

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

He Is Among Us

Every December during the season of Advent, we take time to prepare our hearts for the arrival of the Messiah. In our Christian faith, we encounter a peculiar truth. Almost every other religion in the world is structured so that humanity has to make its way to God. But in this upside-down, backwards Kingdom of Jesus, God comes to us. In Luke 1:31 Gabriel's announces to Mary that God is about to be among us:



"You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

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In this passage we are told about one of the greatest mysteries of the Christian faith: the Incarnation. Incarnation simply means, “in the flesh.” At this stunning moment in history, God’s plan for redeeming His people is revealed, and no one could have anticipated His approach. God Almighty determined to set out to save humanity from the inside. The Lord would become one of us. This thought would be scandalous and sacrilegious if it weren’t true. But true it is. What a mystery! The Son of the Most High God will also be the son of the humble Mary. Our God is not a far-off deity who demands that we make our way to Him. He comes to us. He is near. He is among us.

The Incarnation, the presence of God as a human, changes everything. It challenges us to live in such a way that we, as children of God, now have God living in us. One pastor calls this transformation of faith to becoming people “where God happens.” God’s miracles happen in us and through us.



Why would the Lord Almighty and creator of the universe become human? The motivation behind the mission is clear—love. Advent is a proclamation of God’s unthinkable love for His people. It is a love that is more than sentiment or intention. It is active and overflowing and even reckless. He risks it all because He is driven by love.

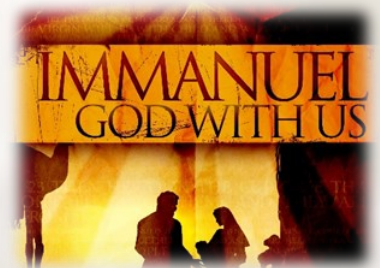
As we look at this broken world and feel overwhelmed by the depravity around us, we sometimes find ourselves in need of denying God’s embrace of our utter humanity. We want to make excuses for ourselves saying that we are only human. That we are limited. That we are sinners, that we are broken and cracked beings. That we can’t handle the change and suffering in our lives.



But, this is the whole point of Christmas: God becomes what we are so we might become what Jesus is. What we are is this: cracked and broken humans, dead in our sin. What we become through faith in Jesus is: perfect sons and daughters of God redeemed by Jesus’ blood shed on the cross fully alive and fully loved.

That first Christmas for Mary and Joseph meant that God was at work on earth. For us in 2023 it means God is still at work on earth. And here’s the crazy truth: God accomplishes his work through us! He fills us with the Holy Spirit and nourishes us through His Word and Sacraments to be able to trust Him so that God can work through us to continue to reveal His Son, Jesus Christ, to the world. We have been changed into children of God who have one purpose: to reveal Jesus to the world by loving God and loving others.

God coming near, that is what Christmas is all about; God coming to us to surround us with his love. Immanuel - God with us. Jesus Christ - God redeeming us. Redeemed children of God – God working in and through us.



May the truth of God among you and your family this Christmas season bring you deep joy and profound peace!

Pastor Andy



The CHOSEN at TLC

Have you ever wondered what it would have looked like to see Jesus through the eyes of Peter, Mary Magdalene, Nicodemus, or the tax collector Matthew? Angel Studios has created an engaging account of Jesus' ministry in a mini-series called "The Chosen." Come watch and experience season 3 of *The Chosen* at TLC on Thursday nights starting on Thursday, January 11, 2024. Each Thursday we will watch one episode starting at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary.

Thursday, January 11

6:30pm – 7:45pm

Episode 1 - Homecoming

Matthew 5-7; Luke 6:17-49

Jesus delivers the Sermon on the Mount before He and His disciples return to their families.

Thursday, January 18

6:30pm – 7:45pm

Episode 2 – Two by Two

Matthew 10:5-42; Luke 10:1-12

The apostles are called by Jesus to begin their missions.

Thursday, January 25

6:30pm – 7:45pm

Episode 3 - Physician, Heal Yourself *Luke 4:16-30*

Jesus returns to his childhood home of Nazareth for the Jewish New Year celebration.

Thursday, February 1

6:30pm – 7:45pm

Episode 4 – Clean Part 1

The apostles return from their missions, but wrestle with how they performed their miracles.

Thursday, February 8

6:30pm – 7:45pm

Episode 5 – Clean Part 2

Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:41-56

Jairus searches desperately to find Jesus, hoping for a miracle.

Thursday, February 15

6:30pm – 7:45pm

Episode 6 – Intensity in Tent City

Matthew 11:1-19; Luke 7:18-35

Two disciples of John the Baptist come to Capernaum with a question for Jesus.

