

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 2021 | MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Advent Hope

Hope is an important theme relating to Advent and Christmas. Our world is in desperate need of hope. Many people today live without hope or have given up hope. The Good News of Christmas is that the LORD sent his Son Jesus Christ to bring you hope.

Leading up to Christmas, we observe the season of Advent. Advent is a season to recall the tension of waiting for God to keep His promises. Between the final book in the Old Testament of Malachi and the coming of the Christ Child is 400 years of waiting. Four hundred years of the people of God being oppressed by other nations. Four centuries of wondering if the LORD was really with His chosen people of Israel. Four hundred years of silence with no prophets to speak a new word from the Lord.

As I look at the world today, there seems to be so many things that don't make sense happening and I am tempted to wonder, "Where are you God in the midst of all of this? When will you come back? When will you act?" We all go through periods of waiting in our lives, and we need hope to get us through the waiting. Hope is waiting with a certain expectation that the LORD is present in the moment and is working behind the scenes. Hope is holding onto the reality that God is working in all things for the sake of those who love Him. Hope is knowing that God will never leave you nor forsake you.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Message from the Pastor (p 1-2)
- Announcements (p 3-5)
- In The Community (p. 6)
- Youth (p 7)
- Music Ministry (p 8)
- Preschool/King's Kids (p 9)
- Building Projects (p 10)
- Monthly Calendar (p 11)



Waiting is never easy, and whatever you are waiting on today, I want you to know there is hope in Christ. Whether you are

waiting on God's direction or a job offer or an answer to prayer or a response from someone you love – whatever you are waiting for this Advent, there is hope in Christ, and this season of Advent reminds us that hope in Christ will get us through the waiting.

I believe that Advent is an incredible season to grow deeper in faith in Jesus, because Advent prepares us to wait for Jesus. We wait for his birth like the prophets and like Mary. And we wait with believers across the centuries for his return.

Advent offers a stark reminder that God not only walked on earth as a human, but started that journey as an embryo in an unwed teen mom. God's vulnerability to us paved the way for our vulnerability before God as people who walk in faith, day by day.

I recently came across a definition of what the life of a Jesus follower looks like. A disciple of Jesus seeks to give "our everyday 'Yes' to Jesus." That's because in the Gospels, we see Jesus encounter all kinds of people and extend all kinds of invitations, but the most alarming moments are when he looks someone in the eye and offers, "Come, follow me." The stakes are high.

Answering yes changes everything.



An everyday "Yes" to Jesus is a response to God's invitation to enter a mystery. Advent, Christmas, and the new year offer new opportunities to ask questions like:

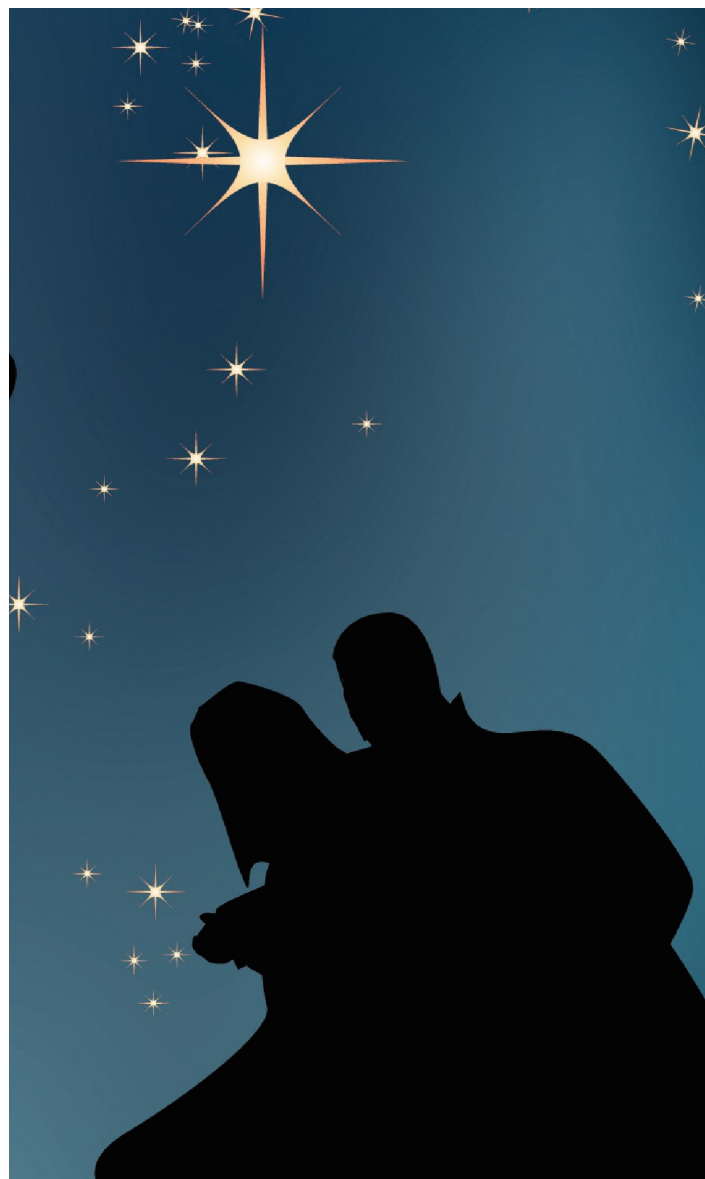
What does it mean to you to follow Jesus?

