

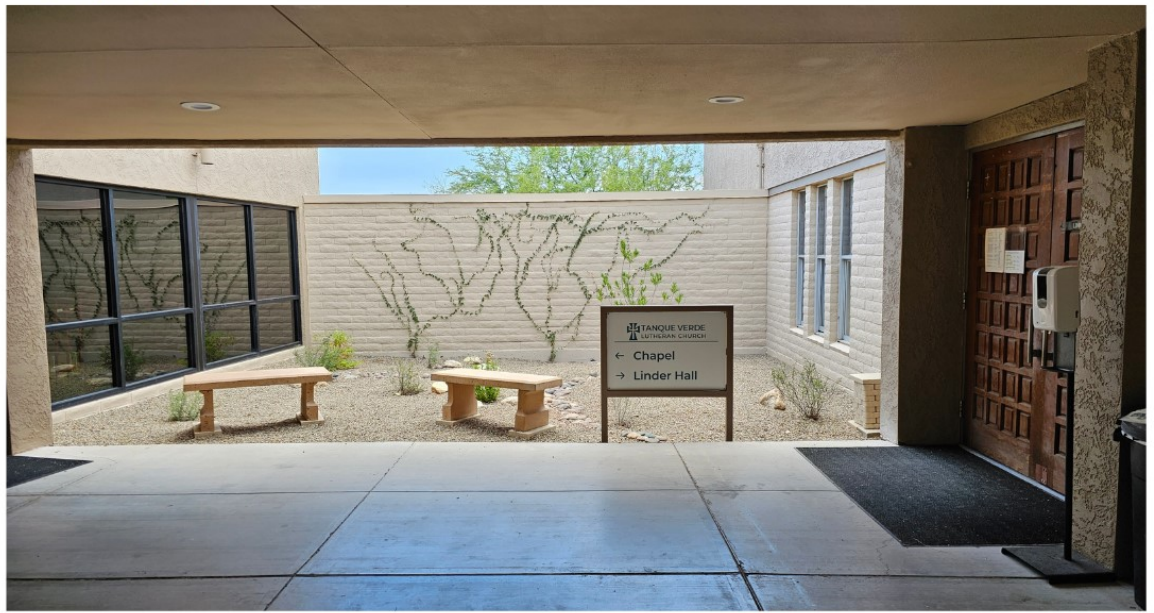


GRACE
upon
GRACE
venturing **forward** in faith



ANNUAL
REPORT
2023

MINISTRIES



Tanque Verde Lutheran Church

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Tucson, AZ 85749
520.749.1606
tvlc.org

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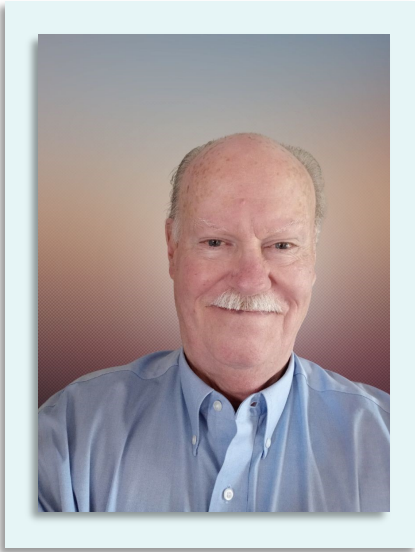


Overview

a community church where
you are welcome

OVERVIEW

Congregation President



Dear Friends in Christ,

This year our Grace upon Grace campaign completed the transformation of the Chapel into an intimate worship space with livestream capabilities. The next step is to refurbish our 40-year-old education building and work on the family restroom. In 2023, you have donated \$257,075, and since the start of the campaign, you have donated \$826,742. Thank you for your incredible generosity.

In April we had our annual congregational meeting and elected one new member, Toby Moore, to the Congregation Council. We had one person, Dave Swanson, who left Council. We are thankful for his leadership.

There were a few staff changes in 2023. Pastor Stephen and Annie Hilding left when Pastor Stephen accepted a call to become a lead pastor in Wisconsin. Vickie Denning agreed to return and resume the communications role. Veanne Lupia retired as Parish Administrator after almost 11 years of service.

We added 57 new members to our congregation this past year. Our baptized membership is now at 876. We have been averaging about 270 people at in-person services. Our choir and musicians do so much to enrich our worship experience!

Your generous support of our food ministry enabled us to provide bountiful holiday meals and extra groceries for 247 families at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Also 188 children received Christmas gifts. Our food bank provided emergency food bags for those in need as well as supplemental food baskets to Victory Outreach Tucson and to the refugee families we are sponsoring. The core food bank volunteers collected food from the Tucson community at large for the UA Campus Pantry to help those attending or working at University of Arizona to overcome food insecurity.

Household Blessings has done so well this year that it had to increase its storage space. With your help, the volunteers of this ministry, led by Donna Elmquist and Mari Eklund, have been able to provide kitchen/bath items, linens, furniture, clothing and other household items to those in need, including the refugee families we support. Household Blessings works with our ministry partners to supply New Home Starter Kits — the items necessary to set up a home.

After much hard work and prayer, the Call Committee members were very successful in recommending our new Associate Pastor—Amy Janssen. We all are looking forward to her joining our church leadership in 2024. A special thanks must be given to Pastor Josh for all of his hard work and dedication serving as the sole pastor for TVLC since Pastor Stephen left.

I hope in the following pages, you will rejoice in the desire our congregation has for following Jesus and sharing his love in our community and the world. If you have a passion for something you see in these pages or see the need for a ministry that inspires you, please reach out to a Council or Staff member to find your place within our community of faith.

Respectfully submitted,
Patrick Williams

OVERVIEW

Congregation Council · Call Committee

Congregation Council



The members of our Congregation Council meet monthly. Their duties include the general oversight of the life and activities of TVLC, including its worship life. They are also responsible for the financial and property matters of this congregation.

Members of the congregation are welcome at all meetings with exception for rare occasions that the council needs to meet in Executive Session.

