

TALLMADGE LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LIVING LIGHT

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024



Fear Not! A Savior Is Born

When we think of the Christmas story, we usually think of glad tidings and the good news of joy, peace, and love. But did you know that the command to "fear not" is repeated four times throughout the biblical story? This Advent, we will consider the fears faced by Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds as the Lord tells them, "Fear not! Do not be afraid!"

If we are honest, fear has a way of tying our stomachs up in knots, paralyzing our thinking, inducing panic. Fear, and its cousin worry, can capture our hearts when we see ourselves caught in a whirlwind of disasters beyond our control.

On that first Christmas, the world was in desperate times as well. A census is being conducted in order to raise already high taxes. Murderous, paranoid Herod the Great is king of the Jews. It is probably winter on Bethlehem's hillsides -- and cold. Inside a cave in the town dwells a poverty-stricken carpenter and his young wife -- far from home, chilled to the bone. She is in labor. Her child will be born in a stable, of all places. Why is it like this? she may have asked.

And then she recalls an echo of the angel's words to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary...."

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On the windswept hillsides outside of town, shepherds are huddling, too. All of a sudden the sky lights up and an angel proclaims:

"Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Fear not. The shepherds' fear is turned to joy as they hear news that a Savior is born. The Messiah! In Bethlehem, the city of David himself!

And so they run down the hillsides into the town and hurry from stable to stable until they find the Child in the manger, just as they have been told. Tucked in that manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes against the cold, is God in flesh, the Savior himself.

A Savior comes to rescue people in danger, preserve those who are threatened by harm, and protect his people from the troubles that surround them. That's what saviors do! That's what Jesus came to do for us.

This Christmas season, do not be afraid because God has sent a Savior to you and to me -- Jesus Christ the Lord. He is the One who will:

Never leave us or forsake us. (Hebrews 13:5)
Supply all our needs according to his riches in glory. (Philippians 4:19)
Add to us all the things we need as we seek him and his Kingdom. (Matthew 6:33)

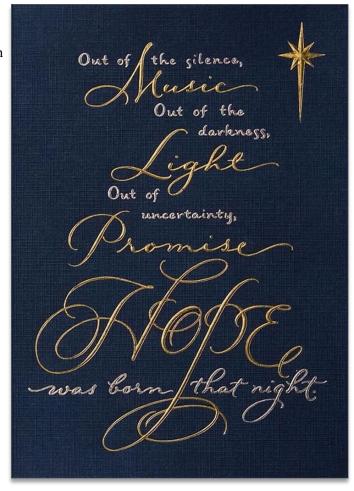


The Real Christmas message is this: God has sent a Savior for you. To save you from your sins and to help you in this life -- to lift your burden and ease your fears. That's it! A Savior who is Christ the *Lord* -- God himself!

The gospel story is not a narrative of fear – it is a narrative of hope breaking into a fearful world. The story of Christmas has always been about one thing: God is with us. You shall call him Emmanuel, which means God with us. There is no separation between God and creation. No separation between God and you. God's got you. Fear's hold has been broken in those of us who believe the angel's words:



"Fear not ...
for a Savior is born to you -Christ the Lord!"



TLC's Holiday Schedule

Wednesday, December 4
5:00 pm Advent Supper hosted by the BOD
6:30 pm Advent Worship

Wednesday, December 11
5:00 pm Advent Supper hosted by the BOE
6:30 pm Advent Worship

Sunday, December 15 8:00 & 10:30 am TLC's Christmas Cantata

Wednesday, December 18
5:00 pm Advent Supper hosted by the Music Ministry
6:30 pm Advent Worship

Sunday, December 22 10:30 am Children's Sunday School Program

Tuesday, December 24 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship 10:00 pm Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 25 10:00 am Christmas Day Worship

Tuesday, December 31 6:30 pm New Year's Eve Worship

Congregational Voters' Meeting

The Annual Voter's meeting is on Sunday, December 1 after late service. Please join us as we vote on the 2025 budget (presented at the Voter's meeting) and incoming board members joining the Board of Directors in 2025.

