

Tallmadge Lutheran Church  
759 East Avenue,  
Tallmadge OH 44278  
Office Phone 330-633-4775  
www.tlcoh.org

Sunday Worship Services:  
8:00 & 10:30 AM  
Sunday School: 9:15 AM

# The Living Light

TALLMADGE LUTHERAN CHURCH | DECEMBER 2018 | MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## What is **ADVENT** All About?



Have you ever noticed that the great festivals and holidays of the Church Year are preceded and then followed by special seasons? The seasons that come before the holidays (“Holy-days”) (i.e. Advent before Christmas & Lent before Easter) are placed there to help us

prepare ourselves, so that we might better appreciate the meaning of these major Church celebrations. Likewise the seasons after the holidays (i.e. the “12 days of Christmas”) are times when we apply the great meaning of the holidays to ourselves and to our own lives.

The season that we are heading into on December 2 is Advent. The central idea and theme in this season is the thought of the Lord’s COMING (“Advent” = “Coming”). We are not just thinking of His coming once as a baby—the child of Bethlehem, but we think of a three-fold coming of Christ. 1) The Coming in the Flesh—back in Bethlehem. 2) The Coming in Glory—He will come again on the last day (we want to be ready for that!). And 3) The Coming in Grace—Jesus seeks every day to enter our hearts through His Word and Sacraments, bringing us His blessings of Forgiveness, Salvation, & Eternal Life!

This means that there is a whole lot wrapped up in Advent! Do we commemorate an event of History? YES! Are we to receive present Grace by Jesus’ entrance into our hearts through faith? YES! Are we to prepare ourselves for His future coming, when He will lead us victoriously into the next world? YES! This is what Advent is all about! Christ Jesus comes in all of these ways!

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Have you ever heard it said that “Hunger is the best sauce?” The point of that saying is: anticipation and waiting makes the coming event even better and greater! This is what Advent is for—to magnify and enlarge Christmas. It is a time of anticipation and waiting for us—helping us appreciate even more the gift that we receive on Christmas!

**Hunger  
is the  
best  
sauce.**



During this important season, please take the time to see and hear the historical details of the PAST—that is, the events leading up to His humble birth in Bethlehem. Please also be pointed to His other Comings—how He PRESENTLY comes to us through His Word and Sacraments, what we call His “Coming in Grace.” And also be pointed to His FUTURE coming—preparing yourself for the time He will return on that last day in Glory to judge the world.

God bless your Advent preparations and Christmas celebrations!

## No Shave November

This November, I have joined a movement to raise prostate cancer awareness for men by forgoing shaving. It's taken awhile, but my beard is starting to be visible! J Several members of TLC have been diagnosed with prostate cancer, have received treatment, and are survivors. But we don't really talk much about it.

### Did you know?

Other than skin cancer, prostate cancer is the most common cancer in American men. The American Cancer Society's estimates for prostate cancer in the United States for 2018 are:

- About 164,690 new cases of prostate cancer
- About 29,430 deaths from prostate cancer
- About 1 in 9 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer during his lifetime. The average age at the time of diagnosis is about 66.
- Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in American men, behind lung cancer. About 1 man in 41 will die of prostate cancer.
- Prostate cancer can be a serious disease, but most men diagnosed with prostate cancer do not die from it. In fact, more than 2.9 million men in the United States who have been diagnosed with prostate cancer at some point are still alive today.

As men, we are better when we do life (and battle cancer) TOGETHER. If you would like to support the fight against prostate cancer, please consider making a donation. All donations will be sent to the nonprofit: **ZERO - The End of Prostate Cancer**. TLC members can make donations by designating on offering envelopes or by giving online through my GoFundMe account:

<https://www.gofundme.com/4cmp63-prostate-cancer-battle>

**For more information on Prostate Cancer visit:  
American Cancer Society**

<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/prostate-cancer.html>

**Prostate Cancer Foundation**

<https://www.pcf.org/about-prostate-cancer/>



# Christmas Parents' Night Out & Kids' Party

Parents, Merry Christmas from us to you! TLC's Family Ministry would like care for your children and give you a free evening to finish up Christmas shopping, wrap gifts, or simply enjoy a date night!

