

# Our Savior's Lutheran Church

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January 3, 2021

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

## Gathering

### GATHERING MUSIC

#### WELCOME

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God of goodness and lovingkindness,

C: **we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

P: Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through † Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

C: **Amen.**

#### GATHERING SONG

#### Love Has Come

ELW 292

- 1 Love has come—a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.
- 2 Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.  
Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;  
what is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;  
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

3 Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;  
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

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## **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:** **Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

## **Word**

## **CHILDREN'S TIME**

### **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14**

*God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gifts of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.*

<sup>7</sup>Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." <sup>8</sup>See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. <sup>9</sup>With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. <sup>10</sup>Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." <sup>11</sup>For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. <sup>12</sup>They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. <sup>13</sup>Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort

them, and give them gladness for sorrow. <sup>14</sup>I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 147:12-20**

<sup>12</sup>Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,

<sup>13</sup>**who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you.**

<sup>14</sup>God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

<sup>15</sup>**God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs | very swiftly.**

<sup>16</sup>God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.

<sup>17</sup>**God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?**

<sup>18</sup>The LORD sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.

<sup>19</sup>**God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.**

<sup>20</sup>The LORD has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

### **SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14**

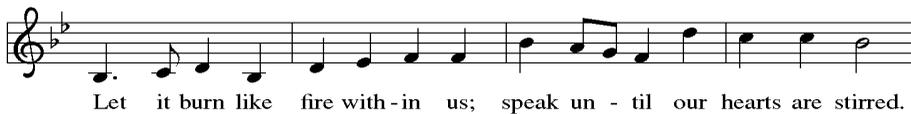
*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made know as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

**P:** The holy gospel according to John the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

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

*John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

**P:** The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## MESSAGE

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ELW 272 Vs 1 & 3

- 1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung,  
it came, a flow'r so bright, amid the cold of winter,  
when half-spent was the night.
  
- 3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.  
True man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us  
and lightens ev'ry load.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845-1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st.4

## 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: **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.**

### 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: 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.

C: **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

### Bright and Glorious Is the Sky

ELW 301

- 1 Bright and glorious is the sky, radiant are the heavens high  
where the golden stars are shining. All their rays to earth inclining  
beckon us to heav'n above, beckon us to heav'n above.
- 3 Sages from the East afar, when they saw this wondrous star,  
went to find the king of nations and to offer their oblations  
to the child, the newborn king, to the child, the newborn king.
- 6 And this star, as bright as day, that will never lead astray  
with its message so appealing, is the word of God, revealing  
Christ, the way, the truth, the life, Christ, the way, the truth, the life.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Jens Christian Aaberg, 1877-1970, alt.

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## DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace. Share the gift of Jesus

C: **Thanks be to God**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. (*A brief silence.*)

Redeeming God, you gather together your people from the farthest parts of the earth. Protect your church from stumbling. Let it not be overcome by sorrow, division, or despair. Make us radiant with goodness, that we might live always to the praise of your glory. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You bring together heaven and earth. All creation testifies to your splendor. Hold the ecosystems of this earth in delicate balance, from coastlands to farmlands, forests to wetlands, deserts to rainforests. Show us new ways to live in harmony with the world around us. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You overflow with grace upon grace. Expand the imaginations of those who serve in positions of authority. Open their hearts to the needs of their nations and communities. Protect all those in harm's way and those risking danger for the sake of others. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You bring consolation to those who weep. Embrace those who feel far-off, excluded, or defeated. Accompany those living with chronic and invisible illness. Sustain the weak and weary. Refresh those who labor under the weight of pain or sickness (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You come to us in the beauty of darkness and of light. Bring justice and reconciliation to communities divided by oppressions and misuse of power. Guide us to speak holy words of advocacy and truth. Help us to honor your image in one another. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You turn our mourning into joy. We give thanks for those who have died in faith. With all the saints, give us our inheritance in Christ. In the fullness of time, gather us all together in your mercy. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

### **"CALLED TO WORSHIP, SENT FORTH TO SERVE"**

|                             |   |  |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Pastor:</b>              | Pastor Carol Braun                      | <a href="mailto:osl@cheqnet.net">osl@cheqnet.net</a>       |
| <b>Secretary:</b>           | Evelyn Pamer                            | <a href="mailto:oslsec@cheqnet.net">oslsec@cheqnet.net</a> |
| <b>Musicians</b>            | Linda Hultman/Patty Lehman/Kathy Rewalt |  |
| <b>Lector</b>               | Dick Rewalt                             |  |
| <b>Recording Technician</b> | Dick Rewalt                             |  |



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### STAFF

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

# January '21

| <u>Sunday</u>   | <u>Monday</u>  | <u>Tuesday</u>   | <u>Wednesday</u>       | <u>Thursday</u>  | <u>Friday</u> | <u>Saturday</u> |
|---|--|--|------------------------|--|---------------|-----------------|
| 3<br>Worship Services available via YouTube<br>Check your email for a link to our YouTube service.  | 4<br>10:00 Removing Christmas decorations<br><br>7:00 Al-Anon        | 5<br>Office Closed<br><br>9:00 TOPS                              | 6<br>9:30 Bible Study  | 7  | 8             | 9               |
| 10<br>Worship Services available via YouTube<br>Check your email for a link to our YouTube service. | 11<br>10:00 WELCA<br><br>1:00-2:30 Grief Support<br><br>7:00 Al-Anon | 12<br>Office Closed<br><br>9:00 TOPS<br><br>5:00 Council Meeting | 13<br>9:30 Bible Study | <b>Pastor Carol's Days</b><br>Sundays, Mondays, and Wednesdays<br><br><b>Secretary's Hours</b><br>Mon, Wed, Thur. & Fri.<br>7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. |               |                 |

**Next Week's Readings: Gen 1:1-5, Ps 29, Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11**

We will continue to stay in touch electronically by Email, Facebook and our website ([ironriverlutherans.org](http://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.*

**Removing Christmas decorations- at 10:00 on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup> we will be removing all the Christmas decorations from inside and out and setting up for Epiphany. Any help will be very appreciated.**



“Journeys With Angels” Women’s Bible Study  
Monday, January 11 at 10:00 am  
Please bring your bibles, Gather magazine, and your coffee.

We will be starting a 4 part study on Angels. Angels are not a major focus of Scripture, yet they show up with frequency at pivotal moments in both the Old and New Testaments. This first session, “Looking up,” introduces us to some initial glimpses of angels and the meaning of various words used in the Bible to describe angels. Please plan to join us as we begin 2021 in God’s Word.

**Grief Support Group, Monday, January 11**

This group will be meeting on Monday, January 11, from 1:00-2:30 p.m. at church in the fellowship hall. No matter what type of grief or feeling of loss you may be experiencing, you are welcome to come join in the conversation. We are practicing safe distancing and mask wearing. Please share this information with anyone you feel may be suffering loss.



**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.**

**Connections with Creation**

By this Sunday in the Christmas season, we may be feeling threadbare and frayed. Yet God in creation is gathering in, reweaving, mending. Christ is the center of the gathering activity, who holds together all things in heaven and on earth (Ephesians 1). We can find renewal and strength for the year to come with an image of stunning unity in creation, a unity found in Jesus. Though a mortal who walked the earth in a given time and place, Jesus also unifies the entire cosmos. In Christ, God is knitting us together with earth, ocean, sky, and even the aspects of creation we haven’t yet tried to dominate by giving them a name. Rather than needing to reign over creation, we find we are a meaningful, small part of the wonderfully created tapestry held together in Jesus.

**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.