



[www.thanks-giving.org](http://www.thanks-giving.org)

October 2010 Volume 26, No. 10

## Dear Friends In Christ,

**Spotted, Follower of Christ** – On a recent two and half hour airline flight I sat behind and across the aisle from a man in his thirties who was seated next to a little girl who was about nine years old. The little girl was flying with her mother and sister, but none of them were seated together. The little girl was energy in motion. She was very sweet, but also very precocious; and within a few minutes began to engage the man in conversation. Most of us sitting near the man were probably relieved that we were not in his seat, so that we could read or sleep on the flight to Omaha; but this guy didn't seem to mind. Over the two and half hour flight I watched him engage the little girl in constant conversation, help her with her seatbelt, her snack, and point her to the restroom. They played countless games of hangman and tic-tack-toe, most of which he let her win; and he patiently listened as she showed him every object she had stuffed into her backpack. The longer I observed the two, the more I suspected that the man knew Jesus. Perhaps it was his patience, or his kindness, or the genuine way he seemed to enjoy the little girl's company; I just know that there was something winsome about him. When the plane landed and we got to our gate, the little girl said goodbye to the man and she hurried up the aisle to find her mother. Immediately some of the other adults seated near the man started to tell him how sorry they were that he had been forced to endure such an ordeal. But the man just smiled politely, and said, "I really did enjoy her company, and besides that I had a lot more room!" When the man got up out of his seat, I was able to read the back of his T-shirt: "Real Husker Power – Christian Men of Action." Very cool!

**Kids Against Hunger** – Good News! We have already raised over \$15,000 of our goal of \$25,000 and 100,000 meals. It is especially fun to hear how children are participating. Two little brothers, Hank and Sawyer, asked family and friends for quarters, and raised \$87 for KAH. They even voluntarily gave their garage sale earnings! Don't forget to mark your calendars for the weekend of October 23 and 24. You will have the opportunity to sign up for two-hour periods to pack meals at the warehouse.

**Financial Stewardship/Vision Sunday** – During October we will spend some time talking about what the scriptures teach us about financial stewardship. This is something that we do every year because we know that kingdom oriented churches are filled with people of faith who are growing in generosity, and whose financial gifts support and make possible their congregation's vision and mission. We are blessed to be such a congregation, filled with followers of Christ growing in the grace of giving! Vision Sunday will be the weekend of October 24. This is the weekend that we will review where we are going as a church, and the weekend that we will dedicate our Estimates of Giving for 2011. As I do every year, I invite you to begin praying now for the Lord to reveal his desires for you regarding this important aspect of discipleship.

**Scams** – Be very careful of internet scams where someone you know sends you an email stating that they are stranded somewhere in the world, they have been robbed, and that they need you to wire money to them. A recent scam even used the name of Pastor VJ, one of our mission partners. If you ever receive any such email, be very suspicious, and please contact the church office if it involves anyone associated with our church family.

**Thank you** for your many kind words and many expressions of sympathy to our family in the recent death of Suzanne's mother, Bette. We are blessed to be a part of such a caring church family! We continue to give thanks for the blessing Bette was to her family and friends. Most of all, we praise God that Bette knew and trusted Jesus Christ, and that she experienced so fully in life and in death, His love, grace, and mercy!

*Glenn J. Harless*

Glenn Harless, Senior Pastor

**T!LC CARE MINISTRIES**



**For Care Ministries Assistance . . . During Church Office Hours:**  
Please call 402.292.2695

**All Other Times:**

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



**The Power of God in Prayer!**

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

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



**Stephen Ministry  
God's Love In Action**

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

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

**T!LC SUPPORT GROUPS ON THURSDAY EVENINGS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 2, 2010**



**DivorceCare -**

**September 2—December 9.** Meets: 6:30 – 8:00, FLC Room 202 – **Childcare provided**

A special weekly seminar and support group for people who are seeking help in recovering from the pain of separation and divorce. *DivorceCare* is offered concurrently with DC4K. Registration fee is \$15.

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



**DivorceCare for Kids (DC4K) -** Is offered concurrently with *DivorceCare*.

**September 2—December 9.** Registration fee is \$15.

For information, call Lisa Witkop at 402-293-9067.

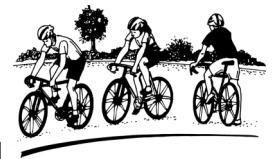


**GriefShare -**

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

**Fear Not - God's Holding Your Hand  
Vicar Susan Westland**

*<sup>10</sup> So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand...<sup>13</sup> For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.*  
Isaiah 41:10,13 (NIV)



This past summer my granddaughter Brenda was learning to ride a bicycle for the first time. She would ride to the edge of the driveway and then cry out for me to come and hold onto her hand while she peddled down the sidewalk. It was fun for both of us at first, but I soon tired of the game and told her she had to learn to ride the bike without my help. Upon hearing this she started crying and told me she was too scared to ride the bike alone. I felt terrible. My little one felt like I was abandoning her in her "scary" time.

She was attending VBS at the time and I asked her if she remembered the song she was learning about Jesus being with her when she was scared. Her face lit up and she smiled as she sang the verses of the song. I asked her who was riding the bike with her and she looked up at the sky and announced, "Jesus is riding the bike with me, he has my hand, I don't have to be afraid anymore." With that, she took off down the driveway and up the sidewalk, squealing with delight and shouting, "look Nana, Jesus is helping me ride the bike, I'm not scared anymore."

As I reflect on this event I wonder why we don't have this type of childlike faith as adults. Do we still believe our Savior is with us holding our hand in the "scary" times of our lives? What are you facing right now in your life; the loss of a job, financial insecurity, health problems, the death of a loved one? God promises us we will face trials in our lives, but he also reminds us we are not alone. His Word tells us, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze." (Isaiah 43:2) If you are in the midst of a trial cling to your faith that tells us not to fear. As you face adversity look at your hand. God has hold of it, you are not alone.

# 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](mailto:care@thanks-giving.org).

## Whooping Cough

**Whooping cough**, otherwise known as pertussis, is a serious illness in infants that can result in hospitalization and death. Children younger than 6 months of age are at highest risk. In the United States, almost 80% of babies 6 months old or younger with whooping cough are admitted to the hospital.

There is a continuing upsurge of whooping cough over the last 5 years. The number of reported cases has reached a **50 year high in the United States**. Reported cases of whooping cough are highest in several population groups:



- infants too young to be vaccinated
- adolescents
- Adults

This study has shown that babies often get whooping cough from their mothers or other family members. The protection provided by childhood pertussis vaccine appears to 'wear off' in adolescence and adults, who may then spread the infection to infants. There is a way to protect these young babies.

**Vaccination for children:** Today, children in the United States are routinely vaccinated with a combination vaccine for diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis (DTaP). All children should be immunized at 2, 4 and 6 months of age, 15 to 18 months of age and 4 to 6 years of age.

**Vaccination for adolescents and adults:** Protection from pertussis 'wears off' so predictably that a single booster of tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine for adolescence and adults is recommended. This generally is given at the seventh grade well child visit in addition to other immunizations. However, **all adults** should discuss this immunization with their personal healthcare provider.

Pregnant women may be vaccinated against pertussis before pregnancy, during pregnancy or after giving birth. Fathers may be vaccinated at any time, but preferably before birth of the baby. All others who have contact with infants, including family members and childcare workers should be vaccinated.

As of June 15, 2010, California has recorded 910 cases of pertussis. This is a fourfold increase from the same time in 2009. This is considered an **epidemic status** in California. The state is accelerating immunization efforts. Over 100 cases have been diagnosed in Douglas and Sarpy/Cass Counties in the last year in Nebraska as well. Therefore, pertussis is a real threat to the young children in our community.

Symptoms of pertussis are very similar to a common cold. This includes a runny nose, sneezing and a low-grade fever. However, with pertussis, the cough becomes persistent and sometimes ends up with a high-pitched 'whoop' which is the characteristic symptom of pertussis. Coughing attacks may continue for up to 10 weeks and are more common at night. Antibiotic medication can treat the infection.

### **The important take-home message about pertussis:**

- The country is currently in epidemic proportions of whooping cough.
- Please take effort to check your immunization status with your healthcare provider and get appropriately immunized. This is particularly important if you have infants less than one year of age in your family or if you come into contact with young children throughout the day.
- Seek evaluation for a persistent cough that continues more than two weeks.

Please notify the T!LC Care Ministries team if you have questions or concerns.

## 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.***



For several years I have seen countless young adults being left in the dust by the church. Finally, in the fall of 2009, I sensed God's clear call to do something about it. With the blessing of my former church, I left after 22 years to launch a mission church in the north Phoenix area for the purpose of bringing the hope of Jesus Christ to new generations of new people in new places. We began the mission with a core group of about 50 adults and 20 kids and quickly grew to about 70 adults and 30 kids, meeting in our home every week.. What an awesome experience! Worship, learning, praying for one another, and sharing in a meal together every week really shaped our leaders into a close family, willing to walk the journey of life together and becoming disciples who can make disciples.

After three months we outgrew our living room, so we moved to Norterra School, a new K-8 campus in the middle of a new growth area of North Phoenix--Norterra. When I asked the principal if a church was meeting in the school, he said, "There is not, but I would love it if there was!" What a confirmation of God's hand in this venture of faith!

Last summer, through a grant, we equipped a team of 8 college students to reach the children and youth of the Norterra community through sports and recreation camps. The kids loved it, and they then brought their parents and grandparents to experience the love that they had tasted. One of the parents—a Hindu—asked me one day, "What do you believe here, and what do you do in this church?" I have never before heard that question from a Hindu, and in that moment I realized that God's Kingdom was breaking into this community in significant ways!

