



THE TLC 2020 STORY

**TWIN LAKES CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT**





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A LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES

“Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel.”

Philippians 1:12

When the Apostle Paul wrote those words he was referring to a chain of seemingly disastrous events that began with false accusations and led to a near-fatal riot, two years languishing in jail, a shipwreck, a snake bite, imprisonment in Rome under the insane Caesar Nero, and his abandonment by many former allies.

Yet, he says, “what has happened... has really served to advance the gospel.”

And in fact, because of his incarceration, as unjust and aggravating as it was, people who otherwise would never have heard the gospel became followers of Jesus, including some in the elite Praetorian guard and Caesar’s own household. Seeds were planted that grew to change civilization. Tragedy was center stage, but Paul knew great things were happening behind the scenes.

I believe we saw exactly the same dynamic during 2020 at Twin Lakes Church.

In 2020 we all endured circumstances that were in turns tragic, inconvenient, alarming, revealing, and maddening. Yet God still worked through it all, as you will see in the pages of this report.

A YEAR UNLIKE ANY OTHER

This annual report is unlike any we’ve ever produced. Because this last year was unlike any we’ve ever experienced.

Between the global pandemic, shelter-in-place orders, racial tension, local fires, and a divisive election, stress was high.

To add to those external stresses, TLC faced greater internal challenges than most ministries because of the many facets of our church: we operated as an office, church, school, preschool, day camp, overnight camp, counseling center, evacuation center, food distribution site, and construction site. The state health guidelines and regulations for each of those ten “industries” was different, and changed constantly.

TELLING THE STORY

Our teams had to pivot quickly to adjust to constantly changing regulations. Many staff members worked 10-12 hour workdays every week, with very little relief.

To tell this exciting story, I organized this report as a timeline of the events of this past year. Of course I had to leave many details out, but I hope this gives you some idea of both the challenges and the triumphs!

THE CHURCH HAS LEFT THE BUILDING

The onset of the coronavirus pandemic prompted an immediate shift to fully-online ministry. Within a week, most of our groups were actively meeting online, including our care and support groups. Our livestream worship service viewership soared by over 500%.

But the most exciting shift was an outward one, as TLC people, ministries, and resources were refocused on being the church in our neighborhoods and communities.

Groups met in gardens and parks and driveways. Baptisms took place at backyard pools and water troughs and beaches. We developed and strengthened relationships with local non-profits and government agencies assisting the poor. In many ways it felt like descriptions of the early church in the Book of Acts!

FORTRESS OR POSSE?

In my very first message to Twin Lakes Church 28 years ago, I quoted Lyle Schaller's observation that all churches are either fortresses or posses.

Fortress churches focus on what happens within the physical church building.

Posse churches focus more on reaching those outside the church walls.

In 2020 many churches were revealed as either frustrated fortresses or empowered posses. I am gratified to say that I saw our staff and congregation ride out into the chaos of 2020 as a highly motivated group of Jesus followers on a mission.

We decided early in the crisis that our church policy would be to follow local and state health guidelines. But I want to be clear: Our teams didn't just adhere to health regulations. They innovated and created. Ministry never stopped. In fact, it grew— in many significant and remarkable ways.

Our food drive raised enough for over 2 million meals! We started a new ministry for under-resourced students in Watsonville. We opened the church campus to fire evacuees and for Covid testing. Our active database

grew to 18,981 people. We even filled 33 new positions during the pandemic, ranging from teachers to tutors to event coordinators, partly to follow Covid protocols but mostly to seize opportunities for ministry!

CHURCH NEVER CLOSED

Although we got our share of criticism throughout the year, the mostly encouraging feedback from the congregation was a lifeline. You'll see excerpts from many letters throughout this report. I like the way this one summarizes what God was doing at TLC this past year:

"I have never been so proud or felt so close to TLC as I have over this time. The TLC church community was never closed. It provided too many services to list! Small groups continued online, food was provided, shut-ins were helped, masks were made, prayers were shared, music abounded (how about that kids concert on zoom or the worship band playing under a cathedral of redwoods), daily devos, livestream services with touching photos of those watching... But what I felt most during this time... was a sense of hope. Church isn't the walls or

building or beautiful campus. It is God working through human spirits, and that has been so tenderly present with such grace and care."

2020 was the 130th anniversary of TLC.

There were unprecedented challenges and heartbreaks. Yet we also experienced positive outcomes not seen in all those years:

- Record "attendance"—even if it was virtual!
- Record food drive
- Record benevolence fund to help people
- Record school enrollment
- Record giving

...and I am convinced the best is yet to come!

Read on for the rest of the story!

"Remember how the LORD your God led you through the wilderness..."

(Deuteronomy 8:2)



