

Concordia Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

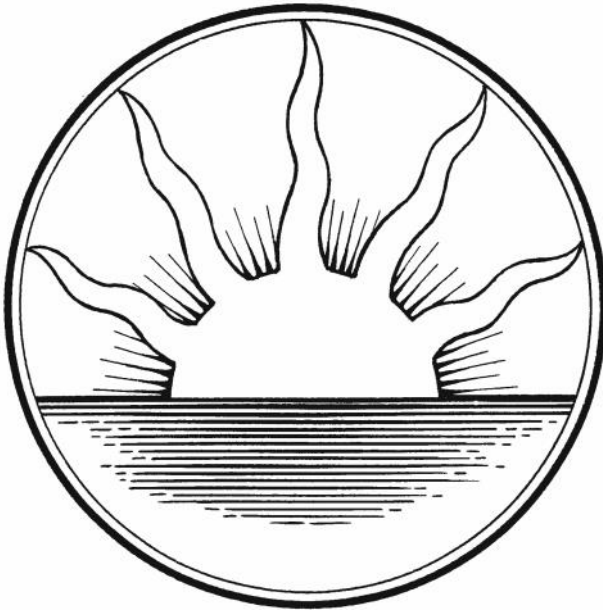
801 Beacon Lane

Beulah, North Dakota

Rev. Toby H. Heller, Pastor

December 3, 2017

1st Sunday in Advent



*Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up,
O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.*

[Psalm 24:7]

DIVINE SERVICE Setting Three

Hymn of Invocation # 334

Confession & Absolution p. 184

Introit

Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation.

To you, O Lord,
I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.

Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;
**they shall be ashamed who are wantonly
treacherous.**

Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation.

Gloria Patri p. 186

Kyrie p. 186

Gloria In Excelsis *is omitted during Advent*

Salutation & Collect p. 189

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament: Isaiah 64:1-9 (ESV)

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him.

You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways.

Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.

We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.

But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Be not so terribly angry, O Lord, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

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 Corinthians 1:3-9 (ESV)

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

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

“Alleluia”

p. 190

Holy Gospel: St. Mark 13:24-37 (ESV)

[Jesus says] "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in

the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then He will send out the angels and gather His elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that He is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. "But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning— lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake."

Nicene Creed	p. 191
Hymn of the Day	# 332
Sermon	You Are Ready
Offertory	p. 192

Offering

Handbells will ring "Away in a Manger" during the gathering of our morning offering.

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament	p. 194
Distribution Hymns	# 619, 789, 673
Nunc Dimittis	p. 199
Thanksgiving	p. 200
Benedicamus and Benediction	p. 201
Closing Hymn	# 348

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,

- † Donna Brewer (mother of Krystal Bornemann), Hope Schlender, Agnes Wiedrich, & Howard Winkler;
- † Carol Weigum & family, on the death of her daughter-in-law, Linda Weigum;
- † Alvin & Donna Weidner & family, on the death of Donna's brother, Bruce Wolf.

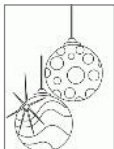
Our Stewardship of Offerings and Attendance

Worship: 107 Offerings: \$6,482.95

"God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." The faithfulness of God is our great comfort. He has made promises to us and He will keep them. He is kind and loving toward us and will not break faith with us. This gives us the confidence to step out in faith, to leave fear behind. So when it comes to following the Lord's commandments for our daily lives: we know His will is best for us because our God is faithful.

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!

Christmas Program Practice begins this morning during the Sunday School hour. Please let Anne Rosenow know if your child will be in the Christmas program. The Children's program will be Christmas Eve, 4:00 pm.



Christmas Decorating: Please join us following worship this morning to help decorate the Church for Christmas.

Congregational Advent Potluck: Everyone is invited to join us this morning! The LWML is providing ham and buns with a grant from Thrivent. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. There will be a free will offering for our seminary student, Josh Reber.



Advent: Our midweek Advent services will be centered on the Four *Solas* of the Reformation. Our midweek services begin on this Wednesday, December 6, 6:30 pm. Soup and sandwiches will be served by the LWML at 5:30 pm.

Concordia is providing the free Community Meal at Prince of Peace on Saturday, December 9th. If you would like to help prepare, serve or clean up, please contact Mary Jo Larson.

Christmas cards are on sale in the social hall. They are \$4.00 per box. Please give the money to Tina Heller. Checks should be made out to LWML.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the flower bed in front of the church this summer. Thank you for cleaning the flower beds, planting the flowers, and watering and weeding. The flowers were beautiful and we thank you for your help!



Greeters are needed for the month of December. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board.

Question: "Did God create evil?"

If a person is asked, "Does cold exist?" the answer would likely be "yes." However, this is incorrect. Cold does not exist. Cold is the absence of heat. Similarly, darkness does not exist; it is the absence of light. Evil is the absence of good, or better, evil is the absence of God. God did not have to create evil, but rather only allow for the absence of good.

God did not create evil, but He does allow evil. If God had not allowed for the possibility of evil, both mankind and angels would be serving God out of obligation, not choice. He did not want "robots" that simply did what He wanted them to do because of their "programming." God allowed for the possibility of evil so that we could genuinely have a free will and choose whether or not we wanted to serve him.

I thought that with all the violence that we are hearing about in the news that this article would be something to help us understand why this is happening.

Richard Simenson
Stewardship Chairman

† This Week at Concordia †

- Sunday 8:00 am *Worship @ Glen Ullin*
 10:00 am Divine Service
 *Mites Collection
 11:00 am Program Practice/Decorating
 11:45 am Congregational Advent Potluck
- Monday 10:00 am Circuit Pastors @ Grassy Butte
- Tuesday 2:00 pm Bible Class
- Wednesday 3:30 pm Catechism
 5:30 pm Soup & Sandwiches—LWML
 6:30 pm Advent Service
- Thursday 1:30 pm Naomi/Vesper Guild
- Saturday 11:00 - Concordia serving Community
 1:00 pm Meal at Prince of Peace
 1:00 - Girl Scouts
 4:00 pm
- Sunday 8:00 am *Worship @ Glen Ullin*
 10:00 am Divine Service
 11:00 am Program Practice/Bible Class

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8:00 AM—12:00 PM

Church: 873-4388 Parsonage: 873-4223

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*Please use a pew card to record your Church and/or
Communion attendance this morning.*