

# *News of Grace*

*Monthly Newsletter ♦ January 2016*



## *All Church Retreat*

***YOU ARE INVITED !!***

***YOU ARE NEEDED !!***

**Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>  
8:30 AM - 3:30 PM**

The retreat will be looking to the future, discovering what God is asking Grace Lutheran to be and do in this time and place and down the road.

We will be seeking together how we can serve God and what we will use to guide us in making decisions for the future.

Renewal is about seeing the gifts we have as a church and where God's world needs us. Where and how can we make a difference. It is about listening to God's call for love, grace, forgiveness, repentance, peace and change, then being part of it for the sake of the world. That is tough challenging work but it is people passionately engaged, growing their faith and listening to the Holy Spirit at work in us as individuals, a church and a community. It is about changed people and changed lives. It is going forward confident in God's guiding hand for us and everyone.

Each of us is a valuable member and voice in determining our future as God's church. Please join us for a day of searching scripture, praying and talking about what we believe God has in store for us. Join us as we work together to be faithful followers of Jesus in our community and world today. See you there!!!

Please sign upon the sheet in the Narthex. Pastor Tom and Council members have more information.



A new year is starting. That's the calendar year. There will be a cycling through all the seasons, holidays, events and activities that make up the usual year. We will do many of the same things again. They will not be exactly the same. We may not be at the same place with the same people. The weather may be different. We are really not the same people as we were then, having had all the experiences of the last year. And likely different because of them.

We have already begun the new church year in November with Advent. And that is the cycling through of Christ's story again, from birth, to ministry, to teachings, to Holy Week and the Resurrection and to all the work of the Kingdom.

When we think about it, our cycling the year, church or world, is a bit of re-creation. We have the chance to do things again. It is a chance to do them different and hopefully better, with greater skills, more grace and generosity, with more love. With things not being about us. Rather it is about God's Kingdom and work.

All this makes every year a little starting over with a new self. A bit of redemption if you will. Where the past is behind us and we are open to new possibilities and opportunities. To make that really happen, we need to let go of the things of the past that have hindered us and then be open to opportunities for growth that come our way.

We really get to be made new in very real ways.

So to prepare for the new year, I leave you with some questions and thoughts:

Do you recognize the blessings you have experienced in these last months?

Do you recognize the ways you have grown this past year?

Do you recognize the areas where you want to grow, maybe need to grow, this year?

What effort are you willing to make for growth this year?

What are you doing to build your faith this year?

How will you be listening to and for God this year?

How will you be responding to what God is calling you to be doing?

Blessings on your new year! And your life and growth that will be with it.

May Christ's peace be with you. And may you share that peace with the world.

*Pastor Tom*

## **Thanks to the Congregation**

For the very generous Christmas gift. I have some plans for a photography workshop in the Smokies in the spring. The gift will be useful for the workshop and some equipment to more fully enjoy the time. Thanks so much.

*Pastor Tom*



Marilyn Whitscell, Sara Kamyszek, Bunny Lyon Clapp, Richard Clapp, Dick Carlson, Erv Simi, Jeanette Grove,

Carolynne Wegmeyer, Elfie Jahnke, Lorraine Leathead,

Gloria Moore, Dave Chroninger, Harold & Jean Kissau, Jim Malaski, Karen & Walter Spigelmyre, Dorothy Gentry, Emma Nelson, Iris Snyder, Julie Troy, Tom Laughlin, Martin Suszek, Larry Beaudoin, Shirley Johnson, Mike Knoblett, Dennis Diamond, Stuart Grenkowicz, Sam Brown, and Jaiden.

### **We also remember the families of**

Deanna Lamb, who passed away on November 30th.

Victoria Stolz, who passed away on December 19th.

## **Prayer List**

Our prayer list is redone each month. If you, or a family member, would like to continue on the prayer list, please call the office (354-2640).

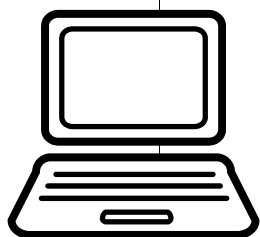
## **Computer, Laptop or Tablet being replaced in your home this Christmas?**

Your Older Equipment maybe be valuable for others.

We are gathering older equipment for some computer classes. Even if your computer is not working some parts maybe able to upgrade other computers. Laptops are especially useful. Accessories like keyboards, mice, printers and power supplies are useable too. Any software that came with your computer or you are no longer using could valuable too. Anything that is unuseable will be recycled environmentally.

