

Evangel *(good news!)*



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

The view from the bedroom window is quiet, unchanged and oddly calming... wintertime... a few moments to reflect . Few days remain in the year 2020... the year when we often asked what more could possibly go wrong? We scroll through the vivid memories of 2020... the year never to be forgotten.

The scars of 2020 are real, and for many deeply personal. Like all scars they will be visible for a long time. No one escaped. Everyone was touched in some way... disrupted lives, family and friends lost, businesses lost, employment gone, growing division and hate. We became disheartened. The winter view from the bedroom window became bleak.

The haunting lyrics to the Advent hymn...

Lost in the night do the people yet languish,
longing for morning the darkness to vanquish,
plaintively sighing with hearts full of anguish.

Will not day come soon?

Will not day come soon?

The morning... the day is coming! But first a sign... like ages ago?

The night of greatest darkness and least light comes just four days before Christmas... the winter solstice. This year December 21 is extremely special. Perhaps God intended it so? For the first time in nearly 800 years, in the southwestern sky at twilight, we will be able to witness an astrological event.

The giant planets, Jupiter and Saturn, though millions of miles apart in their revolution about the sun, will appear in the early evening sky nearly aligned... creating a "double planet"... one brilliant shining "star", easily seen with the unaided eye!

An amazing moment in God's magnificent creation! And just four days before the greatest moment for all eternity... the birth of God's only Son... the promised Messiah... Our Savior... Our Lord... our King!!

John writes...

"the true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world"!

Astronomers 800 years ago considered the spectacle to be a Christian miracle... the Star of Bethlehem... the Christmas Star. And so the name came to be.

Matthew writes...

"Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him."

... a miraculous guiding star to Bethlehem.

2020 has been a dark time... but the promised Light has come! We can boldly step into 2021, letting our lights shine, and knowing we will be guided by the True Light... the babe in the manger become man... Jesus Christ!



“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 February 2021 newsletter will be accepted until 5pm on Monday, January 18, 2021.

Rejoice always! Really? Yes, really. The Apostle Paul really wants us to always rejoice. Bad things happen to people many times. We feel the emotions that people feel at those times. Yet God loves us and always will. We know the promises made by God. Those promises are true and are reasons to rejoice.

I have been attending worship via YouTube since Easter. My son and his wife attend Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Superior. When in person worship was stopped in response to the pandemic the Our Savior’s worship service went to YouTube. There were three people involved in the service. One was the pastor, one was the organist, the other was the person who sang the songs, my daughter-in-law.

While searching for that service I noticed more services. The one I have been attending most is from Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Arlington Heights, IL. On Sunday, December 13th Pastor Pete Warminen interviewed a person via zoom. She knew something about rejoicing during difficult circumstances. She had been held as a hostage in Iran for 444 days.

She wrote a book about her experiences called Guest of the Revolution. Her book is out of print, but I ordered a used copy on eBay. Perhaps her book will teach me something about rejoicing in all circumstances.

I hope your Christmas is merry and your New Year is filled with many reasons to rejoice. I plan to rejoice when Covid 19 is defeated. We can and should always rejoice because God loves us and has promised us everlasting life. God bless you now and always.

Sincerely,

Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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Evangelical Lutheran Church
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 Administrative Assistant
 Office Hours
 Tue, Wed, Fri 10:00am -1:30pm

Welcome Porter Joshua Flug!

Born on April 26, 2020
Baptized on November 27, 2020
Evangelical Lutheran Church

Parents:

Joshua Flug & Mary Stucynski

Sponsors:

Michael Flug
Janis Bahneman

Granparents:

Jon & Lois Flug

Great Grandmother:

Shirley Lundgren



Welcome Lilah Grace Novak!

