



Sonlight

Light of the World Monthly Newsletter

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Forgiveness Through Jesus

God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them.

- 2 Corinthians 5:19

February holds the day that often makes or breaks relationships: Valentine's Day! It's a day of engagement rings, flowers, dinners, and the hope for returned affections. For all the happiness of Valentine's Day, it's also bittersweet. For every happy or newly engaged or blissfully married couple, you can find someone who is sadly alone, someone who longs to be loved, someone going through a devastating breakup. No wonder the game is, "He loves me...He loves me not."

Imagine if the pressure of Valentine's Day was off. Imagine there was no doubt about how that special someone felt about you. Imagine that person did what the Bible says, "Love keeps no record of wrongs."

We have to imagine, because our experience is that human



love is conditional. It is usually based on how people look, or what they have, or how they treat us. As a result, we are led to think that God is the same. We think that he loves us if we're lovable. We assume that he loves us if we show our love to him. The truth is that God loves us not because of who we are or what we do. The Bible clearly describes God's amazing love by what he has done for us: "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them."

Honestly, we have to admit that there are all kinds of sins on our record before God. Our attempts at love throughout life—failures, breakups, lies, adulteries, divorces—all

are an astonishing record of wrong. God ought to oppose us. But in amazing love, God doesn't count our sins against us. That means that he doesn't keep a record of all our actions, thoughts and words that violate his holy will.

God doesn't keep a record of our sins because of Jesus. God took all our sins, the sins of everyone, and charged them to his Son. In our place Jesus willingly and lovingly suffered the punishment of death that we and all people deserved. This is the great love that God has for us...for you! Through Jesus Christ, our relationship with God is restored and by faith in Jesus we will enjoy the blessing of his love forever.

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Key Events This Month:

- 2/5—Outreach Team Meeting**
- 2/12—Potluck**
- 2/18—Men's Bible Study**
- 2/19—Council Meeting**
- 2/19—GLOW Meeting**
- 2/24—Family Fun Night**
- 2/28—Women's Bible Study**

Ministry Teams Reboot

Are you looking for ways to use the gifts and talents which God has given you? Over the years, we've had a variety of ministry teams here at Light of the World, teams that provide a way for members to use their various gifts in our congrega-

tion. The purpose of these teams is to carry out different aspects of our ministry here.

With the new year, we want to remind you of these awesome opportunities to serve here, as well as encourage you to think about trying out one of these

teams and seeing if you could join its work. If you have questions about a particular team, please talk to Pastor or one of the Council members.

Thank you for considering how you might use your gifts to serve God and carry out His mission here at Light of the World!

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In our relationship with God, it's not "He loves me...He loves me not." In Christ, it is always, "He loves me...He loves me...He loves me."

Enjoy being drowned in Christ's love this Valentine's Day!

Pastor Jason 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...

A Bird Named Moses

A burglar breaks into a house. He starts shining his light around looking for valuables.

Some nice things catch his eye, and as he reaches for them, he hears, "Jesus is watching you." Startled, the burglar looks for the speaker. Seeing no one, he keeps putting things in his bag, again, he hears, "Jesus is watching you." This time, he sees a parrot.

"Who are you?" the burglar asks.

"Moses," the bird replied.

"Who the heck would name a bird Moses?" the man laughed.

"I dunno," Moses answered, "I guess the same kind of people that would name a Rottweiler Jesus."

GLOW Update

Ladies,, we were finally able to get back into our monthly Bible Studies by meeting the last Tuesday of January. We look forward to doing the same this month. We continue to work through *Heart of Jesus*, but we have enjoyed the great discussions that book has generated so far. We welcome any new ladies who'd like to join us the 4th Tuesday evening of every month.

At our meeting this month, we'll continue looking at avenues in which we can serve our congrega-

tion and community. We typically meet the 3rd Sunday of each month, so that would make February 19th. If you'd like to sit in on our meeting or offer ideas on what our GLOW can do in the coming months, we'd appreciate your input. Thanks!

Lent 2017

At the end of February, we'll be moving to the next season of our church year, Lent. During Sundays and Wednesday in Lent, we'll be working through two different sermon series. In *Sacred Head, Now Wounded* (Sundays), we'll explore the different wounds Jesus endured on his walk to the cross, both physical and emotional. Our Wednesday evening series, *Ironies of the Passion*,

we'll see how some ironic aspects of the Passion account can teach us about the lasting significance of Jesus' ministry and his life, death, and resurrection.