- Matt Lauber
- Ed Hudson (Treasurer)
- Pat Williams (President)
- Marge Johnson
- Johnice Mitchell
- Becky Copp (Secretary)
- Linda McDaniel
- Kimberle Kennedy (Vice President)
- Cristene York
- Not Pictured**
- Toby Moore
- Pastor Josh

Call Committee for Associate Pastor

- Carmele Lauber (chair)
- Becky Clowers
- John Davidson
- Ralph Jensen
- Ashley Judd
- Mike Muirhead
- Carol Paulsen
- Lyle Trotter

A Call Committee of eight TVLC members was elected at our Annual Meeting on April 23. The committee worked together the remainder of the year, evaluating five candidates for an Associate Pastor position. They conducted initial interviews with each candidate via Zoom. The committee found each candidate showed spiritual strengths and individual gifts, but four were not the right fit for TVLC. They moved forward with one candidate by reviewing sermons, conducting an in-person interview and checking references. Pastor Amy Janssen was recommended to the Congregation Council and the Council endorsed the recommendation on December 19. *Two Meet and Greets* were held on January 12, 2024 and a special congregational meeting was held January 14, 2024 to vote on the call. A call was extended to Pastor Amy and she joined TVLC at the end of February.

OVERVIEW

Lead Pastor



Dear Friends,

As I look back on the past year of continued ministry, I am grateful for God's faithfulness and the ways the Spirit continues to be at work at TVLC.

In the spring, we said goodbye to Pastor Stephen and Annie Hilding after five years of faithful service. This led us into an interim time in which we were blessed to have Pastors George and Carol Karres, who are retired members of TVLC, step up and assist with preaching and pastoral care duties. I have greatly appreciated their hearts for service and the wisdom and inspiration they have offered us from the pulpit.

Thanks to the continued generosity of our congregation our *Grace Upon Grace* effort has continued to move forward. In August, we celebrated the grand opening and dedication of our renovated chapel space. Since then, it has been put to good use for our 10:30am service, midweek Advent services, student ministry, and funerals. The bright, inviting space has served as a wonderful venue for worship and teaching. We look forward to the renovation of our education building in the summer of 2024 and the addition of an accessible sanctuary bathroom shortly after.

At the congregational meeting in April, we formed a call committee and entered into the call process for a new associate pastor. Throughout the process, we witnessed the realities of the clergy shortage in our greater church, and did our best to exercise patience as we waited for a candidate who we felt would be the right fit. In the fall we made contact with Pastor Amy Janssen for the first time and were struck by her authenticity, passion for the Gospel, and gifts for ministry. It turned out to be a great fit. We look forward to all she will bring to TVLC in the coming years.

In the fall we launched the "Life of Faith" initiative, which is centered on helping our congregants see ministry opportunities that exist in their everyday lives. Despite how it might sound, it is not a big program that requires us to do a whole lot of extra stuff. Rather it is a lens through which we look at all we do, and consider how we can incorporate ways to help people be more aware of and confident in the ways God desires to work through them in the various roles they take on each day.

For many churches, times of transition can be extremely difficult and lead to a decline and loss of momentum. Thanks to the faithful leadership of staff and volunteers, and the continued investment of the people of TVLC, we have continued to thrive in the past year. I rejoice in the ways we have been able to engage and welcome new people in our congregation, nurture and develop faith of all ages, and continue to make a real impact in the Tucson community and beyond. I look forward the ways the Spirit will continue to lead us, mold us, and stretch us as we seek to follow Jesus and share his love in the coming year.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Josh

OVERVIEW

Grace Upon Grace · Life of Faith

Grace Upon Grace

Thanks to the generosity of the TVLC family, our **Grace Upon Grace** campaign took a huge step forward in 2023.

In 2022, we identified four projects on our campus that are critical in helping us live into our vision to provide a welcoming, accessible and functional worship space; to provide safe and inviting spaces for our children and students; and to steward our resources to best navigate challenges and seize new opportunities for ministry.

A playground extension and update and the renovation of our chapel have been completed. In summer 2024, we plan to renovate the education building and move toward adding an accessible restroom in our sanctuary building. After that, we move to our strategic goal of eliminating debt.

- Our cost estimate for the four projects and debt elimination was \$1,250,000.
- We received pledges for the 3-year campaign totaling \$1,037,374.
- To date, we have received \$854,043 in pledges and additional gifts.
- We spent \$156,560 on the playground and \$285,789 on the chapel. We have paid \$22,800 toward debt reduction with gifts earmarked for that purpose.

We invite you to be a part of this exciting journey and unite with us to provide a firm foundation for the generations to come. Fulfilling your pledge allows us to have the funds on hand to continue work. Making a new pledge or giving to this campaign beyond your regular giving will provide the funds to meet all our goals. Thank you for your support. May we continue to follow Jesus and share his love.

Pastor Josh

Life of Faith

T VLC has been involved in the **Life of Faith** Initiative since the fall of 2022. Its purpose is to equip people to live out their faith in family, workplace, school, local community, and the world to recognize and affirm God's ministry that we are already doing in our daily roles and relationships.

In the spring of 2023, the TVLC Guiding Team met with initiative leaders, other participating congregations, and ELCA coaches to gather and share information to discern how to best connect faith at church and life in the world in our congregation. As a part of that effort, the Guiding Team surveyed TVLC Congregation to gather information about individual and collective faith practices in the congregation. The results were reviewed for baseline reference.

In the fall of 2023, the Guiding Team initiated a sermon series designed to highlight how our ministries happen both through our congregational activities and our daily lives. The series included two interview sermons with congregation members.

In 2024 the Guiding Team plans to invite as many parishioners, committees, study groups, and networks as possible to reflect and discuss what we mean when we talk about ministry in our daily lives.

Kimberle Kennedy
Carol Paulsen



Life of Faith Team

Kimberle Kennedy

Carol Paulsen

Kathy Puls

Pastor Carol Karres

Pastor Josh

OVERVIEW

Staff

JOSH AUCHENBACH

Lead Pastor



LARS ANDERSEN

Accompanist & Organist



ALEXIS BURROWS

Worship Leader



VICKIE DENNING

Communications Director



TARA HUDSON

Children's Ministry Director



BRENDA JORDAN

Bookkeeper



CARI LINDSEY

Director of Preschool & Kindergarten



SHERRI MCCLELLAN

Worship Leader



JOE PAUGH

Business & Facilities Manager



JAYLE SINCLAIR

Student Ministry Coordinator



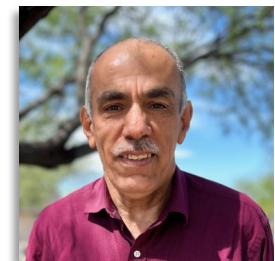
JENNIFER WORTMAN

Chancel & Children's Choir Director



HASHEM ZAREI

Campus Care Coordinator





Connect

there is a place for you here

CONNECT

Children



What another wonderful year of growth for our Children's Ministry Program! 2023 brought many new faces, and our children grew both in their faith in Christ and relationships with one another. To kick off the new year, TVLC Kids collected gently used toys, books, and games. We partnered with the Household Blessings team and put together toy bags, for kids served by *More Than a Bed*. It was a wonderful morning of connecting and a chance for our kids to serve others. They also made valentines for residents of a memory care facility and continued to learn about the ways Jesus is working in our lives.

In the spring, families participated in a Family Night to foster community and develop relationships. Easter games and pizza were a hit in March! A fantastic group of second graders took part in our First Communion Class and enjoyed making bread and learning the meaning of Holy Communion. In another Milestone Ministry class, third graders rocked out to the "Books of the Bible" and were received their first Bibles.

Summer brought our first Kids Camp, in which the Children's Ministry program teamed up with the TVLC Preschool to support and lead a three-week camp for kids 3 years – 5th grade in our community. Many church members participated in leading groups and helping with a sports program for our older kids. Families really enjoyed the program, and the kids had a lot of fun!

In the fall, we began a new curriculum for our younger children called *Simply Loved* and continued with *Be Bold* for our 3rd-5th graders. It has been wonderful to see our program growing, and God has helped provide extra volunteers and support for our classes. We kicked off "Student Sunday" the last Sunday of the month, in which third graders and older students volunteer to help lead in worship. Giving young people a role during the service, whether serving Communion or welcoming people to worship, has given them a purpose and helped foster a sense of place in our church family.

In October, kids and volunteers bagged over 100 pounds of dog food for local shelters during *God's Work. Our Hands.* Sunday. Church members decorated their trunks for our annual "Trunk or Treat" event, dressing up and passing out candy.

Christmas crept up quickly, and our kids stole the show in "A Super Christmas Story!" In true superhero style, over forty kids shared the good news of Christ's birth and sang their hearts out for all to enjoy. To also celebrate Christ's birthday, TVLC kids teamed up with Household Blessings Ministry to make birthday kits for children in foster care.

From our youngest kiddos to our middle school and high school helpers, we continue to learn about Jesus and grow in our faith together. We are TVLC!

Tara Hudson
Children's Ministry Director



CONNECT

Student Ministry



During the first two quarters of 2023, Middle School Ministry continued weekly Zoom meetings for lessons. *Unplugged*, an in-person gathering, was held on the first Wednesday of each month and included a meal, service activity and worship. *Unplugged* gatherings hosted 20-30 students and families. We collected 64 pairs of socks for *Youth on Their Own (YOTO)* and created 50 encouraging messages for the young people served by YOTO.

In May, we celebrated 6 confirmands. We also celebrated 2 high school graduates, gifting them with blankets to remind them that the love of the congregation is always with them.

Erin Cowan
Student Ministry Director, January-May



In the fall, middle and high school student ministry kicked off with an orientation. Weekly middle school confirmation resumed in-person meetings with lessons about our faith and understanding more about reaffirming our baptism. We have had great attendance on the first Wednesday of the month hosting *Unplugged* with a meal, service activity and worship that includes communion. *Unplugged* nights averaged 20-40 students and family members.



In September, we made around 250-260 peanut butter sandwiches to serve the food insecure in our community through *Casa Maria Soup Kitchen*. We launched our prayer guardian campaign to connect our congregation to our students through intentional prayer for individual students at home. Our congregation is excited to see and meet our students in person. In November, we made thank you cards for our congregational veterans and handed them out personally during service. The

connection was well-received and the amount of gratitude from the veterans was overflowing.

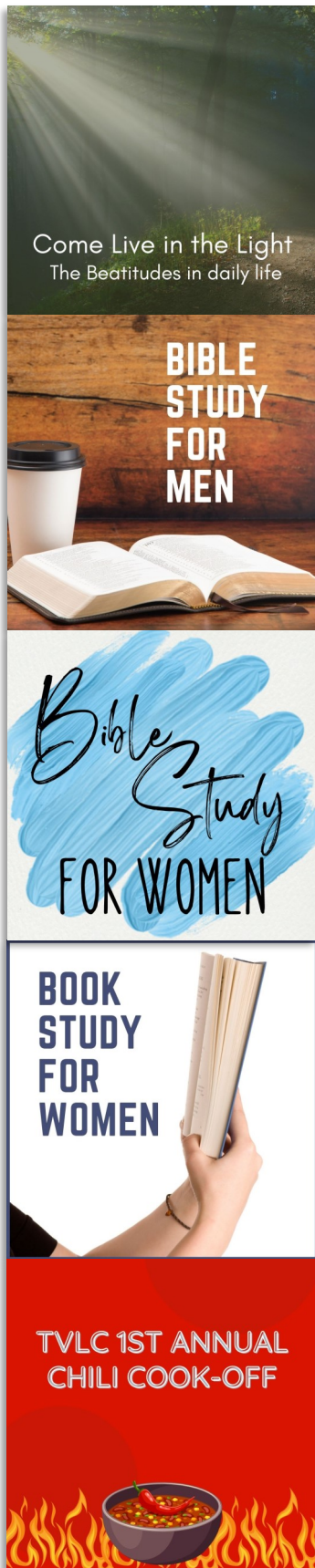
Through God's guidance we have partnered with our TVLC Kids ministry to be engaged with our congregation by participating in worship services on Student Sunday, the last Sunday of each month. Overall we have had a successful third and fourth quarter with great engagement.

We have four high school students registered to attend the *ELCA Youth Gathering* in July 2024 in New Orleans, along with three chaperones and adult guides. We have many seeds planted and working through our students. God is rebuilding our high school ministry through each student one by one as our high school students are looking forward to reengaging more in the next few months.

Jayle Sinclair
Student Ministry Coordinator, August - December

CONNECT

Adult and Cross-Gen Ministries



Visit our website at tvlc.org/events to check out all our groups, get the latest meeting times and locations, and sign up for our weekly electronic newsletter. All groups and ministries welcome new members.