Your personal information and data on your old computer will be erased before it is reused.

Talk with Pastor Tom for more information or if you have questions.



We pray for God's blessings for Henry Bauer LeMonds, who was baptized December 20th. Henry's parents are Chad & Kara LeMonds and his sponsors are Joel Bauer and Tom LeMonds.

## **Julefest Bake Sale Thank You**

Thanks to everyone who helped bake and donated items. It made our Julefest Bake Sale a great success! With God's blessing and many hands, we made \$1,600. Thanks everyone!

Ruth Circle



## **Quilting/Sewing**



The Quilting/sewing Group will resume meeting on January 5, 2016. We meet every Tuesday morning from 9 - 11:30 a.m. and there is always room for anyone who can cut, sort, sew, tie, pack, etc., even if you can only stay for a short time. Some sewing can also be done at home on your own machine. Contact Dorothy Hansen (354-3563) or any of the sewing group for more information.

## **Write Documents on Your Computer in January, February & March**

The **INTRODUCTION TO WORD PROCESSING COMPUTER CLASSES** will again be offered on Thursdays January 14th, February 11th and March 10th at 11 am. In addition to our own members, it is being made available to a limited number of Association of Lifelong Learners (ALL) members. With Council's approval, this is an effort to reach out into the community sharing the resources and gifts we have. It is limited to 6 ALL members but unlimited to church members.

We will cover some of the basics again as well as tackle some sample projects that members or others want to do. Be sure to mark your calendars and bring your questions to class. And maybe meet a few new people.

# Martin Luther King Jr Day Activities

## Chili Supper Needs your Support ~ January 18, 2016

The Chili Supper supports the Wash Your Coat laundromat coupons distributed through local service agencies.

The supper is held at the Lumberjack Shack at ACC from 5 till 6:15 before the evening programs. Special this year, there will be a reading by Jr Hi & HS Essay Contest Winners after the chili supper and just before the panel program in the evening.

Needed 3 crockpots of chili, 3 desserts of 2 dozen brownies or bar cookies or cookies and corn bread. Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex if you can help.

See all the MLK Jr Day activities in the accompanying article (flyer) in the newsletter and plan to join us. **See Polly Cook for further information 356-1716**



### Reports Due

A reminder to all continuing and outgoing work group leaders...

Annual reports are due in the church office by Monday, February 1, 2016.

### Ruth Circle

The members of the Ruth Circle (women of Grace) met on Dec. 16th at Polly Cook's home for their annual Christmas gathering and there was no snow on the ground this year.

During the business meeting, Darlene Freeland and Thelma Stevens gave information on the Julefest Bake Sale that was held on Dec. 5th showing \$1,600.00 benefit, which will be distributed to needy groups at the January meeting.

"Secret Prayer Pal" names will be drawn for 2016 at January meeting which will be held Wednesday, January 20th in the lounge with Thelma Stevens and Joelyn Rich as hostesses.

Remember that all women of Grace are members of the WELCA and are welcome to attend any meeting without obligation.

### Recycling Information

Thanks to all who have contributed to the recycling efforts. A new list is included in this newsletter. Items include: zip lock bags (clean, please), writing instruments of all sorts, drink pouches, Scotch tape dispensers and cores, cameras, wine corks, tortilla shell & flatbread packaging, granola wrappers, toothpaste tubes and toothbrushes, cereal bags, chip bags, lunch kits. Also, Greenway on US 23 North will take all plastic household recyclables, not just the 1 and 2. Once again, thanks to all who have been helping keep God's green Earth clean.

Corinne Fraley



### Acolytes Needed

Acolytes are needed for January - April 2016. If you would be willing to serve during this time, please contact Peggy in the church office (354-2640 or [officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org](mailto:officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org)). An acolyte boot camp (training for new acolytes) will be held in the Spring.



A big thank you to EACH of the people who stopped to sing Christmas Carols to us, and for the cookies. It really meant a lot to us!

Vicki Cripps & Clayton Fee

# Outreach and Mission

## Local

### Discipleship



#### Items Needed:

- \* Tuna & Tuna Helper
- \* Peanut Butter & Jelly
- \* Pancake Mix & Syrup  
(Just add water kind)
- \* Elbow Macaroni

The collection basket is located outside the church office. All items collected will be donated to Trinity Episcopal's food pantry.