- \* A pizza dinner will be served at 5:00 pm. If you prefer your children to eat something else, please send them with an alternative option.
- \* We will watch "The Star" animated Christmas movie!
- \* We will lead them through fun Christmas crafts and cookie decorating!
- \* Kids can come in their PJs!
- \* This event is for children ages 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade



This is a free event, though you must register to participate: email Hannah Lang at [HannahLang@tlcoh.org](mailto:HannahLang@tlcoh.org) to RSVP today! (Flexible drop-off and pick-up times are an option if needed – please specify)

## A Special Message from A TLC Member

*I received this email from a new member at TLC. With her permission, I am now thrilled to share it with you!*

My grandson attends Tallmadge Christian Preschool. My daughter was raised in the church, but due to some personal things that have happened in her life, she stepped away from the church. She could not understand why God allowed these things to happen to her. I've not tried to force the issue of church, but I have prayed that she would find her way back. I have been glad that her nighttime routine with her son (my grandson) included the Lord's Prayer, and they sing many Christian songs as he goes to sleep.

Still, I was thrilled when I heard about the Preschool Prayer Buddy program and I prayed that God would use this to speak to her (my daughter's) heart as well. When my grandson got his first card from his Prayer Buddy, she shared with me what a sweet card it was. It touched her heart, and at the end of her text to me, my daughter asked me what time the Sunday morning church services were at TLC! I prayed that she would indeed show up to church, and needless to say, when she walked through the door of Tallmadge Lutheran on Sunday morning to attend worship with my grandson, my heart overflowed!

**"I thank God for the prayer buddy program..."**

I thank God for the Preschool Prayer Buddy program. I know that God can work miracles through it and I am very thankful for all the people who have stepped up and are praying for these beautiful little children and their families.

*"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us." 1 John 5:14 Let's join together in praising and thanking God for working through this new ministry program. And, let us pray that her daughter would continue to seek God through connecting to our church. - Hannah Lang*

# Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child 2018 at TLC was a success! We had over 100 donors or donor groups come to TLC to drop off the shoeboxes they packed for OCC for us to take care of. With the help of 16 volunteers we crated and started 1040 shoeboxes on their journey to the children in desperate need across the globe. We got to hear some incredible stories and prayed with so many people this week! What an honor! Thank you to everyone that prayed, and donated their time, money, or items to Operation Christmas Child this year! I have been so blessed by the generosity of TLC! Our church alone packed 135 shoeboxes at packing parties! What a blessing you have been to children that you may never meet!! Please continue to pray as the shoeboxes make their way to the kids that need to know that Jesus loves them! I can't wait for OCC 2019!

*-Christy Wahl and family*



## MOPS Packing Party



It is wonderful watching people come together. Pictured here are the Moms of MOPS packing shoeboxes full of much needed items for Operation Christmas Child.

# Youth Group Corner

Kyle Lang, Director of Youth and Outreach Ministries

## Youth Cookie Bake & Cookie Sale

The youth will be baking cookies on Saturday December 15 from 6:00 pm to 11:00 am. Yes, that is a late night, but we would love for anyone to join us! The youth group is also asking for donations of cookie dough. The cookies we bake that evening will be decorated, laid out for sale the following day before and after each worship service. Come for the Christmas Cantata and stick around for some homemade cookies. All money raised helps fund the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN.

## Thanksgiving Baskets

A huge thank you to all those who helped with our thanks giving baskets, from buying or donating food to helping construct the baskets. We were able to provide 11 families in need a full Thanksgiving meal. This is an awesome way to show the love of Jesus to those struggling in our own community!

## Christmas Tree Angel

It is time for our annual Christmas Tree Angel project. On a Christmas tree placed by our sanctuary doors, you can find angel ornaments with Christmas gift requests from community members and local school children in need. I encourage you to look at the tree next time you are at TLC, and choose a tag. If you do choose to pick up an angel tag, please return your wrapped gift to the church no later than **Wednesday, December 19**. We ask that you please tape the angel tag onto the outside of the wrapping paper. Thank you for giving to this ministry and sharing Christmas joy with our community!

