

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRIUMPHANT
LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH
FEBRUARY 2012 – VOLUME 37 NUMBER 2

The *butterfly*

From Pastor Skip

I greet you in the name of the One who can do all things but fail!

On Sunday, January 22, 2012 the Call Committee announced that it had completed its work in preparing the Congregational Profile and would be in contact with the Bishop's office concerning the next step(s) in the Call Process. According to the process used in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), this would include receiving a list of potential pastoral candidates and beginning the interview period. The time of waiting is coming to a close.

I suppose it is the way my mind works, but I was driven to Scripture in search of a biblical story that parallels the current story of Triumphant Love. And sure enough, there is one. I invite you to take your Bible and turn to Isaiah 43:18-19. Admittedly, TLLC is in interim and not in exile (although some might wonder if there is a difference); both communities were in a time of waiting. And the focus of the waiting is God and what God will do. Human tendencies of yesteryear seem to have set a pattern for today. Some Israelites in exile were certain that God's activity would restore the former things, the old things (ways) by making them a little better. Certainly as we have journeyed through this

interim process, some of the same thinking has at times surfaced. But, in the words of Gomer Pyle, "Surprise, surprise!" God, in non-judgmental fashion, encourages the exiled Israelites and TLLC, to forget the former things and the things of old. Instead, God says, "I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" Still waiting, but God is already doing a new thing, sort of "in the meantime."

So here we are, still in the waiting period and all I can say is, "Isn't God something!" God is doing a new thing here at Triumphant Love. Not that the old was bad; not that the former things were inadequate. God is always about doing a new thing. Creating and re-creating. Forming and re-forming. Shaping and re-shaping. Molding and re-molding. The Spirit of God is present here in a new way. It's blowing and wafting mightily. A renewed sense of energy is alive. A faith renewal is under way. Why, some might be tempted to even proclaim "there's a revival going on." God is doing a new thing – NOW! One cannot necessarily put one's finger on it but if you open your heart and mind to it, you will definitely see it, know it, and feel it. You might even "perceive it." A special invitation to those reading this edition who have not been here

recently or in a while. You have to come and experience it for yourself. Join in this newness being orchestrated by God. Maybe you did not like the old. Maybe the former things did not meet your needs. Well, now's the time to come and check out God's new thing. Re-join with us in our faith walk, walking by faith and not by sight. Just knowing this: God has promised, and we believe and we trust in God's faithfulness.

One final note, this biblical story might parallel our personal lives as well. Lots of "things" going on in our lives—many in a holding pattern until things return to normal—former things, the things of old. Many are waiting. Hear God's word to you, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" Take a moment and reflect on your life. I would suggest that with close scrutiny, you will see God doing a new thing in your life, a powerful thing, a positive thing. Take a moment to see it, to know it, to feel it. Take a moment to trust it. It's God's new thing.

In the name of Jesus,
Pr. Skip Wachsmann
Interim Pastor

Worship with Us

Worship Schedule

8:15 Celebrate classic Lutheran liturgy using our Evangelical Lutheran Worship book.

10:30 Our less-formal, diverse, and liturgical service of worship.

Triumphant Praise leads worship on 2/5 and 2/19 at 10:30.

Service of Healing anointing with oil
Feb. 12, 8:15 and 10:30

Lenten Devotions will be available in the church entry on Feb. 19.

Next Baptismal Festival Date April 7, 7:00 p.m.
Easter Vigil service of worship.

Midweek Worship: Joyous Light Evening Prayer
7:00 p.m. (2/1, 2/8, 2/15)

Ash  *Wednesday*

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22 Worship at noon and 7:00 p.m. Anointing with ashes, Holy Communion "Water Marks," Our life of faith from the waters of chaos and creation to the waters of repentance and redemption.

Choir rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Youth and adult singers who wish to participate are encouraged to also attend Wed. 2/15 at 7:30 p.m. if possible.

