



www.thanks-giving.org

August 2010 Volume 26, No. 8

Dear Friends In Christ,

In my message for the weekend of July 17-18, 2010 we looked at the Lord's instructions to Joshua on how he and the people of Israel could succeed and prosper in life. It was a short, but essential, set of directives that will also enable us to be successful and prosperous in life, if we follow them. Verses 6-9 of chapter 1 included the commands to "be strong and courageous," confident in our covenant relationship with Jesus and our identity as a child of God. We are to be "careful to obey" all of God's instructions. And we are to "study this Book of Instruction (the Bible) continually" and "meditate on it day and night." Then, and "only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do." The plan is clear but not always easy to follow.

From the Joshua text, and Jesus' teaching in John 8:31 on abiding (remaining) in His Word, we recognize the importance of a daily study of God's Word, the Bible. While our adult discipleship opportunities are not meant to be a substitute for your own personal daily study and meditation, they are designed to further or "jump start" your personal learning and practice. In the paragraphs that follow I want to highlight some learning opportunities that are beginning this month and right after the Labor Day holiday.

Beginning Wednesday night, August 25th, at 6:30 PM we will be offering an 8 week Bible overview class on the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible. It is based on Henrietta Mears' book *What the Bible is All About* and will serve as an introductory class for those with little or no Bible background. It is also a great opportunity to review the basic themes, structure and outlines for those with a little more familiarity with the Bible. These early books of the Bible are filled with memorable accounts that build faith and provide direction for living.

On Sunday morning, August 29th, at 9:30 AM we will once again be offering the *Cleansing Stream* seminar which culminates in a retreat experience on October 29-30, 2010. The primary focus of this course is to embrace basic discipleship practices and principles that will enable you to experience greater freedom and joy in your walk as a disciple of Jesus Christ. You can expect to be equipped to live victoriously over sin, the world and the demonic forces that seek to undermine your relationship with Jesus Christ.

On September 12th at the 9:30 hour we will begin an extended study of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount from Matthew 5-7. This is arguably the finest body of teaching on how to live the Christian life ever to be written. We will study the Beattitudes, the Lord's Prayer and a number of Jesus' teachings on how we can experience the Kingdom of God in our daily walk with Him. As a supplemental resource we will also be using Dallas Willard's book and study guide entitled *The Divine Conspiracy*. This is an excellent resource that helps explain how we are to understand the Beattitudes, the pre-eminence of the law of love and the pathway of genuine discipleship.

Continued on page 5.....

T!LC CARE MINISTRIES



**For Care Ministries Assistance . . .
During Church Office Hours:**

Please call 402.292.2695

All Other Times:

Please call our dedicated 24/7 voice mail number **402.292.7633** and leave a message. You will be contacted by a Care Ministries staff person or a pastor. This number is checked four to six times daily.



The Power of God in Prayer!

*"I tell you to believe that you have received the things you ask for in prayer, and God will give them to you."
(Mark 11:24 ISB)*

Are you in need of

prayer? *James 5:13-16 commands us to call for the elders of the church to pray over us.* Healing Prayer Team members are available in the Prayer Chapel every week-end immediately following each service. You are invited and encouraged to come for healing and other personal prayer needs.



Stephen Ministry God's Love In Action

One -to -one Christian care to individuals in our congregation and community who are facing a crisis or life challenge such as bereavement, hospitalization, a terminal illness. We also provide care to those who are separated, divorced, unemployed, relocated, or who are experiencing a significant trial or storm in their lives.

For information, call Vicar Susan Westland, Parish Care Ministry Coordinator at 402-292-2695.

Jesus Stood Still – Mark 10:46-52 (NKJV) Vicar Susan Westland

⁴⁶ Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging. ⁴⁷ And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁸ Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁹ So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying to him, "Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you." ⁵⁰ And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ So Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" The blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight." ⁵² Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.



A blind man sits along the side of a road. He is weary and worn out. His life has consisted of begging for his basic needs for as long as he can remember. The stone walls of Jericho stab his back as he tries to lean against them for support. He asks, "Is life really worth living? What did I do to deserve this punishment? Why God, why can't I see?" It seems like God would never give him the answers to these questions that have haunted him his entire life.

