



www.thanks-giving.org

March 2010

Volume 26, No. 3

Dear Friends In Christ,

The Ministry Challenge Fund (MCF) was established in May, 2008, to strengthen our staffing levels and ministry infrastructure at T!LC. We are projecting that this 24-month appeal will have received \$475,000 when it comes to a close on April 30, 2010! Your gifts to the Ministry Challenge Fund, gifts that are above and beyond your gifts to the General Fund, have made possible the following accomplishments. It has allowed us to retain a third pastor, to hire a part-time administrative assistant, to completely fund the Care Ministry Coordinator position, and to enter into a two year consultation with 3d Ministries. In addition, the MCF funded start up costs for two Mid-Size Communities, Adult Cleansing Stream, Youth Cleansing Stream, Healing Stream, AWANA Club, and the Good Samaritan Ministry. It also has provided training opportunities for staff and lay leaders. And finally, it has allowed us to build up a cash reserve to support and to provide start up costs for new ministries over the next three or four years! Thank you so very much your sacrificial gifts that have made these accomplishments possible!

A New Capital Appeal is now being prepared to begin immediately at the end of the current Ministry Challenge Fund. More detailed information will be available next month about this 24-month campaign. For now, I want to invite your feedback regarding these three goals for the capital appeal.

1. **Set Aside A Tithe** – God has blessed our congregation beyond our wildest imaginations! We want to give back to the Lord 10% of whatever is given to the new capital appeal. This money would be set aside for a yet undetermined mission project which would occur after the 24 month appeal.
2. **Make Capital Improvements** – All of these projects would be done as soon as possible, but not necessarily in this order, and as contractors and funding is available.
 - Replace/Upgrade/Add Exterior Signage
 - Reface the Exterior of the Original T!LC Building
 - Finish the Upgrades to the Heritage Sanctuary – New Chairs, Lighting, Sound and Media
 - Replace the Roof on the South Campus Building
3. **Reduce our Debt on the Family Life Center** – All remaining money will be used to reduce the debt (\$3.23M) on the FLC.

T!LC Joins Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) – On January 31, 2010, at a called Special Meeting of the Congregation, T!LC voted a second time in favor of terminating our relationship with the ELCA and joining LCMC. Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ who remain in the ELCA, as well as for God to bless our relationship with our new partners in mission in LCMC. You may learn more about Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ at www.lcmc.net.

Steve J. 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.



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 weekend immediately following each service. You are invited and encouraged to come for healing and other personal prayer needs.

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) - Meets: 6:15-8:00; East Hall
 A comprehensive 14-week biblically based and Christ-centered program that introduces children (ages 5-12) to the grieving process brought on by divorce and gives them tools necessary to develop healthier relationships within their own families. DC4K is offered concurrently with *DivorceCare*. Registration fee is \$15. For information, call Lisa Witkop at 402/293-9067.

GriefShare – Spring Session will be offered beginning March 4 –
 GriefShare Meets: 6:30 – 8:30, Conference Room. Registration fee is \$15.

A friendly, caring support group who walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences – the loss of a spouse, child, family member or friend. The loss may be very recent, or one that took place months or years ago. We are here when you need us.

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

All groups are **OPEN** – persons can begin attending at any time.

Take Courage I am Here! – Matthew 14:22-27 (NLT)

Vicar Susan Westland

²² Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. ²³ After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone. ²⁴ Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. ²⁵ About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!" ²⁷ But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!"

In this passage of Scripture three things stand out to me. First, Jesus insisted the disciples get back into boat while he dismissed the 5,000 plus people he had just miraculously fed and he needed time alone with his Father. The story tells us Jesus sent his disciples on to Gennesart while he stayed back. (Verses 34-36) From the reading we learn this would be no ordinary journey for the disciples. They were embarking on a faith building journey with the Savior.

Secondly, on the way the disciples encountered "trouble far away from land". A strong wind arose and heavy waves crashed in around them. They were afraid and may have wondered where Jesus was. Why had he sent them on ahead without him? Did Christ know the storm was on the horizon when he told them to get into the boat? The text doesn't say anything about the weather conditions, but it was not uncommon for storms to arise quickly on these waters at night. The disciples certainly didn't have the weather channel or a local news station's forecast of impending bad weather to alert them of a storm in the area. No, the disciples simply obeyed the desires of Jesus and sailed into the storm all alone without Jesus, or so it seemed.

