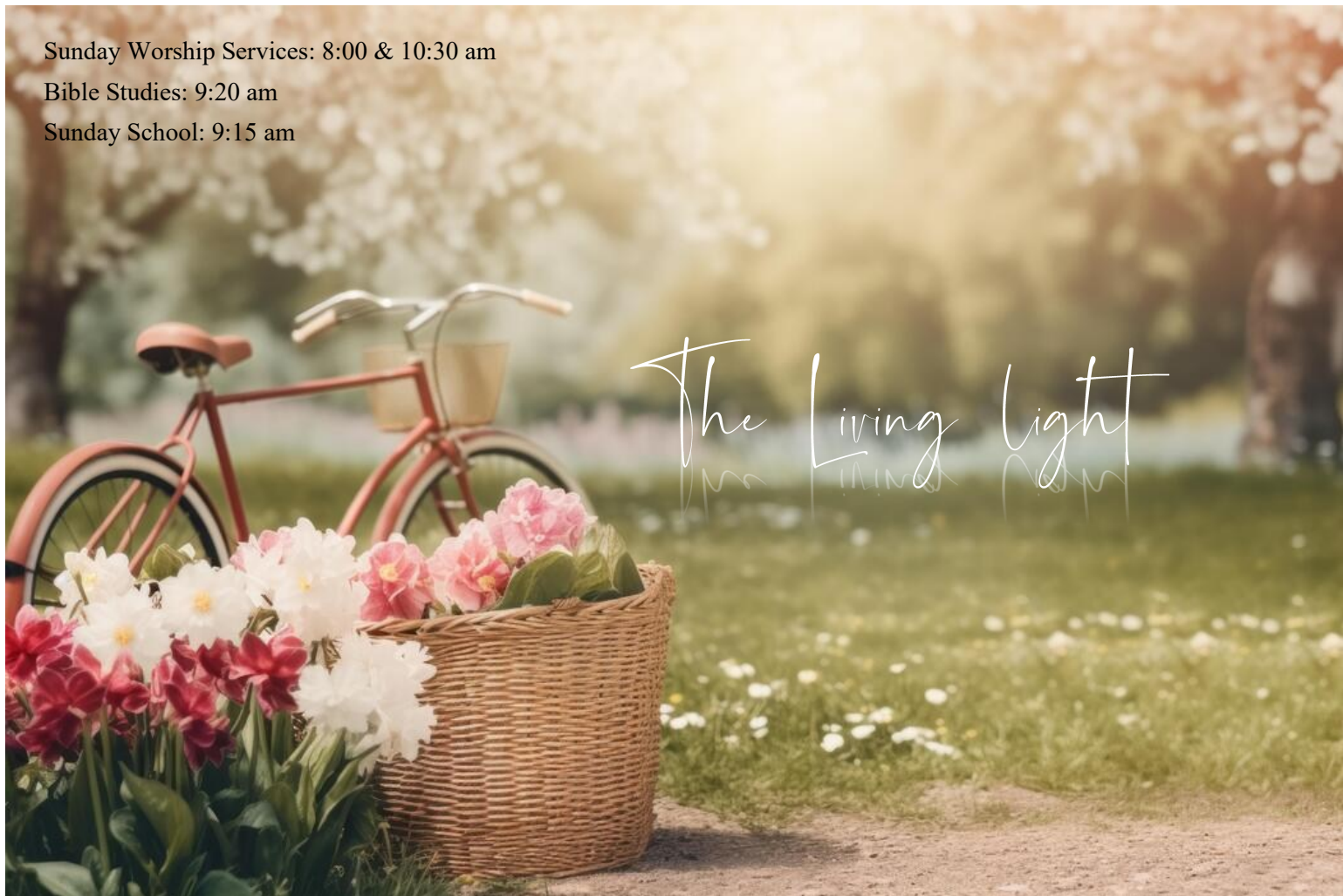


Sunday Worship Services: 8:00 & 10:30 am

Bible Studies: 9:20 am

Sunday School: 9:15 am



The Living Light

TALLMADGE LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LIVING LIGHT

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026

UNSHAKABLE

There's a feeling most of us know well — the ground shifting beneath our feet.

