

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



TALLMADGE LUTHERAN CHURCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2023

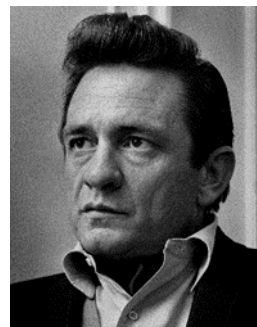


## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHNNY CASH: YOU ARE NEVER TOO FAR GONE

Last summer, I was looking for something to watch and I came across the movie “*I Walk the Line*.” This movie chronicled the life of country music legend Johnny Cash, from his early days on an Arkansas cotton farm to his rise to fame with Sun Records in Memphis. Joaquin Phoenix played the role of Johnny Cash and Reese Witherspoon played June Carter. Before watching this movie, I was familiar with some of Johnny Cash’s music, but I didn’t know much about his life.

In real life, Johnny Cash was far from perfect. He acknowledged that he was a sinner. His struggle with addiction is well known, and it was a lifelong struggle. His first marriage ended in divorce. The death of his brother in childhood left a mark of trauma that affected his life. His less-than-ideal image is part of what has made his legacy enduring; he made outlaw country a thing.

Johnny Cash was also a Christian, a saint washed clean through faith in Jesus Christ. Cash expressed his faith in his music, by writing multiple books on Christianity, and he made movies about what his faith meant to him. Johnny Cash, despite his outlaw image did want to share the gospel widely in his way.



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Saints and sinners, all jumbled up together. That's the genius of Johnny Cash, and that's what the gospel is ultimately all about. Jesus came to save sinners and most of his ministry occurred at the margins. Johnny Cash sang about and for people on the margins. He famously played concerts in prisons, where he sang both murder ballads and gospel tunes in the same set. It's this juxtaposition between light and dark that makes Cash one of the most authentic theologians in memory.



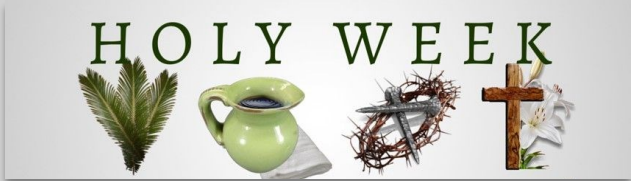
In Richard Beck’s book, *Trains, Jesus, and Murder: The Gospel According the Johnny Cash*, he writes that the gospel according to the Man in Black is this: “drawing near to and loving the lost, unnoticed, unremarkable, excluded, powerless, broken, condemned, and despicable. Solidarity is a love that grows warmest in the coldest places. That vision prompts us to take the second step in the dance of divine solidarity. After we read the world to locate God among the victims and the oppressed, we are called to action, to move ourselves to stand with those who are suffering. As Bonhoeffer said, God “goes right into the middle of it.” God draws near.”

Beck also writes, “God is found in Jesus among the cursed and godforsaken. Again, the first place to look for Jesus is in hell. By standing with the poor and beaten down, the music of Johnny Cash shows us how a gospel of solidarity begins as an interpretative activity: the cross is a way of seeing and reading the world. Specifically, the cross helps us answer this most important question: Where is God?”

Starting on April 16, the Sunday after Easter, come experience The Gospel According the Johnny Cash: No One is Too Far Gone in our worship services. Pastor Andy will share messages of hope and redemption through scripture and Johnny Cash songs. If you have a friend who enjoys Johnny Cash, be sure to invite them for this sermon series!

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor Andy



Sunday, April 2, 2023	Palm Sunday Worship	8:00 am & 10:30 am
Thursday, April 6, 2023	Maundy Thursday Worship	7:00 pm
Friday, April 7, 2023	Good Friday	12:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday April 9, 2023

6:30 am	Sunrise Worship
7:30 am	Easter Breakfast served by TLC Youth.
8:30 am	Traditional Easter Celebration Worship
10:30 am	Blended Easter Celebration Worship



## Adopted Through Christ

Adoption is an amazing thing. In the Bible, we are told that we are adopted as sons through Jesus, and for me, this paints a wonderful picture of God's love. My sister Laura was adopted. As a baby, she lived in an orphanage in Russia. When she was eight months old, my parents traveled across the world and brought her home as their child. She was loved and raised no different from any of her siblings. She was family.

My mother then changed her career path to do adoption work for other families. She worked on both international and domestic adoptions and loved talking about her job. I got to hear story after story of families bringing in children and loving them as their own. These kids got the hope of a new life with loving parents.

It is through my sister's and my mother's stories that I began to understand the fullness of God's love. In Galatians 4:4-7, Paul writes "but when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God." God sent Jesus to die on the cross so that we may be redeemed. And, through Christ, we are children of God. This is a gift and a chance to have a new life with the Father. We have a fresh start because of the grace of God. And, because we are children of God, we receive the Spirit into our hearts and are heirs to his promises. This adoption is an act of pure love; he doesn't revoke it because we mess up. Just like all the stories of adoptions I grew up hearing, God chose us and brought us in, loving us as his own. So, even though we don't deserve it, we can count on and turn to our loving Father because He has made us his children through Christ.

In Christ,

Liv Laube

# April Events

## **Marriage Connect Group**

We will gather for our next fellowship time on Thursday, April 13 at 6:00 pm. Our next study is "Love is Tenacious... Are You?" Shredded chicken fajitas will be served. Please bring a side dish to share and enjoy time connecting with others.

## **Women's Fellowship**

The Women's Fellowship is gathering for a potluck dinner on Thursday, April 20, 6:00 pm in Room 12. Please see the signup sheet by the mailboxes. Speaker, Mary Gullede, a Christian blogger, will join the group for some inspiration.

## **April's Operation Christmas Child Donations**

We have been blown away by the amount of donations so far this year. We want to especially say Thank You for the support of this mission that spreads the Gospel to unreached people groups. This month we would like to collect small baby dolls and stuffed animals that will easily fit in a shoebox. This is considered a "Wow" item and the children really love them. Please place all donations in the grey donation bins marked with the "Operation Christmas Child" logo in the Donation Nook. Again, thank you so much for being a part of the year round collections.

# Music Ministry News

Happy Easter! Our music department is very excited to enhance our worship celebrations this coming week with music.

There will be special music at every service, including the chancel choir, our hand bells, some small groups, and even some trumpets.

It's going to be amazing!

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!" Psalm 100:1

If anyone would be interested in sharing any special music or anthems over the summer, it's never too early to start planning. Please contact Annie Alberts if you would like to talk about being a part of our summer music ministry.



Tallmadge Lutheran Church

# Easter Egg Hunt

and Family Fun Day

759 East Avenue, Tallmadge, OH 44278

Saturday, April 8, 2023

Games 10:00 am - 11:25 am

Egg Hunt begins promptly at 11:30 am

Ages 0 - 8th Grade

Games! Crafts! Coloring Contest! Snacks! Prizes for all!

Join us for a FREE Day of FUN!





# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**JUNE 19-23**  
**9AM-12PM**

**TALLMADGE LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

**REGISTER AT**  
**[VBSPRO.EVENTS/P/TLCVBS2023](https://vbspro.events/p/tlcvbs2023)**  
**OR SCAN THE QR CODE**



# Youth Group News

Beth Niermann

Jared Shoup

Jen Larson

Liv Laube

## Upcoming

**Saturday, April 8, 9:00 am-3:00 pm** Run Games for Egg Hunt/Prep for Easter Breakfast (Service Event)

**Sunday, April 9, 6:00 am-12:00 pm** Youth Serve Easter Breakfast (Service Event)

**Sunday, April 23, 12:00-2:00pm** Youth Meeting

## TLC Building Projects

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

### Completed:

Painting complete  
Pews removed for organ  
Repaired door handles  
Replaced ceiling tiles  
Hung AED  
Replaced handicap signs  
Warped bookshelves removed  
Mechanical room organization  
Storage organization (on going)

### Upcoming Projects:

Direction Signs  
Library organization  
Additional AED for Edu Wing  
Outside spring clean - up





My name is Emma Cutlip. I live in Tallmadge with my husband, four children, dog, and two cats. I am a Tallmadge High School graduate, and received a Bachelor's degree in Human Development from Kent State University. My favorite thing to do is spend time with my family. I also enjoy reading, hiking, traveling, and Mexican food. I am excited to be a part of the Tallmadge Christian Preschool program!

