

June 26, 2022

When we moved to Kindred, we bought a one-owner house that was built in 1976. It was meticulously maintained, but still bore all the marks of '76. The wallpaper, wood paneling, and dark stain are reminiscent of the set of *The Brady Bunch*. But these aesthetic elements were not the first things I endeavored to fix. In fact, we have been there three years and most of them remain. The biggest pain point in our house was the lighting—rooms with no overhead lights, rooms with recessed fixtures that seemed to have been designed to let out as little light as possible. Shadows abounded. Life is frustrating when you can't clearly see what you are trying to do. It didn't take long to install lights under every cabinet, to upgrade fixtures that had one socket to fixtures with three, and to completely overhaul some rooms. Good lighting makes such a big difference!

It is no wonder that Jesus declared himself to be “the light of the world” (John 8:12) or that David proclaimed, “The Lord is my light and my salvation” (Psalm 27:1). Light makes such a big difference. Without light you can't see what you are doing or where you are going. Without light you are liable to trip and fall. Without light you fail to see things as they really are. With light you can see where you are, where you have been, and where you are going. Apart from Christ, we are lost, deceived, wandering, and hopeless. Without Christ we fumble around in the dark not able to make sense of the world around us—not understanding where we are and stumbling down a path of destruction.

Praise God that He sent into the world Jesus, the true light, which gives light to everyone (John 1:9). We do not have to walk in darkness. If your path is unclear, if you are struggling to understand your circumstances or the world around you, maybe you need more light. Walk in the light, as He is in the light (1 John 1:5). Seek the Lord in His Word. Call out to Him in prayer. Abide in Him, and you'll find out that The Light makes such a big difference.

Pr. Ryan Patenaude  
AFLC Board of Publications and Parish Education  
Kindred, North Dakota

AFLC Promotion for June is Parish Education