As usual, before worship on Wednesday evenings, we'll be having a special meal. Look for sign-up sheets in the next couple of weeks to see how you can contribute to those meals.

New Council

At our recent annual voters meeting, we voted in two new members to our Council. We'd first of all like to thank Lynn Kuhl for his years of service over the past few years. We also welcome our new members, Kevin Austin (serving a 2nd term) and Tim Harting (serving his 1st term).

With the new members, we've also had a little shakeup in the Council positions, as well as the Ministry Team leadership positions. Here's the current makeup of the Council:

- ⇒ Kevin Austin—Church President & Stewardship Leader
- ⇒ Tim Harting—Secretary & Outreach Team Leader
- ⇒ Taylor Taipale—Treasurer & Education Team Leader
- ⇒ James McGough—Financial Secretary & Maintenance Team Leader
- ⇒ Bob Coleman—Head Elder & Member Ministry Team Leader

Please pray for God's guidance as these men serve him and our church family here!

FEBRUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 9:15—Sunday School for all ages 10:30—Worship w/Communion 12:00—Outreach Team Meeting	6 5:30—Catechism	7 6:00—Choir	1 5:30—6th Grade Con- firmation	2 5:30—6th Grade Con- firmation	3	4
12 9:15—Sunday School for all ages 10:30—Worship 12:00—Monthly Pot- luck 12:30—Elders	13 5:30—Catechism	14 6:00—Choir	15	16	17	18 8:00—Men's Bible Study @ Hometown Restaurant
19 9:15—Sunday School for all ages 10:30—Worship 12:00—Council 12:00—GLOW Meet- ing	20 5:30—Catechism	21 6:00—Choir	22	23	24 6:00—Family Fun Night	25
26 9:15—Sunday School for all ages 10:30—Worship 12:00—Member Minis- try	27 5:30—Catechism	28 6:00—Women's Bible Study	Church Cleaners for February 1/29-2/4—Sinclair 2/5-2/11—Strong 2/12-2/18—Taipale/Anderson 2/19-2/25—Young 2/26-3/4—Ziesmer			

Facebook!

Check us out on

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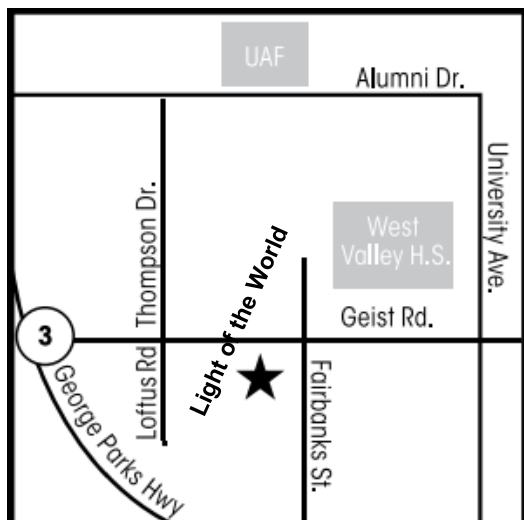
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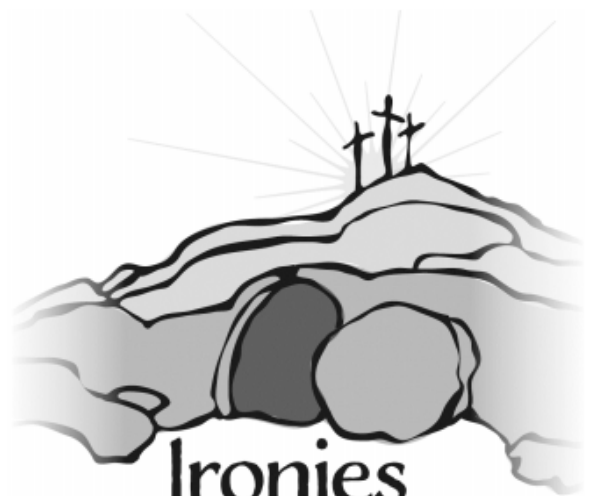
Grow in God's Word with us!

Sunday School for all ages - 9:15 am

Sunday Worship - 10:30 am



Located at: **4155 Geist Road**



**Ironies
of the Passion**

**WEDNESDAYS
THIS LENT**