Bible Study for All

Come Live in the Light was a Bible study led by Pastor Carol Karres in the spring. About 25 people were enrolled in the day and evening sessions. We studied Jesus' teaching in the Beatitudes which are part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. This teaching emphasizes the blessings in our lives in times when we are humble, when we are calm, when we strive for simplicity and compassion for others. These character traits were related to the Jewish spiritual practice of Mussar, who teaches us to focus on a positive way of noticing our thinking and reacting to life's adventures. **Pastor Carol Karres**

Bible Study for Men

The Bible Study for Men enjoys breakfast together on the first and third Tuesdays of each month followed by Bible study. We have around 10-12 individuals who join either in person or online. This past year has included a study of the book of Ephesians, reading C.S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters*, and going deeper on weekly sermon topics. **Pastor Josh**

Bible Study for Women

Bible Study for Women was led by members as well as Pastor Stephen and Pastor Carol Karres, with 25-30 women participating in studies. The studies included the Book of Psalms, the Parables, the twelve apostles and the book *Three Wise Women*. The latter is the story of Mary the Mother of Jesus, Elizabeth, and Ana the Prophet and set during the expected births of John the Baptist and Jesus. During 2024, Pastor Amy will lead our studies on Monday afternoons. **Shari Huffman**

Book Study for Women

The Book Study for Women is member-led. We meet weekly on Tuesdays mornings to discuss books chosen by the group. This past year we completed 4 books including *Soul Construction* by Ruchi Koval, *God of the Way* by Kathy Lee Gifford, *The Scattering* by Dwight L. DuBois, and *Undistracted* by Bob Goff. Our average attendance is 6-9.

Beth Smith

Chili Cook-Off

Cross-Generational Ministry celebrated getting back together with the first annual Chili Cook-off in February. Over 100 people attended a fun evening of dancing, games, and chili tasting. We celebrated Laura Louzenski as the first-place winner and awarded an apron that will be passed on year to year. **Erin Cowan**

Feast Groups

Feast Groups are small social groups of adults or families that get together to share a meal and/or activity together. Groups were formed in October with five adult groups and three family groups. Each adult group has between 8-10 members and each

Adult and Cross-Gen Ministries

family group has between three and four families. Each group organizes and plans their get-togethers. Some events included dinners at restaurants, potluck dinners in members' homes, and events at local parks. Feast groups are open each fall to anyone who is interested in getting to know others in our community in an informal and social way. **Nancy Jindrick & Cheryl Auchenbach**

Growing in Faith: The diakonia Program

Growing in Faith: The diakonia Program is a 40+ year old ministry within the ELCA committed to fostering learning environments for followers of Jesus to grow in faith. TVLC's congregation includes 3 graduates of Diakonia legacy Two Year Program and 2 graduates of the Growing in Faith Foundation Year Program. There are currently two Growing in Faith communities in the Grand Canyon Synod with cohorts in Metro Phoenix and Online offering classes, retreats, and mutual care to equip followers of Jesus to live out their faith. The program accepts people where they are in their faith understanding and challenges them to grow to a deeper level. **Kimberle Kennedy**

Merry Widows

Merry Widows is a group of 6-10 widows. We have experienced the loss of a partner and this group serves as a connection with others and a way to gain insight into our own grief and loneliness. We meet once a month for lunch at various restaurants. **Mary Jane Carter**

Prime Timers

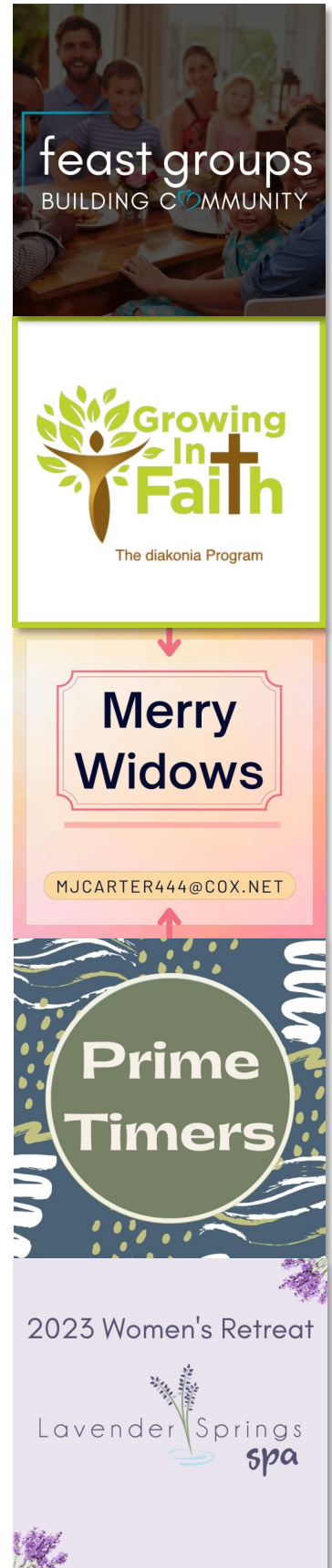
Prime Timers is a fellowship group for TVLC members over the age of 50. We meet monthly, September through May. Our activities included miniature golf, learning how to put together a charcuterie board while enjoying beverages and lunch provided by the teacher, and a senior prom. Choose the events that appeal to you or fit your schedule. Rosemary and Dave Brown, Phoebe Coleman, James Nelson, Carol Treece, Patrick Williams, Jeanne and Steven Wilson, and Shari Huffman lead the group. **Shari Huffman**

Via de Cristo

Via de Cristo is a means for spiritual renewal to help strengthen the faith of Christian men and women and encourage them to become more fully committed to serving God in every area of life. Involvement with Via de Cristo begins by attending a three-day retreat based on the fundamentals of Christianity, concentrating on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. TVLC has hosted these weekends in the fall for the last twenty-plus years. The 2023 weekend was held October 12-15. Ten individuals attended. Twenty-eight current members of TVLC have attended a VdC weekend. You can contact our parish rep, Greg Paulsen for an application or to get further information about what a VdC weekend includes. **Doug Pearson**

Women's Retreat

The Women's Retreat was called Lavender Springs: Where Women Rest in God's Faithfulness. Held in February, we studied the Psalms. 25 people attended. **Erin Cowan & Phoebe Coleman**



CONNECT

TVLC Preschool & Kindergarten



Tanque Verde Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten is celebrating another successful year! Our school staff and the community that supports and loves our school is what makes us so special.

The Tanque Verde Lutheran Preschool/Kindergarten continues to provide classes for children ages 2-5 years old. Morning and afternoon enrichment classes are also available in addition to the regular classes for children who are 3-5 years of age. The enrichment classes accommodate the varying needs and schedules of our parents. Our Kindergarten class is an all-day program that accommodates 18 children. Most years all of the preschool and kindergarten classes are full.

Weekly chapel is still a blessing. We are able to take a little extra time each week to learn about God's love and show the children all that God has done for us. We are lucky to have a pastoral staff and school board that supports and blesses the kids with surprise guests for some of our chapels.

The TVLC School Board is comprised of 3-5 church members (voting members) who meet with non-voting members that include the School Director, Assistant Director and Church Council Liaison. The School Board meets monthly to discuss, give advice, approve and evaluate important issues concerning the school. The school board has been a huge support to the school as we navigate each year.

