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# Concordia Lutheran Church

*The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

801 Beacon Lane

Beulah, North Dakota

Rev. Toby H. Heller, Pastor

December 8, 2013



*Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight;  
all flesh shall see the salvation of God.*

*Luke 3:4b, 6*

**Divine Service**                      Setting Three

**Hymn of Invocation**              # 342

**Confession & Absolution**      p. 184

### **Introit**

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;  
    **make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

Seek the Lord and his strength;  
    **seek his presence continually!**

Remember the wondrous works that he has done,  
    **his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,**

O offspring of Abraham, his servant,  
    **children of Jacob, his chosen ones!**

He is the Lord our God;  
    **his judgments are in all the earth.**

He remembers his covenant forever,  
    **the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.**

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;  
    **make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

**Gloria Patri**                      p. 186

**Kyrie**                              p. 186

**Gloria In Excelsis** *is omitted during Advent*

**Salutation & Collect**              p. 189

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Old Testament Reading:** Isaiah 11:1-10 (ESV)

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and

understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

## **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:** Romans 15:4-13 (ESV)

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him."

And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

**"Alleluia"**

p. 190

### **Holy Gospel: St. Matthew 3:1-12 (ESV)**

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight."

Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will clear His threshing floor and gather His wheat into the barn, but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire."

**Nicene Creed**

p. 191

**Hymn of the Day**

# 344

<b>Sermon</b>	Playing with Snakes
<b>Offertory</b>	p. 192
<b>Offering</b>	
<b>Prayer of the Church</b>	
<b>Service of the Sacrament</b>	p. 194
<b>Distribution Hymns</b>	# 347, 619, 632
<b>Nunc Dimittis</b>	p. 199
<b>Thanksgiving</b>	p. 200
<b>Benedicamus and Benediction</b>	p. 201
<b>Closing Hymn</b>	# 359

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,**

- † Kyle Miller (Nona Blaisdell's brother);
- † Our nursing home residents, that God would keep them under His gracious care;
- † The family of Lenora Hafner, as they mourn her death.



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

Attendance: 127 Offerings: \$3,405.00

"In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." John prepared the way for Jesus by preaching repentance. Then, when Jesus' ministry was complete and He was raised from the dead, He sent out his disciples to preach repentance and the forgiveness of sins." We never outgrow the need for repentance – for examining our lives, turning away from our pet sins, and turning toward Jesus in faith to receive his forgiveness and strength for a renewed life of godliness.

**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!

**Lost Books?:** Please join us after worship as we continue our “Lost Books?” Bible study.

**Our Wednesday Advent Services** continue this Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. Our Wednesday Advent services will be based upon Psalm 97. Soup and sandwiches will be served by the Council beginning at 5:30 p.m.



**Christmas Cards** are for sale in the social hall.

**Children’s Christmas Program:** Practice begins this morning after worship and continues December 15 & 22. Parents, please let Anne Rosenow know if your child(ren) will be in the program. There will be Sunday School on Sunday mornings for the children not in the Program. The Children’s Program will be on Christmas Eve, 4:30 p.m.



**LYF Gift Basket Silent Auction:** Gift baskets are on display in the social hall. Bidding has begun and will continue until Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. This fundraiser helps support our activities at the Church and outside of the Church. It also helps defray the cost of those wanting to attend camps or LYF District or National events. Anyone can bring a basket of items to be put up for auction. There are empty baskets at the Church if you need one. Please call Vicky Yeager, 873-5647 if you have questions.



**The December calendar,** birthday and anniversary sheet, Pray for Us calendar, October council minutes and children’s devotional books are in the black stacking trays in the social hall.

**Church Cancellation:** In the event that worship services or other activities need to be canceled, especially because of weather, please check the church's website, [www.concordiabeulah.org](http://www.concordiabeulah.org). We will also send out an email notification when worship is cancelled for those members who have provided the church office with an email address. You should also be able to call the church, 873-4388, for information on cancellations.

**Christmas in Song:** The Knife River Chorale will be Saturday, December 14, 7:30 pm and Sunday, December 15, 3:00 pm, at the Hazen High School Auditorium.

**The Children's Shopping Spree** is Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm. Volunteers are needed to assist with shopping, wrapping of gifts and to help serve and clean up after the noon meal.



Donations of wrapping supplies are appreciated. Please leave any donations on the table in the social hall. Please sign up on the form in the fellowship hall if you are willing to help. If you have any questions, please talk to Ray Sorge, 873-7682.

**Christmas Caroling:** Anyone interested in going Christmas caroling please meet at the Church by 4:00 pm on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**It has so pleased God** in His wise grace to call from this vale of tears unto Himself in heaven the soul of our dear sister in the faith, Lenora Hafner. Christian Burial was this past Wednesday, December 4, 2013. *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish (John 10:27-28)."*

### **We are the North Dakota District...**

Did you know our collective offerings to District goes, in part, to fund a full-time Lutheran teacher and a part-time chaplain at All Faith's Chapel at the Grafton State Developmental Center? With these gifts of mercy, God's children there are fed with the Lord's Word, consoled in times of sickness and dying, counseling, and compassionate care. If you desire to give a gift of alms this Advent season, give it toward this much unnoticed, most appreciated ministry.

President Baneck

## † This Week at Concordia †

Sunday	8:30 am	Divine Service
	9:30 am	Program Practice/Sunday School/ Bible Class
	11:00 am	<i>Worship @ Glen Ullin</i>
Tuesday	10:15 am	Holy Communion @ KRCC
	6:45 pm	Chime & Bell Choir @ Zion, Beulah
Wednesday	3:30 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> -year Catechism
	4:30 pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> -year Catechism
	5:30 pm	Soup/Sandwiches-Council
	6:30 pm	Advent Service
	7:15 pm	Handchime Practice
	7:30 pm	Council Meeting
	7:45 pm	Bell Practice
Thursday	7:00 pm	<i>Advent Service @ Glen Ullin</i>
Sunday	8:30 am	Divine Service
	9:30 am	Program Practice/Sunday School/ Bible Class
	11:00 am	<i>Worship @ Glen Ullin</i>

### Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Church: 873-4388 Parsonage: 873-4223

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concordiasecretary@westriv.com

Website: [www.concordiabeulah.org](http://www.concordiabeulah.org)

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