The summer team created such a large response from the youth that we needed to bring a youth leader on the team. Nate and Emily Huss uprooted from Nashville, where Nate had been travelling the globe as a Christian recording artist, and they became a part of our Hope family. Not only are they seeing incredible fruit from their investment in teens, they, along with other young adults, are feeling the blessing of being in a faith community where lives are shared, God is speaking to them, and they are finding the support and challenge they have yearned for.

Over 75 folks have stepped forward to lead and serve. We have been blessed with many gifted musicians who serve on our worship team, so we can rotate our teams, and the same is true for our setup and hospitality teams. The Lord has graced us with some awesome children's teachers, huddle leaders, cluster leaders and administrative team members. I can see the multiplying impact when we invest more deeply in a core of disciples who can then invest in others.

While our initial focus is not on rapid numerical growth in worship but on discipling leaders, our worship attendance has grown from the initial 50 to about 200. More exciting is that over 50 of our people have committed to an intensive journey of discipleship through huddles. And I hear so many of them talking about their persons of peace—those family, friends, co-workers and neighbors they are seeking to invest in and point toward Jesus.

All this great news does not mean that we are without challenges. I know our leaders have invested so much time and energy, so we have to "work" hard to rest! And many of our 150 new people have barely touched their toes in the water of God's covenant love and kingdom destiny, so there are many more who need to enter into the discipling process. And a new generation, life-on-life, discipling process is messy—because God is healing broken people and they are learning a new way of life—never easy!

One of the challenges facing Hope is the ELCA's response to our transfer of affiliation to the LCMC. Not only will we lose the support for this year and next (about \$50,000 per year), they have requested that we return the funds that they gave for our first year of mission—about another \$50,000. This event caused our community to invest in prayerful discernment. While our core team has given generously and we are moving toward sustainability, we knew that we would need partners to help us start well in the first three years. We received 2/3 of our support from mission partners last year (2009) and we projected 1/3 of our support from mission partners this year (2010) and about 15% next year (2011). We are grateful that we have no debt, and we are operating as light-weight as possible—rented space really helps—but we know that the next months will be critical to keeping and building on the momentum that is so strong right now.

Thank you for letting me share a bit of the story of God's mission through Hope! I pray that somehow we can be a blessing to you, as I know you are to us!

Eternally grateful,  
Pastor Paul Sorensen  
Hope Church

**Mission Moments Continued .....**

**The Story of the Pizza Man**

We were all shocked by the horrific shooting of a local pizza man this past month. If you didn't hear, four young men lured a pizza delivery man into an abandoned apartment and stabbed the man to death and stole his money. As Paul Harvey would say and now for the rest of the story.....



Our TLC staff was having lunch with the North Omaha ABIDE ministry's staff recently and they told us that these four men, who committed the murder, were all in church a couple of days after the murder took place. ABIDE had been reaching out to them through block parties, meetings, and relationship building. They were actually arrested after church the following Sunday. They were beginning to experience life transformation, but not before they allegedly took the life of an innocent man.

The church is the hope of the world and Jesus transforms lives. It reminds me of the urgency our Lord has given to us that life is precious now and into eternity. Let us never grow weary in reaching out in Jesus' name. We pray for the victim and alleged perpetrators of the crime. The Lord has given us amazing access to be part of the transformation of our city. Today is the day of salvation!!

**Leading a Missional Life – Have You Found a Place to Put Your Talents to Use?**

The Apostle Paul tells us in the book of Ephesians that we are "created in Jesus Christ to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." But there are so many people in need. Where does God want us to serve, and what does He want us to do? Our church-wide Project Serve Day on November 13<sup>th</sup> will give you an opportunity to "test the waters" and participate in one of several service projects throughout the metro area. Don't agonize over finding the right "good works." Have faith that God will lead you where you are most needed. Ask God for his guidance with the following prayer, taken from Max Lucado's book *Outlive Your Life*:

O Lord, what an amazing opportunity you have spread out before me – a chance to make a difference for you in a desperately hurting world. Help me to see the needs you want me to see, to react in a way that honors you, and to bless others by serving them gladly with practical expressions of your love. Help me be Jesus' hands and feet, and through your Spirit give me the strength and wisdom I need to fulfill your plan for me. In Jesus name I pray, amen.



**Blanketing Every Child in Every School in Barbados, Bellevue, Omaha, and the World with Prayer**

If you ever think that you are alone in praying for our children, teachers and schools, think again. Do you know where Barbados is? You know, that tiny Caribbean island you probably learned about in sixth grade geography class? Barbados, 14 miles wide and 21 miles long, has a population of about 275,000 people – about one third the population of the Omaha metro area. I admit I don't ever think about it even existing. But mothers across the length and breadth of that tiny island are adopting schools, and they meet once a week to pray for the schools and students. These women gather at the schools to strategize and pray for their nation's children and they are adamant that they will not give up the fight to be praying mothers and caring women. Praying Mums Ministry (PRAMM) is a Christian-based group bent on seeing change in the behavior of children across Barbados. "We are in the process of writing to all principals so they will know about us and what we hope to achieve through prayer," explained Debbie Buckmaster, the group's leader. They offer up prayers for the moral, social, spiritual and emotional welfare of children and their schools, and they hope to place a prayer box at each school, where children and teachers can put prayer requests. PRAMM's heartbeat is to have every child in every school covered in prayer. Wow. One lesson here for me is that, though it is easy to get overwhelmed about our children's welfare, I am not alone - there are others around the world lifting them up in prayer. Just knowing I have partnering with me is comforting and encouraging! Let's make it our "heartbeat" to blanket every child in Bellevue, Omaha, Barbados and around the world in prayer. Ask God to guide them, protect them, and give them strength and courage.



Blessings, Karen Harned

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

### Monthly Stewardship

Through the month of August 2010 our expenses were 0.60% above plan and weekly contributions were 2.61% above plan which resulted in a negative cash flow of \$7,578.22 through August on a plan of a negative \$56,412.00. Thank you for your faithful financial stewardship.

### 2011 Stewardship Campaign

October is a time when we turn our emphasis to communicating the future vision for T!LC and what resources will be necessary to achieve that vision. October 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, we will look at how Covenant and Kingdom are strengthening T!LC's vision and mission. In addition, on these days we will all be invited to bring forward our Estimate of Giving Cards, asking the Lord to bless our intentions for our financial support to the Lord's work

through our congregation for 2011. Set aside time to be in earnest prayer as we begin to discern how God is calling us to manage our gifts of time, talent and finances. Consider stepping out in faith and increasing your contributions by 1% of your household income and if you are already tithing (10% of your household income) consider stepping out in faith beyond the tithe.

### 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:harold.carlson@thanks-giving.org), call me at the church or stop by my office.

### BLOOD DRIVE HELP NEEDED

# Blood DRIVE

Are you looking for a way to help with a worthwhile ministry? Our T!LC Blood drives provide over 250 units of blood for our area each year! We are in need of a few folks to be

part of a committee to coordinate the 4 blood drives held at T!LC each year. This ministry involves only a few hours of time calling donors to schedule appointments, calling to remind donors, and being on hand at the blood drives. If we have several people involved, we can share the responsibilities. Supporting blood donation is a very worthy cause—and easy to coordinate. Please consider helping with this ministry at T!LC.

**Please call Shari Teixeira at 339-8226 to get details on how you can help.**

**Don't forget the next  
TLC Blood Drive is  
November 8th from 1-7pm!**

## Parents at Home

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

**If so, then Parents At Home is for you!**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## The Life of Discipleship: Walking in the Covenant, building the Kingdom

### No Other Plan Pastor Bruce L Kotila

Over the years I have spent considerable time looking at the various commissioning texts where Jesus takes His disciples aside, gives them final instructions and then sends them out to duplicate His life and ministry. One such text is Mark 6:7-13, and it highlights for us the fact that the proclamation of the kingdom, the healing of the sick and the casting out of unclean spirits (deliverance) were all a part of Jesus' ministry to the people. Further, we are told in verse 7 that Jesus handed down this authority to the 12 and sent them out in pairs where they lived out their authority in advancing the kingdom of God. This same commission is later given to the seventy in Luke 10:1 and is experienced by the early church throughout the book of Acts as the Holy Spirit guides and empowers the church. God has clearly defined the foundational ministries of the church of Jesus Christ, in that every local congregation that seeks to be faithful to its calling will find itself involved in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ, pursuing a ministry of healing to the sick and engaging in spiritual warfare against the powers of darkness.

We also see in this passage that the disciples are sent out with some instructions. They are simple instructions, yet for us today, may seem a little bit odd. Verse 8 says, "and He *instructed* them that they should take nothing for their journey, except a mere staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belt." In order to fully appreciate what is happening here we must first recognize that our English word "instruct" does not fully convey the meaning of the Greek word "*parangello*". The Greek verb "*parangello*" had several different usages during the time of the NT. As a military term, it represented the order of an officer given to those in his command, an order that required quick and strict compliance. As a legal term, it was used on an official court summons and to disregard it was to risk severe punishment. Used ethically, the term represented a moral obligation that was binding upon a person of integrity. Every dimension of its use included the idea that the person receiving the instruction was bound to make the proper response. As the disciples received these instructions from Jesus their Lord they would have understood that the instructions they were receiving were non-negotiable.

As I said earlier, these instructions appear both simple and a little bit odd, but upon closer examination it becomes clear that these instructions have a purpose. That purpose is to build certain characteristics into the lives of the disciples. It is true that they had been given authority over unclean spirits and the ability to heal the sick, but Jesus also wanted to develop them as men of God. In the process of doing ministry Jesus is building characteristics within them that reflect His own life, a work that God desires to continue in us today. Our service to God is much more than accomplishing a task; it is about growing in faith, character, maturity and holiness.

# YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWSLETTER



## FROM CONNIE.....

Once again the view of Jesus through the eyes of a Sunday School Child has amazed me. On Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup> (the day of our small fire) our lesson was based on John 8:12: Jesus said to the people, *"I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."* We discussed that Jesus' love for us was sooooo bright that we need sunglasses. Each child received a pair of sunglasses.....

After the fire alarm went off and we were waiting outside, I complimented one of the children how great they looked in their pink sunglasses. The reply was priceless. "Miss Connie, I know that Jesus' love is bright, but I didn't know it was hot!"

*Then Jesus took the children in his arms and placed his hand on their heads and blessed them. Mark 10:16*

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## Bits and Pieces

- Please consider joining our team as a Shepherd (teacher). We have several openings.
- The offerings collected at Sunday School will be contributed to Kids Against Hunger
- October 10<sup>th</sup>-We will kick off a partnership with Open Door Mission, collecting children's hats, mittens and scarves. A representative from Open Door Mission will be a guest speaker at Sunday School.
- October 24<sup>th</sup>-**Family Funday Sunday** Families please join us after the 11:00 Service for a light lunch and a Church Scavenger Hunt!
- December 12<sup>th</sup>-Sunday School Christmas Program ( It will be here before you know it !)



**Our Spotlight for October is our Cubbies Club**

**Cubbies Club** is the beginning of a wonderful journey that includes great fun mixed in with purposeful learning. This club is specially designed for boys and girls between ages three and five (potty trained and entering Kindergarten no later than Fall 2012), and we are always amazed at how much these young children learn by the end of the Club year. Games, puppets, crafts, themed snacks, awards and other activities transform our preschool club into a lively experience where fun and learning go hand-in-hand.

God is very personal to these youngsters. The Cubbies ministry plants seeds of faith in young minds concerning God, Jesus Christ and the Bible. Your preschooler will come to understand God's great love for each one of them. They will learn that they can talk to God through prayer and that God talks to them through His Word, the Bible.

The Bible centered handbooks and activities help your children begin to build a solid understanding of the basics of Christianity at an early age. The handbooks provide Bible memorization curriculum and stimulating activities specifically for preschoolers. The children enjoy the zoo motif and interacting with Cubbie Bear and his puppet friends each week.

The handbooks teach basic yet exciting Bible truths along with popular preschool concepts such as colors, shapes, numbers and letters. By working with your child on the weekly handbook lessons, you become an active participant in your child's spiritual development. Your help at home allows your child to have a more enriching and rewarding experience during Club each Wednesday evening.

*Look for the November Spotlight on our Sparks Club!*



*Theme Nights for October*

10/06/10	Leap Frog Night	Bring a Stuffed Frog
10/13/10	Red Night	Wear RED
10/20/10	Flashlight Night	Bring a Flashlight - Be Sure to Check the Batteries
10/27/10	Parent Night	Bring Your Parents/Grandparents to Club

Check out our website at [www.thanks-giving.org](http://www.thanks-giving.org) under the Kids/Youth tab and then come join us on Wednesday night! Check-in begins at 6:15 p.m. and Club runs from 6:30 to 8:00.

Questions? Contact Barb Kotila, Awana Director, at 402.957.5008 or [awana@thanks-giving.org](mailto:awana@thanks-giving.org)

# What's Happening?

Youth Ministry Update  
October 2010

<b>Power Surge</b> <b>5th &amp; 6th Graders</b>	<b>High Voltage</b> <b>7th &amp; 8th Graders</b>	<b>Chain Reaction</b> <b>9th - 12th Graders</b>
<p><b>Sunday School</b> Sundays @ 9:30 - Chain Reaction Room (South Campus)</p> <p><b>Awana</b> Wednesdays 6:30 to 8:00 FLC</p> <p><b>Second Saturday Fun Night</b> <b>Saturday, October 9, 2010</b> <b>Hay Ride and Bonfire! \$5 / Person</b> Shady Lane in Council Bluffs. Meet at church to car pool at 3:30pm. We will be back at church at 8pm. Dinner, drinks and s'mores will be provided.</p> <p><b>Bring warm clothes, and bug spray!</b> <b>RSVP by October 2nd!</b></p>	<p><b>Sunday School</b> Sundays @ 9:30 Lower Level</p> <p><b>Confirmation</b> Wednesdays 6:30 to 8:00 Lower Level</p> <div data-bbox="743 751 1084 1117" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>All Youth</p> <p><b>Kids Against Hunger</b></p> <p><b>October 23<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 24<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p>Kids Against Hunger Project -</p> </div>	<p><b>Sunday School</b> Sundays @ 9:30 South Campus Conference Room</p> <p><b>Mid-Size Community</b> Sundays 6:30-8:00 Wegner's Home - 13913 39<sup>th</sup> Cir</p> <p><b>upLink Small Groups</b> Meet various nights of the week. Contact Andrew to join a group.</p> <p><b>Cross Culture</b> Wednesdays 6:30 to 8:00 Chain Reaction Room (South Campus)</p>