TVLCPK is thankful for the support of TVLC members and staff. The TVLC staff are always a huge help throughout each school year. We continue to appreciate all of the ACSTO and IBE tax credit donations that benefit our Kindergarten. Families who would not otherwise be able to send their children to our Kindergarten are thankful for these grants!

We are currently preparing for a busy second-half of the school year. We have conferences, registration, Mom's Day, Love of Reading Celebrations, Spring Carnival, Dad's Day, Water Days and Graduation all in a few short months. Our prayer is that we will continue to have a healthy, safe and memorable rest of the school year.

One of the many things that I love about this school is the unpredictability each year brings. There is always a new adventure to experience! We are excited for the opportunity to clean out our closets, organize and get ready for the remodel of the education building!

We are excited to see what God has in store for us in the 2024-2025 school year!

Respectfully Submitted,
Cari Lindsey, School Director





Serve

we walk together in life
we serve together in faith



SERVE

At TVLC — Multiple Ministries

Members and friends serve and make an impact at TVLC in a multitude of ways, often behind the scenes. Your skills are needed and we look forward to helping you find the right fit. Talk with our pastors or a staff member to take the next step. Check out some of the opportunities to serve at TVLC below.

Studies and Classes — Assist or lead Sunday School during the 9:15am service, Kid Central during the 10:30am service, summer opportunities for children, middle school confirmation mentors, and adult Bible and book studies.

Caring Friends — The TVLC Caring Friends ministry provides visitation and communion to homebound TVLC members. In addition to the pastors, the team consists of 5 members and regularly visits around 12 homebound individuals. **Pastor Josh**

Library & Gift Shop — TVLC's Library & Gift Shop serves our members, visitors, the TVLC Preschool and Kindergarten, and the community at large. We have over 7,800 titles for loan in the library's collection of fiction and nonfiction books, games, CDs and DVDs. 944 items were checked out in 2023. With the help of generous donors, 443 items were added to our collection. View our catalog, reserve items, and more at <https://tvlc.az.booksys.net/> (choose the "Display" option). The Gift Shop, located within the library, offers cards, books, jewelry, home and seasonal decorations, and unique items crafted by the TVLC community. All proceeds benefit the library and other designated TVLC ministries. **Julie Muirhead**

Prayer Ministry — This faithful team of 24 prays for those in the congregation and larger community who have requested prayer intercession. The group received 166 prayer requests for individuals and families for health, strength, support, comfort, peace, healing, guidance, and sympathy. **Sherri McClellan**



At TVLC — Communications · Personnel

The **Communications Team** works to build community by presenting clear, consistent and timely information about TVLC. We disperse messages about activities and opportunities using digital and print products including our weekly email newsletter, the Connect, our weekly worship bulletin, and other print products. We create content and manage our website (tvlc.org), worship slides, videos, social media, posters and street banners. We take photos and create graphics. We work to make the campus more welcoming to members and visitors by improving signage. We create print



products used in worship and by ministry groups. We work to optimize readership and outreach to best express our TVLC mission and ministries. In 2023, larger projects included stewardship materials, Call Committee materials, updated campus maps, exterior signage, Risk Management Evacuation maps and updated Connect layout and features including “We Are TVLC.” **Vickie Denning**

Communications Team

Vickie Denning

Pastor Josh



The **Personnel Committee** oversees activities and functions that impact the employees of TVLC. This includes providing employees with a manual that explains the work parameters and condition of employment, ensuring salaries are competitive, and ensuring that the church is a safe and supportive environment for each employee to be successful. The committee monitors changes in state laws that affect employees.

Multiple positions became vacant during this calendar year.

- The Ministry Narrator position held by Annie Hilding became vacant when Pastor Stephen accepted a call to a church in Wisconsin. Annie was also filling in for the vacant Communications position. Vickie Denning agreed to return as Communications Director for an Interim period. Neither position has been filled on a permanent basis, awaiting the arrival of the new Associate Pastor.
- Timothy Ford resigned from his position and Hashem Zarei was made full-time as Campus Care Coordinator.
- Erin Cowan resigned her position as Cross-Gen Ministry Coordinator. This position transitioned to a Student Ministry Position, currently held by Jayle Sinclair. Tara Hudson has a Children’s Ministry Assistant on Sunday mornings to provide consistency and reliable help with Sunday School.
- There are some new faces filling the Livestream Technician position.
- The Parish Administrator position became vacant in September. Positions are reviewed when a vacancy occurs to meet changing needs. Volunteers were reinstated in the office to answer phones and greet visitors.

The committee recommended year-end bonuses for those employees who work in the office and did additional duties through the transitions of staff. Through the changes, the remaining staff continued to perform at a high level and help Pastor Josh and the congregation continue its mission. **Phoebe Coleman**

Personnel Committee

Phoebe Coleman (Chair)

Ralph Jensen

Marge Johnson

Gayle Tonon

Joe Paugh (Staff)

Pastor Josh

SERVE

At TVLC — Property & Botanical

Property Management & Botanical Team

The Property Management Committee tackled a lengthy list of improvement projects and tasks throughout the year to foster a beautiful and inviting campus. Many projects involved behind the scenes work, less visible, but no-less important, to maintain the functional backbone of our TVLC facility. Major highlights for the year are listed below.

- NFLC Roof Maintenance — This long-term project included pressure-washing, wire-brushing and painting the roof parapets of the NFLC Café, classrooms and stage, as well as applying silicone sealant, fiber and mastic to roof vents where needed.
- NFLC Bathrooms — Repainting the bathrooms, including removing and thoroughly cleaning air vents.
- Chapel Exterior — Patching and painting the chapel exterior, including the preschool patio ceiling, in preparation for the chapel remodel dedication.
- Other Work — Many additional smaller updates and improvements including replacing lights, grouting tile, installing new signs, painting light poles in the courtyard, replacing cooler bearings, patching roof leaks and grinding trip hazards.

The botanical team, as always, took excellent care of the church's wide assortment of desert plants and landscapes. This team worked tirelessly planting, watering, trimming, weeding, planning with our professional gardeners, and implementing many improvements to beautify the church grounds.

