

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

68160 S. George Street, P. O. Box 688, Iron River, WI 54847

Church Office 715-372-8728

Secretary's e-mail: oslsec@cheqnet.net

Pastor's e-mail: osl@cheqnet.net

ironriverlutherans.org

Find us on Facebook



November 15, 2020

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ’s coming among us.

Gathering

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

C: **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy One,

C: **we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

P: Beloved, we are God’s children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through † Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

C: **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

Bread of Life from Heaven

ELW 474

Refrain

Bread of life from heaven,
your blood and body given,
we eat this bread and drink this cup until you come again.

- 1 Break now the bread of Christ's sacrifice;
giving thanks, hungry ones, gather round.
Eat, all of you, and be satisfied;
in Christ's presence the loaves will abound. *Refrain*

2 Seek not the food that will pass away;
set your hearts on the food that endures.
Come, learn the true and the living way,
that the fullness of life may be yours. *Refrain*

3 Love as the one who, in love for you,
gave himself for the life of the world.
Come to the one who is food for you,
that your hunger and thirst be no more. *Refrain*

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952

Text © 2001 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com.
800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Word

CHILDREN'S TIME

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the LORD as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the LORD.

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. ¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." ¹³Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. ¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and

hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. ¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. ¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. ¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 90:1-12

- ¹Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.
²Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.
³You turn us back to the dust and say, "Turn back, O children of earth."
⁴For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night;
⁵you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass:
⁶in the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.
⁷For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath.
⁸Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
⁹When you are angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
¹⁰The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.
¹¹Who regards the power of your wrath? Who rightly fears your indignation?
¹²So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord

Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew the 25th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴Then the one

who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

CHOIR **Ancient Words**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (see end of bulletin)

PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Meal

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of all goodness,

C: generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P: May the God of all creation in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

For the Beauty of the Earth

ELW 879

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

Refrain

*Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,
sun and moon and stars of light: *Refrain*

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above;
for all gentle thoughts and mild: *Refrain*

Text: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt.

DISMISSAL

P: Beloved of God, go in peace and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need. (*A brief silence.*)

Lord of the church, ignite your people with the passion of your love. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, unify us across ministries, congregations, and denominations, and refine us to participate in your activity throughout the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of creation, we stand in awe at the works of your hands and praise you for the beauty of nature (*local places of natural beauty may be named*). Bless the earth for your glory and restore its integrity where exploitation has caused ruin. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the nations, sound forth your justice in the ears of all leaders. Increase concern for those who are most vulnerable, especially as international leaders forge trade agreements and cooperate to end human rights abuses. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of all in need, search out all who cry to you in distress. Scatter the heavy clouds of depression, chronic illness, unemployment, and loneliness with your radiant light. Bless all those on our prayer lists and whom we name before you now in our hearts (*brief pause*). Send us as encouragement and signs of your healing. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the stranger, stir up holy restlessness in us to extend love to those at the margins. Release our desire for control and open us to learn from the perspectives of others. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the living and the dead, we give you thanks for all the saints at rest from their labors. Rouse us to live by their example, that saints yet to come may also know your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever. **Amen.**

"CALLED TO WORSHIP, SENT FORTH TO SERVE"

Pastor:	Pastor Carol Braun	osl@cheqnet.net
Secretary:	Evelyn Pamer	oslsec@cheqnet.net
Musicians	Linda Hultman/Patty Lehman/Kathy Rewalt	
Lector	Rozie Maki	
Recording Technician	Dick Rewalt	



Our Savior's Lutheran Church
 68160 S. George St.
 P.O. Box 688
 Iron River, WI 54847

STAFF
 Pastor Carol Braun
 Linda Hultman, Keyboard
 Patty Lehman, Keyboard
 Evelyn Pamer, Secretary

Church Phone 715-372-8728
 Pastor Carol's Email osl@cheqnet.net
 Pastor Carol's Cell 715-699-3177

Secretary's Email oslsec@cheqnet.net
ironriverlutherans.org
 Find us on Facebook

November '20

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
15 Worship Services available via YouTube Check your email for a link to our YouTube service.	16 7:00 Al-Anon	17 Office Closed 9:00 TOPS	18 No Bible Study	19	20	21 Food Shelf Distribution
22 Worship Services available via YouTube Check your email for a link to our YouTube service.	23 Produce Distribution Day 7:00 Al-Anon	24 Office Closed 9:00 TOPS	25 No Bible Study	Pastor Carol's Days Sundays, Mondays, and Wednesdays Secretary's Hours Mon, Wed, Thur. & Fri. 7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.		