Midweek Worship Lent 2012
Wed., 7:00 p.m.
"Water Marks" continues

Special Events

- February 3 CDC registration for new families 10:00 a.m.
- February 10-12 Couples Retreat
- February 12 Service of Healing 8:15 & 10:30
- February 17 Senior High Gathering at Lutherhill
- February 18 Worship Leader Training, 10:00
- February 19 Jim Spencer, KXAN Meteorologist, 9:30 a.m. sanctuary
- February 19 Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast 8:30-10:30 Fellowship Hall
- February 22 Ash Wed. worship at noon & 7:00 p.m.
- February 24-26 spring women's retreat
- February 26 Laura Huffman, state director of The Nature Conservancy speaking at 9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Visit www.tllc.org for complete calendar

CONNECTIONS

Something for Everyone Every Sunday

Sunday School for all ages at 9:15 a.m.

Continuing Adult Classes, 9:15 a.m.

Discipleship Initiative Come and consider the four marks of the disciple: worship, prayer, study and trust. Teaching Team will lead discussions in the Library.

Parenting Your Adolescent Some of the biggest challenges facing parents of teens. Led by a Teaching Team in the Parlor.

God Establishes a Faithful People A study drawn from Genesis, Exodus, Luke, and Galatians. Taught by Mike Stys in the Conference Room.

Perverved Theology Sounds good, feels good, sells good. Is it a "study of God" or a "study of god"? Taught by Pastor Skip in the sanctuary.

TWO Special Events Feb. 19

- Jim Spencer to speak in the sanctuary at 9:30
- **Mardi Gras Party** in the Fellowship Hall (8:30-10:30) The youth will be making pancakes as a fundraiser.

No regular classes Feb 19

New Adult Classes begin Feb. 26

Talking About Money—The Fear Factor
taught by Pastor Skip

The Couples Class - a marriage course

Sweet Connections Café

Come upstairs for breakfast: 8:45-10:30 a.m. *cash only*

Worship Leader Training

Worship Leader Training and Refresher Course, Sat., Feb 18, 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. The training will include suggestions for lay readers, assisting ministers, ushers, and those who prepare the sanctuary altar. As a disciple, consider coming to this training session for fellowship and to use your talents to serve. We want every member to feel confident in helping to lead our worship services.

Stephen Ministry

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

What is Stephen Ministry? Triumphant Love Lutheran Church equips lay people to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to individuals in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives.

How do you support Stephen Ministry?

- Pray for those who are hurting.
- Tell a friend about Stephen Ministry.
- Are you a good listener? Then prayerfully consider becoming a Stephen Minister.
- Come by the office and talk with Janice Daily, Stephen Ministry Coordinator.

<http://tllc.org/ministries/stephen-ministry>

Calling All Golfers!

Register now for the **Third Annual Endowment Golf Benefit** set for **Sunday, April 22, 1:00 p.m. shotgun start**. This year's benefit will again be held at Avery Ranch Golf Course where everyone can look forward to a day of golf when the congregation can play together as a Christ-centered family and also support a great cause. Proceeds will be dedicated to the Firnhaber Seminary Education Fund as well as outreach grants made to agencies that serve vulnerable populations.

Here's how you can join:

- \$125 player (includes golf, cart, range, and dinner)
- \$100 hole sponsor (includes sign at one hole and dinner)
- \$300 silver sponsor (includes two players, one hole sign, and silver level banner and Web site publicity)
- \$600 gold sponsor (includes four players, 2 hole signs, and gold level banner and Web site publicity)

To play or sponsor the event, complete and return a Golf Benefit Registration form to the Endowment mailbox at Triumphant Love Lutheran Church, 9508 Great Hills Trail, Austin, TX 78759-6321.

Registration forms are available in the church office, on the Endowment bulletin board, or at: <http://tllc.org/2012-endowment-golf-benefit>

Care of Creation Speaker Series

Do you think of conservation as a part of your service to God and others? We do. And we'd like to start some conversations about this concept at TLLC.

Sunday, February 19 Jim Spencer, KXAN Meteorologist will kick off our Care of Creation Speaker series at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.



Sunday, Feb. 26 Laura Huffman, state director of The Nature Conservancy, will speak at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall on the state of water in Texas, how we impact it, and what steps we can take to be better stewards of it.

Sunday, March 4, Susan Meredith, local business owner and author, will speak in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. on Energy Efficiency: The Myths and the Magic. Susan is co-owner of Go Green Squads, a local provider of energy efficiency audits, upgrades, and education and the author of *Beyond Light Bulbs: Lighting the Way to Smarter Energy Management*.



