



# December

*The official publication of Incarnation Lutheran Church*

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## UPCOMING EVENTS IN DECEMBER!

**Wednesday, December 6th at 6:00 pm:** St. Nick's Festival!  
Bring socks of all sizes to donate.

**Wednesday, December 13th at 6:00 pm:** Dinner, Games,  
and Cookie Swap

**Saturday, December 16th from 3:00-5:00 pm:** ILC Ladies  
Drop-In at the Meyer Home. All ILC Ladies Invited!

**Wednesday, December 20th at 6:00 pm:** Incarnation  
Christmas Concert and Dinner

**Sunday, December 24th:** 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship  
(Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 am)

**Sunday, December 31st:** 10:00 am Moravian Lovefeast



# PASTOR EMILY

Even though it comes at the end of the secular calendar year, for the church, Advent proclaims the birth of the new church year. This season is a time of beginnings marked by the kind expectant waiting that anticipates new life. In Advent we remember and celebrate God coming to earth in Jesus even as we look forward to God doing something new in Christ for the sake of the world. During Advent we will hear scripture that invites us to our own preparation for the new life that God will again pour out into the world.

What will that new life look like? I suppose it's one of the gifts of faith that no one is ever sure of the answer to that question. God is infinitely creative in renewing all of creation. I can tell you that Incarnation as a whole has experienced quite a bit of "newness of life" just recently. We've had a number of people join us, and the new faces and gifts they bring have blessed our community in more ways than I can count. They are singing in our choir, serving as ushers and on Altar Guild, volunteering for Sunday Coffee Hour, and more. Their children bring laughter into our sanctuary, and joy into our hearts.

But it's not just the "new folks" that are bringing this new energy into our church. Our Sunday School classes are hopping, our new children's choir is having more fun than should be allowed, and all of our committees are bringing new ideas to the table to keep our faith time together both engaging and challenging. This church may be over a century old but our faith is vibrant and full of that new-life vigor that only the Holy Spirit can bring.

What is the new thing in your life this year? Where is God calling you to engage more deeply or to try something new? Where is Christ leading you in your walk of faith and how do you see that meshing with our corporate calling to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, Immanuel, God among us?

These are all good questions for Advent, a time that invites both thanksgiving for what is and reflection for what could be. May God bless your Advent journey this year!

*Pastor Emily*



# CDC

*Thankful for soooo much! Our CDC ASC mini feast :)*



*grateful*  
♥

# FAITH FORMATION CORNER

This Advent season, I am encouraging families to make a special donation box and each day gather an item to donate. These donations can be brought to the church to go towards our Little Free Pantry, or you are welcome to take and donate to another place. The Reverse Advent Calendar below is a fun way to count down the days to Christmas. While we are waiting, why not give back to those in need.

## Reverse Advent Calendar

<b>1</b> Can or Packet of Tuna	<b>2</b> toothbrush and toothpaste	<b>3</b> Peanut Butter and Jelly	<b>4</b> Apple Sauce
<b>5</b> Individual sized packages of nuts	<b>6</b> Canned Beans	<b>7</b> Vienna Sausages	<b>8</b> Granola Bars or Trail Mix Packages
<b>9</b> Can or Packet of Chicken	<b>10</b> Canned Soup	<b>11</b> Canned Fruit	<b>12</b> Canned Veggies
<b>13</b> Boxed Stuffing Mix	<b>14</b> Instant Mashed Potatoes	<b>15</b> Boxed or Instant Mac and Cheese	<b>16</b> Breakfast Bars
<b>17</b> Pop Tarts, Little Debbie Snack Cakes etc.	<b>18</b> Cereal: box or individual packages	<b>19</b> Packages of Cheese or Peanut Butter Crackers	<b>20</b> Pancake Mix and Syrup
<b>21</b> Baby Food	<b>22</b> Shelf Stable Milk	<b>23</b> Canned Chili or Raviolo	<b>24</b> Pasta Sauce and Pasta

## FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

A Christmas Concert will be hosted on Sunday, December 20th at 6:00 pm. This event is free and a light dinner will be served afterwards. I invite you all to join!

Children's Choir has started at Incarnation and we are excited to bring this ministry to our youth. Please get in touch if you or your child is interested in joining.

You will notice in our weekly bulletins the "Lighting of the Advent Candles" has been added for the Advent season!

Below is the photo from the University of South Carolina Choral Concert in our beautiful sanctuary on Tuesday, November 28th. We are hosting the USC Doctoral Conducting Recital on Thursday, December 7th at 6:00 pm! This concert is free to the public.

Yours Truly,  
Dr. Patrick Hawkins





# STEWARDSHIP

*How do you use your perfect gift?*



*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. -Ephesians 2:8a*

True confessions: I've never worn the jaunty Christmas tie my son bought me five years ago. It's a waste, I know. At the end of every December, I shake my head and say, well, maybe next year. We ought to make good use of our gifts, but most of us have a few Christmas presents, given and received in love, that are forlornly collecting dust in a drawer or closet. That's not very good stewardship.

