

FEBRUARY 2022

THE CONTACT

The official publication of Incarnation Lutheran Church

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor Emily	2
Music	3
CDC	6
Happenings at ILC	7
February Calendar	8
Get In Touch	9



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

A NOTE FROM PASTOR EMILY:

This week I had a young person ask me if it was important to attend church on a regular basis, or if it was enough to have a personal faith that was practiced outside of a church setting. It's a more complicated question than it might at first appear. While I firmly believe that church is an important component to our faith walk, I also did not want to discount the importance of our individual, and sometimes solitary, faith practices: morning devotions, prayer walks, meditation, and so on.

To explore the question, we first talked about the importance of community, and the strength and support that community can give when we ourselves are experiencing challenges. We discussed the need for fellowship and for continued instruction in the faith. But we also talked about the importance of finding the right community. If the church you are a part of does not love you and support you, it may not be serving as a very effective witness of the gospel in your life.

God loves us. That's the core of the gospel message. At Incarnation, we strive to love in the same unconditional way that God loves. That doesn't mean that we never fall short of that goal, far from it. But it does mean that, at the end of the day, we claim the truth that we are all siblings in faith, commanded by Jesus to love one another the best that we can. So we get up, dust ourselves off, and try again tomorrow.

Yes, coming to church on a regular basis is an important part of our faith lives. It is where we hear the word of God, where we find strength and comfort during the hard times, and where we rejoice together in the good times. But most importantly it is where we are both loved and have the opportunity to love.

Lent is rapidly approaching and I encourage you to be a part of the worshipping community here at Incarnation for all of the many ways that we will gather for fellowship, discipleship, and worship, and to experience and share the love of God. May God bless us in our gathering!

SHROVE TUESDAY

Join us for a pancake supper at 5:30pm

ASH WEDNESDAY

Worship with the imposition of ashes at 12pm and 5:30pm

WEDNESDAYS -

(Mid-Week Lenten Meal and Worship)

March 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th, and April 6th

Worship is at 5:45pm with a meal following

HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday - April 14th at 6pm

Good Friday - April 15th at 6pm

Pastor Emily

MUSIC

As we look ahead at the musical calendar this February, our cantor, Emma, will sing the beloved "I know that my Redeemer liveth" from the Messiah. Composed hundreds of years ago, Handel's masterpiece still is a staple in choir libraries and singers regularly are asked to perform the arias and choruses from the Oratorio. Recently, I stumbled upon an interesting read by Jennifer A. Marshall entitled, "Why Handel's Messiah Endures." I am sharing her words here with you. After reading it, do listen to it (there are numerous professional recordings free on YouTube). It really is wonderful music!

Why Handel's 'Messiah' Endures

by JENNIFER A. MARSHALL, THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

It's one of the most famous and widely shared pieces of music in history.

Handel intended his oratorio "Messiah" for Lent, and it was first performed just after Easter 1742. But over the centuries, public performances of the masterwork became a rite of Christmas.

It is 270 years since Handel composed the classic, yet crowds continue to gather and listen, once again, for hours. Today's audiences typically reserve that kind of time for a Lady Gaga concert or the opening of a new "Mission Impossible" movie.

What explains the enduring attraction of Handel's "Messiah?"

For one thing, the sheer beauty of the music. For another, the incredible skill of the composer. In one of history's most astounding creative feats, Handel produced the 260-page score in just 24 days.

Beethoven—whose Ninth Symphony's final movement ("Ode to Joy") rivals the Hallelujah Chorus of "Messiah" for widespread emotional appeal—is said to have revered Handel as the greatest of composers.

The lasting popularity also owes to the work's moving text, drawn from the Bible. From prophecy to incarnation to death and resurrection, the life of Christ has been called the greatest story ever told. Indeed, Leland Ryken and other Christian literary scholars have noted how the narrative qualities of biblical revelation are finely tuned to the way we're made as humans.

MUSIC

Together, the music and subject of Handel's "Messiah" reach the sublime status of great art that speaks to "what is permanent in the human soul," as the 19th-century poet and cultural critic Matthew Arnold wrote. No wonder we love to hear it at Christmas, the time of year that calls us back to the permanent things.

Master artists and authors create a "unity and profoundness of moral impression," Arnold wrote, "which constitutes the grandeur of their works, and which makes them immortal."

That kind of moral impression is grounded in the conviction that human nature persists, truth exists and life has meaning and purpose. Such courage of conviction has been waning for some time.

A century ago, the great English writer G. K. Chesterton diagnosed that "what we suffer from today is humility in the wrong place." Modesty used to rein in our ambition; it shifted to constrain conviction, "where it was never meant to be."

Things haven't improved since Chesterton's time. Today's radical postmodernist academics teach young people there is no universal human condition or transcendent morality. Reality is culturally determined, they say, a mere social construct erected by personal background and identity. This relativism leaves some philosophers skeptical about the nature of rationality and truth altogether.

To be sure, experience does influence our perspective on reality. Whether a child grows up in Bedford Falls or Berkeley or Bahrain will shape her outlook. So will racial, socioeconomic and religious characteristics. Just as eyeglasses are shaped by a sanding process, many factors grind the lens through which each of us sees reality.

But it remains a lens. It does not change reality itself.

Great art helps continue to refine and polish that lens with accounts of truth that transcend our own outlooks.

