

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

- A multicultural, all-inclusive ecumenical ministry to the community.
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December 17, 2017 ~ 3rd Sunday of Advent
"Christians Are Flashlights Powered By God"

Boys and girls: The Gospel of John tells us that Jesus is the light of the world and that we are to bear witness to the light. Later in the Bible we are told that we are the light of the world. I brought this flashlight with me to demonstrate what that means. When we tell everyone around us that we love Jesus, we are like a flashlight shining through the darkness. Let me show you what I mean.

(Point the flashlight at the children.) "We are the light of the world..." (Nothing happens, so look puzzled and maybe even embarrassed.) Something must be wrong. Let me try that again. "We are the light of the world..." (Nothing happens so look really embarrassed.) I don't understand, it worked a few moments ago. Let me open the flashlight and see what is wrong. (After opening the flashlight you can slowly start pulling out the trash that is inside.) No wonder the flashlight won't work. There is nothing but trash in here. A flashlight can't work if it's full of trash. We'll just clean it out and try again.

(Point the flashlight at the children again.) "We are the light of the world." (Nothing happens.) What is wrong with the flashlight now? Does anyone know? (The kids should guess that there are no batteries.) You are absolutely right! The flashlight needs batteries. Cleaning the flashlight isn't enough. You also have to give it the power of batteries. (Put in the batteries.) Now, let's try this one more time. "We are the light of the world." (Hopefully you should have light.) Now everything works fine.

We are a lot like this flashlight. As Christians we are the light of the world, but first, we need to let Jesus clean the trash out of our lives that is not good. But, that alone is not enough. We also need batteries. Jesus promises us that we will receive the Holy Spirit to guide us and to strengthen us. The Holy Spirit is like the batteries in a flashlight. So, let us always be thankful to Jesus for the light that he gave us. And, let us also remember the importance of the Holy Spirit that acts as our batteries to keep our light burning strong and bright. We need both to be good followers of Jesus Christ.

DEAR LORD: Allow your Spirit to shine that we might reflect your light - the Light of the world, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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