

Incarnation Lutheran Church  
2nd Sunday of Christmas  
January 3, 2020

**GATHERING**

**VOLUNTARY**

Organ Voluntary: Two settings of "Das alte Jahr vergangen ist"

Johann G. Walther  
Johann Seb. Bach

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING HYMN: ELW 533**

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

*Open now thy gates of beauty,  
Zion, let me enter there,  
where my soul in joyful duty  
waits for God who answers prayer.  
Oh, how blessed is this place,  
filled with solace, light, and grace!*

*Gracious God, I come before thee;  
come thou also unto me;  
where we find thee and adore thee,  
there a heav'n on earth must be.  
To my heart, oh, enter thou,  
let it be thy temple now!*

*Here thy praise is gladly chanted,  
here thy seed is duly sown;  
let my soul, where it is planted,  
bring forth precious sheaves alone,  
so that all I hear may be  
fruitful unto life in me.*

*Thou my faith increase and quicken,  
let me keep thy gift divine;  
howsoe'er temptations thicken,  
may thy word still o'er me shine  
as my guiding star through life,  
as my comfort in all strife.*

*Speak, O God, and I will hear thee,  
let thy will be done indeed;  
may I undisturbed draw near thee  
while thou dost thy people feed.*

*Here of life the fountain flows;  
here is balm for all our woes.*

## **CONFESSİON AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, <sup>†</sup> one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

**God of goodness and lovingkindness, we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Hear the good news of peace and salvation!

God forgives us all our sins through <sup>†</sup> Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, let us rejoice in God's amazing gift of grace.

**Amen.**

## **GREETİNG**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**GLORIA: ELW 223**

You Belong to Christ

*You belong to Christ,  
in whom you have been baptized.  
You belong to Christ,  
in whom you have been baptized.  
Alleluia, alleluia.  
You belong to Christ,  
in whom you have been baptized.*

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## WORD

### CHILDREN'S TIME

#### FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

<sup>7</sup>Thus says the LORD:  
Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
“Save, O LORD, your people,  
the remnant of Israel.”

<sup>8</sup>See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup>With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back,  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup>Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.”

<sup>11</sup>For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

<sup>12</sup>They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.

<sup>13</sup>Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

<sup>14</sup>I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

*After the Reading:* The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

#### PSALM: Psalm 147:12-20

<sup>12</sup>Worship the LORD, | O Jerusalem;  
praise your | God, O Zion,

- <sup>13</sup>who has strengthened the bars | of your gates  
and has blessed your chil- | dren within you.
- <sup>14</sup>God has established peace | on your borders  
and satisfies you with the | finest wheat.
- <sup>15</sup>God sends out a command | to the earth,  
a word that runs | very swiftly.
- <sup>16</sup>God gives | snow like wool,  
scattering | frost like ashes.
- <sup>17</sup>God scatters | hail like bread crumbs.  
Who can stand a- | gainst God's cold?
- <sup>18</sup>The LORD sends forth the | word and melts them;  
the wind blows, and the | waters flow.
- <sup>19</sup>God declares the | word to Jacob,  
statutes and judg- | ments to Israel.
- <sup>20</sup>The LORD has not done so to any | other nation;  
they do not know God's judgments. | Hallelujah!

### **SECOND READING:** Ephesians 1:3-14

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

*After the Reading:* The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL READING:** John 1:[1-9] 10-18

*Before the Reading:* The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[<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. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

*After the Reading:* The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

Pastor Rusty Kehl

## HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 295

Of the Father's Love Begotten

*Of the Father's love begotten  
ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega,  
he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore.*

*Oh, that birth forever blessed,  
when the virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
bore the Savior of our race,  
and the babe, the world's redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore.*

*This is he whom seers in old time  
chanted of with one accord,  
whom the voices of the prophets  
promised in their faithful word;  
now he shines, the long-expected;  
let creation praise its Lord  
evermore and evermore.*

*Let the heights of heav'n adore him;  
angel hosts, his praises sing;  
pow'rs, dominions, bow before him  
and extol our God and King;  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
ev'ry voice in concert ring  
evermore and evermore.*

*Christ, to thee, with God the Father,  
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
and unwearied praises be:*

*honor, glory, and dominion,  
and eternal victory  
evermore and evermore! Amen.*

### APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,**

**God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Each petition concludes "Hear us, O God." We respond: **Your mercy is great.***