TLC Advent Kick-Off

Join us Sunday December 1 at 12:30 pm for this Family event. Come learn more about Advent and the meaning behind the symbols of Christmas.

Enjoy lunch, crafts and hot cocoa, too! Bring a friend! Let's kick-off the season of Advent together!

RSVP a headcount to Regina Kodzev reginalouiskostko@yahoo.com or 330-212-8365

Prayer Buddies

December cards and a Christmas book are due Sunday, December 8. Don't forget to wrap it!

Also, on December 8 are the Preschool Christmas Programs. You are welcome to come watch the program and meet your buddy.



Children's Christmas Program

Please join us on Sunday, December 22 at the 10:30 am service to hear the children tell the story of the birth of Jesus!

We are happy to bring the children back to leading worship again! You won't want to miss this!

There will be a reception in the gym afterwards, to celebrate the birth of Jesus with cake, drinks, games and crafts!

Everyone is invited!



A Birthday Party for Jesus

Join us Sunday, December 22 after the late service. No birthday celebration is complete without cake! We will sing, eat and enjoy crafts and games in the gym. Fun for all ages so don't hesitate to join in the festivities whether you're a child or just a child at heart!!:)

Please feel free to extend this event invite to family and friends that would enjoy watching the program and celebrating together with us after. Be sure to let us know if you are blessing us with extra guests that afternoon so we can have enough cake and crafts for all!

Women's Fellowship

The Women of TLC are Serving! Please join in serving at Haven of Rest Women's Auxiliary Luncheon on Tuesday, December 3 at 11:00. Meet at TLC by the three crosses at 10:45 am to carpool.

Tuesday Prayer Group

Kathy Vanaman and Pastor Andy will be lifting up prayer requests to the Lord on Tuesdays at 11:30 am in the TLC Sanctuary.

Please join us in praying for our nation, for our families, for the sick, for those who don't know the Lord.

TLC Book Club

TLC will not have Book Club in December. Enjoy the busy holiday month!

The book for January 2025 is *I Once Was Lost* by Don Everts and Doug Schaupp. This book explores sharing Jesus in today's postmodern culture.



Marriage Connect Group

Our next group date is Thursday, December 12 at 6:00 pm in Room 12.

We will not be doing a study, instead we will have a fun Christmas white elephant gift exchange. No need to purchase a gift, just find something around your house to "regift". Bring one gift per person (NOT per couple!).

We will have an appetizer dinner, so please bring an appetizer to share and be sure to wear your Christmas sweater for this fun evening!

Youth Chocolate Sale

Chocolate will be on sale Sunday, December 8 & Sunday, December 15 in between services. Each box of chocolate is \$6.00.

Custom Christmas Creations Show!

Need a last minute Christmas gift? Stop by TLC on Saturday, December 21, and browse the Custom Christmas Creations Show!

Your Neck of The Woods custom press flower jewelry and Honey, Bee Crafty custom tumblers and mugs will be here for 12:00-4:00 pm creating your items ... On The Spot!



Wise Owls

With the busy holiday season, the Owls will not meet in December.

The next meeting is January 18, led by Fae and Larry Broemsen. Please join as the Broemsen's take you on a visual tour of South America!

Regular meetings are the third Saturday of the month at 12:00 pm in Room 12.

TLC Prayer Chain

Kathy Vanaman and Sande mick created a Google Group, called *TLC Prayer Ministry*. This group is for prayer and praise offerings from members of Tallmadge Lutheran Church.

Those of you that are already signed up for the prayer chain will be receiving an email with directions on how to sign on to the new format.

If you are interested in joining and have questions, you can contact me at semick13@att.net or Sandee Mick 330-256-8819.



Tallmadge Lutheran Church's Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

The Annual Thanksgiving Dinner was a hit this year with delicious food and fellowship!

A huge thanks to Gail and Kevin for pulling off another wonderful event!

And also a huge thank you to all the volunteers that helped set up, cook, serve and cleanup! It takes a village!









