

**CHURCH SCHEDULE**

**Sunday Bible Study and  
Sunday School start on:**

**September 7: 9:45 a.m.**

**Sunday Service: 11:00 a.m.**

**Wed. Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.**

**SPEAKERS**

**September 7:** Ivan Niemela,  
*Holy Communion*

**September 14:** Ivan Niemela

**September 21:** Ivan Niemela

**September 28:** Ivan Niemela

**CONTACT**

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**Let Your Light Shine**

*“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” – Matt 5:16*

Jesus encourages His followers to live in a way that makes their good works visible to others. Doing so is not for personal glory but to inspire others and to bring glory to God. It emphasizes the importance of living a life that reflects God's love, righteousness, and truth, allowing believers to influence the world positively. The light mentioned in our topic verse refers to the Christ-like qualities and actions that reflect a person's faith. It reveals a believer's good works, offering others a glimpse of God's love. Without His grace, our best efforts amount to filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). However, the life-changing power of His love allows our actions to reflect His compassion, naturally radiating into the world around us. The indwelling Holy Spirit empowers and inspires us to perform good works. After we are cleansed from sin and given a new heart and Spirit, our light begins to shine: believers naturally carry out His works, guided by His Spirit, often without conscious effort, expressing His mercy and compassion daily.

Since the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, mankind has been plagued by sin, which separates us from God (Isaiah 59:2). Thankfully, God has provided a way to cleanse our sins through confession and the sprinkling of sacrificial blood, reconciling us to Him. This foreshadows Christ's ultimate sacrifice shown in the book of Leviticus: a humbled heart convicted by sin willingly confesses to a priest, foreshadowing our confession to another believer; an animal is offered for sacrifice on the brazen altar, prefiguring the crucifixion of Christ as the Lamb of God, who offered Himself *“without spot to God”* (Hebrews 9:14); and the priest sprinkles the animal's blood, prefiguring the atonement accomplished through Jesus' shed blood. For God, it was never the act of offering itself, but the faith behind it that connected His people to the work of Christ on the cross. After Jesus was crucified, we are reminded that *“we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins”* (Ephesians 1:7). Jesus gave the keys to the kingdom of heaven to His believers on earth, stating, *“Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them...”* (John 20:23). Upon hearing and believing this proclamation, God indwells us with the Holy Spirit: *“after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation... ye were sealed with the holy Spirit of promise”* (Ephesians 1:13). This indwelling presence of the Spirit enables us to reflect His glory through our transformed lives. This transformation is made possible through God's Spirit, as Ezekiel 36:26-27 affirms: *“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you... and cause you to walk in my statutes”*.

The transformation of our spirit through the indwelling Holy Spirit leads believers to care about the salvation of others, often without even realizing it. Jesus' teaching in Matthew 25:31-46 illustrates this point. In this passage, He describes the Day of Judgment, when people from all nations are gathered before the throne of God. They are separated into two groups: the sheep on His right hand and the goats on the left. The sheep are welcomed into heaven because they performed many good works during their lives—they fed Him,

gave Him water, provided Him shelter, clothed Him, and visited Him in prison. When they responded that they could not recall doing any of these things, Jesus assured them that caring for others—physically, emotionally, or spiritually—was equivalent to serving Him. In contrast, the goats were condemned for failing to show these acts of mercy and love, despite their claims to the contrary. These good works are the fruits of a heart transformed by the radiance of Christ.

The light of Christ is that of the Holy Ghost, which shines brightly through all believers, making it visible to those around them. As Philippians 2:15 says, believers "*shine as lights in the world*" amid a "*crooked and perverse nation*." This verse encourages believers to freely let their lives reflect the light of Christ in their deeds and actions, regardless of what others may think. Just as a lighthouse shines persistently and silently in the darkness to guide ships safely to shore, the Holy Spirit within believers serves as a quiet yet constant beacon, gently drawing others to Christ. Like a lighthouse navigating ships through the darkest storms, the Spirit-led light within believers offers hope and direction to those adrift, guiding them toward the redemption made possible by Christ's sacrifice. These faithful deeds, often carried out without conscious awareness of their significance, are the silent, transformative power of a life devoted to Christ. They provide hope to the lost and light the pathway to eternal salvation.

*God's Peace,*  
Charles Korhonen