Thursday, February 22

6:30pm – 7:45pm

Episode 7 – Ears to Hear

Mark 5:1-20; Mark 7:31-37

Jesus and the disciples take a dangerous journey to the Decapolis.

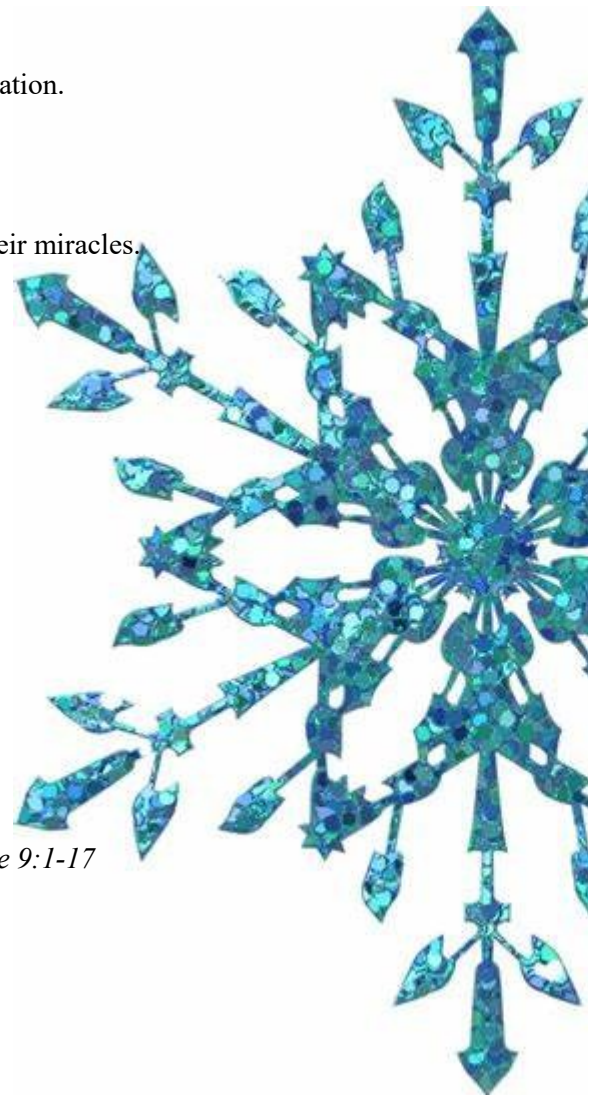
Thursday, February 29

6:30pm – 7:45pm

Episode 8 - Sustenance

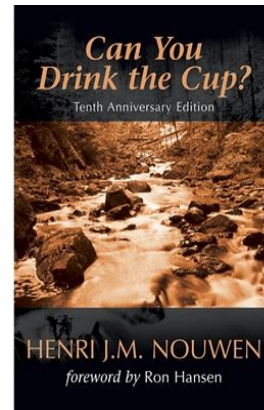
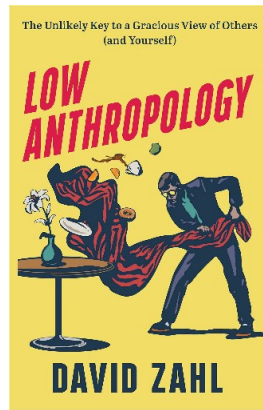
Matthew 14:13-33; Mark 6:34-56; Luke 9:1-17

While Jesus preaches to thousands, the disciples realize there is no food.



TLC Book Club

Led by Pastor Andy on the 3rd Monday of each month starting on January 15 at 7:00 pm in Room 12.



January 15 - *Didn't See It Coming:*
Overcoming the 7 Greatest Challenges that No One Expects and Everyone Experiences
by Carey Nieuwhof

February 19 - *Low Anthropology:*
The Unlikely Key to a Gracious View of Others (and Yourself) by David Zahl

March 18 - *Can You Drink the Cup* by Henri Nouwen

TLC Weather Policy

To ensure the safety of all the members of the congregation, TLC will follow the policies below regarding church activities and inclement weather.

- * Tallmadge City Schools 2 Hour Delay- All TLC activities will be as scheduled.
- * Tallmadge City Schools Cancellation (Snow Day) All TLC Day Time (6:30 am-4:30 pm) activities will be cancelled.

Evening Time (5:00 pm or after) TLC activities will be decided by 1:00 pm. Please check the website or call the office after 1:00 pm to see if evening TLC activities will be held

The Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Success!

The tables were set, the cooks arrived early, the gym was packed, the kids table was a hit, and a slew of volunteers made sure that everyone was well-fed! What a wonderful day of fellowship! Thank you for all the donations for the food pantry as well!



