

I-K Lutheran

Where God is doing new things

December 2017

There were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord...So the shepherds went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them...The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



[Luke 2:8-11, 16-18, 20; Nativity of Our Lord II, Christmas Day]

We are the shepherds. A rag-tag band of nomads trying to get through each day, tending to whatever flock of responsibilities has been entrusted to us, weary and worn.

We are the shepherds. Surprised by good news of great joy that God has taken on human flesh, borne our weariness, swaddled our sorrow, and flung our sin into the darkness in and through the Messiah, the Lord, the Savior, born in the city of David.

We are the shepherds. Traveling again and again to Bethlehem to see the goodness and grace of God, forgiveness, healing, and hope, new, abundant, and lasting life for us, mangled in bread and wine, cradled in our hands, sealed in our hearts.

We are the shepherds. Returning to our daily lives, the tending of flocks, wandering through the world, praising God for all that we have heard and seen in Jesus...for us and for the world...and like the angel, sharing with other schlepping shepherds, in what we do and what we say, the good news of great joy for all people.

We are the shepherds, dear sisters and brothers, this holy season and always, journeying to Bethlehem to meet again the child Christ who is the good news of great joy for all.

May your Advent and Christmas journey be deeply blessed and may you bless others along the way!

+ Bishop Bill Gafkjen





The Indiana-Kentucky Synod staff is collecting items for *The Sharing Place*, a material assistance program providing free food and clothing to families in need in Indianapolis.

Items needed:

- Ramen noodles
- Pasta
- Canned meat
- Pork and beans
- Macaroni and cheese
- Hamburger Helper
- Canned fruit and vegetables
- Rice
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Toilet paper
- Shampoo
- Laundry detergent
- Diapers (N-6)
- Dish Soap
- Gift Cards
- Gifts for Teenagers ages 13-18

Please bring donated items to the Executive North Office, Building 911, Suite 200, by December 13.

Learn more about *The Sharing Place*: www.lutheranfamily.org.

Questions? Contact Sylvia at sylore@iksynod.org or call 317.253.3522



Indiana-Kentucky Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.