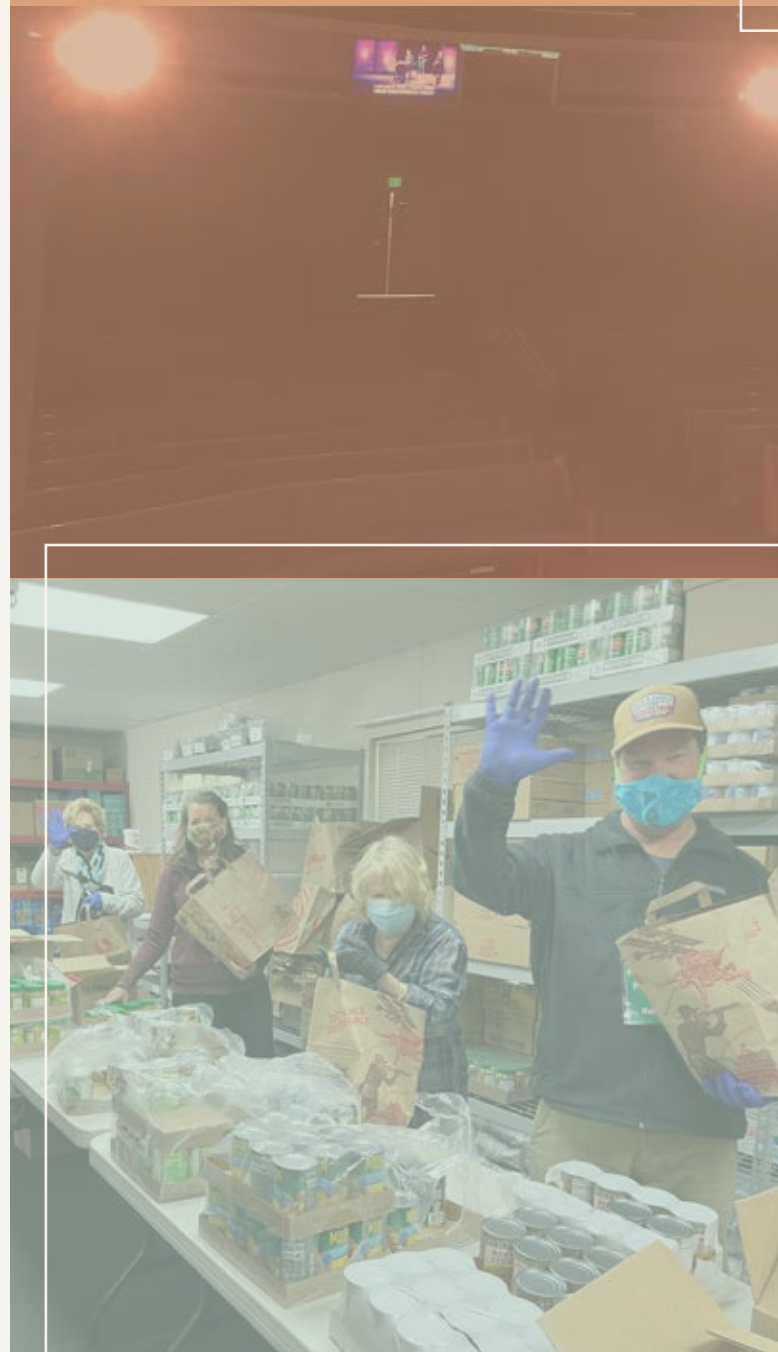
René Schlaepfer
Senior Pastor



2020 TIMELINE

- **Feb 3**
The US declares public health emergency due to a novel coronavirus
- **March 6**
Passengers on cruise ship bound for California test positive for COVID-19, including 4 people from Twin Lakes Church
- **March 10**
Special church board meeting held; decision made to move to livestreaming-only services (for at least two weekends!)
- **March 11**
Rene communicates with church about decision to move to livestream-only services via social media, email and a special video devo
- **March 14/15**
First weekend of livestream-only services
- **March 16**
County issues Shelter-in-Place (SIP) order; Children's Enrichment Center (CEC) closes, Twin Lakes Christian School (TLCS) pivots to online learning
- **March 17**
Construction halts on new College Center & Coffee House due to SIP
- **March 17**
TLC virtual midweek classes launch; Recovery groups go virtual; Rene launches "TLC at Home" podcast
- **March 22**
First online Oasis Sunday School group

"We Christians need to be loving, constructive examples in our communities. Thank you for consistently fostering this... 'TLC' is no mere acronym: I believe this is reflected in our being blessed by 4-5 times regular 'attendance' at online services."





"My brother-in-law and his wife, who live in Lafayette and are not church goers, have been joining our online services faithfully since Easter, and have been growing as a result. Wondrous things are taking place."



- **March 23**
Online mental health support groups begin
- **March 24**
Online Stephen Ministry training begins
- **March 25**
First virtual Encore group - nearly 400 views
- **March 26**
Online GriefShare meetings begin
- **April 1**
Rene begins weekly TLC Friday newsletter to keep church informed; we launch tlc.org/help and tlc.org/prayer pages
- **April 4**
2020 Phase 2 construction resumes for essential infrastructure items. Continues to increase, with some setbacks and stoppages and with limited crews, over the next several weeks.
- **April 6**
First on-campus outdoor memorial during pandemic
- **April 11/12**
First all-livestream Easter (13,000 viewers for Easter/5,600 Good Friday) first Worship in the Wild (worship team filmed in outdoor settings)
- **April 15**
CEC begins distance learning (teachers read books, flannel board Bible stories, share songs, and lead activities)
- **April 15**
People's Pantry food distribution switches to drive-through; nearly entirely new volunteer team recruited to help

- **April 30**

Camp Hammer announces camps cancelled for Summer 2020.

- **May 4**

Facilities and IT departments begin creating four videoconferencing rooms as hybrid meeting spaces for adult ministries and recovery support groups (with interactive touchscreen TVs, room microphones, and more)

- **May 16**

Camp Hammer staff launches "Taste of Camp Hammer", delivering camp cookies and favorite camp meals to local families.

- **May 18**

Topping off ceremony for College Ministry Center/Coffee House

- **May 30**

Release of The Bay Area Blessing, a virtual choir of worship leaders from over 50 area churches including TLC

- **June 1**

Pastor Dave Hicks retires after 19 years on staff

- **June 5**

CEC drive thru graduation

- **June 6**

Mom's Angels car repair clinic resumes after closing in March

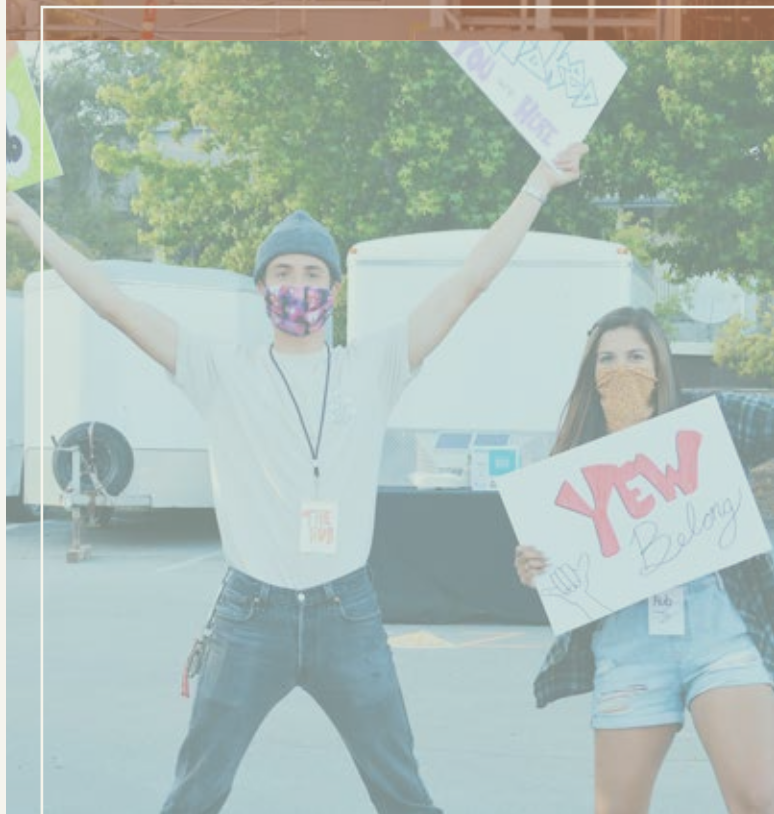
- **June 7**

First drive-through communion

- **June 12**

Camp Hammer begins offering "Family Adventures" day use & movie nights

"I work in a hospital here in Phoenix, Arizona. Friday I left work feeling totally defeated. I am thanking God for nudging me to tune into TLC this past weekend. The service totally recharged me. Thank YOU for reminding me that no matter how bad things are, THERE IS ALWAYS HOPE." ///////////////





"Seems God is giving us all an opportunity to reach more than we ever thought possible under one roof, no matter how large. I've heard God makes a way out of no way..."



