



www.thanks-giving.org

June 2010

Volume 26, No. 6

Dear Friends In Christ,

Sabbatical – Healthy congregations strongly encourage their pastors to take a sabbatical.

Typically, sabbaticals are two to three months in length, and are granted for the purposes of rest and study. Almost universally, they result in the pastor returning refreshed and invigorated for ministry. With the Congregational Council's approval, I will be on sabbatical the months of June and July, and will be back in the office on August 3. During this time I will *not* be checking emails or phone messages at the church. Please make sure that you direct your messages or questions to other staff members. I appreciate very much your love and support, and I will look forward to seeing you all again in August!

Staff Restructuring – As all organizations grow and change, they often restructure their staff and organization to be more effective and efficient in carrying out their vision and mission. When I first arrived at T!LC in 1992, the “staff” consisted of myself and a part-time secretary. Over the years, as our church has grown, so also have the number of people on our church staff. Not surprisingly, my time at the office has increasingly been spent supervising and managing staff; responsibilities for which I am not particularly gifted and which probably could be done as well or far better by someone who was more gifted for such a ministry. More importantly, as your Senior Pastor, our current structure keeps me from fully operating in my strengths, and hinders me from investing more time in leadership development, transitioning our congregation from a culture of membership to discipleship, visioning, and preaching. During the last couple of years, our leadership has been increasingly aware that there were changes that needed to be made, but we simply have not seen the way forward until now. At our meeting of the Congregation Council, on May 20, the Council affirmed the following. Pastor Bruce Kotila and Pastor David Witkop will continue to report directly to me. Pastor Bruce's title will be Pastor of Discipleship Training. He will continue to train adults for deeper discipleship through teaching, leading retreats, and prayer ministry. Pastor David's title will be Pastor of Congregational Ministries. All other staff members and ministries will fall, directly or indirectly, under Pastor David's supervision. He will be responsible to assure that each staff member or ministry is fully aligned to our vision and mission, and that they are operating at a high level of excellence and bearing fruit for God's kingdom. Pastor David is eager to learn new skill sets as he takes on this role. I ask that you would pray for the Lord's blessings for our entire staff and ministries as we make this transition.

Capital Appeal – Just a reminder that we are encouraging your participation in a new 24 month capital appeal that began in May. Thanks to all of you who have thus far turned in an Estimate of Giving Card for the appeal. If you have not yet filled out a card, please continue to pray about how the Lord may want you to participate. A follow up letter will be coming in the mail.

Kids Against Hunger – If you were in worship on the weekend of May 23, you heard about a ministry called “Kids Against Hunger.” This is a ministry which works with volunteers to purchase food, packet it, and send it all over the world to feed people who are hungry or starving. The specially formulated meals, which are prepared in about 20 minutes by adding boiling water, will actually begin to reverse the starvation process in just a few days. One of the great things about this ministry, is that it is intergenerational. Singles, couples, and whole families can participate, including children as young as about 5 years old! Consider the following:

25 cents feeds 1 Child per Day
\$1.50 = 1 Bag = 6 Meals
\$54 = 1 Box = 36 Bags = 216 Meals
1 Person + \$100 + 2 Hours = Food for 1 Child for 1 Year

Please mark your calendars now for the weekend of October 23 and 24. T!LC has scheduled a packaging event at the Kids Against Hunger warehouse in Omaha. We will be scheduling people for 2 hour shifts. Our goal between now and then is to raise \$25,000.00 so that we package 100,000 meals on that weekend! A special fund has been set up at T!LC for this purpose, and you may contribute into it at any time! Already \$4,826.00 has been contributed! Make checks out to T!LC, and put checks or cash in an envelope and label it “Kids Against Hunger.”

The Lord's Blessings! - Pastor Glenn Harless

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.



Follow the Light of the World
Vicar Susan Westland

¹But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ²At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them...¹²When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (NIV)

Throughout history mankind has been exploring the boundaries of our world and universe. We have traveled over land, across the oceans, and into the heavens. In order to know where they were going and not get lost, explorers of all kinds developed navigational systems to follow. Gary Inrig in his booklet, *Navigating the Storms of Life*, states, "The only hope a sailor has of surviving a storm and navigating an ocean is to have a fixed reference point that enables him to discover where he is and where he is heading." Sailors and navigators have often used the North Star and the heavenly bodies as primary reference points. Later they developed tools, known as Sextants and compasses, to help them know where they were going. Today we use sophisticated satellites and GPS systems to compute our travel destinations.

