

Concordia Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

801 Beacon Lane

Beulah, North Dakota

Rev. Toby H. Heller, Pastor

December 15, 2024

3rd Sunday in Advent



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

Matthew 11:10b

✠ In the Name of Jesus ✠

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!

DIVINE SERVICE **Setting Three**

Hymn of Invocation # 347

Confession & Absolution p. 184

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.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the
beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

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

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: Zephaniah 3:14-20

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

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

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."

Nicene Creed	p. 191	Service of the Sacrament	p. 194
Hymn of the Day	# 345	Distribution Hymns	# 349, 392, 386
Sermon: Reason to Rejoice		Nunc Dimittis	p. 199
Offering		Thanksgiving	p. 200
Offertory	p. 192	Benedicamus and Benediction	p. 201
Prayer of the Church		Closing Hymn	# 367

**WE GO FROM THIS PLACE OF WORSHIP WHERE WE ARE ABOUT
EQUIPPING DISCIPLES TO MAKE DISCIPLES FOR JESUS**

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.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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Announcements

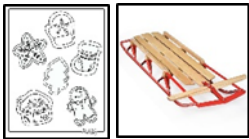


Christmas Program: Join us next Sunday, 10:00 AM, for our Children's Christmas Program, as we hear with great joy of our Savior's birth in the children's verses and songs.

Midweek Advent Services: Our Midweek Advent continue this Wednesday, December 18th, 6:30 PM. "Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem (Zeph. 3:14b)" is the theme of our worship. Please join us for soup and sandwiches at 5:30 pm.

Giveaway: The Church has several older tables that are free for the taking. As well, there is an artificial Christmas tree available if you would like it. Please talk to Kevin Herrmann for more information.

LYF Christmas Cookie Party: Join us for Christmas cookie decorating and sledding Sunday, December 22nd, 2:00 PM. Please bring something to decorate cookies with and a sled. Hot chocolate and snacks will be provided. We will also watch a movie to put us in the Christmas spirit!



Ingathering: The December Human Care ingathering is "In Need". Anything you wish to donate. Items will be delivered to Women's Action & Resource Center before Christmas.

Greeters are needed for the month of December.

The **2025** Offering Envelopes are in your mailboxes.

Thank you, Marlene Schriefer and Mary Jo Larson for serving coffee in November and also Marlene Schriefer and Carla Renner for bringing the goodies.

✝ This Week at Concordia ✝

Sunday	9:15 am	Christmas Program Practice
	10:00 am	Divine Service
	11:00 am	Bible Class
	7:00 pm	Christmas Program @ Glen Ullin
Tuesday	1:30 pm	Bible Class
Wednesday	4:00 pm	Catechism
	5:30 pm	Soup & Sandwiches-Group 3
	6:30 pm	Advent Service
	7:15 pm	Board of Lay Ministry Meeting
Thursday	2:30 pm	Pastor @ Marian Manor, Glen Ullin
Sunday	8:00 am	Divine Service @ Glen Ullin
	10:00 am	Children's Christmas Program