Maybe it's a diagnosis that changes everything overnight. Maybe it's a relationship fracturing, a job lost, a season of life ending before you were ready. Maybe it's just the low hum of anxiety that follows you through the day, whispering that nothing is as certain as it seems. The world has a way of reminding us, again and again, that the things we lean on — our health, our finances, our plans, our sense of control — are not as solid as we thought. You know this feeling. I know this feeling

That's why I keep returning, this Easter season, to the words of the Psalmist:

"He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken." (Psalm 62:2, 6)

What strikes me about Psalm 62 is that David doesn't say the circumstances of his life stopped shaking. He says *he* would not be shaken — and there's a difference. The storms were real. The enemies were real. The threat was real. But David had found something — or rather, *Someone* — who could not be moved. And that changed everything.

In This Issue

- Message from Pastor (p 1-2)
- Announcements (p 3-12)
- Sunday School (p 13)
- Youth Group (p 14)
- Preschool (p 15)
- Monthly Calendar (p 16)

LIVING HOPE

This is precisely what St. Peter wants us to hear as we walk through this Easter season together. He opens his first letter with doxology — with pure, exuberant praise:

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (1 Peter 1:3)

Notice what Peter calls it. Not a *wishful* hope. Not a *possible* hope. A *living* hope. The resurrection of Jesus is not a comforting idea or a spiritual metaphor — it is an event that broke into history, cracked the tomb open, and changed the nature of reality itself.

Because Jesus is alive, our hope is alive. Because He is risen, we are born again into something that cannot die.

Peter wrote these words to Christians who were suffering. They were scattered, displaced, living as "exiles" in a world that did not welcome them. And yet he begins not with a strategy for endurance, but with worship. Because the resurrection isn't just good news for *someday* — it is the unshifting ground beneath our feet *today*.

All through the Easter Gospel readings, we see the same pattern. The disciples are behind locked doors — afraid, shaken, uncertain what comes next (John 20:19). And Jesus comes. He doesn't wait for them to get their act together. He doesn't stand outside until they feel worthy to open the door. He comes through the walls and stands among them.

"Peace be with you."

Jesus comes specifically for Thomas. He offers His hands and His side as evidence. "Stop doubting and believe." The Good Shepherd calls His sheep by name (John 10). The risen Lord appears on the shore, makes breakfast, and asks Peter three times, *"Do you love me?"* restoring the one who denied Him. Again and again, the risen Christ *comes*. He doesn't wait to be found. He finds us.



This is the Easter Gospel: the risen Jesus keeps showing up. In Word and Sacrament, at His Table, in the fellowship of His people — He comes to us even now, even here, even in our doubt and our fear and our shaking. And where He is, there is solid ground.

This month at Tallmadge Lutheran, we're continuing our "Unshakable" series — and I want to invite you not just to attend worship, but to *receive* what God is offering in these weeks. Come expecting to be met by the risen Christ. Come with whatever is shaking in your life and hold it up against the resurrection.

The world will keep shaking. That is simply true. But the one who holds the world together — the one who was dead and is alive forevermore — He does not shake. And because He holds us, neither will we.

"He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken." (Psalm 62:6)

In the peace of the Risen Savior Jesus Christ,

Pastor Andy



Happy Mothers Day



*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart.*

JEREMIAH 1:5



*Honour her for all that her
hands have done, and let her
works bring her praise!*

PROVERBS 31:31

Walk For Life

Akron Pregnancy Services, a non-profit organization, is sponsoring a community fundraising event called *Walk For Life* benefiting local families coming to APS for pregnancy and parenting support.

Walk For Life will be on Saturday, May 16 at 715 Buchtel Ave in downtown Akron. Registration beginning at 9:30 am.

