

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

DECEMBER 2025

## Something Better

As December unfolds and we prepare our hearts for Christmas, I'm excited to share our Advent sermon series: **"Something Better."** In a season when we're bombarded with messages about finding the perfect gifts, the book of Hebrews reminds us that God has already given us something infinitely better than we could ever imagine—His Son, Jesus Christ.

The book of Hebrews was written to Christians facing persecution around 64 AD, when following Christ had become dangerous under Emperor Nero. These believers were tempted to return to their old ways, to choose what seemed safer and more comfortable. The author's response? **Don't go backward—you have something better in Christ!**

This message resonates powerfully today. When life gets difficult, when faith feels costly, when we're tempted to rely on our own strength or return to old patterns, Hebrews calls us forward with this truth: **In Christ, we have something better than anything this world offers.**

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Each week of Advent, we'll discover how Christ surpasses the remarkable gifts God gave through Moses and the Old Testament:

**December 3 - "A Better Word" (Hebrews 1:1-2) 6:30 pm**

God spoke powerfully through the prophets, but now He speaks through His Son. While the Old Testament gave us a "sonogram" of God's promises, Jesus is the full revelation—God's final Word of love and redemption spoken from a manger, a cross, and an empty tomb.

**December 10 - "A Better Glory" (Hebrews 1:3a) 6:30 pm**

Israel experienced God's glory in the cloud that guided, protected, and provided for them. But we have something better—Jesus Himself, "the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being." We have Someone who fights all our battles and never leaves us alone.

**December 17 - "A Better Absolution" (Hebrews 1:3b) 6:30 pm**

The Old Testament sacrifices provided temporary purification, repeated day after day, year after year. But Christ "provided purification for sins" once and for all, then "sat down"—His work complete! No more guilt trips necessary. In Christ, we're clean, forgiven, absolutely absolved.

**December 24 - "A Better Name" (Hebrews 1:4-14) 6:30 pm & 10:00 pm**

Angels are magnificent, but Jesus inherited a name far superior to theirs. He is Son, Firstborn, God, Lord, and Victor. His name—Jesus, "The LORD saves"—contains everything we need for hope and salvation.



## Living with Something Better

This December, as you navigate the stress of shopping, family gatherings, and year-end pressures, remember: you already possess something better than any wrapped package under a tree. You have Christ, who:

- Speaks a better word of hope when life feels overwhelming
- Provides better glory through His constant presence
- Offers better absolution that frees you from guilt and shame
- Bears a better name that guarantees your salvation



Join us for our midweek Wednesday evening Advent worship services as we explore these gifts and promises together.

As Hebrews 11:40 promises, **"God has planned something better for us!"** This Christmas, let's celebrate not just what we hope to receive, but what we've already been given in Christ—something infinitely, eternally better.

In Christ's Service,

*Pastor Andy*

## Food Pantry Needs

Gail would like to gift all of the Food Pantry families with a new hand-held can opener. Every month, part of their food bags includes several cans- fruit, vegetables, soup, sauce).

A can opener is a necessity.

Would you be willing to help?

She needs 50 can openers by December 7. Drop offs can be placed in the Pantry bins outside of the youth room.

Thank you for your help with this important outreach!



## Refill – Restore – Revive

Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm in the library to refill, restore, and revive our faiths to better parent together.

Men will head off for a time of devotion and conversation to grow together as leaders of their families.

Women will be reading through You Bet Your Stretch Marks by Abbie Halberstadt at home and discussing one chapter a week.

The conversation will apply regardless so feel free to come chat and pray together any time you're able. Older kiddos are attending confirmation and youth group at this time so drop them off and head over for some adult revival!

If there is enough interest for child care for littles we are happy to organize an option for that as well. Just let us know!

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



# TLC's 2025 Holiday Schedule

Wednesday, December 3

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

6:30 pm Advent Worship

Wednesday, December 10

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

6:30 pm Advent Worship

Sunday, December 14

8:00 & 10:30 am TLC's Christmas Cantata

Wednesday, December 17

5:00 pm Advent Supper hosted by the Music Ministry

6:30 pm Advent Worship

Sunday, December 21

10:30 am Children's Sunday School Program

Wednesday, December 24

6:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship

10:00 pm Candlelight Service

Thursday, December 25

10:00 am Christmas Day Worship

Wednesday, December 31

6:30 pm New Year's Eve Worship



## Marriage Connect Group

The December meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 4 at 6:00 pm.

The meeting will be our "Christmas party white elephant gift exchange." Please bring one gift per person (NOT per couple!) and there is no need to purchase anything.

