



Sonlight

Light of the World Monthly Newsletter

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God's Encouraging Word... when I am lonely

Key Events This Month:

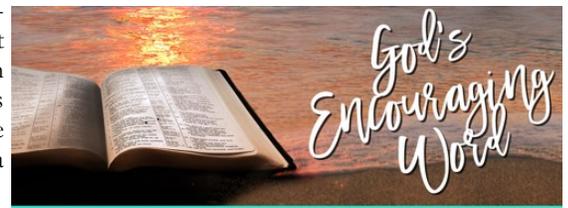
- 2/4—Annual Voters Meeting**
- 2/11—Monthly Potluck**
- 2/14—Ash Wednesday Worship**
- 2/17—Men's Bible Study @ Hometown Restaurant**
- 2/19 – Mornings with Mommy**
- 2/23—Family Game Night**
- 2/27—Women's Bible Study**
- 2/28—Member Ministry Team Meeting**

Shortly after they were married, the husband and wife planned a trip to Spain. In order to take advantage of some frequent-flyer miles, the husband decided to travel there a few days early by himself. Being young and naïve, he figured he could learn enough Spanish on the plane to get by and then find a place to stay when he got there. The flight was pleasant and they landed safely. However, by the time he got his luggage and figured out how to take the Metro into central Madrid, it was already getting late. After several hours of wandering around the city, the husband began to realize that 1) his Spanish was unintelligible, 2) he was not in the safest part of town, 3) it was very difficult to find anyone who spoke English, and 4) he needed a place to sleep. Finally, at around one o'clock in the morning he found a hotel manager who spoke

enough English to get him a room that was about the size of a closet.

Over the course of the next several days, the man never felt more alone. He could not carry on a conversation with anyone and struggled to even do simple things like order food. Because of the language and cultural barrier, he was a stranger in a strange place.

But it doesn't take traveling to a foreign country to feel alone. Sometimes we feel alone because we miss loved ones and just want to share one more conversation or one more memory with them. Sometimes we feel alone because we just don't feel like there is anyone who understands our pain or our problems. At times we



can feel all alone, even when surrounded by people, because it just seems like no one really cares about us.

It goes without saying that no one likes to feel lonely. The only thing worse than feeling lonely, is feeling lonely with the burden of shame or guilt. Thankfully, Jesus came to be with us. The truth is that each one of us deserved to be left alone, because each one of us has separated ourselves from a holy God by our sins. But instead of leaving us alone, God himself drew near to us. So near, that he took all of our

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Lenten Worship

On Wednesday, February 14, not only will you have the opportunity to celebrate Valentine's Day, but we'll also be beginning our midweek Lenten worship with our observance of Ash Wednesday. For our midweek Lenten worship this year, we'll focus on how Jesus was and is the High Priest of

high priests and how his role as the ultimate High Priest affects the lives of his followers by faith now and for eternity. Those services will be at 6:30 on Wednesday evenings, and we'll have a dinner beforehand at 5:30pm. We hope you'll join us as we walk with our great High Priest to the cross!



JESUS CHRIST
IS OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

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sin and guilt and shame upon himself. He gave his life on the cross to take it all away, so that we would never have to be alone.

Yes, there will be times that we feel all alone here on earth. But we don't have to. Our Savior who died and rose from the dead promises, **"Surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."** He gave his life to make it happen and his Word to guarantee it forever.

In Christ,
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...

Minister Tells Joke

A preacher, who shall we say was "humor impaired," attended a conference to help encourage and better equip pastors for their ministry.

Among the speakers were many well known and dynamic speakers. One such boldly approached the pulpit and, gathering the entire crowd's attention, said, "The best years of my life were spent in the arms of a woman that wasn't my wife!" The crowd was shocked! He followed up by saying, "And that woman was my mother!" - The crowd burst into laughter and delivered the rest of his talk, which went over quite well.

The next week, the pastor decided he'd give this humor thing a try, and use that joke in his sermon. As he surely approached the pulpit that sunny Sunday, he tried to rehearse the joke in his head. It suddenly seemed a bit foggy to him.

Getting to the microphone he said loudly, "The greatest years of my life were spent in the arms of another woman that was not my wife!" The congregation inhaled half the air in the room. After standing there for almost 10 seconds in the stunned silence, trying to recall the second half of the joke, the pastor finally blurted out, "...and I can't remember who she was!"

Annual Voters Meeting

On Sunday, February 4, following our worship, we will be having our annual voters meeting. This is the meeting where we're able to see our congregation's ministry plans for the new year and set our year off on the right foot. We've already voted in our new Council and approved our 2018 budget, but this is still a great meeting to attend, as we will be spending some of the meeting discussing the future of our congregation.

