

**Christ-Light**  
**Leader's Resource**  
**Sunday School**

The *Leader's Resource: Sunday School* CD contains materials that explain the scope of the curriculum as well as the products that are available. It contains planning resources a teacher can use when planning the yearly schedule. Some documents offer guidance for teaching a lesson and a list of the materials needed. The CD also contains three distinct Christ-Light introduction presentations: one for Sunday school teachers, one for elementary school teachers, and one for pastors.

The *Leader's Resource* is one PDF file:

01LeadersResourceSS.pdf

You can access the individual pages easily through the list of bookmarks. If your bookmark menu isn't open, click on the bookmark icon usually found in the toolbar located in the upper left side of your document screen.

A folder labeled "02 Planning Charts" has a variety of planning charts. One is a schedule chart for the entire Sunday school module. Another includes charts listing all the memory assignments for the various levels.

A folder labeled "03 Fun Digital Extras" contains visual chronologies of the Old and New Testaments, a visual presentation of the church year, and a variety of letterheads, awards, certificates, and postcards that can be printed and used in a number of ways.

A folder labeled "04 Maps" includes 11 maps of Bible lands in both high resolution (for printing) and low resolution (for projection).

Three separate multimedia presentations, geared for specific workers within the congregation, introduce the various Christ-Light components and the benefits of using

them. PC users click on the file PC\_Launch Presentation or player.html. Mac users click on player.html.

 05 CLIP SS highlights the features of special interest to the Sunday school teacher.

-  autorun.inf
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 06 CLIP LES highlights the features of special interest to the Lutheran elementary school teacher.

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-  player
-  player.html

 07 CLIP forpastors highlights the features of special interest to the pastor.

-  autorun.inf
-  data
-  PC\_Launch Presentation
-  loader.ini
-  player
-  player.html

08 New Life.pdf is an electronic copy of the book *New Life for Your Sunday School*.

09 Justification\_Sanct.pdf is an electronic copy of "Justification and Sanctification."

10 Law And Gospel.pdf contains an electronic copy of the book *Teaching Law and Gospel* by William Fischer.

The program to read PDF files, Adobe Reader®, is included with almost every computer. To avoid potential printing difficulties, use the latest available version of Adobe Reader. If your computer does not have Adobe Reader or has an outdated version, you may download the latest version for free at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com).

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### **Printing the *Leader's Resource***

In order to achieve the optimum format of a printed file, and to make sure that the page numbers print, do the following: from the print menu, click on "Page Scaling" and set to "Fit to Printable Area."

If you wish to print the entire *Leader's Resource*, simply open the file and click on "print."

If you wish to print just certain pages, for example, just "Planning Charts" pages, note the page numbers on the bookmark for the section you wish to print. In the print window, indicate that range of pages. You can also click on an individual page you wish to print, then in the print window, click on "current page."

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# Leader's Resource Sunday School

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*I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,  
but will have the light of life.*

John 8:12  
(NIV 1984)

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# CHRIST LIGHT

**For the Sunday School  
Superintendent**



## For the Sunday School Superintendent

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Dear friend in Christ,

Thank you for using the Christ-Light curriculum! Because “faith comes from hearing the message” (Romans 10:17), it is absolutely vital that a Sunday school curriculum teaches “the message” to the children. That is the hallmark of the Christ-Light curriculum. An additional strength of the curriculum is that it applies the Word in a way that will help children see what it means in their lives.

As the superintendent, you know the key role you play in guiding teachers, encouraging upstanding teaching practices, and providing tools to help your teachers as they teach. Several items on this *Leader’s Resource* CD will help you carry out your very important role. We hope you will find them helpful.

### Sunday School Teaching Helps

A unique and very useful tool in the Christ-Light toolbox is the *Teaching Helps* audio files. These sound files and accompanying study guide sheets were developed specifically for the Sunday school teacher. Learn more about this valuable resource in the section titled “Sunday School Teaching Helps.”

### Sunday School Staff Discussions

Several items might be useful as discussion pieces for Sunday school teachers’ meetings or as handouts for teachers to consider on their own. “The Foundation” offers an in-depth look at the focus, goals, and objectives of the Christ-Light curriculum. “Design of Christ-Light” affirms the scriptural basis for the curriculum and the focus on God’s plan of salvation throughout the Old and New Testament lessons. “Why a Revision?” explains why we at NPH feel it was important to revise the curriculum.