We are extremely grateful for the congregation at TVLC and the generous giving by our members who create and support such an inviting campus. We are blessed to have a dedicated Property Team to maintain it. It is an honor to be able to work around the campus and for our group to be able to accomplish all that we do. The group's efforts are visible throughout the church, and our desire remains to continuously improve our facilities and the experiences of all who use it. God's work. Our hands. **Ralph Lucht**

Property Management & Botanical Team

Charlotte Cordes

Gordon Hunter

Brian Lauber

Matt Lauber

Ralph Lucht (Chair)

Mike Muirhead

Curt Peters

Art Slatin

John Sundby

Lyle Trotter

Joe Paugh (Staff)

Pastor Josh



At TVLC — Risk Management

Risk Management Team

Karl Deutsch
(Chair)

Brian Lauber

Mike Muirhead

Jim Verhaege

Pat Williams

Karen Yodice

Joe Paugh
(Staff)

Pastor Josh

The Risk Management team has continued to assess and evaluate potential risks to the TVLC campus and its visitors.

We've completed the traditional inspections for the fire alarm system, extinguishers, AED systems and first aid boxes. They are all functioning properly and are operational.

Evacuation floor plans have been placed near exit doors to identify critical items including fire extinguishers and phones as well as a way to egress the area.

The RM team continues to maintain close relationships with local fire, police and Sheriff's departments to ensure we are made aware of any concerns that may affect the TVLC campus.

Our team continues to review operations prior to major church events like our shredding event and Christmas and Easter services to see where issues may arise and what can be done to prevent them.

Finally, we've provided an increased presence around the parking lot and campus during large church gatherings and maintain a vigilant presence to ensure safety for all.

If you have anything you'd like to pass along, please don't hesitate to reach out to any one of us or email the Risk Management Team at RiskManagement@tvlc.org. **Karl Deutsch**



Congregational Life



SERVE

At TVLC — Stewardship · Endowment



Stewardship Ministry is a call to serve and love our neighbors through a generous response to God’s abundance with time, talent and treasure.

In fall 2023, we set aside some time to talk about generosity and think intentionally what our call to commit to supporting God’s work at TVLC will look like in the coming year. The *open hearts open minds* emphasis considered how we can experience more of the joy and life that comes when we freely receive and freely give. We looked at how our relationship with money is a vital aspect of our spiritual health and how our giving is vital for the ministry we do together as a congregation.

Our General Fund can be divided into three large categories of expenditures. About 40% of it facilitates our worship services — pastors, musicians, support staff, resources and spaces. About 30% enables our CONNECT ministries where we come together to build relationships, grow in our faith and support and care for each other. We share about another 30% to serve our community and world through our greater church, ministry partners, and the facilities and staff to support our ministries.

The financial portion of the campaign culminated on November 11-12 with a celebration of food and fellowship — including a bounce house — and enjoyed the beautiful weather on the NFLC patio. 188 commitments were received totaling \$672,028. We are thankful for your continued response to support the mission and ministry of TVLC on our campus, community and the world.

Our TVLC family generously shares its time and talents in our many ministries. We invite new members to share their talents and interests so that we can best match them to our ministries. We lift up our ministries regularly in our communications to ensure the congregation can find their calling. **Vickie Denning and Pastor Josh**

The TVLC Endowment Fund was established in 1987 to provide for mission work beyond the operational budget of the congregation.

The fund is invested in the *ELCA Foundation Endowment Trust*. At the end of 2023, the fund balance was \$129,402.68.

We invite you to consider memorial gifts to the Endowment Fund and to include the Endowment Fund in your planned giving. Also, if you know of ministry opportunities that could use the support of the endowment, or have an interest in serving on the Endowment Committee, contact **Pastor Josh**.

At TVLC — Worship & Music

All services were held in the Sanctuary at the beginning of 2023 due to the renovation of the Chapel. Pastor Josh and Pastor Stephen focused on love and hope with the sermon series “Love Does” followed by “Broken Blessedness” during the Lenten season.

During Lent, we had around 20 children and adults participate in weekly Wednesday gatherings to share a meal and study God’s word through games, activities, and discussion. We ended each evening with the Holden Evening Prayer service.

Reflections of Lent and Holy Week culminated in four joyful services of Easter Sunday celebration with almost 800 people present. April brought the announcement of Pastor Stephen’s call to ministry in the Midwest, bringing in the steadfast support of TVLC members Pastor George and Pastor Carol Karres to supplement the needs at the pulpit and the needs of congregational care.

The summer months were filled with rich sermon series such as “Beautiful Savior” and “More Like Jesus.” A beautiful renovation of the Chapel, TVLC’s original Sanctuary, was unveiled and dedicated the weekend of August 5 and 6 with a message of “New Life” and music of joy and renewal.

Worship and word continued through the fall with “Storm Series” and “Life of Faith” helping us through the difficult times of life and showing us ways to use our faith to help others in our everyday lives.

We paused for weekly Wednesday evening meditation services in our beautiful Chapel, using prayer, silence, and quiet song during Advent. Christmas Eve was celebrated at four candlelight services with more than 850 people.

We are thankful for our dedicated and talented Worship and Music staff whose offerings involve the congregation in services: Lars Andersen our organist, Jennifer Wortman our Chancel Choir & Children’s Choir director, Woan Ching Lim our Chancel Choir pianist, Alexis Burrows our Modern Worship leader, Sherri McClellan our Saturday Worship leader, Vickie Denning our Wee Sing director — our new choir for the youngest in our TVLC family, and Mary Andersen, Daniel Provenzano and Alex Provenzano, our livestream techs.

We are also thankful for all the volunteers who play a critical role in creating vibrant and meaningful worship services: musicians, assisting ministers, communion preparers, bread bakers, readers, ushers, acolytes, communion assistants, greeters, sanctuary decorators and sound and video operators. **Sherri McClellan**

Worship & Music Team

Lars Andersen

Alexis Burrows

Sherri McClellan

Joyce Swinehart

Jennifer Wortman

Pastor Josh



SERVE

Tucson

TVLVLC strives to make an impact by meeting evolving needs in our community and beyond, focusing on meaningful and effective relationships and partnerships.