# Birthdays

11 Jeanne Colosetti	1 Jim Scheck
11 Anya Toepke	4 Laura Miller
15 Heidi Beck	5 Carol Goebelt
16 Dan Fosnight	5 Aleksandar Kodzev
17 Judy Wilkins	5 Katharina Leisner
18 Peter Ware	6 Madeline Alberts
27 Emil Crawley	6 Paula Miller-Vernon
27 Craig Hanchett	7 Sue Capp
27 Gerald Young	9 Lori Earles
28 Fae Broemsen	10 Allen Emmendorfer
28 Monna Fenske	10 Eric Fink
29 Therese Ware	
30 David Bass	



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 <b>Palm Sunday</b> Prayer Buddy Cards 8:00am Worship 9-15am Sunday School (Rm 7) 9-20am Bible Study (Rm 12, zoom) 9-20am Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm) 10:30am Worship 10:30am Worship	3 9:30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 5:30pm Monday Night Bible Study (Youth Rm) 7:00pm Board of Elders (Rm 12)	4 9:00am Staff Meeting 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12) 7:00pm Jubilate Ringers	5 7:00am Men's Bible Study (Panera) 10:00am Sewing for Service (off site) 7:30pm Choir	6 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12) 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service	7 <b>Good Friday</b> 7:00am Men's Good Friday Breakfast 7:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast (gym) 12:00pm Good Friday Service 1:00pm - 3:00pm Prayer Shawl (Rm 12) 7:00pm Good Friday Service	8 10:00am - 12:00pm Easter Egg Hunt
9 <b>Easter</b> Prayer Buddies 6-30am Sunrise Service 7:30am - 12:00pm Easter Breakfast 8:30am Celebration Service 10:30am Celebration Service	10 9:30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 5:30pm Monday Night Bible Study (Youth Rm) 7:00pm Board of Directors (Rm 12)	11 9:00am Staff Meeting 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12) 7:00pm Jubilate Ringers	12 7:00am Men's Bible Study (Panera) 6:30pm Confirmation Celebration 7:30pm Choir	13 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12) 6:00pm Marriage Connection Group (Rm 12)	14	15 9:00am - 3:00pm Tallmadge Expo 12:00pm Wise Owls (Rm 12)
16 8:00am Worship 9-15am Sunday School (Rm 7) 9-20am Bible Study (Rm 12, zoom) 9-20am Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm) 10:30am Worship	17 9:30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 5:30pm Monday Night Bible Study (Youth Rm) 6:00pm - 8:00pm TCP Staff Meeting (library)	18 Newsletter Deadline 9:00am Staff Meeting 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12) 6:30pm Little League 7:00pm Jubilate Ringers	19 7:00am Men's Bible Study (Panera) 7:30pm Choir	20 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12) 12:00pm Tallmadge Ministry Alliance 6:00pm Women's Fellowship (Rm 12)	21	22
23 8:00am Worship 9-15am Sunday School (Rm 7) 9-20am Bible Study (Rm 12, zoom) 9-20am Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm) 10:30am Friendship <b>Sunday Worship</b> 12:00pm Youth meeting	24 9:30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 5:30pm Monday Night Bible Study (Youth Rm)	25 9:00am Staff Meeting 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12) 6:30pm Little League 7:00pm Jubilate Ringers	26 7:00am Men's Bible Study (Panera) 7:30pm Choir	27 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12)	28	29
30 Confirmands Public Examination 8:00am Worship 9-15am Sunday School (Rm 7) 9-20am Bible Study (Rm 12, zoom) 9-20am Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm) 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Confirmation Lunch (Rm 12)						

**The Living Light is a monthly publication of  
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