



www.thanks-giving.org

July 2010

Volume 26, No. 7

Dear Friends In Christ,

- **On Sabbatical With You**

It is exciting to have the front page all to myself. Pastor Bruce will be sharing next month and I have the privilege of sharing this month while Pastor Glenn is on sabbatical. Let's us be in prayer for Pastor Glenn and Suzanne as they are refreshed, refueled, and re-created by God's grace over the summer months.

What if we all were committed to a time of sabbatical this summer? "That would be great," you say, "but very impractical." Not so fast. Let's explore for a moment. First, let's define sabbatical. Moreover, let's define sabbatical in T!LC language. Sabbatical would be living out covenant and kingdom in a balanced manner. In order to walk in the covenant, we would be committed to renewing our relationship covenant to God and to one another through worship, prayer, and time alone. In our covenant time, we would renew our identity in Christ and then walk in obedience to His will for our lives. This would naturally lead to building God's kingdom. We would discover our kingdom responsibilities and live them out in God's power and authority.

Well, "sounds good," you say, but let's get even more practical. What would this *really* look like in the upcoming months? *What if* the summer time was used for rebalancing our lives on the covenant/kingdom pendulum. Here is a peek into someone's summer calendar who was living out a sabbatical of covenant/kingdom. **(Continued on page 4)**

- **Children's Ministry**

This is a time of transition in children's ministry. As we continue to move forward in serving our T!LC families and reaching out to the wider community, Karen Brayfield will be transitioning out of her role as children's ministry director. Please thank Karen for her devotion and love to our T!LC children and families. In addition to the many hats she wore on Sunday mornings, Karen helped to begin our Wednesday night program called AWANA. We wish Karen and her family God's blessings in their new endeavors. We have two new interim directors. Connie Barnhart will serve as the interim children's ministry director and Barb Kotila will serve as the AWANA director. As an X-factor community, we encourage you to support both Connie and Barb in the coming year.

- **The Power of Just One Prayer Walk**

On a recent June sunny Saturday morning, eight people from T!LC began a partnership with Hope of Glory Christian Fellowship Ministries and Williams Prepared Place, their Christian-based substance abuse treatment facility.....**to read what happens next turn to page 4**

Seeking A Covenant/Kingdom life,
Pastor David

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.

T!LC SUPPORT GROUPS ON THURSDAY EVENINGS:



DivorceCare - 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)

– Will be offered in the fall concurrently with *DivorceCare*. Registration fee is \$15. For information, call Lisa Witkop at 402-293-9067.



GriefShare – Spring Session

Will be offered in the fall. Registration fee is \$15. For information, call Vicar Susan Westland, Parish Care Ministry Coordinator at 402-292-2695.



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.

*There is none
holy as the
LORD:
neither is
there any
rock like
our God.*



1 Samuel 2:2

14Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. 16Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:14-16 NIV)

All of us have endured trials and hardships at some point in our lives and God uses our trying times to mold us into his image. Hebrews 4:14-16 teaches us to come boldly and confidently to the throne of God with our needs. Verse 14 tells us to hold firmly to the faith we profess. The faith which proclaims Jesus is the Christ, he died for our sins on the cross at Calvary, and he is the resurrected Son of God who is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Jesus, our high priest is able to sympathize with our weakness because, as a human, he has been tempted in every way without being sinful. Jesus, the Word, became flesh—when the eternal Son of God took on humanity—he did not merely become a man in part, but fully became a true human being. (John 1:14) He knows what it is like to suffer because as a human he suffered and felt all of the human emotions we do including sorrow (Matthew 26:38) and a troubled spirit (John 13:21; Hebrews 5:7)

We are told to come to the throne with confidence. When we think of being confident to approach God we may wonder why we are worthy to come to God, but the confidence spoken of in Hebrews does not come from us, but is a gift from God given in his grace and mercy poured out upon us daily. The confidence is given to us through the power of the Holy Spirit which assures us that God’s mercy and grace will be given to us because God is love. Love is part of his nature and character. We do not need to rely on our love for him to strengthen us and give us confidence because the abundance of the love we receive from God is given freely. God’s love is described in the words of John 3:16 as a love so immense that he sent his own Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to die for us.