He hears the approaching crowd and holds out his cup. He gropes the air to grab someone's robe to stop them and ask for help. Suddenly he hears the name Jesus of Nazareth and his heart leaps in his chest. The Nazarene, the man who heals the blind is here. "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" The crowd tells him to be quiet but this may be his only chance, he must get the attention of the healer from Nazareth so he cries out even louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

And then it happened, the healing God of the universe, Jesus, stood still and broke into the darkness of his life. For Bartimaeus, a blind beggar from Jericho today marked the day when God broke into the darkness of his life, healed his sight, and transformed his faith. Scripture teaches, from this moment on Bartimaeus became a follower of Jesus and joined the multitude of people whose lives had been changed by their encounter with their living Lord.

Look at this scene again. Do you see yourself? Have you ever been in Bartimaeus' shoes? Have you ever needed Jesus, your Savior, to hear your voice above the roar of the world? In the darkness of our blindness we cry out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" While we wait for our healing to come, we are strengthened as we lean on our faith and cling to God's promises of hope. God's Word teaches, "By faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope." (Galatians 5:5) Hold onto hope, find peace in the trials of life, and know Christ will stand still and call you to himself. Maybe not today or even tomorrow, but soon he will walk into our pain, draw us near to his heart, and heal our wounds.

T!LC HEALTH MINISTRIES

T!LC Health Ministries Team would like to keep you updated on current health-related topics. If you have any questions or would like to have specific health concerns addressed, please contact us at 292-2695, or care@thanks-giving.org.

Diets to Prevent Cardiovascular Disease: What is the evidence?



Many patients often begin commercial dietary plans to lose weight. Although some of these diets make unfounded claims, many of the more publicized plans have been studied in controlled settings. Risks and benefits of these diets may be beneficial in deciding which is the best plan. Losing weight along with regular exercise is often the cornerstone to prevention of many illnesses, including heart disease.

Commercial diets can be subdivided into 4 categories based on the combination of nutrients recommended: Very low carbohydrate, low carbohydrate, very low fat, and Mediterranean diets.

Very low carbohydrate diets - Dr. Atkins published the first version of the Atkins diet in 1972. This plan is based upon very low carbohydrate content, and does not require calorie counting or portion limitation. It consists of 4 phases, with strict carbohydrate restriction in the initial phase. Fruit and vegetable intake is severely limited. The effectiveness of the diet is attributed to increased fat metabolism caused by carbohydrate restriction.

Very low carbohydrate diets have been studied extensively. Although participants lose weight, those following the low carbohydrate plan had no weight difference at 12 months. There was no significant improvement in cholesterol profiles.

Low carbohydrate diets – ‘Sugar Busters!’, the ‘Zone Diet’, and the South Beach diet. These programs are based on low overall blood sugars. This requires knowledge of the ‘glycemic index’, which are foods that keep blood sugars lower.

These diets have also been studied extensively. Participants following the South Beach diet lost 6 pounds more than those following ordinary dietary plans. There was no difference in cholesterol levels.

Very low fat diets - very low fat diets were developed because of the correlation between saturated fat intake and heart disease. The most well study plan is the Ornish diet, which integrates a vegetarian diet with a fat intake of 10% of total calories. This program emphasizes exercise, meditation and smoking cessation. Alcohol and caffeine intake also were discouraged.

Most of the studies of the Ornish diet were participants with existing heart disease. There was overall significant decrease in cardiac symptoms and a significant improvement in long-term outcomes with this dietary plan.

Mediterranean diet - this diet gained interest in the ‘Seven Countries Study’ which showed evidence of low heart disease despite high levels of dietary fat intake. It is based upon use of plant-based foods, minimally processed food, infrequent red meat intake, with olive oil as the principal source of fat and moderate red wine with meals.

Several studies have shown improvements in cholesterol profiles. The Mediterranean diet has been studied extensively in the role of prevention of heart disease. This has been confirmed in several studies. The primary challenge to the Mediterranean diet is the increased expense of fruit and vegetable intake compared with the expense of processed foods.

Summary: Knowledge of popular commercial diets may be beneficial to individuals in prevention of heart disease, but also in management of those with known heart disease. None of the diets mentioned above show any significant worsening of outcomes. Diets that are rich in fruits, vegetables and healthful fatty acids that limit saturated fat have the best outcomes. The American Heart Association guidelines incorporate these recommendations. Appropriate knowledge of dietary intake in combination with a regular exercise program are essential in prevention of heart disease and many other preventable illnesses.

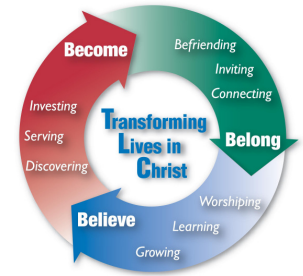
Your body is a gift from the Lord and should be treated with respect. Take good care of it!


Please contact the T!LC Care Ministries team if you have any questions with this discussion.

MISSION MOMENTS

from Pastor David

Mission. What is our mission statement by the way? ***Our mission is to reach out and gather people into the family of God, equipping them to be disciples of Jesus Christ in our community, nation, and world.***





Short Term Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic

Looking for *Skilled* (Carpenters, Computer skilled, Electricians) or *Unskilled* (even Pastor David goes!) to share God's love in the DR. The trip is planned for January 2011.

Email Pastor David at pastordavid@thanks-giving.org or

Mike Albers at malbers@qualitytm.com with questions.



YOU CAN HELP!

Handy Person Ministry.....

The GSI (Good Samaritan Initiative)

This ministry opportunity is up and running! If you have questions or need help with a project; call or email now and we can get you connected with people that can help you!

It is not too late to be a part of the team - sign up today!

Who are our neighbors? We are all neighbors. In the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus defined a neighbor as anyone who has a need. Jesus was the perfect neighbor because he lived in 3 dimensions (plus he was the Son of God.) We are all called to live in 3-D: **D**eveloping relationships, **d**iscovering stories, and **d**iscerning next steps.

As a congregation who is discerning God's steps for us, we have found many ways to reach out to our neighbors: the Easter Egg hunt, block parties and serving in a variety of ways. In addition, we are excited to launch **Handy Person Ministry.....The GSI (Good Samaritan Initiative)** this spring and summer. Here is how it could work. Recently, someone told me the story of a single mother of two who lived with a leaky faucet in her home for several months. The neighbor who she was talking to (TLC member) asked why this had been going on so long. Her simple reply was that "she didn't have the tools or expertise to fix it". The neighbor offered to find some help. After a few quick phone calls, an individual from TLC came over and fixed the leak. She was incredulous that a stranger would perform this act of kindness. His reply was that "God has been so good to me that I just wanted to pass the blessing along."

It is from this story that the Good Samaritan Initiative was born. Quite simply, we would like to compile a list of skilled individuals available to assist our neighbors with minor repairs/projects. You will not be on-call, nor expected to tackle large projects or pay for materials

If you are interested please e-mail me at pastor-david@thanks-giving.org, or call the church office at 292-2695.

Blessings!
Pastor David



Spring greetings from Lutheran World Relief! We received your gift of \$15,000.00 and give thanks to God for your

support of this vital ministry.

Your gift will be used to help families and communities around the world who are living in poverty. For them, life is an everyday struggle. But because of your compassion, and the compassion of others like you, there is hope for a better future.

With your help, we'll train farmers to grow more and better food for their families and communities. We'll help fight diseases like malaria by spreading vital messages about the importance of prevention and treatment. And we'll continue to respond around the world, wherever disaster strikes, working with partners to quickly deliver food, water, and shelter where most needed.

I'm excited that you've chosen to be a part of this ministry and I hope you'll stay in touch to see how your support is changing lives. Please check our website, lwr.org, for pictures and updates on our work around the world. There you can also sign up to receive our monthly electronic newsletter, join our Facebook Cause, or follow us on Twitter. And we are always available and happy to answer your questions by phone at 1-800-597-5972 or by email at lwr@lwr.org.

On behalf of every at Lutheran World Relief, our partners and those we serve, please accept my heartfelt thanks for your gift.

John A Nunes, President and CEO

Continued from page 1.....

Also on September 12th at the 11:00 AM hour we will be offering a new class entitled *The Life in Covenant Community*. This 4 week class will examine many of our core values as a congregation and the importance of living out our faith in community with other believers in Jesus Christ. We will review God's character as a covenant keeping God, the role and implications of faith within the Christian experience, developing a plan for personal/family spiritual growth and the benefits of living in the various sizes of faith communities. In our effort to continue to strengthen the faith life of our congregation, we are encouraging everyone to take the class at least once but the course will be required for all baptismal candidates, or in the case of a child, their parents. This is a great opportunity to synthesize much of the preaching and teaching that has taken place over the last couple of years regarding Covenant/Kingdom and our creating a culture of discipleship here at Thanksgiving! This class will be offered in September, October and November in 2010 and at regular intervals in 2011.