- **June 15**
CEC reopens in-person with additional teachers leading new "pods"
- **June 17**
Memorial service for Sergeant Damon Gutzwiler, killed in line of duty on June 6, at Cabrillo Stadium with TLC technical support and pastoral direction
- **June 19**
TLC launches **tlc.org/reconcile**, providing resources for racial reconciliation. We also began outreach to local historically Black churches to develop ministry partnerships.
- **June 23/24**
Jr. High and High School youth groups resume outdoors in-person
- **June 29**
Recovery groups resume meeting in-person outdoors
- **July 1**
Encourage LEO campaign begins; By July 30, TLC sends handwritten notes and gift cards to all 700 local law enforcement officers and staff
- **July 6**
Kruz Kidz kicks off with modified in-person outdoor day camps
- **July 9**
Modular building refurbishment completed, giving People's Pantry its own space for much greater food storage capacity including refrigerators and freezers
- **July 12**
In-person communion service

- **July 13**
TLC begins hosting COVID testing for general public (intermittent until November)
- **August 4**
Massive explosion in Beirut; TLC mobilizes with partners in area to provide help through Beirut relief fund
- **August 3**
State guidelines for reopening schools are published. IT and facilities departments immediately begin creating 7 new classroom spaces and upgrading 24 existing classrooms plus 2 Monschke Hall rooms, all with livestreaming capabilities and Covid-safe in-person spaces
- **August 16**
CZU Lightning Complex fire begins - officially lasts until September 22. It becomes the worst natural disaster in our county's history in terms of property damage—even worse than the '89 earthquake.
- **August 17**
TLCs begins school year virtually; Kruz Kidz launches in-person distance learning support for children of Level 1 essential workers on TLC campus
- **August 18**
Camp Hammer staff evacuates as the CZU Lightning Complex fire approaches
- **August 19**
TLC receives word that Camp Hammer has been destroyed by the CZU Lightning Complex fire
- **August 19-Sept 3**
TLC operates fire evacuation center on campus, providing Wifi, water, septic, power, food, clothing, support groups, and medical care for fire evacuees

"We started listening during the first weeks of Covid last March. Thank you, thank you, thank you! You have become our church family!" //////////////





- **August 23**
First in-person outdoor church service
- **September 3**
TL Kids after-school day camp begins for kids who are distance learning
- **September 8**
New South County in-person tutoring programs begin at FBC Watsonville and Youth NOW. A TLC trust provides over \$70,000 to fund these programs.
- **September 13-19**
Navajo Nation outreach trip brings huge trailer from TLC loaded for Navajo Nation relief. Over \$20,000 given for supplies (TLC worked with Navajo church partners; Navajo Nation hit very hard by Covid-19)
- **September 21**
Fall adult elective classes begin meeting virtually and/or outdoors
- **September 22**
TLCS returns to modified in-person instruction
- **October 1**
Recovery groups resume indoor meetings with Covid modifications
- **October 3**
Saturday night indoor/in-person service launches (Until Nov 14 when county reenters more restrictive tier)
- **October 5**
RightNow Media access provided for entire church membership
- **October 7**
Recruitment for Spanish ministries pastor begins as Slingshot Group is engaged to conduct national search

- **November 3**
National Election Day
- **November 10**
New tent installed with lighting, heat, internet, cameras, outdoor sound system, and 85-inch outdoor television, enabling outdoor meetings to continue in winter months.
- **November 21/22**
TLC announces largest food drive total ever: \$429,000/1.7 million meals (but we weren't done!)
- **November 30**
TLC provides \$50,000 for new Grace Harbor women's shelter in South County
- **December 15**
Food Drive total reaches 2 million meals
- **December 17-20**
TLC Giving Grove provides gifts and assistance to 100 low income or homeless families and families with incarcerated parent; 400 nursing home residents; plus hundreds of children through \$5,000 donation to Salvation Army
- **December 23/24**
In person outdoor Carols & Candles services; over 900 in attendance

"My neighbor helped me get the church livestream on my TV. She's not a church goer. But then she went home and tuned in herself—and said she signed up for the video devos too! I believe God's Word is reaching more and more people!!"

////////////////////////////////////





I am so
happy that
I go to
Twin Lakes
because I like
the techs.
We also learn
about God.
I like God.
It is fun.
I like my friends. Maledine

"I have been attending TLC from Kansas, we livestream every Sunday. I want to thank you for changing the way I view Christianity. I grew up in a rigid dogmatic church, but since I have been listening to your sermons I have a completely different outlook. God's grace has saved me, nothing more or less. I have to keep coming back to that."





"What a fabulous tower of strength TLC has been during this dreadful virus shutdown! I'm a senior, single woman with a giant bullseye on me! I fit all the vulnerable categories! BUT, I don't have to be afraid, I'm not given a 'spirit of fear'. It's very lonely at times, and I miss my husband terribly, but I have been blessed with loving, caring TLC friends who pray with me, check in daily with calls and offers of food, and sometimes a virtual shoulder to cry on."



IT & FACILITIES TEAMS RISE TO CHALLENGE

Our IT and Facilities teams led by Barry Schneider and Nate Voeltz went far beyond their normal duties to make dynamic ministry possible in 2020. Just some of the challenges they met:

- **March–April** – The IT department plunges into empowering virtual ministry, equipping and training our entire staff and key volunteers for “distance” ministry. Most ministries are able to go virtual within the first week of the Shelter-In-Place order
- **May** – The IT and facilities teams create four videoconferencing rooms as hybrid meeting spaces for adult ministries and recovery support groups (with interactive touchscreen TVs, room microphones, and more)
- **July** - Modular building refurb is completed, giving People’s Pantry its own space for much greater food storage capacity including refrigerators and freezers
- **August 19–Sept 3** – Our tech and facilities teams lead the way in opening a fire evacuation center on campus, providing Wifi, water, septic, power, and more.
- **August 3** – State guidelines for reopening schools and churches are published, and immediately our IT and facilities teams begin work to set up compliant spaces: During August they create 7 new classrooms and upgrade 24 existing classrooms plus 2 Monschke Hall rooms with both livestreaming and Covid-safe in-person capabilities.





Easter 2020 Behind the Scenes Crew

Throughout the year, our IT team also helped other churches in the area. We furnished and installed new livestreaming and internet hardware for **Santa Cruz Bible Church, Vintage Faith Church, Santa Cruz Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, First Baptist Church** in Watsonville, and **New Hope Baptist Church** in Salinas.

