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TLC Activities

Bible Studies
Twin Lakes Women
Men’s Bible Discussion Group
Belayers Small Group

Fellowship
50 + Lunch

And he will be called... Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6

Twin Lakes
Reformed Church
A Ministry of Tender Loving Care
Sunday Morning Loving Worship
10:00 a.m.
(269) 382-1158
5475 Ravine Road,
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
www.twin-lakes.rcachurches.org

Editor: Laura Strunk  Copy Editor: Ellen Grevenstuk
Contributors: Pastor Ron Lugten, Ellen Grevenstuk
Dear Family and Friends,

Is it just my imagination, or do people in general seem more generous during this time of year? I know it's true of me. For whatever the reason/s, I'm more inclined to share my resources during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons than I am during other times of the year. There's just something about seeing a picture of a hungry, homeless person during the Thanksgiving season that tugs at my heart more so than it would if I were to see the same picture in August.

Maybe it's at least partly because the holiday season seems to present us with even more opportunities than usual to be generous. It's even true here at Twin Lakes Church (TLC), isn't it? After all, in addition to the usual opportunities to be generous before us, again this year we also have even more "seasonal" opportunities to share our resources through demonstrations of generosity: e.g., North Park's Thanksgiving meal ministry, opportunities to donate to the all-church Thanksgiving dinner, and buying gifts for our "adopted" family for Christmas (details about which are on page 6).

The holiday season will again come and go, but opportunities to be generous, and the Bible's encouragement and mandate to be generous (e.g., Psalm 112:5; Proverbs 11:25; Luke 6:30-31) continue with us. People don't stop going to bed at night hungry the day after Thanksgiving. The homeless don't get boxed up and put away with our Christmas decorations. The lonesomeness with which many older adults live daily doesn't end when the Christmas cards and visits stop arriving. And the list of ways for us to be generous with our resources could go on and on and on . . .

While I want to applaud my TLC family for being a generous family, I also want to encourage us to be a generous church family not only during the holiday season, but throughout the year. As an expression of our gratitude to God for His generosity with us, let us be generous with others.

Grateful for your generosity,
Pastor Ron

"A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed" (Proverbs 11:25, NIV).

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December’s Mission-of-the-Month
On December 21, 2014 an offering will be received for the 2015 Summer Concert Series

Dear Twin Lakes Reformed Church,

Thank you for your partnership in the ministries of Kalamazoo Gospel Mission with your recent donation of $245.00. Your relationship with KGM is such a wonderful blessing.

When we receive your donations they go toward feeding the hungry and sheltering men, women and children. As the love of Christ is shared in our daily programs, classes, kitchen, store, warehouse, and chapel services, we have been privileged to witness residents committing to a life changing relationships with Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. In fact during the past year, over 224,000 people were fed, over 25,000 were sheltered and 119 people accepted Christ. Broken families were restored, job skill training and computer labs helped many get back on the road to recovery and re-engage in our community. We would not be able to do this work without your generous support and the grace of God.

As the hands and feet of Christ, we are blessed to work alongside our brothers and sisters who are passionate to see our calling to “Go into all the world” and “do for the least of these” fulfilled in the Kalamazoo community and beyond.

Sincerely,
Rev. Michael L. Brown
Executive Director

Info from a letter mailed to the TLC Mission Committee
Christmas Stories for the Heart
Compiled by Alice Gray
Inspirational

“Rekindle the Warmth of Christmas”
“Curl up by the fire and warm your heart and soul this holiday season with these wonderful stories. Tender and uplifting, this collection will greatly renew your faith, hope and love for the Christmas season.”
-From the back cover

This book comes with a beautiful CD:
Christmas Music for the Heart

NEW IN THE TLC LIBRARY

A Light in the Wilderness
By Jane Kirkpatrick
Historical Fiction

“Letitia holds nothing more dear than the papers that prove she is no longer a slave. They may not cause most white folks to treat her like a human being, but at least they show she is free. She trusts in those words she cannot read—as she is beginning to trust in Davey Carson, an Irish immigrant cattleman who wants her to come west with him.

“Nancy Hawkins is loathe to leave her settled life for the treacherous journey by wagon train, but she is so deeply in love with her husband and she knows she will follow him anywhere—even when the trek exacts a terrible cost.

“Betsy is a Kalapuya Indian, the last remnant of a once proud tribe in the Willamette Valley in Oregon territory. She spends her time trying to impart the wisdom and ways of her people to her grandson. But she will soon have another person to care for.

“As season turns to season, suspicion turns to friendship and fear turns to courage, three spirited women will discover what it means to be truly free in a land that makes promises it cannot fulfill. This multilayered story from bestselling author Jane Kirkpatrick will grip your heart and mind as you travel on the dusty and dangerous Oregon Trail into the boundless American West. Based on a true story.”
-From the back cover

Vanishing Grace
Whatever Happened to Good News?
By Philip Yancey
Christian Life

“Why does the church stir up such negative feelings?”
“Philip Yancey has been asking this question all his life, a question more relevant now than ever. Research shows that in a twenty-year span starting in the mid-nineties, favorable opinions of Christians have plummeted drastically. And opinions of evangelicals have taken even deeper dives.

“Yet despite the turn away from Christianity, interest in spirituality is rising. Why the disconnect? Why are so many questioning, ‘What’s so good about the Good News?’

“Even more important, how can Christians make a positive, grace-filled difference in a world of desperate need?

“In this important new book, New York Times best-selling author Philip Yancey explores what may have contributed to hostility toward Christians, especially evangelicals. He then offers illuminating stories of how artists, activists, and pilgrims are expressing their faith in ways that disarm even the most cynical critic.

“‘See to it that no one misses the grace of God,’ writes the author of Hebrews. In this book, Yancey paints a poignant picture of what the world would look like if Christians fulfilled this command as a way of life.”
-From the fly leaf

“See to it that no one misses the grace of God…”
Hebrews 12:15
Christmas Giving

Dear Family & Friends,

The Twin Lakes Church (TLC) Worship Team is pleased to announce that again this year TLC has "adopted" a family for Christmas through Christian Neighbors of Plainwell. The two smaller Christmas trees positioned around the larger tree in the front of the sanctuary have been decorated in part with gift tags for our “adopted” family. I hope you will consider helping make this Christmas brighter and merrier for them by adding one or more of the family members to your Christmas shopping list.

Please consider visiting the Christmas trees, choosing one or more tags, and then purchasing the gift indicated on the tag. Each name submitted to us has been assigned a specific color for their gift tag. So, if you choose more than one tag of the same color, you will be purchasing for the same person.

Many of the gifts suggested this year are quite specific. If you would like to participate in this important ministry but need some help with the shopping, one of the Worship Team members will be happy to assist you by shopping on your behalf. Please contact a Worship Team member as soon as possible to discuss your shopping needs. Their names are listed on the next page.

Also, if you would like to participate but find what has been suggested for gifts this year as being too expensive, please consider purchasing a gift along with someone else. This could be a great way still to participate, and to also share the cost.

Gift wrapped items need to be brought to TLC no later than 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 18, 2014. For gift wrapping, using Christmas gift bags is fine. Please be sure to securely attach the gift tag to the outside of the corresponding gift. It’s been requested that only new items be given as gifts.

I realize there is no shortage of ways to reach out to others, especially during the Christmas season. But, this is a wonderful opportunity for us as a church family to extend some tender, loving care to some people in need.

Let me take this opportunity to wish each of you a very meaningful Advent season, and a very meaningful and Merry Christmas!

Blessings,

Pastor Ron
(On behalf of the TLC Worship Team members: Kristina Kiel, Laurie Pizarro, Heather Hale, Ellen Grevenstuk, Ted Fiebiger, Ron Lugten)

“And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased”

6:00 p.m.
December 24, 2014
at Twin Lakes Church

Christmas Eve Service

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