A separate folder on this disk contains a multimedia presentation. The CLIP SS (CLIP stands for Christ-Light Introduction Program) can be accessed as an Adobe Flash presentation, which can be viewed on almost all computers. The presentation shows the various Christ-Light products and includes a brief audio description. This presentation will be especially useful to help the faculty become familiar with the revised curriculum. (CLIP versions for pastors [CLIP forpastors] and Lutheran elementary school teachers [CLIP LES] are also available on this CD.)

The section in the *Leader’s Resource* titled “Christ-Light Introduction Program for Sunday School Teachers” is a printout of the CLIP slides for those who don’t have ready access to a computer for viewing the multimedia introductory presentation. It may also be distributed to teachers so they can survey the curriculum components privately.

“Teaching Christ-Light” reviews the procedure for teaching Christ-Light lessons. This might be especially valuable for a new teacher.

The *Memory Treasures* CDs are a later addition to the resources offered for the Christ-Light curriculum. Because the 1984 version of the NIV Bible is no longer readily available for purchase, a resource disk containing the assigned Memory Treasures in six different translations will be available. Read more about this product in the section titled “Memory Treasures CDs.”

It is important that young children are actively involved in worship services. Read the section “Worship Words and Memory Treasures” to learn how the curriculum makes it easy to introduce parts of the worship service so that children will have a clearer understanding of it. That section also offers suggestions for making memorization easier for the students.

“Teaching Children With Special Needs” offers suggestions for teachers who are teaching children with special needs.

Because the makeup and needs of every Sunday school are different, it may be worthwhile to consider an alternative Sunday school environment. “Types of Sunday Schools” discusses some optional formats that may help you develop a Sunday school program that fits your congregation.

Another section, “Brain-Based Education,” explains the rationale behind some of the revisions in Christ-Light. It also discusses techniques for reaching all learners including special-needs children.

## **Home Connections**

A top priority of the Christ-Light curriculum has always been to provide tools to help parents teach God’s Word to their children. Some parents need encouragement to take that leading role in the spiritual training of their children. Sunday school teachers sometimes become frustrated when they sense that take-home materials aren’t being used as regularly as they might. Scripturally based encouragement from you, the superintendent, may provide the inspiration teachers need to persevere. If even a few parents are encouraged to take a more active role in studying the Scriptures and teaching the Word to their children, what an impact that could have for generations to come—both on their families and on the church family.

The section titled “Parental Involvement” contains ideas on how Sunday school teachers can use the Christ-Light lesson materials to initiate spiritual discussions between parents and children in their homes.

Some Sunday school teachers, especially those who will be teaching very young children, visit the students’ homes before the school year begins. It gives them a chance to introduce themselves to the students, so the students will feel more comfortable coming into the classroom the first day. The “Home Visits” section contains an activity that teachers might use as they make home visits. The activity includes an opening and closing prayer as well as a puzzle that will involve the child in the home visit and stress the importance of learning about the Lord and his Word. (For very young children, the teacher may need to do the puzzle along with the children.)

This section also contains a devotion that teachers of all levels might use to remind parents of their privilege and responsibility of teaching God’s Word to their children. This devotion could be read during a home visit, handed to parents for later reading, or used as a church or Sunday school newsletter article. We hope teachers will work hard to underscore the importance of the spiritual discussions that need to take place in the homes.

## **Planning the School Year**

Some of the documents on this resource CD may be useful as teachers plan their lessons for the year.

A folder labeled “02 Planning Charts” contains several charts.

One file contains scheduling charts that include the lesson title and a blank column for scheduling notes. Three yearly schedules are provided as well as schedules by set. Some Sunday school superintendents give their teachers charts such as these for use as they schedule their lessons for the year.

A second file contains a number of Memory Treasures charts, which show the passages, hymns, and catechism sections assigned for memory work in the various lessons.

## **Digital Tools**

Sunday school teachers will find a number of useful digital products on this CD.

Visual chronologies for both the Old and New Testaments are found in the folder labeled “01 Visual Chronology.”

A colorful visual presentation of the church year will help teach the seasons of the church year. It is available in high resolution for printing and low resolution for projecting.