What makes you not want to follow Jesus or be part of the church sometimes?

How would you say your faith impacts your view of yourself?

Why do you think Advent is about "waiting" on God? What do you like about that? What's frustrating about that?

The seasons of Advent and Christmas are wonderful for so many reasons, but one of the most important reasons is the hope that Christ brings to a lost world. "Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came



the world to save sinners." (1 Timothy 3:15) That means He came to save you and to save me. Jesus was born into this world at Christmas so that he could grow to be a man and die on the cross for your sins and mine.

So if you are facing any discouragement in your life – if you are tired of waiting, if you feel like giving up, if you've faced too many disappointments in life – then let me point you to Christ and the hope that is found in him alone.

Hope is coming; love is coming. A shining realm of peace and wholeness is, truly, coming.

In Christ,

Pastor Andy

Advent is a season of longing, of waiting, and of expectation that the transcendent God, the sometimes seemingly far-off God would draw near, come close, and enter into our world. As the late Eugene Peterson adeptly expressed the fulfillment of this longing in his paraphrase of John 1:14, “The Word became flesh and moved into the neighborhood,” Advent is the season in the church where we *yearn afresh* for God’s intimate presence among us.

Advent is the dawn of the new liturgical year, the sunrise of the church’s soul, a new season of promise and renewed hope that God will indeed surprise us with another visit and moreover with a prolonged stay in our territory, a domain occupied by pandemics, pains, perils, and precarious pitfalls, and that God will prevail. Advent harkens to the ancient hope of Israel, to the incarnation of God in the flesh in Jesus, and to the church’s hope of his return. It is a season in which we might make the words of Isaiah 64:1 our own: “Oh, that you would rip open the heavens and descend!” We have taken this clarion cry of the prophet Isaiah as our Advent series’ theme, “**Tear Down the Heavens,**” expressing the human heart’s desire for God’s presence.

Advent Midweek 1: December 1

Isaiah 64:1-9: Tear Down the Heavens

Advent Midweek 2: December 8

Isaiah 40:1-11: Comfort My People

Advent Midweek 3: December 15

Isaiah 61:1-4;8-11: Dressed in Righteousness



TEAR DOWN THE HEAVENS

2021 Advent Midweek

Tallmadge Lutheran Church

Holiday Worship Schedule

Midweek Worships:

Wednesday, December 1, 6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 8, 6:30 pm

Wednesday December 15, 6:30 pm

Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 12, 8:00 am & 10:30 am

Christmas Eve Worship:

Friday, December 24, 7:00 pm & 9:00 pm

Christmas Day Worship:

Saturday, December 25, 10:00 am

New Years' Eve Worship

Friday, December 31, 6:00 pm

Tallmadge Lutheran Church Christmas Dinner

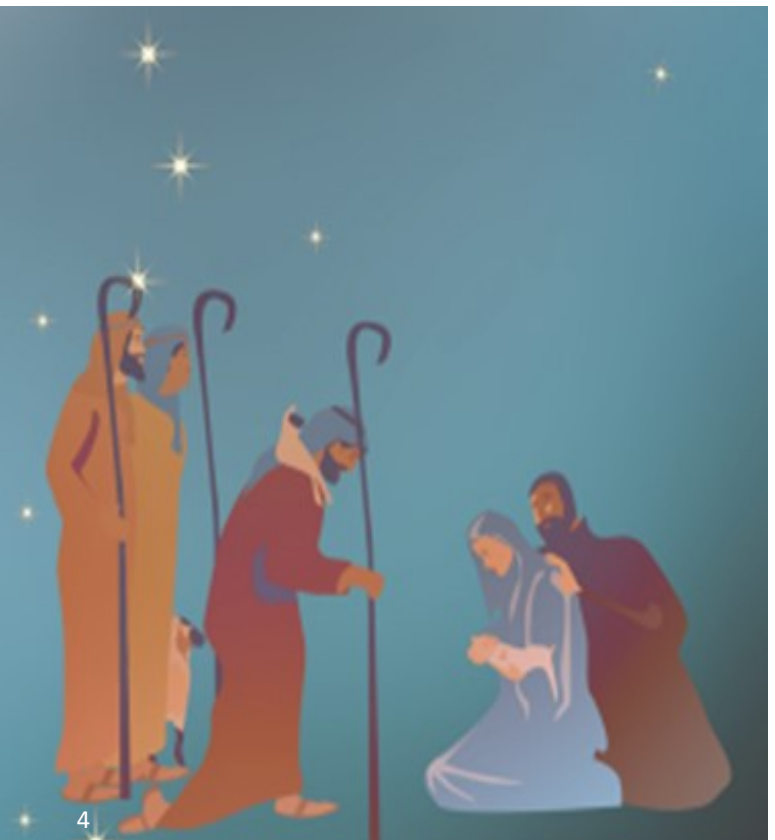
Join us for Christmas Dinner on Sunday, December 12 after the late service. A Christmas ham dinner including au gratin potatoes, stuffing, corn, cranberry relish, rolls, butter coffee and cold drinks provided.

Last names beginning with A-M, please bring a dessert. Last names beginning with N-Z, please bring canned/dry goods for the food pantry (canned fruit; soup, etc.).

Sign-up at the mailboxes to enjoy great food and fellowship with your family in Christ.

FOR WHERE
two or three
gather
in my name,
there I am
WITH THEM.

Matthew 18:20



Wanted : Board Members

The Board of Directors is still a few members short of a full board. If you are interested in joining the board, please contact Brian Kuntz at 330-550-7855 or any other board member for details.

For your information, we will have 3 women and 7 men on the board next year. I would like to encourage any women who may consider joining us to ask Kathy Vanaman, Gail McAlister or Ellen Tywon about their experiences.

***TLC's Voter Meeting is Sunday, December 5, 2021.
Join us at 9:15 am
for a lite breakfast in the Fellowship Hall.***

Communion

On Monday night November 1, the Board of Elders approved to decision to begin offering the Lord's Supper at every Sunday morning worship service. TLC began offering the Eucharist (*Meal of Thanksgiving*) every Sunday during the month of November – the month of Thanksgiving – and will make every Sunday Communion our new practice. There may be rare Sundays where Holy Communion will not be offered (for example Christmas Cantata Sunday) and we will not offer Holy Communion at midweek Advent or Lenten services as these services are more devotional in nature. In the early Christian Church, the preaching of the apostles and the reception of Christ's body and blood went hand and hand. The early church always had sermon and supper together. The Lord's Supper is the climax of the sermon. The two go hand in hand. I believe that the Holy Supper is the Church's heartbeat. Along with the preached Gospel, it is what keeps the Church alive.

Altar Guild

Additional Altar Assistants are needed. The Altar Guild is a group of individuals that ensure the Altar is ready for each and every Worship Service. Anyone can join. For questions, please contact Becky Springer 330-618-5950 or email: springer.becky@gmail.com

Highlights from TLC Food Pantry

4,800 pounds of food from the FoodBank

\$750 (Thrivent Action Grants)

\$800 (Thrivent Choice Dollars)

Donations from the congregation1

+ 100+ volunteer hours

=A flourishing Food Pantry at TLC!

2021 Activities:

* We partnered with The Akron-Canton Regional Food bank which has filled our cupboards and allowed us to provide 3-4 bags of food per month to each family we serve.

* Thrivent Action Grants- purchased cloth bags with our church's logo on them to help distribute food.

* Thrivent Action Grant- purchased a new cupboard to help store additional food/dry goods.

* Thrivent Choice Dollars- purchased a refrigerator/freezer to store additional foods for monthly distributions.

* We began a partnership with Giant Eagle in Stow, which has allowed us to access day-old breads and desserts that are used for our families and/or given to Good Neighbors in Goodyear Heights.

* A core group of volunteers that rotate their time to help pack bags at the end of the month for distribution. Thank you volunteers!

* Continued support from the congregation.

All of this allows us to support about 50 people each month (13-15 families). We will also be providing them with a Thanksgiving and a Christmas meal this year.

Food insecurity is REAL and affects people living right in our community!

If you know someone that could use some help, please have them contact the church office and we will be happy to help!

Thank you for allowing me to serve in this ministry!