In addition to these course offerings we will be offering additional classes and small group opportunities that will enable you to become a better steward of your money, develop a Biblical worldview and become more missions minded in your approach to life. Watch for our Adult Discipleship brochure to be released early this month.

God wants you to experience success and prosperity in your walk with Him, but it will not happen by accident. His plan is built upon our study, meditation and obedience to His revealed will in the Word of God. Do it and you will prosper, ignore it and you will struggle. Let us know what we can do to help you grow as a student of God's Word.

Bruce L Kolb



Stuff a Truck for Mission For All Nations

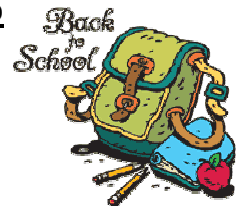
Here's a great small group community project! August 19th to 22nd Hy-Vee will again hold its Stuff a Truck event to help Mission For all Nations reach out to those in need. Two volunteers per shift are needed at each Omaha metro Hy-Vee store, **including the Shadow Lakes Hy-Vee**, to man donation tables at each store entrance.

The days and times for this event are:

- August 19 and 20 from 5:30pm to 8pm
- August 21st and August 22nd have three shifts, 10:30am - 1:00pm, 1:00pm to 3:30pm, and 3:30pm to 6:00pm.

All you need to do is contact MFAN's volunteer coordinator, Courtney Raab at 733-2077, or T!LC's MFAN point person, Deb Brandt, at 291-2982.

You Can Help ALL Kids go Back to School with the Supplies They Need!!



Believe it or not the 2010-2011 school year is almost upon us!

As we excitedly shop for **back to school supplies**, there are students among us whose families cannot afford supplies.

Please consider buying an extra package of paper, pencils, markers or backpacks so that we can provide these supplies to students.

All contributions will be given to Heartland Family Services and Open Door Mission for distribution. A box will be in the church Narthex for supply collection until

August 6, 2010.

If you have any questions please contact:
Mary Findlay at
findlaym@cox.net or 597-1227.

Creating Connections



Plan your Lenten journey for next year now! From Jesus birth in Bethlehem to the empty garden tomb, join us. For more information call Pastor David at 292-2695, or e-mail Pastor David at pastordavid@thanks-giving.org.



It's Block Party Time

"Thy will be done, in your neighborhood, as it is in

Enter to WIN a \$50.00 Gift Certificate!

A special grant has been given to award the three most innovative block parties. Simply host a block party, share your ideas about how you made it the most innovative block party for Gods Kingdom, and submit your ideas for judging.

Use this form or email Pastor David at pastordavid@thanks-giving.org

Name: _____

Date Block Party was held: _____

What made your Block Party the most innovative? _____

I received this note recently from the Zivny family, "To say that having a block party is hard is not thinking "out of the box"...sometimes it is just an invitation to something, not even to your house. People just need to know that someone they know is going to be there and watch for them to come and be welcomed!!! Some events do not even have to involve food or "hosting" – just a place for people to gather with family and friends and a warm friendly wave of welcome! These past two years have opened doors to some neighbors and others from a few blocks away, even miles away, that never would have been opened without this idea that is spreading It really is!

sharing in the lives of others. I would say you and Sara are involved in ministry. I am glad to see all those prayers for the neighborhood bearing good fruit. I believe praying and believing families spill over into neighborhoods and into the lives of friends and family. Thank you for allowing the goodness of God to have a home in you. God is at work...and He is transforming lives through your care and connection to others."

Steve and Sara are having church, but it is not in a building. What a great inspiration to the rest of us. Thank you to the Zivny family for stepping out and modeling what living in covenant and kingdom is all about.

Below is a note from our past neighbors who still live in the area, but have been gone from the neighborhood for 12 years now. We send a mass email out about every other week or so, to let people know of fun opportunities that the Zivny family is taking advantage of....some are in our yard and others in the Papillion area. They have not been able to come to any of the functions this year, but here is what they had to say about the invite!

It is never too late to host your own block party, or just a small get together. Creating connections opens the door to the power of the Holy Spirit to transform lives.