Operation Christmas Child

Another successful year has been completed!

We want to thank each and every one of you who volunteered your time to help during this exciting and busy week.

This is a very big ministry and we cannot do it without the help of the whole congregation.

We also want to thank everyone who donated items all year long. We cannot have a parking party without your donations.

This year we were able to pack 352 shoeboxes, which was 91 more boxes than last year!! As a collection site, our total number of shoeboxes we collected that are heading to Samaritan's Purse for worldwide distribution was 1,495 which was 125 more than last year! That is 1,495 Gospel Opportunities around the world for children to come to faith in Jesus Christ!! How awesome!

Enjoy the Christmas season and stay tuned for our January announcement with a new year of collections.

We have a number to beat for our packing party in 2025! Trent and Alisha

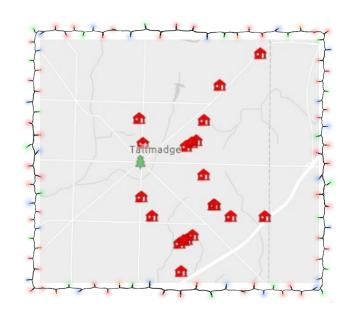


IN THE COMMUNITY

2024 Tallmadge Tour of Lights - Starting December 1.

Akron Zoo Wild Lights - Wild Lights | Akron Zoo

Cuyahoga Scenic Railroad North Pole Adventure - North Pole AdventureTM | Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad



Deck The Hall at Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens Dec. 1, 5-23, 26-30 - Deck the Hall | Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens

Hale Farm & Village Holiday Lantern Tours - http://wrhs.org

The Soap Box Derby at the Summit county Fairgrounds December 21-22 - http://summitfair.com

The Tallmadge Circular.: <u>c66fbb7d-3707-434e-a093-8bc101a9487f.pdf</u>

The City of Tallmadge News & Events - Tallmadge, OH | Official Website (tallmadge-ohio.org)

Sunday School Corner

September's Theme: Christmas

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

CHRISTMAS is about celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift.







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

Opening with all grades and lessons for PreK- 2nd grade and 3rd- 5th grade!

Hope to see you there!



THE MUSIC MINISTRY

Happy December!

Our music ministry is very excited
to bring some special pieces to you this December.
We have church members who have stepped up to share anthems
for just about every Sunday this season,
and we are excited to present our talents to the church and to the Lord.
Our annual Cantata will be on December 15 this year,
which is a week earlier than it is traditionally held.
It is called the "Ballad of Bethlehem" by Pepper Choplin
and it is going to be amazing.

Thank you for all of your support of our music ministry this past year.

We look forward to sharing more music with you in the new year.



Youth Group News

Beth Niermann Jared Shoup Jen Larson

Lock-In Candy Making

The Box Builders, The Mold Fillers, The Hardness Testers & The Assemblers













Boxes of Chocolate for sale December 8 and December 15 between services. \$6.00 a box.

Christmas Party

A nativity Escape Room!! Sunday December 15 from 12:00 - 3:00 pm



TLC Building Projects

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

Completed:

Upcoming Projects:

Large donation area for OCC & Shelter Care in Library

New bench in mailbox area

Clean up & organized Youth Room

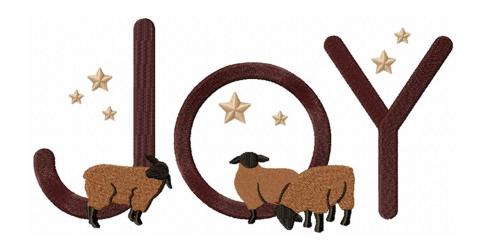
Food Pantry complete

Mailboxes mounted

Library overhaul

Paint Kitchen

Remove drinking fountains



Would you or a group be interested in sprucing up the front door area of the sanctuary?

Seasonal flowers/plants: mums for the fall, potted flowers for spring.

Let's show TLC members and guests how well we take care of God's house.

If you see an area around TLC that needs a little TLC, call the office. Let's work together to spruce it up!



