

We Bring Good News

Is anyone here tired of the news? If you are like me there are times that I just can't stand to watch or listen to the news as it is almost always bad news. Life is challenging enough without the constant drumming of all things negative. In a world filled with bad news we desperately need good news. This is one reason why I love Christmas so much. It is all about announcing good news.

The Gospel of Luke shares a story of good news. Luke tells about the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Then he shifts to tell the story of nearby shepherds tending their flocks at night and how an angel of the Lord appears to them. Here is what the text says, "the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. **I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.**" Then Luke records that, "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."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, **they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child**, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them."

The story of Jesus begins with shepherds spreading the word about Jesus. Fast forward to after his resurrection and Jesus' last words to the Disciples were, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **Therefore go** and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to share the Good News with those around us so that they too might experience the joy and peace that we have. Every time you give here at our church, you help us spread that Good News, not only in our town, but literally around the world. Let's give generously today so that Good News can continue to be spread.