'You are quite the community builder, i.e., bringing people together, celebrating life, enjoying and

Creating Connections through the Holy Spirit, Pastor David



THANKSKI XVIII
PLANNING 2011
REUNION 2010



SNOWBOARDING CROSS COUNTRY
SKIING

Thankski XVIII will be our 18th annual church ski trip. The planning session will be held **Saturday, August 14th** at the Winks' Beach House, 17305 Yucca Cir, Hanson Lake 2, three miles south of the base. **Your entire family is invited. We especially welcome first timers.**

Our trip to Colorado is designed for adults and teenagers (or 7th grade) accompanied by an adult. If you have any interest in skiing, boarding, cross county, or any other winter fun, please come out! This is a perfect opportunity to get involved. The cost is reasonable considering you get three days of Colorado skiing, etc. for approximately \$530 (last year's price; this year's not available yet). If you don't ski or board, last year's price for condo, transportation, etc. was \$300.

Join us to talk about the trip. We will waterski, tube and socialize starting at 10:00 AM. For those who want to ski or tube earlier is better; the lake gets crowded as the day goes on. It is doubtful we will ski after we eat. Swimming, volleyball, horseshoes and other water sports are also available. The beach can be hot, so sunscreen, hats, shirts and footwear are needed; however, plenty of shade is available!

Please bring your own drinks, snacks, and a dish to pass in a cooler. Meat, buns, table service will be provided. **We will eat about 1:00 PM.** The planning session will follow. Come early, stay late.

The dates for Thankski XVIII are **Saturday, January 22nd through Wednesday, January 26th, 2011.** If you have any interest, come out. We have grown from 24 on the first trip to 86 at our largest.

Please sign up for the planning session by Wednesday, August, 11th. For additional information, contact Ron Wink at 292-1012 or ronwink50@msn.com. **A signup sheet, directions and map will be posted at church.**



At the Ballgame

On Saturday, July 3rd, 118 participants representing 34 families held tickets for the 26th annual (and final) Omaha World-Herald

Independence Day Fireworks

show at Rosenblatt Stadium. We were in Field Box seats along the 3rd base line.

Despite threats of rain, like we experienced in 2009, we did not need to bring out our ponchos or trash bags. The Zooperstars, including my favorite Harry Canary, entertained us as we watched the Omaha Royals beat the Iowa Cubs 6-5 when Rick Ankiel scored a home run on a fly ball to left field. That enthusiasm continued as Finest Hour entertained the crowd with a concert before the fireworks extravaganza.

I believe our church has attended this game since 1995, although my computer records only go back to 2001. The number of participants varied depending on which the day of the week the game was held. Our group size has ranged from 85 to 145. We don't know what next year holds as the Omaha World-Herald has not yet announced a decision to host a future Independence game fireworks show.

Thanks to all the families who have attended the game over the years. I've enjoyed organizing this event. It's been a blessing to me.

Marsha Gunderson

Thank you so much to everyone in the TLC family who expressed their sympathy to our family after the loss of our baby, John Robert. So many sent cards, kind words, hugs, food, texts and most importantly many known and unknown prayers. We feel very blessed by your kindness.

During this time, we have thought so much about other families whom have lost babies and children. Please know our thoughts and prayers are with you also. God has provided us so much peace and comfort as he has promised in His Word. Blessed be the Name of the Lord. *(Psalm 46)*

Rob, Janine, Megan, Kylie and Jack Wegner



Mid Size Community: A Place for Discipleship

If you are interested in discovering a new type of Christian community that is centered around the Biblical principles of discipleship please go to <http://tlcmidsized.blogspot.com> This is a site that we have set up specifically for the mid-size community. Or feel free to call hosts Rob and Janine Wegner at 293-9060 or j9wegner@cox.net

We meet each Monday evening at 6pm in the home of Rob and Janine Wegner for fellowship, worship, outreach, and teaching.

UPDATE from T!LC's Operations Manager, Harold Carlson

Monthly Stewardship

Through the month of June 2010 our expenses were 0.81% below plan and weekly contributions were 0.32% above plan which resulted in a positive cash flow of \$2,219.69 through June. Thank you for your faithful financial stewardship.

Vacations & Giving

Summertime is a great opportunity for family vacations and travels however, our ministry programs continue throughout the summer months. If you do plan to travel this summer you can continue to financially support our ministries in one of two ways. First, our offering envelopes are designed so that they can be mailed to the church and maintain confidentiality. Second, enroll in

Simply Giving which is a safe and reliable electronic funds transfer program. Contact our *Simply Giving* Coordinator, Harold Carlson at 292-2695 or harold.carlson@thanks-giving.org for more information about the *Simply Giving* program.