Last, in the midst of the raging storm, in the middle of the night, Jesus appeared on the water and the disciples were terrified. Jesus calms their fears with the words, "Don't be afraid... Take courage. I am here!" Have you ever been in a fierce storm in the middle of the night? I have, and in those moments, I often feel the power of the enemy crashing in around me. Fear begins to take over and I cry out, "Lord, am I alone? Are you there?" His answer is always the same, yes my dear child I am here, take courage the storm will not last long.

Has Christ sent you on a journey filled with storms? Are the winds and waves of the tempest rocking your world? If so, look around; listen for the voice of our Lord crying out to you above the raging wind. You do not have to battle through the storm alone; he **is** with you. Like the disciples, we obey the commands of the Savior and go to where he sends us. We don't know how long the journey will take or what storms will arise on the way. These journeys are filled with faith building experiences and when the time of our teaching is fulfilled he will stretch forth his hand and calm the storm. Until that time find hope in the words of our Savior who tells us, "Take courage, Jesus says, "I am here!"

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.

The Lord's creation of the human body is incredible! Take good care of it! Vitamin D

Vitamins are substances that your body needs to grow and develop normally. There are 13 essential vitamins your body needs. Your body cannot manufacture enough of these vitamins for good health; they must be obtained through food you eat. Vitamins are A, C, D, E, K and the 8 B vitamins. You can usually get all your vitamins from food you eat. Your body can make vitamins D and K. People who eat a vegetarian diet should take a vitamin B12 supplement.

Vitamin D is the focus of this discussion. It recently has become a very hot topic in the medical literature and recognized as a very important vitamin to maintain health. Vitamin D deficiency in adults was previously thought to be limited to older persons living in institutions. Recent evidence suggests otherwise. Approximately 50% of persons age 65 and older in North America failed to maintain healthy bone density and poor dental health because of inadequate vitamin D levels. What is even more concerning is how the body obtains vitamin D. There are two main forms of vitamin D which can be obtained through the diet, vitamin D-2 through plants and vitamin D-3 obtained from oils and fish. There really are very few dietary sources that contain adequate amounts of vitamin D, unless the food is fortified with added Vitamin D. **Therefore, it is difficult to maintain adequate levels of vitamin D through dietary sources alone. Humans typically obtain 90% of vitamin D from sunlight.** The ultraviolet light of sunlight changes a chemical to vitamin D that is usable by the body. (Hmmm, this could be a problem in winters when we spent over 90% of our time indoors out of direct sunlight, especially in the winter of 2010.)



O! You might exclaim! How much sunlight is required to make adequate vitamin D? This is a very complicated question. In mid summer, when ultraviolet intensity is highest between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., only 15 minutes may be necessary. However, this 15 minutes may be enough for a good sunburn with the added long-term risk of skin cancer. Therefore, less intense sunlight over longer time periods maybe be desirable. Therefore, 30 minutes or an hour a day during the summer may be adequate. Obviously, more time may be required in spring and fall, and even more in the winter months. Skin pigmentation, geographic location, cloud cover and risk of cancer all must be taken into consideration. Therefore, this is a very critical understanding that vitamin D supplementation may be a good idea for all individuals through this difficult year, especially those at high risk (above age 65, breast-feeding mothers, and children.)

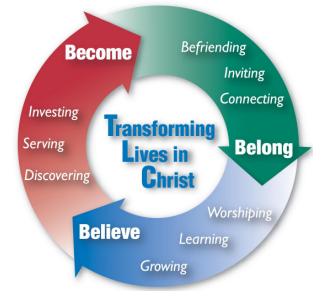
What are the benefits of vitamin D supplementation:

- **Fall prevention** - patients who received 800 IU units of vitamin D daily had a 72% reduction in falls.
- **Fracture prevention** - in adults 65 years and older, vitamin D intake is crucial to prevent hip and back fractures. Research suggests that the optimum and daily dose is 800 IU.
- **Heart disease** - low levels of vitamin D are associated with increased risk of heart problems.
- **Colon cancer** - studies suggest a modest dose of calcium and vitamin D lowered the risk of colon cancer.
- **Depression** - vitamin D deficiency has been linked to depression and decreased cognitive (brain) function.