If you are like me, these new fangled gadgets are complicated to operate and at times more frustrating than they are worth. Most of the time I am so frustrated with the GPS on my phone that I carry it with me in the car and never turn it on. When it is not on it is not of any use, therefore if I am going to use it, I have to learn how the program operates or it is of no value to me.

The same can be true for the spiritual tools God has given to us to help navigate the journey of our life. If we carry our Bibles around with us but we never open them up or study them, then like the fancy GPS, they are worthless in helping us get to our eternal destination. Our Christian navigational point of reference is our Savior Jesus Christ. He is our true North Star. We learn about his character and how to follow, the Light of the World, as we develop a personal relationship with him.

Living in our modern culture is complicated and trying to navigate through life can be like sailing off into uncharted waters without any navigational aids. God's Word tells us that as believers, we are not exempt from rough waters and we will face times of trial in our lives. Luke's Gospel teaches us that Jesus steered his life by Scripture. This becomes very evident in the story of the temptation of Christ given in Luke 4 where Jesus quotes God's word and holds firm to his Father's truth in overcoming the temptation of Satan. We need to follow his example and use our Scriptures as navigational Sextants to help us follow Christ in the storms of life.

The Good News of the Gospel assures us that we are never alone when we travel through stormy waters. We are tempted daily and at times it feels like there is no escape. God has given us a North Star, our Savior, to follow him in our daily lives. We receive peace from the Holy Spirit that we are never lost or far from home when we follow God's truth and deepen our relationship with Christ through prayer, reading and studying Scripture, and daily abiding in his love.



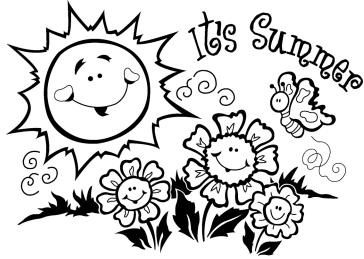
Stephen Ministry
God's Love In Action

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.

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.



Sun Safety

The summer has finally arrived! The sun makes us feel good. The sun's energy makes plants grow and adds beauty to the face of this Earth.

The sun's rays also make **us** look good, in the short term. But this pleasure isn't a two way street. Exposure to sun causes most of the wrinkles and age spots on our faces. Over time, the sun's ultraviolet light damages the fibers in the skin called elastin. When these fibers break down, the skin begins to sag, stretch and lose its ability to go back into place.

What Causes Skin Cancer?

Skin cancer is the most prevalent form of all cancers in the United States. The number of cases continue to rise. It is the uncontrolled growth of abnormal skin cells. Ultraviolet radiation from the sun is the **number one** cause of skin cancer. Ultraviolet light from tanning beds is just as harmful. Exposure to sunlight during the winter months put you at the same risk as exposure during the summertime. Cumulative sun exposure causes basal cell skin cancers and squamous cell skin cancers.

Episodes of **severe sunburns**, **primarily in childhood**, can lead to very serious skin cancers called melanomas.

What Are Safe Sun Guidelines? (Protect the children!)

Avoid excessive sun exposure - Sun light damages your skin. The sun is strongest at the middle of the day between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Sunburns and suntans are signs of skin damage. The more damage the sun does to your skin, the more likely it is that you will get early wrinkles, skin cancer and other skin problems.

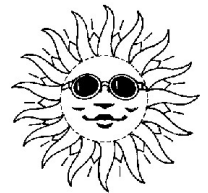
Use sunscreen - Use a sunscreen or sun block with SPF of at least 15, even on cloudy days. Put sunscreen on 30 minutes before you go into the sun. Put sunscreen everywhere the sun's rays may touch you, even your ears, the back of your neck, and the top of your head. Put more sunscreen on (every hour or so) if you are sweating or swimming.

