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Concordia Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

801 Beacon Lane

Beulah, North Dakota

Rev. Toby H. Heller, Pastor

December 9, 2012



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

DIVINE SERVICE Setting Three

Hymn of Invocation # 346

Confession & Absolution p. 184

Introit

The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”

Hear, O my people, while I admonish you!

O Israel, if you would but listen to me!

I am the Lord your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.

Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

But my people did not listen to my voice;

Israel would not submit to me.

Oh, that my people would listen to me,

that Israel would walk in my ways!

The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”

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: Malachi 3:1-7b (ESV)

"Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.

He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord.

Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

"Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

"For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.

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: Philippians 1:2-11 (ESV)

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Holy Gospel: St. Luke 3:1-20 (ESV)

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but He who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in His hand, to clear His threshing floor and to gather the wheat into His barn, but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire."

So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

Nicene Creed	p. 191
Hymn of the Day	# 344
Sermon	<i>“All the region around the Jordan”</i>
Offertory	p. 192
Offering	
Prayer of the Church	
Service of the Sacrament	p. 194
Distribution Hymns	# 345, 359, 632
Nunc Dimittis	p. 199
Thanksgiving	p. 200
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.

In our thoughts and prayers,

† Kevin Baszler;

† Our nursing home residents, that God would keep them under His gracious care.



Our Stewardship of Worship and Attendance


Worship: 119 Offering: \$3,436.00

“But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap.” We are weighed down with the cares of this life when we worry. And worry multiplies the more we covet, the more we desire what others have. But Jesus calls us to trust Him and to be content, which is the opposite of coveting. This is why God commands us to be generous in our stewardship; it teaches us to trust Him and to be content with what He has given us.

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!

The Intersection of Church & State: Please join us in Bible class this morning as we conclude our study of The Intersection of Church & State.

Christmas Program Practice for the Children's Christmas Program continues this morning from 9:30—11:00 am. The Children's Christmas Program will be at 8:30 am on Sunday, December 16th.

 **LWML Family Dinner** is today at 12:00 noon. Everyone is invited to join us!

Mid-week Advent Services: We continue looking at “The Miraculous Births of Advent” this Wednesday at 6:30 pm with the Birth of Samson. The Hand Chimes will be playing a “mini-concert” as part of our worship. Elders & LYF will be serving soup and sandwiches beginning at 5:30 pm.

The Children's Shopping Spree is Saturday, December 15th, 9:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to assist with shopping, wrapping 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. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the fellowship hall if you would be willing to help. If you have questions, please talk to Ray Sorge, 873-7682.



LYF Gift Basket Silent Auction: Gift baskets are on display in the social hall. Bidding will continue until Sunday, December 16th. Funds raised will go towards the LYF rooms renovations. If you have any questions, please talk to Vicky Yeager, 873-5647. These baskets will make great Christmas gifts!



Christmas Caroling: Anyone interested in going Christmas caroling please meet at the Church by 4:00 pm on Sunday, December 16th.



Donations for Poinsettias for the Altar will be accepted again this year. You may also purchase your own plant and have it at Church no later than Saturday, December 22nd. Please talk to Vicky Yeager if you have any questions.

The December calendar, birthday and anniversary sheet, Pray for Us calendar, October council minutes and children's devotional books are in the black stacking trays in the social hall. Please pick up any material you wish.

+ This Week at Concordia +

Today	8:30 am	Divine Service
	9:30 am	Bible Class
	9:30-11:00 am	Christmas Program Practice
	11:00 am	<i>Worship @ Glen Ullin</i>
	12:00 pm	LWML Family Advent Dinner
Monday	5:00 pm	Adult Instruction
Tuesday	10:15 am	KRCC Communion
	2:00 pm	Bible Class
Wednesday	4:30 pm	Catechism
	5:30 pm	Soup/Sandwiches—Elders & LYF
	6:30 pm	Advent Worship
	7:15 pm	Chime Practice
	7:45 pm	Bell Practice
Thursday	7:00 pm	<i>Advent Worship @ Glen Ullin</i>
Saturday	9:30-1:00 pm	Children's Shopping Spree
Sunday	8:30 am	Christmas Program
	4:00 pm	Christmas Caroling