

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

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023



What Jesus Says to the Churches

Seeing and hearing Jesus. The book of Revelation helps us see and hear Jesus anew! Revelation gives us strong images of Jesus Christ as He speaks words for the apostle John to record and share with the Seven Churches. This has been a good time for me to step back and see Christ, reflect on who Christ is, consider how Christ sees the church, and

hear what Christ says to his church. Though Christ is the Sovereign Ruler in heaven, he walks among his churches and is present with them through his Spirit. He knows and dwells among each church intimately to speak the truth in love. Indeed, he is everything to each church. The church does well to listen to Christ. So, let's listen to what Christ says to his church, to you and to me.

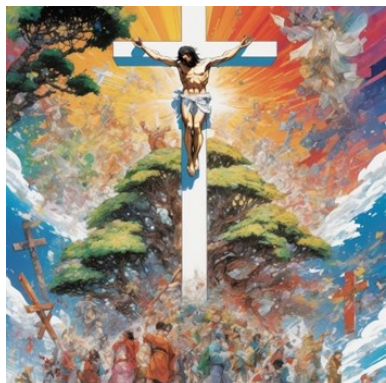
As Christ revealed himself to the seven churches, we find that Jesus wants each church to know him *more fully*. Like the Apostle John, we tend to lay our head on his bosom as the incarnate God. He is our Friend, Good Shepherd, Healer, Comforter, Encourager, Protector and Provider. Christ is all of these to us. But Christ is more. Christ is the Creator God, the Sovereign Ruler, and the Judge. Many people see Christ merely as the one who meets their needs. They do not know Christ fully. That is why they tend to be casual, comfortable and complacent with Jesus, and not to worship, serve and obey him with reverence. Let's pray that we may know the glorified Christ more deeply within us in a way that transforms our attitudes, thoughts, and actions to worship and serve him more fully.

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Christ's evaluation of his church is quite different from that of people. Christ sees each church as it truly is. He is not impressed by a large congregation, the latest technology, and spectacular activities. At the same time, he does not overlook sincere believers, even though their number is small, and they are poor and weak.



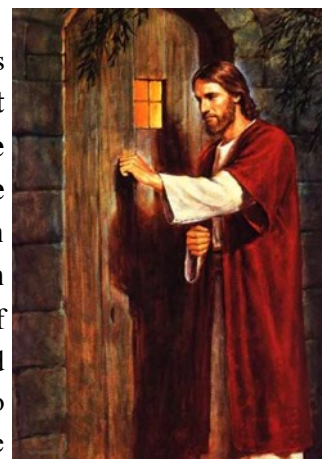
Jesus sees his churches based on their *spiritual condition*. The church in Smyrna was poor materially. But Christ said, “you are rich!” (2:9) On the other hand, the church in Laodicea was wealthy materially. But Christ said, “you are poor” (3:17b). The church at Sardis had a reputation for being alive. But Christ said, “you are dead” (3:1b). The church at Thyatira looked impressive outwardly in their love, faith, service, and perseverance. But Christ searched their minds and hearts. He saw that their motive was not right because they tolerated false teachings and condoned sin. In pleasing Christ, a church's spiritual condition is vital.

Christ also sees his churches based on the *quality of their faith*. To Jesus, the number of members does not matter. What really matters is to keep his word, holding onto gospel truth. Suffering was inevitable for those who lived a godly life in those pagan cultures (2Ti 3:12). When the churches in Smyrna and Philadelphia kept their faith, they were persecuted. Christ commended them and encouraged them to persevere. In contrast, the church in Laodicea compromised with the corrupted culture to avoid persecution. They thought they were okay, but Christ said to them: “You are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.” In Pergamum, Thyatira and Sardis, there were divisions between faithful believers and those who compromised. In Thyatira and Sardis, a majority of members had compromised their faith, while only a few people had not defiled themselves. These few people might have been treated like outcasts and criticized by the majority. But Christ commended them and blessed them. In pleasing Christ, we must keep gospel faith without compromise, no matter what.

