

INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

✝ Moravian Lovefeast • January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 ✝

**Worship Notes:**

• Our Lector for today is Mimi Fischer • Our Crucifer for today is Jeff Shealy •

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE:**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE LOVEFEAST:**

Dr. Susan McArver

*The Moravian Church has ancient roots that predate the Protestant Reformation.*

*A century before Martin Luther initiated the Reformation in 1517, Jan Hus, a Catholic priest in the present-day Czech Republic, was burned at the stake for making many of the same calls for reform that Luther would eventually make. Luther came to consider himself a “Hussite” who followed in the trail blazed before him by Hus. The followers of Jan Hus were persecuted but endured to eventually form the Moravian Church. The Moravian Church is a full communion partner with the ELCA.*

*John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Church, was profoundly influenced by the Moravians, and attributed much of his sense of “awakening” to their witness and example. He first experienced a Lovefeast among Moravians in Savannah, Georgia and recorded the experience in his diary as a service “worthy of Christ”.*

*Moravians first celebrated the Lovefeast in 1727. It is intentionally designed as a simple service of song, during which participants are served a simple “meal”. It is not a sacrament. It is an act of fellowship. The music and hymns communicate the message of the day, rather than a sermon. Participants are invited to simply engage, mediate, and reflect on the meaning of the season of Advent.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

*Please stand as able.*

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

**For he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.**

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high has broken upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

**To guide our feet into the way of peace.**

For unto us a Child is born,

**Unto us a Son is given.**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

**Thanks be to God for this gift beyond words.**

My eyes have seen your salvation.

**Which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.**

**CAROL:** ELW 288

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice  
*IN DULCI JUBILO*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**CAROL:** ELW 861 (v.1-2)

When Long before Time  
*THE SINGER AND THE SONG*

**LESSON:** Genesis 3: 8-15

<sup>8</sup>They heard the sound of the Lord GOD walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord GOD among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the Lord GOD called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup>He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup>He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup>The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup>Then the Lord GOD said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." <sup>14</sup>The Lord GOD said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

**CAROL:** ELW 275

Angels, from the Realms of Glory  
*REGENT SQUARE*

**LESSON:** Genesis 22: 1-8

<sup>1</sup>After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>2</sup>He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." <sup>3</sup>So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. <sup>4</sup>On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. <sup>5</sup>Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." <sup>6</sup>Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. <sup>7</sup>Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" <sup>8</sup>Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

**CAROL:** ELW 257 (v. 1, 7-8)

O Come, O Come Emmanuel  
*VENI, EMMANUEL*

**LESSON:** Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**CAROL:** ELW 272 (v. 1-2)

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming  
*ES IST EIN ROS*

**LESSON:** Micah 5: 2-4

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

**CAROL:** ELW 279 (v. 1, 4)

O Little Town of Bethlehem  
*ST. LOUIS*

**LESSON:** Luke 1: 26-35, 38

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**CAROL:** ELW 265 (v. 1, 4)

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came  
*GABRIEL'S MESSAGE*

**LESSON:** Matthew 1: 18-21

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

**CAROL:** ELW 300 (v. 1-2)

The First Noel  
*THE FIRST NOWELL*

## INVITATION TO THE LOVEFEAST

*In a normal Lovefeast in a Moravian church, servers, called "Dieners" (German for "serve") distribute the bread and the coffee throughout the pews. Likewise, our "Dieners" will come down the center aisle with trays of coffee and baskets of buns.*

## BLESSING

**Come, Lord Jesus, our Guest to be,  
and bless these gifts bestowed by thee.  
Amen.**

## MUSIC DURING THE PARTAKING OF THE LOVEFEAST MEAL

### LESSON: Luke 2:8-20

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" <sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

### CAROL: ELW 284 (v. 1-2)

*'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime  
UNE JEUNE PUCELLE*

### LESSON: Matthew 2: 1-11

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" <sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**CAROL:**

Morning Star, O Cheering Sight

The hymn, "Morning Star," is traditionally sung in Moravian Advent and Christmas services antiphonally. The soloist will sing the first line, with the congregation repeating it. The hymn continues in this manner throughout, as indicated in the music.

