



Thank You, God, For Your Gift!

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Key Events This Month:

12/5,12,19—Midweek Advent Services

12/8—Advent By Candlelight

12/9—Potluck

12/9—Christmas Carolling

12/24—Christmas Eve Children's Service

12/25—Christmas Day Celebration

12/31—New Year's Eve Service

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 9:15

At Christmas, we often think mostly about what presents we'll be getting. But here, the apostle Paul talks about how we respond to those gifts, as well as to all the blessings God gives us.

If we need reason to give thanks to God, Paul's words give us the best motivation. We already have the best gift there is, Jesus! Wrapped in swaddling clothes, in a manger, lies the child who would grow up to be the Savior of the world. This gift is our only way to heaven.

This present is also indescribable. It is beyond words. Could we even find a word that would best describe the gift of Jesus? Loving, gracious, merciful, awesome, wonderful, forgiving...You could keep trying to come up with the perfect word, but the gift of Jesus is truly indescribably, beyond words.

We can't even begin to fully explain the gift of Jesus. Needless to say, the gift of Jesus is one present all of us should want to have. But our actions

don't always show that we want him. We make our material possessions more important than Jesus. We put so much focus on accumulating as much wealth, as much stuff, as we can that we don't have time or treasures left for Jesus. We don't think we need Jesus to get to heaven, but we think we can get there on our own by



being good, by never fighting, lying, or hurting others, by living good lives..

If we didn't want Jesus, then how would we describe that gift? Pointless, worthless, insignificant, empty.

We may not have wanted Jesus, but God knew we needed him. The Bible says, "The wages of sin is death." But immediately following that statement we hear these comforting words, "BUT the gift of God is eternal life in Christ

Jesus our Lord." That's why the present of baby Jesus is indescribable. Think of the depth of our sinfulness, the hopelessness of our situation. We were all doomed to hell, but God came to our rescue and delivered us from hell.

He did so with the gift of baby Jesus. This baby lived a perfect life. And that was the gift he gave us. Jesus gave us his perfection when he took all our sins and died on the cross. And then, three days later, Jesus rose from the dead so we know for sure our sins are forgiven. The gift Jesus gave, his own perfect life, is truly indescribably. What he's done for us is too wonderful for words! That's why we always want to say, "Thank you, God, for your present!"

You know, Christmas presents never last for long. Toys break, clothes get outgrown, electronics become outdated. Our greatest present, Jesus, will never get old. Jesus is the gift that keeps on giving, the gift that always gives us the forgiveness of sins so that one day, we might enjoy the gift of heaven with him. We are thankful for the presents we

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Food Collection

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get, especially those gifts we get at Christmas. How much more thankful are we for the one present we really needed, the present God graciously gave us, Jesus?!?! That's why we always want to say, "Thank you, God, for your present! Thank you, God, for your Son!"

Have a blessed Christmas!

Pastor Strong

Once again our GLOW women's group is sponsoring a food drive to benefit the Fairbanks Community Food Bank. Collection boxes are set up in the entryway for the months of November and December for your non-perishable, regular size items. The Food Bank is low again this year on nutritious breakfast items like individual oatmeal packets, low sugar cereals, fruit cups, etc. They are also low on Ramen prod-

ucts, low sugar cereals, fruit cups, etc. They are also low on Ramen products, and always welcome are regular size jars of peanut butter and pasta products like Mac and Cheese. Any items you are able to donate will be much appreciated.

Thank you!

BBB Class Schedule

Our BBB (Back to the Basics of the Bible) Class has started up and is cruising right along.

Here's the topics we'll be studying in November:

⇒ Triune God (Dec. 3)

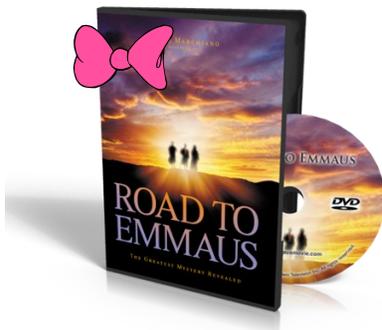
⇒ Jesus Christ (Dec. 10)

⇒ Baptism (Dec. 17)

If you or someone you know would like to find out more about our BBB Class, you may contact Pastor Strong via email or by calling his office.

