

WALL STREET UNITED CHURCH NOVEMBER 16, 2025

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THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

Today we will celebrate and acknowledge a beautiful gift our church has been given. This gift is light! This is a wonderful gift that will show people the way. They can always walk toward those lights on the steeple. They will arrive at our church, and can ask for help if they wish.

There are many different kinds of light in this world. There are warning lights. Up the street from my home are the train tracks. These lights are lit and the gates come down to warn us. It is not safe to go. A train is coming. We have headlights on our cars. They show us the way to go, but they also keep us safe by showing us people, animals or things to not run into. God can also send warning lights into our lives. We can receive warning lights in the shape of a close friend or family member warning us about something they have heard. Like I saw on the news today this recall: Do you have this in your home, or do you drive this kind of car? There are red lights, and caution lights at road crossings. The caution light tells us to watch carefully. Now as I learned in late October even though I saw the caution light I went through it. But someone else also decided to go through it at the same time. Needless to say, that didn't work out very well. Now I have a heart jumping into my throat every time I go through a light that turns yellow when I am already in the intersection. When we see a red light that means stop. I know

for a fact that the vast majority of us have seen or even accidentally gone through a red light in our days.

Then we have lights that guide us. Lights at the hospital are visible from quite far away and are there to guide us to that safety net.

Our own lights at home can guide us to the door, or across the yard from the car. Street lights can guide us to help us stay on the road or walkway.

The headlights on our vehicles can guide us to stay on the road, and to help us see so that we do not hit anything, or anyone. They also help us see in storms of rain or snow.

During the 40 years in the wilderness God used a pillar of fire as light for the Israelites to follow, so they wouldn't get lost.

When Moses returned from the mountain his face shone after conversing with God.

When Jesus was born. He became a light to the world. A light that his disciples could follow. After Jesus death and resurrection his disciples shone the light as they went around the globe preaching and converting people to Christianity.

According to google in the NKJ translation of the bible light is mentioned 253 times. With that many mentions I am sure you can agree that it must be very important to God.

Today we can be lights to help show the way to God. We don't all need to preach. Just the example of how we conduct

ourselves at, home and out in public can be lights shining the goodness of God to everyone we meet.

I believe also that our actions can shine a light in this dark world. Our Friday breakfast program, our Sunday suppers. These are all ways to shine the light of God towards others. Soon Carolyn Matheson will open the room behind the breakfast room on Fridays. This will be to shine the light of God to any of our homeless or home and food insecure people. They can come to her and be outfitted with weather appropriate coats, and boots. And warm dry socks. Socks that we are collecting still. I think we have blown the goal of 500 out of the water. So, everyone who donated socks to this initiative will be helping to shine the light of God to others less fortunate than ourselves. We can further this light by attending the sock pinning party during coffee time on November 23rd.

When knitters donate all the hats and mitts, that are then blessed before Decembers Sunday supper. Then they are given out to those who attend the supper if they have need. Those knitters are shining the light of God too. The prayer shawl ministry shines a light when shawls are given out to those going through a crisis, or while welcoming new members into our church.

I know that sometimes we feel our light is insignificant in such a hurting world as we are in now. But we see on Christmas Eve when we sing Silent Night. The lights are turned off and everyone in the sanctuary holds a candle that is lit by passing

the light along the rows. Look how powerful those little lights appear when they are all combined!

Everyone who volunteers at any of these activities, or other places in the community are shining their lights to help and guide others. We know that when we have a large activity, we need many volunteers. The OK kids garage sale, Yuletide Fare, Friday Breakfasts, and Sunday suppers all require many volunteers. Every volunteer that helps is a shining light. And we know how big of an impact we can make when there are lights all shining together.

I know myself that sometimes it is hard to be that light all the time. We have sad days when we struggle to keep that little light shining. But during those times we can depend on other shining lights to help and guide us through our sadness, or struggle. As mentioned in our gospel reading for today. Let's not cover our lights with a basket, but let them shine opening Ly to welcome others into our midst.

All the lights around us give us a sense of safety and peace. Let's work to be lights in this sad world. To help guide and keep safe anyone who passes within our reach. Whether that be here in our community, or throughout the world.

Amen.