We all experience God sized problems in our lives that require God sized answers to our prayers and only God can meet God-sized needs. In our times of weakness we need to turn to God for strength. God hears our prayers and provides everything we need. (Philippians 4:19). When we face God-sized problems we should run to the throne, bow down before him, and tell our Father what is going on in our lives. He already knows our needs, but he is waiting for us to come and talk to him, to seek his intervention in our lives, and to pour out his abundant mercy upon us.

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.

Immunizations

In the history of mankind, two landmark changes of behavior have contributed to improved health and well-being for all people. These changes of behavior have nothing to do with hospitals, medication or diet. The most important development was recognition of transmissible diseases and development of appropriate sewage and waste management. Also with this recognition of infectious disease causing health problems, was the development of immunizations. Portions of the world still suffer daily from the effects of the polio virus. We are extremely fortunate in this country to have this devastating disease almost eliminated.



The message today is with adult immunizations. Several adult immunizations should be kept current. These immunizations include tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis (Tdap). Most individuals are immunized to mumps measles rubella, chickenpox and polio in childhood. However, all adults should review their immunity to Tdap, chicken pox and hepatitis B.

Tdap – (1) This is a combination vaccine that provides immunity to **tetanus** (Td), otherwise known as lockjaw. This is a severe and devastating neurologic disease as a consequence of a wound infection. Over a hundred cases occur annually in this country and this disease will never be eliminated. It is 100% preventable with the tetanus immunization. (2) This immunization also provides **diphtheria** immunity. This is a severe upper respiratory infection that may lead to airway obstruction. Obviously, this is more critical with young children and infants. (3) **Pertussis** is also a severe upper respiratory infection that may cause a persistent, nagging cough which may last several weeks. Once again, pertussis infection (otherwise known as **whooping cough**) is most critical in young children and infants and may lead to respiratory distress and respiratory failure.

Up until 2005, a vaccine for adult pertussis was not available. We have recognized that many children beyond age 7 are now acquiring this infection and health departments are extremely aggressive with identifying pertussis cases and immunizing and treating all contacts. This spring 2010, **over 10 cases have been identified in Sarpy County**, in elementary schools and day care facilities. The Tdap immunization (which includes pertussis) has now been approved for all adults up to age 65. Therefore, the important take-home message is for all adults to evaluate their immunity to Tdap, and check on their last immunization. **This should be updated every 7 or 10 years.** We previously thought this was critical because of tetanus immunity. However, this is even more important to prevent transmission of the pertussis organism to infected children from adults to other children. Yes, this could potentially occur to anyone coming in contact with children (grandparents!!). Therefore, the approach to Tdap is different. It is not necessarily only indicated if you have had an injury, but **should be updated to protect all of our children.**

Herpes zoster is otherwise known as shingles. This is caused by a virus known as varicella or chickenpox. We can now prevent chickenpox in young children with regular immunizations at one year and kindergarten. However, the varicella virus is sneaky. Our body's immune system can never totally eliminate the virus from our body. The virus hides in our spinal cord where the immune cells cannot reach it, to kill it. Therefore, the virus can hide in our spinal cord for over 50 years. At times of stress, nutritional deficit or other illness, the virus can become bold and come out in one specific nerve in our body. This is the severely painful rash known as **shingles**.

Recently a new immunization has been developed to prevent shingles, or zoster. (Also known as herpes zoster.) This immunization is called ZostaVAX and can safely be given to all individuals over age 64. Insurance coverage is variable depending upon the individual plan. However, immunization is highly encouraged to prevent this severe infection. Please consult your health provider to see how this can be obtained. Shingles is an incredibly painful medical condition that now can be prevented with a vaccine. The pain from shingles in some cases may never be eliminated once acquired.



