



# The Living Light

TALLMADGE LUTHERAN CHURCH MONTHLY NEWLETTER MAY 2024

## Reaching the Lost

It's much more difficult to reach the average American with the Gospel today than it was 50 years ago. Jock Ficken, an LCMS pastor, suggests illustrating the challenge today by using a variation of the Engle scale...popularized by Dr. James Engle decades ago.



“1” is a person with no faith and quite far in their journey to becoming a Christian.

“10” is a person in whom the Spirit of God has worked through the Word to bring to faith in Jesus Christ.

In 1960, the “average” unbelieving person in America probably knew...

Some basics of the Christian faith, including the deity of Jesus.

Truth exists and the Bible is trustworthy.

Church, Christians, and leaders in a favorable way.

A positive experience of church in their own background.

A sense of guilt when they broke fundamental laws...like a car hitting a curb.

Let's put a 1960s average unbelieving person in America at an 8.



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By comparison let's put the average unbelieving American today in 2024 at a "3." This reflects a general lack of knowledge about the Bible and an outright hostility against Christianity that exists in many circles today.



It is important to keep in mind that the Holy Spirit can work through the Word anyway He wants. Right? Just consider what the Holy Spirit did in Acts!

The Lord send Peter to Cornelius and his household was saved

The Lord send Paul to Lydia and her household

The jailer at Philippi and his household was converted

So the challenge the church is facing today is that the outreach and attraction model of doing church that simply worked years ago—friendship Sunday, congregational evangelistic campaigns, special fellowship events, invitations to Christmas Eve, Sunday school, the Sunday sermon, etc. They don't work like they used to work.

Would you agree or disagree: Most churches (including TLC) keep acting like the world is full of 7s, 8s, or 9s.

Today, for the most part, bringing someone with very little or even no knowledge of Jesus to faith just takes more time. It takes living in relationship longer. There needs to be an ongoing demonstration of integrity and love...because there's a longer journey across the scale!

What would happen if TLC and her members thought differently. What would it look like if TLC would...

Allow/expect their pastor and/or staff to spend time outside the church in relationships scattered across the scale.

Train and equip members to winsomely share the hope that is within them.

Create community outside the church where 4s, 5s, and 6s can share life with the 10s that love them. Like the Early Church. Like missional communities.

One modern day Christian evangelist patiently follows a simple pattern:

Take time to listen to their story...including their place of brokenness.

Find a way to share your own story...in a way that connects.

Then shares a piece of God's story that offers good news.

Through this relational process, people who are 3s and 4s are sometimes nudged to 5s and 6s, and occasionally the Spirit brings someone to believe in Jesus. Where there's more sowing of the Word, there seems to be more moving of people by the Spirit.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to be poured out into the community of believers at TLC and into the lives of the people we daily interact with...that all people may be saved and that heaven may become a more crowded place!

Living for Christ with you,

Pastor Andy

*Journey to Jesus*

## Marriage Connect Group

The next group study will be on Thursday, May 16, 6:00 pm. Because we had to cancel April's group at the last minute, we will be doing the study we were supposed to complete..."Physical Touch".

Everyone who's married is always welcome! Come join the fun! We will be having our favorite theme for dinner...BREAKFAST.

Hope to see many of you there!

## Operation Christmas Child

The year seems to be flying by! We are so grateful for everyone who supports this ministry all year. Hygiene items would be a great May theme. While you are out shopping, if you think of OCC, pick up extra bars of soap, washcloths, hairbrushes/combs, toothbrushes, deodorant, etc. No liquids please! Soap and deodorant can be sent only because they are solids... no toothpaste. We appreciate each and everyone of you. Thank you and Happy Spring!

## TLC Book Club

Join Pastor Andy on the third Monday of each month throughout 2024 to discuss a book

Monday, May 20 *Live Not by Lies* by Rod Dreher.