The health community is becoming more aware that vitamin D plays an important role in preventing certain medical issues including diabetes, high blood pressure and even multiple sclerosis. It is not necessary always to run to the medical office in obtain a blood level of vitamin D, but this can be easily obtained. As noted above, it is difficult to maintain adequate amounts of vitamin D through dietary sources alone. Fortunately, most dairy products are vitamin D fortified, which is very important for children and nursing mothers. However, with the difficult winter that we have all experienced this last year, it could be wise to make sure we all take in at minimum of 200 – 400 IU of vitamin D daily in addition to our dietary intake of vitamin D to avoid deficiency states. Hopefully, with the arrival of spring and summer months, vitamin D supplementation obviously is not as big of a concern.

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.***

Thanksgiving! Lutheran Church 2009 Benevolence Support

Nebraska Synod	\$166,350.00
Bellevue Ministerial Food Bank	\$4,550.00

Designated Benevolence

A Woman's Touch Pregnancy Center	\$3,000.00
Abide Network	\$4,400.00
Afresh Anointing Church	\$3,464.00
Campus Crusade	\$1,100.00
College Scholarship	\$250.00
Desert Ministries	\$4,800.00
Dominican Republic Missionaries	\$2,400.00
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	\$200.00
Good News Jail Ministry	\$6,000.00
Great Adventure Ministries	\$1,000.00
Mission for all Nations	\$3,000.00
Mosaic	\$2,300.00
Navigators	\$3,000.00
Okoboji Bible Camp	\$2,000.00
Release Ministries	\$2,500.00
Seminarian Support	\$20,100.00
Shalom Ministries	\$4,800.00
Sri Lanka Missionary	\$1,500.00
Sudanese Assistance	\$2,700.00
T!LC Emergency Fund	\$5,500.00
Wycliffe Bible Translators	\$6,000.00

Special Benevolence

A Woman's Touch Pregnancy Center	\$696.00
Dominican Republic Missionary	\$4,659.00
ELCA World Hunger Appeal	\$233.00
Funerals	\$3,164.00
Habitat for Humanity (Lent)	\$17,685.00
Open Door Mission - Lydia House	\$2,468.00
Pastor Anyanya Fund Raiser	\$2,320.00
Project Las Americas (Dominican Rep)	\$9,299.00
Shalom Ministry	\$1,439.00
Sudan Water Project	\$1,500.00
Sudanese Scholarships	\$2,015.00
T!LC Emergency Fund	\$8,669.00
Total Benevolence	\$305,061.00

Ways to ...reach out...
into our community
...nation...and world!

GREETINGS!

Guest Services is looking for a few friendly people to welcome guests after T!LC Services

If this describes you, we would love to have you join the team. Greeters are at the guest table for 20-30 minutes after the 5:30pm Saturday service and 8:15, 9:30, & 11:00am services on Sunday. If God touches your heart to join us, please email:

Susan Madden at smadden600@cox.net

Geneva James at gbjam42@yahoo.com

The Altar Guild is looking for loving hands to help prepare the sanctuaries for services each Sunday morning. Duties include filling the candles, changing parameters and banners and setting up for communion. We are forming teams **to serve one month at a time**. Training is provided and men and women are welcome to join this time-honored ministry.

Contact Carol Umberger at 505-6999 or carol@thanks-giving.org.



Readers and Communion Assistants Needed for 9:30 and 11:00 Services

Looking for a way to serve the Lord here at T!LC? Communion servers are needed on the 1st & 3rd weekends of the month.

Do you have a nice speaking voice or a love for reading aloud? Our worship ministry needs message text readers!

Scheduling is flexible and training is available!

