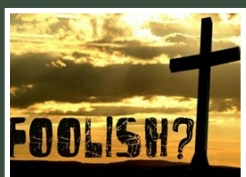


The Living Light

TALLMADGE LUTHERAN CHURCH | MARCH 2018 | MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Foolishness of the Cross



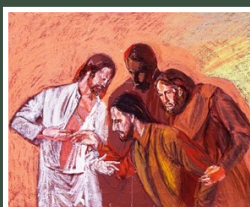
For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18

If you haven't already noticed, Easter Sunday falls on April 1st this year. Having Easter and April Fool's on the same day on the calendar is more than just interesting ... it actually makes theological sense. St Paul in his First Letter to the Corinthians says, "We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute." (4:10)

Paul is not being literal here, but ironic (read how thick Paul lays it on in this whole passage in 1 Corinthians 4:7-21). The first-century Corinthians had fallen into prideful thinking and were boasting about their own spiritual accomplishments. They began to look down upon Paul, who had founded their Church, probably because his life was so full of hardship and sacrifice. Paul is saying that the joke is on them: that his "foolishness" of suffering for the sake of Christ is actually a mark of God's wisdom. The message of the cross makes all who believe fools for Christ!

Having Easter on April Fool's Day also reminds me of the quick one the disciple Thomas thought his fellow disciples were pulling on him. Thomas wasn't there with his fellow disciples when Jesus appeared to them that first Easter evening. When they told him, "We have seen the Lord!" Thomas replies, "Unless I see in His hand the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hands into His side, I will not believe." He demands visible, tangible proof before he'll believe. And for Thomas, seeing is believing.



There's only one problem: believing is not seeing. To believe is to confess that God is where God seems not to be, to confess that God is good when God seems to be bad, to confess that what is really real is the God hiding behind the exact opposite of what you see. That is faith. I am so thankful that Jesus doesn't abandon Thomas to drown in a sea of doubt. He doesn't laugh at Thomas' expense. Rather Jesus stretches out His nail-scarred hands and pulls him in. And so He does for you.

Jesus takes your doubts and your fears and your shame and your bitterness and He makes them His own. And He takes His faith and His hope and His life and His joy and His glory and He makes them your own.

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He doesn't remove your outward troubles; He gives you

something better: inward peace and true life. He may leave in place your dysfunctional family, your disease, your addiction, your pain, but He will not leave in place a heart empty of peace.

Along with Thomas, we know these things to be no joke: the mercy of the Father, who never denies His baptized children; the love of Christ given and shed for you in body and blood; and the grace of the Holy Spirit, who gives you the peace that passes all understanding.

God bless your Lenten journey this month of March and may the foolishness of the cross fill you with peace and hope.

Pastor Andy





Children's & Family Ministry

Hannah Lang, Director of Children's & Family Ministry

Prayer is a big, beautiful thing. It is simple and complicated and mysterious all at the same time – but it is essential to our faith life! Martin Luther once said, “To be Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.” This is why I like to focus on prayer during Sunday school, preschool chapel, and King’s Kids’ devotions. Our children’s ministry program isn’t about producing “good kids” with a memorized list of morality “do’s” and “don’ts.” It’s more than memorizing Scripture and learning Bible stories (though of course, those are essential parts!) I am more focused on and passionate about our children *developing a living, growing faith relationship with Jesus*. After all, what good are their actions if Jesus is not the Lord of their life? In order for them to become lifelong disciples, our job is to help them encounter Jesus, see their place in His mission, and develop faith skills - and prayer is part of that! In fact, prayer is one of the 4 Faith Skills that we highlight in our Sunday School curriculum.



During the first half of the year during our Sunday school openings, I focused on sharing the good news truths about prayer! On any given day you could hear me repeating things like, “God loves to hear your prayers! He is always listening to us! It doesn’t matter *where* we pray or *how* we pray or the *words* we say! We can talk right to God, and He always hears us!” The Sunday school teachers and I modeled prayer weekly. Then after Christmas, I began to ask brave kiddos to pray in front of our whole group during the opening. I’m still surprised at how many little hands shoot up to volunteer each week! I’m not sure at what age most children decide that it’s too scary to pray in front of a group, but I hope these young ones will continue to practice this Faith Skill for years to come. It’s been a joy to hear sweet little prayers from their hearts! However, all of you who have spent any amount of time with children will agree that **THEY** can teach us just as much as **WE** can teach them. So here are a few things that our children have taught me about prayer as I’ve had the pleasure of being led by them. Perhaps you, too, can use these lessons in your own prayer life.

