

Evangel (good news!)



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

The view from the bedroom window...the last days of November, soon December. Stars now hang like ornaments from the bare branches of the maple tree, where brilliant red leaves once danced in the sunshine and autumn breezes...Orion, the hunter and Ursa Major, the big dipper, boldly seen through the branches. The hours of daylight ebb. The night comes early and stays late. As twinkling stars fill the view from the bedroom window, imagine them to be as prayers lifted on high.

Winter comes with increasing challenges...not merely the cold days and nights, the deepening snow. Winter comes with a deadly illness that is escalating and a nation deeply divided against itself. Winter has not come with the usual peace and calm. Where are we now...December, 2020?

As we reflect on the intensely unsettling events of the passing year, do we find ourselves saying..."we can only pray"? The irony of that phrase...seeming to imply that prayer is a last resort, the only option remaining. Instead remove the word "only"...we can pray!

As a pastor once commented, "prayers cannot be too informal". How reassuring, lest we ever believe our prayers must be structured perfectly to be heard. Jesus taught us the words of "The Lord's Prayer." The artist created the image of Jesus resting on a large stone...His hands quietly folded...His face lifted towards Heaven, the home of His Father. The Bible tells of Jesus walking alone into the garden, a quiet place, to pray. Perhaps we should think of prayer as an ongoing conversation with God.

Jesus began His prayers saying Abba, Father...a term used by little Jewish children meaning "daddy". Remember as a small child laying in bed, holding hands with mom or dad and praying "Now I lay me down to sleep; I pray the Lord my soul to keep. Watch me safely through the night; and wake me with the morning light." Should we become so at ease to feel that connection to God...to experience the intense bond of a parent and a child! That all encompassing love!

A friend once shared this beautiful view of prayer, paraphrasing the words of John 16:33. **"Relax with Him awhile, letting His loving presence comfort us. In the world we have trouble; but be of good cheer. He has overcome the world."** What wonderful advice to us!

We have prayer! We always have. We always will. And we have a Heavenly Father who answers those prayers! **"Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven"!**

"For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power and the Glory...forever and ever ."

A billion stars in the night sky. A billion prayers lifted by God's children to Heaven.



“Come, grow with us...”

Dear readers,

The purpose of this publication is to provide our church community with news, information, spiritual support and humor. Contributions from readers will be reviewed and published if appropriate and space allowing. Submissions for the January 2021 newsletter will be accepted until 5pm on Monday, December 7.

Praise the LORD. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Psalm 106:1

Give thanks. That is what this season of Thanksgiving is all about. Giving thanks. But as we consider all of the things we are thankful for let us not forget *who* to thank. Everything we have is a gift from God. As we try to digest, (a good Thanksgiving word J) what is happening all around us, and continue to adjust our way of life, we cannot forget the blessings, opportunities, and gifts that God has given us. Yes, he has also given us many challenges, not just lately, but over the course of our lives. But he has promised to be there for us, and help us through challenges, and sorrow, and grief. His love endures forever, and encompasses all things. Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. For sure!

When our Pastor Evelyn left, I was asked to write a monthly piece for the Evangel in her place. Little did any of us know what was about to happen, and the importance of the Evangel in keeping us all in touch & together. I enjoyed it, but now I am happy to turn it back over to our pastor, Pastor Birk. And may I add, that I am very *thankful* to welcome him as our interim Pastor.

As Always,
Stay safe, and healthy and wear a mask!
Roxanne

Inside this issue

Inspirational Message	Pg 1
Message from Roxanne Sader, Council President	Pg 2
Church Information	Pg 3-5
Worship Guide	Pg 6-9
Council Minutes	Pg 10

Evangelical Lutheran Church

28 Acacia Rd
Babbitt, MN 55706
(218) 827-2659

Church email:
belca2659@frontier.com

Church website:
www.BabbittELCA.org

Donna McKibbon,
Administrative Assistant

Office Hours
Tue, Wed, Fri
10:00am -1:30pm

**Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed,
for I am your God.**

Isaiah 41:10

A message from Pastor Birk...

Hello my name is Brian Birk. I started serving as the interim pastor at Evangelical Lutheran Church in Babbitt and Hope Lutheran Church in Embarrass on November 15th. For the last five years I've been serving at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Hibbing and Faith Lutheran Church in Chisholm. I live in Tower with my wife Kathie. My commute is now shorter than it was by quite a bit.

Kathie and I have two grown children. Our daughter, her husband, and our grandson live south of Biwabik. Our son and his wife live in Duluth.

