A black and white artistic rendering of a desert landscape. In the foreground, a path of light-colored, textured ground leads towards the horizon. The middle ground shows a flat desert plain with some small, dark rocks or shrubs. In the distance, there are several dark, rounded mountain peaks under a sky filled with large, billowing clouds. The overall style is painterly and dramatic.

**"... prepare  
the way of  
the LORD, make  
straight in the  
desert a highway  
for our God."**

Isaiah 40:3, NRSV

## PRE-SERVICE DEVOTION

### *Psalm 85:1-13*

Lord, You have been favorable to Your land; You have brought back the captivity of Jacob. 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people; You have covered all their sin. Selah 3 You have taken away all Your wrath; You have turned from the fierceness of Your anger. 4 Restore us, O God of our salvation, And cause Your anger toward us to cease. 5 Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations? 6 Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You? 7 Show us Your mercy, LORD, And grant us Your salvation. 8 I will hear what God the LORD will speak, For He will speak peace To His people and to His saints; But let them not turn back to folly. 9 Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, That glory may dwell in our land. 10 Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed. 11 Truth shall spring out of the earth, And righteousness shall look down from heaven. 12 Yes, the LORD will give what is good; And our land will yield its increase. 13 Righteousness will go before Him, And shall make His footsteps our pathway.

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

Speakers: Pastor Matthew Ude  
Organists: Barry Hay & Ann Sprengeler

Hymn 91 — Let The Earth Now Praise the Lord

### INVOCATION

p In the name of the Father and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.

c  A-men.


### CONFESSION OF SINS


p We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.


C Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth, In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray; Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

p God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.


c  A-men.

c  Lord, have mercy on us.  
Christ, have mercy on us.  
Lord, have mercy on us.

c  Glory to God, we give You thanks and praise;  
Of heav'nly joy and peace on earth we sing.  
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,  
Lord God, almighty Father, heav'nly King.

c  Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,  
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.

O Lamb of God, Your glorious vict'ry won,  
 Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within.

c  Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,  
 At God's right hand in majesty most high:  
 Who, with the Spirit worshiped and adored,  
 With all the heav'nly host we glorify.

p Let us pray . . . Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to  
 make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son,  
 that by His coming we may be enabled to serve  
 You with pure minds; through Jesus Christ your  
 son, our Lord, who lives, and reigns with You and  
 the Holy Ghost, one God, now and forever.

c  A-men.

## THE WORD

*2 Peter 3:8-14* But, beloved, do not forget this one thing,  
 that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and  
 a thousand years as one day. *9* The Lord is not slack  
 concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but  
 is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should  
 perish but that all should come to repentance. *10* But

the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. <sup>11</sup> Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, <sup>12</sup> looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? <sup>13</sup> Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. <sup>14</sup> Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

*Mark 1:1-8* The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup> As it is written in the Prophets: “Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.” <sup>3</sup> “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.’ “ <sup>4</sup> John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of

sins. 5 Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. 8 "I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

p Blessed are they who hear the  
Word of God and keep it!

c  Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These words are written that we may believe  
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

all I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right  
hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Hymn 63 — On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

## SERMON

*Isaiah 40:1-11* “Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” Says  
your God. 2 “Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out  
to her, That her warfare is ended, That her iniquity is  
pardoned; For she has received from the LORD’s hand  
Double for all her sins.” 3 The voice of one crying in the  
wilderness: “Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight  
in the desert A highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall




be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth; 5 The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." 6 The voice said, "Cry out!" And he said, "What shall I cry?" "All flesh is grass, And all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades, Because the breath of the LORD blows upon it; Surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever." 9 O Zion, You who bring good tidings, Get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, You who bring good tidings, Lift up your voice with strength, Lift it up, be not afraid; Say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" 10 Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand, And His arm shall rule for Him; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him. 11 He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young.

## THE KING COMES WITH COMFORT

*Verses 1,2* The Lord is coming to visit us with great gifts.



*Verses 3-5* We would surely be embarrassed for a King to see our house as it is, so naturally we must prepare for His coming. This preparation means getting rid of anything that might block His way.

*Verses 9-11* But we don't want to prepare only our own house, but let everyone know.

- c  Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold me with Your Spirit free.