Born on October 10, 2020
Baptized on December 13, 2020
Evangelical Lutheran Church

Parents:

Ben Novak & Rynne Fontana

Sponsors:

Julia Fontana
Joe Wenzel

Granparents:

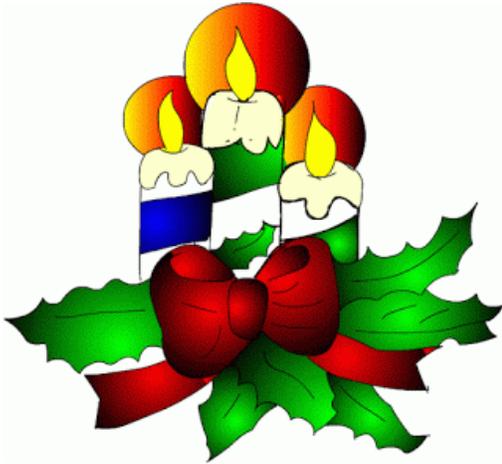
Alanna Novak, Matthew Aanderson,
Brandi Swanson/Houghton (Lathan), Benjamin Fontana

Great Grandparents:

Glenn & Debbie Anderson, Lonnie Swanson,
Christine Swanson

Great Great Grandparents:

Lester and Helen Swanson, Beverly Woods/Foster



Christmas Eve Worship

7:00PM

Evangelical Lutheran Church

28 Acacia Rd

Babbitt, MN

Reservations Required

Due to social distancing requirements seating is limited. **Reservations are required and must be made by December 20.** Please contact the church office at 218-827-2659 to make a reservation. If leaving a message please include your name, phone number and number of people in your group. We will also be broadcasting the service to the parking lot via radio.



Once again we partnered with the Ely Resource Center to help provide gifts for disadvantaged children in our area.

Thank You to all who so generously provided Christmas gifts for children in need..

We would also like to thank Diane Pastika for delivering the gifts to the Community Resource Center in Ely.

Evangelical Lutheran Annual Meeting

Due to concerns around the spread of Covid the council has decided to postpone the 2021 Annual meeting. The report will still be prepared in anticipation of the announcement of a meeting date. All reports are due in the secretary's office by end of day on Wednesday, February 17, 2021.

Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry

Annual Meeting

VLM's Annual Meeting for 2020 will be held via Zoom Meeting at 11:00am on Saturday, February 6. Additional information will be emailed to each member congregation. R.S.V.P's are required. Please call 800-331-5148. or email VLM@VLMcamps.org

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.

- Richard Huovinen
- Darrel Johnson
- B J Hartfield
- 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, January 23rd. **This date is not confirmed. Please check with Babbitt City Hall at 827-3464 after December 28th for confirmation.**

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.

2020 Budget & Current Exp. Offering* (thru Dec 13)

2020 Adopted Annual Budget	\$ 97,970
2020 Monthly Budget	\$ 8,164
2020 Budget thru November	\$ 89,804
Current Expense Offering YTD	\$ 77,708
Mission Support Offering YTD	\$ 3,161
Total YTD Current Expense Offering	\$ 80,869

* Figures are unaudited and subject to adjustment.

Sunday Worship Guide

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, whose voice is upon the waters,
whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways.

**We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.**

We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love.

We distrust those who are not like us.

We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come.

Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone.

**Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them;
receive them in your divine mercy.**

Amen.

How vast is God's grace!

Through the power and promise of ✝ Christ Jesus,
our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved.

Indeed, we are forgiven.

In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community
living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

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. All the ends of the earth* have seen the victory of our God. *Alleluia.* (Ps. 98:3)

Gospel Reading (pg 8)

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

The Apostles' Creed (pg 9)**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. 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.

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

Sunday, January 3, 2021

Second Sunday of Christmas

Prayer of the Day: 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.

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm: Psalm 147:12-20

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

Gospel: John 1:10-18

Sunday, January 10, 2021

Baptism of Our Lord

Prayer of the Day: Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm: Psalm 29

Second Reading: Acts 19:1-7

Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

Sunday, January 17, 2021

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Prayer of the Day: Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Psalm: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Gospel: John 1:43-51

Thursday, January 24, 2021

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm: Psalm 62:5-12

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

Sunday, January 31, 2021

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Prayer of the Day: Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm: Psalm 111

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

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.

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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/>

December 17, 2020 COVID update from St. Louis County:

For the second consecutive week we continue to see a decrease in the number of new COVID cases. In the last week we added 752 new cases, for a total of 11,466. Four of the last five days, we saw increases of less than 100 daily, the best we've seen in well over a month!

Unfortunately, the number of people dying from COVID has not slowed down. We've had another 25 deaths reported in the last week, bringing the total to 172.

If you have questions or any COVID-19 challenges I can help with, remember I am available by phone or email, Mon-Fri, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thank you for your continued partnership!

LIASON CONTACT INFO: Carol Haasl 218-471-7339 haaslc@stlouiscountymn.gov

**Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Minutes
Meeting on December 9, 2020**

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

Present: Pastor Birk, Roxanne Sader, Mary Muellerleile, Tom Ronning, Shanna Sundblad, Jo Langan

Absent: Nancy Mettler, Allan Eckman

Pastor Birk opened the meeting with devotions and prayer.

Motion by Shanna Sundblad, second by Jo Langan to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

A correction was made in the secretary's minutes. Motion by Mary Muellerleile, second by Tom Ronning to accept the secretary's minutes. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was presented. Various expenditures were explained. Motion by Shanna Sundblad, second by Jo Langan to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Old Business

A. Painting the handicapped spots in the parking lot remains scheduled by the city.

B. The fire box was discussed. The current unit is outdated and a portion of the alarm system does not function properly. A quote for complete replacement from Nardini Fire Equipment was secured in the amount of \$8,975.00, exclusive of additional expenses for installation. Motion by Jo Langan, second by Shanna Sundblad to obtain a second quote. Motion carried.

C. The new lock for the front door has been installed and several master keys purchased.

D. The three members of the Helping Hands Fund committee met to prepare a request form and put the information on the church's website.

New Business

A. The property committee will update the church sign with Pastor Birk's name.

B. The Hanging of the Greens Service is cancelled for this year. The Christmas tree and sanctuary will be decorated by members in preparation for services on December 13.

C. The circle will be asked to decorate the church for the various seasons of the year.

D. The Christmas Eve Service was discussed. Worship will be held at 7pm on December 24. To facilitate distancing the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall will both be available for seating. Worshipers may also remain in their cars in the parking lot and listen to the service via FM radio. Indoor seating will be by reservation on a first come first served basis.

Reservations can be made by either calling the church office at 827-2659 or by filling out the forms available during church services and leaving them at church. Forms with the information will also be mailed to all Evangel recipients. Reservations will be due by Sunday, December 20.

E. Motion by Jo Langan, second by Shanna Sundblad to give each employee of the church a Christmas gift in the amount of \$50. Motion carried..

F. Motion by Mary Muellerleile, second by Tom Ronning to postpone the annual meeting. Motion carried. Notification to members will be made per guidelines in the constitution.

G. Mary Muellerleile will prepare a budget for the 2021 church year.

Committee Reports

Property: the sign will be updated

Worship and Music: necessary items were discussed during the agenda business

Stewardship and Finance: prepare the 2021 budget

Youth and Education: a date for confirmation must be determined; announce that a delegate is needed for VLM

Outreach and Communication: none

Social Ministry: discussed some possible future activities

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 13, at 6:30 pm

Motion by Shanna Sundblad, second by Tom Ronning to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting concluded at 7:50pm. Together the Council prayed The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jo Langan



Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pr. Brian Birk, Interim
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Happy New Year!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Second Sunday of Christmas 8:30 AM Worship	4 Krazy Quilters meet	5 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Church Office Hours	6 Epiphany of Our Lord 9:00 AM Confirmation Class meets (date and time may change)	7 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Church Office Hours	8 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Church Office Hours	9
10 Baptism of Our Lord 8:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion	11 Krazy Quilters meet	12 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Church Office Hours	13 9:00 AM Confirmation Class meets (date and time may change) 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Church Office Hours 6:30 PM Council Meeting	14	15 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Church Office Hours	16
17 Second Sunday after Epiphany 8:30 AM Worship	18 Krazy Quilters meet	19 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Church Office Hours	20 9:00 AM Confirmation Class meets (date and time may change) 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Church Office Hours	21	22 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Church Office Hours	23 Ruby's Pantry at Babbitt Municipal Center 9:00 AM Volunteers 9:30 AM Registration 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Distribution
24 Third Sunday after Epiphany 8:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion	25 Krazy Quilters meet	26 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Church Office Hours	27 9:00 AM Confirmation Class meets (date and time may change) 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Church Office Hours	28	29 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Church Office Hours	30
31 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 8:30 AM Worship						

January 2021

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