Meanwhile, both teams were heavily involved in equipping our new college and coffee house building.

We all owe these two teams a huge debt of gratitude!

"Our small church in Riverbank, Ca., has been without a pastor. About a year ago we began enjoying TLC sermons via YouTube.. We want to thank you and your IT staff for bringing God's love and inspiration each Sunday, especially during this time."

"God's providential care has never ceased to amaze me down through the years. What may look like a sure defeat has been transformed into yet another testimony. The outpouring of love and support from your members has been a faith-building experience for my entire congregation. We will once again be able to have our livestream services up and running—and we will upgrade our security systems as well!"

– A. L. Smith,
pastor of New
Hope Baptist
Church in
Salinas, which
was robbed
of all their
computers,
cameras,
and sound
equipment.
TLC funded its
replacement. ●





FIRE EVACUATION CENTER

For three weeks, TLC operated a "fire refugee" center on campus, providing Wifi, water, septic, power, food, clothing, support groups, and medical care for fire evacuees

"To the TLC evacuation staff and volunteers, your kindness and support is something we will remember and feel for the rest of our lives!"

"I was terrorized. I thought my house was going to blow up. And then the evacuation center was like a little slice of heaven. People were so nice and generous and kind and loving."

"I never in my wildest dreams expected the sheer expression of love I experienced at the evacuation center... I was greeted personally, we have water, electricity, three meals a day... I cannot imagine a more loving place to be in a time I just felt broken."

"I was a stranger and you invited me in..."

Matthew 25:35 ●

THE BODY OF CHRIST IN ACTION

Many other churches around the Bay Area donated to the TLC fire relief fund:

Bay Area Baptist Church

\$2,000

Bayside Church

\$15,000

Peninsula Bible Church

\$25,071.25

Central Christian Church

\$8,000

Church on the Hill

\$5,000

Home Church

\$5,000

New Beginnings
Community Church

\$24,000

Peninsula Covenant Church

\$14,611

San Jose Open Bible Church

\$995

West Hills Community Church

\$5,000

Westgate Church

\$50,000

VIRTUAL CHURCH GREW EXPONENTIALLY

187

Different Countries
Accessing [tlc.org](https://www.tlc.org);
Highest Ever

2019: 281
2020: 2,055

Video Devo
Average Daily Views*

2019: 850
2020: 5,344

Average Weekend
Livestream Views*

"We began listening to your ministry online at the very beginning of the virus shutdown. Your gracious ministry of hope has been a bright beacon during the darkness of the pandemic, fires, and political stress."

"We are excited to see how our Lord is using our online services to reach all over the world. It is so exciting to see, each week, the places people are watching from."

"In Paso Robles we started attending the livestreams and listening to the daily devos. These were like a lifeline in a dark place."

"We join TLC via Vimeo from Oregon and continue to grow spiritually as we join online weekly..."

"Twin Lakes has been such a help to us here in Cordova, Alaska—we use the sermons for Bible study weekly." ●

(Note: This counts devices, not individuals. In a 2020 TLC survey, respondents were asked how many watched the livestream together; the average was 2.7 people. So this would indicate 14,428 average viewers per weekend)

*Across all platforms: Vimeo, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, etc.

*Easter weekend 2020.
The congregation sends in photos
of themselves to put in pews.*

8:00 PM
Worship Service with Pastor
Mark Smith and Guest Pastor
Rev. Dr. David J. Hayes
Special Music by the
Choir and Congregation
Prayer and Communion
by Pastor Mark Smith



*Each weekend viewers sent in
selfies for our post-service
"virtual lobby."*



VIDEO DEVO
2020-06-19

A NEW BUILDING ON CAMPUS

In 1973, a college ministry building first appeared on the church master plan. In 2013, we began raising funds for our 2020 Vision, featuring a college center in that same spot. Now we are putting the finishing touches on our new College Center and home of Loft Coffee!

Because of delays caused by the pandemic and infrastructure improvements we made along the way, the project took a bit longer and cost a little more than anticipated. But we praise God for his provision and are excited about this new and expanded outreach to college students and our community-at-large!

Whether people are enjoying the warm, uplifting atmosphere of Loft Coffee or attending weekly college and young adult events like "The Hub", this beautiful new facility will be buzzing with ministry 7 days a week!

Thank you for your ongoing prayers, enthusiasm, and financial support! (And just in case you're wondering, our 2020 Phase 2 pledge period wraps up at the end of this year.) ●



2020 VISION

STEPPING OUT IN FAITH TO REACH THE NEXT GENERATION

PHASE 2: COLLEGE MINISTRY CENTER





Above: The remains of DK Hall
Below: Eric and Sarah Swanson-Dexel with Nelda and Paul Barton

A NEW ERA AT CAMP HAMMER

In the late night hours of August 18, 2020 the CZU Lightning Complex Fire tore through Camp Hammer.

By morning, 24 structures and virtually all of camp's infrastructure, vehicles and equipment were destroyed. Our Azalea cabin, central fire pit and amphitheater, recreation field, sand volleyball court, redwood stage, 3 utility sheds and a few water tanks are all that remain.

We continue to praise God that our staff and their families (18 in all) safely evacuated earlier in the evening. Since the fire, we have

been providing housing, reimbursements for personal belongings, counseling and other assistance to our camp staff. We will continue to do so through July of this year. But since there will be no viable operations at Camp Hammer for the foreseeable future, it has become necessary for these beloved employees to transition to other jobs. Please continue to pray for each of them!

Camp Hammer Staff

Eric & Sarah Swanson-Dexel, and their children Ellie & Phoenix

Tyler & Katie Reed, and their children Ransom, Daisy, Lexie & Winnie

Matt & Ocean Hakucho

Ryan & Jenna Bostonheisel

Sean Anderson

Cody Rogers

Samara Sorce

It is a new era at Camp Hammer. And what the Lord has in store for the property and any future ministry is yet to unfold.

For now, we're putting our efforts into clearing building sites, removing dead and dangerous trees, and addressing challenges to rebuilding.

We trust that God—in his perfect timing—will provide a clear path forward.

"What struck me last night as I watched the orange skies of the still-raging fire is that while the Camp Hammer destruction may seem overwhelmingly daunting, it also has the opportunity to become a story of resurrection. Perhaps not in the same vein as Camp existed for 55 years (time will tell), but as we know, the Lord uses moments of tragedy. Yesterday I couldn't help but think that on the day of the crucifixion, the skies would have been even more ominous, and the feeling of hopelessness far surpassing the emotions we feel now. And yet we know what happened on that third day; the most amazing gift, one that couldn't even be imagined. So I'm hopeful that whatever may come, God will somehow use this dark moment in time for something good, and that one day we'll look back in amazement that out of the ashes (literally) something arose that continued to change lives and lead people to Jesus, just as Camp has done. And if that's a re-born Camp Hammer, that's great. But even if God seems to lead TLC in another direction, we can be encouraged that it will be God's plan for TLC." ●





MINISTRY SNAPSHOTS

That's the big picture. Now here are ministry snapshots from some of our pastors and directors. Each department at TLC experienced their own unique challenges and remarkable blessings during 2020, and I want you to hear their stories...



