

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

Sunday Worship Services:
8:00 & 10:30 am
Bible Studies: 9:20 am
Sunday School: 9:15 am

The Living Light

TALLMADGE LUTHERAN CHURCH | DECEMBER 2020 | MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

I Am Not Alone

These last several months feel more like several eons. Because of the coronavirus, we've experienced incredible changes in the way we conduct ourselves during daily life. When the idea of social distancing started to be discussed by government leaders and the media, it didn't sound so bad to those of us who are somewhat introverted. I recall multiple conversations with other introverts who looked forward to some extra space for their personal bubbles. Fast forward to today and I've had more recent conversations with some of those same people and they are now struggling with loneliness. Even introverts need companionship and connection to other people. As human beings, we were made for relationship. Feeling disconnected can wreak havoc on our emotional and spiritual well-being, which can negatively impact our physical health as well.



In this time of spending more time at home to stay healthy, so many people are now struggling with the unhealthy affects of loneliness that come from prolonged isolation. We can't visit our friends' homes. We can't meet with others at our favorite restaurants or coffee shops. Some of us don't feel comfortable gathering with other believers for worship services in church buildings. While we can attempt to connect through zoom meetings, social media and online parties, in the long-run those are all poor substitutes for the connection that happens when we can be with friends in person. Many are becoming deeply saddened by the loss of that kind of connection and loneliness is a serious issue.

Feeling isolated, disconnected and alone is quite common, even in times when things seem much more normal in the world. Right now, the problem is magnified by circumstances beyond our control.

In This Issue

- Message from the Pastor (p 1-2)
- Announcements (p 2-6)
- Youth Group News (p 7)
- Music Ministry (p 8)
- Preschool/King's Kids News (p 9)
- Building Projects (p 10)
- Monthly Calendar (p 11)



Your time of need right now may very well be that you are in a time of loneliness. If that is true, please know that our savior, Jesus, has experienced being betrayed, abandoned and forsaken. Part of the reason He endured all of that was so that we could boldly pray for

grace, even in times of loneliness, with full confidence that He will provide it. He knows what we are feeling. He understands. When you pray and cry out to Him for grace, He will supply what you need.

How do I know that and why do I believe it to be true? Remember what Jesus told his disciples after the arrest, the cross and the resurrection. He gathered them together and commissioned them to go into the world as ministers of the gospel. He told them,

"Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age"
Matthew 28:20.

The spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit, is with every Christian. If you belong to Him, you are not alone. If you belong to Him, you are never alone. Even in times of isolation and solitude, when you feel utterly alone, He is with you. If He is with you, you should not fear.

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" *Isaiah 41:10.*

We know by our own experiences, and by the reading of God's word, that even the people of God experience times of loneliness. We also know, because God's word and our experiences inform us, that God has not left us in this world without grace. He gives grace to His people. He has grace for us in all seasons, even seasons of loneliness. Jesus knows what we are experiencing. He has felt it, only much worse than we can imagine. He promises to not leave us as orphans and tells us that He will come to us. He says that He will never leave us and that He will be with us always, to the very end of the age. Pray for His grace. Experience His abiding presence, knowing that you are not alone. He is with you. Do not fear. And say in faith, "I AM NOT ALONE!"

**i am
not
alone.**

2020 Advent Midweek Sermon Series

IANA

Immanuel – God With Us

This Advent on Wednesday nights we will be clinging to God's promises that He is always with us. The theme, IANA, stands for the reality "I AM NOT ALONE!" For the spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit, is with every Christian. If you belong to Him, you are not alone. If you belong to Him, you are never alone. Even in times of isolation and solitude, when you feel utterly alone, He is with you. If He is with you, you should not fear.

Wednesday, December 2

Connected

Wednesday, December 9

Cared For

Wednesday, December 16

Carried

**FEAR NOT,
FOR I AM WITH YOU;
BE NOT DISMAYED,
FOR I AM YOUR GOD;
I WILL STRENGTHEN YOU,
I WILL HELP YOU,
I WILL UPHOLD YOU
WITH MY RIGHTEOUS
RIGHT HAND.
- ISAIAH 41:10**

Sunday Morning Advent Sermon Series

Await God's Future

Advent is the time of the church year that concentrates on the future tense. The overall theme of the series is "Await God's Future." It is God's future that we are yearning for based on what God himself has announced. God's future is our hope, not human-made futures, not human-concocted utopian dreams, not future visions depending on human technology, engineering, and science. The overall goal of the series is to enable people to hear some of the future-tense announcements of the ancient prophet Isaiah, so that these ancient words will instill in the hearts and minds of the listeners repentance, faith, and hope in the coming of Yahweh. Isaiah bids us: "Await God's Future."