Wear a wide brim hat and sunglasses - If you have to be out in the sun, cover up your skin. A hat with a 6-inch brim all around it is the best. Baseball caps DON'T protect the back of your neck and top of your ears. Use sunglasses that block both ultraviolet A (UVA) and ultraviolet B (UVB) rays. Wearing sunglasses can protect your eyes from cataracts. Wear protective clothing such as long sleeve shirts or long pants that fit loosely.

Don't try to get a tan - Do not use tanning salons. Tanning beds damage your skin just like real sunlight.

Ultraviolet exposure increases the risk for skin cancer among people with all skin types, but especially fair skinned

Lutherans. Those who sunburn readily and tan poorly, mainly those with red or blond hair, and fair skin that freckles or burns easily, are at highest risk for developing skin cancer and would benefit from vigilant sun protection behaviors. The risk is 20 times higher among fair skinned people than those from African descent.



The '**ABCDE rule**' can help you look for signs of skin cancer. When looking for moles on your skin, look for the

following:

- A** - asymmetry: When both sides of the mole do not look the same.
- B** - border: The edges of the mole are blurry or jagged.
- C** - color: The color of the mole changes; if it's darker than before or the color spreads.
- D** - diameter: When the mole is larger than the size of a pencil eraser.
- E** - elevation: When the mole is raised above the skin and has a rough surface.

If you notice a mole has changed or has these characteristics, visit your health provider. Skin cancer can be treated successfully if it is treated early. But most importantly, **protect your skin from excessive skin exposure**.

Your body is an incredible gift from the Lord, please take good care of it!
Please contact the T!LC Care Ministries team if you have any questions!

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.***



Desert Ministries Annual Phonathon June 7-18. Want to help one of our mission partners? Desert Ministries, serving metro-area elderly living in care facilities, is looking for volunteers to make phone calls during its annual Phonathon. Training starts at 5:30pm, followed by calls from 6-9pm. All calls are made to previous donors and the caller uses a script. The goal is to raise \$15,000 to support their outreach to the elderly. This would be a fun small group event!! Interested?

Sign up at 402-556-8032 or online at desertministries.org.



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. Please come to the informational meeting on **June 20, 2010 at 9:45** in the S. Campus Conference Room to learn more! Email Pastor David at pastordavid@thanks-giving.org or Mike Albers at malbers@qualitytm.com with questions.



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. We will have a meeting **June 27th at 9:30 in the S. Campus Conference Room** to discuss the entire process and field all of your questions.

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

Blessings!

Pastor David

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

An X Factor Challenge

Pastor Bruce Kotila

While visiting a church near my home several years ago, I listened with interest as the pastor shared about his desire to become a true spiritual leader. He recalled the numerous invitations that he receives in his mail each week to attend leadership conferences that promise the keys to wise and effective leadership. Some, he confessed, he had even attended, though seldom did they deliver anything close to what had been promised. He also spoke openly about his deep desire to have the congregation view him as a great spiritual leader, and the fallout that resulted from such a pursuit. His candor was both refreshing and challenging. Then his message took an unexpected turn. In a way that was both honest and graceful, he spoke of his conviction that he could never be a great leader until he was God's man at home for his wife and 6 children. I could hear in his voice, and see in his eyes, a man who had encountered God and had come to understand God's will for his life.

His desire, of course, is not his alone but one that I find among many men and women who are seeking to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. They understand their priorities as a child of God, husband or wife, father or mother but struggle to consistently live their priorities in a meaningful way. Time pressures, crises of varying kinds, emotional fatigue, mounting financial obligations, feelings of inadequacy and dealing with the expectations and criticism of others, all take their toll. Should any of us lose our battle of living with these pressures, an emotional weariness and spiritual disillusionment are almost certain to settle in. Some of the symptoms include a sporadic and ritualistic devotional life, strained marital relationships and children who begin to resent the church or reject the faith. Surely God never intended for such desperate circumstances to characterize the life of any family, let alone the people of God.

It is not my intention to try and propose simple solutions for what is almost always a complex situation. However, if you are reading this and can identify with the desire to be a great spiritual leader at home (whether mom or dad), I would encourage you to take up the challenge once again. The rewards are well worth the time and effort. Make a list of everything that is keeping you from realizing your dream and then purpose by God's grace to find a way to resolve each and every obstacle. Go forward with the knowledge that this is God's will for you and your family. Just as God enabled Joshua and the people of Israel to take the Promised Land, God will give you the victory in this area of your life if you don't give up the fight (Galatians 6:2).