*Happy Mothers Day!*

Sunday, May 11

## Women's Fellowship

Kent State Fashion Museum Saturday, May 11. Meet to carpool at the church by 10:45. Lunch following the tour. Please sign up by the mailboxes and contact Jeannine with questions. See you there!!

June is just begging for the ladies to go to "Music By The Lakes" at Munroe Falls Metro Park on Tuesday, June 4 from 7:00-8:00 pm; starting with a picnic together.

## MITES Sunday

MITE collection boxes can always be found in the Narthex and on the Donation Nook. Please place boxes in Sandy Dixon's mailbox.

Thank you for your support! -Sandy Dixon

## Prayer Buddies

The LAST Prayer Buddy Card is due Sunday, May 5!

The 23/24 school year ends that week. Card must be turned in by Sunday. Thank you for all your kind words this school year!

## Experience the Holy Land January 2025

Pastor Andy has rescheduled the trip to Israel (with an optional Egypt extension) traveling January 11-20, 2025. Departing from Cleveland the price for the Israel tour is \$4,792.

For the full trip brochure, please go to <https://www.tlcoh.org/2025-israel-trip/>

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Andy, [pastorandy@tlcoh.org](mailto:pastorandy@tlcoh.org) or (330) 203-5474.

# Vacation Bible School

We are diving deep into VBS prep at TLC and we need your help!

This year's program is Scuba: Diving into friendship with God, June 17 - June 21. We are looking for station and crew leaders as well as help with planning and decorating. There are many roles to be filled whether you can be present that week or just want to help behind the scenes before and after. Dates/times to meet for crafting and creating will be posted soon but we are looking for a few new and used donations to be collected now.

Recycled items we need: brown packing paper or paper grocery bags, large cardboard pieces (from appliances, big items), blue Christmas lights.

A few other items we will need to purchase include spray foam, green and blue crepe paper, coffee filters, & bright, solid colored cupcake liners. If you come across these items at home or see a good deal at the store please help us out and drop them in the VBS collection box church.

The next meeting is May 18, 10:00 am in the Youth Room.

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

Questions contact Regina Kodzev 330-212-8365 [reginalouisekostko@yahoo.com](mailto:reginalouisekostko@yahoo.com)



*Welcome back, Pastor Andy!*



Israel 2024



The Annual Easter Egg Hunt was a HUGE success! Kids were able to play a variety of games led by the youth, stop and visit with The Easter Bunny, have a balloon creation made for them, hear the Easter Story by Pastor Andy, and, of course, the egg hunt in the sanctuary!

A big shout out to ALL of the volunteers to helped make this a memorable event for the kids! This was such a great opportunity to spread the love of Jesus!



# In The Community

**May 24, 2024 is the Last Day of School!**

**Memorial Day Parade & Service** [Memorial Day Parade & Service | Tallmadge, OH \(tallmadge-ohio.org\)](#)

The parade forms is from the parking lot of Mack Bursleson Field ("The Hole"), (30 Wright Road, at 9:30 am, around the circle, then exiting at Southwest Avenue to the entrance of Tallmadge Cemetery. The services include welcoming remarks, prayer, speech, ceremony, the placing of the wreath for our fallen Veterans, rifle volley and the playing of Taps.

**2024 Maca Aquatic Center Memberships** [Maca Memberships | Tallmadge, OH \(tallmadge-ohio.org\)](#)

Passes can be purchased at the Tallmadge Recreation Center.

NEW - Members can enjoy member-only days on Tuesdays!

**Music on Tallmadge Circle 2024 Season Schedule** [Music on the Circle | Tallmadge, OH \(tallmadge-ohio.org\)](#)

June 6: New Wave Nation (80s Music), June 20: Sensational Soul Brothers (Blues Brothers Cover Band, July 18: Wishgarden (Rock), August 1: The Belairs (Oldies)

**Touch A Truck** [Touch-a-Truck | Tallmadge, OH \(tallmadge-ohio.org\)](#)

Saturday, June 8, 2024, 10: 00 am - 12:00 pm

Is your child obsessed with big trucks? Most are! That was the inspiration behind this event at the Tallmadge Recreation Center. Touch a Truck gives children the opportunity to get a close up look at those big trucks they love! We have Tallmadge City Vehicles, mail trucks, fire trucks, army vehicles and other cool surprises!