Children's Christmas Gift Program — Our program works with the TVLC Food Ministry to identify children who might not otherwise receive gifts because of family crises. The families of infants through teenagers complete forms identifying gifts that will delight and



assist the children. TLVLC members provide the wrapped gifts, which are added to the families' food boxes. In 2023, TVLC provided gifts for **188 children** through nine ministry partners. **Eileen Monahan, Catherine Davidson, Joanna Weise**

Community Baby Shower — The Community Baby Shower provided an opportunity for TVLC to support families served by *Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest* who are expecting a baby, recently gave birth or adopted an infant. In 2023, we provided 1,734 baby wipes, 598 diapers, 199 bibs, 43 baby blankets, 29 onesies, 18 burp cloths, 12 waterproof pads, 11 baby quilts and a highchair, Pack 'N Play, car seat, and other items including several bags of clothes and toys. **Sue Jensen**

Creation Care — The Creation Care team conducted its annual electronic recycling and paper shredding event, offered free to the Tucson community. **Over 200 vehicles** dropped off recycling during the event. This year, the



Pima County Sheriff's Department supplied the shredding trucks and trained volunteers for traffic control on Tanque Verde and the church parking lot. Electronics recycling was provided by *Grumper Recycling*. Scouts and adults from *Boy Scout Troop 141* provided assistance. 16

TVLC volunteers welcomed people to our campus and unloaded cars. The TVLC Food Ministry accepted food and monetary donations. Creation Care also accepts printer cartridges in the church office for recycling. Approximately \$75 was earned last year. **Sue Jensen**

Food Ministry — The Food Ministry team continued its decades-long service to the community. With the congregations' generous support, in 2023 they provided food for **75 families at Easter, 93 at Thanksgiving, and 79 at Christmas**. This year's holiday food bags were packed with donated canned goods, pantry staples, fresh food items and frozen meats.



Holiday food recipients are identified and food is distributed via their referring agencies: *Tucson Unified School District, Pima County Health Department (Women's and Children Division), United Cerebral Palsy of Southern Arizona, Arizona Cancer Care Center, Veterans Southern Arizona Healthcare System*, refugees, and members of the congregation.

Monthly food distributions were made to *Victory Outreach*, the *Southern Arizona Veterans Homeless program*, *Sister José Women's Center* and refugee families assisted by TVLC. The *UA Campus Pantry* was also provided food that was collected off campus in community collection boxes. Donated expired foods that fall within approved guidelines were distributed to *Interfaith Community Services* and *Casa Maria*. A summer food collection was held for unhoused veterans with 2,450 various pull-top food items, snacks, pet food and treats, and water bottles donated.



Emergency food bags are packed and stored on campus

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to be available for those in need throughout the year.

Johnice Mitchell & Jim Verhaeghe

God’s Work. Our Hands. — TVLC’s annual Days of Service took place on October 21, 22 and 29.

- On October 21, TVLC’s Creation Care partnered with the Pima County Sheriff’s Department and Grumper Recycling to offer a free electronic recycling and paper shredding event for our community. Over 200 vehicles dropped off recycling and filled 2 trucks with shredding and 6 bins and 2 pallets with electronics. TVLC Food Ministry received 700 pounds of food and \$624 in cash donations.

- On October 22, the Sunday School children and leaders filled over 400 bags with pet food for the pets of persons served by *Sister José Women’s Center* and *Casa Maria Free Kitchen*.



Another group of volunteers assembled 80 hygiene kits for clients of *Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest* and *Eagles Wings of Grace*. A third group made 80 bags lunches for day workers living at the *Primavera Men’s Shelter*.



- On October 29, a TVLC group served dinner to 261 guests at *Gospel Rescue Mission*.

We are thankful to everyone who contributed to the success of these projects and to *Thrivent* for providing Action Team funds to purchase supplies. **Sue Jensen**

Household Blessings— This ministry began in 2021 and has grown exponentially by “repurposing goods and

rebuilding lives.” Household Blessings provides good quality, used household furnishings, clothing, and other needed items to individuals and families through partnerships they have formed with over 20 community agencies and organizations. They specialize in providing “Starter Kits,” which include items needed to set up the kitchen, bath, and bedroom in a home. The team accepts donations from the TVLC family before services on the first weekend of each month. They also receive donations from friends, family and neighbors of TVLC, from the TVLC Preschool & Kindergarten families, from other churches, and by gleaning other sales.



This year the ministry had had over 50 families shop at their storage garage to pick out items to set up their homes. They distributed birthday bags, pet food bags and personal hygiene bags that were made by the Sunday School students. They also received quilts from the TVLC Quilters. Working with the TVLC Food Ministry they donated food and a freezer to *Sister José Women’s Center* and Thanksgiving food to *I Am You 360*. They also received donations of cleaning products from the congregation to help young residents in a tiny home community of *I Am You 360*.



The group meets monthly to sort and distribute items and share a meal. **Donna Elmquist & Mari Eklund**

Interfaith Community Services (ICS) — TVLC has been a ministry partner with ICS since 2012. ICS works with seniors, people with disabilities, and those facing financial crises, and those without sufficient food. In 2023, we collected more than 600 jars of peanut butter to their food bank. TVLC’s Household



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Blessings has provided kitchen items, small furniture, linens and cleaning supplies to ICS clients throughout the year. **Sue Jensen**

Knitters — The knitters are devoted to charity, education, companionship and fun. The group knits for a variety of charities including Project Linus which distributes handmade blankets to children who are seriously ill or injured, the Baby Hat ministry, sweaters and hats for students in the Navajo nation, and hats and shawls. They average 5-6 knitters weekly and 12 on their monthly Saturday gathering. They welcome all who knit or crochet, including those who want to learn. **Connie Mallette**



Lutheran Campus Ministry at UA — TVLC supports the UA *Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM)* faith community as a part of our annual benevolence budget. Pastor Rebecca Boardman leads a group of about two dozen grad and undergrad students in a weekly evening worship and dinner and various serving and learning opportunities. TVLC members prepare the weekly meal for the students a couple of times each semester. Pastor Josh and Rick Kennedy represent TVLC on the LCM board. **Pastor Josh**

Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest — LSS-SW's mission is to assist individuals and families that are in crisis or transition. It provides services to the aging and disabled, refugees and immigrants, families and children as well as emergency services. LSS-SW is one of the organizations that is part of TVLC's annual benevolence budget. In addition to the congregation's benevolence pledge, our Food Ministry provided shelf-stable food for 4-5 LSS-SW families each month. TVLC also generously contributed items for LSS-SW's Community Baby Shower, School Supplies and Share the Warmth blanket and coat drive. A sewing machine was also donated for the refugee empowerment sewing lessons program. Doug Pearson,

TVLC member, serves on their Board of Directors. **Susan Fissell & Sue Jensen**

Mobile Meals of Southern Arizona — Each Friday the TVLC delivery team delivers diet-specific meals to homebound patients. In 2023, the team delivered seven to nine meals each week. Each team member delivers once or twice monthly, developing relationships with those to whom they deliver. **Carol Paulsen**

Quilters — The Quilters serve the congregation and community with their skills. They gather twice monthly to work on projects together, but they also work independently.