A starting place might be embracing the spiritual discipline of simplicity. We live in a culture that promotes dissatisfaction and a lack of contentment with what we have in life, especially as it relates to material possessions. As a result, many times our possessions own us and control the way that we direct our lives. If we are to live as disciples of Jesus Christ, we must learn to relate to the physical world around us in a proper way.

Richard Foster in his book, *Celebration of Discipline*, makes the following points:

- The Christian discipline of **simplicity must be an inward reality** that results in an outward life-style, and any attempt to change the outward life-style without the inner reality will result in legalism.
- This is one area where the church has lost its battle with the world. Our need for security and our lust for affluence have made the Biblical ideal of simplicity an unachievable goal. "This discipline directly challenges our vested interests in an affluent life-style."
- The inner reality of simplicity is characterized by 3 attitudes about our possessions; all that we have is a gift from God (stewardship), what we have is to be cared for by God and all that we have is available to others. When we are actively seeking the kingdom of God, these 3 attitudes will characterize our lives.
- The discipline of simplicity is not concerned only with our possessions but also includes our preoccupation with status, position and power. It includes any unhealthy needs within us to have the recognition or approval of others and invites us to use plain and honest speech.

10 Practical Outward Expressions of Simplicity

- Buy things for their usefulness rather than their status.
- Reject anything that produces an addiction in you.
- Develop a habit of giving things away.
- Refuse the temptation of modern gadgetry.
- Learn to enjoy things without owning them.
- Develop a deeper appreciation for creation.
- Avoid the use of credit to defer payment.
- Obey Jesus' instructions about plain and honest speech (Mt. 5:37).
- Reject anything that breeds the oppression of others.
- Shun whatever would distract you from your main goal.

The fruit of a "simple" lifestyle is an abiding sense of contentment with our current circumstances (Philippians 4:11). It is out of this contentment that we can begin to say "no" to the many opportunities that come our way and thereby increase the amount of time and energy that we have to invest in the relationships that are important to us. Spiritual leadership in the home requires generous amounts of time to build and maintain relationships, with God and with our family. Make yourself available in this way and God will show you the next steps to fulfilling your dream of an X factor marriage or family life.

Creating Connections



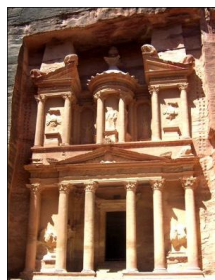
Plan your Lenten journey for next year now! From Jesus birth in Bethlehem to the empty garden tomb, join us. For more information call Pastor David at 292-2695, or e-mail Pastor David at pastordavid@thanks-giving.org.

Dear Friends,

I invite you to embark upon the journey of a lifetime! Whether it's the first time or a return trip, to walk in the steps of Jesus will be an inspiring experience. See the stories you've read or heard over the years come alive! Reaffirm your baptism in the waters of the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized.



Visit Bethlehem where Jesus was born, Nazareth where Jesus grew up and worked as a carpenter and Jerusalem - the holy city that was witness to the death and resurrection of our Lord. Can you imagine crossing the Sea of Galilee as Jesus calmed the storm, walking through the Mount of Olives as Jesus prayed with His disciples or being present when Jesus turned water into wine in Cana? This is but a glimpse of the drama that will unfold as we relive the life of Christ. What better faith enriching opportunity that will make the Bible come alive than to trod the path our Savior walked. Come and join the group for 10 days of inspiration, growth, fun and fellowship in Israel. You will never be the same! To enhance the wonder of such a trip, we will share special devotions at key points along the way corresponding to the places we visit.



The tour includes round trip airfare from Omaha, accommodations at first class hotels, Israeli breakfast and dinner daily, comprehensive sightseeing throughout and all entrance fees per the itinerary. I would be honored to have you join the group as we experience together the awesome sights of the Holy Land. Here is your invitation to reserve a place and make this a significant highlight in your Christian pilgrimage.