### Loving Care Members

A total of 28 carolers visited each of these members on Sunday, December 13th following the brunch. Many of them sang right along with us and Harold Kissau sang the German version of Silent Night better than any of us did! We took a plate of cookies to each of them which they really appreciated. Thanks to all who sang or contributed cookies...it was a great afternoon. Please continue to remember these folks in your prayers, send a card, give a call or visit them. It means so much to them to stay connected to all of us at Grace! Their info is available on the bulletin board in the dining hall.

### Foster Closets of Michigan Alpena Branch

A new endeavor for Grace to support is the Alpena branch of Foster Closets of Michigan. This is housed in the basement of the Free Methodist Church. If you have baby items (clothes, furniture, toys, etc) or kids clothing of any size up to age 18, consider taking it to this closet. This closet helps out the foster families in Alpena. There is a big need for volunteer help sorting out donated items. Please contact Joelyn Rich at 340-0592 or Chris Christopherson at 356-0430 if you can volunteer time.

### Giving Tree Project Thanks!

Thanks to all who so generously participated in the Giving Tree project. We filled the need for 16 children through the ACC Wish List as well as another 6 kids through ACES. 58 gifts were taken to ACC and 18 to ACES for a total of 76 gifts from Grace!

## Community Outreach

Our November/December 2015 Community Outreach donation of \$368 was used for the Alpena Volunteer Center and ACC Christmas Wish Lists. Our January 2016 donation of \$200 will be given to Shelter, Inc. Community Outreach dollars were raised at our Celebrating and Sharing dinner in April 2015.

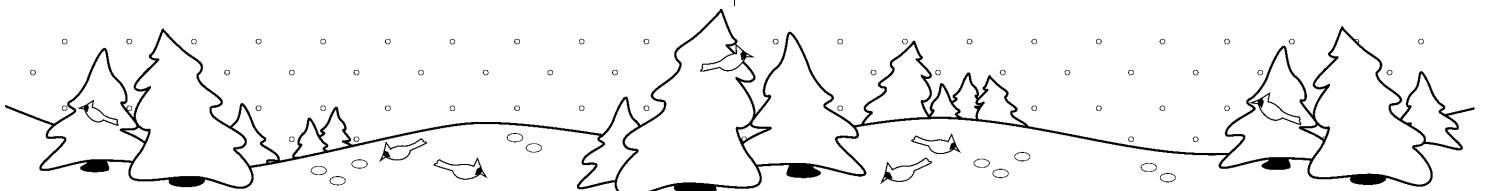
### Statewide - LSSM Foster Children Program

The need continues for underwear and socks (boys and girls up to age 13). Watch for ads that often include special deals on socks and underwear.

### Global

### World Vision "Sponsor a Child" Program

Remember to keep Noella in your prayers!



## Building Schedule

Due to other groups using the church and our weekly cleaning schedule, we ask that anyone wishing to use the kitchen, fellowship hall, lounge or sanctuary call the office to schedule your activity and avoid conflicts. Thanks!

## Large Print Worship Folder

A large print worship folder, hymns and weekly bulletin are available for anyone who would like one. Please ask the ushers for it.



### Taking down the Decorations

We will take the decorations down following the 9:30 a.m. worship service on January 10. All are welcome to stay and help!



### 2016 Flower Chart

Altar Flowers form (located on the table in the Narthex). Completing this form lets the office know what you would like listed in the bulletin. Forms may be placed in the offering plate or turned in to the office.

The 2016 Flower Chart has been posted in the Narthex. Please sign the chart and fill out an

## GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Staff & Leadership Telephone Numbers

#### CHURCH OFFICE 354-2640

Rev. Tom Orth ..... Home ..... 356-8729  
..... Cell ..... 916-8759  
Office Manager ... Peggy Tomaszewski ..... 255-8850  
Music Director..... Berniece Lyon Clapp..... 464-7064

#### ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

President ..... Tom Lappan ..... 356-3718  
Vice-President ..... Harry Kautz ..... 595-3568  
Exec. Secretary ... Sandy Malaski ..... 356-6248  
Treasurer..... Dennis Werblow ..... 354-5560

#### WORK GROUP LEADERS/COUNCIL

Education ..... Jim & Kristin Berles..... 358-2768  
Worship ..... Sharon Engstrom..... 354-5133  
Discipleship..... Joelyn Rich ..... 340-0592  
Property ..... Jeff & Sandy Welch..... 595-2195  
Fellowship ..... Thelma Stevens ..... 340-0599  
Finance ..... Rick Engstrom ..... 916-5963