For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 2 Corinthians 4:5

## Upcoming Events

Sat., Dec 8	Second Saturday Serve
Sun., Dec 9	Jr./Sr. Youth Group
Sat., Dec 15	Cookie Bake
Sun., Dec 16	Cookie Sale
Sun., Dec 23	Jr. Sr. Youth Group

## College Final Care Packages

Remember back to your college years, especially those stressful final exam weeks, and how great it was to receive a friendly package in the mail! TLC would like to send a Finals Week Care Package to a college student that you love. If you know a college student who would appreciate a package from TLC, please write their name and address on the sheet by the mailboxes. Also, if you are willing to donate some items to send to the students in your life we are looking for donations of; 5 dollar Starbucks gift cards, popcorn, number 2 pencils, candy, Five Hour Energy's, and hand written notes of encouragement. Names are due by Sunday, December 2. If you have any questions or would like to donate please see Kyle.

# Ministry Spotlight

## Second Saturday Serve, OCC & Leaf Raking

I want to thank the adult leaders, and kids who joined us in raking leaves after the Thanksgiving meal. We served together, shared Jesus' love, and modeled for our children the importance of a servant heart.



## Bread Baking



Thank you to all the youth and leaders that helped make bread for our Thanksgiving Eve Service!



# Music Ministry News

The TLC Music Ministry is excited to combine our Chancel Choir and a 19-piece Orchestra perform this captivating collection of original music. A few of the movements also include traditional advent carols woven in for the congregation to join the chorus in song. The music uses the story of Christ's birth to highlight the messengers of God of this good news, showing how we are also messengers of these positive messages today. The composer, Lloyd Larson, describes the work like this:

*"Shout the Good News!"* recounts through scripture and song many of the biblical personalities utilized by God to bring about Christ's birth. In this work, we hear the foretelling promises of prophets, observe angelic proclamations, see the wonder of God's plan through the eyes of normal human beings, accompany first witnesses of the miracle birth to a humble stable, and join the company of aged believers confirming that this was indeed the promised Messiah. It is a timeless story filled with wonder and joy, mystery and majesty!"

TLC Music Ministry presents:

*"Shout the Good News!"*

TLC Christmas Cantata

Featuring Chancel Choir and Orchestra

Sunday, December 16, 2018

8:00am and 10:30 services

An outstanding body of musicians have gathered to perform this glorious work. The choir includes a great variety of TLC members, adults, youth, the Senior and Assistant Pastors, the Director of Children's Ministry, the Youth Choir director, members of the Boards of Directors and Elders, and a few Kent State University students/alumni. The orchestra consists of instrumentalists from both TLC and the KSU music community.

The orchestra ranges from students to adults who regularly perform with local symphonic orchestras.

You don't want to miss this exciting, thrilling, beautiful, uplifting retelling of Christ's birth! Join us on December 15<sup>th</sup> and bring some friends along as we share this pinnacle of our faith in a unique and compelling way.



You just never know what you are going to get at Halloween with the King's kids staff!! This year we got a flock of flamingos!! We are STILL finding feathers!



Our Preschool Teachers:

The Bees Knees &  
A Pair of Pumpkins



Thank you to the preschool teachers who came in over Thanksgiving break to clean and disinfect all the toys! Did you know they do this once a month!!



# TLC Building Projects:

Your financial gifts help us care for God's House.

Thank you!



1 Corinthians 3:10-15

According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.

### Projects Include:

carpet trim in the Sanctuary, motion light sensors in the preschool bathrooms, regulating the thermostats, LED light in the staff offices.

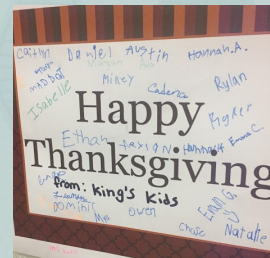
# TLC's Annual Thanksgiving Dinner



TLC's Annual Thanksgiving dinner was an amazing event. Over 150 people gathered together for food and fellowship. It was a great time to connect with one another and celebrate our TCL Family. We are Better Together!

Special thanks to Kevin Heilmeier, Pat Larson, Gail McAllister and All who helped make the day possible.

A huge thank you to Miss Patti and King's Kids for putting together darling bags of Blessing Mix for our members and guests to enjoy. So thoughtful.



# Advent Worship

## **Advent Worship – Do You See What I See**

Where are you, God? Don't you see what's happening in my life? "Merry Christmas" isn't a holiday greeting. It's an answer to your deepest questions. This Advent and Christmas season, join us on a journey through the Christmas story that will change your perspective. The wise men, the shepherds — even Jesus' family — were everyday people with the same questions. Just like you. And the birth of Jesus was the way God revealed everything good He had in mind. For them. For you. For the world. "Do you see what I see?" Hear about God's plan for your life this Advent season at Tallmadge Lutheran Church.

John 1:14 "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

### **Wednesday, December 5 - The Shepherds**

Does God really care about the little guy? When we're lonely or struggling to get by, it's hard to imagine that God can relate. But the angel's announcement to the shepherds reminds us that God sees all of us. Even when we don't see things the way He does.

Advent Supper hosted by the Music Ministry at 5:00 pm, Worship Service at 6:30 pm

### **Wednesday, December 12 - Elizabeth**

What are you waiting for God to come through on? Maybe you've been praying for a spouse or a job. Or maybe, like Elizabeth, you've been asking God for a child. When our prayers seem to go unanswered, we start to wonder: Is He listening? Does He care?

Advent Supper hosted the Youth & Missions Board at 5:00 pm, Worship Service at 6:30 pm

### **Wednesday, December 19 - The Wise Men**

The wise men had everything society says we need: money, education, respect, power. Still, they weren't satisfied. So they packed their bags and followed a star on the search for something more. Like the wise men, all of us are born with a longing that can only be fulfilled in Jesus.

Advent Supper hosted by the Board of Elders at 5:00 pm, Worship Service at 6:30 pm

# Monday Night Bible Study

Need a New Year's Resolution? Join a Small Group!

On January 7, the Monday Night (6:00 pm) Home Bible Study will begin reading "Your Move" by Andy Stanley. Plan to join. For more information, please contact Gail McAllister 330.801.0950

**YOUR**   
**MOVE**  
WITH ANDY STANLEY

# Christmas Worship

## **Sunday, December 9 - Children's Christmas Worship** 10:30am

Children from TLC's Sunday School will lead this special service helping us prepare for the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

John 1:4 "In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind."

## **Sunday, December 16 - Choral Cantata – Shout the Good News** 8:00am & 10:30am

"Shout the Good News!" is a celebration of Jesus' birth and of those messengers who helped God's purposes to be fulfilled. New material is blended with beloved carols, creating a rich tapestry of music for Christmas worship. The biblical narrative is rich as well. It starts with the Old Testament prophets who foretold the Messiah's coming, then touches on angels, shepherds, wise men, John the Baptist, Mary, Joseph, and others as it weaves its way through the miraculous Christmas story. The culmination is a congregational affirmation that all of us are called to be messengers of this good news of Christ's birth and love!

## **Sunday, December 23 - Fourth Sunday in Advent** 8:00am & 10:30am

Normal worship and Sunday Morning Bible Study schedule.

## **Monday, December 24 - Blended Family Christmas Eve Service** 6:00pm

This worship service will celebrate Jesus' birth in way that the whole family can participate. Familiar Christmas carols will be led by both the grand piano and the Praise Band. This service will include a Children's Message and conclude with the lighting of individual candles from the Christ candle and the singing of Silent Night to candlelight.

## **Monday, December 24 - Candlelight & Communion Festival Worship** 10:00pm

This traditional candlelight worship service will celebrate the arrival of Jesus Christ through reading of the Christmas story and the singing of Christmas carols. The Real Presence of Jesus Christ will be celebrated in Holy Communion. This service will conclude with the service of light with the lighting of candles from the Christ candle and the singing of Silent Night to candlelight..

## **Tuesday, December 25 - Christmas Day Communion Festival Worship** 10:00am

On this festival day, we will celebrate Christ's birth through Word and Sacrament. Holy Communion will be served during this worship service.

## **Monday, December 31- New Year's Eve Communion Worship** 6:00 pm

Wrap up the old year and celebrate the New Year by worshipping the Alpha and the Omega who is and who was and who is to come (Rev. 1:8). In this special service, we will remember God's faithfulness in the past and look forward with hope for the year to come. Holy Communion will be celebrated in this service.

# The Wise Owls

## **Wise Owls' Christmas Party**

The Wise Owls Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 15, 2018, 12:00 pm in room 12. This will be a potluck dinner. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share. The singing of Christmas Carols and the wrapping of Christmas gifts for the Youth Ministry is planned. Everyone is welcome. Please sign up today and join us for fun and fellowship.



