

Concordia Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

801 Beacon Lane

Beulah, North Dakota

Rev. Toby H. Heller, Pastor

December 17, 2023

3rd Sunday in Advent



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

Matthew 11:10b

✠ **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

346

Confession & Absolution

p. 184

Introit

Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,

and grant us your salvation.

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,

for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;

but let them not turn back to folly.

Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,

that glory may dwell in our land.

Yes, the Lord will give what is good,

and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before him

and make his footsteps a way.

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.

Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,

and grant us your salvation.

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: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to

proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.

They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the Lord has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

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: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

“Alleluia”

p. 190

Holy Gospel: St. John 1:6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even He who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Nicene Creed	p. 191	Service of the Sacrament	p. 194
Hymn of the Day	# 345	Distribution Hymns: # 818, 380, 361	
Sermon: Bearing Witness About the Light		Nunc Dimittis	p. 199
Offering		Thanksgiving	p. 200
Offertory	p. 192	Benedicamus and Benediction	p. 201
Prayer of the Church		Closing Hymn	# 349

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

The word "Stewardship" is written in a stylized, 3D font. The letters are blue and white with a gradient effect, giving it a three-dimensional appearance. The letters are slightly shadowed and appear to be floating or attached to a surface.

Our Stewardship of Offerings and Attendance
Worship: 97 Offerings: \$2,380.71

*"Give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Christians express their thanks to God in many ways: in prayer, in giving to the Lord's work, in acts of service to others, in faithful living in their daily callings. Everything we do to honor God in our lives is a means of returning thanks for the Lord's many gifts to us.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service

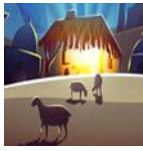
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Announcements



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 20, 6:30 pm. Soup and Sandwich suppers are at 5:30 pm.



“Manger Tales”: Please join us for our Children’s Christmas Program next Sunday, December 24, 10:00 am. Everyone is welcome to join us for a Muffin & Donut Social after the program. Practice for the children’s program will continue after worship this morning.



Offering
Envelopes

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);

† Fern Schlender & family, on the death of her sister-in-law, Carol Boeckel.

† This Week at Concordia †

Sunday	9:15 am	Christmas Program Practice
	10:00 am	Divine Service
	11:00 am	Christmas Program Practice
	7:00 PM	<i>Christmas Program @ Glen Ullin</i>
Wednesday	4:00 pm	Catechism
	5:30 pm	Soup & Sandwiches
	6:30 pm	Advent Service
Sunday	Christmas Eve	
	8:00 am	<i>Worship @ Glen Ullin</i>
	10:00 am	Children’s Christmas Program
	5:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion