



Concordia Lutheran Church
4210 Johnson Ave NW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405
Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 21, 2025

Announcements for December 21, 2025

Sunday (21)	Advent 4 8:30 am Contemporary Worship & Live Stream 10:00 am Adult Bible Class NO Youth Group
Monday (22)	4:30 pm Irish Class
Tuesday (23)	9:00 am Holy Chair Yoga
Wednesday (24)	Christmas Eve Church Office Closed 2:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship at King of Glory 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion & Live Stream at Concordia
Thursday (25)	Christmas Day Church Office Closed 8:30 am Christmas Worship Service & Live Stream
Friday (26)	Church Office Closed
Sunday (28)	8:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Live Stream NO Adult Bible Class NO Youth Group

Welcome Concordia members & guests – please be sure to fill out the attendance/communion cards located in each pew. Thank you!

Last week at Concordia: Attendance: 44 Planned Returning: \$3,319 Actual Returning: \$4,090 YTD: (\$37,760)

Christmas Worship Schedule – 2:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion at King of Glory
5:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion at Concordia
8:30 am Christmas Morning Worship at Concordia

Making a comeback - The Women's Retreat - come spend a Saturday in fellowship with other women of the congregation. "Beautiful Feet" is our topic. **Date and details to follow soon!!!**

Youth Lock In – 6:00 pm Friday, January 2 – 8:30 am Saturday, January 3. Cost is \$10 per youth. Come enjoy a fun filled night with lots of games and fellowship!

Building Healthy Families: Here's a simple yet challenging Christmas week question for your contemplation: How has the fact that Jesus was born over 2000 years ago impacted the life you're living today? Read aloud the Luke 2 Christmas story together, ponder this question, and encourage your family members to share their answers. From the funny response of a preschooler, the shoulder shrug of a teenager, or the wise words shared by an older person, it will be interesting to see how each individual family member answers. Remember, even those who don't answer are still listening! *"She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."* Matthew 1:21 A Blessed Celebration of Jesus' Birth to you from your partners at **Lutheran Family Service!** www.LutheranFamilyService.org

News from CHRIST LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL: *Preparing Students to be Christian Leaders in all Walks of Life*
The CLHS Board of Directors has had a busy few months. In October we attended a six-hour workshop led by a representative of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's Church Extension agency. We learned about the type of Governance that will need to be established as we open CLHS. This rather long meeting has been followed up by one-hour Zoom meetings to help us develop our plan and use the proper wording for policies, job descriptions, etc. We have been told more than once that starting a high school is a marathon, not a sprint. At the same time, we continue to await approval from the IRS of our application for tax exempt status. Due to the government shut down this could still take months. This makes it challenging to do any major fund raising. We ask you to keep praying for Christ Lutheran High School. Want to know how you can get involved? Contact Mark Mueller at themarkmueller56@gmail.com

Bethany Lutheran Church is looking for an Office Administrator to perform administrative and communication functions in support of our mission. Qualified candidates will not only have the skills to work in a modern office with other professionals, but also a heart to serve all people as we share God's love in our congregation and community. A full job description is available upon request. Contact Bethany at 319-364-6026 or office.bethanycr@gmail.com.

They Shall Call His Name Immanuel

As We Gather

It is still Advent, but today we hear an account of the Christmas story early so that we may know what to look for later this week. The Son of Mary by the Holy Spirit is Jesus, who saves us from our sins and who fulfills the promise of Immanuel: God is with us. Perhaps the richness of the details of Luke's account sometimes distracts us from the message. The Lord has come to keep His Word, to save us from our sins, and to keep us in His hand so that we may be His eternally. None of this was obvious to either Mary or faithful Joseph, and yet the Lord was at work through it all to deliver to us His Son to be our Savior. We will still worry when things do not go as we plan, and we will still struggle with doubts and fears, but the angel of God's presence is no mere messenger sent in His place. No, the angel of God's presence is His only-begotten Son, whose name is Jesus and whose work is our salvation.

PREPARATION

BOB #145 Light One Candle

1. Light one candle for hope,
One bright candle for hope,
He brings hope to ev'ry heart,
He Comes! He comes!
2. Light one candle for peace,
One bright candle for peace,
He brings peace to ev'ry heart,
He Comes! He Comes!

Bridge: Light one candle for joy,
One bright candle for joy,
Ev'ry nation will find salvation in Beth-l'em's baby boy.

3. Light one candle for love,
One bright candle for love,
He brings love to ev'ry heart,
He comes! He comes!
He brings love to ev'ry heart,
He comes! He comes!

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 130:7; Philippians 1:6

- P** O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
C and with Him is plentiful redemption.

Silence for self-examination.

- P** Holy and gracious God,
C I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

P He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

WORD

The Advent wreath is lit with the other candles as the hymn or Introit is sung.

Introit

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is plentiful redemption.

And he will redeem Israel
from all his iniquities.

**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.**

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10–17

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.”
¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Epistle

Romans 1:1–7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

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

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

Matthew 1:23a

P Alleluia.

C Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel.

P Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18–25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

BOB #146 Light the Candle

Light the candle as a symbol of the Light that leads the way;

For each candle is a symbol of the hope that's ours today.

As we strike the match and light the wick, come, Spirit, shine bright.

Grant that all may see from the darkness

Your gift, Your Truth, Your Light.

Emmanuel, Son of the Father, Come to us now, Savior and Lord.

Light the candle as a symbol of the Light that leads the way;

For each candle is a symbol of the peace that's ours today.

As we strike the match and light the wick, come, Spirit, shine bright.

Grant that all may see from the darkness

Your gift, Your Truth, Your Light.

Your gift, Your Light.

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church (each petition after ends)

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Offering

BOB #183 Peace Be Yours

1. Peace be yours. May the Lord be with you
As we gather now and your whole life through,
Blessing and mercy and wholeness too.
May God's peace be yours.
2. Peace be yours as you scatter from here.
Anywhere you go, God is always near,
Loving and calming your deepest fear.
May God's peace be yours.
3. Seek your strength where the Lord does abide
When the greatest evil is at your side,
In Word and Sacrament, Christ resides.
May God's peace be yours.
4. Always know He has conquered the one
Who defies your life in God's only Son.
Yours is the struggle that Christ has won.
May God's peace be yours.

Lord's Prayer

☐ Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

**For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

Benedicamus

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
C Amen.

LSB #356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
“All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady.”
Gloria!
2. “For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seer foretold,
Most highly favored lady.”
Gloria!
3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name,”
Most highly favored lady,
Gloria!
4. Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk through-out the world will ever say:
“Most highly favored lady.”
Gloria!

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