In this series we will let Isaiah ben Amoz move us and lead us to respond properly to the future he was announcing. We now live in the time between the times, in the "now" of the age of fulfillment and in the "not yet" waiting for the future consummation. Each one of Isaiah's passages has already been fulfilled in Jesus the Messiah and we already enjoy its blessings now by faith. At the same time, we await its full empirical and visible realization when Jesus returns in glory. Isaiah can help us prepare and wait for that future.



November 29

"Yahweh Will Save His Zion"

Selected verses from Isaiah 36-37

December 6

"The Day of Yahweh Will Come"

Isaiah 13:9–13, 19; 14:1

December 13

"Death the Swallower Will Be Swallowed Up"

Isaiah 25:4–9

December 20 Christmas Cantata

December 24 Christmas Eve

"O Give Thanks unto Yahweh"

Isaiah 12:4–6

December 25 Christmas Day

"The Righteous King on David's Throne"

Isaiah 16:4–5

TLC Calendar Events

Jubilate Ringers Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

Advent Midweek Services Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

Chancel Choir Wednesdays at 7:30 pm

Annual Voter's Meeting Sunday, Dec 6, 11:45 am

Youth Meeting Sunday, Dec 6, 6:30 pm

Board of Elders Meeting Monday, Dec 7, 7:00 pm

Confirmation Check - In Wednesday, Dec 9, 6:30 pm

Youth Caroling/Gift Exchange Sun., Dec 13, 6:30 pm

Wise Owls Friday, Dec 18, 12:00 pm

Chancel Choir Saturday, Dec 19, 10:00 am

Christmas Cantata Sunday, Dec 20

Christmas Eve Worship 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm

Christmas Day Worship 10:00 am

Youth Meeting/Elf Sunday, Dec 27, 6:30 pm

New Year's Eve Worship Thursday, Dec 31, 7:00 pm

Advent Worship Schedule

Midweek Worships:

Wednesday, December 2

Wednesday, December 9

Wednesday December 16

* Christmas Eve Worship:

Thursday December 24, 7:00 pm & 10:00 pm

Christmas Day Worship:

Friday, December 25, 10:00 am

* Due to Covid-19 occupancy restrictions, TLC is limiting Christmas Eve Worship attendance to 87 people. This allows us to maintain a 6-foot physical distance between worshipers. We will be offering a 7:00pm Christmas Eve Blended Worship Service and a 10:00pm Christmas Eve Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion.

Please RSVP to the church office to attend Christmas Eve Worship at Tallmadge Lutheran Church.

Please reserve a spot for each individual worshiper.

If both of these Christmas Eve worship services fill up to capacity, we will offer a third Christmas Eve service at 8:30 pm.

If you have any questions, please contact the TLC church office at 330-633-4775 or email secretary@tlcoh.org.



*In Your Community

"Light Up Tallmadge"

The City of Tallmadge and The Chamber of Commerce is coming together for a holiday decorating contest! Have your home ready by December 2; judging is December 3 and 4 and the winner Saturday, December 5.

To enter the contest, send an email with your name, address, and phone number by December 2, 2020 to holidaylights@tallmadge-ohio.org. Participants must be 18 years old and residents of the City of Tallmadge to enter. A confirmation reply will be sent to those entering the contest.

What could be more fun and festive than decorating your home for the holidays?

Akron

Christmas Market

The White Birch Barn, Medina

Friday, Dec 4-Sat, Dec 5, 5:00 pm

Frankie Scinta's Holiday Show

Tangiers

Friday, Dec 4, - Saturday, Dec 5, 8:30 pm

Lightwire Theater: A Very Electric Christmas

Akron Civic Theatre

Sunday, Dec 13, 7:00 pm

Kent

Brunch With Santa

Tree City Coffee, Kent

Saturday, Dec 5

Cuyahoga Falls

National Christmas Tree Lighting

President's Park, Cuyahoga Falls

December 3

* Please continue to follow state guidelines.

* Please continue to be responsible and considerate of others by social distancing & wearing masks when required.



