

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Northwood, Iowa

641-324-2984

www.flcnorthwood.org

THAT ALL MAY KNOW THE LOVE OF GOD IN JESUS CHRIST



**Christmas Day
December 25th, 2020**

10:30am

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Prelude

-Delores Knudson

Welcome – Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

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.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of goodness and lovingkindness, **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.**

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. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

“Love Has Come”



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Special Music

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 98

Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.

You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

Sing to the LORD with the harp with the harp and the voice of song.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.

The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4, 5-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.' Of the angels he says, 'He makes his angels winds, and his servants' flames of fire.' But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever, and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.' And, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.'

Gospel: John 1:1-14

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

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

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

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.

The gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Becky Sogge

Hymn

“The First Noel”



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin - ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

The 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

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

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.**

Invitation to Communion

The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine. Come meet Christ in this meal. **Amen**

Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us from your very self with the body and blood of Christ. Through this mystery, send forth to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

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.

Closing Hymn

“Angels We Have Heard on High”



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

That all may know the love of God in Jesus Christ

Postlude

-Delores Knudson

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Special Music: Nikkole Koenig
Organist/Pianist: Delores Knudson
Altar Guild: LYDIA Circle
Sound/Video: Mark Willand

Mission Project for December
Heifer International

Announcements

*"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient,
bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the
unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."*

(Ephesians 4:2-3)

We will be taking Holy Communion from your home today so please
have your bread and wine ready!

Year-end contribution deadline is December 30th.

The church offices will be open until noon on December 30th and closed
on December 31st and January 1st.



Poinsettias



*In Memory of Gary Bachtle,
given by Molly Bachtle & Family*

*In Memory of Chuck Lehman,
given by Avis Lehman*

*In Memory of Ronald Severson,
given by Troy & Dawn Bachtle*

*In Memory of Lowell Gangstad,
given by the Gangstad Family*

*In Memory of Lonnie Harris,
given by Myra Harris & Family*

*In Memory of Merle & Steve Aase,
given by the Aase Families*

*In Memory of Peter Andrew Selvig,
given by Richard Selvig*

*In Memory of Bill & Lynn Whatney,
given by Lucille Whatney & Family*

*In Memory of Hellen Holstad,
given by First Lutheran Altar Guild*

*In Memory of Family Members,
given by Russell & Delores Knudson*

*In Memory of Our Family Members who have passed,
given by Ray & Wanda Hoffman*

*In Memory of Mary Chinnock,
given by Brad, Shana, Piper and Callan Brunsvold*