

# The Sunday Messenger

Memorial Lutheran Church, Nevada Iowa ♦ December 13, 2020

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.  
Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom and waters would break forth in the wilderness.  
Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.  
Strengthen our hearts  
as we prepare for the coming of the Lord.  
May he give water to all who thirst,  
for he is our light and our salvation.  
Blessed be God forever.  
**Amen.**

## 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.

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.**

## Prayer of the Day

## First Lesson *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.  
<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.  
<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
<sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.  
<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

## Psalm

## Second Reading *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks  
in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ  
Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise  
the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast  
to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil.  
<sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely;  
and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound  
and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus  
Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do  
this.

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

<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>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews  
sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him,  
"Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but  
confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup>And they asked  
him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not."  
"Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>Then they  
said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for  
those who sent us. What do you say about your-  
self?" <sup>23</sup>He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"  
as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They  
asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are nei-  
ther the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John  
answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you  
stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is  
coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of  
his sandal." <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jor-  
dan where John was baptizing.

## Sermon



## Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living  
and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic  
church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayers of Intercession

### Lord's Prayer

## 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.

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Be Part of Online Fellowship After Worship Each Sunday.

We will use Zoom as a way to connect with each other after worship. The same link will be used each week:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83367838198> For those interested in the Book of Faith adult study, a break out room will be created after a little time of fellowship.

### Advent Devotions with Holy Communion

Pastor Duane will offer small gatherings during the weeks of Advent for devotions and Holy Communion. A schedule is being developed that will include both daytime and evening openings. You can call for a reservation at 382-6509, or use the Sign Up Genius:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094ca8ac2ea20-advent>

### Christmas Vespers Online Service on December 20 at 7:00

pm. Save the date for the YouTube premiere of the Christmas Vespers service. Share this information with your friends and family to tune in for this annual musical gift with this link:  
<https://bit.ly/2zjwz7F>

### 2020 Year-End Giving

Your year-end and Christmas offerings help to support the mission and ministry of Memorial and keep us financially sound into the new year. In compliance with IRS rules, the deadline for giving in 2020 is 9:00 am on Thursday, December 31 to allow for a final deposit. All offerings received after the deadline will be credited to 2021 giving. Thank you for your faithful generosity.

## Christmas Eve Worship and Fellowship.

A Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols will premiere at 5:00 pm on Thursday, December 24, on Memorial's YouTube channel: <https://bit.ly/2zjwz7F>  
The service will conclude with the traditional singing of *Silent Night* and lighting candles. You are invited to do your own candle lighting at home.

Following worship you can join a Zoom fellowship and share a Christmas greeting with others.  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81555406753>

## Call Committee Update

The Call Committee has conducted an interview with the pastor candidate. The next steps are to check with references and work on scheduling a second interview.

## FAITH AND LIFE TOGETHER

### For Those Hospitalized

.Edith Bloomquist, *Rolling Green Skilled Care*

### Prayers for Healing

Shellie Black, Harlen Johnsen, Jim Pappas, Karen Anderson, Almeda Warner, Janeen Driscoll, Darren Kluever, Jaylee Bartleson, Gary Kluever, Larry Christian, Julie Sutherland, Sheila Collingwood *Lyndsey De Vos' mother*, Lynn Harris, George Forsyth, Cassie Harrell, Jeff Sebring *son-in-law of Ernie and Marlene Ruhde*, Norma Gandrup, Linda Horn, Tom Nervig, Glenda Day, Ginny Hausner, Ken Johnson, Camden Kelsey, Cooper Leeman, Jan Cook, Margie Nahnsen