

ALONE AND FORGOTTEN

Stop viewing your Heavenly Father through the lens of your earthly father.

Isaiah 9:6 – For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, **Everlasting Father**, Prince of Peace.

Everlasting Father:

1. The founding father of eternity.
2. The one constant father throughout history.

Luke 15:11b–12, 17–24 – “A man had two sons. The younger son told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now before you die.’ So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.”

“When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, ‘At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! I will go home to my father and say, “Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.”’ So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.’ But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began.”

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1. The Father provides generously.

- **Ephesians 1:3** – All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.

2. The Father pursues passionately.

- **Luke 15:4-5** – “If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders.”

3. The Father pardons completely.

- **Romans 5:15** – But there is a great difference between Adam’s sin and God’s gracious gift. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God’s wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ.

4. The Father parties extravagantly.

- **Luke 15:10** – “In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God’s angels when even one sinner repents.”

Coming soon:

1. **Christmas Movie Night:** Join us today from 4–6 pm for our annual Christmas Movie Night. Activities include pictures with Santa, gifts for all the kids, cookies, hot chocolate, and a showing of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*.
2. **Christmas Eve:** Be sure to make Christmas Eve at DRC part of your Christmas festivities. Join us at either 2 pm or 4 pm for one of the most exciting services of the year. Pick up your invites today on Main Street.
3. **End-of-Year Celebration:** Make plans to join us on December 28 for our end-of-year celebration service—one service at 10 am. Stop by the Connect Center or danriverchurch.org/baptism to be baptized during this service.