**For more information on events or to sign up, contact:**

**Mark Richards**

Power Surge or High Voltage  
402-292-2695 W 402-575-1619 C  
mark.richards@thanks-giving.org

**Andrew Mather**

Chain Reaction

## Trick or Treat so Kids Can Eat

7th- 12th Graders—Meet in the Chain Reaction Room on **Sunday, October 31st from 4pm-7pm** for Tick-or-Treating of a different sort. We'll be collecting non-perishable food items for the Bellevue Food Bank. Afterwards, we'll meet back at the church to organize the donations and celebrate our success! We'll wrap up by 7:00 so you can head home to hand out candy to all of the trick-or-treaters visiting your door!

### Volunteers

We have many adult volunteer opportunities available - large or small.  
A vibrant Youth Ministry requires great volunteers!  
Contact Mark or Andrew for a list of ways to invest in our youth.

# Family Matters

## UPCOMING FAMILY EVENTS AND TRAINING

Check here each month for Family events and training seminars to be offered in the near future!!

Mark Your Calendars!  
Sunday, Oct 24

### Family FunDay Sunday

Our First Family  
FunDay Sunday will be  
on

**Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup>,  
beginning at 12:15.**

A light lunch will be  
provided followed by a  
family scavenger hunt  
throughout the church.

This should be a blast!

## DEVELOPING YOUR CHILD'S FAITH LIFE

Parents and churches struggle together to implant the truth of God's Word into the hearts of our young ones—the truth of his love, his grace, his character, his kindness and his desired purposes for our individual lives. As we compete with so many different messages seeking not just their attention but in some ways their adoration, we know that there has to be a way to speak to the hearts of our children so they are confident in God's love and also desire to love God.

Indeed God has provided a very clear roadmap on how to raise up our children in the faith. Below, is an excerpt from Josh McDowell's book, "The Last Christian Generation", that explains God's model for us as parents as we raise up our children to be transformed servant's of Christ:

### THE HEBREW MODEL OF EDUCATION

"The Passover celebration has been repeated by Jewish families for centuries as a way of passing down to their children the story of the Exodus, the story of the redemption of God. But to Jewish families, the Passover Haggadah ("telling") is more than a Bible story or historical event. It is an expression of who they are, of where they have come from, and a depiction of a specific way of life, a way of being in the world, and a pattern of acting and being Jewish. Through such celebrations, rituals and retellings, Jewish people absorb not only theology—who God is and how to relate to him, but they also define their identity and underscore the reason for their lives and behavior.

...The goal of the Hebrew model is not mere memorization of repeatable facts; the goal is to *live-out the truth*. In this application, *truth* is designed to lead to *transformation*. Truth, in this educational approach, is to be learned by practicing it in real life."

### BECOMING INTENTIONAL

There is much to admire from this model of educating children but it may seem not possible in our age due to constraints on time, feelings of inadequacy in this area, or lack of knowledge. However, a degree of change can happen in our homes when we begin to walk intentionally in this. Not seeking to have all of the answers but simply determining that I, your loving parent, desire to be the one to show you God's heart, even if I don't always understand His Ways or His Word myself.

### SHARING KAIROS MOMENTS

A simple way to begin this is for everyone to share one thing you are grateful that God has done in your life **that** day. This can be done anytime, anywhere. Just be sure to do it intentionally and consistently (and it does not require you to do anything other than share your heart with your kids). Maybe add discussion about areas that each person feels like God is calling you to grow or observe what he is doing.

Let us run this race together and be encouraged that God will continue to guide us and provide us grace as we parents our young, spiritual champions.

## The T!LC Library Corner

### It's Your Library!

October 2010



Fall officially arrived on Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, so now it's the time of the year when our thoughts turn to the cool fall nights and indoor activities. Why not pick up a book from the library and have a nightly reading session with your children. Many books are available for the younger set located in the Sunday school area as well as the main library for the older children and adults.

The Library Corner continues to receive new books and is in the process of merging into the vast variety of books already available. Make sure you check out the first bookshelf as you enter the library to your right for new and exciting books, DVD's and CD's as well as the cart in the Narthex. A huge thank-you to all who continue to donate and share their "treasures" with all of T!LC!

As for some of those reading treasures listed below, check the library cart during the month of October!

Line in the Sand...by Sherry Garland

The Alamo Diary of Lucinda Lawrence, Gonzales, Texas 1836

Early Sunday Morning by Denenberg, Barry

The Pearl Harbor Diary of Amber Billows – Hawaii 1941

An American Girl Collection: Meet Addy by Connie Porter

"Addy's story is one of great courage and love – love of family and love of freedom"

Redemption by Gary Smalley and Karen Kingsbury – Book one in the Redemption series

"Betrayal, decision, hope – a story of love at all cost"

Amelia Bedelia and the Surprise Shower by Peggy Parish The I Can Read! Level 2 – High-interest stories for developing readers.