Also, please wear your favorite Christmas sweater for a fun filled festive evening. There will not be a specific dinner theme. Bring your favorite holiday dish to share. We look forward to seeing many of you there

~ Trent and Alisha Wright

## TLC Youth Ministry

Youth Bible Study for high schoolers is on Wednesday nights from 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

## Wise Owls

The Owls will not meet in December or January.

## Poinsettias for the Altar

Ordered Poinsettias can be picked up after the Christmas Eve service.



## TLC Book Club

TLC Book Club will not meet in December. Merry Christmas. See you next year!

## Women's Fellowship

The TLC Women's Fellowship is invited to attend the Women's Auxiliary Meeting at The Haven of Rest on Tuesday, December 2, 2025.



## Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 21 at the 10:30 am Worship Service. Join us to hear the Good News. Jesus was born!

## Happy Birthday Jesus!

Sunday, December 21 after the late service in the Fellowship Hall. Celebrate the reason for the season. Cake will be served along with crafts and activities. Invite a friend.

# The Who's Who at TLC

## Board of Elders

John Dailey, head  
Marty Hauser  
Chris Tywon  
Todd Hedderly  
Bob Knepper  
Eric Fink

## Board of Directors

Jim Bergmann, president  
Kris Kodzev, vice chair  
Brian Kuntz, treasurer  
Ellen Tywon, secretary  
Daryl Parma  
Heidi Wojcik  
Dan Conley  
Kathy Vanaman

## Staff

Pastor Andy, Pastor	Sue Pifer, Nursery attendant
David Wallace, Music Ministry	Laura Miller, TCP director
LaVonne Dolliver, Organist	Patti Trettel, KK Director
Debbie Ruggles, Finance Manager	Laurene Malish, Custodian
Lindsay Snyder, Secretary & Facilities	Ben & Val Jews, Custodian



*Merry  
Christmas*

Altar Guild: Becky Springer, head; Janet Buckles, Kathy Vanaman,  
Ellen Tywon, & Gail McAlister

Altar Flower Orders/Flower Chart: Lindsay Snyder/Becky Springer

Bible Study Leaders: Pastor Andy, John Dailey, Chris Tywon,  
Brian Kuntz, Gail McAlister, Jeanne Colosetti,  
Kathy Vanaman, and Jared Shoup

Book Club: Pastor Andy

Master Calendar: Lindsay Snyder

Children's Ministry/Sunday School: Gail McAlister

Confirmation: Pastor Andy

Easter Breakfast: Youth Group

Facility Rental: Lindsay Snyder

Finance Auditors: Denise Larson & Denny Gearhart

Food Pantry: Gail McAlister

Funeral Luncheons: Gail McAlister & Pam Klicman

Historian: Ethel Walent

KidMin Ministries: Regina Kodzev

Librarian: Denise Larson

Lillies at Easter & Poinsettias at Christmas: Becky Springer

Marriage Connect Group: Alisha & Trent Wright

Operation Christmas Child (OCC): Alisha Wright

Outreach Activities for Preschool & King's Kids:

Gail McAlister, coordinator

Prayer Buddies: Lindsay Snyder & Gail McAlister

Prayer Chain: Kathy Vanaman, Sandee Mick

Prayer Shawl, MITES & LWML: Sandy Dixon

Readers for Worship/Scheduler: Lindsay Snyder

Sewing for Service: Pam Klicman

Shelter Care (donations): Jeannine Case

Strat Op/2030 Vision: Marty Hauser, facilitator

Thanksgiving Dinner: Gail McAlister, coordinator;  
Kevin Heilmeyer, head chef

Vacation Bible School (VBS): Regina Kodzev

Wise Owls: Fae & Larry Broemsen

Women's Fellowship: Kathy Vanaman

Youth Ministry: Jared Shoup

# PRAYER BUDDIES

Prayer Buddies, you are doing GREAT!

Thank you for turning your cards in early and on time! It makes all the difference.

December cards and wrapped Christmas Books are due Sunday, December 14.

All cards go in the grey bins of the Donation Nook. Feel free to complete all cards for the season - we will hold on to them for you.

No candy or gifts; only books for Christmas & Easter, please.



For more information and if you are interested in this wonderful outreach program, please contact Gail McAlister, [gmcaster1@neo.rr.com](mailto:gmcaster1@neo.rr.com) or Lindsay in the church office, [secretary@tlcoh.org](mailto:secretary@tlcoh.org)

# TLC's Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

A long-standing tradition spanning over 30 years continues!

Some of us have been around long enough to remember cooking real turkeys in roasters, blowing fuses, peeling 100 lbs of potatoes by hand, and even using real plates and silverware (when the numbers were smaller).

This year, the tradition continued with a great set of volunteers cooking in the kitchen, a setup crew that came on Saturday and transformed the gym, and many volunteers who helped with serving and clean up.

