



Inside this issue:

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <i>December Message</i>           | 1 |
| <i>Blessed to Bless</i>           | 1 |
| <i>Lighter Side</i>               | 2 |
| <i>GLOW Report</i>                | 2 |
| <i>Christmas Worship Schedule</i> | 2 |
| <i>Christmas Caroling</i>         |   |
| <i>December Calendar</i>          | 3 |

**Key Events This Month:**

- 12/3—Advent by Candlelight**
- 12/4—Special Voters Meeting**
- 12/9—GLOW Christmas Party**
- 12/11—Monthly Potluck**
- 12/11—Christmas Caroling**
- 12/17—Christmas for Families**
- 12/18 – Council Meeting**
- 12/24—Christmas Eve Worship**
- 12/25—Christmas Celebration**

## *Jesus Is My Savior from Fear*

**The angel said to [the shepherds], "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."**

– Luke 2:10-11

Isn't it interesting that God's angelic announcement of Christmas begins with, "Do not be afraid"? What do fear and Christmas have in com-

mon? Based on people's Christmas anxieties, plenty!

December fills many with depression. Some are overwhelmed by what their Christmas celebration should feel like, look like, even sound like. Thoughts of creating the perfect Christmas celebration fill many with stress.

Some dread Christmas due to money issues and the pressure to spend more than they can afford. Other have lost loved ones, making Christmas a painful trigger of past memories and missed loved ones.

There is pressure to attend Christmas gatherings. As anxieties grow, so do shame, guilt and the gaping hole of depression.

If you've ever been fearful or anxious at Christmas, you're in good company. Mary,

Joseph and the shepherds all felt fears.

No warm, safe, sterile birthing suite or medical team would help Mary give birth to her first child. Instead she faced the stress of childbirth with only Joseph to help her. No room at Bethlehem's inn meant a barn was the best shelter Joseph could find for Jesus' birth. Imagine the anxiety this couple faced when Jesus was born.

The shepherds were filled with fears too. "Terrified" described their reaction to a sky full of angels. They might have wondered, "Did God send the angels to punish us?"

God knows your fears. That's why the announcement of Christmas begins with an amazing command, "Do not be afraid!" This is good news for you! God has come in the flesh to erase all your fears!

Ever fear not measuring up? Jesus came to forgive you from all your past faults or present

*Continues on page 2...*



### *Christmas for Families 2016*

We've been incredibly blessed by God; in many cases, he's given us more than we need and deserved. This Christmas, we have an opportunity to give from our blessings to those who

may not have as much as us. Our congregation-wide event this Christmas is themed "Blessed to Bless." On Saturday, December 17th, we'll work on creating blessings bag to hand out to

the homeless in our community. There will be activities for adults and kids at our Christmas for Families. Extra bags will be donated to Stone Soup Café to hand as well. We hope you'll be able to join us for this great way to spread Christmas cheer and the love of Jesus!

*...continued from page 1*

failures. Anxious over a life situation? God says, "Do not be afraid!" You don't have to do life on your own. God came at Christmas to prove his love and to assure you, "Never will I leave you or forsake you!"

Peace comes from a life free from fears. God's Christmas comfort is, "Do not be afraid!" Rescue has come. A Savior has been born for you!

Have a blessed Christmas in Christ!

Pastor Strong

## *Light of the World Mission Statement*

*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.*

## *On the Lighter Side...*

*The nativity play was going as planned and Joseph and Mary were going from house to house knocking on the doors and asking if there was any room for them. As they continued to get "no room" answers a little voice called from the back "YOU SHOULD HAVE BOOKED!" bringing the house down.*

## *GLOW Update*

This month, the ladies of GLOW have two great Christmas opportunities scheduled—our Advent by Candlelight and our annual Women's Christmas Party.

Advent by Candlelight will be held on Saturday, December 31st, beginning at 3:00pm. All ladies are invited and can bring any friends if they choose. It'll be a great afternoon of preparing for the birth of our Savior!

The following Friday, December 9th, we'll be having our annual

Women's Christmas Party. Again, all the ladies are invited to eat some great food, open some white elephant gifts, play some games, and have great fun before the craziness of the holidays set in.

