



Concordia Lutheran Church
4210 Johnson Ave NW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405
Third Sunday in Advent
December 14, 2025

Announcements for December 14, 2025

Sunday (14)	Advent 3 8:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Live Stream Voters' Meeting following worship service Youth Cookie Walk 6:00-8:00 pm Youth Group Christmas Party
Monday (15)	4:30 pm Irish Class
Tuesday (16)	9:00 am Holy Chair Yoga
Wednesday (17)	5:30-6:30 pm STEPP Up and Confirmation 7:00 pm Midweek Advent Service
Sunday (21)	Advent 4 8:30 am Contemporary Worship & Live Stream 10:00 am Adult Bible Class 6:00-8:00 pm 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: 21 Planned Returning: \$11,207 Actual Returning: \$13,088 YTD: (\$38,531)

Reminder –There is a Voters' meeting this morning following worship service. Voters' packets are available on the Welcome Desk. All members are invited to attend.

You're invited to the Youth Cookie Walk this morning after service. Pick up some homemade cookies and sweets just in time for the holidays. Pick up enough for family, friends, neighbors, or for the office! All proceeds will help support the Youth Mission Trip to Peru.

Please join us for our last midweek Advent service on Wednesday, December 17th at 7:00pm.

**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!!!

Building Healthy Families: *"Children are a gift from the Lord, offspring a reward from him."* Psalm 127:3 For over 124 years, Lutheran Family Service has connected children to parents through adoption and still serves families through this and a multitude of other ways, all consistent with the teachings of the LCMS church and without the interference of being tied to government funding. In thanksgiving to God for an important child or grandchild He has put in your life, celebrate the blessing of family with us this Christmas by making a gift in their honor or memory. Your gift in their honor will help a child, teen, or family in need of support this year. It's easy and you can do it right now from your smart phone by VENMO to @LutheranFamilyService, make your gift online at the "donate" tab on our website, or send your gift by mail to LFS/Admin Office, 409 Kenyon Road, Suite C, Fort Dodge, IA 50501. On behalf of those we serve, we thank God for your partnership and generosity! **Lutheran Family Service** www.LutheranFamilyService.org

Divine Service Setting Three p.184

334 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet You,
How welcome You aright?
Your people long to greet You,
My hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy,
Your lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly
All that may please You best.
- 2 Your Zion strews before You
Green boughs and fairest palms;
And I too will adore You
With joyous songs and psalms.
My heart shall bloom forever
For You with praises new
And from Your name shall never
Withhold the honor due.
- 3 I lay in fetters, groaning;
You came to set me free.
I stood, my shame bemoaning;
You came to honor me.
A glorious crown You give me,
A treasure safe on high
That will not fail or leave me
As earthly riches fly.
- 4 Love caused Your incarnation;
Love brought You down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation
Procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling,
That led You to embrace
In love, all love excelling,
Our lost and fallen race.
- 5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden,
Cannot His love erase;
Your guilt the Lord will pardon
And cover by His grace.
He comes, for you procuring
The peace of sin forgiv'n,
His children thus securing
Eternal life in heav'n.
- 6 He comes to judge the nations,
A terror to His foes,
A light of consolations
And blessed hope to those
Who love the Lord's appearing.
O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth Your beams so cheering,
And guide us safely home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Text: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

Stand

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

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.

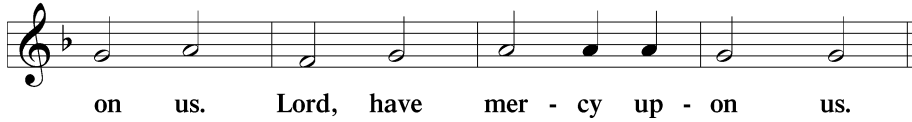
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice.

Kyrie



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And with thy spirit.**

- P** Let us pray.
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.

- C** **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35:1–10

- ¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
²it 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.
³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴Say 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.”
⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then 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;
⁷the 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.
⁸And 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.
⁹No 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.
¹⁰And 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.

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

James 5:7–11

⁷Be 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. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2–15

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

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the 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. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷As 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? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.”