Please contact Donna Gilbert at 402-293-1656 or dqavon@cox.net

The Life of Discipleship: Walking in the Covenant, building the kingdom

When You Least Expect It

An Interview with Harold Carlson

By Pat Meyer and Pastor Bruce Kotila

Just Another Monday

On December 28, 2009, walls of plowed snow lined the streets around the church like a white privacy fence. The snow stood taller than most cars from the record snowfalls of previous weeks. On that Monday after Christmas, my son, Rob, and I had just unloaded a pallet of rock salt and were on our way to pick up another. It was late in the afternoon; it was cold; Rob was driving – these are the last things I remember.

Rob says I appeared to be sleeping. He realized I wasn't when he tried to talk to me and I didn't respond. Alarmed, Rob turned the truck around and headed for the south campus parking lot. Bob Belsaas, a member of T!LC's facilities team, and Vicar Susan Westland pulled me out of the truck and lay me down on the pavement. My heart had stopped; I had no pulse. Bob started CPR as the office staff called 911. Susan began to pray and God spoke to her that there was an AED (automated external defibrillator) in the church lobby behind the welcome center, so Rob ran to get the machine.

While they used the AED to restart my heart, a paramedic arrived. He'd heard the call for emergency services and recognized T!LC's address. Instead of reporting to the station, he came straight to the church and arrived before the ambulance.

Initially, doctors didn't know why my heart had stopped. The tests that normally indicate a heart attack were inconclusive. They *did* know that I had gone without oxygen for a period of time and warned my family of possible brain damage. Unable to breathe on my own, I was placed on a ventilator for the first twenty four hours. Eventually, the doctors found the left main artery of my heart was almost completely blocked and significant blockage in three other arteries.

A Life Restored

On New Year's Eve, I underwent successful quadruple bypass surgery and was sent home 4 days later with an excellent prognosis. Just two weeks later, I was back in front of the congregation presenting the financial report at our annual meeting. I opened my presentation with "It's a pleasure to be here," a greeting that expressed the thanksgiving in my heart for all that God had done.

Miracles Still Happen Today

It's a miracle that I'm here. In His sovereignty, God was at work, orchestrating with perfect timing a series of events that would save my life. I usually work alone in the main church building, but on this day I was with my son Rob. Had I collapsed when I was alone, no one would have found me for hours, and I surely would have died. Or, it could have happened a few days later when my wife Nancy and I were to leave for Tucson, AZ. We could have been on a desolate road or in a place where there was little help. But everything I needed to survive was in the right place at the right time. I was with other people, someone started CPR, the church had an AED, and a paramedic felt called to come to the church rather than report to the station first.

A Lesson Learned

I'm not afraid of dying; I've always known that God is in control. But I didn't have any forewarning that December 28th could have been my last day on this earth. I've never had signs of trouble; I'm a runner. I've never been short of breath, I've never had chest pains, and I've always had annual physicals. That day started out like any other, but became a day unlike any other. The experience has driven home the truth of James 4:14, "you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away." It is probable that God will give us tomorrow, but physical death comes to us all eventually, often times unexpected and unannounced.

We need to be ready for eternity at all times (2 Peter 3:1-7). Jesus warned the crowds of his day that life does not consist of one's possessions, even when one has an abundance of them. Then he told them the following parable:

Continued on page 6

Creating Connections



Last week in USA Today, there was an article entitled, “God goes to the office.” The article shared how more businesses are encouraging spirituality at work. A small but significant number of companies make a spiritual connection specifically to the Christian tradition, and owners of these organizations tend to be sincere Christians. When founder Truett Cathy faced a business crises at Chick-fil-A, a growing fast-food chain enterprise, he made glorifying God one of the corporation’s goals. Cathy also requires that all his stores be closed on Sunday.

There is also a growing spirituality movement in corporations because, as executives mention, it encourages creativity. More and more clergy serve as corporate chaplains. I have a brother-in-law who serves as a chaplain at a car dealer in Kansas City. He is not an ordained pastor, but a committed Christian who wants to reach out, create connections, and extend God’s influence in the marketplace.