- The Quilters made 15 pieced baby quilts, 34 flannel receiving blankets, 23 cotton receiving blankets, 3 burp cloths and later additional bibs and tee shirts that were serged for *Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest*.
- They made 15 prayer pillows for children learning the Lord's Prayer as a part of *Milestones Ministry*.
- The group created 3 quilts for gifts of appreciation for departing TVLC employees, 5 quilts for hospital visits and 5 for hospice gifts.
- They added the name of the Chili Cook-Off winner to the apron they made last year.
- They made 3 baptismal quilts and bags.

The group has been self-supporting and raised \$800 by selling their creations at the TVLC Christmas Market. **Karen Yodice**

Refugee Ministry — The TVLC Food Ministry and Household Blessings ministry help support refugee families who are welcomed through *Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest*. To get involved with welcoming refugee families contact Doug Pearson who serves on the LSS-SW board. **Pastor Josh**



School Supplies — In July 2023, TVLC held a hugely successful school supplies drive receiving 156 backpacks, 106 spiral notebooks, 97 packs of notebook paper, 53 three-ring binders, 65 folders, and hundreds of other items. Supplies were donated to children in a refugee family, *Wheeler Elementary School*, *Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest* and *Emerge Center Against Domestic Abuse*. Students received new backpacks, ruled paper, notebooks, pencils, pens, markers, crayons, highlighters, glue sticks, scissors, and other assorted items. Classroom teachers also received supplies including copy paper, hand sanitizer, wipes, and tissues. The Wheeler Elementary School nurse was given a box of new children's clothing — underwear, pants, and socks — for children in need at the school. An Amazon wish list created by Jennifer Howerton was a new addition to the program this year and was very helpful for TVLC members and friends. **Sue Jensen**



Share the Warmth — During December, TVLC members donated 8 comforters and 15 blankets for older adults served by Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest. 33 jackets for vulnerable children and youth were also donated. **Susan Fissell**



Baby Hats — A clean, warm and dry head covering at birth is life saving for every newborn baby. Baby hats are used for home births, for emergency births and for hospital births. Whatever the situation, the hat prevents loss of body temperature and helps the baby adjust to the environment. In 2023, one thousand baby hats were sent to Nigeria, 500 to Pakistan for use in an area suffering from floods, 500 to Guatemala, and 800 to Global Health Ministries for birth kits sent to 13 countries around the world. Over the past 16 years, this ministry has provided 48,495 baby hats to babies and young children around the world!



Baby hats are made or purchased by TVLC members and friends, including the TVLC Knitters, and from other congregations and individuals across Tucson and the country. Gods work being done by your hands. Each hat received from you is a life-saving blessing happening time and time again! **Sandy Buffington**

Haiti Ministry — TVLC has an ongoing relationship with *Village of Hope School and Medical Clinic*, located near Port au Prince, Haiti. Due to increased violence and instability, we have been unable to travel and be the hands-on presence we would like to be for the children and staff. We sent a gift of \$3,000 from our Haiti fund in January 2024.



We also recycle aluminum cans on campus to add an additional source of income for the ministry. In 2023, we recycled 934 pounds of aluminum, resulting in \$654.17. In addition, 35,000 pop tabs were donated to the *Ronald McDonald House* to allay the living expenses for families that stem from a child's illness.



Pastor Josh & Ralph Lucht



Welcome to TVLC

Business Operations

faithful management of church finances and property



BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Operational Support

It is the responsibility of Operational Support to oversee Tanque Verde Lutheran Church's (TVLC) finances, facilities, and communications so we have an infrastructure in place to support the various ministries of TVLC. This work is accomplished by not only TVLC staff and contractors, but also numerous church volunteers. Business operations include staffing, HR support, and daily oversight of the campus as a whole.



FINANCES

In 2023, TVLC's generous congregation enabled numerous ministries on campus, in our community and abroad. Our operational support role for finances is to manage our cash flow, pay our bills, and provide timely and accurate reports to the TVLC Treasurer, Congregation Council, and congregation.

TVLC financial business was accomplished primarily through our bookkeeper, Brenda Jordan, myself, along with oversight and guidance from our church treasurer, Ed Hudson. Pat Williams coordinated our stock donations. A faithful core team of offering counters (Phoebe Coleman, Ralph & Sue Jensen, Carol Maynard, Carol Paulsen, and Patty Pearson) came in every week to count and process weekly contributions.

FACILITIES

The operational support role for facilities is to ensure maintenance and required repairs are performed in a timely manner, and to oversee upgrade projects. Although some remediation work was required, we successfully passed all state and county required facility inspections.

I had the privilege of working with Ralph Lucht and the Property Management Committee (PMC) that he chairs, on numerous projects and improvements in 2023. The PMC is comprised of people with a wide range of skills that enable us to perform some facility repairs and maintenance with volunteer labor which saves us money. Volunteers worked side-by-side on numerous painting, roofing, fencing, plumbing, and shade sail projects. Both Charlotte Cordes and Curt Peters put in countless hours keeping our campus landscape well-manicured. New plants and trees were introduced around our campus, along with irrigation as necessary.

In 2023 we had a couple of major facility and campus upgrades.

- We provided the Preschool and the Household Blessings ministry with dedicated storage solutions on the north side of our property.
- Through our *Grace Upon Grace* campaign, we were able to completely remodel our Chapel and school playground.

I'm thankful for TVLC's Risk Management Team that is chaired by Karl Deutsch. That team consists of volunteers with varied backgrounds in everything from law enforcement and emergency services to business and marketing. The

BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Operational Support

diverse experience of that team creates a well-rounded approach to our campus safety and security needs.

Our campus facilities serve our church directly as we use them for worship services, Sunday School, student gatherings, cross-generational events, knitters, quilters, library, various group meetings, Bible studies, and business operations. Our facilities also serve as an outreach to hundreds of people within our community since we host numerous groups. Those groups included Boy Scout Troop 141, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, HOA groups, Lifeline, bridge tournaments, basketball, volleyball, and soccer for preschoolers. Our NFLC commercial kitchen was used throughout the year as a commissary for several mobile food units and one catering company.

TVLC business controls also cover our Columbarium which is located on the Northeast section of our property. We have two groups of niches that are offered to TVLC members and immediate family members. One is housed in a structure shaped like a cross, and the other is a wall.

COMMUNICATIONS

We communicate TVLC activities and events through our weekly bulletins, electronic newsletter, posters, banners, brochures, emails, Facebook, TVLC website, and verbal/visual announcements during services.

Our campus wide communications and business activities rely heavily on our internal LAN. Don Denning provides on-going hardware and software support, and problem resolution. Don works fulltime yet makes the time to help our church on an ongoing basis as a volunteer.

Joe Paugh
Business & Facilities Manager