Sometimes Jesus has to rebuke churches. To be honest, it is easy to find a trend of compromise and degeneration in the 7 churches of Revelation. The beginning point is forsaking first love. This is followed by compromise with false teachings that condone sin in the corrupted culture. Then the church was overpowered by sin until it became dead. Ultimately Christ was no longer present in the church. This helps us understand why Christ's rebukes are so serious. Christ's rebukes are usually followed by a call to repent and a warning. The word “repent” is repeated seven times in the letters (2:5[2],16, 21,22; 3:3,19). The five churches which were rebuked were also told to repent. When Christ rebukes, repentance is not optional, but required to restore our relationship with him and revive us. Many churches hope for a spiritual revival, but *without repentance there is no revival*. Historically, movements such as the Great Awakenings in America and the revivals in Wales and Pyongyang, Korea started with sincere repentance. Repentance always brings good fruit. On the other hand, refusal to repent always results in serious consequences. We do well to take Christ's rebuke to heart and repent for our own wellbeing and the revival of our church.

Jesus promises rewards to each church. For those who abide in Christ, persevere and stand firm in their faith, Jesus promises eternal life and the privilege to reign with Christ in his kingdom and enjoy God forever, participating in the wedding supper of the Lamb (19:9). Christ's reward is given only to those who are victorious. How can we obtain this victory? **It is only by faith in Jesus Christ!** (1Jn 5:4)

Here is Jesus' most gracious invitation: **“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me”** (3:20). Let's open the doors of our hearts to Christ to come in and have fellowship with us. Let's pray to restore our first love for him and to be a church that pleases him!



Following Jesus,

Pastor Andy



Fall Sermon Series & Small Group Studies – **SE7EN Churches of Revelation**

In a culture that is increasingly hostile to the Christian faith, people often ask if the Bible is still relevant for today? Is God still speaking? Of course He is. The real question is: Are we listening? Imagine if your church received a letter from Jesus Himself. What would He say about your love for God? Endurance in trials? Faithful service? Would His words bring commendation... or condemnation? We do, in fact, have such a letter. In Revelation, the last book of the Bible, Jesus' words to 7 churches are as relevant today as they were in the 1st century. In this 8-week series-- SE7EN Churches of Revelation-- we'll meet Jesus in Revelation 1 and then explore Jesus' 7 letters to 7 churches and learn how to experience God's blessing and serve Him effectively in a culture that's increasingly hostile to faith.

September 17	The Exalted Lord Who Speaks	Revelation 1:9-20
September 24	Ephesus // The Forgetful Church	Revelation 2:1-7
October 1	Smyrna // The Suffering Church	Revelation 2:8-11
October 8	Pergamum // The Compromising Church	Revelation 2:12-17
October 15	Thyatira // The Tolerant Church	Revelation 2:18-29
October 22	Sardis // The Slumbering Church	Revelation 3:1-6
October 29	Philadelphia // The Enduring Church	Revelation 3:7-13
November 5	Laodicea // The Lukewarm Church	Revelation 3:14-22

Join a Small Group

Sunday mornings at 9:20am at TLC in Room 12 with Pastor Andy

Sunday mornings after late worship with Shannon Dutka in the Library and Zoom

Monday evenings at 5:30pm at TLC in Youth Room with Jeanne Colosetti

Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm hosting by Tim & Diane Richard

Wednesday evenings at TLC starting at 6:30pm with Brian Kuntz

Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm hosted by Todd Hedderly

Thursday mornings at 10:00am at TLC in Room 12 with Kathy Vanaman

The Akron-Youngstown

LWML Fall Retreat - October 21

The cost is \$10.00. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. For more information, see the flyer on the LWML bulletin board at the end of the church mailboxes. Our *humancare* will be a speaker from the Blue Coats.

Need a ride? See Sandy Dixon or give her a call at 330-688-6258.

