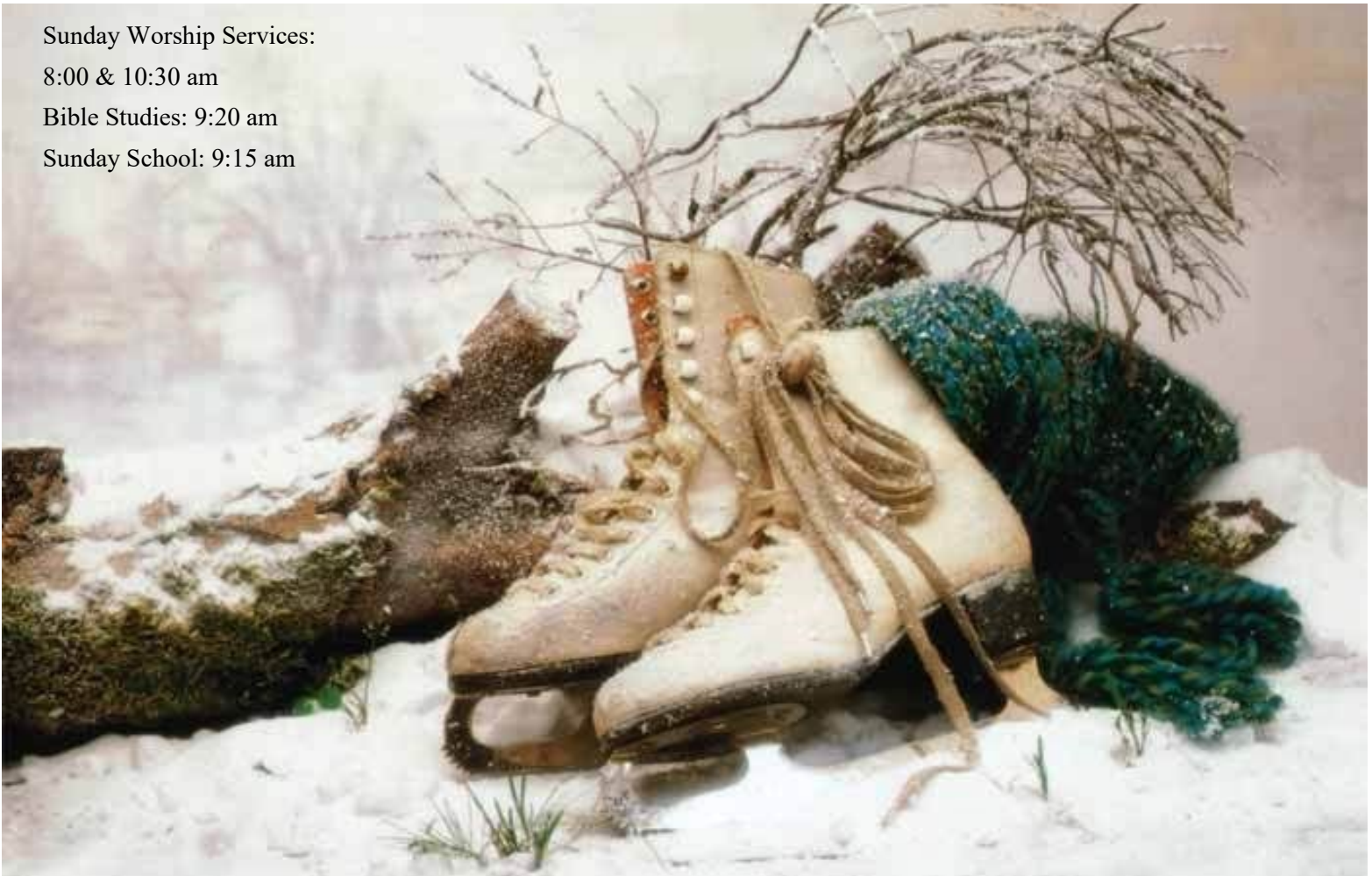


Sunday Worship Services:

8:00 & 10:30 am

Bible Studies: 9:20 am

Sunday School: 9:15 am



TALLMADGE LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LIVING LIGHT

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025



## James: A Manual for Maturity

Have you set any goals for the New Year? I have two goals for 2025: 1) Head back to the gym and strive to be healthier (especially as I turn 50 years old in February!); and 2) learn how to whittle (and use the whittling kit I received for my birthday this last year) so that I can carve out the pieces for a nativity set. There are certainly more things I hope to accomplish, but those are the two at the top of the list.