With about 100 people in attendance this year, it was such a blessing for all of us to be together and enjoy some fellowship time with food!

Thank you again to all the volunteers who helped make this year's dinner a success!



*grateful*  
**THANKFUL**  
*blessed*



# Operation Christmas Child

*What a year!!*

I want to sincerely thank each and every one of you who helped with this awesome ministry by donating items and your time. **God is so good!** We had a very successful packing party. Because of all your help, we were able to pack 532 shoeboxes in one evening. **That's 532 Gospel Opportunities!**

Also, for those who forget, we are also a drop-site. We collected a total of 1,914 shoeboxes for the week! We filled a 20' U-Haul with 128 shipping cartons full of these shoeboxes. We **exceeded last year's count by 419!** Every year we exceed our goal.

May everyone have a Merry Christmas and stay tuned for 2026 collection requests to continue this vital ministry. This is our part of sharing the Gospel with the world. Let's continue, with God's help, to support Operation Christmas Child.



# IN THE COMMUNITY

## Tallmadge Holiday Light Tour

The tour begins on December 1st. Map: [Holiday Light Tour | Tallmadge, OH](#)

## Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens' Deck the Hall

December 4-23 and December 26-30. Admission is from 3:00-8:00 pm and grounds remain open until 9 pm. There are also sensory-friendly hours with a calmer pace on December 9 from 3:00-5:00 pm. Admission is \$28 for adults, \$15 for youth and free for children two and under.

## Akron Zoo Wild Lights

November 28-December 30. Admission starts at \$17 for adults, \$13 for children and is free for kids under two. Akron Zoo Members can enjoy discounted admission prices.

## Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad's North Pole Adventure

November 14-December 22. Tickets range from \$59 to \$109 per person.

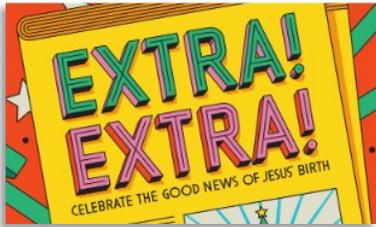
## Holiday Lantern Tours at Hale Farm & Village

December 6-28. Tickets range from \$17.59 to \$28.29 per person.



# Sunday School Corner

## *December Theme: Design of God's Creation*

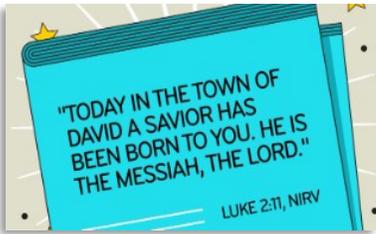


The connection between the design of God's Creation and GOD's CHARACTER as shown through God's Big Story.

Commitment: Making a plan and putting it into practice.

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

Opening with all grades and lessons for PreK- 2nd grade & 3rd- 5th grade! Hope to see you there!



2025 Teachers:

Ms. Holly & Ms. Angie - PreK - 2nd

Mrs. Bergmann & Ms. Gail - 3rd - 5th

**It's time for the Sunday School Christmas Program!**

**We're sharing the Good News of Jesus  
at the 10:30AM service on December 21st!**

★Text Molly at 234-340-3114 to say "yes"

★For preschool through fifth grade

★Come to at least three practices

Practices 9:50-10:10AM  
Nov 2, Nov 9, Nov 16, Nov 23,  
Nov 30, Dec 7  
and 9:20-10:15 Dec 14

★Arrive at 9:20AM on December 21st



# December Music Ministry: *Celebrating the Promise of Christmas*

December is here, and the music ministry is excited to share the joy and hope of the Christmas season with you! Our Chancel Choir has been working diligently, and we look forward to filling our worship services with beautiful music that celebrates the birth of our Savior.

## Rehearsal Schedule & Important Dates

Please note these crucial dates for the final weeks of preparation:

- TLC Fall Choir (Chancel Choir) Rehearsals: We meet every Wednesday evening from 7:15 – 8:45 pm in the Sanctuary. This month, our focus is on polishing our Cantata and Christmas Eve anthem.
- Christmas Cantata Performance: Our Cantata, *“The Promise of Christmas,”* will be performed on Sunday, December 14, at both services. Please plan to arrive early to ensure you are warmed up and ready.
- Christmas Eve Services: The Cantata will be sung at the late service, while the Praise Team will lead the first service.

## What We're Working On: *The Promise Realized*

The Chancel Choir is thrilled to present our Cantata, *“The Promise of Christmas.”* It is a truly lovely piece that tells the nativity story through song, and we are eager to share it as part of our worship experience. We also have powerful anthems prepared for the Advent season and Christmas Eve.

## Your Invitation to Participate

We want to keep the music thriving even when the choir isn't singing!

We want to keep the music thriving beyond the Cantata!

- Christmas Eve Choir: We still welcome anyone who would like to sing with the choir for the Christmas Eve services. Please plan to attend the remaining Wednesday rehearsals to quickly learn the music.
- Worship Musicians: As we look to the new year, we are seeking volunteers to sing or play an instrument during our Sunday services on weeks when the choir is not scheduled. This is a wonderful opportunity to share your gift with the congregation!

If you want to join us or sign up to perform a musical selection, please contact me at [tlc@davidwallace.us](mailto:tlc@davidwallace.us) or 330.592.3123.

## Gratitude and Future Vision

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the Chancel Choir for their commitment this season. The music you prepare is a profound gift to our congregation. As this is my first Christmas season with TLC, I am especially excited to experience this spiritual "first" with all of you. I look forward to sharing more incredible music with you in 2026!





## TALLMADGE CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



Mrs. VanSickle is our lead 3's teacher. She is starting her 4th year with us at TCP! She is very passionate about introducing school as a fun place to be for our little scholars. She makes sure her students learn through play in fun and engaging ways.

Mrs. VanSickle and her husband live in Munroe Falls with their 2 daughters, 4 cats, 3 snails and a gecko. Her family loves to visit zoos and aquariums in the summer. She loves nature and exploring new ways to create art.

MERRY  
*christmas*





# Tallmadge Christian Preschool



**Thank you!**

# Birthdays

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

# Anniversaries

- 6 Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Heilmeyer  
 10 Mr. & Mrs. John McDowell  
 26 Dr. & Mrs. James Bailey

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 9:30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 5:30pm Bible Study (Youth Rm)	<b>2</b> 1:00pm - 2:00pm City of Tallmadge donation drop offs	<b>3</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study (Panera) 10:00am Sewing for Service (Kitchen) 5:00pm Advent Supper 6:30pm Advent Worship 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Confirmation (Rm 7) 7:30pm Refill Restore Revive (library) 7:30pm Youth Group Bible Study (Youth Rm)	<b>4</b> 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12) 6:00pm Marriage Connect Group	<b>5</b> 1:00pm - 3:00pm Prayer Shawl (Rm 12) 6:30pm - 7:30pm Private event (gym)	<b>6</b> 9:00am - 11:00am Food party packing with Scouts 9:00am - 10:00am preschool Christmas reception set up - gym
<b>7</b> 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 1:00pm - 5:00pm TCP Christmas Program (sanctuary, gym)	<b>8</b> 8:30am Food Pantry Pick-Up 9:30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 5:30pm Bible Study (Youth Rm) 7:00pm Board of Elders (Rm 12)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study (Panera) 5:00pm Advent Supper 6:30pm Advent Worship 6:30pm Youth Group Bible Study (Youth Rm) 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Refill Restore Revive (library)	<b>11</b> 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12)	<b>12</b> 6:30pm - 7:30pm Private event (gym)	<b>13</b> 8:30am - 12:00pm Cantata Rehearsal
<b>14</b> <b>Cantata</b> Prayer Buddy cards due 8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School (Rm 7) 9:20am Bible Study 9:20am Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm) 10:30am Worship	<b>15</b> 9:30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 5:30pm Bible Study (Youth Rm) 7:00pm TLC Book Club (Rm 12)	<b>16</b> Newsletter Deadline	<b>17</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study (Panera) 5:00pm Advent Supper 6:30pm Advent Worship 6:30pm Youth Group Bible Study (Youth Rm) 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Refill Restore Revive (library)	<b>18</b> 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12)	<b>19</b> 6:30pm - 7:30pm Private event (gym)	<b>20</b> 12:00pm No Wise Owls (Rm 12)
<b>21</b> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School (Rm 7) 9:20am Bible Study 9:20am Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm) 10:30am - 11:30am Children's Christmas Program 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Happy Birthday Jesus Party (gym)	<b>22</b> 9:30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 5:30pm Bible Study (Youth Rm)	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study (Panera) 6:30pm Christmas Eve Blended Service 10:00pm Christmas Eve Traditional Service	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b> 10:00am Christmas Day Traditional Service 10:00am No Bible Study (Rm 12)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School (Rm 7) 9:20am Bible Study 9:20am Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm) 10:30am Worship	<b>29</b> 9:30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 5:30pm Bible Study (Youth Rm)	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>New Year's Eve</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study (Panera) 6:30pm New Year's Eve Worship			





*The Living Light*

Tallmadge Lutheran Church

Tallmadge Christian Preschool

King's Kids School-Age Child Care

759 East Avenue, Tallmadge, OH 44278

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.



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David Wallace, Music Director  
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Lindsay Snyder, Secretary & Facilities  
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Rev. Andy Alberts, Pastor  
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