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Concordia Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

801 Beacon Lane

Beulah, North Dakota

Rev. Toby H. Heller, Pastor

December 12, 2010



*"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 # 345

Confession & Absolution p. 184

Introit

Rejoice in the Lord always;

again I will say, Rejoice.

I will hope continually

and will praise you yet more and more.

My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day,

for their number is past my knowledge.

With the mighty deeds of the Lord God I will come;

I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.

O God, from my youth you have taught me,

and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.

So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,

until I proclaim your might to another generation,

your power to all those to come.

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 Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10 (ESV)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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: James 5:7-11 (ESV)

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

“Alleluia”

p. 190

Holy Gospel: St. Matthew 11:2-15 (ESV)

Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by His disciples and said to Him, "Are You the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And Jesus answered them, "*Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by Me.*"

As they went away, 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 wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. 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.'*"

Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Hymn of the Day

346

Sermon

“Rejoice!”

Offertory

p. 192

Offering

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament	p. 194
Distribution Hymns	# 636, 818
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,

† Our sick and recovering: Marilyn Helm, Leon Korbyn, Art Mueller (Leeta Aanderud's father), & Carolyn Riegel;

† Mandy Kaseman and Sean Senske, united in holy marriage.



Our Stewardship of Offerings and Attendance

Worship: 153 Offerings: \$3,987.25

Mature Christian stewards practice patience like that of a faithful farmer who waits for the Lord's rains to bless the seeds that have been planted. Like patient farmers we Christian stewards are at our best when we sow seeds of kindness and mercy and pray for the Lord's blessings upon them.

Welcome to worship on Gaudete Sunday. “Gaudete” means “rejoice.” This Sunday receives its name from our Introit, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.” In the somber and repentant mood of Advent, we rejoice this day in the good news that our Savior Christ is coming to bring us comfort and hope through the forgiveness of sins. The pink candle burning on our Advent wreath reminds us that God always turns our sorrow to joy. Visitors, please sign our guest book and worship with us again soon!



Special Music: The Handchimes will ring “O Come, all ye Faithful” during the offering.

Today in Sunday School the children study the story of John’s birth. Zechariah spoke God’s Word announcing that this baby, John, would give people knowledge of salvation in the forgiveness of sins. God speaks through His Holy Word to give us knowledge of salvation and forgiveness through Jesus, His Son. In your family discussions, talk about how sin causes us to doubt and fear, but God’s Word gives us reassurance. And just as Gold provided John back then to preach forgiveness and the message of Christ Jesus, the Savior, He provides us today with faithful preachers to point us to the Savior from sin, death, and the devil.

The Challenge of Islam: Please join us after worship for Bible class as we continue with Defending the Christian Faith.

Thrivent Members: Please stop by the education room off the fellowship hall to vote for the Mercer-Oliver County Thrivent Chapter Board today following worship today.

The Children Christmas Program is Christmas Eve, 6:30 p.m. Practice continues today from 10 — 11 a.m. If you have questions, please talk to Tiffany Weigum.



You are invited to the Handbell & Chime Concert today, December 12th, 3:00 p.m. Advent Potluck will follow at 4:30 p.m. Please join us!

Our Wednesday Advent Services continue this Wednesday, December 15th, 6:30 p.m. The theme of our worship is “Hope is not a pious sounding wish, but a certainty,” James 5:7-10. Soup and Sandwiches will be served by the Council at 5:30 p.m.

Council members, please remember our meeting Wednesday, December 15th, following Advent services.

The Children's Shopping Spree is Saturday, December 18th, 9:30 a.m. —



12:30 p.m. Volunteers are needed to assist with the shopping, wrapping gifts and to help serve and clean up after the noon meal. Donations of wrapping supplies are appreciated. Leave any donations on the table in the fellowship hall. A sign-up form is on the table in the fellowship hall. If you have any questions, please talk to

Ray Sorge, 873-7682.

Christmas Basket Silent Auction continues until December 19th. This is a great fundraiser for the LYF. Baskets are on display in the fellowship hall. Its not too late to bring a basket.



Concordia Youth Christmas Caroling is scheduled for Wednesday, December 22nd. Please meet at the church at 5:00 p.m. More voices are always needed! If you would like us to carol at your house and we have not been there in the past, please let Steve or Nona Blaisdell know. Food and beverages will be served following caroling at the Church. Join us for a wonderful night of Christmas Spirit!

Greeters are needed for 2011. Please use the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board to select the month you prefer. Thank you.

Theological Conference: Would you like to meet the newly elected Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod president? Would you like to hear about his vision for the Church as he talks about **Witness, Mercy, and Life Together**? Rev. Matthew Harrison will talk about how we, The Church, can boldly witness the Faith in this post-Christian culture, how the local congregation can show mercy to those outside her walls and what the Church looks like in our “Life Together” as congregation, circuit, district and synod. If this sounds interesting, please go to www.regonline.com/911837 to register for this January 13-14 Joint North Theological Conference in Fargo, ND.

† This Week at Concordia †

Sunday	8:30 am	Divine Service
	9:30 am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	10-11:00 am	Program Practice
	<i>11:00 am</i>	<i>Worship @ Glen Ullin</i>
	1:00 pm	Bell & Chime Rehearsal
	3:00 pm	Bell & Chime Concert
	4:30 pm	Advent Potluck
Tuesday	10:15 am	Communion @ KRCC
	2:00 pm	Bible Class
Wednesday	4:30 pm	Catechism
	5:30 pm	Soup/Sandwiches—Council
	6:30 pm	Advent Worship
	7:15 pm	Council Meeting
	7:15 pm	Bell Practice
Thursday	7:00 pm	<i>Advent Worship @ Glen Ullin</i>
Saturday	9:30-12:30 pm	Children's Shopping Spree
Sunday	8:30 am	Divine Service
	9:30 am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	10-11:00 am	Program Practice
	<i>7:00 pm</i>	<i>Christmas Program @ Glen Ullin</i>

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8:30 AM—12:30 PM

Church: 873-4388 Parsonage: 873-4223

revheller@westriv.com

concordiasecretary@westriv.com

Website: www.concordiabeulah.org