Simply Giving

Did you know that T!LC has the ability to receive electronic funds transfers (EFT) through a program called *Simply Giving*? *Simply Giving* is a safe and reliable electronic funds transfer program sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Check out our website for a link to enroll in *Simply Giving*. To enroll go to our website (www.thanks-giving.org) and click on *Simply Giving* under the member quick links at the top of the home page. You can also contact our *Simply Giving* Coordinator, Harold Carlson at the

church office at 292-2695 or harold@thanks-giving.org for more information about the *Simply Giving* program.

Automobile Donation Needed

Do you or someone that you know, have a reliable automobile that could be donate to T!LC? We continue to receive requests from families in need of reliable transportation. Please contact Harold Carlson at the church office for more information.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns please feel free to e-mail me at harold.carlson@thanks-giving.org, call me at the church or stop by my office.

T!LC SUPPORT GROUPS ON THURSDAY EVENINGS BEGINNING



SEPTEMBER 2, 2010
DivorceCare -
September 2—December 9.
 Meets: 6:30 – 8:00, FLC
 Room 202 -

Childcare provided

A special weekly seminar and support group for people who are seeking help in recovering from the pain of separation and divorce. *DivorceCare* is offered concurrently with DC4K. Registration fee is \$15. For information, call Vicar Susan Westland, Parish Care Ministry Coordinator at 402-292-2695



DivorceCare for Kids (DC4K) - Is offered concurrently with *DivorceCare*.
September 2—December 9.
 Registration fee is \$15. For information, call Lisa Witkop at 402-293-9067.



GriefShare -
September 2—December 9.
 Registration fee is \$15. For information, call Vicar Susan Westland, Parish Care Ministry Coordinator at 402-292-2695.

T!LC BLOOD DRIVE Monday, August 30th 1:30-7:00pm

Please consider donating blood at our next blood drive on **Monday, Aug. 30th from 1:30-7:00pm.**

There are many benefits to donating blood:

- It's something you can spare—yet there still isn't enough to go around!
- You will help ensure blood is on the shelf when needed—most people don't think they'll ever need blood, but many do.
- You will be someone else's hero—in fact, you may help as many as 3 people with just one donation.
- There is free juice and cookies!

To sign up for a donation appt. watch for the sign-up forms in the weekly Messenger during August, go to the website at www.redcrossblood.org (location 642) or call Shari at 339-8226.



Stephen Ministry – God’s Love in *ACTION*

One-to-one Christian care to individuals in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives.

“Love one another ... as I have loved you...” John 13:34

A STEPHEN MINISTER IS . . .

- A child of God who walks beside a person who is hurting
- A congregation member with gifts for caregiving who was carefully selected to serve in this role
- A lay person who has received 50 hours of training in providing emotional and spiritual care
- A caring, Christian friend who listens, cares, prays, supports, and encourages

“Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2

STEPHEN MINISTERS CARE FOR PEOPLE FACING TOUGH TIMES

We all experience challenges in life – times when we could benefit from caring Christian support. Stephen Ministry is available to provide the emotional and spiritual care for you and your family as you journey through times of trial and crisis in your lives. Stephen Ministry is committed to expressing Christian care and love to all people in our congregation, especially those who are hurting in mind, body, spirit or relationally, and to nurture a faithful understanding of Christian wholeness by linking faith to all aspects of life and health.

Stephen Ministry is a confidential ministry: The identity of those receiving care and what takes place in each caring relationship remain private.

“Therefore encourage one another and build up each other.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11

STEPHEN MINISTRY IS *OUR* MINISTRY

You play an important role in our Stephen Ministry. Here’s what you can do:

- **Pray** for God to bring hope and healing to hurting people through our Stephen Ministry.
- **Accept care** from a Stephen Minister during your time of need. God doesn’t expect you to bear your burdens alone.
- **Tell a friend**, neighbor, coworker, or relative who is hurting about our Stephen Ministry.

STEPHEN MINISTRY MULTIPLIES MINISTRY

Pastors will always be on the front lines of care, especially during times of crisis. But there are always many more needs for ongoing, one-to-one care than pastors can effectively meet by themselves.

Stephen Ministry provides a biblical solution – *equipping God’s people for ministry*. Gifted lay people are trained to support and extend the care that pastors continue to provide.

Stephen Ministers reach out with God’s love to people who are hurting – both congregation members and nonmembers alike.

