

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
December 27, 2020



Merry Christmas,

Joy to the World, the Lord has come!!

Let us be glad and rejoice for what God has done for us on this most Holy Night with the gift of God's beloved Son Jesus.

Annual Congregational Meeting – the annual congregational meeting that is usually held in January each year will be postponed until January 2022. At that time, we will have a report of both 2020 and 2021 presented to the congregation.



## Luke 2:8-20

A reading from the 2nd chapter of Luke beginning at the eighth verse.

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem

and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

**The Word of the Lord**

**Thanks be to God.**



## Sermon

Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. AMEN

Let us pray:

Holy Infant,  
We praise God on this day for  
your miraculous birth!  
Transform us as you were  
transformed so that we may  
perfectly love you with our  
whole being for the sake of the  
one who came humble and  
powerless, and became glory and  
power, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Grace and Peace to you from God  
our Father and Jesus Christ our  
Lord and Savior. AMEN

I just love the shepherds and how  
God entrusted them to be the  
ones to be the first to hear of  
Jesus' birth and how God  
entrusted the shepherds to be the  
first to share the Good News with  
the world.

It was really just another ordinary  
evening out under the stars for  
the lowly shepherds. The sheep  
that had been grazing in the  
fields all day had been corralled  
into an enclosure for their safety  
for the night.

The shepherds were getting  
settled in, sitting around the  
camp fire recapping the  
adventures of their day with one  
another and making plans for  
tomorrow.

Just another ordinary night out in  
the fields.

When out of nowhere there was  
this blinding light and this bright  
shiny being saying to them, "do  
not be afraid."

Do not be afraid. Of course they  
were afraid. Just imagine from  
out of nowhere comes this bright

shining light and this shiny being starts saying to you I am bringing you good news for **ALL** people. For you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the long-awaited Messiah. You will find this child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.

And before the shepherds could ask any questions, there was not just one shiny being talking to them; but they were surrounded by a multitude of heavenly beings singing "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

And then as quickly as they appeared, the bright shining heavenly hosts were gone leaving the shepherds wondering what the heck just happened.

And although Luke writes that they responded immediately, "let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

I am guessing there was some

back-and-forth conversation in shepherd vernacular that was more like: what was that? Was I dreaming? Did you see those lights? Did you hear those voices? Did you hear the angel say that what has happened is good news for all people? And did you hear the angel say that **for us - for us -** a Savior is born? Do you really think the angel meant for us? After all, we are just shepherds.

What do you think, should we go to Bethlehem and try to find this baby? And before they could really process all that had happened they are on their way to Bethlehem. And when they arrived at the stable, sure enough there was the new born baby wrapped in strips of white cloth lying in the manger. Just like the angel had told them.

And then the lowly shepherds shared with Mary and Joseph the message from the angels that **for us** this baby lying in the manger was born to be our Savior and this is good news for **ALL** people.

And although the shepherds seem

to be permanent fixtures in our modern day nativity scenes; the text tells us that after they found the baby and shared the angel's message with Mary and Joseph, they were on their way

The shepherds left the stable to tell all who they came in contact with what they had heard and seen. That is, for ALL of us a Savior has been born in a stable in Bethlehem, which is good news for ALL people

These lowly shepherds were chosen by God to be the first to know that this night was not just an ordinary night, but indeed this night was the most holy of nights.

For on this holy night, God did the unthinkable. God sent his son to us and for us, so that we may know and experience God's love.

Which is the good news that changed everything for you and for me and for ALL people for ever more.

Thanks be to God.

AMEN

### *Blessing*

May  
The love of God,  
The light of Christ,  
And the joy of the Holy Spirit  
Abide with you on this Holy Night

and forever more.

**AMEN**