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Concordia Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

801 Beacon Lane

Beulah, North Dakota

Rev. Toby H. Heller, Pastor

December 4, 2011



*Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight;
all flesh shall see the salvation of God.*

[Luke 3:4b, 6]

DIVINE SERVICE Setting Three

Hymn of Invocation # 344

Confession & Absolution p. 184

Introit

Restore us, O God;

let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

You brought a vine out of Egypt;

it took deep root and filled the land.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Gloria Patri p. 186

Kyrie p. 186

Gloria in Excelsis is omitted during Advent

Salutation & Collect p. 189

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament: Isaiah 40:1-11 (ESV)

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"

Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Gradual

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Behold, your king is coming to you;

righteous and having salvation.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Epistle Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14 (ESV)

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

“Alleluia” p. 190

Holy Gospel: St. Mark 1:1-8 (ESV)

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight."

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Nicene Creed p. 191

Hymn of the Day # 347

Sermon Preparing the Way of the Lord

Offertory p. 192

Offering

Reception of New Members

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament p. 194

Distribution Hymns # 711, 621, 366

Nunc Dimittis p. 199

Thanksgiving p. 200

Benedicamus and Benediction p. 201

Closing Hymn # 352 (st. 1-4)

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion in which we joyfully receive Christ's Body and Blood, under bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins. As we celebrate the Sacrament, we also give public witness that we are in complete agreement with the denomination's doctrinal teachings at whose altar we commune. Therefore, we ask that only communicant members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod commune with us. All guests are asked to talk to Rev. Heller before coming to the altar to receive the Sacrament.

In our thoughts and prayers,

† Betty Hausauer;

† Stephen, Savannah, & Pam, as they become members of Concordia.

Our Stewardship of Worship and Attendance

Worship: 105 Offering: \$2,745.25

Watch and wait with joyful expectation! St. Peter reminded the people of his day and us as well that the Lord will come again to receive His people into a new heaven and a new earth where we will live in peace and righteousness forever. May God's Spirit bless us so that we may live lives worthy of our high calling as stewards of all that God has given to us to manage for His purposes.

Welcome to worship in the season of Advent, the time of the church year which prepares us to welcome our King, Jesus, at His birth. We prepare by repenting, being sorrowful for our sin and believing in Christ for forgiveness. Our sin was the reason Jesus was conceived, born, suffered, crucified, and died. As we mourn our sin, our hearts look forward to the joy of Christmas, when our King comes to save us from all the threatening perils of sin. Visitors, please sign our guest book and worship with us again soon!

Today, we welcome Stephen & Savannah Elkins & Pam Weigum to the family of Concordia. Having been instructed in the Six Chief Parts of Christian doctrine, they today confess their faith in Christ Jesus and their desire to be a member of this Church.



“Whosoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven (Matthew 10:32).”

Today’s Sunday School lesson is the foretelling of the birth of John the Baptist. The children learn that God in His mercy promised to send John to prepare sinful people for the coming of the Lord. In His Word, God calls us (sinful people) to repentance, declaring us righteous because of His Son, Jesus. In your family discussions, ask the children to retell the story they learned. Talk about times when you have doubted God’s Word and how because of Jesus, God forgives our doubts, granting us faith to believe through the power of the Holy Spirit.

“**Walther**”: Please join us for Bible class as we continue watching the film “Walther,” the story of Dr. C.F.W. Walther. October 25th marked the 200th anniversary of the birth of Dr. Walther, one of the founders of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and her first president.

Children’s Christmas Program: Practice for the Christmas program begins this morning, December 4th, 10:30-11:45 am.

LWML Family Advent Potluck is today at 12:00 pm. Everyone is invited!

“**God Loves Me Dearly**”: The theme of our mid-week Advent services will come from the well-loved children’s Christmas hymn “God Loves Me Dearly.” Our mid-week services begin Wednesday, December 7th, 6:30 pm. Soup and sandwiches will be served by the LWML before worship, beginning at 5:30 pm.

St. Peter's LWML, Hannover has invited the ladies of Concordia to an Advent Luncheon on December 7th, 12:00 noon.

Adult Instruction: We are beginning a new instruction class. If you would like to become a communicant member of Concordia or learn more about the Christian faith, please talk to Pastor Heller for more information.



Christmas Basket Silent Auction: The gift baskets are on display in the social hall. This is a fundraiser for our LYF and will make wonderful Christmas gifts. Bidding will continue until December 18th.

Coffee Servers: Any ladies in the congregation willing to serve coffee after worship services in 2012, please contact Mary Jo Larson.

Christmas Caroling: LYF members, please meet at the Church at 4:00 pm on Sunday, December 18th to go Christmas caroling. Please bring a snack to share after caroling. We are in need of adult singers and drivers as our LYF members are young.

LYF will serve as greeters for the month of December. Please contact Steve or Nona Blaisdell if you can greet Sunday mornings or for the Wednesday Advent services.

Marine Toys For Tots: Toys are being collected for the Marine Toys For Tots. Please place all toys on the table in the social hall. There is also a basket for cash donations, which are also accepted. Please note that all toys must be new and unwrapped. More information can be found at www.toysfortots.org.



Thank you to all who helped decorate the Church for Christmas!

LYF Christmas Decoration Drive: Thanks to all who donated Christmas decoration for the Minot flood victims. A huge pickup load was delivered to Our Saviors Lutheran Church, Minot on Tuesday. Pastor Paul Krueger will make contact to those in need and have them come to the church to pick out what they need for their homes or churches. At this time we don't know how many families or churches will benefit from this project but we hope it helps.

This Week at Concordia +

Sunday	8:30 am	Divine Service
	9:30 am	Bible Class/Sunday School
	10:30-11:45 am	Program Practice
	<i>11:00 am</i>	<i>Worship @ Glen Ullin</i>
	12:00 pm	Family Advent Potluck
Monday	10:00 am	Circuit Pastors @ Bismarck
Tuesday	11:00 am	Adult Instruction
	2:00 pm	Bible Class
Wednesday	5:30 pm	Soup/Sandwiches - LWML
	6:30 pm	Advent Service
	7:15 pm	Chime Practice
	7:45 pm	Bell Practice
Thursday	6:30 pm	<i>Advent Service @ Glen Ullin</i>
Sunday	8:30 am	Divine Service
	9:30 am	Bible Class/Sunday School
	10:30-11:45 am	Program Practice
	<i>11:00 am</i>	<i>Worship @ Glen Ullin</i>

Church Office Hours
 Monday - Friday 8:30 AM—12:30 PM
 Church: 873-4388 Parsonage: 873-4223
 revheller@westriv.com
 concordiasecretary@westriv.com
 Website: www.concordiabeulah.org

*Please use a pew card to record your Church and/or
 Communion attendance this morning.*