Next Week's Readings: Ezek 34:11-16, 20-24, Ps 95:1-7a, Eph 1:15-23, Matt 25:36-46

We will continue to stay in touch electronically by Email, Facebook and our website (ironriverlutherans.org) We are posting worship services on YouTube and are sending out regular mail for those who do not have electronic connections. Let us continue to keep in touch with one another by phone, text, and emails and continue to lift in prayer all who are being affected by this virus.



Ray Kangas, Dianna Teppo, Lynette Smith, Lorin Wicklund, Rodney Lahti, Jane Jensen, Ken & Linda Watters, Jim DeRosia, Nancy Anderson, Gregg Levine, Darren Forsythe, Todd VanTil, Mark Hokkanen. *Remember those in nursing homes and assisted living who cannot have family, friends or volunteers visit them during this sad time.*

No Bible Study for the next 2 weeks.

Connections with Creation

In this ecological age, many Christians are more worried about the cataclysmic destruction of the earth caused by climate change, pollution, and other human-caused forms of environmental degradation than they are concerned about the possibility of an end-times scenario like the ones described in various apocalyptic texts in the Bible. To be people of the light and “children of the day” (1 Thess. 5:5) means that even as we hope for God’s salvation, we live faithfully by treating one another and the earth with kindness and compassion. Paul encourages people to build each other up; our current environmental situation also calls for us to build up the natural world by acting as restorers, stewards, and conservationists on this planet that gives us the gift of our embodied lives. We each have gifts to use in the urgent work of caring for creation.

Are you leaving for warmer climates? Please make sure to Evelyn know if you are heading to your winter homes for the season. Evelyn and Pastor Carol cannot stress enough how important it is to have your correct contact information! Please keep us updated.

Thank you!!

The boxes of cards that WELCA has for sale has been replenished. If you would like to stop by the church and purchase boxes or single cards, they are available.



**November’s Mission of the Month -
New Day Advocacy Center
New Day (formally the New Day
Advocacy Center Shelter)**

WHO WE ARE-Established in January of 1983, New Day Advocacy Center is a safe haven for victims of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault. We are a non-profit organization, which provides emergency housing and food to victims and their children. Beyond performing crisis intervention and support services. New Day Advocacy Center is an important grassroots effort toward affecting the social change that is necessary to prevent and ultimately reduce family violence and sexual assault in the communities that we serve. We do this by providing an enhanced service provision; Self-Sufficiency Programming, Sexual Assault Intervention Program, Children’s Programming, community education, training to professionals, and presentations to age specific (K-12) non-violence curriculum to classrooms in the area schools.

**New Day Advocacy Center is our Mission of the Month. New Day is a place that offers shelter and assistance to those in dire need suffering from domestic abuse. New Day is located in Ashland. To check out more information please go to their website ndshelter.org. I want to encourage you to help with this support by adding a contribution to Our Savior’s Mission of the Month. This has been harder to do when we are not together and passing around the Noisy Offering buckets. I hope you will keep this month’s mission and all of our monthly mission projects going strong with thoughtful donations. This keeps us connected to issues both locally and in the greater church, Northwest Synod of WI and the ELCA. Thank you for your support as we keep this part of our Ministry of Our Savior’s active and strong!
Pastor Carol**

Thanksgiving Dinner

Thursday, November 26, 2020
Iron River Community Center
PICKUP ONLY, 11am to 1pm

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

To Enjoy a
FREE
Traditional Thanksgiving Meal

Made Possible by the generous support and donations by area churches, individuals, and businesses

For More Information or to Volunteer
Contact: Mary Serube or Linda Pepping
715-292-1888 or 715-372-8160

