

The ACTS of Incarnation

Incarnation Lutheran Church & Preschool

"Serving God in the Service of All God's People"



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

Issue 11

Happy Bible Study in the New Year!

December, 2011

The Bible in 90 Days

Surveys show that over 75 million people have expressed some desire to read the entire Bible from cover to cover but either have begun and not been able to finish or have never even dared to start. Are you one of them? Would you like to join the ranks of the few who actually HAS read the Bible from start to finish? Or are you one of those who has read all or part of the Bible and said to yourself, "I do not understand why THAT was in there!" Either way, we have an opportunity for you!

"The Bible in 90 Days" is a study curriculum that was created to help people read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and make sense of what they read. Granted, in reading it all in a short period of time like 90 days, an amount of depth will be sacrificed, but the advantages are many. To start with, you will have read the WHOLE Bible. Of course you won't remember every word, but you will see the major themes, get a sense of why it was written the way it was written, and see how it tells God's story in a bunch of different ways from start to finish. Immersing yourself in the Bible from start to finish tends to draw a person closer to God and informs our day to day awareness of what God is doing in our life as individuals and as a church together. In addition, those who have read the whole Bible in this way come out of it wanting to know more, study it more thoroughly, and understand it more completely. Besides, the Bible is our primary revelation of who God is and what God is all about. As Christians, we are called to be in an intentional relationship with God. We cannot know God if we do not know God's Word.

Participants will read the Bible daily on their own according to a published schedule, committing themselves to read every word of the Bible attentively, seeking understanding. Then they will meet weekly for an overview of what they read and the major themes and messages of that portion of scripture presented in a video and discussion hosted by Pastor Karla and Jim Young. "The Bible in 90 Days" New International Version Bible is an option for anyone to use, and it is easy because it is already divided up into 12-page segments that are the daily reading allocation, but participants may use any Bible they wish. Modern language translations are encouraged, however, because they are much more of a "reader's version" and much easier to read. (New Revised Standard Version, the New International Version, the Good News Translation or The Message are all highly recommended.) One option is to listen to the Bible on DVD or MP3. Listening is a good alternative for some people but it is all about personal preference. Everyone has to do what will work best for them.

One of the side benefits is that people who read the Bible together tend to form supportive relationships and encourage one another. In fact, the accountability to one another is part of the structure this program offers that reading alone cannot provide. In addition, reading the Bible in community, listening to the overview presentations and participating in the discussion is part of what makes the Bible more understandable and accessible than reading it alone.

Group study sessions will be held Wednesdays in the sanctuary, 7:00-8:00 p.m., January 4 through April 4 (with a slight time adjustment on Ash Wednesday and possibly during Lent.) A mid-day option is being considered if there is sufficient interest. "The Bible in 90 Days Participant's Guide" will be available onsite for \$10 for those who sign up in advance. Please call the church office at 858-487-2225 or e-mail pastorkarla@godamong.us to sign up or get more information.

Bible 101

If reading the Bible from start to finish in 90 days isn't an option for you right now, but you would still like to know more about the Bible, a good place to start is with our new "Bible 101" online course that is an overview of how to approach reading and interpreting the Bible, how it came to be, and what the Bible is and isn't for. Each person may go through the study at their own pace and in the privacy of their own home or office. There is a video presentation, some written background material and some recorded podcast reflections on various Bible stories that are interesting and helpful. Finally, there is an optional quiz to check your absorption of the material.

We have purchased a subscription for our congregation, so we get the 'best bang for our buck' if every member of the congregation uses the material. It is impossible not to benefit from increasing one's knowledge of the Bible!

To gain access to Bible 101 course material, e-mail dale@godamong.us or call the church office for log-in information. Happy Bible Study in the New Year!

-Pastor Karla

Annual Meeting Notice

Sunday, January 29, 2012
Single Service at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting will be immediately after the service and followed by lunch. The agenda will include review of the annual reports and a special presentation from the Refurbishment Committee.

Stewardship



Count Me In !

An ingenious Sunday School teacher used an exercise in which she asked her children to write a letter to God. "Tell Him in your letter the one most important thing a Christian should say to God," she said. When she read the letters to the class, she was amazed that one of the students had written a one sentence letter: "Dear God, Count me in! Your Friend, Johnny." That is what our church's members are doing by giving generously. They are making a strong and personal spiritual statement: "Dear God, Count me in! Your Friend."

