



# We're so glad you're here!

**Is this your first time here?** Welcome! Stop by the Info Spot before or after the service. We'd love to meet you, answer any questions you have, and give you a special welcome gift. Or you can text Connect to 952.234.3301. We have great programs for kids and students. If you have young children with you who get restless, we have a Family Room. The ushers can help direct you. For more info on everything happening here, check out [westwoodcc.org](http://westwoodcc.org).

## HELP LOCAL FAMILIES THIS CHRISTMAS

Hope for the Holidays gift drive starts today! Stop by the display and pick up a tag or two. Return the gifts by Sunday, December 1. Gifts will be distributed by local organizations.

## ARE THE HOLIDAYS HARD FOR YOU?

Surviving the Holidays is a free event that will give you encouragement, support and practical suggestions for getting through, and perhaps even enjoying, the season if you are grieving.

Monday, November 25, 7:00-8:30pm. Register online.

## THE SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

Celebrate the joy and wonder of Christmas at the Sounds of Christmas concert! This year's special guest is Christian recording artist Josh Wilson. Hear from the Westwood Choir and Orchestra, Kids' Choir, worship leaders and rhythm section. Tickets are \$18 and are available online. Performances are Friday, December 6 at 7:00pm and Saturday, December 7 at 4:00 and 7:00pm. Hosted at the Chanhassen Campus.

# illuminating wisdom

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." <sup>13</sup>The Pharisees challenged him, "Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid." <sup>14</sup>Jesus answered, "Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going. <sup>15</sup>You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one. <sup>16</sup>But if I do judge, my decisions are true, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me. <sup>17</sup>In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true. <sup>18</sup>I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me." <sup>19</sup>Then they asked him, "Where is your father?" "You do not know me or my Father," Jesus replied. "If you knew me, you would know my Father also." <sup>20</sup>He spoke these words while teaching in the temple courts near the place where the offerings were put. Yet no one seized him, because his hour had not yet come. <sup>21</sup>Once more Jesus said to them, "I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come." <sup>22</sup>This made the Jews ask, "Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, 'Where I go, you cannot come'?" <sup>23</sup>But he continued, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. <sup>24</sup>I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins." <sup>25</sup>"Who are you?" they asked. "Just what I have been telling you from the beginning," Jesus replied. <sup>26</sup>"I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is trustworthy, and what I have heard from him I tell the world." <sup>27</sup>They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. <sup>28</sup>So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. <sup>29</sup>The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him." <sup>30</sup>Even as he spoke, many believed in him. John 8:12-30

### How do I act wisely when I'm in the dark?!

1. Living in darkness means \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus. John 8:13-24

2. Jesus, as God, \_\_\_\_\_ illuminating wisdom. John 8:25-30

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

- "Jesus, in following you, what opportunity will give me the \_\_\_\_\_ to spread your kingdom ethic of love?"
- "Jesus, allow me to see you as the \_\_\_\_\_."

Illuminating Wisdom  
*I AM the Light of the World*  
November 17, 2019

1. Are you afraid of the dark? Why or why not? What is it that frightens you?
2. Darkness can represent a time for us when we feel uncertain. Share with the group a time when you experienced a season of uncertainty.
3. Read **John 8:12-20**. What strikes you as you read this passage?
4. What does Jesus mean when he says, "I am the light of the world" in **verse 12**. How is the light of Jesus a contrast to the candlelight in the Feast of Tabernacles and the four big candelabras?
5. There are 7 "**I Am**" statements in John's Gospel. Find them in your bible and discuss what Jesus means in each passage by "I am".
6. As you reflect on Zac's story with his wife Cassie on vacation, do you have 100% certainty that you would go to heaven if you died today? Why or why not?
7. Have you ever doubted your salvation? Salvation and eternal life are a gift from God, not looking at who we are and what we have done but looking at who Jesus is and what He has done. God has given us scripture to help us live in this confidence. Look at: **John 3:16, John 5:24 John 10:27-28, Romans 8:38-39** and **Ephesians 2:8**. Discuss as a group. Memorizing a few of these verses may help ground you in this truth.
8. What is one take away for you personally as you process this message and this passage of scripture? How can you apply what you have learned to your life? Share with your group and pray for each other.