

# Concordia Lutheran Church

*The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

801 Beacon Lane

Beulah, North Dakota

Rev. Toby H. Heller, Pastor

December 16, 2018

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent



*"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**                # 349

**Holy Baptism**                        p. 268

**Introit**

Rejoice in the Lord always;  
**again I will say, Rejoice.**

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
**whose hope is in the Lord his God,**  
who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,  
**who keeps faith forever;**

who executes justice for the oppressed,  
**who gives food to the hungry.**

The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

**The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.**

Rejoice in the Lord always;  
**again I will say, Rejoice.**

**Gloria Patri**                            p. 186

**Kyrie**                                    p. 186

**Gloria In Excelsis:** *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:** Zephaniah 3:14-20 (ESV)

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.

The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the Lord.

## 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 4:4-7 (ESV)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

“Alleluia”

p. 190

## Holy Gospel: St. Luke 7:18-35 (ESV)

The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are You the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And when the men had come to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, 'Are You the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" In that hour He healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind He bestowed sight. And He answered them, "*Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by Me.*"

When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "*What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,*

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

I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." (When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.)

*"To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another,*

*"We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.'*

*For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look at Him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is justified by all her children."*

<b>Hymn of the Day</b>	# 345
<b>Sermon</b>	“Rejoice!”
<b>Offertory</b>	p. 192
<b>Offering</b>	<i>The handbell choir will ring “O Come, All Ye Faithful” during the gathering of our morning offerings.</i>
<b>Prayer of the Church</b>	
<b>Service of the Sacrament</b>	p. 194
<b>Distribution Hymns</b>	# 347, 368, 383
<b>Nunc Dimittis</b>	p. 199
<b>Thanksgiving</b>	p. 200
<b>Benedicamus and Benediction</b>	p. 201
<b>Closing Hymn</b>	# 375

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,**  
† Hollyn, baptized today.



### **Stewardship of Offerings & Attendance**

Attendance: 126 Offerings: \$5,698.50

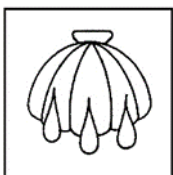
*“The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made know to God.”*

(Philippians 4:5-6)

Wouldn't you like to be free from worry and anxiety? Isn't it worry and anxiety that often keep us from living the generous life God has called us to? St. Paul contrasts anxiety with prayer, supplication, and thanksgiving in making our requests known to God. In other words, when you are tempted to anxiety and worry: pray to the Lord with a thankful heart and pour out your supplications before Him.

**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!

**At the Font:** We rejoice that Hollyn Elizabeth Baker, the daughter of Robert & Katlyn Baker, is born again for all eternity in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. In obedience to Christ's most gracious promise, Hollyn is baptized so that, by the power of the Holy Spirit in the water and the Word, her sins are forgiven, she is delivered from death and the devil, and given the gift of eternal life. "[God] has saved us through the washing of rebirth and the renewal by the Holy Spirit" (Titus 3:5).



**Advent:** Our midweek Advent services continue this Wednesday, December 19, 6:30 pm. This week, our worship will focus on Micah 5:2-5a. Work group #3 will be preparing the meal, which begins at 5:30 pm.



**The Children's Christmas Program** will be next Sunday, December 23, 10:00 am.

**Christmas Cards** are for sale in the social hall. They are \$4 per box. Please make checks payable to LWML and give the money to Tina Heller.



**Poinsettias:** You are welcome to bring poinsettias for the altar any time. Please put your name on them, if you would like to take them home after the holidays.

**Donations** of anything you want will be collected for Women's Action & Resource Center. Items may include personal care items, Macaroni & Cheese, cereal, etc.



**2019 contribution envelopes** are in your mailbox this morning. Please throw away all old envelopes and begin using these in January.

**The Greeters List** for 2019 is posted on the bulletin board. Please choose a month you would like to be greeters. Thank you.

† **This Week at Concordia** †

Sunday      8:00 am      *Worship @ Glen Ullin*  
                 10:00 am      Divine Service  
                 11:00 pm      Program Practice

Wednesday 4:00 pm      Catechism  
                 5:30 pm      Meal – Work Group #3  
                 6:30 pm      Advent Service

Sunday      10:00 am      Children's Christmas Program  
                 7:00 pm      *Christmas Program @ Glen Ullin*

**Church Office Hours**  
Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Church: 873-4388    Parsonage: 873-4223  
revheller@westriv.com  
concordiasecretary@westriv.com

The 2019 Offering Envelopes are in your mailbox