“To equip the saints for the work of ministry.” Ephesians 4:12a



The T!LC Library Corner It's Your Library! August 2010

I don't know about you, but I feel like 2010 has sprouted wings along the way and before we know it the fall colors will once again adorn our countryside, landscapes, and homes. With so many new donations, our book sale coming up on Oct. 23 & 24th will be a wonderful way to pick up a special book for a Christmas or birthday gift. What better present than a book that others have enjoyed at a fraction of the cost of a new purchase.

I thank those of you sharing your books, DVD's and CD's with the congregation. Your donations are affording many families the opportunity to enjoy Christian based reading. Our shelves continue to blossom with new books and as the new books get checked into the library, I'm sure you will find many good ones on the first bookcase as you enter the room labeled "Check out what's new". This will make it easier for you to see the additions rather than going through the entire library searching.. I'll rotate these off the shelves and put new ones up as space allows.

Please don't forget the Children's Book Nook in the Lower Level Gathering Room of the church. These books are for our younger set and new DVD's or VHS tapes would be welcomed, too. If you, in your fall house organizing, should run across any books, movies, games no longer needed, please feel free to donate and share with other families and children in our congregation.

The following are just a few of the new books that can be found on the library cart as of the August 1st.

The world's funniest kindergartner is back, Junie B. Jones by Barbara Parks

Book #1 – Junie B. Jones and the Stupid Smelly Bus

"Remember when it was scary to go to school? Cause it was your first day and you didn't know anything. Meet Junie B. Jones, kindergartner. She's so scared of the school bus and the meanies on it that when it's time to go home, she doesn't!"

Book #3 – Junie B Jones and her Big Fat Mouth

"Junie B's having a rough week. First she got punishment for Shooting off her mouth in kindergarten. Now she's in big trouble again! Cause Monday is Job Day and Junie B. told her class that she's got the bestest job of all. Only...what the heck is it?"

Although we have 17 books from this series, I will be looking for the missing ones! When her adventures in kindergarten ends, she starts all over again with First Grader At Last! Be sure to follow the adventures of Junie B!

The American Girls Collection These books tell the stories of six American Girls who lived long ago; Felicity, Josefina, Kirsten, Addy, Samantha, and Molly. Come visit with Molly, who schemes and dreams on the home front during World War Two!

Like Cats??...then you must read Mary Casanova's books Dog Watch; To Catch a Burglar. Kito and the gang set a trap but when it goes awry, they realize they're dealing with a professional. So Kito and Chester try again, putting their own home at risk. This time it has got to work. Read to find out why they are setting a trap, who is really causing the problems and how they solve it saving their own home!

Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson & David Oliver Relin A true story of one man's journey to change the world one child at a time.

Defiance by Valerie Hobbs "This beautiful and gripping story about the connections between faith, hope and free will is an inspiration to anyone who has difficulty setting priorities. Toby knows what he wants and isn't afraid to go for it, even in the face of the ultimate consequence. The victory of the human spirit shines through like the sun."

John Reynolds Gardiner's Stone Fox "Little Willy has a big job to do. When his grandfather falls ill, it is up to Willy alone to save their farm from the tax collector. But where can a ten year old get five hundred dollars in a hurry. Then Willy sees the poster for the National Dogsled Race. Can one boy and one dog be a match for the unbeatable Stone Fox?" Read and find out!!!

Mona Dunckel's "Escape "Rebels are coming. Missionaries are in danger and Charlie races for the border with his box of treasures but he doesn't know what his favorite treasure could be worth that is if he will give it up." Find out what that treasure is that Charlie values so much!

Dear America Series These are diaries written by young men, women and children of their life and profound events that occurred during their lives. They are written by various authors and the library has started collecting the series. "

Standing in the Light by Mary Pope Osborne- The captive diary of Catharine Carey Logan, Delaware Valley, Penn. 1763
Voyage on the Great Titanic by Ellen Emerson White- The diary of Margaret Ann Brady – RMS Titanic 1912

God's blessings until we meet again next month...God's peace.... Vicki D

Join the Sunday Lunch Club at the KROC
Sunday August 22, 2010
Meet in the narthex after the 11am service



Thanksgiving! Lutheran will reach out to our community by holding our **4th Sunday of the Month Lunch Club** at the **Salvation Army Kroc Center**, located at 28th and Y Streets in South Omaha. In addition to having lunch at the facility, guests from T!LC will tour the \$40 million facility and learn about the various programs offered by the Kroc Center. The 122,000+ square foot facility offers holistic enrichment for the physical, emotional and spiritual development of its members.

You are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about this community center and all it has to offer on August 22!