# Sunday School Corner

*May's Theme: Commitment*

The connection between COMMITMENT and GOD'S CHARACTER as shown through God's story.

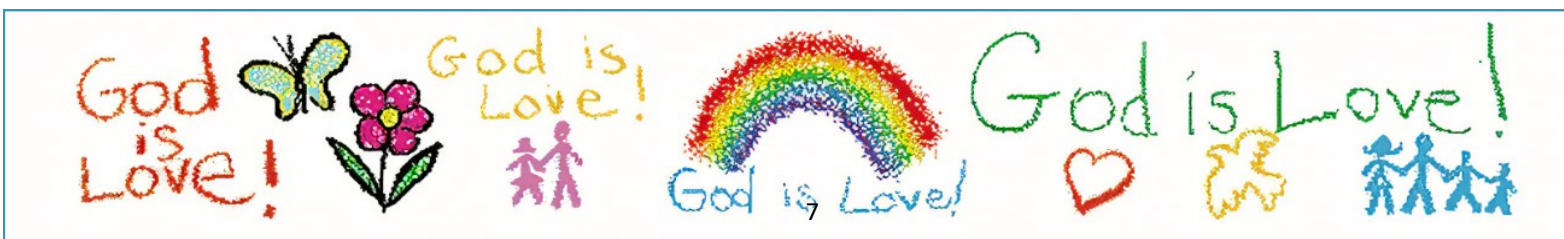
COMMITMENT is making a plan  
and putting it into practice.




Games, crafts, So-in-so show & more!

Come see us!

Sundays 9:20 - 10:15 am in Room 7!



# The Music Ministry: *Happy Spring!*



Our TLC musicians are very excited to share a celebration of music on Sunday, April 28 at 3:00. We are sharing an organ concert to showcase our beautiful new instrument. We have a guest organist, Sherry Galland, who will help to show off the different capabilities of our new organ. You will also hear music shared from our Chancel Choir, Jubilate Bells and our own organist, Lavonne Dolliver. Please join us for this celebration of music.

In other news, we are starting to plan for our special music for the summer. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please contact Annie Alberts.



# Youth Group News

Beth Niermann

Jared Shoup

Jen Larson

## Memorial Day Banners

Personalized Memorial Day Banners will be displayed on crosses in front of the Sanctuary on Sunday, May 26. Please fill out a form indicating the number of banners and the name you would like written on the banner (one name per banner). Each banner is a \$5.00 donation to the Youth Group Ministry. Please place orders in the *YOUTH* mailbox by Wednesday, May 22. Families may collect their banners on Sunday, May 26. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Niermann at [campdeac@yahoo.com](mailto:campdeac@yahoo.com)

## TLC Building Projects

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

### Completed:

New receptacle in Food Pantry

Kitchen Stove installed!

New Kitchen Fridge!

Updated outlets in Fellowship Hall

Visitor Info Center & Kids' Korner

Blinds in Choir loft

Blinds in Classrooms

Pest Control

### Upcoming Projects:

Routine stripe & seal parking lot

Additional handicap spots

Exterior pest control

Church sign



# In REMEMBRANCE

Personalized Memorial Day Banners will be displayed on crosses in front of the Sanctuary on Sunday, May 26. Please fill out the form below indicating the number of banners and the name you would like written on the banner (one name per banner). Each banner is a \$5.00 donation toward the Youth Group Ministry. Please place orders in the *YOUTH* mailbox by Wednesday, May 22. Families may collect their banners Sunday, May 26. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Niermann at [campdeac@yahoo.com](mailto:campdeac@yahoo.com)



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## Remembering Your Loved Ones Memorial Banner

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Banners:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name (s) for Banners:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you!**



# PRESCHOOL TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Mrs Matos, 4's Class Lead Teacher



☀️ Spreading joy, love, and learning as TCP's 4's Lead Teacher! 💖 ✨ Proud Tallmadge local, blessed with a wonderful hubby and two amazing daughters. 🏡 👨‍👩‍👧 Passionate about preschool education – teaching little minds and watching them shine is my ultimate calling!

