



British Author and Novelist Terry Pratchett once poetically wrote the following:

*“Light thinks it travels faster than anything, but it is wrong. No matter how fast light travels, it finds **the darkness has always got there first** and is waiting for it.”*

As we head out of Fall into Winter, here in Michigan it is about to get a lot darker and colder. It is also clear that the world around us is becoming increasingly darker and colder spiritually, relationally, and emotionally. Because Jesus knew we would live in times such as these, He gave us – His Church, this command:

*“**You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.***

- Matthew 5:14-16 NIV

In other words, Jesus was saying that even though it might feel like darkness got here first, it doesn't need to have the last word in our mental health, families, communities, and workplaces. This is why our vision for 2025 will be to **RADIATE THE LIGHT OF GOD'S GOODNESS TO OUR COMMUNITIES AND WORLD.**

As we close out 2024 and head into 2025, here is how TVC is going to live out our vision of **RADIATING THE LIGHT OF GOD'S GOODNESS TO OUR COMMUNITIES AND WORLD:**

1. On **December 1st** our first-ever Christmas Tree Lighting Event will be held live at every campus! This event will be filled with upbeat music, food, and fun surprises to kick off the Christmas Season. This is a great event to invite friends, family, and co-workers!
2. Also, in the month of December, we will learn how the birth of Jesus first brought light to our world and why He asked us to radiate that light with an inspirational series called *“CHRISTMAS LIGHTS.”*
3. On **December 15th**, every campus will have *“The Christmas Experience.”* This will be a community outreach event filled with special music, videos, and a special guest from the North Pole! This is another opportunity to invite your neighbors and friends.
4. On **Christmas Eve**, we will host powerful and hope-filled *Christmas Eve Services.*

On **December 15th**, we will receive our annual Christmas Offering, which is about giving our best to God because He gave His best to us. The Christmas Offering is how we will follow God's example of generosity and fund outreach into our community. We will use it to spread hope to our neighbors by funding outreach programs and events to invite people to church and into a relationship with our Savior.

How it works:

Since Jesus is the reason for the season, I'm asking you to give Him your best gift this Christmas. Jen and I will give Jesus a gift equal to or greater than the amount we will spend on each other.

Blessings,

Pastor Keith

Enclosed is an envelope for this year's Christmas Offering. Every dollar received will be used to light up our community and world with God's Goodness in 2025. **Please pray about your generosity, bring your gift to church on Dec. 15th or mail it in using the envelope.**