¹¹Truly, 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. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of His Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light,
 very God of very God,
 begotten, not made,
 being of one substance with the Father,
 by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
 He suffered and was buried.
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
 and ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
 whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

- 1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!
 “Christ is near,” we hear it say.
 “Cast away the works of darkness,
 All you children of the day!”
- 2 Startled at the solemn warning,
 Let the earthbound soul arise;
 Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,
 Shines upon the morning skies.
- 3 See, the Lamb, so long expected,
 Comes with pardon down from heav’n.
 Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
 One and all, to be forgiv’n;
- 4 So, when next He comes in glory
 And the world is wrapped in fear,
 He will shield us with His mercy
 And with words of love draw near.
- △ 5 Honor, glory, might, dominion
 To the Father and the Son
 With the ever-living Spirit
 While eternal ages run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.
 Text: Public domain

Sermon

- P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
C Amen.

Offertory



■ Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Sit

Offering

849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

@Concordia-Lutheran-CR

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness
With a liberating light;
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners,
Turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the Gospel,
Healing ev'ry dread disease,
Calming storms, and feeding thousands
With the very Bread of peace.
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children
With a strong, yet gentle, word;
Praise the One who drove out demons
With the piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water
To the desert's burning sand;
From this Well comes living water,
Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.
- 3 Let us praise the Word Incarnate,
Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose victorious
That we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
Seeing what our God has done;
Let us praise the true Redeemer,
Praise the One who makes us one.



Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955
Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001801

Stand

Prayer of the Church (each petition after ends)

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up unto the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

C 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.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 197

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.
Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.
Amen.

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.
- C** Amen.

Distribution Hymns:

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. Refrain

ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

- 2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. Refrain
- 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain
- 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Refrain
- 5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. Refrain
- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Text: Public domain

354 Arise, O Christian People

- 1 Arise, O Christian people!
Prepare yourselves today;
Prepare to greet the Savior,
Who takes your sins away.
To us by grace alone
The truth and light were given;
The promised Lord from heaven
To all the world is shown.
- 2 Prepare the way before Him;
Prepare for Him the best.
Cast out what would offend Him,
This great, this heav'nly guest.
Make straight, make plain the way:
The lowly valleys raising,
The heights of pride abasing,
His path all even lay.
- 3 The humble heart and lowly
God raises up on high;
Beneath His feet in terror
The haughty soul shall lie.
The heart sincere and right,
That heeds God's invitation
And makes true preparation—
It is the Lord's delight.

4 Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus;
 Turn not from me aside,
 And help me to receive You
 This blessèd Adventtide.
 From stall and manger low
 Come now to dwell within me;
 I'll sing Your praises gladly
 And forth Your glory show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607-62; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-74, alt.
 Text: Public domain

900 Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love

- 1 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
 Name all other names above,
 Unto which must ev'ry knee
 Bow in deep humility.
- 2 Jesus! Name decreed of old,
 To the maiden mother told,
 Kneeling in her lowly cell,
 By the angel Gabriel.
- 3 Jesus! Name of priceless worth
 To the fallen of the earth
 For the promise that it gave,
 "Jesus shall His people save."
- 4 Jesus! Name of mercy mild,
 Given to the holy Child
 When the cup of human woe
 First He tasted here below.
- 5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n
 Under all the mighty heav'n
 Whereby those to sin enslaved
 Burst their fetters and are saved.
- 6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
 Human name of God above;
 Pleading only this, we flee
 Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823-97, alt.
 Text: Public domain

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
 cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
 which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light-en the Gen-tiles and the glo-ry of Thy
 peo-ple Is-ra-el. Glo-ry be to the Father and
 to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth forever.

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus

LSB 202

P Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen, amen, amen.

349 Hark the Glad Sound

- 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
 The Savior promised long;
 Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
 And ev'ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
 In Satan's bondage held.
 The gates of brass before Him burst,
 The iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
 The bleeding soul to cure,
 And with the treasures of His grace
 To_ enrich the humble poor.

**4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy belovèd name.**

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-51
Text: Public domain

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