

Concordia Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

801 Beacon Lane

Beulah, North Dakota

Rev. Toby H. Heller, Pastor

March 6, 2016

4th Sunday in Lent



*The father said to his servants, "This my son was dead,
and is alive again; he was lost, and is found."*

Luke 15:22a, 24a

Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

Gradual

O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

the founder and perfecter of our faith,

who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,

and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (ESV)

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

"Alleluia" *is omitted during Lent*

Holy Gospel: St. Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (ESV)

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them."

So He told them this parable: *"There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.*

"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.

I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.' " And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, *'Father, I have sinned against heaven and*

before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.' "

Nicene Creed p. 191

Hymn of the Day # 571

Sermon Reconciled!

Offertory p. 192

Offering

The Handbell Choir will ring "The Lamb" during the gathering of our morning offerings.

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament p. 194

Distribution Hymn # 423, 433, 636

Nunc Dimittis p. 199

Thanksgiving p. 200

Benedicamus and Benediction p. 201

Closing Hymn # 528

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,

† Our sick & recovering: Cami Hafner (wife of Wes Hafner), Donald Kuch (brother-in-law of Leeta Aanderud), Luella Langmack (sister of Walter Morast), Cheryl Marsh (daughter of Ardella Halter), & Avery Sukut (cousin of Amy Bieber);

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

† Our sister parishes in pastoral vacancy: Trinity, Rural Hazen, St. John, McClusky, & St. John, Underwood, and St. Peter, Belfield & St. Paul, Beach.

Welcome to worship in the season of Lent, the time of following Jesus to the cross. Lent teaches us that it was our sin which caused Jesus to suffer and die. As we confess our sin, our great comfort comes from the promise of our God, "Whenever we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Visitors, please sign our guest book and worship with us again soon!

Welcome, President Baneck. This morning, we welcome the president of the North Dakota District of the LCMS, Rev. Dr. James Baneck.

Please join us following worship for cookies/bars and coffee.



Christ, the Lamb of God: Our midweek worship continues this Wednesday, March 9th, 6:30 pm. "In Captivity, The Lamb" will be the focus of our worship. Please join us for soup and sandwiches at 5:30 pm.

Council Members, please remember our meeting this Wednesday, March 9th, 7:16 pm.

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 13th. Remember to set your clocks **ahead** one hour.

Bibles: The church has Bibles for sale. They are English Standard Version, large print, hardbound burgundy covers. The cost is \$15.00.

The March calendar, birthday and anniversary sheet, "My Devotions" booklets for the children, and the January council minutes are in the black stacking trays in the fellowship hall.

Our Stewardship of Offerings and Attendance

Worship: 110 Offerings: \$3,700.58

"And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them." This prodigal son only sees the father as a source of wealth: give me my inheritance now! Which is to say: you are better off dead in my eyes. This is the sin at the heart of all greed: valuing things over people. This parable calls us to "come to our senses" as well: to see God as the loving Giver of all good, the true Father to be valued above and beyond all the things of this world.

† This Week at Concordia †

Sunday	8:30 am	Divine Service
	9:30 am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	11:00 am	Worship @ Glen Ullin
Monday	10:00 am	Circuit Pastors @ Grassy Butte
Tuesday	10:15 am	Communion @ Knife River Care Center
Wednesday	4:30 pm	Catechism
	5:30 pm	Soup & sandwiches-Council
	6:30 pm	Lenten Service
	7:15 pm	Council Meeting
	7:15 pm	Chime Practice
	7:45 pm	Bell Practice
Thursday	7:00 pm	Lenten Service @ Glen Ullin
Sunday	8:30 am	Divine Service
	9:30 am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	11:00 am	Worship @ Glen Ullin