A Little Fun

Christi Wahl's

Soft Cut-out Sugar Cookies

1 cup shortening

1 ½ cup sugar

2 eggs

2 teaspoons baking soda

1 teaspoon salt

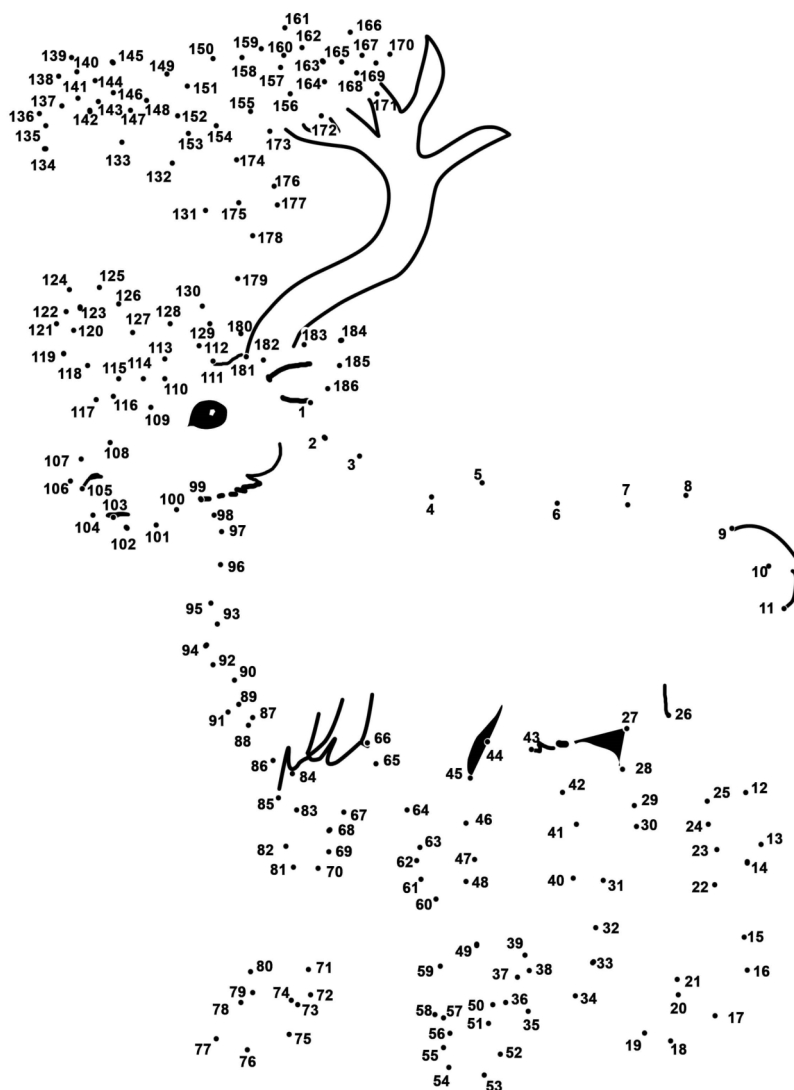
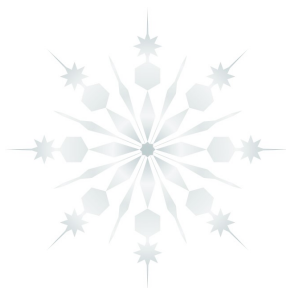
1 teaspoon baking soda

1 teaspoon vanilla

5 cups flour

1 cup buttermilk, milk or almond milk

Mix shortening and sugar together until well combined. Add in eggs and mix 'till fluffy. Mix in baking powder, baking soda, salt and vanilla. Mix in 2 cups flour, mix until combined and then add in milk. Add in 2 more cups of flour, mix well. Add remaining 1 cup of flour, mixing only until dough isn't super sticky. Don't add too much flour, if you want a soft cookie the dough needs to be slightly sticky still. Flour countertop well and pat out dough with floured hands. Dough should be ½-⅓ inch thick. Use cookie cutters to cut out dough, place on cookie sheet covered with parchment paper and bake 350 for 10-12 min. Cookies should be soft still, but indent should not stay when touched and they should not brown at all. Cool on cookie rack and ice if desired.



Youth Group News

Andy Wahl

Todd Miller

Beth Niermann

Jennifer Larson

OCC



Thanks to everyone who volunteered to pack boxes and help out with OCC.



UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

Dec 6, 6:00 pm - Meeting

Dec 13, 6:00 pm Caroling & Gift Exchange

Dec 27, 6:00 pm Elf!

Leaf Raking & Bread Baking

The youth hopes you enjoyed a loaf of bread on Thanksgiving Day!



A huge thanks to everyone who braved the elements. It was cold and rainy but you put in the time and effort and it is greatly appreciated!





Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 2, 7:30 - 8:45 pm
Wednesday, December 9, 7:30 - 8:45 pm
Wednesday, December 16, 7:30 - 8:45 pm
Saturday, December 19, 10:00 - 11:30 am

Jubilate Ringers Rehearsals

Tuesday, December 1, 7:00 - 8:00 pm
Tuesdays, December 8, 7:00 - 8:00 pm
Tuesday, December 15, 7:00 - 8:00 pm
Tuesday, December 22 from 7:00-8:00pm

Praise Team Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 23, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Christmas Cantata

Dress Rehearsal
Saturday, December 19, 10:00 am
Performance Sunday, December 20



Tallmadge
Christian Preschool
and King's Kid wish
you and yours a
wonderful holiday
season!