How exciting that God is opening up doors in many venues. Do you think your business, school, or organization could use a chaplain? Then let’s talk. We have training available. I envision a day when every business, school, or organization has one of the T!LC family as their on-call chaplain. One other story of connection.....a corporate executive in our congregation has a passion for biking. He is now praying about how to bring his faith (a devotion to start a ride, teaching a class on the faith) into his hobby. Connection is all about bringing God into our everyday lives and then allowing the Holy Spirit to the rest. It is exciting what can happen.

Orientation and Connections Class: A new Class will begin Sunday, April 18th at 11:00 am in the Heritage Sanctuary!

Don and Millie’s Tuesday Night Dinner

Every Tuesday night Don and Millie’s on Cornhusker in Bellevue will be giving back to T!LC 20% of our total bill. Just mention that you are with TLC. If you have a choice, plan to have lunch or dinner at Don and Millie’s with your friends and benefit the mission and vision of T!LC.

Block Parties

Spring is just around the corner. Begin praying and thinking about hosting your block party this summer. Remember the young lady from the Bridge church. She shared how a friend invited her to a block party in N. Omaha. It was the first step in trusting Christ and becoming part of His church. God has similar stories waiting for you. If you are ready to get started planning, let us know. We may even offer prizes this year for the most creative block party. Keep up the faithful work TLC and please share your stories. pastordavid@thanks-giving.org

Creating Connections in Christ,
Pastor David



Help fill Easter Eggs for the
3rd Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt!!
Meet in the Chain Reaction Room!

Power Surge Families and Friends of T!LC
7th & 8th Grade Confirmation

Make this a Confirmation Project! Come for Fellowship!

Saturday March 6 9am- noon
Saturday March 20 9am - noon

The Egg Hunt will be held at Lakewood Villages Park
Saturday March 27th beginning at 2pm
(Rain Date will be April 3)



easter egg hunt

Wrapped Candy is Needed!!

We need wrapped candy to help fill the eggs for the hunt. Please bring your donations to the drop box in the T!LC lobby.



Want to volunteer or have questions?
Please contact Karen Harned at harnedco@hotmail.com or 301-8016

Hunt Groups:
Toddler—4 years old
Kindergarten—2nd grade
3rd—4th grade
5th—6th grade

**WOMEN OF FAITH CONFERENCE
"IMAGINE"**

August 13 – 14, 2010, Quest Center Omaha.

Special Early Registration Price of \$49.50. (Regular Price \$89.00).

This includes:

- Friday, August 13 - 10 am – 3:30 pm; 7 pm – 9:30 pm.
- Saturday, August 14 – 9 am – 4 pm.

*Box lunches included both days.

REGISTER NOW ON NEW ON-LINE SITE: It's easy. Visit

gps.womenoffaith.com to get started. Select Alene Schlange's Group. You can pay in full with credit card option or select payment options. Questions: Contact Alene Schlange @292-7470 or aleneschlange@yahoo.com



"God can do anything, you know – far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams!" Ephesians 3:20 (MSG)

Food Donations for Lenten Dinners!

This year, if you would like to donate items to our Lenten Dinners Annual Youth Fundraiser, please go to T!LC's Youth Ministry page at www.thanks-giving.org where you will be directed to a link where you can sign up for items online. You do not have to have a child active in the ministry to participate!

*****Your donations will help support summer camp for T!LC's youth!*****



Caring Christian Rides Needed!

You are invited to join our newest outreach support ministry. Are you a good driver with a compassionate heart?

Do you have a flexible schedule?

CCR ministry serves those in our T!LC family with transportation needs.

To volunteer in the Caring Cab Club Contact Vicar Susan Westland at 402-292-2695 or care@thanks-giving.org

WOMENS BOOK STUDY

Women's Book Study will be held at 7:00 pm Monday, March 8th at the Papillion home of Rama Lalljie. To reach the Lalljie home at 1907 Sky Hawk Ave, in Eagle Ridge, take Cornhusker Road west, passing the light at Eagle Hills Golf Course. Turn left on Eagle Ridge Road and then take the second right which is Sky Hawk. Rama's home is halfway up the block on the left side. If the snow is still piled "sky high," try to make plans to car pool.