Fun Digital Extras.pdf contains a Sunday school invitation card, two “We Miss You” cards, a “Thank You” card, congratulatory card, four different letterheads, a certificate of congratulation, award ribbons, and activity tickets.

The folder “04 Maps” contains 11 Bible maps in both high and low resolution for printing or projecting.

### **Useful Publications**

Three separate files contain electronic versions of previously published products that still are very valuable.

The file titled “New Life” contains a PDF file of a book formerly published by Northwestern Publishing House. The full title is *New Life for Your Sunday School*. The book offers ways to make teachers’ meetings as productive as possible. A set of devotions speak to the importance of the teacher’s role and other issues that concern teachers.

Two other files contain previously published resources that would be good for all of us who work with the Word to read on a regular basis. “Justification and Sanctification,” by Pastor Wayne Mueller, and *Law and Gospel*, by Pastor William Fischer, are valuable resources. Reading these regularly will help us maintain the proper distinction of law and gospel in our teaching and will help us use the law and gospel correctly in our classroom discipline.

We hope the tools found on the *Leader’s Resource* CD are helpful to you in your ministry. We pray that God will bless your work as you bring his precious Word to the children in your care.

To Christ be the glory,

The Christ-Light Editorial Team



# Sunday School Teaching Helps

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## Sunday School Teaching Helps

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### Sunday School Teaching Helps audio files and study sheets

*Teaching Helps* audio files are provided for each lesson of the Christ-Light Sunday school curriculum. Three CDs (one for each year of the three-year teaching cycle) each contain 39 audio files and the corresponding listening guide sheets.

Each audio file begins with a study presentation of the Bible story itself by Pastor Robert Koester, as well as pertinent background information. The second part of the audio file includes an interview with one or more teachers who provide tips for teaching the lesson. Teaching suggestions are offered for both the lower grades and upper grades.

A two-page listening guide highlights the main points of each audio presentation.

The audio files are in MP3 format so a teacher can upload and listen to them on an MP3 player or on a computer.

The audio files and accompanying listening guides are ideal for individual use as teachers prepare their lessons. They could also be used as a segment of the Sunday school teachers' meetings.

### Tips on sharing these files within your congregation:

The files on the *Teaching Helps* disk are meant to be shared with your entire Sunday school staff. This can be done in a variety of ways.

You may wish to burn a CD for each teacher, including substitute teachers.

Small, inexpensive flash drives also work well. Teachers could provide their own and could access the files from the church computer. Or the church could purchase flash drives and have one ready for each teacher when the materials are handed out at the beginning of the quarter.

The Sunday school superintendent could e-mail the files to the teachers each week as a regular reminder that the files are available for use. E-mail might be the most convenient delivery system for getting files to substitute teachers.

The files can also be stored on your server and made available through the church's Web site. However, you are permitted to do this only if the area on your Web site where the files are accessed is password protected.

You may find your own way of distributing these files to your teachers. We hope you will make them readily available to everyone who will be teaching in your congregation. We also ask that you observe the limitations to sharing as described in the Copyright Permissions Statement.

**CHRIST LIGHT**

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**Why a Revision?**



## Why a Revision?

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People often ask, “Why a revision? Christ-Light is an outstanding curriculum that serves the church so well. Why invest the time and resources revising it?”

The original Christ-Light is an outstanding curriculum. But the editorial team at Northwestern Publishing House is convinced that God’s people in our schools will benefit from a revised curriculum for a number of reasons:

- Approximately 25,000 students study God’s Word in our Lutheran elementary schools. Approximately 30,000 more study in our Sunday schools. It is important that we have the highest quality curriculum for them.
- By the time the revision is ready, the original will already be more than 15 years old. This is beyond the average age of a curriculum.
- It is important that Sunday schools have a curriculum that includes both Old and New Testament lessons each year and that students hear about Christ’s completed work of salvation each year.
- Language changes—as time goes on, a curriculum can sound outdated and terminology can become unclear to the students.
- Along with dramatic changes in technology and society, the lives of our students are changing. Some of the life examples in the original curriculum may seem unreal to today’s students.
- Classroom methodologies change, requiring students to adjust to “old methodologies.”
- Our understanding of how students learn best changes.
- Improvements have made the curriculum more teacher friendly, student friendly, and parent friendly.
- The revised curriculum offers a module that is specifically focused on Sunday schools.
- The revised curriculum strengthens the focus on Christian education in the home.
- The revised curriculum expands the use of interactive elements in order to involve the students more in the learning process.
- The revision incorporates more diverse teaching strategies that appeal to students who learn in a variety of ways.
- The teacher’s guide format has been simplified.
- The revision includes electronic teaching pictures that are more adaptable to advanced technology.
- The curriculum now includes audio music CDs of most of the copy master songs, the memory treasure hymns, and many of the memory treasure passages as a tool to help students memorize the passages and hymns.