Your participation and financial pledges are appreciated. Jeff Carley is TLC's coordinator for the event. Jeff can be reached at 330-606-6331 or jcarley0913@gmail.com. An info and pledge sign-up form is by the mailboxes. Thank you!

*Psalm 34:4 I sought the Lord and He answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.*

akronpregnancyservices.com 330-434-2221

Operation Christmas Child

This year seems to be moving right along! We are already into May. Please continue to search the clearance items to find great OCC shoebox finds and if you find an unbeatable deal, please let me know. I usually like to buy up those things when I come across them.

Thank you to everyone who supports this ministry. I would like to collect for the month of May personal care items (hairbrushes, combs, washcloths, fun adhesive bandages, Non-medicated lip balm, small tissue packets, nail clippers, nail files, etc.).

Please leave all donations in the OCC bin located in the library.

Thank you all so very much!

~ Alisha

Marriage Connect Group

What a great time we had last month!

Please consider joining us to see what we're about.

Group will be held on Thursday, May 21 at 6:00 pm. We will be doing session 2 of a Marriage study series called "Art of Marriage". The session is titled, "Dabaq: Resilient Love".

Our dinner theme will be breakfast. Please bring a breakfast item to share as we eat dinner together before our study.

Hope to see many of you there.

~ Trent and Alisha

OCC Special Announcement

Pill Bottles

I would like to pause the collection of pill bottles please. I have more that I know what to do with. I know many of you have also donated other bottles and containers for sewing kits. Unfortunately, these containers need to be see-through. I am also pausing collection for those as well.

It is still questionable as to whether or not we will be able to use these bottles moving forward.

As soon as I have an update about that, I will let everyone know.

Thank you all for always bringing them in and for thinking of Operation Christmas Child.

~ Alisha



Prayer Buddies

Prayer Buddy cards are due Sunday, May 3 so they can be distributed to the children before graduation.

The Wise Owls

The Wise Owls meet the 3rd Saturday of the month at 12:00 pm in Room 12 for a potluck lunch and a speaker or themed meeting.

Samaritan's Feet Sneaker Drive

Donations (sneakers only please) can go in the Library bin. For more information about this ministry go to samaritansfeet.org or contact Susan Olson shireyolson7@gmail.com. Thank you for your donations!

Youth Group Ministry

Join Jared Shoup, Youth Ministry leader, on Wednesday nights at 5:30 pm for the New Youth Bible Study geared towards Senior High School students.

TLC Book Club

The book for May is *The Story of Christianity—Volume 1: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation* by Justo L. Gonzalez.

This book is an informative, interesting, and readable narrative history of the Christian Church.

Please read pages 201-411 for May's meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you on Monday, May 18, 7:00 pm in Room 12.

Genesis Leader Training

New 9-month Cohorts starting May 2026

Do you have a passion for sharing Jesus with others? Do you see opportunities around you to bring people together, but aren't sure how?

Genesis Leader is an online learning community designed to deliver the tools, training, coaching and confidence that mobilizes people to create and lead new communities where anyone can discover Jesus.

TLC is looking for members to participate in this 9-month discipleship journey. Talk with Pastor Andy about getting signed up. Also consider talking with TLC members who have completed Genesis Leader Training—Santee Mick, Jared & Miranda Shoup, Kris & Regina Kodzev, Trent & Alisha Wright, Rich & Carol Goebelt, Tim & Diane Richard, Kathy Vanaman.

<https://multipli.org/learn-to-evangelize-jesus/>.



The Wise Owls

Older Wiser Lutherans

The Wise Owls are one of the oldest, continuous fellowship groups in TLC history. The Owls began with 30-35 members attending monthly meetings. Now they are down to 8-10; losing members to nursing homes and their heavenly home.

The Owls need your help!

TLC members and friends of all ages are invited to join the Wise Owls meetings. Please come share a meal and fellowship with this timeless group of TLC members.

Leaders, Fae and Larry Broemsen, prepare the main dish for each potluck meeting. During these months, they will provide *double* main courses, so you can enjoy a meal and fellowship at TLC and take a meal to share!