We will be viewing "Week Two; Our Eyes Look To The lord" of Beth Moore's *Stepping up, a Journey through the Psalms of Ascent*. The study begins on page 36 and continues through page 63. Leader Karen Rowell suggests we do Day One through Day Five Lessons before the meeting. (You may want to split this homework up weekly.) We will "fill in the blanks" on pages 62 and 63 as we view the DVD.

Any questions, call Rama at 597-3934 or co-hostess Liz Wenthe at 884-5973. Please let one of them know if you cannot attend.

Looking forward to seeing you at this scent-free evening on March 8th.

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.



Men's & CoEd Softball begins in May!

Sign up at the Welcome Center; by sending an email to softball@thanks-giving.org or calling Kevin McArthur at 203-5305



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

Monthly Stewardship

Through the month of January 2010 our expenses were 8.40% below plan and weekly contributions were 1.58% above plan which resulted in a positive cash flow of \$13,699.95 through January. Thank you for your faithful financial stewardship.

Ministry Challenge Fund

The Ministry Challenge Fund is a 24-month current ministry fund appeal from May 1, 2008 through April 30, 2010. We have received 172 estimates of giving totaling \$486,804 or 97.4% of our goal of \$500,000. Through January 2010 we received contributions totaling \$438,696 or 90.1% of the estimates of giving.

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.

Special offerings

Special offerings received in January; \$5,620 for Haiti earthquake relief and \$7,416.71 for the Sudanese Water Project. All of our Lenten offering will be given to the Sarpy County Habitat for Humanity.

Thank You

I am sure that all of us are more than ready for spring to arrive after one of the

coldest and snowiest winters in the last 50 years. Please thank our maintenance staff of Bob Belsaas, Rob Carlson, and Ken Carlson for their excellent job of keeping parking lots and sidewalks clear of snow and ice.

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@thanks-giving.org, call me at the church or stop by my office.

When You Least Expect It....continued from page 5

The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, "What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops?" Then he said, "This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'" But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?" This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God. (Luke 12:16b-21).

None of us knows the number of our days. We act foolishly if we do not prepare ourselves for that day when our earthly life will come to an end. Are you ready to meet a loving but holy and just God?

Are You Ready?

I wish I could tell you that you will have a second chance at life, too, but I cannot. However, as long as you are able to read this, there is still time to enter into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. You can know beyond all doubt that when you die you will spend eternity in heaven with God and every other believer in Jesus Christ. The Bible says, "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." (1 John 5:13).

Would you like to know beyond all doubt that when you die you will spend eternity with God?

Let us be clear on the way of salvation.

We know that God is love and that He loves us so much that He has sent His only Son to die for us. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." God has loved us so much that He has sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to accomplish our salvation.

We also know that we are by nature a sinful humanity and have been separated from God by our sin. The apostle Paul wrote to the church in Rome that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). God created us for a relationship with him, but we have been separated from God by our pride, our rebellion and our self centered ways.

Our Response

God made eternal life possible for us by sending Jesus Christ, His only Son, to die and pay the penalty for our sin. The Bible says, “The wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23). God accomplished for us what we could not do for ourselves and opened the doors to the abundant life.

We receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior by putting our faith and trust in Him. The Bible says, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved” (Acts 16:31) and again in Romans 10:9-10, “if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.”

Saving faith is not an intellectual assent to the historical truths about God and Jesus Christ, nor is it a temporal trust that looks to God during time of crisis and then disappears. Saving faith is trust in Jesus Christ alone for eternal life and receiving Him as Lord of your daily life.

I would invite you to open the door of your heart and let Him in, right now, today. Jesus says, “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20). Repent of your sin, become willing to turn from anything that is not pleasing to Him and trust that God’s Holy Spirit will lead you into a relationship with Him.

If God is speaking to your heart right now, I would invite you to receive the free gift of eternal life by praying the following prayer.

Suggested Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, I come to you acknowledging my sinfulness and that I have been separated from you, a holy God. I do not deserve eternal life, but I ask you to forgive me and to place your Spirit within me. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the grave in order that I might enter into eternal life. Lord Jesus, come into my life, forgive me of my sins and take control of my life by the power of your Holy Spirit. I repent of all my sins and now place my trust in you alone for my salvation.