In addition to the tour of the Holy Land; Petra, Jordan has just been added as an optional 2 night extension. Petra is one of the Seven New Wonders of the World and chosen by the BBC as one of "the 40 places you have to see before you die".

In Christ,
Pastor David Witkop



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? _____

Monthly Stewardship

Through the month of April 2010 our expenses were 0.58% below plan and weekly contributions were 1.63% below plan which resulted in a negative cash flow of \$5,931.06 through April. Thank you for your faithful financial stewardship.

Ministry Challenge Fund

The Ministry Challenge Fund was a 24-month current ministry fund appeal from May 1, 2008 through April 30, 2010. We received 172 estimates of giving totaling \$486,804 or 97.4% of our goal of \$500,000. This two-year campaign ended in April with total contributions of \$476,442 or 97.9% of the estimates of giving.

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.

Youth Yard Sale June 4-5

The Youth Yard Sale is coming up soon, please save your used items for us to sell. We will be collecting clothing, furniture, household goods, toys, children's items and just about anything else **starting on May 30th** after church. You can look at the youth calendar for specific times when we will be in the FLC to help you unload, or you can bring your items to the FLC yourself any time that the church is open. You can also schedule a pick up for larger items by calling Mark Richards at 575-1619. We cannot accept mattresses or CRT (non-flat panel) computer monitors. The sale will be held on **June 4th and 5th**. We need help with pick up trucks, organizing and pricing the donations. If you would be available the week before the sale to help or the day of the sale, please contact Mark at the church office (292-2695)

Acolyte Training**June 13 at 12:15pm.**

If you are in grades 5-8 and interested in becoming an acolyte, there will be a training session on Sunday, June 13 at 12:15pm immediately following the 11am service, in the Narthex. Please call Sherry Albracht at 339-1782 or send an email to sherry_albracht@yahoo.com to register for the class or ask questions.



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

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

Here we are again with me wishing you a happy June 2010! It is at hard at times to comprehend that we are fast approaching the first day of summer and Memorial Day Weekend has just passed us by once again.

Through the X-Factor sermons that we have heard on Sunday, new doors have been opened to us either through hearing these sermons or carrying the X-Factor Cross. Please keep in mind that the library has many books that can help you move forward in devotional and spiritual growth .

Over the summer months, the library will be in full swing of incorporating new books onto the shelves. Many wonderful donations from our fellow members have once again been given to share with the entire congregation Books are continually rotated onto the library cart each week so make sure you check it out. This cart contains good reads for summer from all categories and for all ages.

I have been asked by individuals new to donating what transpires with the books; DVD's or CD's that are donated and what can be donated? The following is what happens to these items:

1. Books, DVD's and CD's are incorporated into the library.
2. Books, DVD's and CD's that are not put into the library are set aside for the library sale in October.
3. Books, DVD's and CD's that are not sold at the library sale are then:
 - A. Set aside for Fresh Anointing Library
 - B. Set aside for the youth sale
 - C Set aside to be taken to 1/2 Price Book Store and the dollars gained from this is put into the Library Fund where it is utilized in purchasing supplies or new books.

Many of you have asked what books are accepted in the library. We accept all books so this is a great place to unload those books that you wanted to get off those bookshelves, out of the closets or up and out of the basement. As mentioned above they go through a clearing process where they are eventually placed and we appreciate any and all donations. The Library Book Nook in the Sunday school area is where the children's books donated for preschool through 8th grade are kept. The youth library is found in the main library along with all the categories for Adults. I will be more specific in my July article how these shelves are arranged as I am making changes this month.

Through your past generosity of purchasing items at the book sale, we were able to donate funds to purchase Hymnals for the Heritage Sanctuary. Our hope is that in 2010 the library will be able to subsidize this funding again. As you can see, your time in finding and delivering books, DVD's, CD's to the library are well worth your effort.

And again, for those who have donated, a big thank-you. Knowing that these books will remain in circulation and read by others is an X-Factor moment of sharing your bounty of treasures not only within the church but to our extended family of Christians city, state and nation wide.

Have a wonderful June!

