**Esperanza Lutheran Church Sunday Funday Christmas #1**

**January 3, 2021**

**All Ages**

**Bible Story: The Shepherds while watching their sheep heard the news of a Messiah.**

**Emphasis:The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem to see the Baby Jesus, God’s promise of a Messiah.  The Angels told them to go and see!**

**Bible Background:** Outside of Bethlehem Shepherds were watching their sheep on a hill. Suddenly the Angels appeared to them.  The Shepherds were scared but the Angels said to them don’t be afraid we have good news! God’s son, the Messiah has been born in a manger in Bethlehem.  The Angels began to sing “Glory to God in the Highest!”  After they sang they told the shepherds to go to Bethlehem and there they would find a baby wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.  The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem and saw the Baby Jesus just like the Angels said!

**Read the Bible Story!:**  (Spark Bible: Shepherds Story Page 214-217, Luke 2: 8-20)  This is the story of the Shepherds who were told by God’s Angels to go to Bethlehem to see the Baby Jesus, the Savior.

**Questions:**

1. **Who told the shepherds about Jesus being born?** (God’s Heavenly Angels)

1. **Why were the shepherds so scared?** (They had never seen an Angel before!)

1. **How do you think the shepherds felt when they saw the baby Jesus right where the Angels said.**?(Amazed! They were so happy to see God’s gift of a Messiah!)

1. **What did the shepherd do when they saw Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus?** (They were so happy that the Angels told them about the Messiah. Then they praised God for the Messiah all the way back to their sheep.)

**Activity: Candy Cane hearts.** Hopefully you will have candy canes leftover from Christmas or buy discounted candy canes at the store.

Candy Canes look like shepherd staff and a reminder of the shepherds of the night that Jesus was born.  Put two candy canes together and make a heart.  Tape or glue the candy cane heart to paper or a card.  Write Jesus loves you and give the candy cane cards away to a friend or a family member.  It is a reminder that God gave God’s greatest gift  to the world, Jesus the Messiah.

**Emphasize: Jesus was born on a special night. The shepherds were filled with joy that they got to see the Messiah, God’s gift to all people.**

**Hold hands and end in a Family Prayer:** Dear Jesus, Thank you for coming down to earth to be with us and show us how to love.  Help us to remember the night you were born when angels sang and praised your name.