



# Sonlight

## Light of the World Monthly Newsletter

### Inside this issue:

<i>December Message</i>	1
<i>The Lighter Side</i>	2
<i>GLOW Update</i>	2
<i>Special Services</i>	2
<i>Two Sunday Services</i>	2
<i>Community Outreach</i>	2
<i>December Calendar</i>	3

### Key Events This Month:

- 12/7—Advent By Candlelight
- 12/8—Monthly Potluck
- 12/8—Christmas Caroling
- 12/14—Christmas for Kids
- 12/17—GLOW Christmas Party
- 12/20—Family Fun Night
- 12/24—Christmas Eve Services
- 12/25—Christmas Day Celebration
- 12/31—New Year's Eve Worship

## *This Story Never Gets Old!*

Aren't there some stories that you just can't help but want to read again and again? I think of the little child who won't go to bed until Mom or Dad reads *Goodnight Moon*, a book that has ripped pages and a bent cover since it's been read so many times. Or there's the child, a little older, who just loves that series, maybe *Harry Potter* or *The Hunger Games*, and they've read through it multiple times. For me, I would gladly read Tom Clancy's *Sum of all Fears* over and over again. There are just some stories we love to read or hear again and again. They never get old.

Can't you imagine it was that way with the shepherds as well? I'm guess years after Jesus was born, maybe even when he was in the midst of his earthly ministry, those shepherds who kept watch in their fields still reminisced with their friends and their families about that one blessed night, when the angels had met them, how they had ran to the manger scene, how they saw the Savior and gladly shared the good tidings with anyone who would listen to them. And despite all those times I'm sure they told it, to them, that precious story never got old.

That same story never gets old for us, either. You might not

always be thinking about the Christmas story, but when the children start reciting those words, you're right there with them, mouthing the version you recited when you were that age. It never gets old.

You know why, don't you? Because that story means peace for us, the peace between us and God because that little baby grew to be our Savior from sin. Because that story means hope, that because of



### to the newborn king!

Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we have the confidence we will enjoy eternal life with him. Because that story means joy, the joy of knowing our sins are forgiven and gone for good! And because of that, the story will never get old.

So this Christmas, enjoy the story. Rejoice, for a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ your Lord. And that news will never get old!

*"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman*

*world.* <sup>2</sup> *(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)* <sup>3</sup> *And everyone went to their own town to register.*

<sup>4</sup> *So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.* <sup>5</sup> *He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.* <sup>6</sup> *While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,* <sup>7</sup> *and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.*

<sup>8</sup> *And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.* <sup>9</sup> *An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.* <sup>10</sup> *But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."* <sup>11</sup> *Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord.* <sup>12</sup> *This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*

<sup>13</sup> *Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,*

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*...continued from page 1*

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who

heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told."

-Luke 2:1-20

Blessings on your Christmas,

Pastor Jason Strong

## On the Lighter Side...

*This is a new feature for our newsletter where amusing items will be posted from mis-statements in actual church bulletins, children's comments on church and religion, insurance claim forms where car drivers attempted to summarize the cause of an accident, and other items designed to provide a laugh or two.*

### Give Him the Money

A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"

## God's Lights Of the World

Dear Ladies,

As the business of this holiday season begins, we continue to strive to keep our focus on the babe in the manger. In order to help you do that, we pray you are all able to attend our 2nd Annual Advent By Candlelight on December 7, at 3:00 p.m. If you have any questions about hosting or attending, please contact Becky Strong.

Our Christmas Party is on

Tuesday, December 17 at 6:00 p.m. If you would like to bring an appetizer to share, and a white elephant gift (something that you have around your house that you would like to get rid of), please feel free.

Our Bible Class will start up again in January with us going through the book, "God is in the Laundry Room." If you are interested in being part of this, please let Becky Strong know. God's blessings!

## Two Sunday Services

Hopefully, you've been able to see how much God has blessed our Sunday attendance. Because of this blessing, we have an awesome challenge...how to fit more people in church on Sunday.

