

Luke 2:1-14 (NIV)
The Birth of Jesus

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”



Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Minden United Methodist Church
December 24th, 2018
7:00 PM

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Prelude Marlys Farm and Glen Haselbarth

Welcome and Gathering Words

*Call to Worship

*Lighting of the Advent Candles Ray & Karli Havens & Family
ALL: We light the Christ candle as a sign to the world that we no longer have to fear the darkness for our Light has come.

*Carol "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (vs. 1 & 3) UMH #234

*Passing the Peace of Christ

*Prayer

*Carol "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (vs. 1 & 2) UMH #240
"Angels We Have Heard on High" (vs. 1 & 2) UMH #238

Gathering of Children Dan Frizane

Special Music "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Bell Choir

Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-14 Dick McBride

Christmas Message "The Prince of Peace" Pastor Peter Choi

Offering
Special Music "O Holy Night" Marlys Farm & Glen Haselbarth

Service of Holy Communion

Service of the Candles

Our lights have been dimmed to symbolize the darkness of the world before the birth of Christ. The burning candle represents the God whose light shines, even in darkness. We are to spread the light which was sent to enlighten the world. It was done by the first apostles, then by their converts. Today this is our task. I light my candle from the central candle, the Christ candle.

As the light is passed to you, breathe a prayer that the candle you hold may Truly symbolize your commitment to carry Christ with you out into the world.

*Carol "Silent Night" UMH #239
(As "Silent Night" is being played, the candle lighters will light the candle of the first worshipper in each pew. Light will then be passed from worshipper to worshipper. Remember that the lighted candle always remains upright, and the unlighted candle is tipped to be lighted.)

Sending Out and Benediction

Extinguishing the Candles

(Now as the lights of the church return, please extinguish your candle. The candles symbolize the lighting of our own lives. The return of the larger lights prophesies the lighting of the world. Please place your candle in a box at the back.)

