

# Concordia Lutheran Church

*The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

801 Beacon Lane

Beulah, North Dakota

Rev. Toby H. Heller, Pastor

December 10, 2023

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent



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

*[Luke 3:4b, 6]*

✠ **In the Name of Jesus** ✠

**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 Jesus for forgiveness. Our sin was the reason Jesus was conceived, born, suffered, was 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 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.

**DIVINE SERVICE**

**Setting Three**

**Hymn of Invocation**

# 343

**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.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Restore us, O God of hosts;

**let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

**Kyrie**

p. 186

**Gloria In Excelsis:** *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

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**

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.

Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace

**"Alleluia"**

p. 190

### **Holy Gospel: St. Mark 1:1-8**

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."

<b>Nicene Creed</b>	p. 191	<b>Service of the Sacrament</b>	p. 194
<b>Hymn of the Day</b>	# 344	<b>Distribution Hymns:</b>	# 352 (st. 1-4), 364, 367
<b>Sermon:</b>	Double for All Your Sins	<b>Nunc Dimittis</b>	p. 199
<b>Offering</b>		<b>Thanksgiving</b>	p. 200
<b>Offertory</b>	p. 192	<b>Benedicamus and Benediction</b>	p. 201
<b>Prayer of the Church</b>		<b>Closing Hymn</b>	# 347

**WE GO FROM THIS PLACE OF WORSHIP WHERE WE ARE ABOUT  
EQUIPPING DISCIPLES TO MAKE DISCIPLES FOR JESUS**



### **Our Stewardship of Offerings and Attendance**

Worship: 125      Offerings: 9,085.41

*"Since all these things are thus to be dissolved,  
what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness?"*

2 Peter 3:11

All the things of the earth have an expiration date: "Good until the last day." On that day, all these things will be dissolved. The things that seem so important now will simply cease to be. Peter issues this to us as a challenge: Since this is so, what kind of life should we be living? What should your priorities be? On things? Or on the things of God?

#### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

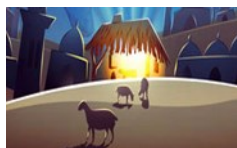


**Thank You** to all who decorated the Church for Christmas.



Peace Came to Earth is the theme of our mid-week Advent Services. Please join us as we continue our mid-week Advent worship this Wednesday, December 13, 6:30 pm. Soup and Sandwich suppers are at 5:30 pm.

**Board of Lay Ministry**, we will meet Wednesday, the 13<sup>th</sup>, following the Advent worship service.



**“Manger Tales”**, the Children’s Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 24, 10:00 am. Practice continues this morning during the Sunday school hour. Our last practice will be December 17. If you have any questions, please call or text Katlyn Baker at 701-870-2110.

**The 2024 offering envelopes** are in your mailboxes this morning. Please take them home and begin using on January 1, 2024.

**Ingathering:** The December Human Care ingathering is “In Need”. Anything you wish to donate. Items will be delivered to Women’s Action & Resource Center before Christmas.

**In our thoughts and prayers,**



† Hannah Schantz and Vivian Zimmerman (Kristi Stevens’ mother);  
† The family of Mercer County Deputy Paul Martin & the men and women of the Mercer County Sheriff’s Office.

† This Week at Concordia †

Sunday	8:00 am	<i>Worship @ Glen Ullin</i>
	9:15 am	Christmas Program Practice
	10:00 am	Divine Service
	11:00 am	Bible Class
Tuesday	10:15 am	Holy Communion @ Knife River Care Center
Wednesday	4:00 pm	Catechism
	5:30 pm	Soup & Sandwiches
	6:30 pm	Advent Service
		Board of Lay Ministry
Sunday	9:15 am	Christmas Program Practice
	10:00 am	Divine Service
	11:00 am	Bible Class
	7:00 PM	<i>Christmas Program @ Glen Ullin</i>



2ND SUNDAY OF *Advent*