One of the goals that I seem to have every year is to continue to mature in my faith—to grow closer in my walk with Jesus and to love the people the Lord has placed around me more fully.

As we gather for worship in the New Year, I will be preaching new sermon series called – James: A Manual for Maturity. The letter of James, often referred to as the "Proverbs of the New Testament," offers profound insights into Christian living, focusing on the theme of maturity in faith.

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Some of you traditional Lutherans may lament, “Not James!” Didn’t Martin Luther famously call James an epistle of straw?” You continue your protest. “Why, James only mentions Jesus two times—just *two times*! I’m with Luther,” you say, “Compared to the likes of Paul and John, James is a theological lightweight!”

*Not so fast.* James has much to teach us about God’s grace and our Spirit-empowered response. From the first to the last verse of his book, this half-brother of Jesus gives us one of the most practical pictures of the Christian faith in all the Bible.

James begins with a startling assertion: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds" (James 1:2). Maturity in our faith is not just about the quiet times of peace but is profoundly cultivated through trials. James teaches us that perseverance through these challenges makes us mature and complete, not lacking anything (James 1:4). How do we respond to adversity? Do we see it as an opportunity to grow or as an obstacle? Reflecting on our personal trials, let's seek the maturity that comes from trusting in God's purpose.

At the heart of his letter, James insists that **we are saved by faith alone; but saving faith is never alone.** Faithfulness does not stop with a profession of faith but is a ticket to a life of continued transformation and service. To underscore this theme, James employs the word “mature” seven times in his five-chapter letter.

This New Year, I hope you accept the challenge to grow in maturity. Let's embrace trials as opportunities for growth, seek wisdom from above, control our tongues, and let our faith be active in love. May our journey through the Book of James this month enrich our spiritual lives, making us more like Christ in every aspect.

In this sermon series, **James: A Manual for Maturity**, the lineup of sermons is as follows:

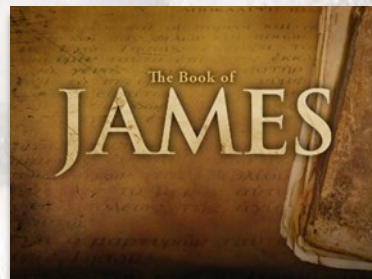
- January 12**    **Profiting From Your Problems**  
(James 1:1–12)
- January 19**    **Feeding Your Faith** (James 1:17–25)
- January 26**    **Believing Better** (James 2:14–26)
- February 2**    **Taming Your Tongue** (James 3:1–18)
- February 9**    **Facing Your Future** (James 4:13–17)
- February 16**    **Practicing Patience** (James 5:7–11)

To accompany the sermon series, I am also planning to teach on James and in my Sunday morning Adult Bible Class:

- January 12**    **James Among the Bible’s Wisdom Books**
- January 19**    **James: An Overview, Part 1**
- January 26**    **James: An Overview, Part 2**
- February 2**    **James and Paul**
- February 9**    **Liberty and Justice for All**  
(James 2:1–13)
- February 16**    **Wisdom from Above** (James 4:1–12)

I invite you to be a part of these opportunities so that, together, we **mature** in our Christian faith. What an awesome way to begin the new year!

Pastor Andy



## **\*New\* Senior High Bible Study**

Join Jared Shoup, Youth Ministry leader, on Wednesday nights at 5:30 pm for the New Youth Bible Study geared towards Senior High School student.