#### OTHER V.I.P.s

Stewardship..... Wayne Christopherson.... 356-0430  
Youth Director ..... Vicki Denstaedt..... 916-9258  
WELCA..... Darleen Freel ..... 354-8866  
..... Dorothy Hansen ..... 354-3563  
L.S.S.M..... Kay Grove ..... 727-2054  
Quilters ..... Caroline Weise ..... 354-8060  
..... Dorothy Hansen ..... 354-3563  
LARCC ..... Eleanor Coddington ..... 354-8766  
..... Kay Grove ..... 727-2054

## December 2015

#### Finances

GENERAL FUND.....\$ 22,873.00  
BUILDING FUND..... 294.00  
CHRISTIAN GROWTH .....9.00  
OTHER ..... 2,246.15  
TOTAL.....\$ 25,422.15

#### Attendance

SATURDAY WORSHIP (4) ..... 106  
SUNDAY WORSHIP (4) ..... 312  
CHRISTMAS EVE (2)..... 301  
TOTAL ..... 719





TerraCycle's purpose is to eliminate the idea of waste. TerraCycle offers at least \$0.01 for every piece of waste sent in (excluding wine corks). Participation in the program and shipping is free! All proceeds go to Pied Piper Opportunity Center MOCI classroom.

## Home Storage Bags

All brands and sizes of home storage bags. Bags need to be empty and clean. Examples, Ziploc, store brands, Glad, etc.

## Writing Instruments

Any brand of markers, pens, highlighters, or mechanical pencils.



## Drink Pouches

All brands. Examples, Honest Kids, Capri Sun, Kool-Aid



## Inkjet Cartridges & Toner



## Water Filters

Filters, Containers, and plastic packaging.



## Scotch Tape

Any brand and any size plastic tape dispensers and cores.



## Electronic Waste

Cameras, digital cameras, Camcorders, graphing calculator, GPS units.



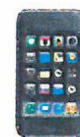
## Ipod and MP3 Player

Any brand.



## Cell Phones

All brands and types.



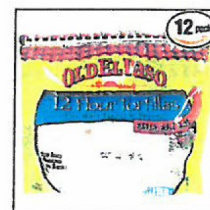
## Wine Corks

All brands and sizes.



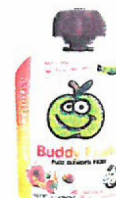
## Tortilla Shell & Flatbread Packaging

Any size or brand packaging.



## Baby Food Pouch

Baby and toddler food pouches.





## Granola Bar Wrappers

Any brand of used granola bar wrappers.



## Cleaning Products

Any brand of pumps, caps, and triggers.



## Personal Care Brigade

Any brand of used personal care product. Examples, lipstick, shampoo, face wash, sunblock, makeup, lotion, hair-spray bottles and cans, etc.



## ~~Hummus~~

~~Any brand of hummus container.~~



## Toothpaste

Any used brand of toothpaste tubes, tooth-brushes, and plastic tooth-brush packing (no cardboard).



## Chip Bags

Any brand or size chip bags.



## Bear Naked Products

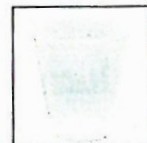
Granola wrappers, cereal bags, and granola bags.



## Disposable Cups

Any brand of plastic drinking cups.

Examples, Solo Cups, fast food restaurant cups, etc.



## Diaper Packaging

All diaper and wipe packaging. Any brand.



## Lunch Kits

Any brand or size of disposable lunch kits. Examples, Lunchables.



## Cereal Bags

All brands.

ACCEPTED WASTE



## Paired Shoes

Pairs of women's, men's, and children's shoes, which may include athletic sneakers, fashion or casual sneakers, dress shoes, flats, high heels, boots, and cleats.



# Creating a beloved community



## Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration

Monday, January 18, 2016 • Alpena Community College

---

### **2:00 p.m. Film “Color of Friendship” & Discussion led by Matt Duncel**

Alpena Community College, Besser Technical Center 122

This film is based on actual events about the friendship between two girls, Mahree and Piper, one from the United States and the other from South Africa during the apartheid era, who learn about tolerance and friendship. This event is free and open to the public.

### **5:00 - 6:15 p.m. Chili Supper • Adults \$8.00, Students \$4.00**

Alpena Community College, Lumberjack Shack

Proceeds benefit the “Wash Your Coat” project. Tickets available at the door. The Chili Supper is sponsored by Grace Lutheran, St. Paul Lutheran, and First Congregational UCC Churches.

### **6:30 p.m. Essay Winners Speak Out**

Alpena Community College, Granum Theatre

Winners of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest for Junior High and High School Students will have an opportunity to read their works—“How would you create a beloved community where you live?” This event is free and open to the public.