As always, we meet the third Sunday of every month to set plans for projects, and we're always looking for more ladies to come and be a part of GLOW.

Rejoice! Our Savior is born!

## *Christmas Worship 2016*

- ⇒ *Midweek Advent Worship—  
11/30, 12/7, 12/14 @ 6:30pm*
- ⇒ *Christmas Eve Sunday School  
Children's Program—12/24 @  
5:00pm*
- ⇒ *Christmas Eve Candlelight Ser-  
vice—12/24 @ 7:00pm*
- ⇒ *Christmas Day Celebration—  
12/25 @ 10:30am*
- ⇒ *New Year's Day Service—1/1 @  
10:30am*

## *New Member Welcome*

Over the past year, God has blessed our congregation by sending new families to join our church family. We are excited and thankful to have them, so, once again, we'll be throwing a reception for our new members this month. Following worship on Sunday, November 20, a reception will be held in the fellow-

ship area. All members are welcome to join us in welcoming these new families to our congregation!



# DECEMBER 2016

| Sunday   | Monday               | Tuesday                                       | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday                         | Saturday   |
|--|----------------------|---|--|--|--------------------------------|--|
| 4<br>9:15—Sunday School for all ages<br>10:30—Worship<br>12:00—Special Voters Meeting<br>12:30—Outreach Team | 5<br>5:30—Catechism  | 6<br>6:00—Choir                               | 7<br>5:30—Advent Supper<br>6:30—Midweek Advent Meditation  | 8<br>5:30—6th Grade Confirmation   | 9<br>6:00—GLOW Christmas Party | 10<br>3:00—Advent by Candlelight                                       |
| 11<br>9:15—Sunday School for all ages<br>10:30—Worship<br>12:00—Potluck<br>1:00—Caroling                     | 12<br>5:30—Catechism | 13<br>5:00—Worship Team Meeting<br>6:00—Choir | 14<br>5:30—Advent Supper<br>6:30—Midweek Advent Meditation | 15   | 16                             | 17<br>1:00—Christmas for Families                                      |
| 18<br>9:15—Sunday School for all ages<br>10:30—Worship<br>12:00—Council Meeting<br>12:00—GLOW Meeting        | 19<br>5:30—Catechism | 20<br>6:00—Choir                              | 21   | 22   | 23                             | 24<br>5:00—Sunday School Christmas Program<br>7:00—Candlelight Service |
| 25<br>10:30—Christmas Celebration  | 26                   | 27  | 28   | <div style="background-color: #006633; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <b>Church Cleaners for December</b><br/>                     12/4-12/10—Coleman, Ian &amp; Sheila<br/>                     12/11-12/17—Die<br/>                     12/18-12/24—Holdsworth/Christianson<br/>                     12/25-12/31—Kuhl/Kukes<br/>                     1/1-1/7—McGough                 </div> |                                | 31   |

**Facebook!**  
**Check us out on**

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

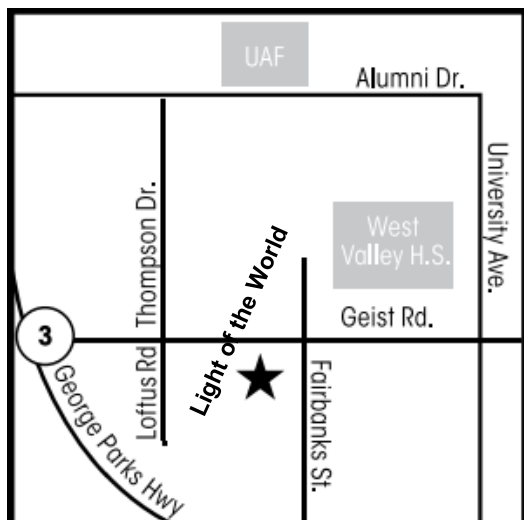
*4155 Geist Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99709*

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

**Grow in God's Word with us!**

**Sunday School for all ages - 9:15 am**

**Sunday Worship - 10:30 am**



Located at: **4155 Geist Road**

## 2016 Christmas for Families



**December 17th  
1-3 pm**