 **Kerkhoven Lutheran Church**

 **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**Living and trusting in god’s amazing grace we welcome all to worship, learn and serve in celebration of Christ’s love.**

**Second Sunday of Christmas**

 **January 2, 2021 9:00 AM**

Within the gospel reading’s profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God’s grace and truth.

**Prelude**

**GATHERING**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS ELW p. 94**

In the name of the Father,

and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN “Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song” ELW #808**

 1 Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;

I'll tell ev'rybody about you wherever I go:

you alone are our life and our peace and our love.

Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.

2 Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.

May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.

May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.

Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.

3 As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant,

to carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears.

For you saved me by giving your body and blood.

As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.

4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;

but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side.

And with all of the family you saved by your love,

we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.

**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 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.**

**WORD**

### **First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14**

###  7For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." 8See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. 9With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. 10Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." 11For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. 12They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. 13Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. 14I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,says the LORD.

### The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm: Psalm 147:12-20 Reading Responsively**

1Praise the LORD!
 Praise the LORD from the heavens;
 praise him in the heights!
**2Praise him, all his angels;
 praise him, all his host!** 3Praise him, sun and moon;
 praise him, all you shining stars!
**4Praise him, you highest heavens,
 and you waters above the heavens!**

5Let them praise the name of the LORD,
 for he commanded and they were created.
**6He established them forever and ever;
 he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

7Praise the LORD from the earth,
 you sea monsters and all deeps,
 **8fire and hail, snow and frost,
 stormy wind fulfilling his command!**9Mountains and all hills,
 fruit trees and all cedars!
 **10Wild animals and all cattle,
 creeping things and flying birds!**
12Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!
 Praise your God, O Zion!
 **13For he strengthens the bars of your gates;
 he blesses your children within you.** 14He grants peace within your borders;
 he fills you with the finest of wheat.
 **15He sends out his command to the earth;
 his word runs swiftly.** 16He gives snow like wool;
 he scatters frost like ashes.
 **17He hurls down hail like crumbs —
 who can stand before his cold?** 18He sends out his word, and melts them;
 he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.
 **19He declares his word to Jacob,
 his statutes and ordinances to Israel.** 20He has not dealt thus with any other nation;
 they do not know his ordinances.
 Praise the LORD!

### Here ends the Psalm

### **Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14**

3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4just as he chose us in Christ before the

foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. 5He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his

### will, 6to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace 8that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight 9he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, 10as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, 12so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. 13In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; 14this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

### The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation “Alleluia” ELW p. 142**

### **Gospel:   John 1:1-18**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He

was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through him, and without him

### not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.10He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.14And 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. 15(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") 16From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

### The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON Pastor Michael Buller**

**HYMN OF THE DAY “Christ, Be Our Light” ELW # 715**

1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,

light for the world to see.

*Refrain* Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has pow'r to save us.

Make us your living voice. *Refrain*

 3 Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,

shared until all are fed. *Refrain*

4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,

walls made of living stone. *Refrain*

5 Many the gifts, many the people,

many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another,

signs of your kingdom come. *Refrain* Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

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**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 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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Each portion of the prayers ends with “Merciful God”. Congregation response: “**receive our prayer”.**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you**.

**THANKSGIVING**

**OFFERING INTERLUDE**

**OFFERTORY**  **“As the Grains of Wheat”** **ELW #465**

Offering plates will be brought to the altar during The Offertory.

*Refrain* As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill

 were gathered into one to become our bread;

 so may all your people from all the ends of earth

 be gathered into one in you.

1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,

 may we share the presence of your love. *Refrain*

2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come

 when all creation shares this feast with you. *Refrain*

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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**MEAL**





**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.**

**Hymns during Communion:**

 **“Lamb of God” ELW p. 146**



 **“We Are Called” ELW #720**

1. Come! live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God!

Refrain: We are called to act with justice.
We are called to love tenderly.
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

2. Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless,
so all hatred and blindness will be no more! *Refrain*

3. Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign and we'll walk with each other as sisters
and brothers united in love!*Refrain*

 **“You Have Come down to the Lakeshore” ELW #817**

1 You have come down to the lakeshore

 seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,

 but only asking for me to follow.

*Refrain*  Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes;

 kindly smiling, you've called out my name.

 On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;

 now with you, I will seek other seas.

2 You know full well what I have, Lord:

 neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,

 just these my fish nets and will for working. *Refrain*

3 You need my hands, my exhaustion,

 working love for the rest of the weary--

 a love that's willing to go on loving. *Refrain*

4 You who have fished other waters;

 you, the longing of souls that are yearning:

 O loving Friend, you have come to call me. *Refrain*

 **“This Little Light of Mine” ELW #677**

1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;

 this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;

 this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,

 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;

 ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;

 ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,

 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;

 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;

 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,

 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. Text: African American spiritual

**Prayer after Communion**

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG “My Life Flows on in Endless Song” ELW # 763**

1 My life flows on in endless song;

 above earth's lamentation,

 I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn

 that hails a new creation.

*Refrain*  No storm can shake my inmost calm

 while to that Rock I'm clinging.

 Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,

 how can I keep from singing?

2 Through all the tumult and the strife,

 I hear that music ringing.

 It finds an echo in my soul.

 How can I keep from singing? *Refrain*

3 What though my joys and comforts die?

 The Lord my Savior liveth.

 What though the darkness gather round?

 Songs in the night he giveth. *Refrain*

4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,

 a fountain ever springing!

 All things are mine since I am his!