Marriage Connect Group

Our next group date is scheduled for Thursday, October 19 at 6:00 pm. Session 2 from the 5 Love Languages series is "Words of Affirmation". This study is so beneficial to anyone who is married!

We would love to fill Room 12 and enjoy this study with many couples. We will have dinner first, of course. Taco meat and the fixings for tacos will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Hope to see many of you there!

Operation Christmas Child Donations

This is the last full month to collect some final items that we are a bit low on. I know this is a hodgepodge of items, but these items would really help fill in where it's needed. These items include small plastic cups, Band-aids, bars of soap/washcloths, small hair brushes/combs, journals, stickers and small Lego sets.

OCC Collection Week is November 13 - November 20. Please stay tuned to special upcoming announcements regarding volunteers needed during this time. This event is huge and cannot be undertaken successfully without many helpers.

Again, we thank everyone who has supported the operation all year long. What a great ministry our congregation can support!

PRAYER BUDDIES

Prayer Buddies show our Preschool and King's Kids families that we care for them and their children. To give our congregation members a new opportunity to leave a legacy of faith, to care for others in Jesus' name, and to exercise the powerful practice of prayer, and to provide another connection point between our congregation and our Preschool and King's Kids

A Prayer Buddy can commit to praying for two of our Preschool/King's Kids students throughout this school year. A Prayer Buddy is someone who loves Jesus, and who wants our Preschool and King's Kids families to know that love.

Prayer Buddies are expected to pray for their Preschoolers, King's kids and his/her family on a regular basis. Send one card or note per month per child (please no gifts, except for Christmas and Easter). Submit monthly cards before the deadline.

The program launches this month! *Cards are due on the following Sundays:* October 15, November 12, December 10 with a book for Christmas, January 14, February 11, March 10, April 14, and May 12.

Sign-up by the mailboxes. Please Contact Cindy Strand with questions!



Women's Fellowship

October 12 is the date! "*Octoberfest*" is the name!
Room 12 is the place! 6:00 is the starting time!

Looking forward to our Women's Fellowship coming together for a fun meal, celebrating Octoberfest here at our church. It's *Bring Your Own Mug* event and we have lots to do together.

Before that night, we're asked to "*Do Good With Chipotle*" on Wednesday, September 27, by going to Chipotle anytime between 4:00 and 8:00 pm, with coupon in hand (see your September newsletter) at the restaurant right up the road on Cascades Blvd. This is to benefit our Preschool.

You may want to participate in the *Fundraiser for ShelterCare* (our speaker for our September meeting) to take place on October 5 at Guy's Party Center. See Jeannine for information.

Some of us plan to go to *Ohio Mart* at Stan Hyewt Hall & Gardens on Saturday, October 7, around 10:00 am. Care to carpool?

Sign up sheets for our Octoberfest meal on October 12, and for car pooling to Ohio Mart on October 7, will be by the mailboxes. Looking forward to everything. Watch your emails to see what's up!

-Jeannine Case

Board of Directors

Board of Directors Openings for 2024

The Board of Directors has several openings for the upcoming year: Chair, Vice-Chair, 3 at-large positions. The board meets monthly to discuss and support Pastor in all matters of the church and congregation. A term of office is for 2 years.

If this is something that you have questions about or might be interested in, please feel free to reach out to any of the current board members for more information.

Current members: Bert Holz, Jeff Carley, Dennis Gearhart, Gail McAlister, Bob Knepper, Ellen Tywon, Jim Bergmann, Denny Holzer, and Therese Ware.

TLC's Open Form

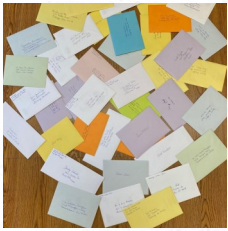
Sunday, November 5 after late service.

TLC's Voters' Meeting

Sunday, December 3 after late service.



RALLY DAY SUCCESS!