The Wise Owls meet the third Saturday of the month, 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm in Room 12.

A sign up-sheet is by the mailboxes with the main dishes listed for your convince.

Please come and experience a long-standing tradition at TLC! Come for food, fellowship, stories, laughter, and wisdom. They are called the Wise O.W.L.S for a reason.

We'd love to see you on Saturday, May 16!



Introducing W.I.N.G.S.

Walking In New Growth & Service

As part of our “TLC: Vision 2030” we are pleased to announce a new social networking ministry called *W.I.N.G.S.* (*Isaiah 40:31*). This new ministry is targeted toward individuals or couples who are at, or near, retirement and interested in engaging socially with other similar members of the church. In general, the group would focus on individuals or couples who are older than 55 years of age and no longer actively involved with family and children responsibilities. *W.I.N.G.S.* will use a number of scheduled social activities to engage and strengthen relationships among members of the church. The activities can also be a vehicle to invite “unchurched” friends, family members, neighbors or church visitors to informally and socially meet members of the church as a way for them to consider potential membership at TLC.

W.I.N.G.S. Kentucky Derby Gathering

Please join us for fun, food and fellowship at our first event, a “Kentucky Derby Gathering” on Saturday, May 2, 2026 from 5:30 – 9:00 PM, post time 6:57 PM at the Richard Residence.

Please bring a heavy appetizer or dessert. These beverages will be provided: Mint julep, beer, wine, & soft drinks.

The cost will be \$5 per person payable to Diane Richard. Due to hosting this event at home, we must limit this event. To reserve your spot, please text or email Diane Richard at 330-612-6980 or dhullrichard@gmail.com to RSVP. Please let her know what appetizer or dessert you’ll be sharing, please let her know.

This event is being organized by Chris & Ellen Tywon and Tim & Diane Richard.

***6 spots are still available as of April 22!**



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, chair
Kris Kodzev, vice chair
Brian Kuntz, treasurer
Ellen Tywon, secretary
Daryl Parma
Heidi Wojcik
Heidi Beck
Jerry Young

Staff

Pastor Andy, Pastor	Sue Pifer, Nursery Attendant
Annie Alberts, Music Ministry	Laurene Malish, Custodian
LaVonne Dolliver, Organist	Ben & Val Jews, Custodians
Debbie Ruggles, Finance Manager	
Lindsay Snyder, Secretary & Facilities	
Gail McAlister, Preschool Director	

Altar Guild: Becky Springer, head; Janet Buckles, Kathy Vanaman, Ellen Tywon, Marge Lasher, Cheryl Luke, Barb Fink, Heidi Wojcik & 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, Jared Shoup, Regina & Kris Kodzev

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

MITES & LWML: Sandy Dixon

Operation Christmas Child (OCC): Alisha Wright

Outreach Activities for Preschool :Gail McAlister

Prayer Buddies: Lindsay Snyder & Gail McAlister

Prayer Chain: Kathy Vanaman, Sandee Mick

Readers for Worship/Scheduler: Lindsay Snyder

Refill Restore Revive: Kris & Regina Kodzev

Sewing for Service: Pam Klicman

Strat Op/2030 Vision: Marty Hauser, facilitator

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

Vacation Bible School (VBS): Regina Kodzev

Wise Owls: Fae & Larry Broemsen

Women's Fellowship: Kathy Vanaman

Youth Ministry: Jared & Miranda Shoup

In The Community

Memorial Day Parade & Service is presented by the American Legion Kneil-Lawrentz Post 255 of Tallmadge and the City of Tallmadge. Monday, May 25, the parade forms in the parking lot of Mack Burleson Field (*The Hole*) 30 Wright Road at 9:30 am, moving out onto West Avenue at 10:00 am, around Circle and exiting at Southwest Avenue to the entrance of Tallmadge Cemetery. The services include welcoming remarks, a prayer, a speech, a ceremony, the placing of the wreath for our fallen Veterans, a rifle volley, and the playing of Taps.

