



# Sonlight

## Light of the World Monthly Newsletter

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### *God's Encouraging Word... when I am fearful about the future*

2018 is here. For some, it's scary how quickly 2017 disappeared. For others, they can't wait to turn the page because this is the year they plan to graduate or perhaps get married. In either case, however, who of us knows what 2018 will bring? In all seriousness, who of us knows what tomorrow will bring?

If you've ever worried or fretted about the future, our gracious God has given us a very powerful verse, nestled right in the middle of the Old Testament book of Jeremiah. The prophet Jeremiah was one who had very good cause to be worried about the future. Day after day he took a beating because he stood up for God's truth and proclaimed God's Word. But God lifted Jeremiah's eyes up to see the future and to know the truth about what was in store for him. God said to Jeremiah

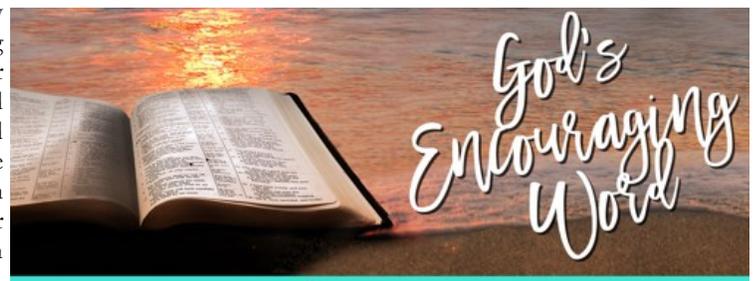
and he says to you: ***"I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."***

Talk about comforting and encouraging words! This is God's ultimate plan for all believers—a plan that meets its fulfillment in heaven, and yet believers find fulfillment of these promises even now. Let's be clear, God is not promising you an extraordinary amount of money in a sweepstakes. He's not saying that you won't ever get cancer or some other disease. He's tell-

ing you and me that HE KNOWS. He knows the plan—the ultimate plan—which centers upon Jesus.

Because of Jesus we have the sure hope of heaven. Because of Jesus we have a future that is free from all sin, shame, sorrow and sadness. Because of Jesus our Savior who lived and died and rose in our place, we don't have to worry or fret about what 2018 will bring. No matter what happens, through faith in Jesus our future is set. God knows it and he wants you to know it too.

*Continues on page 2...*



**Key Events This Month:**

- 1/6—Volunteer @ Fairbanks Food Bank
- 1/7—Member Ministry Team Meeting
- 1/13—Men's Bible Study @ Hometown Restaurant
- 1/14—Monthly Potluck
- 1/14—Christmas Undecorating
- 1/19—Baby Shower for Sheila Coleman
- 1/21—Council Meeting
- 1/21—GLOW Meeting
- 1/23—Women's Bible Study
- 1/26—Family Game Night

### *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 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.

The annual report will be available in hardcopy on the table in the coming weeks. It will include the ministry team plans for the coming year, to give you an idea of what we'd like to do this year. Please talk to Pastor if you'd like a digital copy.

*...continued from page 1*

As we journey into 2018, we can make plans, we can set goals. Above all, we can have confidence because our LORD God knows the ultimate plans he has for us—and he's already shared them with us! Live in this confidence and share these promises, for there are many around us who are deeply concerned what the future holds. Tell them about Jesus who knows!

God's blessings on your 2018!

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...*

Two priests die at the same time and meet St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter says, "I'd like to get you guys in now but our computers are down. You'll have to go back to Earth for about a week, but you can't go back as humans. What'll it be?"

The first priest says, "I've always wanted to be an eagle, soaring above the Rocky Mountains."

"So be it," says St. Peter, and off flies the first priest.

The second priest mulls this over for a moment and asks, "Will you be keeping track of us, St. Peter?"

"No, I told you the computer is down. There's no way we can keep track of what you are doing. This week's a freebie."

"In that case," says the second priest, "I've always wanted to be a stud."

"So be it," says St. Peter, and the second priest disappears.

A week goes by, the computer is fixed and the Lord tells St. Peter to recall the two priests.

"Will you have trouble locating them?" He asks.

"The first one should be easy," says St. Peter. "He's somewhere over the Rocky Mountains, flying with the eagles. But the second one could prove to be more difficult."

"Why?" asks the Lord.

"Because he's on a snow tire somewhere in Alaska."

## *New Year, New Resolve*

What better way to start out the new year than with some new resolutions! We hope you'll make Bible Study one of your new or continued resolutions for 2018. We be happy to have you join us! We still provide multiple opportunities for you to grow in your faith through study of God's Word: Sunday morning Bible Class, Men's Bible Class, and Women's Bible Study. Make this the year you make God's Word a bigger part of your life!

If you'd be interested in getting daily devotions (including video devotions) or daily Bible readings sent to your email, please let Pastor know!



## *Community Outreach*

On January 6, at 9:30, we'll be sending a team of about 10 people to go and help out at our local food bank. We'll be doing what we did a couple of months ago, packaging up food boxes to send to people throughout the state. If you'd be interested in helping out, or if you have questions, you are welcome to chat either with Pastor or our Outreach Team Leader, Tim Harting.

In connection with that, we'll be switching over our collection at church. Over the past few months, we've been collecting items to support the Stone Soup Café. Now, for the next few months, 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!



# JANUARY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 5:00—Catechism Parents Meeting 6:15—Choir	3 6:00—Back to Bible Basics	4	5	6 9:30—Volunteering @ Fairbanks Food Bank
7 9:15—Sunday School for all ages 10:30—Worship w/Communion 12:00—Member Ministry Team Meeting	8 6:00—6th Grade Confirmation	9 4:45—Catechism 6:15—Choir	10 6:00—Back to Bible Basics	11	12	13 8:00—Men's Breakfast & Bible Study @ Hometown Restaurant
14 9:15—Sunday School for all ages 10:30—Worship 12:00—Monthly Potluck 1:00—Christmas Undecorating	15	16 4:45—Catechism 6:15—Choir	17 6:00—Back to Bible Basics	18	19 6:00—Baby Shower for Sheila Coleman	20
21 9:15—Sunday School for all ages 10:30—Worship w/Communion 12:00—Council 12:00—GLOW Meeting	22	23 4:45—Catechism 6:30—Women's Bible Study	24 6:00—Back to Bible Basics	25	26 6:00—Family Game Night	27
28 9:15—Sunday School for all ages 10:30—Worship	29	30 6:15—Choir	31			

**Church Cleaners for January:**  
 12/31-1/6—Sinclair, Davidge  
 1/7-1/13—Strong  
 1/14-1/20—Taipale, Anderson  
 1/21-1/27—Young  
 1/28-2/3—Ziesmer

**Pastor @ Conference**

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

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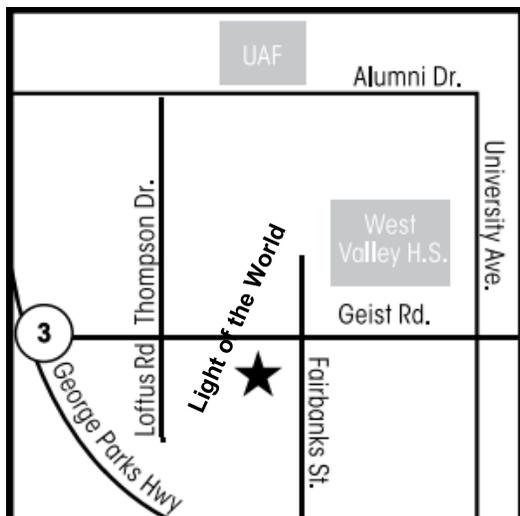
*4155 Geist Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99709*

**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**



*“If we live, we live for the Lord.”*

*- Romans 14:8*