

HEARTS @ HOME



A Worship Service for Your Household

Sunday December 27, 2020

First Sunday of Christmas

RCL: Luke 2:22-40

+ WELCOME +

The angel said to [the shepherds], "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord".

As we gather we hear again the good news the angels proclaimed: God has come for all people through the birth of the one named Jesus. Through Bethlehem's manger God comes into the chaos, messiness, and vulnerability of the world. In all things and at all times, we rejoice that God comes to save us and reigns in love. We come to adore Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

+ OPENING SONG +

+ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS +

Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome God's forgiveness, grace, and love.

Silence is kept for reflection

Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

Forgive our lack of faith and trust.

Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

Forgive our neglect of the poor.

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

Forgive our selfishness and complacency.

With great joy the angels proclaimed, "Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy. Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

In ✝ Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, our sins are forgiven. May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed, God's forgiveness is good news of great joy!

Amen.

+ GREETING AND PRAYER +

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Son of God sent from heaven above,
be with you all.
And also with you.

Let us pray. Incarnate God, during this Christmas season we give you thanks for sending your Son to bring light to our darkness. Grant that we, like the angels over Bethlehem, may sing your praises in our hearts and lives.

Amen.

+ SPECIAL MUSIC +

+ SCRIPTURE +

- + **Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Psalm 148, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-40**
- + **Spark Story Bible:** Simeon and Anna (Pages 226-229)
- + **Northwest Synod of Wisconsin App:** Click the 'Bible' tab at the bottom.

+ SERMON +

+ SONG +

+ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION +

Gracious God, you come from heaven above into the midst of our world.

Fill our hearts with the joy of the angels at your birth.

You come from heaven above to the lowliest of human conditions.

Watch over those in need, the sick, the hungry, the grieving.

You come from heaven above to walk the way of the cross.

Guide us to follow your path of forgiveness, mercy, and peace.

You come from heaven above to become flesh and live among us.

May we see your glory, full of grace and truth.

Amen.

+ OFFERING +

As people of faith we are called to continue strengthening the ministry of the church, even when we are physically distant. We invite you to prayerfully consider a gift to your congregation or the synod – as the body of Christ we work together to serve our neighbors.

+ SPECIAL MUSIC +

+ OFFERING PRAYER +

Gracious God,

you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth.

Nourish us at your banquet table, that with all who welcome your birth we may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

+ INVITATION TO COMMUNION +

The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine.

Come meet Christ in this meal.

If your congregation is engaging in home communion, I invite you to pause this video to share the communion meal.

+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION +

O Lord our God, we give you thanks for the gifts of bread and wine, the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ. Send us out into your world to proclaim with joy: **Glory to God in highest heaven, who unto us the Son has given. Amen.**

+ BLESSING +

Almighty God,
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,
proclaimed joy through the angels,
sent the shepherds with good news,
and led the magi by a star,
bless you this day ☩ through the Word made flesh.
Amen.

+ DISMISSAL +

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

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December '20

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
27 Worship Services available via YouTube Check your email for a link to our YouTube service.	28 Noisy Offering in Fellowship Hall with Pastor Carol 7:00 Al-Anon	29 Office Closed 9:00 TOPS	30 No Bible Study	31	1	2
3 Worship Services available via YouTube Check your email for a link to our YouTube service.	4 7:00 Al-Anon	5 Office Closed 9:00 TOPS	6 9:30 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: Jer 31:7-14, Ps 147:12-20, Eph 1:3-14, John 1:1-18

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.



Ellen Wagner, Willard Ogren, Guyann Lundeen, Ray Kangas, 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.*

Thank you to Jaydee at Forever Marge's Floral, for donating the poinsettias that decorate the sanctuary during our Christmas Eve recording.

2021 Giving Envelopes will be ready to pick up on Monday, December 28th. They will be on a table in the Fellowship Hall. You can pick yours up and come say Hi to Pastor Carol on the same day!



I will be in Fellowship Hall for the noisy offering and dropping off your vote for the budget (if you haven't already) on Monday, Dec. 28 from 10:00 a.m.-Noon. Grace will be assisting me again, just in case you need a pup pet for your holidays! We hope to see you to say hello!

Pastor Carol and Grace

**December Mission of the month
* Hurricane Eta relief for Honduras.**

Connections with Creation

The garden shoot, an image from the third Sunday in Advent, greets us again in the Christmas season. In the psalm, all earth and heaven are joined in a praise chorus to the Creator. This image is quieter. Like things growing in a garden, righteousness and justice will slowly come to life among God's people. For faith to sprout and grow, we need the jubilation of Christmastime—a twelve-day burst of light and warmth—as well as slower, daily rhythms that nourish us. Bring an amaryllis bloom—common in nurseries and stores at this time for the way it will quickly grow indoors in winter—into the worship space to illustrate this “shoot” of righteousness. How will God's beauty, love, and justice come to life in us in the non-festival days following Christmastide?

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!!



January's Misson of the Month

Iron River Ice Rink

The rink is located behind the Iron River Elemetary where the old Ice Facility rinks were.

Check your email and your mailboxes.

The 2021 proposed budget letter and information has been sent out. Please return your vote by Monday, December 28, 2020. If you did not receive the information, please let Evelyn know.



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.