Hymn 701 — Prepare the Royal Highway

## OFFERING AND OFFERING HYMN: 441 VS. 1-2

- c  We give Thee but Thine own,  
Whate'er the gift may be  
All that we have is Thine alone,  
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
- c  May we Thy bounties thus  
As stewards true receive  
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,  
To Thee our first fruits give!

## PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

all 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 BENEDICTION

p The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

c  A-men A-men A-men.

## Hymn CW 13 — There's A Voice In The Wilderness

1. There's a voice in the wil-der-ness cry-ing A  
 2. O Chris-tians, you bring good ti-dings; Get  
 3. But the Word of our God is e - ter-nal; The

4  
 call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des-ert a  
 up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o-late  
 arm of the Lord is strong. He stands in the midst of the

7  
 high - way, A high - way for our God! The  
 peo - ple The com - ing of their King. Like the  
 na - tions, And he shall right the wrong. He shall

10  
 val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the lof - ty  
 flow'rs of the field they per - ish; Like grass their  
 feed his flock like a shep-herd, The lambs shall

13  
 hills brought low; Make straight all the crook - ed  
 works de - cay. The pow'r and pomp of  
 gent - ly hold, To pas - tures of peace shall

16  
 pla - ces Where the Lord our God may go!  
 na - tions Shall pass like a dream a way;  
 lead them, And bring them safe to his fold.

## Calendar:

### THIS WEEK:

Sunday 12/10

9am Worship Service  
10am Christmas Eve Practice  
10am Adult Choir Practice  
10:15am Bible Class

### Tuesday 12/12

4pm 4 - 6 grade basketball game @ CWC  
7pm Elders' Meeting  
7:30pm Council Meeting

### Wednesday 12/13

4pm Catechism Class  
7pm Advent Service  
8pm Voters' Meeting

### Friday 12/15

7:30pm ILC Christmas Concert

### Saturday 12/16

10am Christmas VBS

### Sunday 12/17

9am Worship Service  
10am Christmas Eve Practice  
10am Adult Choir Practice  
10:15am Bible Class  
2pm Caroling  
5pm Chili Potluck

### UPCOMING DATES:

Dec 12 - Elders meeting at 7pm/Church  
Council meeting at 7:30pm

Dec 16 - Christmas VBS

Dec 17 - Christmas caroling at 2pm with  
a chili potluck following

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Service at 7pm

Dec 25 - Christmas Service

Dec 31 - New Year's Eve Service

Jan 7th - Faith Alive sledding party at  
2pm with Pizza and Games to follow

### ENVELOPE COMMITTEE

This Week: Team #3:

Darwin Kelm, John Cossman

Next Week: Team #4:

Wayne Draeger, David Draeger

### DECEMBER USHERS

Sundays & Christmas Eve: Dan Thiem,  
Dave Dillie, Frank Quade, Andy Kohn

Advent 6, 13, 20 & Christmas Day, New  
Year's Eve: Randy Strelow, Gary Brown,  
Jeff Jones, Mitch Newton

### FRUITS OF FAITH

Attendance: 110 / 23

Bible Class: 10

General Fund: \$3406

Mission Fund: \$775

School Fund: \$25

## **Announcements:**

### **GUESTS AND VISITORS**

Thank you for worshipping with us today. Please sign the guest register in the entry as you leave the church today.

### **DOORS LOCKED**

All doors into the church or school from the outside will be locked during school hours. Please understand that this is for the safety of the children. Thank you for your understanding.

### **THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS**

Thursday morning bible class is taking Christmas vacation. We will begin again the Thursday after New Years, January 4th.

### **CHRISTMAS VBS**

Will be Saturday, December 16th from 10am-4pm. Parents can bring their children to have a fun day of learning the Christmas story and doing projects. While parents can go finish their Christmas errands. Public is welcome so please spread the word. There is a signup sheet in the entryway to volunteer (high school and college age students are encouraged to help) and provide food. Forms are out in the entryway to sign up children 4yr - 8th grade, place form in Pastor's mailbox.

## **NOTES FROM SCHOOL**

### **BOARD MEETING**

First quarter ended 11/3

Christmas part is being planned

Faculty is looking into increased security measures for school

Faculty is also looking into better emergency plans

Basketball game for 4-6th graders in Waupun at Central Wisconsin Christian at 4pm on Tuesday December 12th.

Next School Board meeting  
January 2nd 2017



# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)

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