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## Light of the World Monthly Newsletter



### Take a Closer Look

*Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field” (Matthew 13:44).*

One of North America’s biggest diamond mines was discovered in a very unlikely place—in the far north of Canada. Up until a few years ago, you couldn’t even give the land away. Composed almost entirely of granite covered by a glacier, it has some of the world’s harshest weather and sparsely populated countryside. But at times, some of the most worthwhile things come to those who look past the exterior and take a closer look. That’s wise advice.

Jesus had similar advice in a story he once told. It was about a man on a walk who found a valuable treasure hidden and buried in a dusty, dirty field. An ordi-

nary field is definitely not the backdrop Hollywood would pick for a movie about a hunt for buried treasure. There is nothing glamorous about a dirt field, and that’s just the point. The man would never have found the treasure had he not taken a closer look beneath the plain surface.

It’s easy to miss things. Jesus didn’t have the most glamorous life. He was born in a barn beside a Bethlehem hotel with a no vacancy sign out front. He worked with his hands as a carpenter and spent most of his life around common people. Nothing special, you might say, just like that dirty, barren little field. But wait, take a closer look.

When you dig below the surface of Jesus’ simple lifestyle, there is a great wealth of treasure. At Jesus’ birth, angels sang him lullabies and kings brought him presents to mark the entrance

of the Savior into the world. Some of those common fellows with whom he hung around became his disciples, bringing a message of renewal and joy to the world. By his death, you are given forgiveness for every missed opportunity and failed attempt—and from the guilt that comes along with them. What is more, by Jesus’ rising from the grave, you are given the treasure of life forevermore in the joy of heaven. And every day of your life, you don’t need to worry or be afraid because Jesus promises to watch over you and provide for your needs. Now those are true treasures!

It’s just a story, right? It may appear to be as simple as a dry, dirty, good-for-nothing field. But it is a short story of Jesus that speaks volumes for our lives. Come and take a closer look with us. Together we will unearth more true treasure from God’s Word.

### Key Events This Month:

- 12/2—Advent by Candlelight
- 12/10—Monthly Potluck
- 12/16—Men’s Bible Study @ Hometown Restaurant
- 12/18,20—Little Lights
- 12/24—Christmas Eve Sunday School Service & Candlelight Service
- 12/25—Christmas Day Celebration
- 12/31—New Year’s Worship

## 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.*

# JANUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 5:30—Catechism	2 8:00—Elders Meeting	3 5:00—6th Grade Confirmation	4	5	6
7 9:15—Sunday School & BBB Class 10:30—Worship w/Communion	8 5:30—Catechism	9	10 2:30—6th Grade Confirmation 6:30—Branches	11	12	13 8:00—Men's Bible Study @ Hometown
14 9:15—Sunday School, Branches, & BBB Class 10:30—Worship 12:00—Monthly Potluck 1:00—Christmas Un-decorating	15 5:30—Catechism	16 6:00—Choir	17 6:30—Branches	18	19	20
21 9:15—Sunday School, Branches, & BBB Class 10:30—Worship w/Communion 12:00—GLOW Meeting	22 5:30—Catechism	23 6:00—Choir	24 6:30—Branches	25	26	27 10:30—Women's Bible Study
28 9:15—Sunday School, Branches, & BBB Class 10:30—Worship 12:30—Council Meeting	29 10:30—Little Lights 5:30—Catechism	30 6:00—Choir	31 10:30—Little Lights 6:30—Branches	<p><b>Church Cleaners for January:</b>            12/31-1/6—Strong            1/7-1/13—Wyatt/Teens            1/14-1/20—Blobaum            1/21-1/27—Coleman, Ian &amp; Sheila            1/28-2/3—Wyatt/Teens</p>		