

# Concordia Lutheran Church

*The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

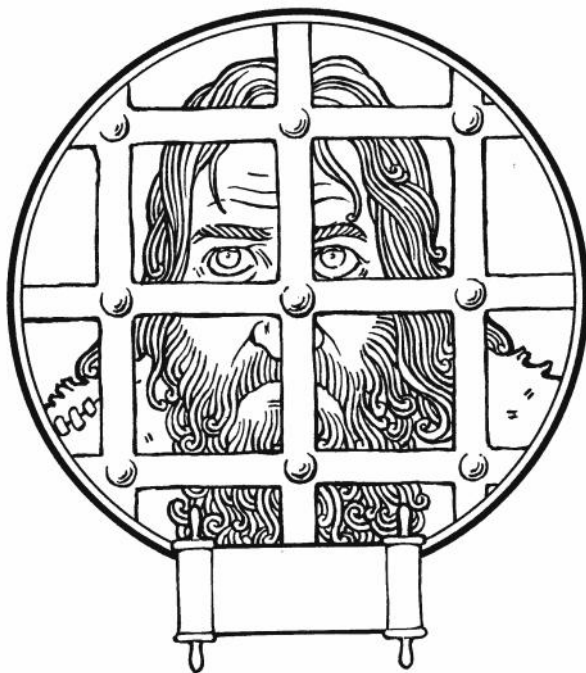
801 Beacon Lane

Beulah, North Dakota

Rev. Toby H. Heller, Pastor

December 14, 2025

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent



*"Behold, I send My messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you."*

*Matthew 11:10b*

## ✠ In the Name of Jesus ✠

**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 Jesus 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!

### **Divine Service**

### **Setting Three**

**Hymn of Invocation**

# 349

**Confession & Absolution**

p. 184

### **Introit**

Rejoice in the Lord always;

**again I will say, Rejoice.**

I will hope continually

**and will praise you yet more and more.**

My mouth will tell of your righteous acts,

of your deeds of salvation all the day,

**for their number is past my knowledge.**

With the mighty deeds of the Lord God I will come;

**I will remind them of your righteousness,  
yours alone.**

O God, from my youth you have taught me,

**and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.**

So even to old age and gray hairs,

O God, do not forsake me,

**until I proclaim your might to another generation,  
your power to all those to come.**

**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.**

Rejoice in the Lord always;

**again I will say, Rejoice.**

## Kyrie

p. 186

**Gloria in Excelsis:** *omitted during Advent*

## Salutation & Collect

p. 189

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

## **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: James 5:7-11**

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

**"Alleluia"**

p. 190

## **Holy Gospel: St. Matthew 11:2-15**

Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by His disciples and said to Him, "Are You the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And Jesus answered them, *"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by Me."*

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: *"What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, " 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face who will prepare your way before you.'*

*Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."*

<b>Nicene Creed</b>	p. 191
<b>Hymn of the Day</b>	# 345
<b>Sermon</b>	
<b>Offering</b>	
<b>Offertory</b>	p. 192
<b>Prayer of the Church</b>	
<b>Service of the Sacrament</b>	p. 194
<b>Distribution Hymns</b>	# 619, 368, 366
<b>Nunc Dimittis</b>	p. 199
<b>Thanksgiving</b>	p. 200
<b>Benedicamus and Benediction</b>	p. 201
<b>Closing Hymn</b>	# 361

**WE GO FROM THIS PLACE OF WORSHIP  
WHERE WE ARE ABOUT  
EQUIPPING DISCIPLES TO MAKE DISCIPLES FOR JESUS**

**In our thoughts and prayers,**



- ✠ Our sick & recovering, Jim Gegelman, Steve Heupel (father of Amy Bieber), Hannah Schantz, & Michelle Wolf;
- ✠ Travis Frey & family, on the death of his uncle, Gary Green.



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.

*For those unable to drink wine,  
water with a drop of wine can be found in the center of each  
individual cup tray.*

## **Our Stewardship of Offerings and Attendance**

Worship: 50      Offerings: \$2,264.42

*"Say to those who have an anxious heart, 'Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.'"*

*Isaiah 35:4*

The return of our Lord at the Last Day is a cause of joy and anticipation for us believers. We know our Lord and His love, and we look forward to His Second Advent. Indeed, how we live our lives here and now flows from our certain hope of resurrection and eternal life.

Today, you'll notice that the pink (technically rose) candle on the Advent Wreath is lit. What is this rose candle? In the one-year lectionary, each Sunday in Advent has a fancy Latin name that comes from the first word in the Introit. Today, the Third Sunday in Advent, is called Gaudete, meaning rejoice. Most congregations don't have these paraments, but the color for the day is the color associated with rejoicing: rose. So, the rose candle is lit today because the color for the Third Sunday in Advent is rose.

Rev. Mark Chepulis, North Dakota District President

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Every Heart Prepare:** We continue our midweek Advent worship this Wednesday at 6:30 pm. We focus on the



crèche—those miniature models of the nativity scene that abound each December. Unlike lights and evergreens, the crèche is distinctly Christian. We behold Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the Magi, the angels, the stable animals, and, at the center, baby

Jesus. The crèche represents a crucial, historical event: God taking on human form and human nature so that He could take our place and redeem us from all sin. Soup & sandwiches will be served at 5:30 pm.

***“Christ is Royal David’s City”***: Join us next Sunday, for our Children’s Christmas program at 10:00 AM.



**Offering Envelopes** for 2026 are in your mailboxes this morning.

**Thank You** Mary Jo Larson and Julie Voight for serving coffee in November and also **Thank You** Julie for bringing goodies.

**Greeters** are needed for the month of December. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the social hall.

**Ingathering:** The December ingathering is “Anything you wish to donate” to Women’s Action & Resource Center. Items will be delivered to WARC before Christmas.

## † This Week at Concordia †

Today	8:00 am	Worship @ Glen Ullin
	9:15 am	Children's Program Practice
	10:00 am	Divine Service
	11:15 am	Children's Program Practice
Monday	7:00 pm	Sarah Guild
Tuesday	1:30 pm	Bible Study
Wednesday	4:00 pm	Catechism
	5:30 pm	Soup & Sandwiches – Group 3
	6:30 pm	Advent Service
	7:15 pm	Elders Meeting
Sunday	10:00 am	Children's Christmas Program
	3:00 pm	LYF Christmas Movie & popcorn
	7:00 pm	Christmas Program @ Glen Ullin

### Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Church: 873-4388

Parsonage: 873-4223

[revheller@westriv.com](mailto:revheller@westriv.com)

[concordiasecretary@westriv.com](mailto:concordiasecretary@westriv.com)

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