From Kimberly Bedell

Traditional Music Director



I'd like to extend a New Year's thank you to all of you who in some way participated in our joint concert with the Symphonette! Thank you, musicians, ushers, office staff, volunteers, and attendees. You all helped make that event a success and wonderful outreach to the surrounding community. Thanks, also, to all of you who in some way participated in making music happen at our Christmas services. I know Christmas was a busy time of year and your extra efforts were a blessing to us. Thinking about joining one of our musical ensembles? Now's a great time. Come check us out.

Needs to Be Met

Interfaith Community Services would like to receive a medium to large TV, a full-size mattress and box springs, and closet/under-the-bed storage bins for some ICS senior residents. Please contact Brad Draper (858-673-9303) if you can fill one of these needs.



Membership



Baptisms

Lily Wai-ling Prast, November 26, 2011
 Ryan Jacob Prast, November 25, 2011, child of Randy and Wai-Ling Prast, grandchild of Ron and Nancee Prast

Financial Report

For the monthly financial report, please visit Incarnation's website, www.GodAmongUs.



Library Corner



The Library Committee wants to thank all those who stopped by and checked out books and DVDs during the past year. We appreciate your interest in the fine collection that we have available for you. Remember, all you Navy retirees, we have a new copy of Ralph Danklefsen's biography, The Navy I Remember. It's a good one.

A special "thank you" to the ushers who faithfully return the book carts to the library after church on Sunday mornings.

Happy New Year!
 -Jewell Jill, Librarian

PALLMM Classes for All!



Psalm 23, 100, and Beyond!

This course will explore the 150 Psalms that have been used by God's people for over 2,500 years. Strikingly contemporary in topics and emotional states, reading the entire Psalms as a collection will give students a wide range of prayers for life. This course will use a variety of reading strategies including devotional, liturgical, historical, and literary. This course will be taught by Pastor Gloria Espeseth at Incarnation. It will meet on January 7, 14, 21 and February 4 from 9:00 a.m.-Noon. Please indicate your interest in attending by contacting Pastor Espeseth at pastorge@gethsemanesd.org

2012 Newsletter Deadlines

January 18	Wednesday	February Issue
February 15	Wednesday	March Issue
March 21	Wednesday	April Issue
April 18	Wednesday	May Issue
May 16	Wednesday	June/July Issue
July 18	Wednesday	August Issue
August 15	Wednesday	September Issue
September 19	Wednesday	October Issue
October 17	Wednesday	November Issue
November 12	Monday	December Issue
December 14	Friday	January 2013 Issue

Incarnation Lutheran Women



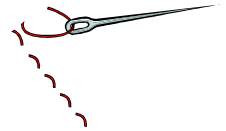
After a busy December full of celebrations, concerts and services, we welcome a somewhat quieter January. Now is the time to attend a women's Bible study, or perhaps join the Piecemakers as they create their beautiful quilts, most of which are sent to Lutheran World Relief. All are welcome!

January Meetings: Notice changes in dates/locations due to ISN homeless shelter.

- Monday, 1/2/12, 9:30 a.m.
Board meeting in the Family Room.
- Saturday, 1/7/12, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Piecemakers in the Parish Hall.
- Tuesday, 1/10 & 31, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Piecemakers in the Parish Hall.
- Thursday, 1/12/12, 11:30 a.m.
Dining Divas at Company Pub & Kitchen, Poway.
- Thursday, 1/19/12, 9:30 a.m.
Women's Bible Study, Conference Room.
- Monday, 1/9 & 23, 7:00 p.m.
Women's Bible study, Family Room.
- Tuesday, 1/24/12, 1:30 p.m.
Rebecca Circle, Conference Room.



Quilters Needed (Even if you can't sew!)



Saturday Piecemakers will be starting again on January 7 and Tuesday Piecemakers on January 10. We welcome **ALL women and ALL skill levels**. Stop in the parish hall just to observe or pitch in.

We start approximately at 9:00 a.m., work for about an hour and a half, then stop for a short devotion, coffee and dessert, and then work for about another hour.

It is very loosely structured - people stay the entire morning or leave when they need to. We work through October and take November and December off.

This past October we sent about 150 quilts to Lutheran World Relief for delivery around the world where natural disasters took place.



Dining Divas

Their menu combines the well-known, the not-so-familiar, the traditional as well as the contemporary comfort foods in a casual setting, everything from fish and chips to delicious soups, salads and sandwiches, and even "bangers and mash". Please call Marj Aldern at 673-5182 or Greta Sandberg at 487-8121 by Tuesday, January 10, to save your place. Everyone is welcome!

On Thursday, January 12, at 11:30 a.m., we'll gather at a new restaurant in Poway, called Company Pub & Kitchen, located at 13670 Poway Road, in the Stein Mart shopping center on the far east side.

Scout Religious Awards

11:15 a.m., on the St. Bartholomew Church campus, 16275 Pomerado Road, Poway. Come early to register and be prepared to write a check and pay for fees.

Classes are held the fourth Sunday of each month from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.; regular attendance is needed to complete the program. A recognition service will be held in late May or early June to present awards to scouts who complete the program.

These awards are a wonderful way to enrich the religious education of your child, grades 1-12. The awards and classes are organized by grade levels. These awards are recognized by Boys Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H and Campfire. Classes are organized jointly with St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church 16275 Pomerado Road, Poway. There is a nominal fee for materials and the award.

Some work is completed in class and there will also be project work that must be completed at home. Other Christian Protestant scouts from your child's troop or pack are welcome to participate too.

New teachers will be needed this year. If you would like to assist with teaching this valuable Christian youth program or have questions about registering your child, contact Kim Lundgren (858) 487-4176.

The P.R.A.Y. program classes (formerly called The GOD and Country program) – for Scouts will start in **January, 2012**. The first class of the program will be Sunday, January 22.

Youth LINK News for All to Read!

Grades 6-12 - Connected through Christ to grow and serve all in His image.

Some Warmth from Africa

Here is your opportunity to have a little piece of Africa. Incarnation's Piecemakers have assembled and donated this lovely quilt to the youth group. The fabric used was brought back from Cameroon. This quilt will be on display and offered through a raffle with tickets available for purchase on Sundays, January 8-29.



THANK YOU ALL!



Our youth fundraising dining-day at California Pizza Kitchen in Carmel Mountain Ranch raised \$242 for our youth mission trips. Thanks to everyone who participated in this delicious event. Please continue to patronize CPK throughout the year. They have offered continued support of our programs and the community.

Interfaith's Holiday Adopt-a-Family Program

Incarnation's participation in the Holiday Adopt-a-Family project was fantastic! Your support of this program brought much joy to the clients in need and to the youth who saw what we can do when we come together to work for a great cause. When loaded into the Chevy Silverado for delivery, the gifts filled the truck bed and the back seat! On behalf of Interfaith Community Services, their clients and our youth group we offer a BIG THANK YOU!



Fundraising Bake Sale Schedule

The youth will continue fundraising for next summer's youth mission trips to New Orleans and Cameroon. Monthly bake sales will be held on January 8 and then on the first Sunday of each month. Please feel free to donate baked goods and/or to purchase the goodies.

Youth Events and News

Keeping up with us is easy on Facebook; just search on "Incarnation Lutheran Youth" and then "LIKE" our page to receive the updates. Check out our webpage too at www.godamong.us/youth.html



Team Cookie-Making was a lot of fun!

REX Club



REX Club will meet again on Friday, January 6. Phineas & Ferb will lead our group of 1st-5th graders into fun Bible discussions and activities. We will meet in Swanson Hall from 6:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. Youth helpers are always appreciated!

Incarnation Lutheran Preschool

Happy New Year Everyone! The preschool looks forward to another year and we pray for continued blessings for the days ahead, keeping our focus on the Lord and serving in His ministries for our community. Are you thinking about New Year resolutions? How about 70 resolutions? That's what Jonathan Edwards did. And his resolutions were not just for one year, but for his whole life! (You can read all 70 in *The Unwavering Resolve of Jonathan Edwards* by Steven J. Lawson). We are hoping to get the older preschool children counting to 70 and hopefully up to 100! Along with counting and math, children will start in their beginner readers. There is so much to learn now that the holidays are behind us. Chapel has been one of our favorite times of learning each week with singing, memory verses, and stories of Jacob's ladder, crossing the Red Sea, Jonah and the whale, and before long, Easter will be upon us. As Martin Luther once said, "There is so much to do today; I'd better spend two hours in prayer instead of just one." For any other information about the preschool programs, please visit <http://preschool.godamong.us>

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

December Tenth

Where were you on Saturday, December Tenth, at 7:00 p.m.? Some of us were at the Jon Dunbar memorial benefit concert in the sanctuary, and those of you who didn't make it missed out on a really great evening. All ages were represented in the audience from toddlers to seniors, and everyone enjoyed the music and casual interaction between Incarnation's band members and the audience. The program included Wipe-Out, Landslide, Baggage Claim, Spirit in the Sky, Calling All Angels, This One's For the Girls, No Envy No Fear, Proud Mary, Never Know, With a Little Help from My Friends, You Are My King—Amazing Love and You Reign.

A band naming contest was held during the concert and from now on the "band with no name" will be known as Revived. Members of Revived are Bob Torres (leader), Scott Steller and Stefan Montgomery, guitars; Elias Symons, keyboards; Tollak Rafto, drums; Nancy Datte, Pam Robinson and Steve Bohnstedt, vocals. This group leads the music every Sunday at the contemporary service. If you've never attended a contemporary service, just drop in at Swanson Hall some Sunday at 11:00 a.m. to hear Revived and have an uplifting worship experience. If you come a little early, you can partake of doughnuts and coffee.

Although the turnout for the concert was less than hoped for, the donations were generous: \$1,246 was raised. The entire sum will be forwarded to HelpHopeLive fbo/the Jon Dunbar fund. HelpHopeLive is a non-profit organization that helps families raise money to pay for uninsured expenses related to catastrophic illness or transplantation.

Jon Dunbar's widow, Jill, attended the concert and expressed her appreciation for the benefit concert and the congregation's support.

If you were unable to attend, you can still help Jill with the uninsured expenses by making an online donation at www.HelpHopeLive.org; search Jon Dunbar.

- Peg Walden

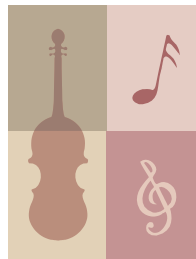


Pacific Camerata,

Pacific Camerata, one of San Diego's premier choral ensembles, will present a post-holiday concert on Sunday, January 8, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary at San Rafael Catholic Church, 17252 Bernardo Center Drive, San Diego, CA 92128.

The vocal ensemble Pacific Camerata will present a concert of Renaissance sacred music celebrating the season. This varied program will include music from Spain, Germany and England, and will feature the lovely "Ave Marias" of both Josquin des Prez and Robert Parsons. Another highlight will be the lyric motet, "Dixit Maria," by Hans Leo Hassler, as well as the composer's own "Parody Mass" based on that same motet.

A freewill offering will be taken. For information, contact Therese Bulat, (858)487-4314 x1225.



Classical Music

North County Music of Friends Series
2011-2012 Season
2:30 p.m.
at Incarnation Lutheran Church

Oct. 2	Camarada Trio: flute, viola, piano
Nov. 20	Hausmann String Quartet
Jan. 22	Daniel Wnukowski: pianist
Feb. 19	California Consort String Quintet
Apr. 22	Romantic Trio: horn, oboe, piano

Tickets at the door are \$25 adults; \$5 students. An annual membership of \$100 offers a 20% savings over the individual ticket price and a flex benefit of being able to use the tickets at any concert. **A membership can be purchased now for the three remaining concerts for \$40.** Contact Carolyn Garanian at classical@san.rr.com or 858-385-0659. www.classicalmusicsociety.com.

Just Because You're Mine

But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!" - Isaiah 43:1

Mace could sing one song with great gusto -- just one: Jesus Loves Me.

Jesus loves me, this I know, For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong, They are weak but He is strong.

He would throw his head back and hold on to that first "Yes" in the chorus as long as he could, and then he would get tickled and almost fall out of his chair.

Sometimes -- when I think back on those days that seem so long ago -- I can still hear him giggle. How special that memory is to me. . .

I never doubted for a moment that Jesus loved our profoundly retarded little boy. It didn't matter that he would never sit with the kids in the back of the church and, on a certain special night, walk down the aisle, take the pastor by the hand, and invite Jesus into his heart. It was entirely irrelevant that he could not quote a single verse of Scripture, that he would never be able to reason or to comprehend God's love, that he would never be a dad -- I knew that Jesus loved Mason.

What I could not comprehend, what I could not accept, was that Jesus could love Mason's mother, Anabel. I believed that in order for anyone to accept me, to love me, I had to perform for them. My standard for getting love was performance-based, so I performed constantly, perfectly. And I was convinced that if anyone ever really got to know me, he or she wouldn't like me.

Mace could never have performed for anyone's love . . . but oh, how we loved him. His condition eventually deteriorated to such a degree -- and so rapidly -- that we had to institutionalize him when he was very young, so we enrolled him in the Enid State School for Mentally Handicapped Children.

We drove regularly the 120 miles to see him, but on this particular weekend he was at home for a visit. He had been with us since Thursday evening, and it was now Saturday afternoon. As soon as the dinner dishes were done, I would gather his things together and take him back to his house. I had done this many times before, but today God had something in mind that would change my life forever.

As I was washing the dishes, Mason was sitting in his chair watching me, or at least he was looking at me. That's when it began -- spinning emotions, tumbling stomach, the familiar sickening thoughts of separation and defeat: In just a little while, I'm going to start packing Mason's toys and his clothes, and take him away again. I can't do that. I simply cannot do it. I stopped washing dishes and got down on my knees in front of Mace. I took his dirty little hands in mine and tried desperately to reach him.

