



December

THE CONTACT

The official publication of Incarnation Lutheran Church

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South Carolina Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

PSALM 96:11

A NOTE FROM PASTOR EMILY:

Christmas seems to come more quickly each year, as stores kick into high gear with advertisements and sales designed to push us into the holidays. Black Friday is having an identity crisis as more and more stores move their “Black Fridays” to Thursday evening, or even earlier. We will shop, we will bake, we will attend parties, and we will decorate, all while keeping up with the daily grind of life.

It is in the midst of this frenetic activity that our church calendar invites us into Advent, the four weeks preceding the actual day of Christmas. The intent of Advent is not to heighten our anticipation in the same way that the stores do, but rather to help us ready our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ into the world. We take these four weeks and use them to focus our thoughts, slow our pace, and reflect on the meaning of this divine in-breaking into our mundane world.

Advent is a time when we acknowledge the darkness, both the shortening of the day and the dimming of the human spirit. During Advent we look at our world with a discerning eye in order to see and name the sin that still permeates our interactions and our systems, so that we might know in the depth of our being our need for Christ. It builds in us a longing for a better way, a hope that God is on our side, and the anticipation of God doing something new in this broken world of ours.

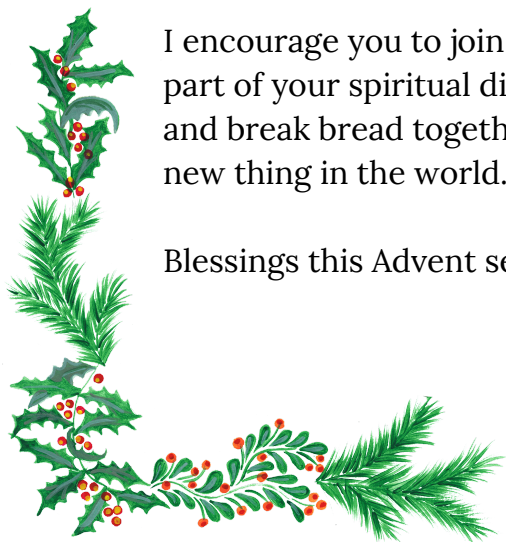
Advent is that slow, deep, intentional breath that we take in order to better prepare ourselves for the plunge into the light of Christ.

Of course, we will shop, and wrap, and bake, and visit during Advent. Of course we will. But I invite you this Advent to slow your pace a bit, to be intentional in your preparations and to be continually mindful of why we do what we do. Our focus is the coming of Christ, the light of the world.

I encourage you to join us for Advent worship at 5:45pm on Wednesdays this Advent as part of your spiritual discipline for this season of preparation. We will worship together and break bread together as we ready our hearts and minds for God to once again do a new thing in the world.

Blessings this Advent season,

Pastor Emily



CDC

Welcome to Advent!



During Chapel time we have been learning about the church season of Advent.



FAITH FORMATION CORNER

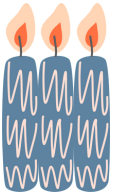
I hope you are having a reflective season of Advent so far. During our Craft and Learn time each Wednesday we will be learning about each candle of Advent Wreath. Below are prayers for you to pray each week while lighting the candles.



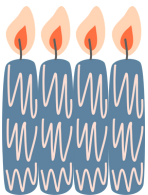
Advent 1: Hope - God, we thank you for giving us hope. Help us to have hope and to share hope as we wait for Jesus to be born. Amen.



Advent 2: Peace - God, please help us to understand peace and to share it with others. We wait for Jesus to be born with hope and peace. Amen.



Advent 3: Joy - God, we thank you for the gift of joy. Help us to share it with one another. We wait for Jesus with hope, peace, and joy. Amen.



Advent 4: Love - God, thank you for showing us what true love is. Help us to love you and to love one another. We wait for Jesus with hope, peace, joy, and love. Amen.

Excerpted from Faithful Families for Advent and Christmas: 100 Prayers, Practices, and Lessons to Make the Season Sacred by Traci Smith (Chalice Press: 2020, All Rights Reserved).--

MUSIC

Please join us as we welcome Palmetto Chamber Orchestra for a Holiday Concert! Tickets are \$15 at the door.



MAESTRA SUZANNA PAVLOVSKY

COLUMBIA CELEBRATES!

HOLIDAY CONCERT

DECEMBER 18, 6 pm

Incarnation Lutheran Church



STEWARDSHIP

"It's the thought that counts"

Jesus said, "Give, and it will be given to you." -Luke 6:38

Why is it so hard to find that all-too-elusive "perfect gift" for the loved ones in your life? For many of us, it's because they already have everything they need and most of what they want.

It sometimes feels impossible to find a gift that won't be banished to that closet for unwanted, unneeded, and unused presents -- alongside the loud ties, the strong perfumes, the unread books, and the garish sweaters. When it comes to gift-giving, it's often said, "It's the thought that counts." If that's true, why do we still put so much emphasis on the gift?

This year focus on the thoughts behind your Christmas gifts. Thoughts in keeping with the season. Thoughts of meeting real needs and giving where it will be much appreciated. With so many disadvantaged people in the world, at least some of our Christmas budget would be well spent helping our needy neighbors.

If you are buying for a loved one who has everything, consider instead giving a monetary donation in their honor to a worthy charity that helps the poor. Some charities, such as Heifer International and ELCA Good Gifts, let you buy a specific item – such as a goat or pig for a family, or a water well for a village – to help people in the developing world.