Give Them the Gift of Jesus!

Share the good news of Jesus with those you care about this Christmas! The deadline to order the *Road to Emmaus* dvds is Sunday, December 9. Please contact Pastor Strong if you'd like to purchase some dvds.



Special Services in December

This December, there are numerous opportunities to prepare your heart for the coming of Christ. Every Wednesday evening leading up to Christmas, we will be holding a Midweek Advent Service at 7pm, with a soup and sandwich dinner starting at 5:30pm.

Our Sunday School children have put together a service for

Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) at 7:00pm, and our Christmas Day celebration will be on Tuesday, December 25 at 10:30am.

Finally, we will close out the year with God's blessings with a service on New Year's Eve (Dec. 31) at 7:00pm.

We hope to see you there!

Walking Together Sunday

Sunday, December 9, will be our annual *Walking Together Sunday*. On this Sunday, we celebrate the unity we have with other congregations in our church body as we walk together to carry out gospel work throughout the world.

This year, there will be an opportunity for you to give special offerings to our synod to

aid in the mission work it does. There are brochures detailing this opportunity in your mailbox at church. If you'd like to give, there will be a door offering following our *Walking Together* worship service on Sunday, December 9.

God's Lights Of the World

December is FULL of some great events!

December 4 - Meeting at 6:00 p.m. to finalize Advent by Candlelight. HOSTESSES, we'd love to see you there.

December 8 - 3:00 p.m. Advent by Candlelight

December 9 - Caroling after the potluck

December 18 - GLOW Christmas Party at 6:00 p.m. Bring an appetizer to share, and a white elephant gift (something you just want to get rid of that was lying around the house. NO need to go shopping)

We hope to see you all at these December events!

Food drive will be going on all of December. You may bring your items to the bins in back of church.

DECEMBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:15—Bible Class for all ages 10:30—Worship w/Communion	3 7:00—BBB Class	4 6:00—GLOW Meeting for Advent By Candlelight	5 5:30—Soup & Sandwich Supper 7:00—Midweek Advent Service	6	7	1 3:00-5:00—Advent By Candlelight
9 9:15—Bible Class for all ages 10:30—Worship 12:00—Potluck 1:00—Christmas Caroling	10 7:00—BBB Class	11 6:00—Council Meeting	12 5:30—Soup & Sandwich Supper 7:00—Midweek Advent Service	13	14	15
16 9:15—Bible Class for all ages 10:30—Worship w/Communion 6:00—Christmas Dinner	17 7:00—BBB Class	18 6:00—GLOW Christmas Party	19 5:30—Soup & Sandwich Supper 7:00—Midweek Advent Service	20	21	22
23 9:15—Christmas Eve Service practice 10:30—Worship	24 7:00—Christmas Eve Worship	25 10:30—Christmas Day Worship	26	27	28	29
30 10:30—Worship	31 7:00—New Year's Eve Worship					

Facebook!

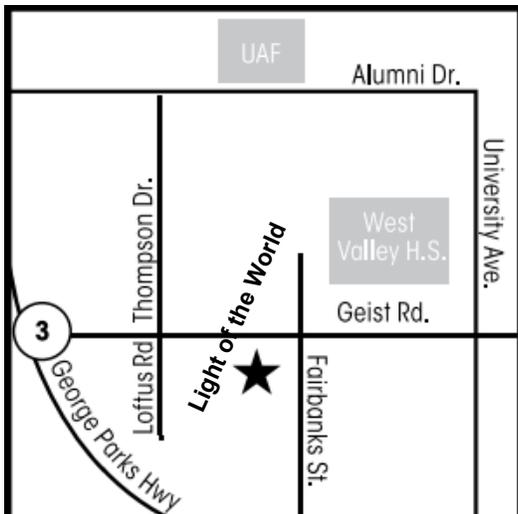
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Light of the World Lutheran Church
www.LightoftheWorldLutheran.com

Grow in God's Word with us!
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Bible Classes for all ages
9:15 am



Located at: **4155 Geist Road**

*“Today in the town a David
a Savior has been born to
you: he is Christ the Lord.”
- Luke 2:11*