Hepatitis B should be considered by all adults. This is a viral infection acquired through contact with body fluids of infected individuals. **Hepatitis A** should be considered by all adults traveling to the southern portion of the United States or out of the country.

Influenza vaccine should be given yearly. This year's influenza vaccine (2010) should contain H1N1 immunity as well so hopefully this concern will be put to rest.

The important take-home message is for all adults to review their immunization status with their family physician or health provider. Immunizations are not only a topic for children and infants. Many immunizations are required for junior high students and students headed off to college. Please update with this information with your health provider.

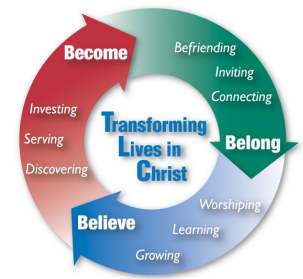
The body and your health is an incredible gift from God! Learn how to take care of your body, and treat it with extra special care!

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.***

Continued from page 1.....On Summer Sabbatical With You



July—August Summer Sabbatical: Covenant/Kingdom Style

Daily:

- 15 minutes for prayer
- Call to check in on your spouse/friend and/or children
- Dinner time with the family.

Weekly:

- Date night with friend or spouse
- Family night doing something fun with the whole family
- Attending Bible study or small group and weekly worship

Monthly:

- Take one day for yourself to go somewhere and do something you really enjoy.
- Plan or implement your block party.
- Take time with your family or church family to serve in a local setting: Adopt a Block in N. Omaha, serve at the Open Door Mission, become a grand-friend through Desert Ministries, participate in Project Serve Day on July 17th

If you read this summer calendar and you think, “yeah right,” then I would ask you to consider whether or not you are in balance. We spoke about becoming an X-factor kind of community. This would be one way to begin. Gather the family together, get everyone’s buy in, and then make a plan and stick to it.

My summertime challenge to Thanksgiving! Lutheran Church: 100 comments to this article by August 31, 2010; describing how you or your family is living out a covenant/kingdom lifestyle! There will be a \$50 gift card for the most entries of covenant/kingdom living, as well as a \$50 gift card for the family/person who comes up with the most innovative way for living out covenant/kingdom this summer. Go to www.thanks-giving.org and click on the front page article and add your comments. You can also listen to the sermon from June 6th to learn more. Covenant and kingdom are not only wonderful theories. They are a way to live life to the fullest, just as Jesus promised. (John 10:10)

Continued from page 1.....The Power of Just One Prayer Walk



Together we are carrying out their vision that every church in North Omaha will Adopt A Block, influencing and transforming the community with the love of Christ.

Today is the first step in that vision, a prayer walk through 36th to 38th, Bedford to Pinkney Streets, an area of North O well-known for its gang violence.

We began with prayer and a strategy meeting led by Pastors Bruce and Pat from Hope of Glory. A former gang member planned our route, making sure we visit houses of people she knows need prayers and help. One more prayer for God’s safety and guidance and, armed with Bibles, fliers, and bags of oranges to hand out, we depart.

We really didn’t know what to expect. There have been a lot of shootings in Omaha lately. But as we walked, we prayed. Knocking on that first door was a bit scary. Many people were wary as they opened their doors – they knew we weren’t from their neighborhood. Amazingly, once we told them we were here to let them know someone cared about them and to invite them to church, most people were at least willing to talk to us. We prayed at houses where we knew people were being intimidated by the gangs, and we prayed for God to drive the evil out of their neighborhood. We met people who asked us to pray with them, a single mom with four children who needed help paying her gas bill, and identified several areas that needed yard work and trash removed.

One young man who has been “freed from drugs” experienced a personal kairos moment during the walk. He said that, all the time he was on drugs and doing things he shouldn’t have been doing, he had no purpose in life. Then he added, “Today I have found a purpose for my life. I can talk to people who have the same struggles and relate to them how God has changed my life.”

