Moravian Lovefeast

December 28th, 2025

10:00 am

A service of Lessons & Carols, coffee, and cake!

Our Ministry Staff contacts are:
Rev. Emily Willhide: pastoremily@incarnationlutheran.com
Teresa Boykin; CDC Director: cdc@incarnationlutheran.com
Bonnie McDaniel; Parish Administrator: office@incarnationlutheran.com
Amy Kehl; Bookkeeper: bookkeeper@incarnationlutheran.com
Matthew Whitehouse; Organist: music@incarnationlutheran.com
Elliott Stewart; Handbell and Choir Director: choir@incarnationlutheran.com

Sunday School (all ages): 9:00 am
Nursery (ages 3 and under): 9:45 am- 11:15 am
Worship: Sundays at 10:00 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
www.facebook.com/IncarnationLutheranChurch

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Incarnation Lutheran Church
inspire renew empower

WELCOME TO INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH! We are a congregation of the South Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

This is Christ's church.
There is a place for you here.

We are a church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person, regardless of race, gender, orientation, ability or disability, socioeconomic status, or citizenship. We affirm that all people are beloved children of God and created in the image of God. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

WORSHIP

- We gather to worship God in community because we believe that in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ all things are made new, including us, and that God has brought us together for a purpose.
- Our worship language is drawn from scripture, and you may recognize many parts of it from your Bible.
- The worship bulletin includes our order of worship and will direct you to hymns/songs (located in our red hymnal), or to different parts of the liturgy (in the front half of the ELW). If you're not sure what something means, please ask a neighbor or an usher.
- During worship, there are directions to be seated or to stand as able. Please do what you are able and what makes you comfortable.

HOLY COMMUNION

We invite you to join with us in the sacrament of Holy Communion, as Jesus invites us all to the table. The Ushers will direct you to the front of the church to receive communion. Please take an empty communion glass from the trays at the front of the church. The innermost ring of glasses are pre-filled with grape juice for those who prefer juice to wine. There are discard trays by the side aisles. Gluten free wafers are also available. Children are welcome to participate when they and their families think they are ready, and after a conversation with the pastor. If you are unable to come forward, please indicate that to the Ushers, and the Pastor will bring communion to you in your pew.

CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN WORSHIP!

The whole church is blessed by the presence of children in worship, wiggle and all. They will learn to participate in church by watching you and the congregation as we stand, sit, pray, and sing together. Coloring pages, crayons, Quiet Mazes, and activity bags are available in the narthex to help them if they get a little restless. There is also a nursery located in our educational building next door, staffed with two qualified caregivers.

RESTROOMS

As you face the altar, the men's restrooms are through the door on the right side and down the hall. The women's restroom and an accessible family restroom are through the door on the left side. A diaper changing station is available in the family restroom.

LIVESTREAM

Worship is live-streamed on Facebook and can be found on Incarnation's Facebook page. A link is also available on our website: incarnationlutheran.com

ASSISTIVE LISTENING IS AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX

Please ask the Ushers for help if you have difficulty either in locating the devices or using them.

Welcome to Worship

INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

✢ Moravian Lovefeast • December 28th, 2025 ✢

Worship Notes: *• Our Lectors for today are Connie Hinson and Stefanie Seeabauer • Our Crucifer for today is Ken Custer • Our Worship Assistant for today is Maggie Murdock •*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE From Heaven Above to Earth I Come J.S. Bach

INTRODUCTION TO THE LOVEFEAST: Dr. Susan McArver

The Moravian Church has ancient roots that predate the Protestant Reformation.

A century before Martin Luther initiated the Reformation in 1517, Jan Hus, a Catholic priest in the present-day Czech Republic, was burned at the stake for making many of the same calls for reform that Luther would eventually make. Luther came to consider himself a "Hussite" who followed in the trail blazed before him by Hus. The followers of Jan Hus were persecuted but endured to eventually form the Moravian Church. The Moravian Church is a full communion partner with the ELCA.

John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Church, was profoundly influenced by the Moravians, and attributed much of his sense of "awakening" to their witness and example. He first experienced a Lovefeast among Moravians in Savannah, Georgia and recorded the experience in his diary as a service "worthy of Christ".

Moravians first celebrated the Lovefeast in 1727. It is intentionally designed as a simple service of song, during which participants are served a simple "meal". It is not a sacrament. It is an act of fellowship. The music and hymns communicate the message of the day, rather than a sermon. Participants are invited to simply engage, mediate, and reflect on the meaning of the season of Christmas.

CALL TO WORSHIP: *Please stand as able.*

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

For he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high has broken upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

To guide our feet into the way of peace.

For unto us a Child is born,

Unto us a Son is given.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Thanks be to God for this gift beyond words.

My eyes have seen your salvation.

Which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.

CAROL: ELW 269 Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, **you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

LESSON: Genesis 1: 1-5, 26-27

1In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, 2the earth was a formless void and
darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. 3Then
God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4And God saw that the light was good; and God
separated the light from the darkness. 5God called the light Day, and the darkness God called Night.
And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.26Then God said, "Let us make humankind
in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over
the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every
creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." 27So God created humankind in God's image, in the image
of God God created them; male and female God created them.

CAROL: ELW 861 (verses 1 and 2) When Long before Time

THE SINGER AND THE SONG

LESSON: Genesis 18: 1-5, 9-15

1The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat
of the day. 2He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the
tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. 3He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you,
do not pass by your servant. 4Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves
under the tree. 5Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass
on — since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." 9They said to him,
"Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." 10Then one said, "I will surely return to
you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance
behind him. 11Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after
the manner of women. 12So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is
old, shall I have pleasure?" 13The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed
bear a child, now that I am old?' 14Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return
to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." 15But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she
was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."

CAROL: ELW 251 (verses 1 and 3) My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

KINGSFOLD

LESSON: Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep
darkness — on them light has shined. 6For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless
peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of
hosts will do this.

CAROL: ELW 292 Love Has Come
UN FLAMBEAU

LESSON: Micah 5: 2-4
2 But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come
forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.
3Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. 4And he shall stand and feed his flock in
the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure,
for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

CAROL: ELW 279 (verses 1 and 4) O Little Town of Bethlehem
ST. LOUIS

LESSON: Luke 1: 26-35, 38
26In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 38Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

CAROL: ELW 265 (verses 1 and 4) The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came
GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

LESSON: Matthew 1: 18-21
18Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

CAROL: ELW 300 (verses 1 and 2) The First Noel
THE FIRST NOWELL

INVITATION TO THE LOVEFEAST
In a Lovefeast in the Moravian church, servers, called "dieners" (German for "serve") distribute the lovefeast cakes and the coffee throughout the pews. The coffee is decaf and has sugar and dairy-free milk cooked into it at the time of brewing. Water and gluten-free cakes are also available. Please do not begin eating or drinking until all have been served and shared the Blessing of the meal.

BLESSING
Come, Lord Jesus, our Guest to be,
and bless these gifts bestowed by thee.
Amen.

MUSIC DURING THE PARTAKING OF THE LOVEFEAST MEAL

When finished, please place your napkin in your cup. The dieners will come forward during the singing of Oh Come All Ye Faithful to receive the cups, which you may pass down to the center aisle.

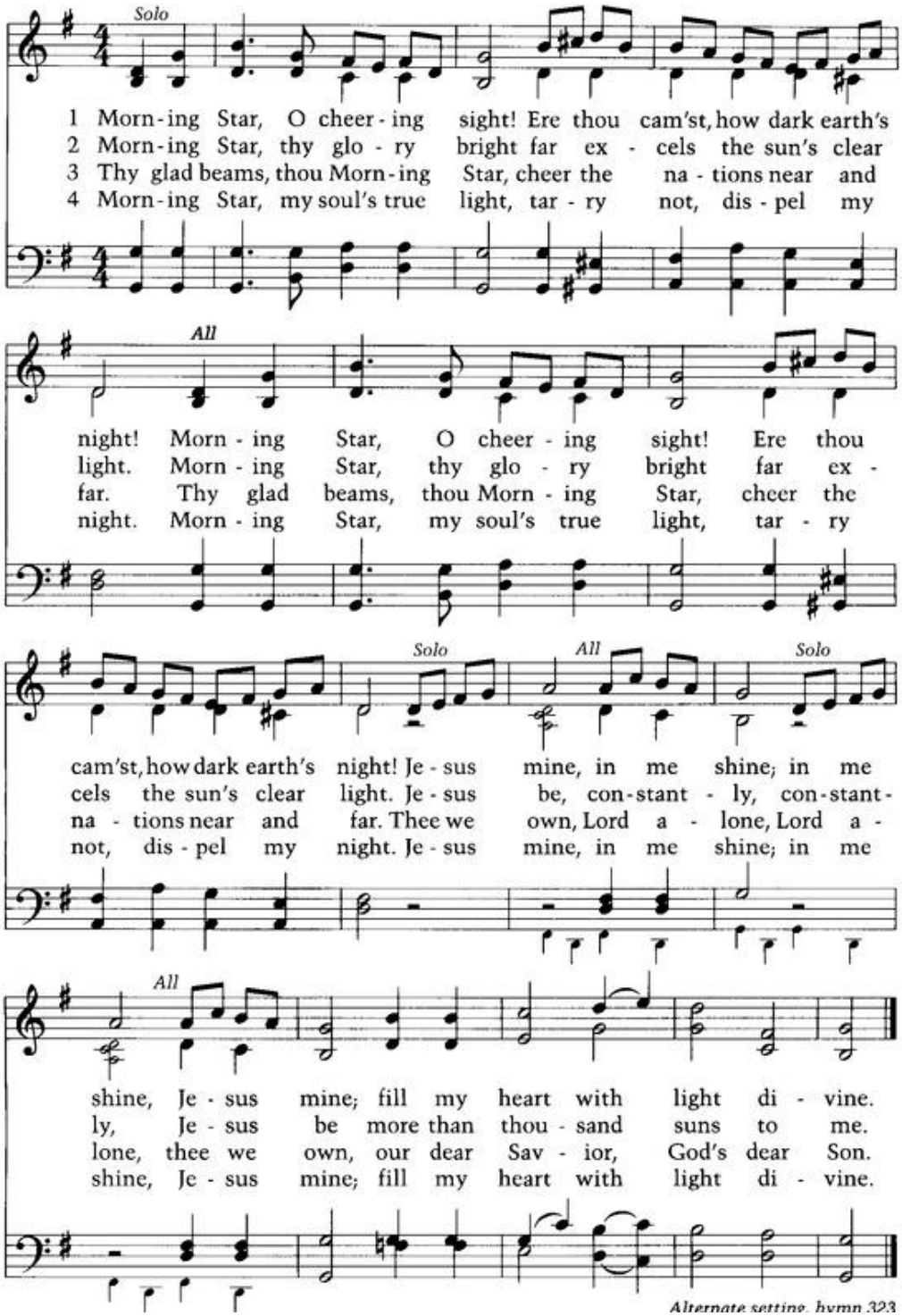
CAROL: ELW 283 O Come, All Ye Faithful
ADESTE FIDELES

LESSON: Luke 2:8-20
8In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" 15When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." 16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

CAROL: ELW 275 Angels, from the Realms of Glory
REGENT SQUARE

LESSON: Matthew 2: 1-11
1In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." 3When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 6'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"7Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." 9When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

CAROL: Morning Star, O Cheering Sight

The hymn, "Morning Star," is traditionally sung in Moravian Advent and Christmas services antiphonally. The soloist will sing the first line, with the congregation repeating it. The hymn continues in this manner throughout, as indicated in the music.

LESSON: John 1: 1-14

[1]In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2]He was in the beginning with God. [3]All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being [4]in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. [5]The light

shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. [6]There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. [7]He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. [8]He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. [9]The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. [10]He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. [11]He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. [12]But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, [13]who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. [14]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.

CAROL: ELW 295 Of the Father's Love Begotten
DIVINIUM MYSTERIUM

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

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.

BLESSING:
The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, ☩ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy. **Amen.**

CAROL: ELW 290 Go Tell It on the Mountain
GO TELL IT

DISMISSAL
Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to God's people on earth!
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Improvisation on "Divinium Mysterium" Matthew Whitehouse

This Sunday's improv on Morning Star is based in part on this James Webb Space Telescope image of Earendel ("Morning Star"), the most distant star/star cluster ever detected. Scan the QR code below to view the image. If you are unable to access the QR code, please ask an Usher for a hard copy of the image.

Incarnation Lutheran Church

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult and Children's Sunday School: 9:00 am
Nursery (Ages 3 and under): 9:45-11:15
Worship: 10:00 am
Office Hours: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm M-F
3005 Devine Street, Columbia, SC 29205 • (803) 256-2381

Prayer List

Current Concerns: Rick Richardson, Juan, Margaret Welch, Melissa Parker, Doris Garber, Walter Lindler, Joe and Sue DeMichael, Welda McCullough, Ken Gehler, Bill Lamb, all homebound, caregivers and victims of violence, peace in all places experiencing conflict.

Continuing Concerns: Jenasia Jones, Bishop Ginny Aebischer, Zach Jenkins, Elliott Milliken, Carson McCoy, Mary Rivers, Chip Schuster, Grady Lindler

Military: Daniel Scruggs, Hilary Compton (Kim Yerrick's niece), Tyler Owens (Kim Yerrick's nephew), Christopher McFarland (Jimmy and Kathy McFarland's Son), James McFarland (Jimmy and Kathy McFarland's Grandson).

Attendance on 12/21/25: 103

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, December 30th:
No Quilting Group
Wednesday, December 31st:
No Choir
No Handbell Practice
Thursday, January 1st:
New Years Day
Office Closed
Sunday, January 4th:
9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Unhanging of the greens

Giving to ILC:

Please consider giving to Incarnation Lutheran Church's ministries and projects.

SCAN ME

Do you want to join Incarnation? If so, please contact the office at office@incarnationlutheran.com so that we can gather your contact information and reach out to you.