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# Concordia Lutheran Church

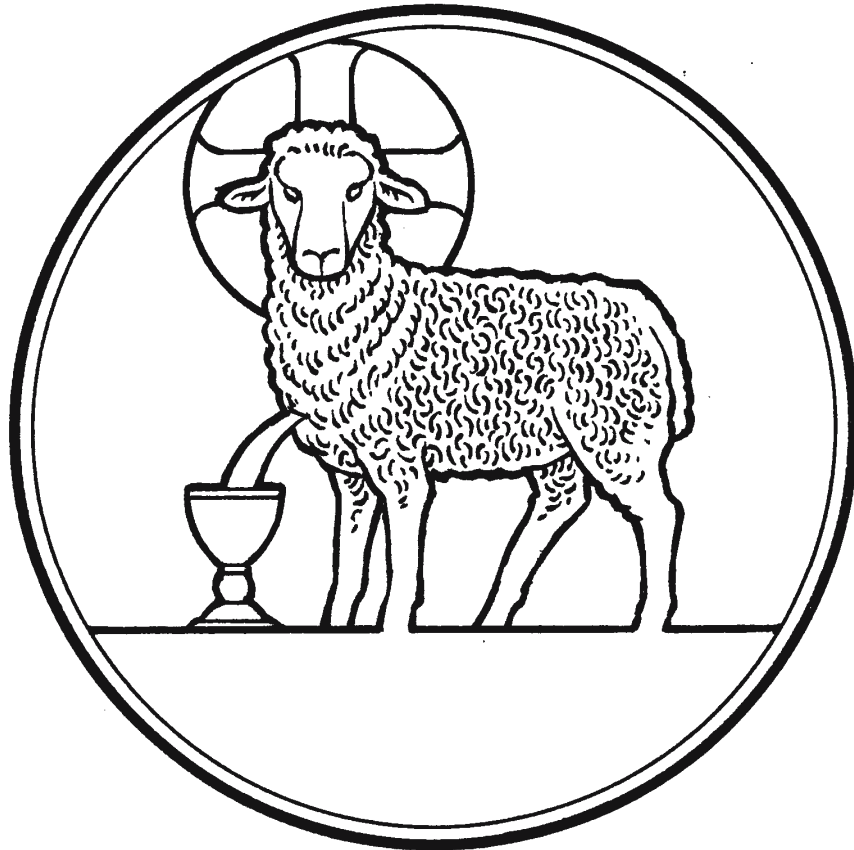
*The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod*

801 Beacon Lane

Beulah, North Dakota

Rev. Toby H. Heller, Pastor

December 11, 2011



*"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**                      # 345

**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.**  
Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,  
    **and grant us your salvation.**

**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:** Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (ESV)

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 (ESV)

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 (ESV)

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.

<b>Nicene Creed</b>	p. 191
<b>Hymn of the Day</b>	# 346
<b>Sermon</b>	"He came to bear witness about the Light"
<b>Offertory</b>	p. 192
<b>Offering</b>	
<b>Prayer of the Church</b>	
<b>Service of the Sacrament</b>	p. 194
<b>Distribution Hymns</b>	# 386, 636
<b>Nunc Dimittis</b>	p. 199
<b>Thanksgiving</b>	p. 200
<b>Benedicamus and Benediction</b>	p. 201
<b>Closing Hymn</b>	# 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.

**In our thoughts and prayers,**

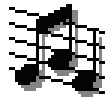
† Loretta Bankson (sister of Marlene Schriefer) & Betty Hausauer;  
† Rev. Kevin Johnson, as he considers the call to St. Matthew, Hazen.

**Our Stewardship of Worship and Attendance**

Worship: 112    Offering: \$2,553.25

Watch and wait with joyful expectation! Our God of peace will be with us and keep us safe and blameless in body, soul and spirit as we wait for our Lord's glorious coming again to rescue His people—His stewards—from all the pain and tears that come with living in this fallen world. Live today as if our Lord is coming again tonight or tomorrow.

**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!



**Special Music:** The Handbell Choir will ring “What child is This” during the offering.

**Today in Sunday School** students study the story “An Angel visits Mary.” In the womb of Mary, Jesus, the Son of God, became a man so that we sinful people might become adopted children of God and share in the inheritance of heaven. Parents might ask, “*How does God make us His children? What do we inherit as God’s children?*”

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

**Bake Sale:** West River 4-H is having a bake sale this morning. Baked goods will be available for purchase before and after worship. Proceeds will go towards items for a soldier currently serving in Kosovo, Toys For Tots, and gifts for Knife River Care residents.

**“God Loves Me Dearly”:** Our mid-week services continue this Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm. The theme of our mid-week Advent service comes from the beloved children’s Christmas hymn “God Loves Me Dearly.” Soup and sandwiches will be served by the LYF and Elders before worship, beginning at 5:30 pm.

**Council Members,** we will meet Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm.



**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 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Christmas Caroling:** LYF members, please meet at the Church at 4:00 pm on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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. December 18<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for all donations. More information can be found at [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org).

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

**Church Cancellation:** In the event that worship services or other activities need to be cancelled, especially due to weather, please check the church's website, [www.concordiabeulah.org](http://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.

**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.

† This Week at Concordia †

Sunday	8:30 am	Divine Service
	9:30 am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	10:30-11:45	Children's Program Practice
	11:00 am	<i>Worship @ Glen Ullin</i>
Tuesday	10:15 am	KRCC Communion
	2:00 pm	Bible Class
Wednesday	5:30 pm	Soup/Sandwiches—LYF/Elders
	6:30 pm	Advent Service
	7:15 pm	Chime Practice
	7:30 pm	Council Meeting
	7:30 pm	Bell Practice
Thursday	6:30 pm	<i>Advent Service @ Glen Ullin</i>
Saturday	9:30—12:30	Children's Shopping Spree
Sunday	8:30 am	Divine Service
	9:30 am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	10:30-11:45	Children's Program Practice
	4:00 pm	LYF Christmas Caroling
	7:00 pm	<i>Children's Program @ 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.*