Wow. Just one prayer walk, and already lives are being changed. God is just so good.

The Life of Discipleship: Walking in the Covenant, Building the Kingdom

**“We are not human beings having a spiritual experience.
We are spiritual beings having a human experience.”**

A Testimony from Mike Johnson written by Pat Meyer

I heard this quote by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin for the first time not long ago in an adult education class at T!LC. It sums up where I am in my spiritual walk. Prior to hearing this, I had never considered anything other than the idea that we were created as physical beings; endowed with a spirit; designed to know Jesus; and destined to live eternally with God. The thought of being spirit formed first was a new concept for me. It totally reframed the way I look at the life God has given me and my purpose on earth. But I have not always been so focused on God's plan for my life.

A Walk With God to a Walk Without God

I grew up in a Christian family in the rural Midwest. I attended many church summer camps and vacation bible school programs. I accepted Christ at a very early age and walked with Him until my college years.

In my junior year of college, my parents divorced. They had not modeled a relationship filled with mutual respect and consideration during my childhood. A divorce between two people with a relationship like theirs wouldn't have been unexpected; nonetheless, it was traumatic for me. Unfortunately my parent's divorce shaped me negatively when it came to my own relationships. I was very emotionally insecure. I always had a girlfriend and tended to smother those with whom I desired relationships. I started to focus on living life my way, rather than the way God would have me live. I pursued a life that was fun and blocked out everything from the past – the remnants of my parents failed marriage, my childhood, and my walk with God.

Pursuing My Life On My Terms

I eventually finished college, settled down, started a family of my own, and embarked on a life that was not God centered. I had long ago abandoned the daily walk with God that I enjoyed when I was younger. I still went to church on Sundays, but I wasn't living out the messages that I'd heard during the week. Sunday became the worst day of the week for me. I asked myself why I was the ugliest person with my family on a day that should have been the most spiritual. I really did wonder if God's spirit had died in me.

My low self esteem and insecurities impacted every area of my life. I was not an approachable person and did not have many meaningful relationships. I always expected my closest relationships, including my marriage, to end. In fact I pushed hard to test those relationships – certain in my own mind that I would be abandoned. My life was like a double-edged sword. The love and affection I desired most was the most difficult for me to receive. I had become angry, but my family and God never gave up on me. Through their prayers and the healing touch of the Holy Spirit, I finally returned to the person I had once been.

A Simple Invitation

God began to awaken me spiritually about five years ago with the CrossTrek Men's retreats. Then about three years ago I received a simple invitation to join a Wednesday morning Bible study with Pastor Glenn and several other men. The study focused on the book *A Passionate Life* by Mike Breen and Walt Kallestad. The class served as a foundation for the spiritual journey that God was directing. I learned about maintaining effective relationships through concepts like the up-in-out triangle. I began to see how God had been trying to break into to my life over the years and became aware of my *kairos* moments.

Although I was rebuilding the foundation of my walk with Jesus, I did not understand the concept of spiritual warfare and how it was plaguing my efforts to reconnect with my spiritual beginnings. When I attended the Cleansing Stream Seminar, I read *The Bait of Satan* by John Bevere. Reading this book was huge for me. Finally, I came to understand that although I didn't know it, others had long forgiven me for my past emotional and angry transgressions. I never knew they had forgiven me because I had never forgiven myself. I had always felt unforgivable. Through Cleansing Stream, I realized Satan had used the guilt of my offenses to control me. When I understood and received my family's forgiveness, I was able to release my self-imposed guilt to God. Satan's foothold was broken and I was finally free. It felt as if a house had been lifted off of my shoulders.

At the Cleansing Stream Retreat, I learned how to directly confront Satan's attempts to intercede in many areas of my life through repenting, renouncing, and breaking free of sin. I will always be thankful to God for leading me to the Cleansing Stream ministry and *The Bait of Satan*. It freed me so that I could enjoy a closer relationship with Him and my family.

