

Concordia Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

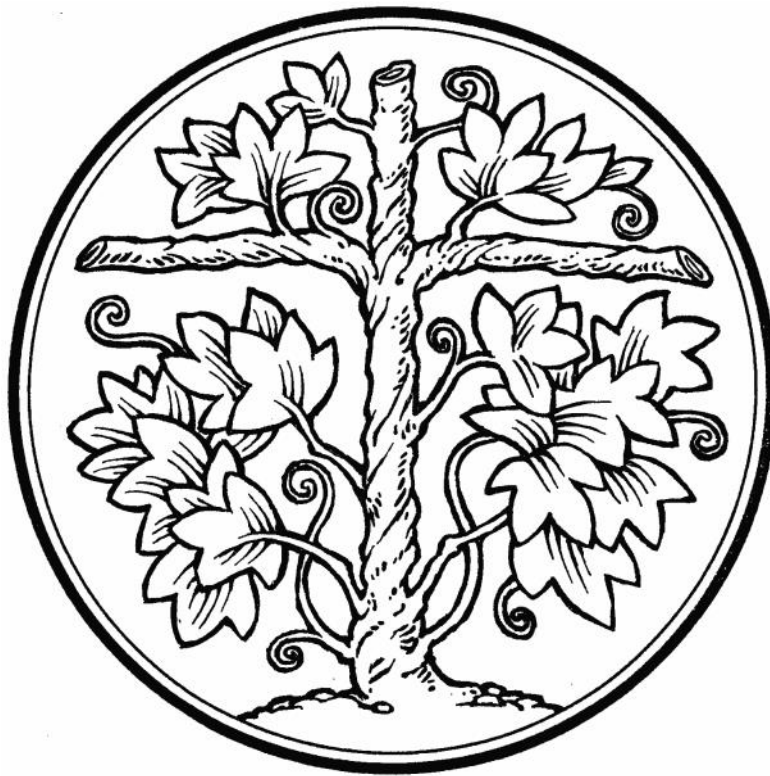
801 Beacon Lane

Beulah, North Dakota

Rev. Toby H. Heller, Pastor

May 3, 2015

5th Sunday of Easter



*We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;
death no longer has dominion over Him.
If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word,
and My Father will love him,
and We will come to him and make our home with him.*

Romans 6:9; John 14:23

DIVINE SERVICE Setting One

Hymn of Invocation # 594

Confession & Absolution p. 151

Introit

A little while, and you will see me no longer;
and again a little while, and you will see me.

I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.

Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.

The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
and all your saints shall bless you!

My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

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.

A little while, and you will see me no longer;
and again a little while, and you will see me.

Kyrie p. 152

This is the Feast p. 155

Salutation & Collect p. 156

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Lesson: Acts 8:26-40 (ESV)

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and

heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?"

And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Handchimes will ring "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" .

Epistle Reading: 1 John 4:1-11 (ESV)

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that

we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

“Alleluia” p. 156

Holy Gospel: St. John 15:1-8 (ESV)

[Jesus says] "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of Mine that does not bear fruit He takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples.

Nicene Creed p. 158

Hymn of the Day # 687

Sermon “*Apart From Me You Can Do Nothing*”

The Rite of Confirmation

Prayer of the Church

Offering

The Handbells will ring “The Old Rugged Cross” during the gathering of our morning offerings.

“What Shall I Render” p. 159

Service of the Sacrament p. 160

Distribution Hymns # 919, 865, 633

“Thank the Lord” p. 164

Post-Communion Collect p. 166

Benediction p. 166

Closing Hymn # 722

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 & recovering: Gayleen Briggs, Gene Heller (Pastor's Dad) Eileen Keller, Autumn Schaan, Lorraine Sturn (sister of Elsie Buchmann), Avery Sukut (cousin of Amy Bieber), & Lowell Zuther (brother of Clare Renner);

† For those confirmed today, that God would give them grace to keep the vows they make this day;

† Wade & Katie Kummer on the birth of a son, Wyatt Henry;

† For rain and favorable weather, that all agricultural endeavors may produce a bountiful harvest.