As always, your attendance at this meeting is strongly encouraged because not only does it give you an opportunity to have a voice in what kind of ministry work our congregation says, but it also serves to strengthen the ownership we all have as members of Light of the World.

Community Outreach

Last month, we had a group of about 12-15 members who helped package up boxes at the Food Bank. Once again, it was a great time, and the certainly appreciated our assistance. We're looking at putting another team together for April. Stay tuned for more specific details.

In connection with that, we're switching over our collection at church. Throughout the season of

Lent, we'll be collecting donations for The Door, a 24-7 shelter for homeless youth between the ages of 12 and 18. Please keep an eye out for a list of items needed there!



FEBRUARY 2018

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|----------------------------------|--|--|--|------------------------------|--|
| | | Pastor @ Conference | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 9:15—Sunday School for all ages 10:30—Worship w/Communion 12:00—Annual Voters Meeting | 5 6:00—6th Grade Confirmation | 6 4:45—Catechism 6:15—Choir 7:00—Worship Team Meeting | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 9:15—Sunday School for all ages 10:30—Worship 12:00—Potluck | 12 | 13 4:45—Catechism 6:15—Choir | 14 5:30—Lenten Meal 6:30—Ash Wednesday Worship | 15 | 16 | 17 8:00—Men's Bible Study @ Hometown Restaurant |
| 18 9:15—Sunday School for all ages 10:30—Worship w/Communion 12:00—Council 12:00—GLOW | 19 10:00—Mornings with Mommy | 20 4:45—Catechism 6:15—Choir | 21 5:30—Lenten Meal 6:30—Midweek Lent Worship | 22 | 23 6:00—Family Game Night | 24 |
| 25 9:15—Sunday School for all ages 10:30—Worship 12:00—Member Ministry Team Meeting | 26 | 27 4:45—Catechism 6:30—Women's Bible Study | 28 5:30—Lenten Meal 6:30—Midweek Lent Worship | Church Cleaners for February : 1/28-2/3—Ziesmer 2/4-2/10—Austin 2/11-2/17—Carpenter 2/18-2/24—Coleman, Bob & Gail 2/24-3/3—Coleman, Ian & Sheila | | |

Facebook!
Check us out on

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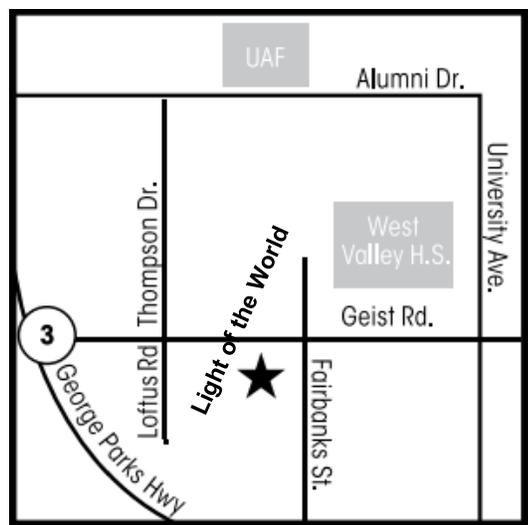
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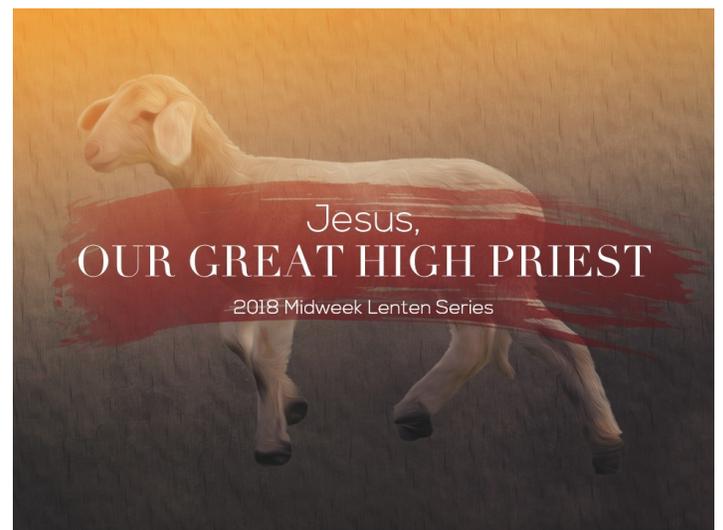
Grow in God's Word with us!

Sunday School for all ages - 9:15 am

Sunday Worship - 10:30 am



Located at: **4155 Geist Road**



Starting February 14th