My Life Today

God gave me my spiritual life back through a simple invitation and through a deliverance ministry. I still have struggles, as we all do. The difference is how I handle them. Each day, I pray to God and have quiet time with Him. As a result, I see my life through a very different lens. I desire to live my life in service to the church and community. I see my tax practice as His practice and His provision. I want to set an example for my children and assist them in their spiritual journeys. I desire to fill my wife's life with respect, joy, and love. I want to give and serve, it is so freeing!

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.



Handy Person Ministry.....

The GSI (Good Samaritan Initiative)

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: Developing relationships, discovering stories, and discerning 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 pastordavid@thanks-giving.org, or call the church office at 292-2695.

Blessings!
Pastor David



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.

North Omaha Block Parties Planned for This Summer!!!

Block parties in North Omaha, in partnership with Abide Ministries, will be on:



July 13th
July 27th
August 10th

Join in an Adopt-a-Block neighborhood transformation in partnership with Abide Ministries. We are focusing on connecting to our neighbors through block parties and events; caring for our neighbors through mentoring, tutoring, and neighborhood cleanups; and calling our neighbors to a relationship with Jesus Christ through sharing the gospel.

For more information on how you can participate, please contact Pastor David at 292-2695 or send an email to pastordavid@thanks-giving.org

Sven & Cheryl Atkins
Kyle, Maddie Jones, Aaron Jones
11902 S 52nd St
Papillion NE 68133
(402) 934-9569

Larry & Renae Mai
4507 Edgerton Dr
Papillion NE 68133
(402) 933-6610

Dennis & Tracy Gramps
14012 Kelly Dr
Bellevue NE 68123
(402) 212-0565

Richard & Lynelle Kowalski
Haelee, Jady, Andrew
13803 S 22nd Cir
Bellevue NE 68123
(402) 682-9402

Rick & Kelley Pitts
Gabriel, Ashleigh
11734 Laura Ave
Bellevue NE 68123
(402) 614-9239

Nathan & Janelle Camp
Caitlyn, Thomas
7963 Shadow Lake Dr.
Papillion NE 68046
(402) 932-6758

Meet & Greet



OUR NEW MEMBERS

Project Serve Day

It's time to "Step Out and Serve" our community, nation and world during Project Serve Day on Saturday, July 17th. Our goal is to turn T!LC "inside out" by packing and distributing food, building relationships with the elderly, constructing homes for the needy, making quilts, sorting clothes and household items, partnering for Adopt A Block clean up projects, preparing for a North Omaha block party, and sewing dresses for Honduran girls. This is just one way for us to intentionally develop missional lives, making service a common part of our daily life. So check out the opportunities on the Serve Day insert, find an activity that matches your God-given talents, and sign up! It's that easy. You get to serve with a group, meet new people, and help out your neighbor. And don't forget to smile – let God's light shine through you in everything you do!

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://tlcmidsize.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.



THANKSKI XVIII

PLANNING 2011

REUNION 2010

**SNOWBOARDING CROSS COUNTRY
SKIING**

The Thankski XVIII planning session will be held **Saturday August 14th** at the Winks' Beach House. Your entire family is invited. We will especially welcome first timers.

Save the date and look for all the details next month! Thankski XVIII will be another fun trip!



It's Block Party Time

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

**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.

Winners will be awarded at the end of the summer!

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? _____

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

Monthly Stewardship

Through the month of May 2010 our expenses were 0.07% below plan and weekly contributions were 2.91% above plan which resulted in a positive cash flow of \$9,235.29 through May. Thank you for your faithful financial stewardship.