If you prayed this prayer, you may thank God for the forgiveness that is yours by virtue of your faith in Jesus Christ. Also know that it is God’s desire that you have assurance of your salvation. This assurance finds its foundation in the Word of God and not on the basis of feelings or experience. “I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life” (John 6:47). “Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name he gave the right to become children of God.” (John 1:12).

Next Steps:

What you do next is very important and will affect your new life in Christ. The following are a few suggestions that will put you on the path to growing as a disciple of Jesus Christ:

- Spend 15 minutes each day reading the Bible.
- Spend time each day in prayer.
- Join a midsize community or small group where you can grow in faith with other believers in Jesus Christ.
- Tell others of the forgiveness you have found in Jesus Christ.

Doorway to Discovery Retreat— March 18-21

This retreat weekend is designed to create an environment where participants can give their undivided attention to growing in their relationship with God. In a formatted mix of worship, prayer, teaching, reflection and extended periods of silence, every retreatant has the opportunity to rid themselves of daily distractions, reflect on the truth of God’s Word and consider their current situation in life. It is a time to discover, more about God, what it means to believe in Jesus Christ and how to live the fullness of life that God desires for each of us. Additional information and registration forms are available at the Welcome Center or contact Pastor Bruce at 292-2695 x308.

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 life-long follower of Christ. More to follow!

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

CROSS  REK
Uniting men in Christ to positively impact families, lives, and community



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

A time for renewal during our Lenten season and a time to reflect on these forty days as you continue to walk in the covenant and build the kingdom.

This is a perfect time to visit the library to see all of our new additions. For those who have donated these wonderful books, we thank-you. So many interesting books for all ages and all topics.

The library over the next month will be in the process of adding more of these new additions and purging other books for the fall library book sale.

Come in and discover all the treasures that are waiting to fill your mind with knowledge and wonder.

God's peace...
Vicki DeRoo



LENTEN CALENDAR

LENTEN SERVICE SCHEDULE

Wednesday Lenten Services:

6:30am—Sanctuary, 20 minute devotional service
6:00pm – Jubilation/FLC
7:30pm – Heritage/Sanctuary

**Wednesday Evening Awana Club and Confirmation will continue to meet through out Lent beginning at 6:40pm. Nursery is available for both 6:00pm and 7:30pm services.

Holy Week:

Maundy Thursday – 6:00pm and 7:30pm/Holy Communion/FLC
Good Friday – 6:00pm and 7:30pm/FLC

*Child Care (birth-3years) provided for all services.

Easter Sunday Worship Services:

Sunrise Service	6:30am	Family Life Center
Contemporary Services	8, 9:30, & 11:00am	Family Life Center
Heritage Services	8:30, & 10am	Heritage Sanctuary

LENTEN DINNERS

Beginning on February 24, Lenten Dinners will be held in the Mission Room on Wednesday evenings from 5-7pm

Mar 3	Sloppy Joes
Mar 10	Spaghetti
Mar 17	Chili
Mar 24	Cold Cut Sandwiches and Salad

Please be sure to sign up each week on the poster in the Narthex if you plan on coming to dinner.



The cost is \$3.00 per person or \$12.00 maximum per family.



WORSHIP AND MUSIC



AWAKEN SPONSORS NEEDED



On March 20 and 21, T!LC will host the Awaken Ministries' drama team. The team consists of young adults, most of them college students here in the Midwest. The drama seeks to capture the beauty, adventure, passion, and most importantly, the life-changing message of God's Story. When the team was here two years ago we filled the FLC to capacity, so this year there will be two performances, at 4PM and 7Pm on March 21. The team will also provide a 2-hour drama workshop from 3-5 PM on Saturday, March 20.

The performances and drama workshop are free to the public and are an excellent opportunity for the congregation to invite unchurched friends and neighbors to see and experience the depth of God's love for them. To help defray the costs we are looking for individuals or businesses to partner with the church in sponsoring this event. We will publicize the event at other churches and through various media outlets. T!LC will also need to provide meals and housing for the 30 person cast and crew on Saturday and Sunday.