TLC Building Projects:

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

Completed Projects

Boiler Inspection
Fire Marshal Inspection
Moving all of preschool into educational wing
Moving youth room to old sanctuary
Fire Extinguisher inspection
Pest Control
Coffee maker serviced
Parking lot sealed and striped
Hung TV in room 4
Projectors sent out for maintenance
Shed has been reroofed, resided, cleaned out, and painted
Replacing fluorescent lights with LED as needed
Plumbing inspection for water leak

Upcoming Projects

Paint preschool hallway
Paint stairwell to mechanical room
Sanctuary and Narthex repairs
Clean gutters
Cover AC units
Roof repair
Pavilion
Trim shrubs and plants in landscaping
Cleaning out the mechanical room
Hang artwork in Room 12
Parking lot lighting



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



Step 5

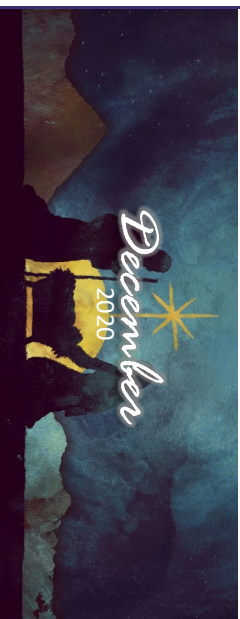
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Bible Study (Rm 12) 7:00 PM Jubilate Ringers	2 6:30 AM Advent Midweek Service 4:00 PM Scouts (Rm 12) 7:30 PM - 8:45 PM Chancel Choir (gym)	3 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM Bible Study (Rm 12)	4 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM King's Kids extended hours night	5
6 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School (Rm 6/7) 9:20 AM Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm) 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Voters' Meeting 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Youth Group	7 7:00 PM Board of Elders (Rm 12)	8 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Bible Study (Rm 12) 7:00 PM Jubilate Ringers	9 Confirmation Check-In (Youth Rm) 6:30 AM Advent Midweek Service 7:30 PM - 8:45 PM Chancel Choir (gym)	10 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM Bible Study (Rm 12)	11	12
13 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School (Rm 6/7) 9:20 AM Bible Study (Rm 12, zoom) 9:20 AM Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm) 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Youth Caroling & Gift Exchange	14	15 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Jubilate Ringers	16 6:30 AM Advent Midweek Service 4:00 PM Scouts (Rm 12) 7:30 PM - 8:45 PM Chancel Choir (gym)	17 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM Bible Study (Rm 12)	18 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Wise Owls	19 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Chancel Choir (gym)
20 Christmas Cantata 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School (Rm 6/7) 9:20 AM Bible Study (Rm 12, zoom) 9:20 AM Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm) 10:30 AM Worship	21	22 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Jubilate Ringers	23 Christmas Break Begins 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal	24 Christmas Eve 12:00 PM Church office closed 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM Bible Study (Rm 12) 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Traditional Service 10:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day 10:00 AM Christmas Day Service	26
27 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School (Rm 6/7) 9:20 AM Bible Study (Rm 12, zoom) 9:20 AM Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm) 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Youth Group - Elf	28	29 9:00 AM Staff Meeting	30	31 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM Bible Study (Rm 12) 7:00 PM New Year's Eve Worship		

Birthdays

- Kevin Heilmeier
- Benjamin Dussel
- Faith Catherine
- Kyle Tywon
- Sarah Vojtek
- Shawn DeWolf
- Wayne Reed
- Kelly Olson
- Diane LeVan
- Carmella Smith
- Dawn Dailey
- Vickie Sandmann
- Dan Conley
- Steve Wendland
- David Staszak
- Jayne Colosetti
- Barb Bass
- Pat Larson
- Jim Bergmann
- Brad Hauser
- Mrs. Kevin Heilmeier
- Mrs. Walt Ruggles
- Mrs. Tom Strand
- Mrs. Rick Reynolds
- Mrs. Jim Robinson
- Mrs. Jim Bailey
- Sandy Silviti
- Marlen Hauser
- Kristina Crilow
- Owen Crawley
- Ginny Jones
- Elias Toepeke
- Linda Huzzard
- George Scaife
- Edie Holzer
- Natalie Van Horn
- Peggy Holly
- John Dailey
- Danielle Mowers
- Todd Miller
- Andy Wahl
- Lyn Bomer
- Rick Hill

Anniversaries

- Mrs. Kevin Heilmeier
- Mrs. Walt Ruggles
- Mrs. Tom Strand
- Mrs. Rick Reynolds
- Mrs. Jim Robinson
- Mrs. Jim Bailey



**The Living Light is a monthly publication of
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The Living Light
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