TALLMADGE CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



Hi! My name is Monique Avantino. I have been happily married for almost 11 years and am the mom to two amazing boys.

I enjoy spending time outdoors with my family or curled up with a good book. I have been the Pre-K teacher at TCP for the past 2 years and looking forward for year 3!



18:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School (Rms 4 & 7) 9:20am Bible Study 9:20am Youth Bible 9:20am Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm) 10:30am Worship 11:45am TLC's Votters' Meeting 12:30pm Advent Kick-Off	9:30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 5:30pm Bible Study (Youth Rm) 7:00pm Board of Elders (Rm 12)	ω.	7:00am Men's Bible Study (Panera) 10:00am Sewing for Service (Klicman) 5:00pm Advent Supper 6:30pm Advent Worship 7:00pm - 8:45pm Choir 7:30pm Confirmation	5 10:00am Bible Study 11:45am - 2:00pm TCP Christmas Program Set up in gym	1:00pm - 3:00pm Prayer Shawl (Rm 12) 6:30pm - 8:30pm King's Kids Extended Hours	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School (Rms 4 & 7) 9:20am Bible Study 9:20am Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm) 9:20am Youth Candy Sale 10:30am Sunday School Christmas Program 10:30am Worship 12:00pm - 5:00pm TCP Christmas Programs	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)		7:00am Men's Bible Study (Panera) 5:00pm Advent Supper 6:30pm Advent Worship 7:00pm - 8:45pm Choir 7:30pm Confirmation	10:00am Bible Study	6:00pm - 9:00pm Canitata Orchestra Rehearsal	12:30am - 12:30am Cantata Dress Rehearsal
15	16	77	18	19	20	21
Cantata 8:00am Worship 9:00am Youth Candy Sale 9:15am Sunday School (Rms 4 & 7) 9:20am Bible Study 9:20am Bible Study 9:20am Wouth Bible Study (Youth Rm) 10:30am Worship 4:00pm Member event (sanctuary, gym)	9:30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 5:30pm Bible Study (Youth Rm) 7:00pm No Book Club	Newsletter Deadline	7:00am Men's Bible Study (Panera) 5:00pm Advent Supper 6:30pm Advent Worship 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm Confirmation	10:00am Bible Study		No Wise Owls 10:00am - 12:00pm Children's Program practice (sanctuary) 12:00pm - 4:00pm Custom Christmas Creations (gym)
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School (Rms 4 & 7) 9:20am Bible Study 9:20am Bible Study 9:20am Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm) 10:30am Children's Christmas program	9:30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 5:30pm Bible Study (Youth Rm)	Christmas Eve 6:30pm Christmas Eve Service 10:00pm Christmas Eve Service	Christmas Day Church Office Closed 10:00am Christmas Day Service	Church Office Closed		
10:30am Worship 11:30am - 12:30pm Children's Program Reception 12:30pm Happy Birthday Jesus Party (gym)						
29	30	31				
8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School (Rms 4 & 7) 9:20am Bible Study 9:20am Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm) 10:30am Worship	9:30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 5:30pm Bible Study (Youth Rm)	New Year's Eve 6:30pm New Year's Eve Worship				

Birthdays

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

2 Benjamin Dussel
5 Sarah Vojtek
5 Sarah Vojtek
6 Sarah Vojtek
7 Sarah Vojtek
8 Kelly Olson
9 Carmella Smith
9 Carmella Smith
19 Diana Kaiser
13 Dawn Dailey
19 Sandy Silvidi
13 Michael Vernon
14 Helen Lange
14 Vickie Sandmann
14 Helen Lange
16 Dan Conley
16 Steve Wendland
27 Peggy Holly
28 John Dailey
29 Todd Miller

Anniversaries

6 Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Heilmeier 10 Mr. & Mrs John McDowell 16 Mr. & Mrs Walter Ruggles 17 Mr. & Mrs Thomas Strand 20 Mr. & Mrs Jim Case 26 Dr. & Mrs Jim Bailey



31 Lyn Bomer

The Living Light is a monthly publication of

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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