Pastor Appreciation Sunday 2023



2023 TCP & TLC Caned Food Drive



Marriage Connect Group

December is a very busy month and we do not want to add one more thing to everyone's already packed schedule. We decided to hold off for December and we will resume with our study in January. Stay tuned!

Women's Fellowship

Ladies of the church: **We are the servers at the upcoming Women's Auxiliary Luncheon at the Haven of Rest on Tuesday, December 5 at 12:00 pm.** Meet at the Church parking lot on the sanctuary side of the church at about 11:30 am to carpool. If we have more than 8 ladies attending, the others can enjoy the free delicious luncheon. Following the luncheon, we'll also be entertained by a lovely young music teacher, Debbie Cardy. Let Jeannine know if you have any questions. Sign up on the sheet at the mailboxes so we'll know who to expect.

December 14 is our Women's Fellowship dinner/meeting in Room 12! Looking forward to another pot luck dinner with a flair for Christmas food, whatever that means to you! Also, let's bring Christmas cards to sign for ladies of our church who'd like to know they're missed, and for others who need some Christmas cheer.

Do you have Christmas traditions? We'll share them with each other, and enjoy warm moments of the Birth of Christ and how He changed the world and our own hearts! Again, sign up on the list by the mailboxes and indicate what you'd like to bring.

ShelterCare collections will be moved to ShelterCare the week of December 10, and a new "wish list" will be sent out. Thanks for all the donations!

- Jeannine Case

Operation Christmas Child

What a successful week we had as a collection site and as a congregation! Our church alone, with the individual boxes dropped off, as well as all the shoeboxes we packed at our packing party, came to 353 boxes!! How exciting! Our church as a collection site brought in 1370 total shoeboxes in 8 days! Praise be to God. We know how He will use these boxes to spread the Gospel everywhere. I want to thank each and every volunteer, because without you, we would never have been able to do everything we accomplished this week! Stay tuned for January when we will start planning again for 2024!



TLC's Voters' Meeting

The Annual Voter's meeting is on Sunday, December 3 after the late service. Please stay after the late service as we approve the 2024 budget (presented at the Voter's meeting) and incoming board members joining the Board of Directors in 2024.

Prayer Buddies

Keep sending those cards in the 2nd Sunday of the month. You're making a great impact on the younger generation! *Cards are due on the following Sundays:* December 10 with a book for Christmas, January 14, February 11, March 10, April 14, and May 12.

TLC Holiday Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 3 First Sunday in Advent

Wednesday, December 6

5:00 pm Advent supper hosted by the Board of Directors

6:30 pm Advent worship

Wednesday, December 13

5:00 pm Advent supper hosted by the Board of Elders

6:30 pm Advent worship

Wednesday, December 20

5:00 pm Advent supper hosted by the Music Ministry

6:30 pm Advent worship

Sunday, December 24

9:00 am, 6:30 & 10:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

Monday, December 25, 10:00 am Christmas Day Worship

Sunday, December 31, 8:00 & 10:30 am First Sunday After Christmas Worship

**Favorite Christmas Hymn Singing starting at 6:15 pm before Midweek Advent Services.*

**No New Year's Eve evening service.*



In The Community

The 4th Annual Tallmadge Holiday Tour of Lights

Celebrate the holiday lights throughout the city of Tallmadge. The tour begins December 1. A map of the display is posted on the city of Tallmadge website. To join the tour or download the map, go to tallmadge-ohio.org/holidaylights. Happy Holidays!

***Deck The Hall* events at Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens**

Dinner, Ballet, Tours, Gift Shopping and more!

Go to stanhywet.org for ticket information

Cuyahoga Falls Scenic Valley Railroad's *The North Pole Adventure*

November 8 - December 21, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Go to cvsr.org for ticket information

Weathervane Playhouse presents: *Elf the Musical*

November 24 through December 17

Go to weathervaneplayhouse.com for more event information



Music Ministry

Happy December!

This month is always full of good music, both in and out of our sanctuary!

Our choir will be presenting "*O Holy Light*", a cantata by Mary McDonald on December 17 at both services. We are looking forward to sharing a sneak peek into Christmas music during Advent!

Our Jubilate Bells have a few amazing pieces that they will be sharing during the month of December, including one piece with congregational participation.

If you are looking for more musical offerings, here are a few ideas of local performances:
A Family Christmas with We The Kingdom and Matt Maher on December 17 at Keybank Theater.
The Christmas Candlelight Series presented by Summit Choral Society
on December 15, 16 and 17.

Have a Blessed, Musical Christmas!



