

Concordia Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

801 Beacon Lane

Beulah, North Dakota

Rev. Toby H. Heller, Pastor

December 9, 2018

2nd Sunday in Advent



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

Luke 3:4b, 6

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 1:2-11 (ESV)

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

“Alleluia”

p. 190

Holy Gospel: St. Luke 3:1-20 (ESV)

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin 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."

And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?"

And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall

we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but He who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in His hand, to clear His threshing floor and to gather the wheat into His barn, but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire."

So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

Nicene Creed	p. 191
Hymn of the Day	# 344
Sermon: What Then Shall We Do?	
Offertory	p. 192
Offering	
<i>The handbell choir will ring "In Solemn Stillness" during the gathering of our morning offerings.</i>	
Prayer of the Church	
Service of the Sacrament	p. 194
Distribution Hymns:	# 341 (st. 1-4), 376, 632
Nunc Dimittis	p. 199
Thanksgiving	p. 200
Benedicamus and Benediction	p. 201
Closing Hymn	# 366

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,

† Kent Larson & Brenda Weigum;

† Our nursing home residents, that God would keep them under His tender care.



Stewardship of Offerings & Attendance

Attendance: 132 Offerings: \$2,853.50

"As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" (Luke 3:4 ESV) God makes long range plans: Isaiah lived more than seven hundred years before St. John the Baptist preached by the Jordan River. Obviously God sees farther into the future than we do! That's yet another reason to trust Him when it comes to how He tells us to live our lives: He knows what's coming and we don't.

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!



Christmas Program: Practice continues this morning during the Sunday School hour. Parents, please let Anne Rosenow know if your child(ren) will be in the program, so she can give them a part. The Children’s Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 23, 10:00 am.

Advent: Our midweek Advent services continue this Wednesday, December 12, 6:30 pm. This week, our worship will focus on Zephaniah 3:14-20. Work group #2 will be preparing the meal, which begins at 5:30 pm.

Council Members, we will meet Wednesday, December 12, following Advent Service.

Christmas Cards are for sale in the social hall. They are \$4 per box. Please make checks payable to LWML and give the money to Tina Heller.



Poinsettias: You are welcome to bring poinsettias for the altar any time. Please put your name on them, if you would like to take them home after the holidays.

Board of Lay Ministry: John Neuberger has been appointed to fill the vacancy on the Board of Lay Ministry. Faron Scherer was elected chairman of the board for 2019.

Thank you to all who helped decorate the Church for Christmas!

Donations of anything you want will be collected for Women’s Action & Resource Center. Items may include personal care items, Macaroni & Cheese, cereal, etc.

† This Week at Concordia †

Sunday	8:00 am	<i>Worship @ Glen Ullin</i>
	10:00 am	Divine Service
	11:00 pm	Bible Class/Program Practice
Tuesday	10:15 am	Holy Communion @ Knife River Care Center
Wednesday	4:00 pm	Catechism
	5:30 pm	Meal – Work Group #2
	6:30 pm	Advent Service
	7:15 pm	Council Meeting
Sunday	8:00 am	<i>Worship @ Glen Ullin</i>
	10:00 am	Divine Service
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