"Mason, I love you. I love you. If only you could understand how much I love you."

He just stared. He couldn't understand; he didn't comprehend. I stood up and started washing dishes again, but that didn't last long. This sense of urgency, almost panic, came over me, and once more I dried my hands and knelt in front of my precious little boy.

"My dear Mason, if only you could say to me, 'I love you, Mother.' I need that, Mace."

Nothing.

I stood up to the sink again. More dishes, more washing, more crying. But now thoughts, foreign to my way of thinking, began filtering into my conscious awareness. I believe God spoke to me that day, and this is what He said: "Anabel, you don't look at your son and turn away in disgust because he's sitting there with saliva drooling out of his mouth; you don't shake your head, repulsed because he has dinner all over his shirt or because he's sitting in a dirty, smelly diaper when he ought to be able to take care of himself. Anabel, you don't reject Mason because all the dreams you had for him have been destroyed. You don't reject him because he doesn't perform for you. You love him, Anabel, just because he is yours. Mason doesn't willfully reject your love, but you willfully reject Mine. I love you, Anabel, not because you're neat or attractive, not because you do things well, not because you perform for Me -- I love you just because you're Mine."

Incredible! Unbelievable! I had struggled for so many years, hating my performance patterns and yet living to perform, driven to perform, searching out the praise of people and thirsting for the love of God that I thought could come only to those who performed well enough to merit it. Yet God had just shown me that He loved me in spite of anything and everything, and He had shown me in a way that I could understand -- through my dear, sweet Mason.

Do you understand? You don't have to do anything for Him; you don't have to be something for Him. You can know that there is Someone who loves you not because of the way you do or don't look, or because of the talents you do or don't have. All you have to do is accept it: He loves you just because you are His.

Well, that's not the end of Mason's story. It wasn't long after that Sunday with him that Bill, our son Preston, and I went to visit him in Enid. We held his hand, stroked his hair, and talked to him. And then we prayed. God, by Your grace we've lived victoriously and have used Mace's little life and influence for Your glory . . . but we feel that he has suffered enough and that all the influence for Christ that can be realized from his life has pretty well been exhausted. God, if it be Your will, we ask that you take him to be with You.

We kissed Mason goodbye and headed home. It was the very next morning when the school called to say that Mason had "unexpectedly passed away during the night" -- and we knew that he had slipped away to be with Jesus.

The Far East Broadcasting Company in Cheju, Korea, received a letter from Bill a short time later: ". . . there was some insurance money. It belongs to God. We pass it along to FEBC for use in the China-Cheju Island project. . . ."

Mason's gift helped build a transmitter building for the 250,000-watt radio signal that now beams the gospel of Christ to China, Russia, and Japan. And it is because of Mason that people will continue to learn of Jesus, of His saving grace . . . and of the fact that He loves us just because we are His.

Yes, Jesus loves me . . . Yes, Jesus loves me . . .

Taken from a Youversion Bible Study, Author Unknown



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2012 January Issue

February 2012 Newsletter Deadline:
Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at 9:00

Inside This Issue

Schedule for Worship with Holy Communion

Saturdays 5:30 p.m. Informal Worship
Sundays 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. Devotions with Everything
 From.... on announced dates

From Pastor Karla 1
 —Calendar 7
 —Finance 2
 —Incarnation News 2,3,5

Parish Life
 —Membership 2
 —Preschool 4
 —Stewardship 2
 —Women 3
 —Youth 4

Sunday School & Adult Bible Study

10:15 a.m.

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Dr. Luther Symons, Senior Pastor (858) 705-0885
 Rev. Karla Seyb-Stockton, Assoc. Pastor (858) 883-8038
 Mindy Bugaj, Ministry Assistant (858) 232-2141

Monday-Friday Preschool 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
 Kelly Catlett, Director (858) 675-7570
Wednesday-Friday Mom's Day Out 9:00 a.m.-noon
 Carmen Sitz (858) 549-3302

Office Hours

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
 (858) 487-2225

2012 Church Council

Darrell Datte	Joyce Miller
Bert Gonzalez	Bob Myers
Steve Hassett	Greg Nelson
Ellen Hawkins	Jerah Payne
Brandon LeValley	Pam Robinson
Sabra Matovsky	Mitch Steller

Incarnation Lutheran Church Mission Statement

*As a nurturing family of believers,
 recipients of God's grace and mercy,
 we welcome and invite all people to:*
KNOW Christ in faith,
**GROW in faith through worship and
 education**
**GO with us in faith to serve all God's
 people everywhere!**

Vision Statement

Serving God in the Service of All God's People