STEVE CRAIG
PASTOR TO HIGH
SCHOOL STUDENTS

The initial shutdown was challenging for our high school students. With socialization as vital as academics to their school experience, it was a shock to their mental health. We launched grade-specific weekly zoom Bible studies and a weekly zoom game night. Many new students were able to join the Bible studies, which generally lasted far past the allotted hour. Often students did homework together on zoom just so they could continue to socialize.

In June, the High School group resumed our in-person meetings outside in the gym parking lot. With no youth sports or other options, our Wednesday night meetings blossomed. One of the blessings to come out of this time was our students' desire to study theology. They asked and we answered: In September we launched a two-hour Sunday afternoon theology class. ●



KYLE PITCHFORD

**COLLEGE & YOUNG
ADULT PASTOR**

Although the past year has had its many challenges, we have seen God doing a number of things that are very exciting. Our attendance has stayed consistent throughout the year, even though during much of the Covid season we met outside in the back parking lot. In fact, we had more new people check out the Hub this year than ever before! It was especially awesome to celebrate new life in Christ through five baptisms at The Hub!

I believe the isolation many young adults experienced this year has caused them to really hunger for community again. I also believe the uncertainty and shakiness of everything around them has drawn them to security in Christ! Praise God for the amazing work He is doing! ●



JESSICA FRANKL

**PASTOR TO JUNIOR
HIGH STUDENTS**

On March 18, 2020 we began moving most of our ministry to social media. "Wildside" restarted in-person on June 23. We were challenged to come up with Covid-safe games and constantly adjust our format to the changes in the pandemic protocols. For a while it felt like everything changed week to week—if not daily.

We totally reformatted our youth program—many changes I likely never would have made without the pandemic, yet they are working so well. For example, we began what we called "Meet Up Mondays" on Monday afternoons. We've met with a small and consistent group of students at outdoor locations around the county on most Mondays for the last year! The relationships built from those Mondays are irreplaceable and wouldn't have happened otherwise. We've also continued aspects of our virtual ministry.

We've ended up revitalizing and adapting our ministry. We've had to be creative- and we are better for it, both programmatically and, more importantly, relationally. ●





SUZANNE BLYSTON

DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S ENRICHMENT CENTER

2020 brought many challenges: Staying connected with families after closing the school due to Covid-19; the uncertainty surrounding reopening; having to follow all the new state and local safety protocols and guidelines (especially when they would constantly change); having to hire additional teachers that would meet state qualifications in a short amount of time.

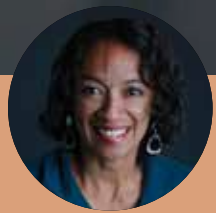
Yet there were so many triumphs: During the Covid closure, teachers Zoomed with their classes and found creative ways to engage 2-5 year olds online. We also provided many at-home resources for children and parents. We safely reopened, implemented many new procedures, and hired 6 highly qualified additional teachers for 10 stable cohorts in a short period of time. We had a safe drive-thru graduation for the class of 2020, and held our first virtual back-to-school night!

"I am a behavior analyst for a school district. My job is to go into classrooms or school sites and observe, identifying ways to improve the environment. Every time I set foot into your facility, I am impressed by the communication, organization and systems in place. Your environment is organized, clean, and visually appealing. I am so grateful for you all and everything you do to create a safe, loving, learning environment for my child."

– CEC parent

"I am so pleased with the positive and loving energy, the true focus on Christianity, and the balance of play and academics at CEC. I am also impressed with the school's response to Covid, keeping to all the many rules, and yet also allowing the children to be children. The response seemed reasonable, balanced, and artful... and Suzanne kept her cool through a VERY difficult time."

– CEC parent ●



YOLANDA BEAUDOIN
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR



The past year was filled with challenges. Yet there were so many ways we were able to innovate and create new ministry. Some of our triumphs this past year: TLK camp, our afternoon camp serving children who are distance learning; our puppets Nico & Nicole and their moments during the livestream; Kidz pods, which allowed us to have summer day camp during the pandemic; and we hired an entire staff of 8 tutors for our partnership with First Baptist Church and Mintie White elementary school to lead learning pods serving the most vulnerable children.

One of our biggest surprises: our reach was global. We even received an email from a mom in Brazil who loved our online lessons!

"I prayed to God, telling Him that the kids and I needed help: more time in church, a preschool program for my younger daughter, more kid play time for my kids, break times for me, people to love on my kids other than me. Then I thought to check the Twin Lakes website. And saw the TL Kid after school program! All my prayer concerns ANSWERED IN ONE PROGRAM! And it's free! Thank you Twin Lakes for hearing God's call!" ●



MEG IMEL

TWIN LAKES CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Our enormous challenge this past year was meeting all the county health guidelines for in-person instruction. That created financial strain as well as social and emotional stresses for our students and staff. We had to hire and fill 19 new positions in order to meet the stable group guidelines. We were able to hire eight from Mt. Hermon and two from Mission Springs when these camps had to close down during the height of the pandemic.

My biggest delight was the amazing resilience and dedication of our staff and students to manage all these ever-changing

protocols. The gratitude from our parents for our efforts to offer in-person instruction was also extremely encouraging to our staff. It was truly amazing how God provided. We ended the year with our largest staff ever, and our highest enrollment to date – 379 students!

"I have seen a night-and-day difference in my son since TLCS began meeting in person. He went from being scared, angry, unable to focus, back to the happy, confident, focused child I know and love. I am impressed and grateful at how our school is handling 2020." ●



KIM BREUNINGER
WOMEN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR

At the start of the pandemic, people were afraid, lonely, and had lost direction. Helping people process pain was what was needed most at first. Then we had to look for opportunities to get people connected. That meant learning new technology to keep relationships and connections warm—and convincing and training our leadership in those areas of technology.

I was surprised to see how well it all worked. I led the first Bible study during Covid, "Choose Joy" by Kay Warren. This was a wonderful surprise from God! We had 65 women participate in that first class on Zoom. It was a blessing to all and so needed. Throughout Covid we've continued our weekly Bible studies with hundreds of people taking courses based on hope, courage, and emotional healing. The impact has been remarkable!

"I cannot overstate the power that the women's support group Journey has had in my life. I have been a Christian since I was a young girl, but have never experienced God's presence like I have through this." ●





KATHLEEN LINEBERRY

DIRECTOR, TLC
BENEVOLENCE

This year has been one of the most demanding and overwhelming years I have ever experienced in the benevolence ministry. It has also been the most rewarding!