To learn more about the Salvation Army Kroc Center, go to <http://omahakroc.org>



Parents at Home Begins Sept 19th!

- Are you a stay-at-home mom or dad?
- Are you a working parent and have Thursday mornings off?
- Would you enjoy some Christian fellowship with other parents?

If so, then Parents At Home is for you!

Parents At Home is a group of parents that meets weekly to "encourage and build up one another" (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Our mission is to provide Christian support for parents in our church and community, through fellowship, prayer, worship and service. We invite any interested moms and dads to join us...

When do we meet? Thursday mornings from 9:00-11:00 a.m. when Bellevue Public Schools are in session (September 19, 2010 through mid-May).

Where do we meet? Come to the Chain Reaction Room at Thanksgiving! Lutheran Church's South Campus Building (next to T!LC Preschool, facing 36th Street).

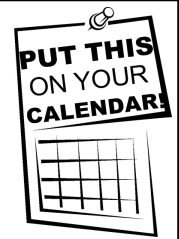
What do we do? Each week we have a different class or activity planned. Some classes are taught by group participants while other times we invite guest speakers. Once a month we enjoy a Bible study and discussion.

What about the little ones? Your children are welcome to stay in the well-staffed nursery in the main church building. We also offer a preschool enrichment program designed for 4 & 5 year olds.

How can I find out more? For more information please call Joy Lee at 402-953-1508 or Dana Clow at 402-292-1870.

See you September 19th for the start of our new year!

Dates to Remember:



August 15—Healing Prayer Service

August 20—7th-8th Grade Lock In

August 22—Lunch at the KROC Center!

August 22—5th-6th Grade Dress for Mess

August 25—Family Dinners Begin (5:30pm)
Awana Kickoff/Orientation
Confirmation Kickoff/Orientation

August 28 & 29 Sunday School begins (all ages)

August 29—High School Kick-Off

August 30—TLC Blood Drive

September 1—Cross Culture begins

Sept 2—Divorce Care, Divorce Care for Kids, and Grief Share begin.

Sept 4-6—Life Light in South Dakota

Sept 6—Offices Closed for Labor Day Holiday

Sept 7—Stephen Ministry Picnic

Sept 8—Small Group Leader Forum

Sept 12—High School Mid Size begins

Sept 10—Power Surge Adventure Night

Sept 15—Member Orientation Class begins

Sept 24-26—High Voltage Retreat

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2010

OUR VISION STATEMENT

*Our Vision is for All People to Live Transformed Lives by **Belonging** to the Family of God, **Believing** in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and **Becoming** Spirit-Empowered Servants of Christ!*

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to reach out and gather people into the family of God, equipping them to be disciples of Jesus Christ in our community, nation, and world.

CHURCH OFFICE

Hours: Monday-Friday - 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Phone: 402.292.2695
Fax: 402.292.0248
E-mail: thanks@thanks-giving.org
Website: www.thanks-giving.org
Parish Care/Stephen Ministry: 402.292.7633
T!LC Preschool: 402.292.0315

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

5:30 p.m. Saturday *Jubilation!* Service
Sunday: 8:15 a.m. Heritage Services
9:30 & 11:00 a.m. *Jubilation!* Services
Nursery Available for All Services
Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Weekends

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

September through May , , ,
* Saturday Night Kidz Church (during 5:30 Worship)
* Sunday School-Youth & Adult 9:30 and 11:00
* Wednesday Night Awana & Power Surge
* Confirmation (Grades 7 & 8)
* Numerous Weekly Senior High Youth and Adult Small Group Bible Studies
Various Jr. & Sr. High Activities are held throughout the summer months.

T!LC STAFF

Pastors:

Rev. Glenn J. Harless, Senior Pastor
Rev. Bruce L. Kotila, Pastor of Discipleship Training
Rev. David S. Witkop, Pastor of Congregational Ministries
Care Ministries Coordinator Vicar Susan Westland
Worship & Music Coordinator Cheryl Smith
Operations Manager Harold Carlson
Office Manager Sara Zivny
Preschool Director Dana Crosgrove
Children's Ministry Director Connie Barnhart
Awana Director Barb Kotila
Youth Director Mark Richards
Worship & Music Director Carol Umberger
Nursery Director Regina Masek
Kids of the King Director Denise Dunn
Heritage Choir Director John Hendrickson
Handbell Choir Director Liane Kirmis

*Life Change
through
Life in Christ!*