- Eight new seventh- and eighth-grade topical studies will help the teacher fill out a two-year teaching plan.

Teaching the truth of God's Word is the function of our Lutheran Sunday schools. It is important that our teachers have the best possible curricular tools to help them with this task. We pray that the revised Christ-Light curriculum will benefit God's people and will glorify God as a means to bring his Word to the youth of the church.

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**CHRIST LIGHT**

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**The Foundation**



## The Foundation

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### Premises

Christ-Light is founded on premises that are based on truths revealed in God's Word. These premises guide and control the entire curriculum. We accept them as essential to Christian nurture because God the Holy Spirit has led us to this conviction by working faith in our hearts.

#### Christ-Light Premises

- † God's Word is truth. It is verbally inspired, inerrant, and infallible.
- † God's Word is christocentric. The chief purpose of the Bible is to reveal God's saving plan that centers on Christ.
- † The two main teachings of God's Word are the law and the gospel.

The law teaches us God's holy will—what God requires all people to do and not to do. The law points out our sinful nature and our daily sins and tells us that we deserve God's punishment of death and eternal damnation.

The gospel teaches us the good news of God's grace and mercy. It proclaims that God, in love, sent Jesus to take away the sins of all people and that everyone who believes in Jesus has eternal life and salvation.

- † God's Word is:
  - the means through which God brings people to faith.
  - the place we find gospel motivation for believers to obey God's commands and thankfully serve him and others.
  - the tool we use to reach unbelievers so that the Holy Spirit can work through it to bring them to saving faith.
  - the news we use to encourage and nurture one another to grow in saving faith and to lead sanctified lives.

### General Objectives

Psalm 119:105 reminds us that God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light for our path. It guides our earthly lives and shows us the way to eternal life. God-pleasing Christian nurture is based on God's Word.

## General Objectives of Christian Nurture

-  By learning the law, Christians realize more fully their sinfulness and complete helplessness to save themselves.
-  By learning the gospel, Christians grow in the knowledge of God the Father as their loving Creator, God the Son as their gracious Redeemer, and God the Holy Spirit as their enlightening Sanctifier.
-  By using the gospel as motivation and the law as a guide, Christians continue to grow in living lives of thanksgiving to God for his undeserved grace.
-  By being trained in the proper use of law and gospel, Christians are enabled to use the gifts God has given them to witness their saving faith to others and to nurture fellow Christians in this faith.
-  By ongoing personal and group Bible study, Christians grow in faith and in their ability to lead God-pleasing lives.

## **Christ-Light Elements**

Christ-Light was developed with the following elements in mind.

### Parental Involvement

Parents are encouraged to carry out their responsibility to teach God's Word to their children and nurture them with it throughout their lives. Christ-Light provides Christ-centered materials to help them do this from the time their children are born, through childhood, and through the high school years.

### Chronological and Topical Lessons and Bible Studies

From prekindergarten through grade 6, children learn God's plan of salvation chronologically, from the beginning of the Old Testament through the life of Christ. They also learn how members of the early Christian church shared Jesus' fulfillment of that plan as they witnessed to people throughout the world.

In grades 7-12, the lessons are either topical studies (in which students consider current issues in light of God's Word) or studies of books of the Bible.

## **Christ-Light Goals**

When setting goals for Christian nurture, we must remember that we are instruments in the hands of the Holy Spirit. Never do we want to boast about what we have accomplished. Instead, we give God the glory when goals are met. And when goals are not accomplished in ways or at times we hope, we trust the Holy Spirit to carry out his goals using methods and timetables he knows are best.

Christ has given us our primary goal: "[Teach] them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19). The writers of the New Testament books showed us how to plan with this goal in mind. Each writer directed his message at the spiritual needs of the individual or group to

whom he was writing. Let's follow this pattern as we plan what we will teach and why we teach it.

The goals of Christ-Light attempt to meet the spiritual needs of the budding faith of a preschooler and the blossoming faith of children as they mature. Although 12th grade is the end point of this curriculum, the curriculum emphasizes that Christian nurture is a lifelong process.

The curriculum centers on the study of God's Word, and each level builds on what was learned in the previous level. We pray that the following goals are carried out so that upon completion of 12th grade:

- ✚ by faith the students know that Christ is their only Savior, that they are precious children of God, who find true meaning and purpose in life by dedicating themselves to serve God in thankful love, and that upon their deaths, God will give them eternal joy in his presence.
- ✚ the students know the main events of God's plan of salvation through Christ, can tell how God used key people to carry out his saving plan, and can rejoice in the fact that God continues to make everything serve his saving plan for the good of each believer.
- ✚ the students know God's will as expressed in the moral law, use the moral law as a constant reminder of their own sinfulness and sin's consequences, use the gospel as motivation to live a life of obedient thanks to God, and use God's law and gospel in speaking with others.
- ✚ the students know the key doctrines found in God's Word (creation, sin, redemption, conversion, justification, sanctification, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper), can clearly express these doctrines in writing and speaking, can identify errors that distort these doctrines, and can find peace and joy in the certainty of their salvation that rests on what God has done and not on what they must do.
- ✚ the students know the Bible is God's Word, are growing in their understanding of it, can use it to evaluate ideas and situations they meet in life, and regularly read and study the Bible on their own and with fellow believers, so that they can share the joy of growing in faith and in Christian living.
- ✚ the students have memorized Bible passages, hymns based on Bible truths, and the chief parts of Luther's catechism, and can use what they have memorized to strengthen, comfort, instruct, guide, and admonish themselves or others in various aspects of daily life and in the face of death.
- ✚ the students know the basic elements of worship (learning and applying God's Word and praising God through hymns and prayers), can plan and carry out daily personal and family worship, understand the elements of Christian worship so they can participate in meaningful ways, and have acquired the habit of worshipping and receiving the Lord's Supper regularly.
- ✚ the students know the basic elements of evangelism (seeing opportunities to witness, giving an inviting witness, following up when possible), have practiced these elements in and out of the classroom, ask God to provide witnessing opportunities, and find joy in witnessing.

-  the students know the basic elements of stewardship (the use of God-given time, talents, and treasures), have learned to plan how to use these elements in thankful service to God and others instead of only for personal gain or pleasure, and gladly seize opportunities to use their talents and do deeds of loving service.
-  the students know the basic elements of Christian family life (God's gift of marriage and children, the blessings of a Christian home, the roles of parents and children in a Christian home), treasure these elements as gifts of God to be preserved and shared with others, and avoid aspects of contemporary life that undermine Christian family life.
-  the students know the basic elements of Christian fellowship (the blessings of a confessional church, God's warning not to join with those who don't follow his Word), can use this knowledge in making loving fellowship decisions and in carrying out helpful fellowship actions, and desire to remain faithful and active members of a confessional Lutheran church.

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**CHRIST LIGHT**

**Design of Christ-Light**

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## Design of Christ-Light

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### Focus on Scripture

In a curriculum of Christian nurturing, the Bible must be the focus of all teaching and learning because it alone reveals to us the truths by which God nurtures faith. However, some things in Scripture are easy to understand, while others are difficult; some things are concrete, while others are abstract. In this curriculum the sequence of Bible lessons and the level of difficulty at which the lessons are written ensure that children will be nurtured according to their appropriate level of development.

### God's Plan of Salvation

The clear development of God's plan of salvation through the Old Testament into the New Testament is vital to the nurture of young Christians. Scripture's focus is christocentric. The focus through the whole Old Testament is on the promised Messiah. In the New Testament, the focus is on Jesus, the Son of God, who came to redeem us and whose second coming we eagerly await. This progression needs to be reflected in the chronological arrangement of biblical material at every level.

These fundamental criteria serve as the building blocks of Christ-Light. Selections from the Bible are arranged so that children can learn of God's plan of salvation in a planned, sequential way that is appropriate to their developmental stage.