To celebrate Jesus' 7 letters to the seven churches in Revelation, TLC members wrote notes of encouragement, thanks, and love to be shared with homebound members, leaders at TLC, and leaders in the Tallmadge community.



Brian Kuntz shares about leading the Youth Bible Study every Sunday morning in the Youth Room. Parents are always welcome to attend as well!



Sunday School Superintendent, Gail McAlister, shares what is happening this fall in Sunday School for children Pre-school through 5th grade. The children decorated and colored notes that say "Jesus Loves You!" that will be given to people who use our Food Bank.



Almost 60 people participated in the Rally Day activities during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, September 17. Each Bible Study leader had an opportunity to talk about their group and what they were studying. Members were encouraged to write letters to encourage others throughout the gathering time.

TLC seeking Part-Time Director of Children's Ministry

Tallmadge Lutheran Church is seeking to hire a part-time Director of Children's Ministry to join our team in the fall of 2023. Working with children from infants through fifth grade along with their families, the Director's goal is to facilitate Christian Biblical learning with fun and exciting programs that help children grow in their faith in Jesus Christ. Please share this job opening with anyone you think might be interested. Applicants are to email their resume to Pastor Andy at pastorandy@tlcoh.org. You can find a full job-description at <https://www.tlcoh.org/director-of-childrens-ministry/>.

In The Community

Farmers Market - Thursdays, 4:00 - 7:00 pm

Every Thursday in the Rec Center’s parking lot through October 12.

The Tallmadge Fall Festival - Saturday, October 7

Family-friendly fun at the Tallmadge Recreation Center . The day includes live music, food trucks, inflatable games, hayrides, crafts, a beer garden, and a pie-eating contest! The event is FREE. Children's wristbands and beer tickets are available for an additional fee.

Halloween Moonlight Movie Night - Saturday, October 21, 2023

Tallmadge Recreation Center Parking Lot. Costume Parade at 6:30 pm. Movie starts at 7:00 pm.
Bring your snacks, dress up in your costume for our Halloween costume parade, and enjoy *Hocus Pocus* (PG) in the comfort of your own car cinema! Sound will be provided through FM radio. Admission is FREE!

Trick-or-Treat/Beggar's Night - Thursday, October 26, 2023, 5:30-7:00 pm

Those who wish to participate in handing out candy, please leave your porch light on.

Dussel Farm - 1109 Old Forge Road, Kent

Dussel’s Pumpkin Festival is 8:00 am - 7:00 pm throughout October. Pumpkin picking, face painting, kettle corn, corn maze, straw bales, caramel apples, apple cider, and more! A fruit & vegetable market and feed store is at the farm as well. Support you local farm and our own TLC members: The Dussel Family!

Ramseyer Farm - 4000 Ramseyer Lane, Wooster

50+ farm activities: pumpkins, hayrides, corn maze, flowers, Halloween parties, food, gift shop, and more. Go to www.ramsyerfarm.com for admission prices and times.

Kingsway Pumpkin Farm - 1555 Andrews St NW, Hartville

Pumpkins, corn maize, petting zoo, hayrides! Go to www.kingswaypumpkinfarm.com for times and admission info.



Music Ministry

Happy October!

First of all, we are working on getting our Jubilate Handbell Group up and running this fall. Stay tuned for more updates!

Next, our Chancel choir is looking ahead to Christmas (gulp!) and the Cantata.

We love to have our seasonal singers join us for this event.

If you are interested in joining us for the Cantata, please let Annie know and she will add you to the list. It promises to be an amazing time of learning, singing and sharing the news of Christ's birth.

Also, do you remember that favorite hymn, or praise song?

That one that we never seem to sing? If you have a favorite song that you would like to sing in service sometime, please let Annie know at music@tlcoh.org.

We will do our best to fit it in to an upcoming service, if possible.