Youth Group News

Beth Niermann

Jared Shoup

Jen Larson

Upcoming

Candy Making - Sunday, December 3 from 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Candy Sale - Sunday, December 10 in between services

Meeting - Sunday, December 17 from 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Thanksgiving Bread Bake





Preschool and King's Kids



PRESCHOOL TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Mrs Avantino, Pre K Lead Teacher



Teaching tiny minds with love, laughter, and a sprinkle of magic ✨🌀 | Happily married for a decade, embraced by the chaos of two adventurous boys and our adorable canine superhero
#FamilyOfFour #PreKTeacherLife #OutdoorEnthusiast #MovieLover

TLC Building Projects

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

Completed:

Maintenance of boiler/furnace
Exit sign batteries replaced
Lights outside Door 4 replaced
Exit sign fixed
Lights outside Room 5 replaced
Fans installed in rooms 2 & 4
Pastor Parking sign is up
Bottle refill station ordered for King's Kids

To Do List:

Mailbox area: replace storage under mailboxes
Library: add storage, shelving, update
Parking lot reseal & striped 2024
Paint Sanctuary
Front ground sign (2026)



Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Kevin Heilmeier | 18 Jayne Colosetti |
| 2 Benjamin Dussel | 18 Barbara Bass |
| 5 Kyle Tywon | 19 Patrick Larson |
| 5 Sarah Voytek | 19 Jim Bergmann |
| 5 Shawn DeWolf | 19 Diana Kaiser |
| 8 Kelly Olson | 19 Sandy Silviti |
| 9 Diane LeVan | 23 Elias Toepke |
| 9 Carnella Smith | 24 Linda Huzzard |
| 13 Dawn Dailey | 24 George Scafe |
| 13 Michael Vernon | 26 Edie Holzer |
| 14 Vickie Sandmann | 27 Peggy Holly |
| 14 Helen Lange | 28 John Dailey |
| 16 Daniel Conley | 29 Todd Miller |
| 16 Steve Wendland | 31 Lyn Bomer |

Anniversaries

- 6 Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Heilmeier
 10 Mr. & Mrs. John McDowell
 16 Mr. & Mrs. Walt Ruggles
 17 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Strand
 20 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Case
 26 Dr. & Mrs. James Bailey

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 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 TLC's Voters' Meeting 12:00pm - 4:00pm	4 9:30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 5:30pm Bible Study (Youth Rm) 7:00pm Board of Elders (Rm 12)	5 Women's Fellowship (Women's Auxiliary Luncheon) 9:00am Staff Meeting 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12) 7:00pm Jubilate Ringers	6 7:00am Men's Bible Study (Panera) 10:00am Sewing for Service (Kitchen) 5:00pm Advent Supper (BOC) 6:30pm Advent Worship 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm Confirmation (Rm 1)	7 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12)		9 9:00am - 10:00am Set Up preschool program in gym
10 Prayer Buddy cards due Youth Candy Sale (between services) 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 - 5:30pm Preschool Christmas Program	11 9:30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 5:30pm Bible Study (Youth Rm)	12 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12) 7:00pm Jubilate Ringers	13 7:00am Men's Bible Study (Panera) 5:00pm Advent Supper (BOE) 6:30pm Advent Worship 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm Confirmation (Rm 1)	14 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12) 5:00pm Women's Fellowship (Rm 12)	15 6:00am - 8:00pm KK extended hours	16 9:00am - 12:00pm Cantata Dress Rehearsal 12:00pm Wise Owls (Rm 12)
17 Christmas Cantata 8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School (Rm 7) 9:20am Bible Study 9:20am Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm) 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Youth Group	18 9:30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 5:30pm Bible Study (Youth Rm) 6:00pm - 8:00pm TCP Staff Meeting (library)	19 Newsletter Deadline 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12) 7:00pm Jubilate Ringers	20 No Confirmation 7:00am Men's Bible Study (Panera) 5:00pm Advent Supper (Music Ministry) 6:30pm Advent Worship 7:00pm Choir	21 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12)	22	23
24 Christmas Eve 9:00am Christmas Eve Service 6:30pm Christmas Eve Service 10:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day 10:00am Christmas Day Service	26 Church Office Closed 7:00pm Jubilate Ringers	27 No Confirmation 7:00am Men's Bible Study (Panera) 7:00pm Choir	28 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12)	29	30
31 New Year's Eve 8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School (Rm 7) 9:20am Bible Study 9:20am Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm) 10:30am Worship						



The Living Light is a monthly publication of
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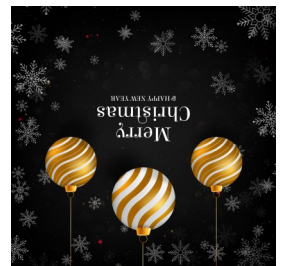
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Patti Trettel, King's Kids Director

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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.

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



The Living Light