**Esperanza Lutheran Church Sunday Funday Advent #4**

**December 20, 2020**

**All Ages**

**Bible Story: Angel Gabriel came to tell Mary**

**Emphasis:** Jesus was born in a stable in the town of Bethlehem because there was no room for them in the Inn.

**Bible Background:** Mary and Joseph could not have their baby at their home Nazareth because the Emperor ordered all people to be registered (a census). They were to be registered in the town where their family came from.  So, Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem because that is where Joseph’s family originated. This was a city from the house of David in Judea.

It was a long trip for Mary and Joseph.  Mary was ready to give birth when they arrived in Bethlehem.  There was no room at the Inn.  Mary gave birth to a son in a stable.  She wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger.

**Read the Bible Story!:** (The story is from Luke 2: 1-14) Spark Bible “Jesus is Born!” Page 212-217. This is the story of the night Jesus was born. What an amazing night!

**Questions:**

 **1.** Do you think it was difficult to travel back in the time of Jesus’s birth? (Yes, travel was only by foot, donkey or horse on wooden cart.  Probably very bumpy and uncomfortable!)

 2.  Do you think Mary and Joseph prayed that night Jesus was born? (I would say yes! Though they knew they were part of God’s plan  having a baby away from your home is scary.  Maybe they prayed for  God to be with them and to keep them safe.)

 3. What did the Shepherds see and hear when they were out in the field on the first Christmas Eve? ( The Shepherds heard the Angels of the Lord! They told them great news! News of great joy for all people. Born in the city of David was the Messiah, the Savior of the world. They heard the Angels and the heavenly hosts sing praises to God!)

**Activity:** Ask your child what is their favorite Christmas hymn/song that we sing at church on Christmas Eve?  Google that hymn or song and read the lyrics. Then together listen to the song and maybe sing along.  Remind your child that Jesus loves them and your whole family!

**Ehpaize: God gave us Jesus who was born in a manger. God shared his Son to show the world how to love and care for all people.**

**Hold hands and end in a Family Prayer:** Dear Jesus, we can’t wait to celebrate your birth.  Help us to share with the world your never ending love and Grace.  Amen