbart** in the death of Pam's mother, Carol Fitzke, on December 7, 2016.

**Grant & Jessica Engelbart** in the death of Grant's grandmother, Carol Fitzke, on December 7, 2016.

**Brett & Nicole Engelbart** in the death of Brett's grandmother, Carol Fitzke, on December 7, 2016.

**Dates to Remember:**



January 1: Care Minister Applications due to Rhonda

January 2: TILC Offices Closed

January 5: Moms in Prayer Meeting

January 6: Life Line Screening

January 7 & 8: Pastor Billy's Installation

January 10: Dominican Republic Informational Meeting

January 11: Orange Impact resumes - Drive in Movie night & Care Minister Training begins

January 15: Sunday School resumes

January 18: Change the Story training begins

January 20, 21, & 28: Four Keys Seminar

January 22, 29, & February 5: Loving Muslims Without Fear (Adult Education)

January 27 & 28: High School Young Women's Retreat

**BAPTISMS**

**December 10, 2016**

**Ellie Jayne Gilbert** - daughter of Nicholas & Brittany Gilbert. Sponsors are Beth Dyrstad and Chris Hansen.



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## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



### OUR VISION STATEMENT

*As followers of Christ, our Vision is to Be Like Jesus in every way, by connecting with God, with one-another, and with the world.*

### 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.*

### CHURCH OFFICE

Hours: Monday-Friday - 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Phone: 402.292.2695  
Fax: 402.292.0248  
E-mail: [Laura.Mallatt@thanksgiving.church](mailto:Laura.Mallatt@thanksgiving.church)  
Website: [www.thanksgiving.church](http://www.thanksgiving.church)  
Care Ministry: 402-292.7633  
T!LC Preschool: 402.292.0315

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:30 p.m. *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
- \* Confirmation (Grades 7 & 8)
- \* Numerous Weekly Senior High Youth and Adult Small Group Bible Studies
- \* Orange Impact - Wednesday Nights

### T!LC STAFF

#### Pastors:

Rev. Glenn J. Harless, Senior Pastor  
Rev. David S. Witkop, Executive Pastor  
Rev. Billy Czapl, Next Generation Pastor

Operations Manager	Harold Carlson
Facility Manager	Ambrose Heying
Office Manager	Laura Mallatt
Adult Ministries Director	Janine Wegner
Connections Director	Aly Vrosh
Care Ministries Coordinator	Rhonda Rupert
Spiritual Pathways Director	Lisa Zaloudek
Worship & Music Director	Michael Treachler
Handbell Choir Director	Liane Kirmis
Preschool Director	Dana Crogrove
Family & Children's Ministry Dir.	Molly Miller
Asst. Children's Ministry Dir.	Wendy Lundquist
Seminarian/Student Ministries	Jonathan Miller
Kidz Church Leaders	Katie Kotila/Traci Johnson
Communications & Admin. Asst.	Kelly Marz
Nursery Director	Katie Wallman
Kids of the King Director	Ryan Cinfel