Solution: Starting in January, we are going to be moving towards having two worship services every Sunday. The

later service will remain at 10:30, Bible class will still be at 9:15, but our early service will be at 8:00. The two services will be the same, but now we'll have the room to grow our Sunday worship attendance. Look to the worship folders in the coming weeks for more info.

## Christmas Services

Besides our midweek Advent Services, this month we'll also be having special services for Christmas and for New Years. For the first time, we will be having **TWO** services on Christmas Eve. The Sunday School children's service will be at 4:30pm Christmas Eve, and we will have our first Candlelight Service at 6:30pm. In our Candlelight service, we'll hear some of the Christmas sections from Scripture and

Sing many of your favorite Christmas hymns. Our Christmas Day celebration will be the following morning at 10:30am.

For New Years, we'll be having a service on New Year's Eve. It will be at 6:30pm. We promise it will be done with enough time for you to leave before the roads get too busy for the fireworks at UAF.

We hope you'll celebrate Christ's birth with us!

## Community Outreach

Our Member Ministry team is sponsoring an outreach effort to benefit Fairbanks Youth Advocates (FYA), an organization dedicated to helping at-risk youth in our community. Our donations will be given to the FYA-sponsored temporary emergency shelter at the Presbyterian Church in downtown Fairbanks, open

daily from 9:00 at night to 8:00 in the morning. The main purpose of the shelter (for youth up to age 18) is to provide a safe, supervised place for boys and girls who, for varying reasons, are homeless and have nowhere to go.

We will begin collecting donations in January.

# DECEMBER 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15—Sunday School for all ages 10:30—Worship w/ Communion	2 4:30—Catechism	3	4 5:30—Soup & Sand- wich Dinner 6:30—Midweek Ad- vent Service	5 6:15—Choir	6	7 3:00—Advent by Can- dlelight
8 9:15—Sunday School for all ages 10:30—Worship 12:00—Potluck 1:00 Christmas Carol- ing	9 4:30—Catechism	10	11 5:30—Soup & Sand- wich Dinner 6:30—Midweek Ad- vent Service	12 5:30—Christmas for Kids Decorating	13	14 1:00—Christmas for Kids
15 9:15—Sunday School for all ages 10:30—Worship w/ Communion 12:00—Council Meet- ing	16 4:30—Catechism	17 5:15—Worship Team Meeting 6:00—GLOW Christ- mas Party	18 5:30—Soup & Sand- wich Dinner 6:30—Midweek Ad- vent Service	19 6:15—Choir	20 6:00—Family Fun Night	21
22 9:15—Sunday School for all ages 10:30—Worship	23	24 4:30—Sunday School Children's Service 6:30—Candlelight Song Service	25 10:30—Christmas Day Celebration	26	27	28
29 <b>NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 10:30—Worship	30	31 6:30—New Year's Eve Worship				

**Facebook!**

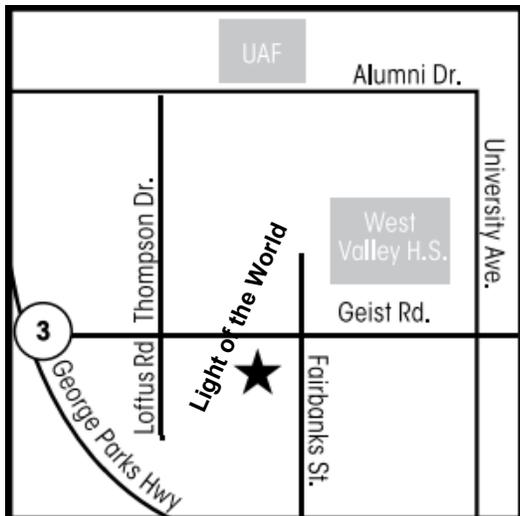
**Check us out on**

*Pastor Jason Strong  
Phone: 907-479-4324  
E-mail: strongjas@gmail.com*

*4155 Geist Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99709*

*www.LightoftheWorldLutheran.com  
Light of the World Lutheran Church*

**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**

**Christmas for Kids!**

**December 14, 1-3pm**

