



February 2024  
Volume 6, Issue 2

## Light of the World Monthly Newsletter



Short Stories that  
Speak Volumes  
for Our Lives

### A Father's Love

*Jesus said, "The son got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him" (Luke 15:20).*

He was homeless, smelly, and almost starving to death. But the worst thing was that he knew it was all his fault. He thought his father was cruel and overbearing; there were too many rules. He wanted freedom. He wanted to have fun, but his father was all about responsibility and hard work. So, he asked for his share of the inheritance. He didn't care about the farm; he just wanted the money. As soon as he got it, he left. He could finally do what he wanted to do. But it didn't take long, and all that money was gone—partying is expensive. Those he thought were his friends left as soon as he ran out of money. He was all alone and miserable. He had two

choices, and neither seemed pleasant. He could continue as he was and hope he could scrape enough together each day so that he wouldn't starve to death, or he could go back home.

He headed for home. He was prepared to grovel, to ask to be just a hired hand on his father's farm. But he didn't get the opportunity to do much groveling. As soon as his father saw him coming, he ran out to meet him. He hugged and kissed him and gave orders for a huge celebration in his honor. The rebellious son had expected a cool reception. He had expected an "I told you so." Instead he got what he knew he didn't deserve: a joyous welcome home.

You and I are that young man who rebelled against his father. We have all rebelled against our heavenly Father. We have considered him to be cruel and overbearing and having too many rules—someone who doesn't want us to have any

fun. We have all separated ourselves from him and broken his commandments. Our consciences tell us that he is angry, that we deserve whatever pain or suffering comes our way. Could our heavenly Father still love us? Could he still welcome us to his eternal home in heaven?

Jesus' story about the disobedient son in Luke 15:11-24 is a short story that speaks volumes for our lives. It assures us of God's love and our heavenly home. Our heavenly Father loves us so much that he punished his obedient Son, Jesus, in our place so that he can welcome us as his dear children and heirs of eternal life. Instead of giving us what we deserve for our rebelliousness, he gives us what we don't deserve: complete forgiveness in Jesus.

We welcome you to gather with us for worship and learn more about our heavenly Father's love.

### Key Events This Month:

- 2/5,7—Little Lights
- 2/10,24—Women's Bible Study
- 2/11—Monthly Potluck
- 2/14—Ash Wednesday
- 2/17—Men's Bible Study
- 2/18—Valentine's Tea Party
- 2/25—GLOW Meeting
- 2/25—Council Meeting
- 2/26,28—Little Lights

## Light of the World Mission

*As a family of believers united in faith, we serve Jesus, the true Light of the World, as we **GATHER** around God's Word and the Sacraments and **GROW** together in our faith and our relationship with Jesus, so we can **GO** and share the good news of Jesus in our community and the world and **GLOW** with the love of Christ in our lives.*

# FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 9:15—Sunday School, Branches, & BBB Class 10:30—Worship w/ Communion 12:00—GLOW Meet-	5 10:30—Little Lights 5:30—Catechism	6 6:00—Choir	7 10:30—Little Lights	8	9	10 10:30—Women's Bible Study
<b>Pastor @ Conference in Anchorage</b>						
11 9:15—Sunday School, Branches, & BBB Class 10:30—Worship 12:00—Potluck	12 5:30—Catechism	13 6:00—Choir	14 2:30—6th Grade Confirmation 5:30—Lenten Meal 6:30—Ash Wednesday Worship	15	16	17 8:00—Men's Bible Study @ Hometown
18 9:15—Sunday School, & BBB Class 10:30—Worship w/ Communion 12:00—Valentine's Tea Party	19 5:30—Catechism	20 6:00—Choir	21 5:30—Lenten Meal 6:30—Midweek Lenten Worship	22	23	24 10:30—Women's Bible Study
<b>Church Cleaners for February: 1/28-2/3—Wyatt/Teens 2/4-2/10—Coleman, Bob &amp; Gail 2/11-2/17—Dolgnier/Risse 2/18-2/24—Duncan 2/25-3/2—Halverson</b>						
25 9:15—Sunday School & BBB Class 10:30—Worship 12:00—GLOW Meeting 12:30—Council Meeting	26 10:30—Little Lights 5:30—Catechism	27 6:00—Choir	28 10:30—Little Lights 5:30—Lenten Meal 6:30—Midweek Lenten Worship	29	30	