Capital Campaign (Building Fund)

The Ministry Challenge Fund appeal has come to an end and a new two-year capital campaign will began May 1, 2010 and will conclude April 30, 2012. There will be a threefold focus to this campaign; 1. Set aside a tithe (10%) for a future mission project, 2. Make capital improvements to our campus facilities, and 3. To pay down our debt on the Family Life Center. Thank you to those families and individuals that have returned an estimate of giving card for this appeal. If you have not yet returned an estimate of giving please prayerfully consider how God might be calling you to participate in this appeal.

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.

Benevolence Support

Thanksgiving! Lutheran Church provides many ministry opportunities impacting a number of individuals and families as a local church here in Bellevue, Nebraska; but did you know that seventeen percent (17%) of our weekly offerings goes to support ministries outside of T!LC? Your weekly contributions not only support the many ministries of our local congregation but they reach out across the United States and the world. We have provided a list of the various ministries that have received your financial support from January through May of this year. Check out the mission room for more information about many of these ministries or contact one of the Benevolence Committee members; Pastor David Witkop, Jennifer Conley, Kris Covi, Don & Lois Hansen, Karen Harned, and Mike Johnson.

Ministry	Contribution
A Woman's Touch Counseling Center	\$1,500.00
Abide Ministry	\$6,200.00
Afresh Anointing Church	\$1,250.00
Bellevue Food Pantry	\$4,352.00
Desert Ministries	\$6,000.00
Dominican Republic Missionaries	\$2,210.00
Good News Jail & Prison Ministry	\$4,000.00
Great Adventure Ministries	\$1,000.00
Honduras Mission Trip Scholarship	\$900.00
Hope Lutheran Church	\$2,000.00
In His Steps Ministry	\$2,000.00
Lutheran World Relief	\$15,000.00
Mission to all Nations	\$1,000.00
Mosaic	\$2,000.00
Navigators	\$3,000.00
Nebraska Synod - ELCA	\$26,171.82
Release Ministries	\$1,000.00
Seminarian Support	\$9,000.00
Shalom Ministry	\$2,750.00
Spirit of Faith Church (Good News Jail)	\$1,000.00
T!LC Emergency Fund	\$2,000.00
Wycliffe Bible Translators	\$6,000.00
Total	\$100,333.82



Report of Special Task Force for Heritage Sanctuary Renovations



In making decisions that affect our congregation we need to remember that our first priority must always be the mission of our church. The focus and future of our church is to teach people how to be fully engaged disciples of Christ. Our facilities exist to further the Kingdom of God for our congregation and to those outside our walls who need to be invited in.

Identified Needs

- More flexibility in the use of the Heritage Sanctuary in order to use the space for teaching as well as worship
- Audio-visual capability to enhance teaching during sermons or classes/retreats, and to be able to offer that capability for weddings, funerals, and outside groups such as AA and Scouts.
- Replacement of pews with chairs to increase number of seats, provide flexibility in use of the space, and because the pews are stained and in need of replacement. Chairs are much less expensive.
- Improved lighting
- New Easter paraments; new banners (both for the altar as well as the narthex); matching stoles for the pastors.
- Aid for the hearing impaired in both the Sanctuary and the FLC

Process

A task force was formed in March of people interested in providing input to the staff. Worship and Music Team members discussed the needs with members of the task force and others in the congregation. In May the W&M team invited task force members to join them in visiting four area churches to see how they had met the needs we identified above.

- Task force members were invited to express their thoughts and opinions in writing
- The Worship & Music Team and several task force members met on May 26 to discuss their findings and the written input and to make recommendations.
- The task force created committees to begin research into materials and costs so that if the council approves their recommendation, work can begin in earnest by the beginning of July.

Concerns

- Our primary concern in making changes to the Heritage Sanctuary is the desire to preserve the reverence and aesthetics of this traditional worship space. All four of the churches that the task force visited were either new or newly remodeled in the last five years. All were obviously thriving with growing membership. All of them had incorporated enhanced audio-visual and multi-use capabilities in their sanctuaries and other spaces in the church. Some of their efforts were more aesthetically pleasing than others, but the fact remains, in order to reach out and draw people into the family of God, they recognized the need to provide flexible use of their spaces. Our commitment must be to maintain the aesthetics of the sanctuary while still providing flexibility for teaching and other use.
- Projection surfaces need to be discreet, effort made to keep the sound cabinet small and unobtrusive, speakers should be smaller and less visible, projectors need to be placed discreetly.
- Greater use of technology will mean a need for more volunteers to operate it.
-

Recommendation to staff

- Upgrade the Sanctuary to have discreet projection surfaces for use with computer projected images
- Upgrade the sound system
- Improve lighting
- Include equipment for the hearing impaired
- Recommend planning for lighting as part of the media/sound upgrade even if lighting must be deferred until funds are available.
- Consider replacement of pews with chairs at some future date

After reviewing the input from the task force, the staff has recommended that the council approve the use of the Heritage Sanctuary as a multi-use room. The task force committee will research equipment options and will coordinate with the facility/business manager, worship and music coordinator, and council in purchase decisions.

Council Response: Since the Heritage Sanctuary has been a multi-purpose space in the past, it will continue to function as a multi-purpose space to allow flexibility for a variety of ministries to utilize that space.



**The T!LC Library Corner
It's Your Library!
Happy 4th of July 2010!**

We've said goodbye to spring and we thank you Lord for such a beautiful one this year. Now we are nearing another holiday milestone, the 4th of July. Once again we say thank you Lord for your constant presence and for those who serve in preserving this freedom so that we are able to celebrate each year.

The following is a recap of sections in the library although it's still under construction. By the end of summer it should be put back together with new areas.

I have added new sections, while others have been cut back to accommodate all the wonderful donations. Again, please keep in mind that I am in the process of revamping the library but this will give you an overall view of what is available. As you walk into the library door, if you turn to your left as you proceed around the library you will see the following: Youth books/DVD; Biographies; Devotions; Spiritual Growth; Family Life.

The back wall holds reference materials for studying the bible as well as various bible translations. There is a prayer book section that has been set up for easy availability. This entire wall section is growing, so make sure when your bible study groups start up in the fall you take advantage of this support material.

Fiction, non-fiction, books on Luther, people of the bible, history and geography of biblical lands are found on the window wall. These shelves are filled with wonderful Christian based stories as well as several well known series. What a great way to spend your summer reading while economizing and getting good Christian based books to read at no cost to you.

The last wall has a shelf hanger on the door that contains VHS and DVD's of people of the bible as well as films based on the bible. Books that address men's and women's issues as well as entertaining fiction books are found on these last book shelves. Finance, wellness, cooking and miscellaneous topics round out the bulk of these shelves.

The last bookshelf as you leave the room has the latest books that celebrate the present church season. Lent, Easter, Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas are among this list. This will also contain new books that have been donated to the library and some will be featured in the newsletter articles each month. We are trying to expand these particular areas so that we have good seasonal books to share with the family.

Don't forget the Children's Book Nook in the gathering room outside the Sunday school rooms. These books are for our younger set.

By sharing your books, DVDs and CDs we are affording many families the opportunity to enjoy Christian based reading. Keep them coming. We share some of your wonderful donations with the Youth group sale that could not be utilized in the library, so your donations helped support their ministry as well.

Be safe with God until we meet again next month...God's peace – Vicki D

Dates to Remember:



**July 3—Omaha Royal vs Iowa
Cubs, Fireworks show.
Rosenblatt Stadium**

**July 5—Offices Closed for July
4th Holiday**

**July 14—4 yr old TLC Preschool Reunion—
regular class time**

July 16—Newsletter Deadline

July 17—Project Serve Day

July 25—Healing Prayer Service

August 15—Healing Prayer Service

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

August 30—TLC Blood Drive

Sept 6—Offices Closed for Labor Day Holiday

Sept 7—Stephen Ministry Picnic

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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
Interim Children's Ministry Dir Connie Barnhart
Interim Awana Dir 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!*