



IRIS INFANTS REMEMBERED IN SILENCE

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IRIS Holiday Service Of Remembrance



The Infants Remembered In Silence, Inc. (IRIS) Holiday Service of Remembrance has been held annually since 1993. We all know that the holidays are a very special time for children, and seem to be geared for them, but as a parent whose child has died, how do we navigate the holidays?

The IRIS Holiday Service of Remembrance is a very unique service that can help with the emotions, fears, frustrations, and anxiety of the season. Many parents who attend have stated "I need to remember and honor my child first, so that I can survive the holidays." You are encouraged to attend the service and are welcome to invite your family and friends to attend with you. This special service will be held on:

**1st Sunday in December
2 pm
Chapel of the Good Shepherd
Shattuck Campus
1000 Shumway Ave. Faribault, MN**

The IRIS Holiday Service of Remembrance is designed by and for parents, family, and friends who have experienced or been touched by the death of a child in early pregnancy (miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, etc.) or from stillbirth, premature birth, neonatal death, birth defects, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), sudden unexplained death of a child (SUDC), illness, accidents and all other types of infant or early childhood death. Everyone is welcome regardless of how long ago the child died or the cause of death. Those attending are encouraged to participate by decorating the chapel windows, reading poems, providing music, and/or bringing treats for the reception that follows the service.

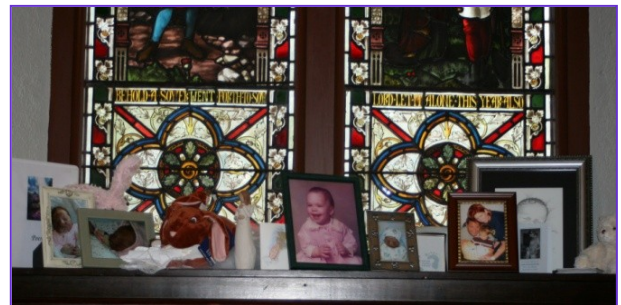
Having Your Child Remembered



If you would like to have a child/children remembered during the candle lighting part of the service, please complete the enclosed form and return to the IRIS office by November 25th.

Names that are received after the 26th will be listed on an insert. Remember you must submit the name every year.

Decorating Chapel Windows



Decorating the Chapel Windows has become a very special tradition of the IRIS Holiday Service. You are encouraged to bring any keepsake items that you would like to display in the windows. You will be in charge of placing your child's/children's keepsakes in a window and clearing the area when the reception is over. Suggested items for window displays include: scrapbooks, blankets, pictures, poems, small Christmas Tree and other holiday items, etc. There will be volunteers on hand to answer questions and help you however they can. No flames or water allowed in the displays. Due to the magnitude of this project, IRIS will not be able to return items sent to us. Everyone is welcome to visit the displays during the reception that follows the service.

*The Chapel of the Good Shepherd will open
at 12 noon for anyone wishing to come early and
setup window keepsake displays.*



Your Participation Is Needed

One of the things that make the Holiday Service so very special is the participation of parents, family and friends. We would love to have your help with the reading of poems, singing, playing an instrument, reading a scripture, decorating the chapel windows, and/or providing treats for the reception that follows the service. You will find signup information on the registration form. Please help make this a very special service by sharing your time and talents.



Memorial Poinsettias

IRIS will again be selling poinsettias. Poinsettias will be labeled and delivered to the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. You will be able to take them home following the reception. If you would like to order a poinsettia for yourself or as a gift for family and friends please fill out the Holiday Service Registration Form and return it to the

IRIS office by November 26th.



Sharing Information on the Holiday Service

Please feel free to share the information on the Holiday Service Remembrance with others. You are welcome and encouraged to invite your family and friends to the service as well as other bereaved parents. If you would like you are welcome to ask your local churches, newspapers, TV and radio stations to run information about the service.



Siblings and Children at the Holiday Service

This is a difficult topic to approach, and it brings up many emotions for everyone involved. Because of concerns voiced in previous years, parents with children under the age of 6 years of age are lovingly requested to sit in the back of the chapel close to the restroom and exit. Children who can Sit Quietly for two (2) hours are welcome to attend the service. Out of consideration and compassion for other grieving parents, you are asked to take children out of the Chapel if they are crying, talking, making noise of any kind, disrupting others in any manner or are restless. If you have questions, concerns or would like to discuss the issue please call Diana at the IRIS office 507-334-4748.



“Heavenly Notes”

“Heavenly Notes”[®] are letters or ...“notes” written to your precious child and placed in the sleigh basket, located by the altar, at the IRIS Holiday Service of Remembrance.

“Heavenly Notes”[®] are never read by anyone, you are free to say or express whatever you like. Following the service, notes are burned and the ashes scattered at the IRIS House/Office in the Memorial Garden and by the Bronze Angel.

Because “Heavenly Notes”[®] program is so well received we are opening it up to everyone around the world. If you are unable to attend the IRIS Holiday Service of Remembrance you, your family, and friends are invited to write a Heavenly Note and mail it to:

“Heavenly Notes”
Infants Remembered In Silence
218 3rd Ave. NW
Faribault, MN 55021