It is a privilege for me to serve as your pastor. I'm looking forward to getting to know the people in Babbitt and Embarrass.

My initial plan is to spend Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at Babbitt, and then go over to Embarrass at about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. I expect my initial schedule to change once I learn more about what happens when in these congregations.

Kathie and I do not have a land line in Tower. The best way to reach me is on my cell phone. The number is (218) 780-6615. I also have email. That address is kribnairb@gmail.com. That address is Brian Birk spelled backwards. It seemed like a good idea the moment I set up that email account.

Even during a pandemic there is much to be grateful for. I hope you have had a good Thanksgiving. Please exercise caution while celebrating Thanksgiving and our savior's birth in December. Please exercise caution as long as the virus continues to exist in our midst. May God bless you and watch over you now and always.

Sincerely,
Pastor Brian Birk



Parking Lot Trick or Treat October 31, 2020

About 100 children attended the Parking Lot Trick or Treat on Halloween. There were 8 stations for treats and no tricks were played!



We are here to help !\$\$!\$

In keeping with its Biblical and charitable goals, Evangelical Lutheran Church, Babbitt, maintains a Helping Hand Fund to assist persons in our congregation and community in financial need. The administration of the Fund, including all disbursements, is subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the Congregation through it's Helping Hand Fund committee. The Congregation Council will appoint a Helping Hand Fund Committee consisting of at least three of the congregation's members.

If you are in need of financial help, you can call the church office, or send an email, or letter to the church, and request financial assistance. **All requests will be completely confidential.** Once your request is received, the 3-member committee will review your request in a timely manner, and contact you as soon as possible.

Examples of need include, but are not limited to, emergency food, emergency fuel oil, money to travel out of town for medical appointments or treatments, (gas and lodging), winter clothing and/or boots, emergency child care, medical supplies not covered by insurance, travel expenses for family emergencies, past due utility bills. These are just examples and any request will be respectfully reviewed and considered.

SCAM ALERT!!!

Unfortunately people have been assuming the identity of pastors . They have been requesting that people help them by purchasing gift cards. They are using the pastors real names but using different phone numbers and different email addresses. As your pastor I am never going to call you on the phone and ask for a gift card or ask you to transfer money to me in some other way. I am also never going to send you an email that asks for that. If you get such a request please disregard it. Please don't give any of these people personal information or money. I'm sorry this is happening.

These people are criminals. You may have to be rude to them to get them to stop bothering you. Feel free to be rude to them, they take advantage of people who are nice. Feel free to also report them to law-enforcement if you should receive this type of request. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Pastor Brian Birk

Why do cows wear bells?



Because their horns don't work.

The Giving Tree 2020

Ely Community Resources has provided us with 10 gift tags for holiday giving to children and teens in need. The **GREEN** tags are for toys and the **RED** tags are for clothing items. The tags have been placed on the small tree in the narthex.

Please be sure to sign your name and phone number next to the tag on the list located near the tree.

Each tag has multiple wished listed. You may buy one or more of these items. All gifts should be unwrapped and the tag you take should be clearly fastened to the outside of the box/bag or taped to the gift.

The deadline for returning gifts to the church is Wednesday, December 2nd.

Thank you for your support of this community project!

2021 Offering Envelopes

2021 Offering envelopes are available in the narthex. You can pick them up after church or during church office hours. If you do not see your name please contact Donna in the office.

Prayer List

If you would like to have someone prayed for during worship or have updates for anyone on this list please call the church office at 218-827-2659. If we do not have a contact name or if no indication was made for how long to pray for someone, our practice is to remove names after 3 weeks.

- Brian Eickhoff
- Debbie Anderson
- Merlin Solberg
- Barb Richtsmeier
- Marlene Akkanen
- Michelle Putzel
- Rob Swartz
- Lorraine Huset
- Rick & Pr. Dorothy Sand
- Drew and family
- LuAnn Carlson
- Jay Sweet
- Tony Zieska
- David Lindgren
- Ben Marks
- Bryan McDonald
- Jim Herberg

Thank You for Giving Generously



Church Lawn Care

All able bodied members of the church are needed to volunteer for weekly snow removal (front entry walk and side ramp) at the church during the snow season. The schedule is for a week at a time. If you can help please sign up in the narthex.



Ruby's Pantry

Ruby's Pantry will hold a Pop-Up Pantry at the Babbitt Municipal Center on **Saturday, December 26th.**

Registration begins at 9:30am, distribution from 10-11:30am. Bring two-three bins to hold your items. You do not need to get out of your car but please wear your mask! Enter at 71 South Drive and follow the instructions given by the volunteers.