## Birthdays

1 Kevin Heilmeyer	19 Brad Hauser
2 Benjamin Dussel	19 Marien Hauser
4 Faith Catherine	19 Pat Larson
5 Shawn DeWolf	19 Sandy Silvidi
5 Kyle Tywon	22 Owen Crawley
5 Sarah Vojtek	22 Ginny Jones
7 Wayne Reed	23 Elias Toepke
8 Kelly Olson	24 Linda Huzzard
9 Diane LeVan	24 George Scaife
9 Carmella Smith	26 Sally Haller
13 Dawn Dailey	26 Edie Holzer
14 Vickie Sandmann	26 Natalie Van Horn
15 Morgan Moggridge	27 Peggy Holly
16 Dan Conley	28 John Dailey
17 Nicolas Scherer	29 Todd Miller
17 David Staszak	29 Danielle Mowers
18 Barbara Bass	31 Lyn Bomer

## Anniversaries

6 Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Heilmeyer	
7 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Strand	
12 Mr. & Mrs. William Vojtek	
16 Mr. & Mrs. Walter Ruggles	
18 Mr. & Mrs. Rick Reynolds, Jr.	
21 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Robinson	
22 Mr. & Mrs. Kasey Parmelee	
26 Dr. & Mrs. James Bailey	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 First Sunday of Advent 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Voters' Assembly	3 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Bible Study (Youth Rm)	4 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Bible Study (Rm 12) 7:00 PM Board of Elders (Rm 12) 7:00 PM Jubilate Ringers	5 1:30 PM Disciple Group (Rm 12) 5:00 PM Advent Supper 6:00 PM Lego Club (Preschool Rm) 6:30 PM Worship (Rm 12, Youth Rm) 7:30 PM Bible Study (Rm 12, Youth Rm) Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM	6 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM Active Shooter Training 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM MOPS Book Study (Rm 12) 6:30 PM Disciple Group (Rm 12) 6:45 PM Youth Choir	7 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM King's Kids Extended Care	8 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Children's Christmas rehearsal (Sanctuary) 12:00 PM Second Saturday Serve
9 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Children's Christmas Program 10:30 AM Sunday School Program/Youth Choir 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM Private Event 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Jr. / Sr. Youth Groups	10 No BOD Meeting in December	11 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Bible Study (Rm 12) 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Brass Rehearsal (Rm 12) 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Jubilate Ringers	12 5:00 PM Advent Supper 6:00 PM Youth Choir 6:30 PM Worship 7:30 PM Bible Study (Rm 12, Youth Rm) 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM Confirmation (Rm 5)	13 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM MOPS (Rm 12) 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Kids Beach Club 6:30 PM Disciple Group (Rm 12)	14	15 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Cantata Dress Rehearsal (Rm 12 from 8-10) 10:00 AM Private Event (Gym) 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Wise Owls 4:30 PM - 8:00 PM Christmas Parents' Night Out 6:00 PM - 11:00 PM Youth Cookie Bake
16 Christmas Cantata (both services) 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	17 January newsletter deadline 7:00 PM 4's Preschool Christmas Program	18 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Bible Study (Rm 12) 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Jubilate Ringers 7:00 PM Pre-K Preschool Christmas Program	19 5:00 PM Advent Supper 6:30 PM Worship 7:30 PM Bible Study (Rm 12, Youth Rm) 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM Confirmation (Rm 5)	20 6:30 PM Disciple Group (Rm 12) 7:00 PM 3's Preschool Christmas Program	21	22
23 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Jr. / Sr. Youth Groups	24 Winter Break for TCP & King's Kids 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Evening Service 10:00 PM Christmas Eve Evening Service	25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed 10:00 AM Worship	26 Winter Break for TCP & King's Kids 6:00 PM Bible Study (Rm 12, Youth Rm)	27 Winter Break for TCP & King's Kids 9:00 AM Painting the Gym 6:30 PM Disciple Group (Rm 12)	28 Winter Break for TCP & King's Kids	29
30 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	31 New Years Eve Winter Break for TCP & King's Kids 6:00 PM New Years Eve Worship					

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