"Fun-loving Amelia Bedelia is in charge of a surprise wedding shower. When she pulls out a garden hose to make rain showers, of course—the entire party is turned into one hilarious wet mess.

The World at her fingertips by Joan Dash –

The story of Helen Keller

The Tarantula in My Purse and 172 Other Wild Pets by Jean Craighead George

Last count 173 wild pets that were part of her family and the exploits in having this assortment while raising 3 children.

I Must Decrease by Janice Thompson

"She shares her love of God along with weight loss advice through her spirited sense of humor!"

Mother Teresa by Maya Gold

This is a good reading biography of Mother Teresa through a photographic story of her life.

The Northern Light Series by Lisa Tawn Bergren

#1 – The Captain's Bride; #2 Deep Harbor; #3 Midnight Sun

Leaving Europe in June of 1880 follows the journey and adventures of Elsa Ramstad, Kaatje Janssen and Karl Martinsen to June of 1889 ending up in America last frontier, Alaska. Dear America Series – new additions....

Over the summer months I have continued to collect books, DVD's, CD's for Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas. These books and other items relating to the each season will be on the book cart at the appropriate time. Thank-you to those who have contributed these above special mentioned items.

On October 23 & 24<sup>th</sup> we will be having our annual book sale. If you have books, DVD's/CD's/Audio Tapes that you wish to get out of the house, now is your opportunity. Your generosity enables us to provide many opportunities to select one of these for yourself or a special person. Without your help, this endeavor could not take place. God Bless you for your continued support when the call for new media goes forth! We will check to see if any of these could find a place on our library shelves before placing them on the sale table. If you have donations, please place them in the library no later than Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup> and mark donation for library sale. The library hours are the same as the church, so when you are in the church, wander in and take a look at all the opportunities of entertainment and learning tools at your finger tips.

Until next month, God's peace to all.

Vicki D

# WANTED

## PEOPLE TO ENJOY MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP



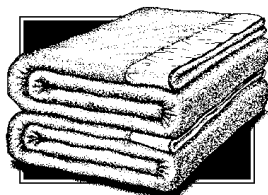
There is space available for the **Thankski XVIII** trip to Colorado. The initial signup went well and there is still plenty of room. More skiers and boarders would be nice and experience is not necessary – lessons are readily available. **BUT** there is plenty to do if you don't want to try the slopes. How does a day in the villages of Keystone, Vail or Breckenridge sound? Cross-country skiing, tubing, skating and snowshoeing are readily available. The adventurous can snowmobile or perhaps go for a dog sled ride. (There are restrictions on what our transportation can do but local free or minimum cost transportation is available.) If you don't ski or board, the cost per person is \$286 (four nights in the condo, our common meal and transportation). Full cost for skiing is \$525; snowboarding is extra.

The dates are Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> through Wednesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> 2011. Our trip is designed for adults and teenagers (13 or 7<sup>th</sup> grade) accompanied by an adult.

Sign up sheets are available in the narthex or for more information, call or email Ron Wink, 292-1012; [ronwink50@msn.com](mailto:ronwink50@msn.com).

### First Baptist Church in Olde Towne Bellevue Back Door Boutique Ministry

This ministry is open on Tuesday & Thursday's from 1pm-4pm. We help people through out the community during rough times in their lives. Occasionally, we request support from area churches. At this time we are in need of **blankets**. If you are able to donate please contact First Baptist Church at 291-3378 Monday thru Friday 8am-4pm. You will receive a receipt at the time of your donation that can be use for tax purposes.



### New Baptism Class

**Life in Covenant Community** will become the new requirement for all baptismal candidates, or in the case of a child, their parents. **This 4 week class** will examine many of our core values as a congregation and the importance of living out our faith in community with other believers in Jesus Christ. We will review God's character as a covenant keeping God, the role and implications of faith within the Christian experience, developing a plan for personal/family spiritual growth, and the benefits of living in the various sizes of faith communities. We encourage everyone in the congregation to take the class at least once. The class will be offered **Sundays** in October (3-24) and November (7-28) at the 11:00am hour. The class is held in the Heritage Conference Room.



# 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](mailto:pastordavid@thanks-giving.org).



## Creating Connections in the Congregation:

Lisa and I are so thankful for all of the help we received in our recent move. Wow, we wouldn't have been able to do it without our T!LC family and friends. When we live in covenant with one another, we are family. We carry one another's burdens and we celebrate with one another in each other's successes. This is not always the perception that people have of a church family. Read the following note from somebody who recently moved in our congregation, with special emphasis on the Aunt's response.

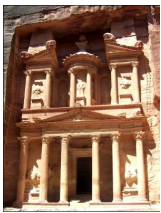
"We wish to express our sincerest gratitude for your help on Saturday. We know that each of you has such busy lives and that you sacrificed activities and family time, in order to help us. It was a big job and everyone stayed so positive and encouraging throughout the entire day.

