

Concordia Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

801 Beacon Lane

Beulah, North Dakota

Rev. Toby H. Heller, Pastor

March 31, 2019

4th Sunday in Lent



*The father said to his servants, "This my son was dead,
and is alive again; he was lost, and is found."*

Luke 15:22a, 24a

Gradual

O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

the founder and perfecter of our faith,

who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (ESV)

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

“Alleluia” *omitted during Lent*

Holy Gospel: St. Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (ESV)

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them."

So He told them this parable: *"There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.*

"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.

I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants." ' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

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| Nicene Creed | p. 191 |
| Hymn of the Day | # 571 |
| Sermon | The Father's Terms |
| Offertory | p. 192 |
| Offering | |
| Prayer of the Church | |
| Service of the Sacrament | p. 194 |
| Distribution Hymn | # 628, 725, 609 |
| Nunc Dimittis | p. 199 |
| Thanksgiving | p. 200 |
| Benedicamus and Benediction | p. 201 |
| Closing Hymn | # 686 |

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.

Stewardship of Offerings & Attendance

Attendance: 128 Offerings: \$3,548.00

"And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them."

St. Luke 6:20-21

This prodigal son only sees the father as a source of wealth. Give me my inheritance now! Which is to say, you are better off dead in my eyes. This is the sin at the heart of all greed—valuing things over people. This parable calls us to come to our senses to see God as the loving Giver of all goods, the true Father to be valued above and beyond all the things of this world.

Thrivent Financial: This morning, we welcome Karla Boehm from Thrivent Financial. She will be with us during the Bible class hour to explain the Thrivent Action Team Dollars and Choice Dollars. She will also be available to answer any questions you may have.



Behold the Man!: Please join us as we continue our midweek worship this Wednesday, April 3, at 6:30 pm. Our worship will focus on A God With a Mother. Supper will be served at 5:30 pm.

Main Street Living is a locally produced TV program featuring area LCMS pastors. It can be seen at 10:00 am Sundays on Midcontinent Channel # 594 (the Xtra channel). On April 1, Rev. Ed Borchartt presents the message “Strength Doesn’t Come From Within.” The special LHM Easter program is “The Puzzle Club Easter Adventure.”



The April calendar, birthday and anniversary sheet, and January council minutes are available on the table in the social hall.

Gideons International: Last Sunday, \$332 was lovingly donated to the Gideons for their work of spreading God’s Word. *For we are God’s fellow workers (1 Cor 3:9).*

† **This Week at Concordia** †

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| Sunday | 8:00 am | <i>Worship @ Glen Ullin</i> |
| | 10:00 am | Divine Service |
| | 11:00 am | Sunday School/Bible Class |
| | 2:30 pm | Girl Scouts |
| Monday | 9:30 am | Circuit Pastors @ Mandan |
| Wednesday | 4:00 pm | Catechism |
| | 5:30 pm | Supper – Group 2 |
| | 6:30 pm | Lenten Service |
| Thursday | 2:30 pm | <i>Pastor @ Marian Manor, Glen Ullin</i> |
| Sunday | 8:00 am | <i>Worship @ Glen Ullin</i> |
| | 10:00 am | Divine Service |
| | | *Mites collected |
| | 11:00 am | Sunday School/Bible Class/LWML Joint Meeting |