Wise voices across generations have urged a perennial return to classic works to gain perspective on our age and experience. "Every age has its own outlook. It is specially good at seeing certain truths and specially liable to make certain mistakes," C.S. Lewis explained. We need to read "old books," he said, to correct the blind spots of our day.

MUSIC

Lewis didn't idealize the past, though.

"People were no cleverer then than they are now; they made as many mistakes as we. But not the same mistakes," he wrote. "Two heads are better than one, not because either is infallible, but because they are unlikely to go wrong in the same direction."

The well-aged insights of great works of art, literature and music help us sift today's culture, as Arnold explained, to identify what will "cultivate what is best and noblest" in us as human beings.

Plenty of entertainment will lose its popularity long before the end of the century—if not the decade. But great works endure because they appeal to universal longings of the human spirit.

Nearly three centuries since its debut, crowds continue to gather for Handel's "Messiah" because the stunning crescendos and familiar choruses draw us toward answers to "the hopes and fears of all the years."

Valentine's Day Organ Recital

Monday, February 14th for the Columbia Music Club

Hosted at Incarnation Lutheran Church

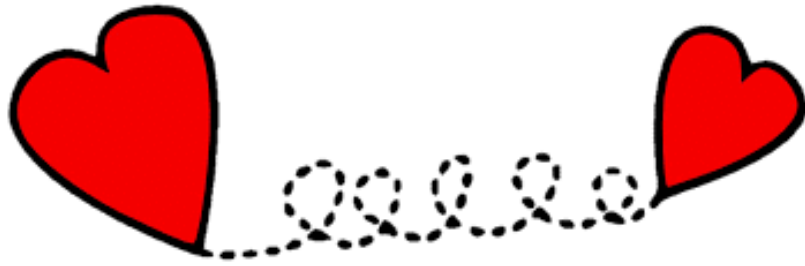
12:00 pm - 12:30 pm

Admission is free.

We would love to see you there.



CDC



February is one of our favorite months at our Child Development Centers. We are in full winter mode with lots of fun crafts and activities. Having just had snow last weekend the kids all about crafting snowmen out of construction paper. The final products are reminders of how much fun they had and what a treat it is to see snow in SC.

We are also prepping for the best holiday after Christmas, Valentine's Day! We spend days getting making cards for families and making boxes to receive cards. We talk a lot about kindness, The Golden Rule, and how being kind and loving our neighbor is what Jesus wants us to do.



HAPPENINGS AT ILC

Bake Sale:

After the congregational meeting on Sunday, February 13th, please stop by the reception hall to purchase desserts. We are raising money to support the youth for the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. We will have cakes, cookies, brownies etc for sale! Contact Suzanne Snyder at 803-315-0532 or email suzannesnyder@msn.com for more information. Thank you for your support.

Flower Chart:

The 2022 flower is posted near the office. Please fill out a form and contact the office to sign up for a Sunday. \$15.00

Distanced Donuts:

Please continue to sign up for Distanced Donuts if you are able. We appreciate your help.

Little Free Pantry:

Our Little Free Pantry is in need of a re-stock! Please bring any non-perishables that are within their expiration date you are able to donate to the office.

Vandalism:

We had the unfortunate distinction of being one of the properties targeted by a vandal in the last week of January. Damage included a broken window in our main doors on Devine St., as well as damage to a small pane in our stained glass window featuring Martin Luther. Our thanks to Teresa Boykin and Charlotte Dover, who dealt with the police report and the clean-up. Please keep all who were impacted in your prayers.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY AT INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 9:00 am - Staff Meeting 10:00 am - Quilting Group: Fellowship Hall 5:00 pm - Pack 8	2 Sanctuary: Chapel 11-12 11:30 Bible Study:	3	4	5
6 8:30 am - Worship 10:00 am - Sunday Worship	7 6:00 pm - Troop 8	8 Council Meeting 9:00 am - Staff Meeting 10:00 am - Quilting Group: Fellowship Hall 5:00 pm - Pack 8	9 Sanctuary: Chapel 11-12 11:30 Bible Study:	10	11	12
13 8:30 am - Worship 10:00 am - Sunday Worship Youth Gathering Mtg and Bake Sale - 1:30 pm Congregational Meeting	14 5:00 pm - Troop 8	15 9:00 am - Staff Meeting 10:00 am - Quilting Group: Fellowship Hall 5:00 pm - Pack 8	16 Sanctuary: Chapel 11-12 11:30 Bible Study:	17 6:00 -Lutheran Men in Mission	18	19
20 8:30 am - Worship 10:00 am - Sunday Worship Worship & Music -12:00 pm	21 6:00 pm - Troop 8	22 9:00 am - Staff Meeting 10:00 am - Quilting Group: Fellowship Hall 5:00 pm - Pack 8 6:30 - CDC Meeting	23 Sanctuary: Chapel 11-12 11:30 Bible Study: Spaghetti Dinner	24	25	26
27 8:30 am - Worship 10:00 am - Sunday Worship 11:15 am - 12:00 pm: Handbell Practice	28 5:00 pm - Troop 8					

GET IN TOUCH

Our Ministry Staff contacts are:

Rev. Emily Willhide.....pastoremily@incarnationlutheran.com

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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 8:30 am and 10 a.m.

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

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

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