I saw God moving every single day to bring help and hope to people in our community in a tangible way. In a year where so many lost so much, God's love overflowed and reached more people than ever before.

When the rest of the world came to a halt due to the pandemic, the benevolence ministry safely kept the doors wide open and doubled the number of available appointments. Not only were we able to see more people, the financial generosity of our church family made it possible to offer help like never before.

In 2019, our outgoing benevolence assistance totaled **\$57,480**. In 2020 it was **\$391,368**. We were able to help those in need of rent money, housing during fire evacuations, medical bills and medical equipment, school supplies and education costs, vehicles and transportation needs.

One of the most exciting things we were able to provide was connection. In a year people



felt isolated and alone, we connected them to our recovery groups, counselors, food pantries, county and state resources, outreach programs, and shelters. Also, we gave away more Bibles this year than any other year. People were very open to receiving them! Most importantly, we invited each person into a relationship with Christ.

"Thank you for your generous contribution to my sober living environment. This means the difference of life or death for me!"



"I was recently in your office with a request for help with my rent and deposit for an apartment after a year of being homeless. Your very generous gift saved me, and my despair dissipated with it. Kathleen closed our meeting with a prayer to God for me. It was beautiful and left me in tears."

"There are no words to express my deep gratitude for your generous help with registration and smog costs for my RV. I no longer must live out of my car—after

two years! I now have my tags and can legally use the RV. God bless you, thank you so much!"

"I wanted to take a moment and say thank you to the TLC family. My husband lost his new job due to this crisis. Things are so tight. I don't think the TLC family realizes how much you are helping our family. We can put food on the table and make some of our other monthly bills. Thank you very much TLC for caring for your community." ●



**TRENT SMITH &
ELIZABETH SUMMERS**
WORSHIP PASTORS

Some of our biggest challenges during 2020: Leading worship in an empty room; masking and distancing on stage; not being able to plan far ahead because there were always so many unknowns regarding the changing health protocols; leading in a sensitive way through the emotional and divisive cultural moments; staying connected as a team; creating an outdoor service, and prepping both for that and the online services each week.

Yet we are so grateful for many things: No one on our team got Covid! We also had a lot of great available musicians to play with us, and we had opportunity for new kinds of creative projects (outdoor worship, virtual choirs, collaboration with many other area churches, etc). Leading up to Palm Sunday weekend, we had a great number of kids participate in the virtual kids choir. We are so encouraged each week to learn of people who are watching from all over the country and being blessed by the times of worship we lead. It puts wind in our sails!

"Since the shutdown we have been watching your services at Twin Lakes every Sunday morning from Rancho Palos Verdes..."

"I watch online from my home in Portland, OR. Thank you for your amazing online access and all that you do for the community..."

"I enjoy watching TLC online; I have been for many months from Minnesota."

"We have been watching your live services online from Greeley Colorado since Easter 2020. Wow! Thank you for your timely messages and worship during this pandemic."

"Thank you so much for your weekly online services. We are with you in spirit in Roseville, Ca. Stay strong and be not discouraged!" ●



DAN BAKER, SARA BENTLY, & CARRIE CLARK

**PASTORAL CARE
& SENIORS**

What a year! Here are some challenges and triumphs:

Sonshine Ministry was unable to deliver hot meals initially. Yet were able to recruit several new meal servers, adapted to freezer meals to serve people in a COVID safe manner, and later in the year resumed hot meal deliveries. We served well over 1,000 meals to families dealing with hospitalizations.

Our hospital visitation team transitioned to phone visitation, and despite the challenges the team completed 559 phone visits. One of the team members started a flower bouquet ministry to encourage those who could not get out due to shelter-in-place orders.

Our support groups such as GriefShare, Through Cancer with Care, and our Mental Health groups transitioned to zoom meetings with great success, and many quickly resumed in-person meetings outdoors (following health protocols). Most are now back in-person or with hybrid in-person and online meetings.

In May we graduated 10 new Stephen Ministers. We adapted this ministry to phone

calls and video conferencing to care for many in our congregation. As the year progressed many were able to meet safely in person.

Our Encore (senior adults ministry) was not able to meet in person, yet we produced a monthly "Virtual Encore" involving musicians, missionaries, pastors, TLC staff, etc. which enjoyed more than 2,600 views in 2020.

"I would like to thank those from TLC who came to visit and pray for my recovery while in ICU. I can't express enough the gratitude I felt!...You are all a big reason for my recovery!"

"Thank you so much for the food the volunteers have been bringing us. We're both elderly with lung issues and have been loath to go out. Keep up the good work!"

"Thank you for giving us Bibles for our Dominican Hospital patients. It is a source of comfort and hope for many patients to be able to hold and read a Bible while in the hospital. With appreciation, the Dominican Hospital chaplain team."●





PAUL SPURLOCK
PASTOR OF OUTREACH &
ADULT EDUCATION

TLC supports 25 missions/missionary partners on every continent except Australia! We spent much time in 2020 encouraging our missionaries who, due to the pandemic, had to put on hiatus much of their regular work because it is by nature so up close and personal. But our mission partners rose to the occasion and served in new innovative ways that included: training & discipling via Zoom, outdoor meetings, health and antivirus training and providing salary support and basic needs for national pastors.

Due to various reasons, TLC Missions lost three of our missionary partners in 2020. But God was faithful. He introduced us to three new partners: First, long-time TLC friends and unofficial partners in the Middle East, Jamal



& Suzan Hashweh, who serve thousands of war refugees and impoverished people are now official TLC mission partners! Second, we added one more family serving in Egypt. And finally, we enthusiastically entered into formal partnership with Kevin & Lelani Humble, career missionaries in Indonesia!

We received approximately \$100,000 in additional giving to missions by generous TLCers! In turn, we were able to be extra generous with our mission partners! Funds given included:

- Providing a full shipping container of desperately needed basic home supplies plus \$10,000+ for the parts and installation of the first-ever septic system and running water for a Navajo church!
- \$10,000 to a Zambian church connected to Johan & Christa Combrinck that enabled the church to re-roof their entire church and provide a quality sound system
- \$8,000 of emergency funding to our partners in Italy to help keep their church ministries viable (most of the staffs are unpaid and many lost their primary source of employment in jobs outside of the church)
- \$10,000 to Music Camp International (served hundreds of marginalized children in 2020 where the traditional church is not welcome)

- \$10,000 each for two missionary families, one in Zambia and the other in China
- In combination with other TLC funding, \$30,000 for local tutoring programs in districts where "half the students were failing."