1. **Just come out with it.** Kids don’t put on airs, they’re not worried about sounding “churchy” or “holy.” Maybe the best prayers are those that are honest, from the heart and in plain language.
2. **Don’t be afraid to ask God for things, and don’t give up easily.** Have you ever met a child who is shy about asking for something they need or want? “And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us.” 1 John 5:14
3. **Nothing is too small to talk to God about.** “God, help my boo-boo to feel better.” “Thank you for my new shoes.” “God thank you for Batman.”
4. **Review your day.** Often times a child’s prayer is just talking about their day! “Dear God, today we played at Nana’s house. I ate chicken nuggets and it was rainy.” So it’s not exactly Luther’s Morning Prayer, but I’d be willing to bet that it delights our God just the same!



Youth Group Corner

Kyle Lang, Director of Youth and Outreach Ministries

Thank you!

Super Bowl Subs—February was a great month here at TLC; a big thank you to all the youth and their parents - and everyone who purchased subs - who helped make our Super Bowl Sub Sale so successful! We sold over 100 subs! The Haven of Rest was very happy to receive over 30 box lunches, and we raised over \$600 for our Youth Ministry program!

Second Saturday Serve—Thank you to the families that helped out this past month for Second Saturday Serve. We wiped down most of the surfaces in the church with bleach to prevent the spread of all those germs that have been floating around! We also rebuilt the shelves in the food pantry; the pantry is used constantly, so it really needed some maintenance! We will serve together again on Saturday, March 10.

Putting On The Hits

Mark your calendar for March 24 at 6:30 pm! We are super excited to bring back Putting on the Hits this month! Be on the lookout for signup sheets for both performance acts and attendance. There will be more information and promos going out in both the midweek notes and bulletin, so please watch our regular TLC communications. Also, if you are interested in helping with the event please let me know! I am excited for a super fun night!

Camp Burton

The Senior High youth had a great time at Camp Burton in February, as we gathered with three other Lutheran churches for a fun retreat over Presidents Day!



Upcoming Youth Events

March 7 Confirmation class

March 9-11 Junior High District Youth Gathering

March 10 Second Saturday Serve

March 11 Youth Group for Senior High

March 14 Confirmation class

March 18 Putting On The Hits work night

March 21 Confirmation class

March 24 Putting on the Hits!

March 25 Easter Egg-Stuffing party

March 28 Confirmation class

March 30 Easter Egg setup night

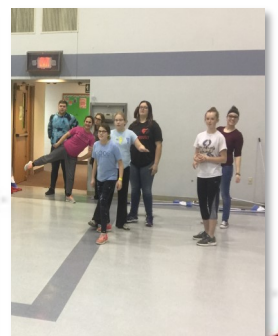
March 31 Easter Egg Hunt/ Breakfast prep

April 1 Easter Breakfast

Ministry Spotlight

Winter Olympics

Our youth group had our very own fun version of the Winter Olympic games this month! (Make sure to check out our Facebook or Instagram pages for pictures from this night and others!) During the event we also had a great discussion about the “BIGness” of our great God. When we zoom out and explore the known universe of stars and galaxies, we can get a little bit of a better idea of just how big and powerful He is. And yet, He created us in our mother’s womb, and knows about each of us intimately. The same God who breathes out galaxies is the God who listens to our every prayer and walks with us daily! Amazing.





Music News

**Exciting things coming up in the Music Ministry!
We will have some fabulous guest musicians joining us
for worship over the next few months:**

Wednesday, March 7: Walther Christian Academy

The **Choirs of Walther Christian Academy**, a Lutheran high school in the Chicago area, will be singing for our Lenten service on **Wednesday, March 7 at 6:30pm**. An abbreviated concert will follow, beginning at 7:30 pm. The program includes a wide variety of great music ranging in style from classical to spirituals to folk hymns and chant. Students range in age from 14-18 and participate in one or more of Walther's three auditioned choirs.

The concert is free of charge and open to all; a freewill offering will be collected after the concert for those who would like and are able to support the mission of Walther's choral music program: to use God's gifts of time, talent and energy to share the Gospel of Christ through music. We hope you can join us for this enjoyable time of worship music and fellowship!

Thank you to all of our members and friends who have shown Christ's love by opening their homes to host Walther choir students for an overnight stay following the concert. Your hospitality and sacrifice are more than appreciated!

Sunday, April 29: Kent State University Treble Chorus

We are blessed to have the KSU Treble Chorus join TLC for worship at the 10:30 am service once again! This ensemble consists of over 50 singers of Many different academic majors, regularly performing music of varying genres and styles. It's always exciting to have them join us in worship with a few selections from their uplifting program.

