



THE CONTACT

The official publication of Incarnation Lutheran Church

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January Happenings

Sunday, January 1st: Moravian Lovefeast at 10:00 am

Monday, January 2nd: Office Closed

Tuesday, January 12th: Mary Martha Meeting at 6:00 pm

Thursday, January 26th: Holy Guacamole at 6:00 pm

Weekly 2023:

Quilting Group - Every Tuesday at 9:00 am

Handbell Choir - Every Wednesday from 5:15 pm - 6:15 pm

Choir - Every Wednesday from 6:15 pm - 7:30 pm

Mary Martha - Every Second Tuesday at 6:00 pm

Holy Guacamole - Every Fourth Thursday at 6:00 pm



A NOTE FROM PASTOR EMILY:

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
-Isaiah 60:1

When they saw that the star had stopped, the wise men were overwhelmed with joy.
-Matthew 2:10

Growing up in the northeast was a cold, dark business. I don't mean that the people were any less hospitable than in the south, I mean it literally. With an average winter temperature twenty five degrees colder than South Carolina, and thirty less minutes of daylight each day, Pennsylvania is just colder and darker in the winter. And let's not forget about the length of that winter, either. When South Carolina is bursting into bloom, Pennsylvania is usually bracing for that last major snowstorm of the season. There are parts of living PA that I loved, but the month of January was not one of them. I don't really like the cold and dark.

Each January we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord and it is not lost on me that the appointed readings in this dark cold month are all about light. "Arise and shine for your light has come!" Isaiah proclaims. Even the wise men follow a new light in the night sky. As we travel further into January, we will hear story after story that reveals just who this Jesus is and what his presence means for the world. John will tell us that "the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." Epiphany is filled with the light of hope.

January is still not my favorite month, even here in South Carolina, but I do find myself liking it a little bit more each year. I have always appreciated the poetry of the coldest, darkest month revealing the light of Christ. After all, without the cold and dark, how do we recognize the warmth and the light? Without times of loss and grief, how do we appreciate growth and joy? This church is certainly no stranger to this process. Grief and hardship march alongside new life and joy. But threaded throughout all of those ups and downs of life is this assurance of Epiphany: God has walked among us and has promised to be present with us, even to the end of the age.

Pastor Emily

CDC

Welcome Home!



It's a privilege to raise them, and have them come back to join us in ministry!
(Katie & Grace Sawicki)



FAITH FORMATION CORNER

This season of Advent was a busy one. Wednesday evenings have been filled with the fun of crafting and glitter, as well as watching and waiting for the birth of Jesus. We celebrated the feast day of St. Nicholas, and did a little Christmas caroling to the neighbors behind us. Advent and Christmas are behind us, but there is so much to come in this new month and year. Keep your eyes peeled for the details of an upcoming meeting to plan the 2023 calendar for events and activities for our youth and children.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



MUSIC

Time to learn a new liturgy!

Dear Congregation,

In the New Year, we will be gradually introducing Setting Nine from the ELW into the worship service. Here is a link to practice the "Holy, Holy, Holy."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEHCI3dNE3Q>



We have sung the "Lamb of God" before, but this video is a good reminder of what it sounds like.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69jYLv9GQkU>



STEWARDSHIP

"Stewardship of Time"

O God, teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. -Psalm 90:12

What does it mean to count our days? Certainly, the poet who wrote Psalm 90:12 was thinking of more than arithmetic, which may not necessarily gain us a wise heart. Wisdom comes from perspective, from painful introspection and prayerful deliberation.

We count in order to know not only how many days we have lived, but to ponder how many days we might have left. Counting, we remember that we are finite creatures whose lives march forward in steady 24-hour steps, carrying us from birth to death. Knowing, then, that our days are numbered, we appreciate each one more fully.

We count our days to gain the wisdom that every day is sacred; every day presents opportunities to live more fully in relationship with God and our neighbors; every day is for love and joy and peace and fulfillment. Yet it's all too easy to let the days slip away.

This month consider a focus on stewardship of your time – how you spend every day God gives you. Here is a “to do” list for making the most of every day:

- **Pray:** Begin each day communicating with the creator of the universe, meditating on Scripture or a wise Christian author. Even 10 minutes. End by praying Psalm 118:24: “This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”
- **Care:** Convey through word or deed how much you care about someone in your life. Call up an old friend or relative. Invite a co-worker to lunch.
- **Help:** Look for some way to assist someone. Volunteer. Hold a door open for someone entering a store behind you. Stop for a pedestrian who wants to cross the street.
- **Enrich:** Find something that will deepen your knowledge, understanding or appreciation of the world. Read a poem or book. Listen to a sermon podcast or educational news program.
- **Stop:** That's right, do nothing. For at least 10 minutes (use your smart phone timer) sit quietly, breathe deeply and try to clear the busy thoughts from your mind. Open your spirit to God's presence.
- **Be healthy:** Do something to increase your physical health, such as eating a nutritious meal or taking a walk.
- **Pray:** End every day thanking the creator of the universe for another wonderful day. A day you have counted and that you have made count.

Focus on stewardship of time and see how your own life will change. Make it a permanent part of your discipleship.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN JANUARY

JANUARY AT INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9:00 am - Adult Sun. School 10:00 am - Sunday Worship	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3 9:00 am - Staff Meeting 10:00 am - Quilting Group: Fellowship Hall Sanctuary; Chapel 3:45 6:00 pm - Pack 8	4 Sanctuary; Chapel 11-12 Handbells: 5:15- 6:15 Choir Rehearsal 6:15- 7:30	5 Mary Martha	6	7
8 Worship & Music 9:00 am - Adult Sun. School 10:00 am - Sunday Worship Confirmation Class	9 9:30 am - Tiny Dancers 6:00 pm - Troop 8	10 9:00 am - Staff Meeting 10:00 am - Quilting Group: Fellowship Hall Sanctuary; Chapel 3:45 6:00 pm - Pack 8 6:30 Council	11 Sanctuary; Chapel 11-12 Handbells: 5:15- 6:15 Choir Rehearsal 6:15- 7:30	12	13	14
15 9:00 am - Adult Sun. School 10:00 am - Sunday Worship Confirmation Class	16 9:30 am - Tiny Dancers 6:00 pm - Troop 8	17 9:00 am - Staff Meeting 10:00 am - Quilting Group: Fellowship Hall Sanctuary; Chapel 3:45 6:00 pm - Pack 8	18 Bible Study - 11:00 Sanctuary; Chapel 11-12 Handbells: 5:15- 6:15 Choir Rehearsal 6:15- 7:30	19	20	21
22 9:00 am - Adult Sun. School 10:00 am - Sunday Worship Confirmation Class	23 9:30 am - Tiny Dancers 6:00 pm - Troop 8	24 9:00 am - Staff Meeting 10:00 am - Quilting Group: Fellowship Hall Sanctuary; Chapel 3:45 6:00 pm - Pack 8	25 Bible Study - 11:00 Sanctuary; Chapel 11-12 Handbells: 5:15- 6:15 Choir Rehearsal 6:15- 7:30	26 6:00 pm Holy Guacamole	27 Cub Scout Derby Fellowship Hall	28 Cub Scout Derby Fellowship Hall
29 9:00 am - Adult Sun. School 10:00 am - Sunday Worship Confirmation Class	30 9:30 am - Tiny Dancers 6:00 pm - Troop 8	31 9:00 am - Staff Meeting 10:00 am - Quilting Group: Fellowship Hall Sanctuary; Chapel 3:45 6:00 pm - Pack 8				

LITTLE FREE PANTRY

Thank you to all who have been contributing food and donating money to purchase food for the Little Free Pantry. We are currently well stocked. The pantry is being well used by people in the community who are in need of food. I generally check it twice per week and each time it needs restocking. The need is great in our community.

We currently need the following items: Soup, Canned fish and meat, Juice, Fruit (cans or individual sized containers,) Crackers, Tooth Brushes, Toothpaste, Shampoo, Soap, Hand Sanitizers.

Place any donated items in the gray container in the hallway, near the church office. If the office is closed feel free to place items directly in the Little Free Pantry.

Thank you, Marcy Coster-Schulz

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
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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.

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