First class is Wednesday, January 8.

## **TLC Book Club**

Join Pastor Andy on the third Monday of each month to discuss a book.

The book for Monday, January 20, 2025 is *I Once Was Lost* by Don Everts and Doug Schaupp. This book explores sharing Jesus in today's postmodern culture.

## **Women's Fellowship**

Haven of Rest luncheon on Tuesday, January 7. The program will be Michael Gardner, a solo artist from Tallmadge. Carpoolers should arrive at TLC by 10:30.

More info about a January Pot Luck TBA.

## **Tuesday Prayer Group**

Kathy Vanaman and Pastor Andy will be lifting up prayer requests to the Lord on Tuesdays at 11:30 am in the TLC Sanctuary.

Please join us in praying for our nation, for our families, for the sick, for those who don't know the Lord.

## **MITES**

MITE collections will be on the following Sundays in 2025: March 30, June 29, August 31, and November 30.

## **Marriage Connect Group**

Happy New Year! What a fun Christmas party we had and enjoyed great fellowship. We will continue in our study of "Cherish" with our next session titled, "This is how your spouse stumbles". We will meet on Thursday, January 23 at 6:00 pm. Let's begin the year with everyone's favorite food theme... Breakfast!

If you have always wanted to come, the beginning of the year is the best time to begin something new! Just bring a breakfast item to share. Hope to see many of you there!  
~ Trent & Alisha Wright

## **Operation Christmas Child**

Happy New Year! We are excited to begin our 3rd year with this great ministry. Keeping collections going all year has really helped us have a successful packing party.

I will continue the same format for the year and have a "collection" theme for the month. I'm sure Winter gear will be on clearance this month, so I'd like to collect hats, gloves, scarves, anything like that.

Please place all donations in the large bin in the library marked for Operation Christmas Child.

Thank you so much as we begin to kick off another awesome year in support of this great ministry!



# The *Who's Who* at TLC

## **Board of Elders**

John Dailey, head  
Marty Hauser  
Jim Bailey  
Chris Tywon  
Jim Case  
Dan Fosnight  
Todd Hedderly  
Bob Knepper  
Eric Fink

## **Board of Directors**

Jim Bergmann, president  
Kris Kodzev, vice chair  
Brian Kuntz, treasurer  
Ellen Tywon, secretary  
Bert Holz  
Daryl Parma  
Heidi Wojcik  
Cindy Strand  
Dan Conley  
Kathy Vanaman

## **Staff**

Pastor Andy, Pastor  
Annie Alberts, Music Ministry  
LaVonne Dolliver, Organist  
Chad Kendal, piano & AV  
Debbie Ruggles, Finance Manager  
Lindsay Snyder, Secretary & Facilities  
Sue Pifer, Nursery attendant  
Lara Miller, TCP director  
Patti Trettel, KK Director  
Laurene Malish and Ben & Val Jews: Custodians

Altar Guild: Becky Springer, head; Janet Buckles, Kathy Vanaman,  
Ellen Tywon, & Gail McAlister

Altar Flower Orders/Flower Chart: Lindsay Snyder/Becky Springer

Bible Study Leaders: Pastor Andy, John Dailey, Chris Tywon,  
Brian Kuntz, Gail McAlister, Jeanne Colosetti, Kathy  
Vanaman, and Jeannine Case

Book Club: Pastor Andy

Master Calendar: Lindsay Snyder

Children's Ministry/Sunday School: Gail McAlister

Confirmation: Pastor Andy

Easter Breakfast: Youth Group

Facility Rental: Lindsay Snyder

Finance/Auditors: Denise Larson & Denny Gearhart

Food Pantry: Gail McAlister

Funeral Luncheons: Gail McAlister & Pam Klicman

Historian: Ethel Walent

KidMin Ministries: Regina Kodzev

Librarian: Denise Larson



Lillies at Easter & Poinsettias at Christmas: Becky Springer

Marriage Connect Group: Alisha & Trent Wright

Operation Christmas Child (OCC): Alisha Wright

Outreach Activities for Preschool & King's Kids:

Gail McAlister, coordinator

Prayer Buddies: Lindsay Snyder & Gail McAlister

Prayer Chain: Kathy Vanaman, Sandee Mick

Prayer Shawl, MITES & LWML: Sandy Dixon

Readers for Worship/Scheduler: Lindsay Snyder

Sewing for Service: Pam Klicman

Shelter Care (donations): Jeannine Case

Strat Op/2030 Vision: Marty Hauser, facilitator

Thanksgiving Dinner: Gail McAlister, coordinator;  
Kevin Heilmeyer, head chef

Vacation Bible School (VBS): Regina Kodzev

Wise Owls: Fae & Larry Broemsen

Women's Fellowship: Jeannine Case

Youth Ministry: Jen Larson, Jared Shoup

# Sunday School Corner

## January's Theme: *Resilience*

The connection between RESILIENCE and GOD'S CHARACTER  
as shown through God's story.

RESILIENCE is getting back up when something gets you down.



Sundays 9:20- 10:15 am in Room 7.

Opening with all grades and lessons for  
PreK- 5th grade! Hope to see you there!



# Sunday School Corner

## *Children's Christmas Program*

Our first Children's Christmas program was such a blessing to ALL who watched!

The children were excited to sing, to be in costume, and to share the story of Jesus's birth!

Thank you to all who worked behind the scenes, brought the kids to practices,  
and helped in any way to support our kids!



# THE MUSIC MINISTRY

I would like to take this time to thank every singer and musician who shared their gifts at our Cantata on December 15, as well as our Christmas Eve services.

The amount of effort and dedication you all put in was evident by the beautiful music that we heard. I am so proud of all of you, and thankful that you were willing to be part of our Christmas celebration here at Tallmadge Lutheran Church.

Looking forward, our choir rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, January 8. If you are interested in joining us, we would love to have you!

Also, if you would like to play handbells, please contact Annie Alberts as we are trying to get our group back together.

Praying that you had a beautiful and merry Christmas season, celebrating the birth of our Savior!



# Youth Group News

Jared Shoup

Jen Larson



Youth had fun at our Christmas party where we did a Nativity escape room and built gingerbread houses.

\*New\* Senior Youth Nights with Jared starting on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 from 6:30-8:00 pm in the Youth Room

Sunday, January 12 - regular youth meeting from 12:00 - 2:00 pm







The King's Kids program had another successful "Extended Hours Night" on Friday, December 6.

Miss Patti, Jenna and Maria kept the kids busy with games, crafts and a movie!

Miss Gail filled their bellies with pizza, salad and brownie sundaes!

What a great opportunity for the parents to have a date night or do some last minute Christmas shopping while the kids were well-cared for!

Back row: Mrs. Freeman, Mrs. Avantino, Mrs. VanSickle, Mrs. Matos and Mrs. Osborn.  
 Front row: Mrs. Miller, TCP Director; Mrs. Rose; and Mrs. Bright

The Preschool Program held their annual Christmas programs on Sunday, December 8.

The kids delighted their families and guests with a song with Pastor Andy, *Jingle Bells*, *Mary Had A Baby* and *We Wish You A Merry Christmas!*

Families and extended family were able to come and enjoy the programs, stop in the Fellowship Hall and enjoy some light refreshments and have a chance to meet their prayer buddies and take pictures!

We are SO grateful for this partnership with the Preschool program and appreciate the hard work of all the teachers!  
 Thank you to all the volunteers as well!



# TALLMADGE CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



I'm Mrs. Bright and I will be the assistant teacher in the T/TH 4's and the Friday 3's class this year!

I am married to my awesome husband Jeremy and we have 3 kids ages 8-14. We also have 2 dogs, 2 bunnies and many chickens! I enjoy gardening, reading, movies, and spending time with our family. All my kids have gone to Tallmadge Christian Preschool and have had such great experiences here!