Youth Group News

Beth Niermann

Jared Shoup

Jen Larson

Upcoming

Ramseyer Farms - Sunday, October 1, 12:00 - 6:00 pm

Dussel Farms - Sunday, October 15 from 12:00 - 2:00 pm

Bread Bake - November 21, 5:00 pm

Trivia

A Special Thanks to Jodi Toepke for her hard work on the trivia event.

The Youth love hosting the church for this event.



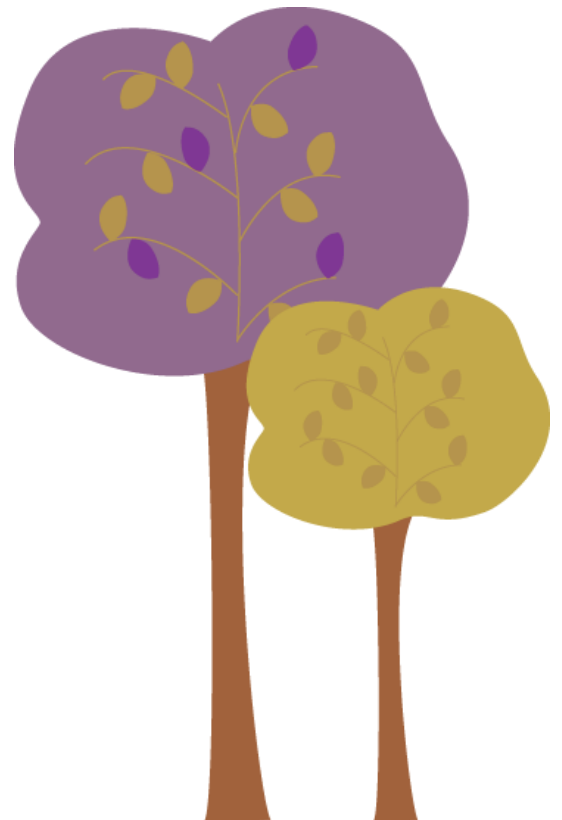


Scholastic Book Fair: *Cookies & Bookies!*

Thank you to all that supported our Scholastic Book Fair by shopping with us
and volunteering at our TCP Family Night.

Your generosity helped us earn more than \$1000.00 to use towards books
and learning activities for our classrooms, thank you!

- Laura Miller & the TCP Staff





TLC Building Projects

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

Completed:

Hornets nest removed from property
Grounds clean-up for fall
Fire Inspection passed
Parking lot repairs
AC Units' PM completed
All classroom lights converted to LED
All classrooms painted
Carpet/floor strip around piano and organ replaced
West side of outside sign secured
Restructure/Organization of TCP, KK, Prayer Shawl, Office and Music Ministry completed
Roof over Youth Room quoted
Numbers added to outside Doors 1-7 added per Fire Marshall's request
Water heater in Edu bathroom replaced
AED for Edu wing installed
Fancy signs of staff bathrooms
Kitchen inspected

Upcoming Projects:

Mailbox area: replace storage under mailboxes
Library: add storage, shelving, update
Parking lot reseal & stripe 2024
Pole Barn
Paint Sanctuary
Front ground sign