Tallmadge Farmers Market opens on Thursday, June 11, 2026 from 4:00 - 7:00 pm. Vendors are parked in the Tallmadge Recreation Center parking lot along East Ave every Thursday night through October 8, 2026.

Maca Pool - Opening Day is Saturday, May 23 **NEW** - [Click here to renew your passes online!](#)

Touch A Truck - June 13 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm in the Rec Center parking lot

Music on the Circle - A free summer concert series sponsored by The Tallmadge Foundation on Thursday evenings from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Bring a chair or blanket!

June 18: Those Men Inside My Brain (Cheap Trick Tribute)

June 25: Revolution Pie (Beatles Tribute)

July 9: The Diamond Project (Neil Diamond Tribute)

July 16: The Other Side Band (70s, 80s, and 90s Cover)

July 23: Take Me Back (Chicago/70s Horn Band Tribute)

The Tallmadge Circular - tallmadgeoh.gov/circular



Easter Egg Hunt 2026

We had a great event with **70 kids**, the Easter Story, and the Easter Bunny!
Our kids, including preschool families, members, grandkids, and a whole lot of visitors,
joined us today to hunt for eggs in the sanctuary!

Games run by the youth, a VBS station, and a coloring contest!

Craft station, more games, and a “guessing contest.”

Thank you to all the youth, adult leaders, and volunteers
who made that day a **HUGE** success!

We made Jesus shine today!



Tallmadge Expo 2026

TLC and TCP made a presence at the Annual Expo at the Tallmadge Rec Center on Saturday, April 18.

Both ministries were able to put our face and name out there, make some connections and share the love of Jesus!

Thank you to all who volunteered their time to represent us! You are truly a blessing to TLC and TCP!



Vacation Bible School

June 8-June 12

Mark your calendars for June 8-12 for our Rainforest Falls VBS!

Please pray for our TLC kiddos and friends from the community that will join us next June. Pray we reach the families God calls us to minister to that week, that their schedules are clear and they trust us with their precious kiddos and sign up!

Please also pray for our TLC volunteers; that we build a strong crew of adults and junior leaders that work together to transform TLC into an amazing rainforest that's shares the beauty of God's creations in nature and the truth of His words.

During the week we will learn that
God is our creator... God knows everything...
God is our safe place... God is love and God is forever!!!
All things that will make us yell out
through the canopy of tropical trees... "Wow God!!!"

Looking forward to exiting the snowy world of both True North and our current freezing, wintery state in Ohio to create the magnificent sites and sounds of a tropical rainforest!!!

If you want to join our team as a volunteer that week or to help with preparations in the coming months please send a text or email. We'd love to have your help!

Regina Kodzev 330-213-8365 Reginalouisekostko@yahoo.com



Sunday School Corner

May's Theme: *Perseverance*

The connection between faith and God's Character, as shown through God's Big Story!

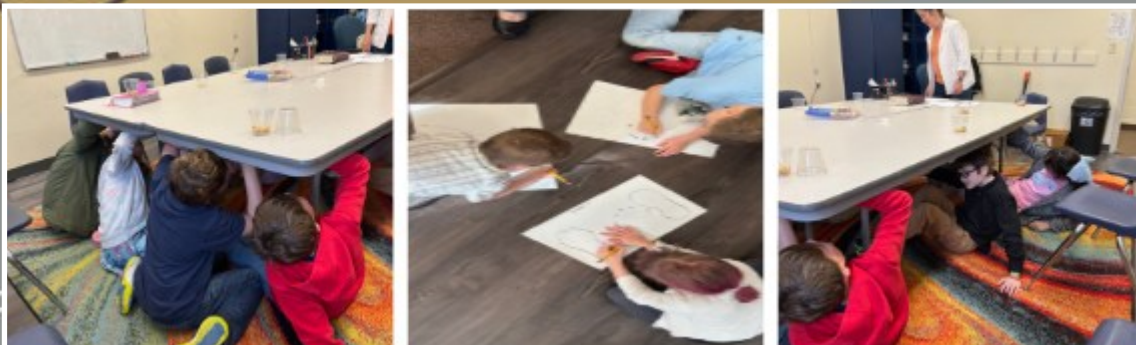
Perseverance: Refusing to give up when life gets hard because God is always with you.