This will be my 4th year working as a teacher's aide here at TCP. I really love working with children and discovering how smart, creative, compassionate, and talented each of them are!

I'm looking forward to the school year ahead and having fun with your kiddos!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>5</b> <b>Epiphany Sunday (observed)</b> BOD Installation KidMin Happy "Noon" Year 8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School (Rms 4 & 7) 9:20am Bible Study (Youth Rm) 10:30am Worship	<b>6</b> 9:30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 5:30pm Bible Study (Youth Rm) 7:00pm Board of Elders (Rm 12)	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b> <b>New Year's Day</b> Church Office Closed 10:00am Sewing for Service (Kitchen) 6:30pm No Confirmation 7:00pm Choir	<b>2</b> 10:00am Bible Study	<b>3</b> 1:00pm - 3:00pm Prayer Shawl (Rm 12)	<b>4</b> 9:00am - 4:00pm Member Event (Rm 12)
<b>12</b> <b>The Baptism of Our Lord</b> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School (Rms 4 & 7) 9:20am Bible Study (Youth Rm) 9:20am Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm) 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Youth Group	<b>13</b> 8:30am Food Pantry Pick-Up 9:30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 5:30pm Bible Study (Youth Rm) 7:00pm Board of Directors (Rm 12)	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study (Panera) 6:30pm No Confirmation 6:30pm Youth Group Bible Study (Youth Rm) 7:00pm Choir	<b>16</b> 10:00am Bible Study	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 12:00pm Wise Owls (Rm 12)
<b>19</b> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School (Rms 4 & 7) 9:20am Bible Study (Youth Rm) 9:20am Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm) 10:30am Worship	<b>20</b> <b>MLK Jr Day</b> No School/Kings' Kids 9:30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 5:30pm Bible Study (Youth Rm) 7:00pm TLC Book Club (Rm 12)	<b>21</b> Newsletter Deadline 11:45am - 12:45pm TCP Dino Tea Party Set Up (gym)	<b>22</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study (Panera) 9:00am - 11:30am TCP Dino Tea Party (gym) 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Youth Group Bible Study (Youth Rm) 7:00pm Choir	<b>23</b> 9:00am - 11:30am TCP Dino Tea Party (gym) 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Marriage Connect Group (Rm)	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School (Rms 4 & 7) 9:20am Bible Study (Youth Rm) 9:20am Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm) 10:30am Worship	<b>27</b> 9:30am Bible Study (Rm 12) 5:30pm Bible Study (Youth Rm)	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study (Panera) 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Youth Group Bible Study (Youth Rm) 7:00pm Choir	<b>30</b> 10:00am Bible Study	<b>31</b>	

# Birthdays

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 3 Matthew Schonover | 11 Paul Bomer       |
| 3 Janet Freeman     | 15 Brenden Conley   |
| 5 Chris Knepper     | 16 Pastor Riley     |
| 7 Johanna DeWolf    | 22 Christina Hovey  |
| 7 Christopher Olson | 27 Rose Mary Seay   |
| 9 Dennis Barrett    | 28 Heather Vanaman  |
| 9 Josh Eyring       | 31 Larry Buckles    |
|                     | 31 Kaitlyn Wendland |

# Anniversaries

- 4 Mr. & Mrs. Kris Kodzev
- 16 Mr. & Mrs. Larry Buckles
- 18 Mr. & Mrs. David Graybeal
- 19 Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Harsey



*Happy New Year*

**The Living Light** is a monthly publication of  
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**Annie Alberts, Music Director**

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**Laura Miller, Preschool Director**

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**Patti Trettel, King's Kids Director**

[ptrettel@tlcoh.org](mailto:ptrettel@tlcoh.org)

Tallmadge Lutheran Church exists to help people  
*GROW* as disciples of Christ, *CARE* for one another, and *SHARE* the love of Jesus in our community.

Tallmadge Lutheran Church  
Tallmadge Christian Preschool  
King's Kids School-Age Child Care

*The Living Light*