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Redeeming God, you gather together your people from the farthest parts of the earth. Protect your church from stumbling. Let it not be overcome by sorrow, division, or despair. Make us radiant with goodness, that we might live always to the praise of your glory. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

You bring together heaven and earth. All creation testifies to your splendor. Hold the ecosystems of this earth in delicate balance, from coastlands to farmlands, forests to wetlands, deserts to rainforests. Show us new ways to live in harmony with the world around us. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You overflow with grace upon grace. Expand the imaginations of those who serve in positions of authority. Open their hearts to the needs of their nations and communities. Protect all those in harm's way and those risking danger for the sake of others. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You bring consolation to those who weep. Embrace those who feel far-off, excluded, or defeated. Accompany those living with chronic and invisible illness. Sustain the weak and

weary. Refresh those who labor under the weight of pain or sickness (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You come to us in the beauty of darkness and of light. Bring justice and reconciliation to communities divided by oppressions and misuse of power. Guide us to speak holy words of advocacy and truth. Help us to honor your image in one another. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You turn our mourning into joy. We give thanks for those who have died in faith (*especially*). With all the saints, give us our inheritance in Christ. In the fullness of time, gather us all together in your mercy. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

### **SHARING THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**OFFERTORY: ELW 284**

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

*'Twas in the moon of wintertime  
when all the birds had fled,  
that \*God the Lord of all the earth  
sent angel choirs instead;  
before their light the stars grew dim,  
and wond'ring hunters heard the hymn:*

*Refrain  
Jesus your king is born! Jesus is born,  
in excelsis gloria!*

*Within a lodge of broken bark  
the tender babe was found;  
a ragged robe of rabbit skin  
enwrapped his beauty round;  
but as the hunter braves drew nigh,  
the angel song rang loud and high: Refrain*

*The earliest moon of wintertime  
is not so round and fair  
as was the ring of glory on  
the helpless infant there.  
The chiefs from far before him knelt  
with gifts of fox and beaver pelt. Refrain*

*O children of the forest free,  
the angel-song is true;  
the holy child of earth and heav'n  
is born today for you.  
Come, kneel before the radiant boy,  
who brings you beauty, peace, and joy. Refrain*

## CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING

*Refrain*

Sal - va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

1 Great and won-der-ful are your deeds, O God of the u - ni - verse; just and true are your ways, O Rul - er of all the na-tions. Who can fail to hon-or you, Lord, and sing the glo - ry of your name? Sal - va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

2 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, and bless-ed is the one whose name is the Word of God. All praise and thanks to you, ho - ly God! Sal - va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

*Refrain*

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Amen.**

## **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.**

## **RITE OF INSTALLATION**

Pastor Andrew Isenhower

## **SENDING**

## **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and <sup>+</sup> give you peace.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN: ELW 296**

What Child is This?

*What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!*

*Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you;  
hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary!*

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary!*

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the Good News.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ

Johann Pachelbel



## **Worship Note**

Did you know our faithful quilters designed and stitched the quilts lining the pews of our sanctuary? For years, they have met weekly to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief, a ministry sponsored by the ELCA.

Right now, the quilters cannot meet during the pandemic, but the quilts are serving to help with the acoustics in the sanctuary as we continue to work with our new sound system. When that is resolved, all of these quilts will be dedicated and then shipped to LWR and sent to

people in need around the world. Quilts serve as bedding, as tents, as floor coverings and in many other ways. We thank our faithful quilters!



## Announcements

**Faith Formation** will be having an interest meeting via Zoom on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>.

**A time for Self-directed Worship** will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11a.m. to 1 p.m. We ask that those who attend please wear a mask and remain socially distant from others.

**Wednesdays at noon**, Incarnation will be hosting a short devotional Bible study. Bible study will be held over Zoom and the office will email out the link for the meeting each Wednesday morning.

**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.

### Prayer List

**Current:** Grace Garber, Ed Skinner, Lily Hoffman, Ivey Smith, Diane Smith, Sam Hall, The Norton Family, The Family of Mary Thompson, The Family of Carrie Brown, The Family of Debbie Campbell, all those caring for elderly parents, and all those that are home bound.

**Continuing:** Sara Sutton, Jesse, Emily Prince, Emily Wright, Gary Todd, Linda Blazek, Maren Milbourne, Ann Ford, Judy Moody, and Jenny Gantt.