Gail McAlister

*In Your Community

Light Up Tallmadge

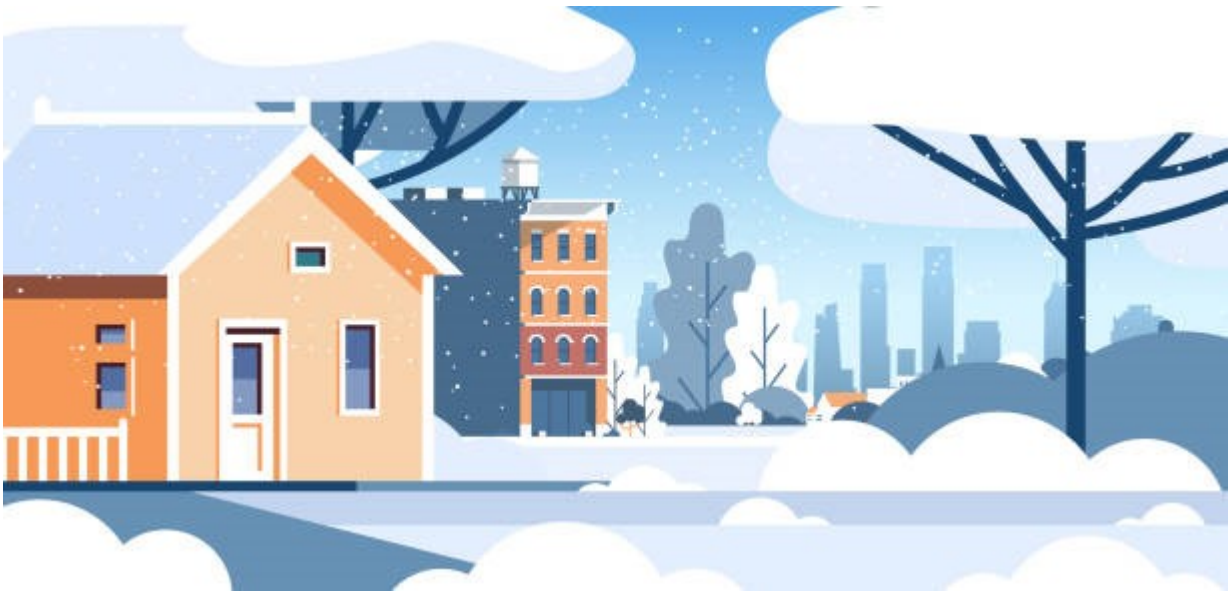
Tallmadge's Second Annual Holiday Lighting Contest is taking place this year November 29 - December 4. Tallmadge businesses and residents are eligible to participate. To enter send an email with your name/business name, address, phone number and category to holidaylights@tallmadge-ohio.org

Categories: Business, Condominium, Music, Traditional, Best Theme & Youth (registered by an adult if under 18 years old)

Judging November 29 - December 4. Winner announced December 5. Tallmadge/Brimfield winner announced December 12.

Tree Lighting Ceremony

Sunday, December 5, 4:30 - 5:30 on the Circle.



Akron

Sugar plum Tour of Holiday Homes

Dec 5, 1:00 - 5:00 pm

www.sugarplumtour.org

Cuyahoga Falls

Jingle God Parade

Dec 4, 12:00 - 3:00 pm

www.evenbrite.com

Kent

Festival of Lights

Dec 4, 5:00 - 8:00 pm

www.mainstreetkent.org

*Please confirm dates, times & ticket costs before traveling.

Youth Group News

Andy Wahl

Todd Miller

Jenn Larson

Beth Niermann



UPCOMING

Dec 5, 4:30 pm - Meeting

Dec 19, 4:30 pm Christmas Party

Operation Christmas Child

Volunteers packed 143 shoeboxes on Nov 17, making TLCs total shoebox donations 207! Up from the 167 packed in 2020! We received 1007 from area donors and filled over 50 crates with shoebox donations.



Music Ministry News

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 1, 7:30 pm

Wednesday, December 8, 7:30 pm

Wednesday, December 15, 7:30 pm

Wednesday, December 22, 7:30 pm



O Come All Ye Faithful



Pianist

TLC is looking for a part-time Pianist to accompany the Adult Choir and play for the 10:30 am worship service. This would be an 8 hour/week position. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please have them contact Pastor Andy.

