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Concordia Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

801 Beacon Lane

Beulah, North Dakota

Rev. Toby H. Heller, Pastor

December 15, 2013



*"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you."*

Matthew 11:10b

Divine Service

Setting Three

Hymn of Invocation

346

Confession & Absolution

p. 184

Introit

Rejoice in the Lord always;

again I will say, Rejoice.

I will hope continually

and will praise you yet more and more.

My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day,

for their number is past my knowledge.

With the mighty deeds of the Lord God I will come;

I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.

O God, from my youth you have taught me,

and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.

So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,

until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

Rejoice in the Lord always;

again I will say, Rejoice.

Gloria Patri

p. 186

Kyrie

p. 186

Gloria In Excelsis *is omitted during Advent*

Salutation & Collect

p. 189

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10 (ESV)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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: James 5:7-11 (ESV)

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

“Alleluia”

p. 190

Holy Gospel: St. Matthew 11:2-15 (ESV)

Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by His disciples and said to Him, "Are You the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And Jesus answered them, "*Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by Me.*"

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "*What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, " 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face who will prepare your way before you.'*"

Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Apostles' Creed	p. 192
Hymn of the Day	# 345
Sermon	No lions!
Offertory	p. 192
Offering	
Prayer of the Church	
Service of the Sacrament	p. 194
Distribution Hymns	# 636, 818
Nunc Dimittis	p. 199
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Benedicamus and Benediction	p. 201
Closing Hymn	# 349

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.

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!

Our Wednesday Advent Services continue this Wednesday, December 18th, 6:30 p.m. Our Wednesday Advent services will be based upon Psalm 97. Soup and sandwiches will be served by the Elders and LYF beginning at 5:30 p.m.



Christmas Cards are for sale in the social hall.

Children's Christmas Program practice continues after worship this morning. There will be Sunday School on Sunday mornings for the children not in the Program. The Children's Program will be on Christmas Eve, 4:30 p.m.



LYF Gift Basket Auction ends today. Baskets will be awarded following worship. They can be paid for and taken at that time. A big "THANK YOU" to all who donated or purchased a basket. We greatly appreciate your support!



Church Cancellation: In the event that worship services or other activities need to be canceled, especially because of weather, please check the church's website, www.concordiabeulah.org. We will also send out an email notification when worship is cancelled for those members who have provided the church office with an email address. You should also be able to call the church, 873-4388, for information on cancellations.

Children's Shopping Spree is Saturday, December 21st, 9:30 am-12:00 pm. Volunteers are needed to assist with



shopping, wrapping of gifts and to help serve and clean up after the noon meal. Donations of wrapping supplies are appreciated. Please leave any donations on the table in the social hall. Please sign up on the form in the social

hall if you are willing to help. If you have any questions, please talk to Ray Sorge, 873-7682.

Christmas Caroling: Anyone interested in going Christmas caroling please meet at the Church by 4:00 pm on Sunday, December 22nd.

Poinsettias for the altar were purchased from Bloom'n



House. Any one may still bring plants or contribute to the purchase of those already here. If you bring a plant please mark it with your name so you can take it after the holidays. You may also do it as a memorial or in honor of some one. Contact Vicky Yeager, 873-5647.

In our thoughts and prayers,

† Dorothy Mohl (Cheryl Mittelsteadt's mother).



Stewardship of Offerings & Attendance

Attendance: 113 Offerings: \$2,639.00

"This is he of whom it is written, " Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you." John prepared the way for Jesus by preaching repentance. Then, when Jesus' ministry was complete and He was raised from the dead, He sent out his disciples to preach "repentance and the forgiveness of sins." We never outgrow the need for repentance – for examining our lives, turning away from our pet sins, and turning toward Jesus in faith to receive his forgiveness and strength for a renewed life of godliness.

† This Week at Concordia †

Sunday	8:30 am	Divine Service
	9:30 am	Program Practice/Sunday School/Bible Class
	11:00 am	<i>Worship @ Glen Ullin</i>
Tuesday	2:00 pm	Bible Class
Wednesday	3:30 pm	1 st -year Catechism
	4:30 pm	2 nd -year Catechism
	5:30 pm	Soup/Sandwiches-Elders & LYF
	6:30 pm	Advent Service
	7:15 pm	Handchime Practice
	7:45 pm	Bell Practice
Thursday	7:00 pm	<i>Advent Service @ Glen Ullin</i>
Saturday	9:30-12:00	Children's Shopping Spree
Sunday	8:30 am	Divine Service
	9:30 am	Program Practice/Sunday School/Bible Class
	4:00 pm	Christmas Caroling
	7:00 pm	<i>Christmas Program @ Glen Ullin</i>

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Church: 873-4388 Parsonage: 873-4223

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Website: www.concordiabeulah.org

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