Stay tuned for more details or contact Bryon at music@tlcoh.org for further information.



Preschool and King's Kids



King's Kids had a great Devotional with Miss Hannah! They learned about God was the first to show us kindness and that it's important to spread that kindness.



Part of the Devotional we got to make butterflies for the residents at Danbury Nursing Home for Valentine's Day to show kindness to others like God showed us.



Check back next month to see what the Preschool were up to in March!



TLC ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

Holy Week Worship Services

Come remember Jesus life, suffering, death and resurrection during our Holy Week Worship Services.

Palm Sunday Celebration: March 25 at 8:00 am & 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion: March 29 at 7:00 pm

Good Friday Tenebrae Worship: March 30 at 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Easter Sunrise Service: April 1 at 6:30 am

Easter Breakfast: served from 7:30 am – 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall

Easter Celebration Worship with Holy Communion: April 1 at 8:30 am & 10:30 am

Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!



Easter Flowers for the Altar-It is time to order flowers to celebrate our Risen Lord ! This year we will be offering Easter Lilies, Tulips, Hyacinths, Daffodils, including Tete a Tetes, Chrysanthemums and Hydrangeas to adorn the Altar. Easter Flower Order envelopes are available by the mailboxes; indicate quantity, color and if in memory of a loved one or blessing. Place a check, payable to “Tallmadge Altar Guild” in the envelope and place in Becky Springer’s mailbox. Orders should be placed by Sunday, March 18th to guarantee availability. Flowers can be picked up after the 10:30 service on Easter Sunday.



The MOPS Easter Chocolate Sale is here! Enjoy adorable chocolate designs by Hartville Chocolate Factory (including milk, white, and dark chocolate options), as well as almond bark, jelly beans, and many other treats! Instead of purchasing candy from a store this year, indulge in quality, handmade chocolate and support our ministry! All proceeds will go to our MOPS groups. All chocolate and candy items will be on display at a table near the nursery, where you can also pick up order forms. Digital versions are also available on our website. **Order forms are due on Sunday, March 11** and your goodies will be available for pick up on Palm Sunday, **March 25**. For any questions, contact Hannah Lang at hannahlang@tlcoh.org.



Beginning in May 2018, we’re going digital with our newsletter! In an effort to modernize our communication and cut costs, the *Living Light* newsletter will be distributed via email and our website beginning in May. You will receive April’s in the mail next month, but if you desire a hard copy after that, we will have a few copies available for pickup in the church. If you need to have a copy mailed to you, please contact the church office to request it. Since we know many of you appreciate a calendar with birthdays & anniversaries listed, that document will now be available for pickup here at church each month. Thank you for your understanding and patience as we make this transition –

Go Green!



TLC MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

SHARE YOUR STORY: CINDY STRAND

Last June I entered a new phase in my life. I retired after teaching for 16 years. I have always been one of those people that pours all of myself into what ever I am doing. I would often be the last one to leave the school building at the end of the day and go home to grade papers. Over those years I became disconnected with the church and my relationship with God suffered as well. I tried to stay connected by becoming a reader and a counter, and joining small group bible studies now and then, but it just wasn't enough. Many Sundays I noticed that I could walk in, go to my seat in the second row, and walk out after the service without talking to anyone. That would never have happened years ago. Ask my boys, they'll tell you about waiting for me in the car every Sunday morning because I was talking to "everybody."

Over my teaching years, I always told myself, "When I retire I'll join the choir" or "When I retire I'll join a Bible study" or help out with an event or get on the church board or ... well, you know how it is. "I'll have the time then," I told myself. Well, God held me to those promises and I am very thankful that he did because here is what I have learned in the last few months... to feel connected you have to get connected.

*“... to feel connected
you have to get
connected.”*

Right after I retired, I was determined that I would take some time to relax and force myself to slowly get involved. As people learned of my retirement the first thing they would say is "What are you going to do now?" This question always frustrated me. I just retired. Give me a chance to relax! But as the summer drew to a close, I was still hesitating to get involved, until God decided it was time.

One Sunday after church ended, a choir member came up to me and said, "Now that you are retired, you should join the choir. Practice starts next week." Well, I had no excuses. I had promised God I would join when I retired, now is the time. I am pleased to say that I love being part of the choir! My only regret is waiting so long to join. I have rekindled some older friendships and made some new friends. And it's such a great way to worship and praise God!

A few weeks later, God gave me another nudge. The choir had sung in the early service and was going to sing again at late service. It was mentioned in the first service that the board was looking for a new member. Between services I was standing alone by my mailbox contemplating whether or not I should volunteer to be on the board, another item on my list of promises to God, when in walks the board president, Tim Richard. I took that as a sign from God and spoke to Tim about joining the board.