Make the gift in your loved one's name or honor, and then describe it in a card attached to a low-cost "token" gift, such as a small box of chocolates or a bottle of wine. The better part of your gift will go to someone who truly needs it, and your loved one will share the joy of loving and helping your neighbors in need.

Just remember, "It Is the Thought That Counts!"



UPCOMING EVENTS IN DECEMBER

DECEMBER AT INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4 Worship & Music 9:00 am - Adult Sun. School 9:15 am - Choir Practice 10:00 am - Sunday Worship Confirmation Class	5 9:30 am - Tiny Dancers 6:00 pm - Troop 8	6 9:00 am - Staff Meeting Sanctuary: Chapel 3:45 St Nick's Fest: 5:45 6:00 pm - Pack 8	7 Bible Study - 11:00 Sanctuary: Chapel 11-12 Advent Craft & Learn 5:00 Advent Worship: 5:45 Choir Rehearsal 6:40-8:00	8 Mary Martha	9	10
11 9:00 am - Adult Sun. School 9:15 am - Choir Practice 10:00 am - Sunday Worship Confirmation Class 4-6 pm: ILC Ladies' Drop-in	12 9:30 am - Tiny Dancers 6:00 pm - Troop 8	13 9:00 am - Staff Meeting Sanctuary: Chapel 3:45 5:30 - CDC Festival 6:00 pm - Pack 8 6:30 Council	14 Bible Study - 11:00 Sanctuary: Chapel 11-12 Advent Craft & Learn 5:00 Advent Worship: 5:45 Choir Rehearsal 6:40-8:00	15 PCO Concert Rehearsal 6:30 - 9:00	16	17
18 9:00 am - Adult Sun. School 9:15 am - Choir Practice 10:00 am - Sunday Worship & New Member Confirmation Class 5:00 pm PCO Concert	19 9:30 am - Tiny Dancers 6:00 pm - Troop 8	20 9:00 am - Staff Meeting 10:00 am - Quilting Group: Fellowship Hall Sanctuary: Chapel 3:45 6:00 pm - Pack 8	21 Bible Study - 11:00 Sanctuary: Chapel 11-12 Advent Craft & Learn 5:00 Advent Worship: 5:45 Choir Rehearsal 6:40-8:00	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship: 5 pm
25 10:00 am - Sunday Worship	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28	29	30	31

December Happenings

Wednesdays through Dec. 21st

5:00 pm Advent Craft & Learn, 5:45 pm Worship & Dinner

Sunday, Dec. 4th: Worship & Music meeting after Worship

Tuesday, Dec. 6th: St. Nicholas Festival at 5:45 pm

Thursday, Dec. 8th: 6:00 pm Mary Martha Christmas Party

Sunday, Dec. 11th: Ladies Advent Drop-In from 4-6 pm at the Sawicki Home

Tuesday, Dec. 13th: 5:30 pm CDC Christmas Festival & 6:30 pm Council Meeting

Sunday, Dec. 18th: New Member Sunday & Palmetto Chamber Orchestra Concert at 6:00 pm (Tickets Sold at Door - \$15)

Saturday, Dec. 24th: 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, Dec. 25th: 10:00 pm Christmas Day Service

Monday, Dec. 26th & Tuesday, Dec. 27th: Office Closed

Little Free Pantry

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to The Free Food Pantry. Through our donations, many persons have been able receive the gift of food. If you would like to make a monetary donation to The Free Food Pantry, you can do so through your online giving. Foods needed include:

1. Pop Top single entrée servings
(Ravioli, Mac and Cheese, etc.)
2. Canned Protein/Meats
3. Canned fruit
4. Carbohydrates such as Cereal (small servings are best,) Granola Bars, Pasta, Rice, Oatmeal, Grits, Crackers
5. Peanut Butter
6. Feminine Paper Products
7. Toiletries

GET IN TOUCH

Our Ministry Staff contacts are:

- Rev. Emily Willhide.....pastoremy@incarnationlutheran.com
- Dr. Patrick Hawkins; Dir. of Music & Organist.....music@incarnationlutheran.com
- Kimi Dail; Faith Formation Coordinator.....youth@incarnationlutheran.com
- Amy Kehl; Bookkeeper.....amy.kehl@incarnationlutheran.com
- Teresa Boykin; CDC Director.....cdc@incarnationlutheran.com
- Cherry Samuel; CDC-Byron Rd.....cdcbyron@incarnationlutheran.com
- Charlotte Dover; Parish Administrator.....office@incarnationlutheran.com
- Gina Schaefer; Seminarian.....office@incarnationlutheran.com

Worship: Sundays at 10 a.m.

(10 a.m. Worship is also live streamed on Facebook.)

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

3005 Devine Street, Columbia, SC 29205

Office: 803-256-2381

CDC: 803-256-7456

www.incarnationlutheran.com

www.facebook.com/IncarnationLutheranChurch



December Worship at ILC

Advent 1: Wednesday, November 30th
5:00 pm Craft and Learn & 5:45 pm Worship & Dinner

Advent 2: Wednesday, December 7th
5:00 pm Craft and Learn & 5:45 pm Worship & Dinner

Advent 3: Wednesday, December 14th
5:00 pm Craft and Learn & 5:45 pm Worship & Dinner

Advent 4: Wednesday, December 21st
5:00 pm Craft and Learn & 5:45 pm Worship & Dinner

Christmas Eve: Saturday December 24th
5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Day: Sunday December 25th
10:00 am Christmas Day Service