Music Opportunities

SINGERS in case you haven't heard.... Our newly forming mixed choir (SATB) rehearses every Wednesday from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Childcare is provided. Middle and high school students are welcomed and included. Read more: <http://tllc.org/newly-forming-mixed-choir-satb>

TLLC Orchestra will play in worship on Sunday, Feb. 19 at 8:15 worship. If interested in joining us, please contact carol@tllc.org. One rehearsal only: Sunday Feb. 12 at 11:45 a.m.

RING and SING for Children

NEW ringers and singers are needed for a viable group! Kids in grades 1-5
Weds. 5:45-6:50.
More: <http://tllc.org/ring-and-sing-for-children>

The Vibrant Life

VIBRANT LIFE - the spring women's retreat February 24-26 at Luz de Blanco, a writer's retreat near Blanco, TX.
Cost of the retreat is \$127 and includes two nights' lodging, 4 meals, and all program materials.

Register at <http://tllcvibrantlife.eventbrite.com/>



Rev. Skip Wachsmann, Interim Pastor
Cathey Arnold, Bookkeeper
Tara Brecheisen, Marketing Administrator
Janice Daily, Volunteer Ministry Coordinator
Karen Christiansen Haverlah, Organist
Carol Holck, Director of Worship and Music
Julie Klock, Director of Christian Education
Brianna Morris-Brock, Youth Ministry Coordinator
Dave Polzin, Facilities Manager
Mike St. John, Executive Director
Karen Weise, Director of Child Development Center

Bulletin Board

TRIUMPHANT LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

We have an ongoing opportunity for people to sign up to buy flowers to celebrate or honor a loved one on our Web site. From the HOME page, click on Get Involved. Then click on Worship. Scroll down to the flower signup link: <http://tllc.org/flower-chart>

SeniorFest for those 55 & older is Saturday, February 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Palm Valley Lutheran Church: workshops, lunch, and keynote speaker Chaplain Venske. Topic: "How to be a Christian in the Public Square." The cost is \$30 at the door.

The Prayer Shawl Group will meet the first and third Thursdays in February (February 2 and 16) in the church parlor from 1:30 to 3:00. Hope to see you there.

Valentine's Couples' Retreat! Friday, Feb. 10 - Sunday, Feb. 12 at Laity Lodge. Go to <http://www.laitylodge.org/couples-retreat-2/> to find out more. Cost is \$230 per person & includes lodging & meals from Friday night dinner through Sunday brunch. For more information, call Melanie Daude at 775.7533 or e-mail her at mrutledged@sbcglobal.net.

Celebrate your child by donating a wished for book to the TLLC Library: click here to donate: <http://amzn.to/zE7usR>

Computers Needed. Did you get a new computer for Christmas? Want to put your old computer to good use? We may be able to use it in our church office or for refugee families. Please contact Oscar Vaz oscarv@tllc.org if you have a computer you feel may provide service to others.

Middle Schoolers—if you are interested in going to either Confirmation Camp or Extreme Adventure from June 17-22, please contact Tracy Wells as soon as possible. tracy@austin.rr.com

Make A Difference Benefit

Saturday, Feb. 18 5:00 p.m. at the Austin Music Hall A Benefit for New Life Children's Center <http://www.lsss.org/makeadifference> or call 706.7512

Quilting at Arlene's Sunday, February 12 and February 19 at 1:00 p.m. at 5110 Ganymede Dr., Austin. We have scissors and needles for everyone!

Prime Timers (for senior citizens) will meet on Thursday, February 16 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us for lunch and a short program.

The TLLC Readers will meet Sunday, February 26 at noon in the library to discuss *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese. If you plan to attend, contact Bobbie Groat at b.groat@sbcglobal.net or 342-2389 to make lunch selections. All are welcome!

Mary Martha Friendship Group will meet Tuesday, February 28 at 7 p.m. in the home of Joyce Moeller, 9543 Big View Drive in River Place. Joyce will share a presentation of her trip to Ethiopia with Water To Thrive. Directions: <http://tllc.org/member-announcements#SmallGroup>