Join us every Sunday from 9:20 - 10:15 am in Room 7
Opening for ALL grades at 9:20. Hope to see you there!

Teachers: Ms. Holly & Ms. Angies, Ms. Bergmann & Ms. Gail

We continue to have fun when we learn about Jesus!



In REMEMBRANCE

Personalized Memorial Day Banners will be displayed on crosses in front of the Sanctuary on Sunday, May 24. Please fill out the 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 toward the Youth Group Ministry. Please place orders in the YOUTH mailbox by Sunday, May 17. Families may collect their banners Sunday, May 25. If you have any questions, please contact Jared Schoop jshoup@ohva.org or Pastor Andy pastorandy@tlcoh.org.



Remembering Your Loved Ones Memorial Banner

Your Name: _____

Number of Banners: _____

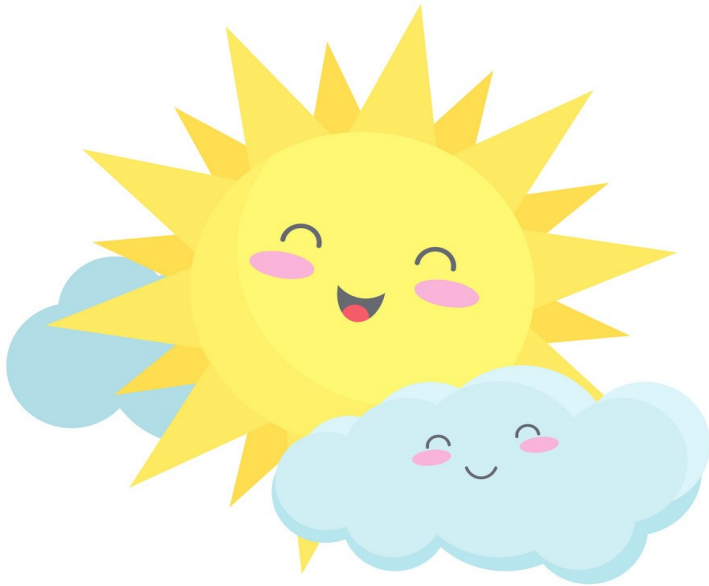
Name (s) for Banners: _____

Thank you!



Tallmadge Christian Preschool

Tell Your Friends...



Tallmadge Christian Preschool

759 East Avenue Tallmadge, OH 44278

330-633-4775 TCPDirector@tlcoh.org

www.tcp.tlcoh.org

www.facebook.com/TallmadgeChrsitamPreschool

TCP TINY TOTS

NOW ENROLLING FOR THE FALL!!

This fun and positive introduction to preschool is for children who are 18 to 35 months by September 1 and their caregiver. We will meet on Tuesdays during the school year from 10:00 am to 11:15 am.

For more information or to schedule a tour please contact Gail at 330-633-4908 or TCPdirector@tlcoh.org.