🎨 ✏️ 💖 #PreschoolPassion #TeachingDreamsComeTrue #TCPfamily

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:00am Men's Bible Study (Panera) 10:00am Sewing for Service (Klicman) 7:00pm Choir	2 <b>National Day of Prayer</b> 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12)	3 1:00pm - 3:00pm Prayer Shawl (Rm 12)	4 Confirmation Reception set-up
5	Confirmation Sunday Last Player Buddy Cards due 8:00am Worship 9:15am Confirmation Reception 9:15am Sunday School (Rm 7) 9:20am Bible Study (Youth Rm) 10:30am Worship 12:00pm - 4:00pm Member Event (kitchen & gym)	6 9:30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 5:30pm Bible Study (Youth Rm) 7:00pm Board of Elders (Rm 12)	7 9:00am Staff Meeting 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12) 7:00pm Jubilate Ringers	8 Preschool set up (gym) 7:00am Men's Bible Study (Panera) 7:00pm Choir	9 Preschool Graduation (gym) 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12) 6:30pm Food Packing (Youth room)	10 Preschool Graduation (gym)	11 11:00am Women's Fellowship (Kent Fashion Museum)
12	<b>Mothers' Day</b> 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	13 8:30am Food Pantry Pick-Up 9:30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 5:30pm Bible Study (Youth Rm) 7:00pm Board of Directors (Rm 12)	14 9:00am - 1:00pm Preschool Staff Luncheon (library) 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12) 7:00pm Jubilate Ringers	15 7:00am Men's Bible Study (Panera) 7:00pm Choir	16 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12) 6:00pm Marriage Connected Group (Rm 12)	17 11:00am Police, Fire & EMS Luncheon (pavilion)	18 10:00am VBS Meeting (Youth Rm) 12:00pm Wise Owls (Rm 12)
19	<b>Pentecost Sunday</b> 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	20 9:30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 5:30pm Bible Study (Youth Rm) 7:00pm TLC Book Club (Rm 12)	21 Newsletter Deadline 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12) 7:00pm Jubilate Ringers	22 7:00am Men's Bible Study (Panera) 7:00pm Choir	23 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12)	24 Last Day of School	25
26	<b>Trinity Sunday</b> Memorial Day Banners 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	27 <b>Memorial Day</b> Church Office closed 9:30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 5:30pm Bible Study (Youth Rm)	28 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12) 7:00pm Jubilate Ringers	29 KK Summer Field Trip (gym, pavilion) 7:00am Men's Bible Study (Panera) 7:00pm Choir	30 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12)	31	

# Birthdays

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 3 Holly Dussel    | 14 Rocco Hovey     |
| 5 Walter Fenske   | 16 Ed Huzzard, Jr. |
| 7 David Graybeal  | 18 Marti Hellmeier |
| 7 Beverly Goss    | 19 Joyce Riley     |
| 7 Donnie Groubert | 21 Sandee Mick     |
| 8 Dan Capp        | 22 Chuck Currier   |
| 10 Susan Young    | 23 Jay Springer    |
| 10 Eric Harsey    | 23 Eric Toepke     |
| 12 Dennis Hickey  | 25 Dennis Holzer   |
| 13 Lillian Vojtek | 30 Todd Hedderly   |
|                   | 31 Thomas Kenny    |

# Anniversaries

- 14 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Dutka
- 17 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bomer
- 17 Mr. & Mrs. David Bass
- 18 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Knepper
- 31 Mr. & Mrs. Jon Huck



**The Living Light** is a monthly publication of  
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**Laura Miller, Preschool Director**

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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.

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