 How can I keep from singing? *Refrain*

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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**SERVING THIS MORNING**

Pastor – Pastor Michael Buller

Musicians – Mariah Rudningen

Lector - Julia Carlson

Ushers – Ted and Kari Jo Almen

Communion Assistant- Sue Nelson

Acolytes –

Greeter- Ann Hanson

***PRAYER CONCERNS:*** *(Periodically these prayer concerns will be moved to the prayer concerns list in the newsletter)* Phyllis Meyer, Lee Meyer, Doris Bakken, Phyllis Loven, Keith Lundberg, Andrea Raths, Kathy Schol, Dennis Doering, Calvin Carls

**Stewardship Snippet – Second Sunday of Christmas,** **Genesis 1:1-2:** “In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.”

*Where do we come from? Where did anything come from? These first two verses of the whole Bible remind us that God created all that was, all that is, and all that will be. God made it all, even us, and everything belongs to God. That’s the first rule of stewardship.*

*--Rob Blezard Copyright © 2021, Rev. Robert Blezard. Reprinted by permission.*

**Fellowship Hour:** Please join us for fellowship hour immediately following the worship service in the fellowship hall.

**January Outreach Project**: **LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE** - **U.S. TORNADOES**

This is our project for January and will be designated to receive our Noisy Offering from next Sunday. On the night of Dec. 10 and early morning of Dec. 11, an outbreak of at least 30 tornadoes swept through six states. So far, 88 people are reported dead across five states, at least 75 of them in Kentucky. Homes and businesses were destroyed, and in some areas electricity and water systems will take weeks to repair.

Lutheran Disaster Response is collaborating with the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and other partners in the area to assess the damage and develop immediate and long-term response plans. Given the initial damage assessments, recovery will likely take years, and Lutheran Disaster Response is prepared to accompany survivors until the response is complete.

Your gifts will support tornado survivors. Gifts to “U.S. Tornadoes” will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by tornadoes now and during the long road of recovery. Together, we can provide immediate and long-lasting support.

Give today to support this response and others like it.

Yes, I want to help! Lutheran Disaster Response: U.S. Tornadoes $\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Give through your congregation or make your check out to Lutheran Disaster Response and send to: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gifts Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009 and write “U.S. Tornadoes” on your check’s memo line

**Pastor Michael Buller:** Today we welcome Pastor Michael Buller to KLC on his first Sunday as our Minister. Please welcome him and his family to our midst. His wife, Pastor Erika will be serving as an associate Pastor at Vinje Lutheran in Willmar and preaching at St. John’s in Raymond. Pastor Michael and Pastor Erika have 3 children Henry, Ben and Eliza. We are happy they have come to join us at KLC. You can reach Pastor Michael at (320) 377-9466 or pastormbuller@gmail.com

**This Week . . . January 3 - 9, 2022**

**Wednesday, January 5**

5:30 pm Altar Guild and all available KLC members take down decorations in the sanctuary.

 7:00 pm KLC boards meet in Fellowship Hall

 7:30 pm KLC church council meets in Fellowship Hall

**Next Sunday, January 9**: **The Baptism of Our Lord Sunday**

9:00 am Worship Service both in person and Live Streamed

10:00 am Coffee Fellowship

10:00 am Sunday School

**Snow Removal Bid:** The Board of Properties and Grounds is calling for bids for snow removal at the church. There is snow blower that is available for use in the storage shed. Bids should be submitted to a member of the board or drop off at the church office.

**Altar Guild:** The Altar Guild is in need or 2 additional people to work with another team member to prepare the sanctuary for worship each week. For more information contact Barb Norton: barb@theinwell.com or 320-894-2128. Thank you.

**KLC Office Hours for the Week of January 3 - 7:** Church office hour will be Monday - Thursday 9:00 -3:00 pm. The church office is closed on Friday. If you have questions or need assistance please call: Ann Hanson – 320-894-4464, if no answer please leave a message or send a text.

**Help Needed:** The Altar Guild will be meeting at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, January 5, 2022, to take down the Christmas decorations in the sanctuary. If you are able to be there and help that will be greatly appreciated. The plan is to be finished prior to the scheduled board and council meetings.

**Volunteers Needed:** The food truck from Second Harvest Heartland will be arriving with food for the KMS Backpack Program and also the food boxes delivered to seniors in the community through the Nutritional Assistance Program for Seniors on Tuesday, January 11 at about 11:00 am. We are in need of volunteers to help unload the food palettes and stock the food store room. We are also in need of 1-2 people who can make the deliveries of the food boxes. We currently have 4 boxes that require delivery. They are heavy to lift so need someone who can lift and carry about 45 pounds. Thank you.

**Request from Bethesda Homes**: Today, we ask for your prayer and support for our mission and ministry. Bethesda is in need of happy hearts and helpful hands to live out God's love for older adults in our communities each day.

It is no secret that nearly every organization and business is calling on people to join their team, and Bethesda is no different. However, what Bethesda offers IS different, and you have an opportunity to help. Bethesda offers careers that have a purpose, that embody a shared faith, and proudly embrace it through each action of grace, kindness, and love for others every day.

As we begin a new year, we ask for your prayers, support and that you share our need with someone you know this month.

**On-Line Giving:** It is now possible to give your offering or a donation to KLC on-line at: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YNJM> This link will now be available on our Kerkhoven Lutheran Facebook page and is available on our new website (see link above).

**KLC Website:** You are invited to visit our website. It can be found at <https://www.kerkhovenlutheranchurch.com/>

 **KLC Executive Board** **Board of Christian Education**

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