Christmas Cantata

Rehearsal Saturday, December 11, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Performance Sunday, December 12, 8:00 am & 10:30 am



Pre-K Thanksgiving



TLC Building Projects

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

Upcoming Projects

Paint narthex

Paint door 6 entry area

Paint preschool hallway – August 2022

Paint stairway to mechanical room

Replace overhead lights

Completed Projects

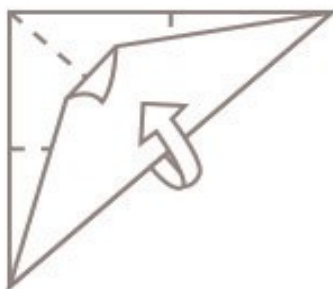
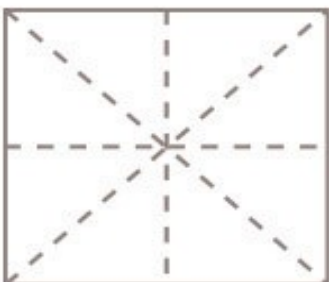
HVAC unit #3 quote submitted to board

New signage for church, preschool and King's Kids

Repaired float in urinal

Brian Kuntz installed a ramp in the shed

Converted light fixture to LED



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 6:30 PM Advent Worship 7:30 PM Choir 7:30 PM Confirmation (Rm 1) | 2 10:00 AM Bible Study (Rm 12) | 3 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Prayer Shawl (Rm 12) | 4 |
| 5 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School (Rm 7) 9:15 AM Voters Meeting 9:20 AM Bible Study (Rm 12, zoom) 9:20 AM Youth Study 10:30 AM Worship 4:30 PM Youth led meeting | 6 5:30 PM Bible Study (Youth Rm) 7:00 PM Board of Elders (Rm 12) | 7 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Bible Study (Rm 12) | 8 6:30 PM Advent Worship 7:30 PM Choir 7:30 PM Confirmation (Rm 1) | 9 10:00 AM Bible Study (Rm 12) | 10 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM TCP Christmas Program 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM KK Extended Hours | 11 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Cantata rehearsal |
| 12 Christmas Cantata 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School (Rm 7) 9:20 AM Bible Study (Rm 12, zoom) 9:20 AM Youth Study 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM TLC Christmas Dinner | 13 5:30 PM Bible Study (Youth Rm) 7:00 PM Board of Directors (Rm 12) | 14 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Bible Study (Rm 12) | 15 6:30 PM Advent Worship 7:30 PM Choir 7:30 PM Confirmation (Rm 1) | 16 10:00 AM Bible Study (Rm 12) 6:00 PM TCP Staff Meeting (Rm 12) | 17 | 18 12:00 PM Wise Owls (Rm 12) |
| 19 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School (Rm 7) 9:20 AM Bible Study (Rm 12, zoom) 9:20 AM Youth Study 10:30 AM Worship 4:30 PM Youth Christmas Party | 20 5:30 PM Bible Study (Youth Rm) | 21 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 AM Staff Meeting | 22 6:30 PM Confirmation (Rm 1) 7:30 PM Choir | 23 10:00 AM Bible Study (Rm 12) | 24 Christmas Eve 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Service | 25 10:00 AM Christmas Day Service |
| 26 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School (Rm 7) 9:20 AM Bible Study (Rm 12, zoom) 9:20 AM Youth Study 10:30 AM Worship | 27 5:30 PM Bible Study (Youth Rm) | 28 9:00 AM Staff Meeting | 29 6:30 PM Confirmation (Rm 1) 7:30 PM Choir | 30 10:00 AM Bible Study (Rm 12) | 31 New Year's Eve 6:00 PM New Year's Eve Worship | |

Birthdays

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Kevin Heilmeyer | 19 Patrick Larson |
| 2 Benjamin Dussel | 19 Jim Bergmann |
| 5 Kyle Tywon | 19 Diana Kaiser |
| 5 Sarah Vojtek | 19 Sandy Slividi |
| 5 Shawn DeWolf | 19 Marien Hauser |
| 7 Wayne Reed | 22 Owen Crawley |
| 8 Kelly Olson | 23 Elias Toepke |
| 9 Diane LeVan | 24 Linda Huzzard |
| 9 Carnella Smith | 24 George Scaife |
| 13 Dawn Dailey | 26 Edie Holzer |
| 14 Vickie Sandmann | 27 Peggy Holly |
| 16 Daniel Conley | 28 John Dailey |
| 16 Steve Wendland | 29 Todd Miller |
| 18 Jayne Colosetti | 31 Andy Wahl |
| 18 Barbara Bass | 31 Lyn Bomer |

Anniversaries

- 6 Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Heilmeyer
- 10 Mr. & Mrs. John McDowell
- 16 Mr. & Mrs. Walt Ruggles
- 17 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Strand
- 18 Mr. & Mrs. Rick Reynolds
- 20 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Case
- 26 Dr. & Mrs. Jim Bailey



**The Living Light is a monthly publication of
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The Living Light
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Tallmadge Christian Preschool
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