

January 2026



TIERRASANTALUTHERANCHURCH

**"SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE, SERVING GOD'S CHILDREN,
TRANSFORMING LIVES, MAKING DISCIPLES"**

Third Annual Live Nativity Event - December 6, 2025





Prayers & Squares

Ah December, a great month for Prayers and Squares Quilting Ministry. We started with a Christmas brunch at Country Waffles and to our surprise, Julie Berg (Carol's daughter) treated all of us by picking up the tab. She arranged all of that from the East Coast. What a gift!! She wrote how much her mom appreciated her Prayer Quilt and she wanted to "give back."

We did get a little work done at our meeting on December 20th, but again we had a generous, wonderful surprise from Tony Colson's mom, Sally. She is downsizing and donated 6 tables of beautiful, coordinated fabric for our "shopping." As Tony said, we were like kids in a candy store. Our group definitely had a VERY BLESSED Christmas.

December quilts were dedicated for: **Boian Spassov**, sponsors: *Alyona and Tony Colson*; **Makayla McGuffie**, sponsors: *Amy and Christopher Hall*.



To My TLC family,

I want to express my deepest thanks for the generous Christmas gift from the entire congregation. Thank you for thinking of me. Your kindness and support are a true blessing and reflect the love of Christ in our community. I am so grateful to be part of this church family.

*Grace and peace to you,
Elizabeth Duffield*

Kid's Choir Fun - Wednesdays at 4:30pm

We meet in the centrum at 4:30pm. All kids are welcome! The choir is for kids ages 4-10 years old!

Performance every first Sunday of the month

Rehearsals Wednesday at 4:30 in the sanctuary. Please contact Pastor Bohdan with questions.

Family Wednesday Worship Join us each Wednesday afternoon at 5:10pm for a kids message and special music for the entire family. We're headed over to GRACE NIGHT afterwards. See Pastor Bohdan if you want to get involved.

TLC Food Pantry Thanks to all who has been stocking the pantry! There is a big turn-around on items; a definite indication that it is well used. Currently the pantry is bare, so please consider donating nonperishable food items. Simply open the doors and add non-perishable food items. Thank you.

2026 Flower Chart You are invited to donate flowers on a Sunday to celebrate an important event in your life or in memory or honor of a loved one. The flower chart fills up rapidly, so sign up today. The cost of altar flowers is \$45 a week, and you will be notified by the TLC office prior to the Sunday you have chosen.

Christmas Decorating Fund Thank you to everyone that donated to our Christmas decorating fund this year. Your donations made the poinsettia's possible and added so much to make our church home looks so beautiful. Many thanks to:

Linda Baldwin in memory of Denis Baldwin and Lorna Ruckdaschel; Julie Bergdahl and Jeff Bergdahl in loving memory of their mother Carol Bergdahl; Nancy & Chris Carter in memory of Nancy's father George Roleder; Judith Chapman in loving memory of Dennis Chapman; the Colson family; Stan and Elizabeth Duffield in loving memory of their parents Bill & Marie Duffield and Bill & Sula James; Mike & Donna George in loving memory of Megan Fischer George; the Jackson family in memory of Hugh Terrell; Karen Miles in memory of her husband Kent, son Jeff and sister Janet; Claudia Murphy and Charlotte Palmer in memory of Homer Palmer; Derry & Ginny Pence in honor of their family and loving memory of Grace & Ray Olsen; Diane Raines in memory of her parents Hank and Fran Podhradsky; The Ryan family in memory of Norma Ryan and Nadine and Jim Schroeder; JoAnn Saenz in memory of her father William Frenzel; the Sobeks in memory of Frank Sobek and Howard Morrison and Gladys Morrison; Val and Dick Spencer in memory of Margaret Mongulla; Kathy Stewart in memory of her parents John and Anna Ball; Thom and Ginny VanBenthuyzen in memory of Jane & Everette VanBethuyzen and Thelma & George Lord; the Willhite family in memory of Grandma Peggy.

Audio Book Opportunity. At 80, I need to have special reading glasses to read a book. I am finding audio books to be user-friendly.

If you would be interested in listening to my newly republished book, Teachable Moments, I would be glad to gift it to you during this Christmas season. And, even if you just want to have an audio copy of it and you don't have a sight problem, you can also ask for one!