Stewardship of Offerings & Attendance

Attendance: 125 Offerings: \$2,588.26

“Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.” God is interested in the fruit that we bear in good works, and He even prunes us so that we may bring forth more fruit. Trusting in our Lord's work for us, being grafted by grace into His vine, we desire to be more like Him, to grow into His image. That's growth in fruit bearing... and it always comes with some pruning.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Welcome to worship in this season of Easter. As we celebrate the Easter resurrection of Christ, we remember that we have died to sin and been raised to a new life in Christ in the new birth of Holy Baptism. In our Gospel for today, Jesus teaches us that He is the Vine and we are the branches, “Abide in Me, and I in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me (John 15:4).” Visitors, please sign our guest book and worship with us again soon!

To instruct our children and make them firm in the Christian faith begun at their baptisms, we have the rite of confirmation. Today, we celebrate this rite. Today we welcome our confirmands as communicant members in our Lord’s Church. Having been instructed in the Six Chief Parts of Christian doctrine as outlined in the Small Catechism, they today acknowledge and confess the gifts God has given them in their baptisms and their intention to continue steadfast in this Christian faith and church.

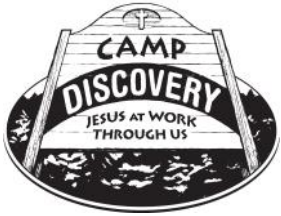
On this day, we are reminded of our own confirmation confession and vows. How well it is that we today hear the words of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther:

“Look at these bored, presumptuous saints who will not or cannot read and study the Catechism daily. They evidently consider themselves much wiser than God himself and wiser than all his holy angels, prophets, apostles, and all Christians! God himself is not ashamed to teach it daily, for he knows of nothing better to teach, and he always keeps on teaching this one thing without varying it with anything new or different. All saints know of nothing better or different to learn, though they cannot learn it to perfection. Are we not most marvelous fellows, therefore, if we imagine, after reading or hearing it once that we know it all and need not read or study it anymore? Most marvelous fellows, to think we can finish learning in one hour what God himself cannot finish teaching! Actually, He is busy teaching it from the beginning of the world to the end, and all prophets and saints have been busy learning it and have always remained pupils, and must continue to do so.”

(Preface to the Large Catechism)

Pastor Heller will be at the Spring Pastors Conference Monday — Wednesday of this week. In case of emergency, please call Sandy Buchmann, 873-2356.

Camp Discovery Vacation Bible School will be held at the Church May



31-June 4 from 5-7:30 pm. All children from ages 3-6th grade are invited to join us. Registration forms will be available next week and will be sent home with Sunday School students. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer please let Anne Rosenow know.

The May calendar, birthday and anniversary sheet, council minutes and children's devotional booklets are in the black stacking trays in the social hall.



Roofing Project Updates

- Work will begin on the church roof Monday and continue throughout the week. Please be aware of the work being done if you are at the Church this week.
- The voters at the November meeting approved the borrowing of up to \$65,000 for a new roof for the Church. The roof work will require 200 squares of shingles at a cost of \$300 per square (please keep in mind these are approximate estimates). Donations of any amount are welcome to help with this expense. Please clearly mark all donations for roof project.

† This Week at Concordia †

- Sunday 8:30 am Divine Service
9:30 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship @ Glen Ullin
- Wednesday 7:00 pm Chime Practice
7:30 pm Bell Practice
- Thursday 1:30 pm Naomi/Vesper Guild meeting @
School House Apartments
2:30 pm Pastor @ Marian Manor, Glen Ullin
- Sunday 8:30 am Divine Service
9:30 am Sunday School/Bible Class
11:00 am Worship @ 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
Website: www.concordiabeulah.org