Volunteers are always welcome! Please come at 9am.

2020 Budget & Current Exp. Offering* (thru Nov 15)

2020 Adopted Annual Budget	\$ 97,970
2020 Monthly Budget	\$ 8,164
2020 Budget thru November	\$ 89,804
Current Expense Offering YTD	\$ 66,679
Mission Support Offering YTD	\$ 2,883
Total YTD Current Expense Offering	\$ 69,562

* Figures are unaudited and subject to adjustment.

Sunday Worship Guide

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
whose forgiveness is sure
and whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Together let us honestly and humbly confess
that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving and forgiving God,
we confess that we are held captive by sin.

**In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger;
we have not loved our neighbor;
we have not been Christ to one another.**

Restore us, O God.

Wake us up and turn us from our sin.

Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news:

by God's endless grace
your sins are forgiven, and you are free—
free from all that holds you back
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.

May you be strengthened in God's love,
☩ comforted by Christ's peace,
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and the unity of all, let us pray
to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Gospel

Alleluia. Many will come from east and west and will eat in the kingdom of heaven. **Alleluia.** (Matt. 8:11)

Gospel Reading (pg 8)

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ

The Apostles' Creed (pg 9)**Prayers of Intercession**

God of power and might, comfort your people and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

Faithful God, you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. Nurture our faith as we discern and enact your mission.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, you set the stars in the sky and breathe life into the earth. Renew the face of creation where it is in need of your healing touch. Mend the wounds of environmental damage and restore balance to ecosystems so that all creation can declare your praise.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout underfoot and righteousness rain down from above.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Leading God, you ask us to make uneven ground smooth. Make even the disparities between your people. Sustain and support people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Accompany disability advocates who work for a world accessible to all. Teach us to celebrate the great diversity in our midst.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We pray for those in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, and gather all people in your healing embrace.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who have prepared your way in the wilderness and taught us to continue their faithful work. Make their generous lives an example for all.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (pg 9)**Blessing**

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, ✚ now and forever. **Amen.**

Sunday, December 6, 2020

Second Sunday of Advent

Prayer of the Day: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Sunday, December 13, 2020

Third Sunday of Advent

Prayer of the Day: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11

Psalm: Psalm 126

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prayer of the Day: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Christmas Eve

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm: Psalm 96

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

Sunday, December 27, 2020

First Sunday of Christmas

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-62:3

Psalm: Psalm 148

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
 born of the Virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen

The 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.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2019 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #20426. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Online Worship Resources

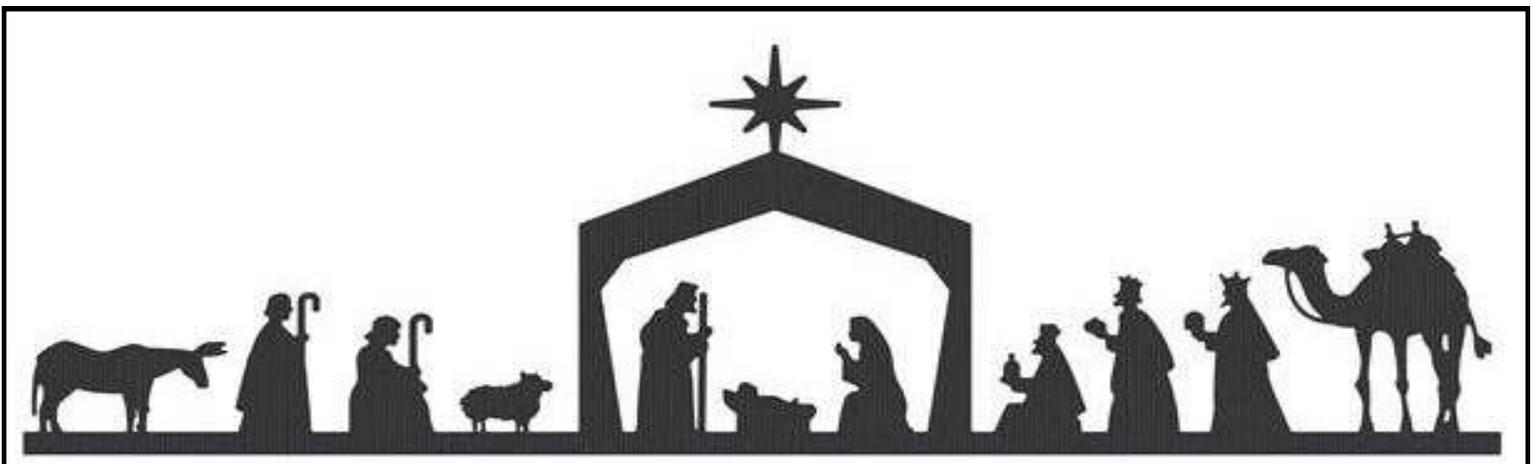
Elim Lutheran—<https://www.elimlc.com/covid-19-resources> Pastor Jim Hagan preaching

Gloria Dei—<http://gloriadeiduluth.org/worship/livestreamingworship.html>

Zion Lutheran Superior, WI—https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCs74h1pTJ_Rh2IqPfj311ig/

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd—lcsduluth.org

Grace Lutheran, Libertyville, Il—<https://gracelutheranlibertyville.org/online-worship-services/>



**Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Minutes
Meeting on November 10, 2020**

President Roxanne Sader called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

Present: Pastor Birk, Roxanne Sader, Mary Muellerleile,
on Negley, Carl Sundblad, Allan Eckman, Tom Ronning, Jo Langan

Absent: Nancy Mettler, Shanna Sundblad

Pastor Brian Birk was introduced to the council members and welcomed to our congregation as interim pastor.

Pastor Birk opened the meeting with prayer.

Motion by Mary Muellerleile, second by Jo Langan to accept the agenda. Motion carried.

There being no discussion, motion by Mary Muellerleile, second by Allan Eckman to accept the secretary's minutes. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was presented. There being no discussion, motion by Jo Langan, second by Allan Eckman to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Carroll Eckman met with the council to discuss the installation plans for the second speaker.

Old Business

- A. Painting the handicapped spots in the parking lot had been scheduled, however due to a covid quarantine and current temperatures the project will be completed in the spring.
- B. The company contacted to replace the fire box has not provided the requested estimate. Further attempts will be made.
- C. A locksmith has been contacted and will be coming to replace the lock on the front doors.
- D. A report was given on the Halloween Trick or Treat in the Parking Lot. Despite the wind and cold temperature, the event was very well attended.
- E. The confirmation program was explained.
- F. The reorganized Helping Hands Fund has been funded with three members of the congregation forming a revolving committee as per Synod guidelines. The committee will establish guidelines for usage.

New Business

- A. The current Synod Mission Support (designated item on offering envelopes) is budgeted at \$3000 and has been for some time. Following discussion, motion to raise the amount to \$3300 was made by Tom Ronning, second by Allan Eckman. Motion carried.
- B. Past, present and future use of the building and church property was discussed.
- C. A thermometer will be purchased to record temperatures during the Covid-19 pandemic. To facilitate contact tracing in the event that should be necessary, the names of those attending worship will be recorded.
- D. Four council seats will be open at the 2021 Annual Meeting in February.

Committee Reports

Property: Tom Ronning will join Allan Eckman on the property committee

Worship and Music: license to print lyrics was purchased; committee will meet with Pr Birk; changes due to Covid-19 for Hanging of the Greens and the Christmas Eve Service will be discussed

Stewardship and Finance: none

Youth and Education: none

Outreach and Communication: past and present ministries were shared

Social Ministry: Halloween in the parking lot

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 9, at 6:30 pm

Motion by Tom Ronning, second by Mary Muellerleile to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting concluded at 7:35pm and together the Council prayed The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jo Langan



Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pr. Brian Birk, Interim
 28 Acacia Road • Babbitt, MN • 55706
 218-827-2659 • www.BabbittELCA.org • belca2659@frontier.com

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 Second Sunday of Advent 8:30 AM Worship	7 Krazy Quilters meet	8 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Church Office Hours	9 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Confirmation Class meets 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Church Office Hours 6:30PM Council meeting	10	11 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Church Office Hours	12
13 Third Sunday of Advent 8:30 AM Worship	14 Krazy Quilters meet	15 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Church Office Hours	16 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Confirmation Class meets 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Church Office Hours	17	18 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Church Office Hours	19
20 Fourth Sunday of Advent 8:30 AM Worship	21 Krazy Quilters meet 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Church Office Hours	22 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Church Office Hours	23 No Confirmation Class 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Church Office Hours	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day 	26 Ruby's Party at Babbitt Municipal Center 9:00 AM Volunteers 9:30 AM Registration 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Distribution
27 First Sunday of Christmas 8:30 AM Worship	28 Krazy Quilters meet 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Church Office Hours	29 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Church Office Hours	30 No Confirmation Class 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Church Office Hours	31 New Year's Eve		

2020

**Evangelical Lutheran Church
28 Acacia Rd
Babbitt, MN 55706
218-827-2659 Church**

*good
news,*