"Before coming to (Prakash Institute in India)...I did not speak without being angry with anyone....But slowly I realized that God has a purpose for my life! It is my desire to complete my Pre-School Teacher's Training and become a good teacher. Also, I want to become a faithful and respectable child of God!"

- Sunita

"(TLC's gift) helped purchase the plot of land for a new church...in a remote village in Zambia....Your donation also is helping us help them start the construction project on their 1st church building. Thanks SO MUCH!"

- Johan Combrinck ●



ROBIN SPURLOCK
LOCAL OUTREACH DIRECTOR

TLC Local Outreach was able to quickly and creatively redesign our own programs for Covid-19 needs, and also partner with several local community non-profits who share some of our goals.

Some highlights:

- In 2020, our People's Pantry free grocery distribution served **over 6,000 people** with an average of **240 different families** served each month. Thank you to the faithful volunteers for many years (under the leadership of Jack Spurlock and Bill Roome) who had to initially step aside when Covid-19 hit—as well as our new team of volunteers who stepped in to fill the gap. Our new drive-through system proved safe and efficient, and our new modular building allows us to store much more food and refrigerate proteins like chicken.
- We were able to bless **all 700 of our local Law Enforcement** officers and staff with "care package" type gifts and hand-written encouragement cards
- Our weekly **Homeless Shower Program** outreach, providing portable showers for the unhoused, continued throughout the pandemic. We expanded the hours and have



been able to serve about 70 people per week.

- \$20,000 was donated for the Grace Harbor Women's Center remodel project
- \$4,200 donated to Housing Matters for the homeless

"We've been coming to People's Pantry for about 3 months. It has really helped through the pandemic as I am self-employed and business is really down. The atmosphere here is also very much appreciated."

"It is a blessing to have the food. As a low-income senior, we need the assistance. And the people here are so friendly and warm."



New People's Pantry storage space at TLC

"I wanted to express our gratitude for the gift cards and loving words of support for employees of the Santa Cruz County sheriff's department. There have been many times we have felt alone in our particular struggles. So, thank you for reaching out in Christian love for a neighbor. As Christ said, 'by this all people will know you are my disciples, if you love one another...'"

– A Sheriff's Department Family

"Your staff and congregation delivered cards to every one of my employees. The thoughts and gift meant a lot. Your church's generosity and kindness lifted all our spirits. You and your church have always been there when we needed you most. I will always be grateful for Twin Lakes Church and the relationship we have built."

– Jim Hart, Santa Cruz County Sheriff ●

"We can't express how much we appreciate the individual gift cards to all our 911 dispatchers! Much needed kindness during this very difficult time."

– 911 Dispatchers

COMMUNITY PARTNER FOCUS



YOUTH N.O.W. WATSONVILLE

**MICHELE CHANEY,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Youth N.O.W. was truly blessed by Twin Lakes Church in 2020. We started a safe in-person tutoring program for Watsonville youth with funding from TLC.

Twenty-five youth ages K through 12 were given the opportunity to be on-site every day for internet, tutoring support, on-site prepared meals, food distribution, mentoring and connection. TLC also covered the cost of the additional staffing for morning programming. These 25 youth were children home alone, either not attending school due to lack of supervision or because of the absence of stable internet. Seven of these youth were also provided transportation to and from the Buena Vista Migrant Housing Center.

In addition, Twin Lakes volunteers stepped in to sit with students and oversee their school day. All the student's families were provided wrap-around support, and referrals were made for rental assistance and mental health services.

The impact of your funding does not stop there! Our after-school programming for fall semester 2020 assisted 130 students with twice-weekly 90-minute tutoring sessions led

by 70 volunteers. Again some of these came directly from Twin Lakes.

TLC's help was the difference for us as we ran into financial difficulties in 2020. It was this funding that allowed us to never cut any services nor lay any staff off.

Santa Cruz Good Times named Youth N.O.W. "most innovative program" of 40 community organizations they featured this year, and it is with thanks to Twin Lakes Church that we were able to be there for our students during such a critical time. On behalf of every student and family, I thank you for your partnership and its impact on the community.

"Without Youth N.O.W., this year would have been a lot worse for students. Their grades would have gone down, mine included. The tutors are special to me because they are always there when I need help."

– Emiliano

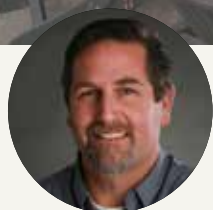
"Youth N.O.W. has helped me through school and through anything else outside of school, such as when I need someone to talk to. When I think of Youth N.O.W. I think of home."

– Brian ●



**Thank
you for
your
support!**





JIM JOSSELYN

RECOVERY AND COMMUNITY GROUPS PASTOR

So many amazing things happened last year in the TLC community ministries (small groups, marriage, parenting, singles, men's ministry, and divorce care). Even as in-person meetings were shut down, God provided creative ways for people to gather and fellowship. The fall "Undaunted Series" had 55 groups that met either outside or online. Many attended a small group for the first time—and there were no geographic restrictions for these groups. One of the groups had a woman attend from Italy!

The RightNow Media platform also provided rich small group material. Men's ministries, Singles, and Divorce Care groups also continued to meet and grow online. Marriage and family ministries offered two popular online classes: Parenting class on Wednesday nights and Marriage (60 couples attended) on Thursday.

Recovery groups for drug and alcohol addiction, sexual addiction, and codependency experienced unprecedented growth! The added challenges through the last year have brought many to their knees. Zoom provided a safe platform, and many began their sobriety journey during the online meetings. Following the county guidelines, meetings transitioned to in person in the TLC parking lot late in the year. TLC was excited to begin a women's only recovery meeting called "Beloved" in November.

"I no longer feel like I lead a double life."

- Recovery group attender

"People ask me why I still continue to come to recovery meetings after almost 17 years (6,134 days) of sobriety. My answer is always the same: I come to hear God talk to me through the transformation stories of others in the room—and He does." ●

TEACHING JOURNEY

We quickly adapted our planned teaching series for 2020 to speak directly from Scripture to the uncertainty many were feeling. Two consistent themes through every series: The sovereignty of God and the servanthood of the believer: God is ultimately in charge, and we respond to crisis and division by serving.

JANUARY

Habits of the Heart

FEBRUARY

Rhythm: Walking Daily in the Spiritual Practices of Christ

MARCH

Shelter: Comfort and Courage in Crisis

APRIL-MAY

There Is Hope: Biblical Perspectives in Times of Trouble

JUNE-JULY

The Lord's Prayer

AUGUST

The Way Forward

SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER

Undaunted: Second Corinthians

NOVEMBER

Thanks/Living: Philippians 4

DECEMBER

Advent 2020: A Thrill of Hope ●

TLC ESPANOL

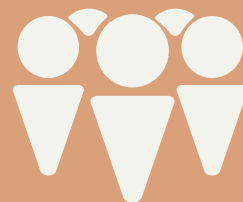
In 2020 we engaged church consultant group Slingshot to assist in our search for a new bilingual pastor to lead TLC Español, a new phase of ministry at Twin Lakes Church we plan to launch in 2021.