Growing Kids in Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Confirmation Sunday Prayer Buddy Cards 7-15am Handbell warm-ups 8:00am Worship 9-15am Sunday School (Rm 7) 9:20am Bible Study 9:20am Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm) 10:30am Worship	4 12:00pm - 1:30pm Member Event (Youth Rm) 5:30pm Bible Study (off site) 7:00pm Board of Elders (Rm 12)	5	6 7:00am Men's Bible Study (Parera) 10:00am Sewing for Service (Kitchen) 6:30pm Youth Group Bible Study (Youth Rm) 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	7 National Day of Prayer 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12) 12:00pm - 1:30pm Member Event (Youth Rm)	1 9:00am - 10:00am Groups w/donuts 10:00am VBS (Youth rm)	2 5:30pm W.I.N.G.S. Kentucky Derby Gathering (off site) 7:00pm - 8:00pm Summit Balls
10 Mother's 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 8:30am Food Pantry Pick-Up 9:30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 12:00pm - 1:30pm Member Event (Youth Rm) 5:30pm Bible Study (off site) 7:00pm Board of Directors (Rm 12)	12	13 7:00am Men's Bible Study (Parera) 9:15am - 10:15am TMS work crew 11:45am - 12:45pm Preschool Graduation set up (gym) 6:30pm Youth Group Bible Study (Youth Rm) 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	14 The Ascension of Our Lord 8:30am - 12:00pm Preschool Graduation (Sanctuary and Gym) 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12) 12:00pm - 1:30pm Member Event (Youth Rm)	15 10:00am VBS (Youth rm)	16 12:00pm Wise Owls (Rm 12)
17 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 Meeting 1:00pm - 5:00pm Member event	18 9:30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 12:00pm - 1:30pm Member Event (Youth Rm) 5:30pm Bible Study (off site) 7:00pm TLC Book Club (Rm 12)	19 Newsletter Deadline	20 7:00am Men's Bible Study (Parera) 6:30pm Youth Group Bible Study (Youth Rm) 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	21 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12) 12:00pm - 1:30pm Member Event (Youth Rm) 6:00pm Marriage Connect Group (Rm 12)	22 10:00am VBS (Youth rm)	23
24 Pentecost Sunday Memorial Day Crosses & Banners 8:00am Worship 9-15am Sunday School (Rm 7) 9:20am Bible Study 9:20am Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm) 10:30am Worship	25 Memorial Day Church Office closed No Bible Study 12:00pm - 1:30pm Member Event (Youth Rm) 5:30pm Bible Study (off site)	26	27 7:00am Men's Bible Study (Parera) 1:15pm - 3:30pm Tallmadge County Study Club (Rm 12) 6:30pm Youth Group Bible Study (Youth Rm) 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	28 9:00am - 11:00am Salad prep for the Luncheon 10:00am Bible Study (Rm 12) 12:00pm - 1:30pm Member Event (Youth Rm)	29 10:00am VBS (Youth rm) 11:30am - 1:00pm Police and Fire Luncheon	30
31 Trinity Sunday MITES Sunday 8:00am Worship 9-15am Sunday School (Rm 7) 9:20am Bible Study 9:20am Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm) 10:30am Worship						

Birthdays

- 3 Holly Dussel
- 5 Walter Fenske
- 7 David Graybeal
- 7 Beverly Goss
- 7 Donnie Groubert
- 8 Dan Capp
- 10 Susan Young
- 10 Eric Harsey
- 10 Michael Belknap
- 12 Dennis Klicman
- 13 Lillian Vojtek
- 14 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Dutka
- 17 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bommer
- 17 Mr. & Mrs. David Bass
- 18 Mr. & Mrs Robert Knepper
- 31 Mr. & Mrs. Jon Huck
- 14 Rocco Hovey
- 16 Ed Huzzard, Jr.
- 18 Marti Helmeier
- 19 Parker Ripley
- 21 Sandee Mick
- 22 Chuck Currier
- 22 Hailey Freeman
- 23 Jay Springer
- 23 Eric Toepke
- 25 Dennis Holzer
- 30 Todd Hedderly
- 31 Thomas K emmy

Anniversaries



The Living Light is a monthly publication of
Tallmadge Lutheran Church, 759 East Avenue, Tallmadge OH 44278
330-633-4775 www.tlcoh.org facebook.com/tallmadgelutheranchurch



Rev. Andy Alberts, Pastor

pastorandy@tlcoh.org

Annie Alberts, Music Ministry

music@tlcoh.org

Debbie Ruggles, Finance Manger

administrator@tlcoh.org

Lindsay Snyder, Secretary & Facilities

secretary@tlcoh.org

Gail McAlister, Tallmadge Christian Preschool

tcpdirector@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.

King's Kids School-Age Child Care

Tallmadge Christian Preschool

Tallmadge Lutheran Church



The Living Light