All you do is contact me by email and I will reply with the audio book attached. No charge! I want to gift this book to anyone in the church. This church has been a wonderful blessing to us and this is our way of saying thank you, TLC!

email: stephenson2789@gmail.com

phone: 619-388-9125

Conversations, is on Wednesdays from 6:00 to 6:45pm. Join us for a GRACE night meal from 5:30 to 5:55pm and then have our meeting following. Bill Stephenson will continue to be the teacher/facilitator and has developed a curriculum, titled, 24 AND Me: A DIVINE DNA SEARCH FOR RELATIVES FROM THE BIBLE. The purpose and intent of the curriculum is to discover how we might be related to various characters that pen the pages of the Bible. Is it possible that some of their DNA may be running through our veins? Can we examine the behavior of various biblical characters and perhaps see how we may be related to them? Such as: Methuselah, Sarah and Hagar, Moses, David, Jezebel, and Solomon, to name a few. Everyone is welcome to attend. Each class stands on its own, so you can decide each week whether or not to attend. It will also be Zoomed if requested in advance. But please contact Bill if you have further questions or clarification. He can be reached at stephenson2789@gmail.com or by phone: 619-388-9125.

Live Nativity Meeting Recap

Calling ALL volunteers that helped with our event!

Please come to a recap meeting in the fellowship hall this Sunday, January 11th directly following the 10am service.

This will be an opportunity for all of us to constructively discuss things that went well, new ideas, and also areas of improvement.

If you were responsible for a particular area or activity (*refreshments, crafts, cooking decorating, costumes, marketplace, animals, ambassadors, music*) we'd like your input so we can best move forward for next year.

Please bring to the meeting a list / recap of:

- What did you order for your area?
- Did you have donations? Please list.
- What positive experiences can you share and what improvements would you suggest?
- We'd love your suggestions on issues that came up that can be avoided next year.

If you are unable to attend, please email Bernie Tomsovic (tomsovic1@cox.net) or Elizabeth in the church office (eduffield@tierrasantalutheran.org) with your input your report with your positive thoughts and concerns.

The event was truly a **gift** to our community. It was TLC's way of sharing Christ's love, serving God's children, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, we planted a seed of hope for transforming lives.

We can all be proud of how the event turned out. We have received many accolades from members who attended but were not involved and from our guests. It was a wonderful way to start the Christmas season. The night was a gift to us from our Lord.

Thank you all for making it possible.

To His Glory,
Bernie Tomsovic
Project Manager

MOC January 2026

Ready for 2026? Got a list of goals or resolutions for this year? Maybe last year was pretty good and you just want to continue into the new year without too many changes. Maybe you see some areas that need some radical change or tweaking. Wherever you find yourself, turning the calendar to the new year usually means some evaluation of one's life. The Military Outreach Committee (MOC) is no different. Each new year, and periodically throughout the year, we evaluate whether we are undertaking activities that fulfill our mission statement. We ask if our work is helping grow the church. We ask if the action we are taking or planning reaches out into the military community in ways that help meet the needs of that community. There is usually much debate over how successful we are in meeting these "goals" and how we can better fulfill the mandate of the committee.

This past year TLC helped feed more military families and provided more children's clothing to these families than ever. Yet we know there is so much more that we can do. So MOC starts 2026 by asking our TLC friends what more can the committee do? Are there needs within the military community that we can help meet? Can we structure our outreaches to better serve this community and our TLC community? If you have any comments, suggestions or ideas, please contact Beckie (619 204-4596), Marcia (619 206-5790) or Wayne (858 740-1068). We value all input! Our next meeting is January 14, 2026, at 3:00 pm and we would love to see a new face or two. You can attend in person in the fellowship hall or remotely by ZOOM.

We are so grateful for your support and compassion for our local military community – you help us be the face of TLC among our military neighbors!

We wish all a happy, healthy New Year full of promise and possibility.

Facilities Corner

2025 will be remembered by our facilities team as one of the most challenging in the last decade. Our maintenance budget is based on historic data that accounts for normal maintenance requirements and about \$4000 for the unexpected issues that always pop up. This year the "pop ups" included over \$7,000 in AC system repairs (4 separate issues), \$2000 in two refrigerator repairs, replacing a valve in our fire suppression system for \$800, and addressing exterior lighting issues for \$2900. Needless to say, we had to request additional funds to augment our 2025 budget. On the positive side, our maintenance efforts have addressed the tasks that needed to be done and thanks to Randy's efforts on the landscaping side, our front and youth building lawns are looking great. As always, our Chain Gang's continued support has been vital to accomplishing tasks on both the maintenance and landscaping sides throughout the year.

Looking ahead at 2026, we know that it will have its challenges, but we have planned for the additional cost of needed tree work around campus, the purchase of 20 cubic yard of certified playground woodchips for safety and continued certification of the east play area, and the repair of one last electrical light in the parking lot. Being able to plan ahead for these items and hopefully a "more normal" year, will allow for a smoother 2026 for both maintenance and landscaping requirements and budget.

Lastly, I want to encourage our new members and those who have been at TLC for years, to seriously consider joining the Chain Gang team. The majority of the team has been with us for more than 15 years and the average age is now in the mid to high 70's, so we definitely need an input of younger bodies. Knowing especially that younger folks with a growing family don't have a lot of spare time, the makeup of the Chain Gang tries to account for that. Our workdays are once a month, normally on the third Saturday morning of the month for 2-3 hours, and you are not committed to being there at every workday. We ask members to make it a priority to attend as they can but understand that other commitments or constraints will often prevent that. As such, we plan our workday tasks knowing that we will normally have on 40-60% of the "Gang" available at a given workday. The Chain Gang is a key part in keeping our TLC Campus looking great and if you are interested in being a part of that effort or have questions, please talk with Ed Holler, Mike McCann, or Wayne Duke.

Prayer Group Bring your own cup of coffee. Join us for half an hour in the TLC centrum **January 9th at 9 a.m.!** Hope to see you then! Saturday each month, please leave any prayer requests in the notebook on the high table in the foyer.

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Prayers of the Faithful Prayers of God's strength for those TLC members in assisted living facilities: *Reid Bixler, Barbara Berg, Brandi Vadis, James Vadis, Marianne d'Arnaud, Ellen Mize, Frank Fogg, Mike George, Diane Raines, Barbara Vann, Anastasia Balmaceda, Ray Gerding, and Cathie and Ray Gerding at the death of Cathie's sister, the family of Carol Bergdahl at her death, Richard VanderSchaaf at the death of his brother, and for prayers of thanksgiving for the joyous birth of Brynn Gretchen O'Meara born to Kimmie Veihl & Derek O'Meara on 11/20/25 (proud grandparents Rick and Gretchen Veihl).*

Tuesday Morning Bible

Study is held at the Denny's Restaurant at 9898 Mira Mesa Blvd at 8am. We use the Serendipity Bible, and copies are provided. We will be reading the Gospel. Pastor will buy breakfast for anyone attending the first time. All are welcome!

Linus Layering

Join us at 9am on the first Tuesday of each month in the Fellowship Hall as we work to create beautiful Linus children's quilts for those in need. **See you February 3rd.**

Crossways Bible Study

Please join Pastor Vadis on Wednesday at 7pm or Thursday at 10am as we read and study the Bible cover to cover. You can also watch on Zoom:

[Bible Study](#)

if the hyperlink doesn't work here is the zoom information:

meeting ID: 858 9929 9447

password: biblestudy

Got Ideas?

Love Being Creative?

Looking for a way to serve TLC in a meaningful way?

Join the TLC Social Media Content Team!

We're forming a fun, creative, and slightly silly team to help bring TLC's story to life online and in social media. **Join us for a 1-hour brainstorming workshop after second service on January 25th**, where we'll plan fun, creative, and funny video content that helps welcome others to our church community and showcase our wonderful TLC community. There will also be a chance to learn some easy, practical tricks for making videos look great (no experience required!).

The workshop will be led by Dave Schweitzer and Sandra Taylor, and it's perfect for anyone who enjoys creativity, storytelling, humor, or wants a hands-on way to serve. Come with ideas - or just curiosity - and help make a joyful impact together!

The Golden Circle is a TLC designated fund which allows Pastor to provide financial support for specific needs, which may be local, within our congregation, in our community or further afield, to include Ukraine. The Golden Circle is not supported by our budget or General Fund but relies on designated contributions.

2026 Flower Chart You are invited to donate flowers on a Sunday to celebrate an important event in your life or in memory or honor of a loved one. The flower chart fills up rapidly, so sign up today. The cost of altar flowers is \$45 a week, and you will be notified by the TLC office prior to the Sunday you have chosen.

Wish List: We have purchased from Greene Music a Yamaha Clavanova Digital Piano for the church (and a dolly). It has authentic sounding piano and organ sounds (Concert Grande, Bosendorfer, Studio Grand; for the organ: English Organ, Italian Organ). We are looking for donations to cover the \$6179.46 price. Please mark your donations "piano". Thank you.

Altar Guild Help We are in **need** of a new altar guild leader to over-see the preparing of the sanctuary for worship, setting the altar, arranging season decorations and caring for the linens and sacred vessels. We are looking for another individual(s) to take over this important duty. Please contact Pastor Bohdan if you are interested.

Children's Ministry Coordinator We are looking for a new Children's Ministry Coordinator. We are searching for a caring and committed person to work with the children and families of TLC and our community. This person will provide primary leadership for children and families at TLC. They will work with church members and staff team, equip and inspire children as they begin a lifetime of discipleship and adventure in following Jesus into his Kingdom, equip parents, and serve as a liaison for family ministry to the congregation and larger community. Please contact Pastor Bohdan if you are interested.

Christmas Eve Luminarias *Thank you* to Laura Cappadona-Santos and Lucas and Derry and Ginny Pence and family for putting out the Christmas Luminarias to make our entrance look festive (even in the rain!).

January Birthdays

1st Zoe Martin
3rd Neil Vann
5th Carol Sobek
Barbara Ochenduszko
6th Karen Miles
Zachary Colby
7th Rick Benjamin
9th Sandy Schroeder
11th Brandi Vadis
Carlysse Cripps
12th Kellen Johnson
15th Don Mounier
19th Stan Duffield
20th Lucas Santos
21st Claudia Murphy

22nd Hannah Spencer
26th Tom Brown
Brenda Gay
Ellen Mize
30th Rick Vroman

If you have a birthday or wedding anniversary that isn't on our monthly list, please let Elizabeth in the church office know. We certainly want to send you best wishes for your special day.

Hello TLC family!

Hello and Blessed January 2026 to all of you at TLC !!!

“Happy New Year” in the Church already happened at the beginning of Advent (Nov 30, 2025 this year), where the story of Jesus’ began again from the Gospel of Matthew.

Hope you will again enjoy the story of the Magi, read on Sunday, January 4 (2 days before Epiphany on January 6). Other readings in January will make know the reasons for Jesus’ birth into our human world. Music in worship- it’s always aimed at helping to emphasize the Scripture Readings for the worship day, as well as trying to be pretty, mostly familiar, and easy to sing in house or online.

From my recliner (maybe that should be my title for this monthly diatribe), a lot of gratitude (as well as relief) is in my heart for the December music provided by the people in the singing, ringing choirs, instrumentalists, courageous soloists, and guest people — Naomi Alter on harp for maybe 33 years now; and Ever Aguilar, who has agreed to be our trumpeter for Easter, 2026!!

It was great to have our return oboist, Sydney Streightiff, who ‘grew’ much of her music abilities here at TLC while playing for services and in recitals in our centrum! Maxel Brown played trombone for a second ‘Eve’ this year. Adding to it all were Max’s mom, Cassandra, on clarinet, Sydney’s mom, Mary, on flute, and Bill Dudley with his violin.

Thanks to our choir manager, Randy Frater, to the technicians: Moira, Dennis, Amy and Jack - some of whom came to our big rehearsal the Monday, (the 22nd) before Christmas Eve, to practice managing the sound. Praise God for you all!

Pastor Bohdan was inspiring and supportive for each of us for the 18th year! (btw, January 6, 2008, was the date of his installation as Pastor of TLC!!)

We had wonderful “add ins” to our choirs this year!! We welcomed Bill Stephenson, John Michel, and Lin Viavada!

Many thanks to our ‘faithful for years’ people — hope you checked out their names in the Concert Program! Hope it is OK that I don’t list their names here, as I have a deadline, and don’t wanna forget anyone. May the Lord bless your “going out and your coming in” to all the rehearsals and services as we continue thru the church year 25-26 with our worship music and praise leadership.

Elizabeth Duffield, I don’t think you worked “tirelessly” on our extra detailed worship & concert folders — I’m pretty sure you were tired at least some of the time— but beautiful work on ALL 423 of those worship folders (not really but probably that many details to get accurate - plus dealing with my mind changing!) If I wore a hat, I’d take it off to Amy Hall, stepping in with beautiful work on the screens!

It seems that my point for this letter as we begin the Calendar year 2026 is that so much work is done by people to make our house worship and our time in church meaningful, and I’m hoping you remember all who help just in the 8:30am Music services alone.

Lastly, it was decided that our Kawai digital piano could be retired (maybe to just some other area in the church). In its place was purchased a new Yamaha Clavinova with its very own “carrying case/ dolly”! BFrater/ I, hope to soon be enhancing worship with the beautiful piano and organ sounds that it makes!

May you all have a blessed and safe 2026! Thanks be to God for all of you!

Betsy Frater

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Please join us at 8:30am or 10am on Sundays for Worship
Or on Facebook Live.
Godly Play is at 10:10am on Sundays.

Tierrasanta Lutheran Church
TLC Office: 858-560-8688
Web Site: www.tierrasantalutheran.org
TLC Pre-School: 858-292-7446

(On the cover: Christmas Angels at our live nativity event on December 6th.)