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8:00am Worship 9-15am Sunday School (Rm 7) 9-20am Bible Study (Youth Rm) 9-20am Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm) 10-30am Worship 11-45am Small Group (Library & zoom) 12:00pm Youth Group (Ramsseyer Farm)	9-30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 5:30pm Bible Study (Youth Rm) 7:00pm Board of Elders (Rm 12)	9:00am Staff Meeting 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12) 7:00pm Small Group (Richard)	7:00am Men's Bible Study (Panera) 10:00am Sewing for Service (Klicman) 6:30pm Confirmation (Rm 1) 6:30pm Small Group (Rm 12) 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Small Group (Hedderly)	10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12)	1:00pm - 3:00pm Prayer Shawl (Rm 12)	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:00am Worship 9-15am Sunday School (Rm 7) 9-20am Bible Study 9-20am Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm) 10:30am Worship 11-45am Small Group (Library & zoom)	Ohio District Pastor's Conference 9:30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 5:30pm Bible Study (Youth Rm) 7:00pm Board of Directors (Rm 12)	Ohio District Pastor's Conference 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12) 7:00pm Small Group (Richard)	Ohio District Pastor's Conference 7:00am Men's Bible Study (Panera) 6:30pm Confirmation (Rm 1) 6:30pm Small Group (Rm 12) 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Small Group (Hedderly)	10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12) 6:00pm Women's Fellowship Octoberfest		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Prayer Buddy cards due Sweetest Day 8:00am Worship 9-15am Sunday School (Rm 7) 9-20am Bible Study 9-20am Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm) 10:30am Worship 11-45am Small Group (Library & zoom) 12:00pm Youth Group (Dussel Farm)	9-30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 1:30pm Danbury 5:30pm Bible Study (Youth Rm)	Newsletter Deadline 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12) 7:00pm Small Group (Richard)	7:00am Men's Bible Study (Panera) 6:30pm Confirmation (Rm 1) 6:30pm Small Group (Rm 12) 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Small Group (Hedderly)	10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12)		Akron-Youngstown LWMIL Fall Retreat 6:30pm Tallmadge Halloween Parade & Movie Night (Rec)
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8:00am Worship 9-15am Sunday School (Rm 7) 9-20am Bible Study 9-20am Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm) 10:30am Worship 11-45am Small Group (Library & zoom)	9-30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 5:30pm Bible Study (Youth Rm) 6:00pm - 8:00pm TCP Staff Meeting (library)	10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12) 7:00pm Small Group (Richard)	7:00am Men's Bible Study (Panera) 6:30pm Confirmation (Rm 1) 6:30pm Small Group (Rm 12) 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Small Group (Hedderly)	10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12) 5:30pm Tallmadge Beggars' Night		
29	30	31				
Reformation Sunday 8:00am Worship 9-15am Sunday School (Rm 7) 9-20am Bible Study 9-20am Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm) 10:30am Worship 11-45am Small Group (Library & zoom)	9-30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 5:30pm Bible Study (Youth Rm)	Halloween 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12) 7:00pm Small Group (Richard's)				

Birthdays

- 1 Ralph Phipps
1 Kristi Conley
1 Jim Gates
5 Anders Redman
6 Peggy Menke
6 Kathleen Detzel
6 Kim Senderling
7 Michael Pifer
7 Madison Fosnight
8 Michelle Latimer
8 Pamela Gates
8 Quin Harsey

9 Kathy Alleshouse
13 Roger Klicman
14 Travis LeVan
16 Andrew DeWolf
17 Logan Crawley
18 Gabriella Vojtek
18 Julianna Batley
19 Debbie Ruggles
19 Ellen Gorrell
22 Ava Harsey
27 Emma Hedderly
30 Michelle Wendland
30 Nicolas Harsey

Anniversaries

- 1 Mr. & Mrs. Dan Capp
1 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Vernon
3 Mr. & Mrs. Brent Hovey
7 Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Richard
20 Mr. & Mrs. Walter Fenske
20 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Himmelfreich
23 Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Barrett



The Living Light is a monthly publication of
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Debbie Ruggles, Finance Manger

administrator@tlcoh.org

Lindsay Snyder, Secretary & Facilities

secretary@tlcoh.org

Pastor Doug Riley, Pastoral Assistant

pastorriley@tlcoh.org

Annie Alberts, Music Director

music@tlcoh.org

Laura Miller, Preschool Director

lmiller@tlcoh.org

Patti Trettel, King's Kids Director

ptrettel@tlcoh.org

Tallmadge Lutheran Church exists to help people
GROW as disciples of Christ, *CARE* for one another, and *SHARE* the love of Jesus in our community.

The Living Light
Tallmadge Lutheran Church
Tallmadge Christian Preschool
King's Kids School-Age Child Care