More important than a bottle of perfume or a loud tie, how are you stewarding that most precious of all Christmas gifts—the new life you have through faith in Jesus? Do you cherish it, honor it, make the most of all it has to offer? Because it is truly amazing.

Too many Christians focus exclusively on the AFTERlife that begins when we die. But that's missing out on the **Joy, Peace and Fulfillment** that Jesus promises us today, what he describes as life abundant. You've doubtless seen evidence of this life in the cheerful eyes and peaceful smiles of holy people you've encountered. Light seems to radiate from them. I want that life. Don't you?

The abundant life is Jesus' free gift, but it doesn't come automatically. It grows with us as we grow in faith through prayer, scripture study, worship, service and generosity – the disciplines of faith. In doing so, we align our hearts and souls with God's purposes and fulfill ever more closely those two holy commandments to love God and neighbor.

**This year, don't let your faith end up like a jaunty Christmas tie, hanging unused in the closet. Make the most of it and live into the new, abundant life Jesus promises to us all. It's the number one stewardship lesson.**

DECEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship 11am - Executive Council 11am - W&M Meeting 11:30am - Confirmation	6pm - Troop 8	9am - Staff Meeting 10am - Quilting Group 3:45pm - Kid's Chapel in 6pm - Pack 8	11am - Kids Chapel in 11am - Wednesday Bible 6pm - Handbell Choir 6pm - St. Nicholas 7pm - Chancel Choir	7:30pm - Music - USC: Doctorate Concert	6pm - Parents Night Out 10pm - Youth Lock-In	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship 11:30am - Confirmation	6pm - Troop 8	9am - Staff Meeting 10am - Quilting Group 3:45pm - Kid's Chapel in 5:30pm - CDC Christmas 6pm - Pack 8 6:30pm - Council Meeting	11am - Kids Chapel in 11am - Wednesday Bible 6pm - Dinner and Cookie 6pm - Handbell Choir 7pm - Chancel Choir	6pm - Mary Martha		3pm - Ladies Christmas
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship 11:30am - Confirmation	6pm - Scouts Court of	9am - Staff Meeting 10am - Quilting Group 3:45pm - Kid's Chapel in 6pm - Pack 8	11am - Kids Chapel in 11am - Wednesday Bible 6pm - Christmas Concert 6pm - Handbell Choir 7pm - Chancel Choir			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship 11:30am - Confirmation 6pm - Music - PCO:	Office Closed	10am - Quilting Group 6pm - Pack 8	11am - Kids Chapel in 11am - Wednesday Bible 6pm - Handbell Choir 7pm - Chancel Choir	6pm - Holy Guacamole at		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship 11:30am - Confirmation 5pm - Christmas Eve	6pm - Troop 8	10am - Quilting Group 6pm - Pack 8	11am - Kids Chapel in 11am - Wednesday Bible 6pm - Handbell Choir 7pm - Chancel Choir			
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship 11:30am - Confirmation						

## LITTLE FREE PANTRY

As colder weather approaches, please remember the Little Free Pantry. We refill the pantry twice a week. Our community seems to depend on our help to feed them. Please remember to bring some of the items listed below or donate specifically to the Little Free Pantry online or in your usual donation.

Items needed: Tuna Fish, Canned Meals like Chili, Beef Stew, Mac and Cheese, and Ravioli, Cereal - hot and cold, Fruit cups, Soup, Granola Bars, Fruit bars Crackers - plain and filled, Pasta, Spaghetti sauce, Water, Toiletry items - toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo (NO mouthwash,) Hand Wipes, Hand Sanitizers - small size.

## GET IN TOUCH

Our Ministry Staff contacts are:

Rev. Emily Willhide.....pastoremily@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

**Worship:** Sundays at 10 a.m.

**Sunday School** for all ages at 9 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: 803-661-6378

[www.incarnationlutheran.com](http://www.incarnationlutheran.com)

[www.facebook.com/IncarnationLutheranChurch](https://www.facebook.com/IncarnationLutheranChurch)



# December AT INCARNATION



- DEC  
**6**  
WED  
6:00 PM  
St. Nick's Festival and Dinner
- DEC  
**07**  
THURS  
6:00 PM  
USC Doctoral Conducting Recital - Free
- DEC  
**08**  
FRI  
6:00 PM - 10:00PM / 10:00 PM - 8:30 AM  
Parents Night Out/Youth Lock In
- DEC  
**13**  
WED  
6:00 PM  
Dinner, Games, and Cookie Swap
- DEC  
**16**  
SAT  
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM  
Ladies Christmas Drop-In at Stacey Meyer's Home
- DEC  
**17**  
SUN  
6:00 PM  
Palmetto Chamber Orchestra Concert
- DEC  
**20**  
WED  
6:00 PM  
Incarnation Christmas Concert and Dinner - Free
- DEC  
**24**  
SUN  
5:00 PM  
Christmas Eve Worship  
(Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 am)
- DEC  
**31**  
SUN  
10:00 AM  
Moravian Lovefeast