### **7:30 p.m. Creating a Beloved Community: Our Youth Speak Out**

Alpena Community College, Newport Center 106

Members of the Alpena Boys & Girls Club will present their thoughts about the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. on “How to Create a Beloved Community.” This event is free and open to the public.

---

## **Additional Events**

### **January 14 - 5:30 p.m. Film & Discussion: “Ghandi” (Part One)**

First Congregational UCC Church, Lower Level

First half of the movie “Gandhi” the leader of India’s non-violent independence movement, who was an inspiration to MLK, Jr. The movie stars Ben Kingsley in the title role. This event is free and open to the public.

### **January 21 - 5:30 p.m. Film & Discussion: “Ghandi” (Part Two)**

First Congregational UCC Church, Lower Level

Part Two of Richard Attenborough’s film “Ghandi,” winner of the 1982 Best Picture Academy Award. This event is free and open to the public.

---

**For more information, please call 989.356.1795.**

Activities planned by the Alpena Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration Committee with the support of Alpena Community College and the Outreach Committee of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

# OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THE LORD

## JANUARY 2016

### ACOLYTES

03  
10  
17  
24  
31

### HOSPITAL

JANET CHRONINGER

### LECTORS

03 VICKI DENSTAEDT  
10 DAWN ANDERSON  
17 ANNE GENTRY  
24 DONNA CZARNECKI  
31 MIKE URLAUB

### USHERS

DALE SCHULTZ  
STEVE & WESLEY GARANT  
CHARLES SNYDER  
VICKI, ISABELLE, TREVOR,  
& TAYLOR DENSTAEDT

### GREETERS

03 RICK & SHARON ENGSTROM  
10 CORKY GATES, PATTI MACNEILL  
17 JOE & DAWN GENTRY  
24 GARY & KAY GROVE  
31 WAYNE & ANNA LEWIS

### COUNTERS

DALE & PAT SCHULTZ  
LINDA GAPSKE

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

ROGER & JEANNE PANKEY

### ALTAR GUILD

KAY ZINSLI  
ELSA PHILLIPS

### FLOWERS

03  
10  
17  
24  
31

### COFFEE HOUR

03 JOEL & CINDY SUSZEK  
10 WAYNE & ANNA LEWIS  
17 WAYNE & CHRIS CHRISTOPHERSON  
24 ELEANOR CODDINGTON,  
DAWN ANDERSON  
31 JEFF & SANDY WELCH

***PLEASE, please, please try to find a replacement or someone  
to switch with if you are unable to fulfill your Sunday  
scheduled duty AND share the change with Peggy. Thank you!***

# OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THE LORD

## FEBRUARY 2016

### ACOLYTES

07  
14  
21  
28

### HOSPITAL

### LECTORS

07 CHERYL WERBLOW  
14 CORINNE FRALEY  
21 SHARON ENGSTROM  
28 RUBY HASKE

### USHERS

JOEL SUSZEK  
GARY & KAY GROVE  
TOM BRENNAN  
RICK ENGSTROM

### GREETERS

07 BRIAN & BETHANY POPOUR FAMILY  
14 ROGER & JEANNE PANKEY  
21 LINDA GAPSKE, ELSA PHILLIPS  
28 SHELLY OLSEN FAMILY

### COUNTERS

CHRIS CHRISTOPHERSON  
MARGE WEBER  
BETHANY POPOUR

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

CLARENCE & BONNIE CROSS

### ALTAR GUILD

BETHANY POPOUR  
ANGIE CRITTENDEN  
BARB WERLE

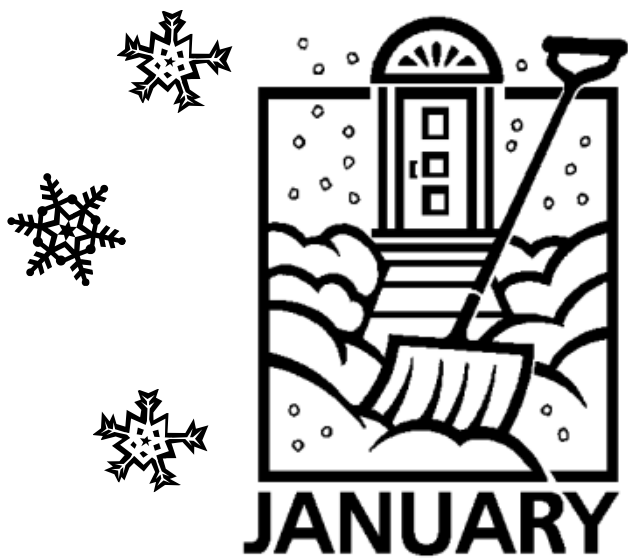
### FLOWERS

07  
14  
21  
28

### COFFEE HOUR

07 LINDA GAPSKE, CHARLOTTE WERTH,  
PAM KIRCHOFF  
14 PATTI TUCKER, POLLY COOK,  
ELSA PHILLIPS  
21 CLARENCE & BONNIE CROSS  
28 WAYNE & CHRIS CHRISTOPHERSON