The musical score is written in G major and 4/4 time. It features a soloist part and a congregational part. The soloist part is marked 'Solo' and the congregational part is marked 'All'. The score is divided into four systems, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Morn-ing Star, O cheer-ing sight! Ere thou cam'st, how dark earth's  
2 Morn-ing Star, thy glo-ry bright far ex-cels the sun's clear  
3 Thy glad beams, thou Morn-ing Star, cheer the na-tions near and  
4 Morn-ing Star, my soul's true light, tar-ry not, dis-pel my  
night! Morn-ing Star, O cheer-ing sight! Ere thou  
light. Morn-ing Star, thy glo-ry bright far ex-  
far. Thy glad beams, thou Morn-ing Star, cheer the  
night. Morn-ing Star, my soul's true light, tar-ry  
cam'st, how dark earth's night! Je-sus mine, in me shine; in me  
cels the sun's clear light. Je-sus be, con-stant-ly, con-stant-  
na-tions near and far. Thee we own, Lord a-lone, Lord a-  
not, dis-pel my night. Je-sus mine, in me shine; in me  
shine, Je-sus mine; fill my heart with light di-vine.  
ly, Je-sus be more than thou-sand suns to me.  
lone, thee we own, our dear Sav-ior, God's dear Son.  
shine, Je-sus mine; fill my heart with light di-vine.

Alternate setting: hymn 323

**LESSON:** John 1: 1-14

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the

light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

CAROL: ELW 282

It Came upon the Midnight Clear  
CAROL

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition concludes "*Merciful God.*" We respond: "**receive our prayer.**"

### THE 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.**

### BLESSING:

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day ✠ through the Word made flesh.

**Amen.**

CAROL: ELW 290

Go Tell It on the Mountain  
GO TELL IT

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE:

In Dulci Jubilo

Vincent Lübeck

*Please join us after Worship for coffee in the Fellowship Hall*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Times: 10:00 am – Worship

Office Hours: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

## Prayer List

- Current: Sharon Smith, Susan Kietel, Willie Mae Manning, David Kelly, Owen Hernandez, Beverly Shealy, John Carroll, Tommy Moore, and all homebound and caregivers.
- Continuing: The family of Linda Taylor, The family of Gerda Hallman, The family of David Wood, The family of David Seebauer, Delores Lee, Sandy Richardson, Carolyn Rast, Brandon Faust, Harry Evans, Meredith Schulz, Leon Hudson, Rachel Mock.
- Military: Mike Turner, (Mavis Turner's son), Hilary Compton, (Kim Yerrick's niece), Tyler Owens, (Kim Yerrick's nephew).

## Little Free Pantry

Thank you to all who have donated lately! We are doing great things for the community. Please continue to bring non-perishables to the office for drop off, especially as winter months approach.

## Unhanging of the Greens

The Christmas season will officially come to an end on Epiphany, the Twelfth Day of Christmas. Please join us as after worship on Sunday, January 1st for the festival of "Unhanging of the Greens," as we remove the Chrismons from our trees so they can then be packed away for next year. With many hands, this does not take very long!

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## Financial Update

	Actual	Plan	Difference
Last Week	\$8,302	\$5,000	\$3,302+
December	\$34,619	\$20,000	\$14,619+
Year-to-Date	\$235,165	\$260,000	\$24,835-

## Upcoming Events

- Sunday, Jan 1st:** 10:00 am  
Moravian Lovefeast Service  
"Unhanging of the Greens"
- Monday, January 2nd:** Office  
Closed
- Tuesday, January 12th:** Mary  
Martha Meeting at 6:00 pm
- Thursday, January 26th:** Holy  
Guacamole at 6:00 pm



## Giving to ILC

Please consider giving to Incarnation Lutheran Church's ministries and projects. We are also continuing to collect \$25 grocery cards for those in need.



Do you want to join Incarnation? If so, please contact the office at [office@incarnationlutheran.com](mailto:office@incarnationlutheran.com) so that we can gather your contact information and reach out to you.

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS

