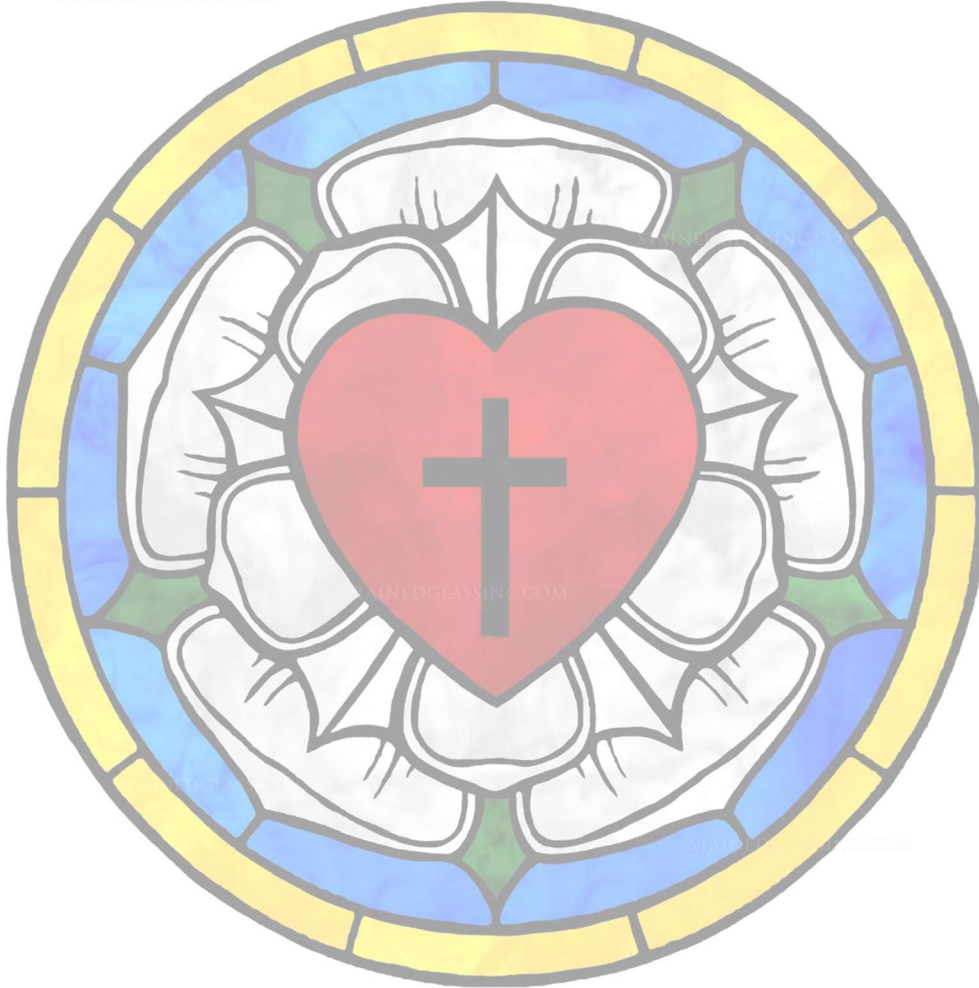


INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

✝ Moravian Lovefeast ✝ December 26th 2021

To facilitate our safe worship together, please follow all guidelines set forth by church staff; remain six feet away from others at all times and wear a mask. If you are considered high-risk, or have an immediate family member in isolation or quarantine, then please stay home and join us via Facebook for Worship at 10am. Bulletins, Communion cups, hand sanitizer, and extra masks are available at the entrance.



GET CONNECTED, STAY CONNECTED!

Like and follow us on Facebook and **Subscribe** to us on YouTube!



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@INCARNATIONLUTHERAN



Worship Notes:

Our Lector for today is Susan McArver

Our Crucifer for today is Amy Kehl

GATHERING

The congregation is invited to sing all hymns and all parts of the liturgy.

PRELUDE: "Lo. How a Rose E'er Blooming" Johannes Brahms

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 Advent.

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 288

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
IN DULCI JUBILO

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CAROL: ELW 861 (v.1-2)

When Long before Time
THE SINGER AND THE SONG

LESSON: Genesis 3: 8-15

⁸They heard the sound of the Lord GOD walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord GOD among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the Lord GOD called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the Lord GOD said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." ¹⁴The Lord GOD said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

CAROL: ELW 274 (v. 2-3)

On Christmas Night
SUSSEX CAROL

LESSON: Genesis 22: 1-8

¹After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ²He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." ³So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. ⁴On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. ⁵Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." ⁶Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. ⁷Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

CAROL: ELW 257 (v. 1, 7-8)

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
VENI, EMMANUEL

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 272 (v. 1-2)

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
ES IST EIN ROS

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 (v. 1, 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 (v. 1, 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 (v. 1-2)

The First Noel
THE FIRST NOWELL

INVITATION TO THE LOVEFEAST

In a normal Lovefeast in a Moravian church, servers, called "Dieners" (German for "serve") distribute the bread and the coffee throughout the pews. Due to the pandemic, worshippers are asked to obtain their own food and drink from the table at the baptismal font and return to their pews.

Please do not begin eating or drinking until all have returned to their seats 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

Den die Hirten lobten sehre

Helmut Walcha

Zu Bethlehem geboren

Helmut Walcha

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Walter L. Pelz

Little Jesus, Sweetly Sleep

Alec Wyton

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 284 (v. 1-2)

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime
UNE JEUNE PUCELLE

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.

1 Morn-ing Star, O cheer-ing sight! Ere thou cam'st, how dark earth's
 2 Morn-ing Star, thy glo-ry bright far ex-cels the sun's clear
 3 Thy glad beams, thou Morn-ing Star, cheer the na-tions near and
 4 Morn-ing Star, my soul's true light, tar-ry not, dis-pel my

night! Morn-ing Star, O cheer-ing sight! Ere thou
 light. Morn-ing Star, thy glo-ry bright far ex-
 far. Thy glad beams, thou Morn-ing Star, cheer the
 night. Morn-ing Star, my soul's true light, tar-ry

cam'st, how dark earth's night! Je-sus mine, in me shine; in me
 cels the sun's clear light. Je-sus be, con-stant-ly, con-stant-
 na-tions near and far. Thee we own, Lord a-lone, Lord a-
 not, dis-pel my night. Je-sus mine, in me shine; in me

shine, Je-sus mine; fill my heart with light di-vine.
 ly, Je-sus be more than thou-sand suns to me.
 lone, thee we own, our dear Sav-ior, God's dear Son.
 shine, Je-sus mine; fill my heart with light di-vine.

LESSON: John 1: 1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And 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 (v. 1-2, 5)

Of the Father's Love Begotten
DIVINIUM MYSTERIUM

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition concludes "*Merciful God.*" We respond: "**receive our prayer.**"

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:

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day ☩ through the Word made flesh.

Amen.

CAROL: ELW 292

Love Has Come
UN FLAMBEAU

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE:

In Dulci Jubilo

Vincent Lübeck