If you are interested in providing meals or housing or in sponsoring the event through a monetary donation, you may indicate on your registration form on Sunday mornings or contact Carol Umberger at 505-6999 or carol@thanks-giving.org. For more information on Awaken Ministries go to www.awakenonline.org.

THANKSKI XVII REVISITED

XVII – or 17 for those who can't remember or never learned Roman Numerals. For the five people who have made every trip since 1994, it's almost hard to remember "The Way We Were."

Mother Nature smiled on us while we loaded the bus and traveled west bright and early on Saturday, January 23rd. We did, however, threaten to take some snow with us to Colorado.

The sixty four folks who traveled by bus, plane and automobile included 55 skiers or snow boarders and nine "stealth skiers" (aka shoppers). We were delighted to welcome those whose home base included Norway, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, Washington State and, of course, Iowa and Nebraska.

The skiers/snowboarders fought with the elements at Keystone, were delighted with the escalators, free hot chocolate and cookies at Beaver Creek and loved the sunny day at Breckenridge with plenty of snow.

The stealth skiers "brunched" at the Red Mountain Grill in Dillon and dropped some dollars at the Silverthorne Outlets as well as shops in Keystone and Breckenridge. A gondola ride and lunch high up at Keystone's "Outpost" was also part of their itinerary and it was great fun to play "Chicken Foot" Dominoes and lunch with the skiers/boarders at the base of Peak 8 at Breckenridge. Afterward, the town of Breckenridge and the après ski were a hit with all.

The delicious Common Meal and the telling of stories in competition for the most coveted *Squirrel Tale Award* made Monday evening lots of fun. Pastor Glenn's inspirational message and the opportunity to take communion were a perfect ending to that long day. The whole trip was most successful and more importantly there were no injuries great or small. Our prayers for a safe trip were definitely heard.

We arrived back in Bellevue at 6:45 pm and everyone rushed to their cars in the cold. Pastor Glenn and Ron Wink watched our "pony express" driver maneuver around the vehicles in the parking lot as he departed. An hour later the three men finally got the coach free from the snow and ice bank it got hung up on. So much for a glitch-free trip!

We hope to see all of you and also many new faces at the August 7th or 14th picnic. The Squirrel Tale award will be presented as we celebrate Thankski XVII and begin to plan for next year. Condo negotiations are underway for January 22-26, 2011.

Ron and Diane Wink thoroughly enjoyed putting the trip together, thank everyone who made it happen and thank all the participants for their generous gift card to Flemings Restaurant. You can be assured we will enjoy it soon.



Dates to Remember:

March 6 & 20—Egg Stuffing for Easter Egg Hunt

March 21—Awaken comes to T!LC

March 27—T!LC Easter Egg Hunt

April 16 & 17—Cleansing Stream Retreat

April 18—New Member Class begins

May 1—Men's & CoEd Softball begins!

May 15 & 16—Confirmation Weekend

May 21-23 Power Surge River Crest Trip

May 24 to July 30—Kids of the King Summer Day Camp

June 12 & 13—CrossTrek Men's Retreat

June 21—25 Vacation Bible School



Quilters for Christ Workshop



A quilting workshop will be held Saturday, March 6th from 9am to 3pm in the Mission room at church. We will be tying quilts, sewing quilts and cutting squares for our mission quilts.

We welcome anyone new that maybe can't come on Thursday mornings. We will break for lunch from 11:30am until 12:30pm. If you want to sew, please bring your own machine. Some cutting tools will be provided. Questions? Call Doris at 292-0859 or Karen at 291-2401

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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 *Jubilant!* Service
Sunday: 8:15 a.m. Heritage Services
9:30 & 11:00 a.m. *Jubilant!* 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, Discipleship Pastor	
Rev. David S. Witkop, Pastor of Engagement & Outreach	
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	Kathy Adkins
Kids of the King Director	Denise Dunn
Heritage Choir Director	John Hendrickson
Handbell Choir Director	Liane Kirmis

**Life Change
through
Life in Christ!**