We commented to each other how it was a day of experiencing the "in" part of the triangle that the Pastors have been teaching. My Aunt was astonished at how many of you came from our church family to help. She said that she would not expect to receive any help from her church, if she were to ask. This was very sad to hear. But, it was great that she could see how a church family should operate.

The Lord was with us this day and gave us the strength, both physically and mentally. We know that the Lord has plans for us in this house and we are very excited to see his plans unfold. Please keep us in your prayers, as we keep you in ours."

This is what covenant/kingdom living is all about.

## Creating Connections through Travel:



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

## Creating Connections in the Neighborhood:

Fall is a great time for neighborhood get-togethers. One family I know cooks a big pot of chili and sits it out on the front driveway. They invite neighbors to bring something to share and a lawn chair. With this wonderful weather, let's get outside and build relationships with our neighbors. Let me know of other ideas to build community in our neighborhoods.

[pastordavid@thanks-giving.org](mailto:pastordavid@thanks-giving.org)

## Creating Connections through Food:

### Dinner Pack is Back!!

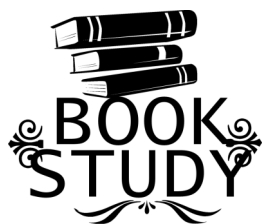
**PROBLEM:** Do you ever find yourself saying "The church is so crowded. It seems like there are too many people I don't know."

**SOLUTION:** The T!LC Dinner Pack Club!

All are welcome to participate. The Dinner Pack is comprised of three couples, or two couples and two singles, or one couple and four singles. Whichever way you add them up, as long as there is a total of 6 people. The goal is to meet for three dinners in the next three months. The host couple provides the main dish, drinks and hors d'oeuvres (optional) and the others provide either a salad or side dish.

It is a great evening of Christian fellowship in which the evening can be spent just talking, playing games or doing whatever! Give it a try and get to know your brothers and sisters in Christ. Sign up today by placing your name in the offering plate, signing up on our website or emailing Marissa Pepper at [mandipepper@hotmail.com](mailto:mandipepper@hotmail.com). If you have questions call the church office at 292-2695.

Women's Book Study will be held at 7:00 PM on Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at the Ashford Hollow home of Renae Mai.



**To reach Renae's home at 4507 Edgerton Drive**, head west on Highway 370 and turn right (north) on to 42<sup>nd</sup> Street (@ Burger King). Take the second left on to Mark Street then the first right to stay on Mark Street. Turn at the first right onto S. 44<sup>th</sup> Circle. Turn left onto Edgerton Drive. Renae's home is the 3<sup>rd</sup> house on the left.

We will do Week 1 (pages 9-36) AND Week 2 (pages 37-54) in the workbook of Beth Moore's study *Jesus the One and Only*. Study Leader Karen Rowell, 291-2401, suggests that we work a little each day as this is designed as a daily study. You will get much out of the "homework" and then we will view the video series at the meetings. However, Karen also encourages us to attend the meetings even if we haven't completed the "homework." Our study is ambitious this month as we are doubling up our schedule so please be prompt and we will still have time for renewing old and making new friendships while we enjoy refreshments afterward.

Call Renae, 213-7720, or co-hostess Joyce Kamrath, 291-2364, if you have any questions or are unable to attend. It is not too late to join the group and we look forward to seeing everyone. **Do remember this is a "scent free" evening!**

**Dates to Remember:**



- Oct 3 Life in Covenant Community Begins (Sundays @ 11am)
- Oct 9 Power Surge Hay Ride and Bonfire 3pm-8pm
- Oct 23 & 24 T!LC Library Book Sale
- Oct 23 & 24 Kids Against Hunger Outreach
- Oct 29 Cleansing Stream Retreat
- Oct 31 Confirmation Trick or Treat so Kids can Eat! 4pm-7pm
- Nov 2 Election Day
- Nov 6 Bells Concert in the FLC
- Nov 7 Daylight Savings Time Ends Remember to "Fall Back" an hour!
- Nov 8 T!LC Blood Drive from 1-7pm
- Nov 13 Project Serve Day
- Nov 25—26 Thanksgiving Holiday TLC Offices Closed
- Dec 12 Children's Ministry Christmas Program
- Dec 18 & 19 TLC's Cantata at all services
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Services 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm. 11pm
- Dec 25 Merry Christmas TLC Offices Closed
- Dec 26 T!LC Offices Closed



**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](mailto:j9wegner@cox.net)

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



Weekly updates on events and church happenings are located on our website! Registration for several events are available! Check it out at:

[www.thanks-giving.org](http://www.thanks-giving.org)

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**2010**

**OUR VISION STATEMENT**

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

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

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

**CHURCH OFFICE**

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

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

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

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

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

**T!LC STAFF**

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