Currently over 35% of our county identifies as Latino or Hispanic. Many are in households that speak only Spanish; most are in bilingual families. To better serve them we intend to design comprehensive Spanish-language and bilingual ministry, including small groups, worship services, printed and web-based material, and more.

Several churches in San Jose, Southern California, and Texas with whom we consulted have had great success with similar ministries, but it is not easy. This new emphasis will require full buy-in on the part of our whole congregation: Prayer, financial, and volunteer support. Please prayerfully consider how you can help! ●

96,479

Hispanic/Latino Santa Cruz County
Residents in 2021*



*DataShare Santa Cruz County





BUDGET
MARK SPURLOCK
EXECUTIVE PASTOR

The 2020 Budget Report reflects the impact of two dramatic events: the onset of the coronavirus pandemic and the outbreak of the CZU Lightning Complex Fire.

The Pandemic. Due to the faithful and widespread giving of our congregation, church income actually exceeded expectations! We definitely needed the extra giving due to many additional pandemic-related expenses.

We reopened our preschool in mid-June with smaller cohorts which required two teachers for each class. This increased payroll expenses, but we were determined to care for our preschoolers and enable their parents to get back to work.

The same dynamic played out in the new school year at TLCS. Where we had two classes per grade, we created a third in order to lower the number of students in each cohort. We hired 19 new TLCS positions in order to meet the stable group guidelines. Between Monschke Hall and other rooms on campus we outfitted 7 new classrooms.

Words cannot adequately express the heroic efforts of our CEC and TLCS teachers, support staff, and leadership. The same is true of our facilities team who cheerfully disinfected classrooms, bathrooms and playgrounds multiple times each day.

The Fire. In the months leading up to the fire, our Camp Hammer staff creatively responded to Covid restrictions by offering family adventure days and movie nights.

When the fire razed our camp property we shifted to caring and providing for our staff. Their time at Camp Hammer ranged from 20 years with Eric & Sarah Swanson-Dexel to an employee who was hired just weeks before the fire. All of them lost their housing and possessions—except whatever they took with them when they evacuated.

With no definite timetable for if or when we may rebuild, we made the painful decision to release our camp staff in early 2021. Through July of this year we will continue to reimburse them for housing, lost possessions, counselling other related expenses. They have also received a generous severance package based on their time of service. Please continue to keep these dear people in your prayers!

The Financial Impact. Due to these additional expenses related to the pandemic

and fire we experienced an overall financial deficit of \$679,133.

The good news: All of these additional expenses will be covered by the faithful giving of the congregation, our SBA PPP loan (which is expected to be fully forgiven) and by insurance in the case of losses due to the fire. Once our application for the forgiveness of the SBA PPP loan is approved, those funds will be applied. In our case, this program was complete success! We kept our staff employed and hired several others who had been laid off from their previous jobs. We are also currently working with our insurance carrier to finalize the total loss due to the fire at Camp Hammer.

Thank you so much for your faithful support!

"The enclosed check is over and above our regular giving. This is what we received as stimulus funding due to the pandemic. We don't need this money. So we want to give this to our church..."

"The stories and videos of our Navajo brothers and sisters really touched our spirits. And so that is where we feel led to send our Covid relief money." ●

BUDGET REPORT

INCOME	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget
Church	5,432,612	5,544,859	5,658,837
Missions	622,112	636,000	639,271
Camps & Schools	3,335,179	3,822,390	4,145,540
Total Operating Income	9,389,903	10,003,249	10,443,648
EXPENSE			
Church	5,266,253	5,339,530	5,457,574
Missions	665,976	622,709	669,148
Camps & Schools	4,284,638	4,720,143	4,309,471
Total Operating Expense	10,216,867	10,682,382	10,436,193
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	(826,964)	(679,133)	7,455

Notes:

- TLC, Camps & Schools budgets were amended mid-year to reflect the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic
- TLC received a SBA Payroll Protection Program loan of \$1.4M that has not yet been applied to the budget.
- Subject to final audit adjustment
- Depreciation not included

**BENEVOLENCE FUND
CONTRIBUTIONS**

**GENERAL
BENEVOLENCE**
\$437,128.79



**STAFF
BENEVOLENCE**
\$37,374.70



**FIRE
BENEVOLENCE**
\$36,403.64



**TOTAL
BENEVOLENCE
FUNDS**
\$510,907.13

**TOTAL
BENEVOLENCE
IN 2019**
\$57,480

IN MEMORIAM

One of the sorrows we experienced this year was saying goodbye to Nelda Barton. What an impact she had on Twin Lakes Church! Nelda and her new husband, Paul, were the first staff hired by Pastor Roy Kraft in 1950. Paul served as Music Pastor and Nelda as church organist and pianist. She traveled with Paul on many choir tours, special groups and family concerts. She was also the accompanist for the church radio broadcast, Morning Chimes, for 25 years. Paul and Nelda enjoyed 70 years of love and ministry together. What a legacy of faithfulness Nelda has left us! We rejoice in knowing that Nelda is with her Savior and we will see her again.



LOOKING AHEAD

Who knows what will happen in 2021 and beyond! We've all learned some important truths:

- **God is faithful.** He will be with us, helping us through any storm.
 - **The church is resilient.** Jesus promised, "I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it," and we witnessed that in 2020.
 - **Flexibility is essential.** Life throws us curveballs. As we learn to adjust, we experience the joy of continued effectiveness and growth.
- I am really looking forward to two major developments: The opening of our college ministry center & coffee house (and all the ministry that will take place there); and the launch of TLC Español, led by our newest staff pastor!



I have many questions for the year ahead: What will church life look like as we regather? Will people quickly return to indoor meetings or will outdoor and internet options stay vital for some time? Will the “virtual congregation” continue its growth? How can we best minister to that group? How should we proceed with Camp Hammer? Most importantly, how can we nurture orthodox Christianity in our congregation, even as culture pushes against it—from many directions?

Of course there will be many more unanticipated challenges and triumphs. Whatever else the year ahead brings, I know—because I have now seen it happen during the most traumatic ministry year of my life—that God will work in powerful ways! That is guaranteed!

So will we participate with His movement in the world? I pray for believers to resist

the intense temptation to divide over less important issues and focus in unity on the Great Commission and the Great Commandment—together!

Love God. Love people. Make disciples. These divinely established purposes have seen Jesus’ church through many upheavals, and will continue to guide us.

Thank you so much for your faithful support!



René Schlaepfer
Senior Pastor

“But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.”

2 Timothy 4:5



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