**Military:** Michael Willhide, Mike Turner, (Mavis Turner's son), Hilary Compton, (Kim Yerrick's niece), Tyler Owens, (Kim Yerrick's nephew).

### Online Giving!

We look forward to the day when we can worship together as a family again, but until then, please continue to support the mission of the church. You can use this image below by scanning the QR Code with your smart phone's camera which will lead you to our Website for Online Giving or look for our new Paypal button on our Facebook page!



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Incarnation Lutheran Church



Incarnation Lutheran Church Columbia, SC



**South Carolina Synod**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

**Lutheran Church of the Incarnation**

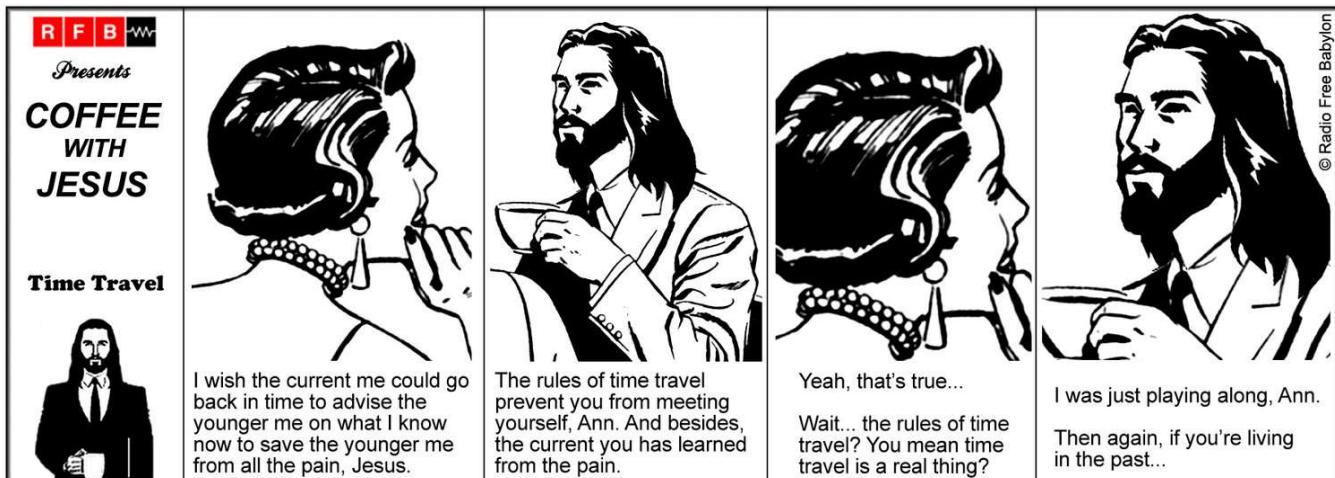
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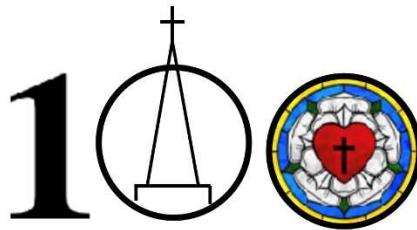
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803-256-2381



MAY YOU SHINE  
THE LIGHT OF  
CHRIST IN THE  
NEW YEAR!



Celebrating A Century of Faith, Love and Service  
**INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
1921-2021

## **Our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Begins!**

### **Kick-off to the Anniversary Year**

Sunday, January 3, 2021

#### **Guest Preacher: The Rev. Rusty Kehl**

Son of Incarnation

Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Greenwood, South Carolina

It's finally here! Incarnation's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration will officially begin on Sunday, January 3, 2021 with Pastor Rusty Kehl as our guest preacher!

Rusty, the son of Mary Kehl and sister of Amy Kehl, grew up at Incarnation and spent his formative years here, where he was an active participant in church life. As an adult, Rusty became Scoutmaster of Incarnation's Troop 8 and he and his wife Dee Dee were involved in every ministry Incarnation had to offer.

Rusty answered a long-delayed call to ministry when he entered the Master of Divinity program at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, where he graduated in 2016. He was ordained a pastor and began serving Immanuel Lutheran Church, Greenwood, South Carolina. On January 17, 2021, he will begin a new ministry at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Florence, South Carolina.

We are delighted to welcome Rusty and Dee Dee Kehl home to inaugurate our anniversary year!

# Happy New Year