God's blessings and peace...
Vicki DeRoo

The 5th Annual Isaac C. Hall Superhero Blood Drive Monday, June 7th 1:00-7:00pm

Blood DRIVE

Over the course of Isaac Hall's three-year heroic battle with leukemia, he needed well over 100 blood and platelet transfusions. Each one was met with bravery and humor. Blood for Isaac and the numerous other patients in the greater Omaha area comes from YOU! Please help honor Isaac with a smile and a donation. The American Red Cross will be at T!LC on **Monday, June 7, 2010, from 1 p.m. until 7 p.m.** to collect as many units of blood as possible. We need blood donors, volunteers for the registration table and the canteen area, and donations of baked goods to serve the donors. This is a perfect way to praise God for your health and help others in need. Please call Shari Teixeira at 339-8226 or go to www.givebloodgivelife.org to schedule a donation appointment.

Kids looking for fun? Parents looking for a fun place for their kids this summer?


T!LC's the place for you!!

Now's the time to register for Kids of the King summer day camp. Enrollment includes part-time/full-time status.



\$95 per week \$22 per day.

- Camp runs May 24th-July 30th. It will be closed May 31st for Memorial Day.
- Sign up by printing the form from the church website. www.thanks-giving.org Kids & Youth tab.
- Questions, please contact Denise Dunn at 990 -8647 or dldunn24@gmail.com



News from The Nursery

Thank YOU!!
 The SonShine Place Nursery would like to thank everyone who donated their time or resources to the nursery. This includes everyone who volunteered or donated items off of the Helping Hands Tree. Your time and donations are greatly appreciated!

Dates to Remember:

June 3—VBS Volunteer Training Meeting 7pm

June 8—VBS Training Meeting 7pm

June 4 & 5—Youth Yard Sale

**June 6—Sacred Marriage Class Begins
 Summer Sunday School begins (9:30 worship hour)**

June 7—T!LC Blood Drive 1pm-7pm

June 12 & 13—CrossTrek Men's Retreat

June 13—Acolyte Training 12:15pm

June 13—Orientation/Connections Luncheon

June 15—Quilters for Christ Summer Quilting begins

June 21—25 Vacation Bible School

June 27—Healing Prayer Service (6:30pm)

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

July 17—Project Serve Day

July 25—Healing Prayer Service

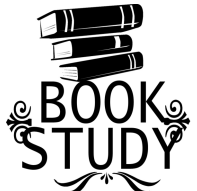


WOMENS BOOK STUDY

Women's Book Study will be held at 7:00 PM on Monday, June 14th at the Hanson Lake #2 home of Diane Wink. To reach the Wink home at 17305 Yucca Cir, follow 36th Street south to the end. Turn left on La Platte Road. Immediately after the "Chris Lake East" sign, turn right on Dyson Hollow Road. Turn left on Annabelle. Turn right at the first or second Yucca Circle. Gray House! OR, you can come south on Hwy 75 (the Kennedy Expressway) passing the light at Platteview Road. Turn right at the next light (La Platte exit / JRC's Phillips 66). Turn immediately left to parallel Hwy 75. Turn right on La Platte Road. Immediately prior to the "Chris Lake East" sign, turn left onto Dyson Hollow Road and continue as above.


Show up at 4:30 PM if you're interested in a swim or a boat ride. At 5:30 PM we will have a pot luck salad supper – bring a salad to share! At 7:00 PM we'll view Beth Moore's video on "Week Six: Blessings from Zion" and answer the questions found on pages 146 through 173 of "Stepping Up, a Journey through the Psalms of Ascent."

Call Diane at 292-1012 or Study Leader/co-hostess, Karen Rowell at 291-2401 to let one of them know you will be attending. Please feel free to enjoy the evening with us. If you are interested in participating at a later date, we always welcome new folks!



CrossTrek Men's Retreat

Mark your calendar for June 12 & 13th for a trip to the Sjogren Retreat Center in Ashland Nebraska. The weekend getaway is designed to provide inspiration and fellowship as we engage in Bible study, devotionals, and recreational activities. All men are invited—whether you are beginning your faith walk or have been a lifelong follower of Christ. More to follow!




Uniting men in Christ to positively impact families, friends, and community

Contact Kevin McArthur with questions
 Kevin_mcarthur@cox.net or 203-5305.

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.

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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
Children's Ministry Director	Karen Brayfield
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!*