

# Concordia Lutheran Church

*The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

801 Beacon Lane

Beulah, North Dakota

Rev. Toby H. Heller, Pastor

January 29, 2017

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany



*"Blessed are poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*

*Matthew 5:3*



## **Old Testament Reading: Micah 6:1-8 (ESV)**

Hear what the Lord says: Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has an indictment against his people, and he will contend with Israel.

"O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

"With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

## **Gradual**

Praise the Lord, all nations!

**Extol him, all peoples!**

For great is his steadfast love toward us,

**and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.**

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;

**bring an offering, and come into his courts!**

## **Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (ESV)**

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. Therefore, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

**"Alleluia"**

p. 156

**Holy Gospel:** St. Matthew 5:1-12 (ESV)

Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when He sat down, His disciples came to Him. And He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

*"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*

*"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*

*"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.*

*"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*

*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*

*"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

**Apostles' Creed** p. 159

**Hymn of the Day** # 567

**Sermon:** On Preaching Christ Crucified

**Prayer of the Church**

**Offering**

*The Handchime choir will ring "Sanctuary" during the gathering of our morning offerings.*

**"What Shall I Render"** p. 159

**Service of the Sacrament** p. 160

**Distribution Hymns** # 427, 526, 619

**Thank the Lord** p. 164

**Post-Communion Collect** p. 166

**Benediction** p. 166

**Closing Hymn** # 842

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.

**Welcome to worship** as Jesus reveals Himself to us as the Son of God in this season of Epiphany. This season teaches us that when we see and hear Jesus, we see and hear God. Visitors, please sign our guest book and worship with us again soon!

**The Incarnation:** Please join us for Bible class this morning, as we continue studying the incarnation of Jesus and what it means for our faith and life.

**Our Annual Meeting** is Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, following worship. Following the Voters meeting, we will have potluck brunch.

The congregation of Concordia will be serving a community meal at Prince of Peace on February 11th. If you would like to help or for more information, please talk to Mary Jo Larson.

**The February calendar**, birthday and anniversary sheet, council minutes and *“Happy Times”* for the children are in the black stacking trays in the social hall.

**“Thank you”** Julie Zahn and Gina Dikoff for providing bars for us last Sunday

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**In our thoughts and prayers,**

† Our sick & recovering: Tom Bornemann, Buck Follis (father of Kim Senske), Anna Pischel, Cheryl Marsh (daughter of Ardella Halter), & Brenda Weigum;

† Jim & Jeff Gegelman & their families, on the death of their mother.

**Our Stewardship of Offerings and Attendance**

Worship: 98 Offerings: \$2,161.50

## Stewardship

Once an executor cleaned out the apartment of a dear elderly widow, she died at the age of 93 years. She had lived a pleasant life that included much travel throughout the world, and she loved to collect mementos from each of the countries she visited. In fact, she liked to collect all sorts of things—old birthday cards, Christmas greetings, wrapping paper, shoes never worn, and a multitude of other items.

As he filled garbage bag after garbage bag and walked them to the dumpster, he was very unsettled about the process. He was discarding items that had been valued, greatly valued, by another person. It forced him to consider what his home might be like after he draw his last breath. What items that he had valued would his executor place in garbage bags?

We work hard, and we enjoy spending our earnings on possessions. Do we feel the same surge of satisfaction and joy at giving to our church, a mission project, or a youth group fundraiser as we do when we buy a new pair of shoes or a memento on a trip? Do we stop to think that perhaps the possession we just bought will ultimately reside in a dumpster, while the gift we provide our church and its ministries will have an impact on God's kingdom and the next generation of believers?

God calls us to give. He calls us to give joyfully, knowing that the value of our gifts to his church and his ministries will last beyond our lives.

Richard Simenson  
Stewardship Chairman

## † This Week at Concordia †

Sunday	8:30 am	Divine Service
	9:30 am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	11:00 am	<i>Worship @ Glen Ullin</i>
Tuesday	2:00 pm	Bible Class
Wednesday	4:30 pm	Catechism
	7:00 pm	Chime Practice
	7:30 pm	Bell Practice
Thursday	1:30 pm	Naomi/Vesper Guild
Sunday	8:30 am	Divine Service
	9:30 am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	11:00 am	<i>Worship @ Glen Ullin</i>

### Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8:00 AM—12:00 PM

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