***PLEASE, please, please try to find a replacement or someone  
to switch with if you are unable to fulfill your Sunday  
scheduled duty AND share the change with Peggy. Thank you!***



## Birthdays



**January 2**  
Mitchell Agius  
Sharlene Kennedy

**January 19**  
Rhonda Himes

**January 5**  
Judy Black

**January 22**  
Michael Lang  
Elsa Phillips

**January 7**  
Gordon Hansen

**January 23**  
Marilyn Whitscell

**January 9**  
Arnold Jahnke

**January 24**  
Alan Freel  
Gary Nicholls

**January 10**  
Michael Herrmann  
Elfie Jahnke  
Kat Tomaszewski

**January 25**  
Pamela Nowak

**January 12**  
Richard Engstrom  
David Hansen

**January 26**  
Ben Jordan

**January 16**  
Levi Konarzewski  
Allison Urlaub

**January 29**  
Madelyn Boyd

**January 30**  
Judy Dorr  
Adam Urlaub

## Anniversaries of Baptism



**January 1**  
Alec Kennedy  
Jessica Timm

**January 19**  
Sandra Malaski  
Meredith Smith

**January 2**  
Patti MacNeill

**January 20**  
Matthew Freel

**January 7**  
Douglas Chroninger  
Olivia Haske

**January 21**  
Kassandra McInerney  
Ricky Slater

**January 9**  
Matthew Timrick

**January 24**  
Brody Nowak

**January 15**  
Michael Townsend

**January 25**  
Lisa McIntosh

**January 16**  
Betty Dulebohn

**January 30**  
Hannah Matzke  
Erin McCourt

**January 17**  
Erika Nicholls

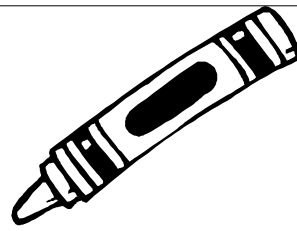
**January 31**  
Brent Welch  
Marilyn Whitscell

**January 18**  
Nancy Stachnik





# Kid's Page



## GUIDING LIGHT

Make this flashlight to remember that God, our light, always shows us the way.

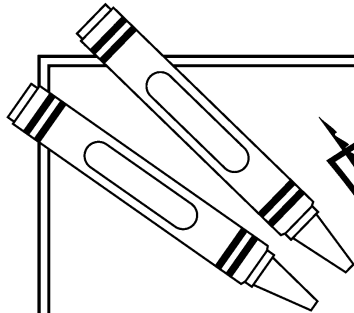


### What you need:

- Flashlight with handle strap
- Yarn (6 to 8 inches)
- Colorful pony beads
- Stickers (including foam letters)
- Batteries

### What you do:

1. Tie the yarn through the flashlight's handle strap so two equal lengths hang down.
2. String the pony beads onto the two yarn lengths, and secure the ends with knots.
3. Decorate the flashlight with stickers. Use letters to spell "God is light."
4. Keep the flashlight by your bedside as a reminder of God's guidance. Use the flashlight to read a Bible verse before bed each night!



## PUZZLE

### LET THERE BE LIGHT

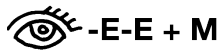
In a world of darkness, God guides us so we can walk in his ways.

*Directions: Write the name of each picture, subtracting and adding letters as indicated. Then fill in the blanks to complete 2 Samuel 22:29, NIV.*

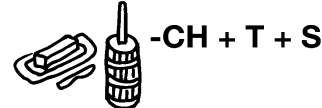
"Y O U , \_\_\_\_\_ , A R E



\_\_\_\_\_ ; T H E



M Y



\_\_\_\_\_ D + \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ - T + S

I N T O \_\_\_\_\_ .



2 SAMUEL 22:29, NIV

Answer: "You, LORD, are my lamp; the LORD turns my darkness into light." 2 Samuel 22:29, NIV