Since then, I feel more like I belong here at Tallmadge Lutheran Church. I feel closer to God again. I feel happier. I find myself drawn back to His word and wanting to grow even closer to Him through it. My son Michael and I have been working our way through the book, "The Purpose Driven Life." We read chapters and then call or text each other to discuss our thoughts. What a blessing it is to listen to your child as he learns and grows with you in Christ.

In the book of Hebrews, chapter 4, verse 8, it says: "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." I believe this sums up what I have experienced in the last year. If we draw near to God, He will draw near to us. God isn't going to do everything for you. He is always willing and able, but we must do our part and start drawing near.



TLC OFFICE STAFF



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Facilities
Manager



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Family Ministry

Kyle Lang
Director of Youth
and Outreach
Ministry



Katie Bungard
Director of
Tallmadge
Christian
Preschool and
King's Kids




Brian Black II
Directory of
Music Ministry



Diane Kilo
Director of
Operations



Lindsay Snyder
Administrative
Assistant

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
				1 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM MOPS Book Study 1:00 PM American Sewing Guild (Rm 12) 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Private Event (Gym) 6:30 PM Youth Bells 7:05 PM Youth Choir	2	3

4 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Michberger Baptism 10:30 AM Worship	5 6:30 PM Monday Night Bible Study	6 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Bible Study (Rm 12) 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Adult Bells	7 Walther Christian Academy 6:30 AM Men's Study @ Panera Bread 5:00 PM Lenten Supper 6:30 PM Lenten Worship 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Confirmation	8 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM MOPS 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Private Event (Gym) 6:30 PM Youth Bells 7:05 PM Youth Choir	9 Junior High DYG	10 Junior High DYG Second Saturday Serve 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Wise Owls
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11 Daylight-Saving Time Begins Junior High DYG 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Jr. / Sr. Youth Groups	12 April Newsletter Deadline 6:30 PM Monday Night Bible Study 7:00 PM Board of Directors	13 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Bible Study (Rm 12) 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Adult Bells	14 6:30 AM Men's Study @ Panera Bread 5:00 PM Lenten Supper 6:30 PM Lenten Worship 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Confirmation	15 11:00 AM –12:30 PM Private Event (Rm 5) 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Private Event (Gym) 6:30 PM Youth Bells 7:05 PM Youth Choir	16	17 St. Patrick's Day
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18 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	19 6:30 PM Monday Night Bible Study	20 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Bible Study (Rm 12) 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Adult Bells	21 6:30 AM Men's Study @ Panera Bread 5:00 PM Lenten Supper 6:30 PM Lenten Worship 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Confirmation	22 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Private Event (Gym) 6:30 PM Youth Bells 7:05 PM Youth Choir	23	24 6:30 AM - 9:30 PM Private Event (Gym) 6:30 AM Putting on the Hits
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25 Palm Sunday 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Jr. / Sr. Youth Groups	26 No King's Kids/No Preschool 6:30 PM Monday Night Bible Study	27 No King's Kids/No Preschool 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Bible Study (Rm 12) 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Adult Bells	28 No King's Kids/No Preschool 6:30 AM Men's Study @ Panera Bread 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	29 Maundy Thursday No King's Kids/No Preschool 6:30 PM Youth Bells 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service 7:05 PM Youth Choir	30 Good Friday No King's Kids/No Preschool 12:00 PM Good Friday Service	31 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Easter Egg Hunt
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Birthdays

2	Miya Kuntz	20	Betty Dodd
4	Pam Meece		Stephen Smith
	Greg Redman	21	Kathy Carmen
6	Christy Wahl		James Catherine
	Debbie Maguire		Sara Habusta
7	Victoria Nehls		Hanna Lattimer
	Ryan Pifer	22	Bruce Kim
8	Juanita Graham	23	Robin Bergmann
	Peggy Hill		Courtney Moggridge
	Joseph Jennings		Wayne Schneider
	Jessica Sterling	24	Andrew Dixon
10	Kyle Lang		Steven Staszak
11	Molly Conley	25	Samantha Damon
12	Rick Keller	27	Nathan Gorrell
16	Marcie Pendleton	29	Marge Ray
	Ryan Tywon		John Rice
	Denise Zehner	30	Isaac Craddock
17	Brian Heilmeier		Annalise Hovey
18	Christopher Roy		William Schonover
	Carley Ryan	31	Marty Hauser
19	David Zachrich		Blake Miller

Anniversaries

2	Mr. & Mrs. Davis Dailey
26	Mr. & Mrs. Jay Springer





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