



Sandy Run Lutheran Church

December Tidings

1927 Old State Road, Swansea SC 29160

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First – a huge thank you for the warm welcome this congregation has extended to me since my arrival last August.



It has been a special joy to be a part of the congregational Lutheridge retreat in October, to make visits in the homes of shutdowns and others, and to break bread with so many during the Reformation Sunday potluck.

Thank you also for the beautiful gifts – the Psalm 46 pillow (which matches our living room couch and has a place of honor there) and the Sandy Run cookbook. I now have cookbook from each of the five congregations I have served, beginning with Living Springs Lutheran Church in Northeast Columbia, my field work congregation. I was assigned to Living Springs my first year of seminary to learn to lead worship.

The season of Christmas (which spills forward into the season of Advent) is truly the season of gift-giving. I am old enough to appreciate those gifts that are personal, those that connect me with the gift-giver in a special way. And, this cookbook certainly does. I recognize many of the individual and family names as I flip through it. And, I cannot wait to try out the recipes.

We Christians are fond of emphasizing that the greatest Christmas gift is God's gift of his Son, Jesus, the babe in the manger, whose birth we celebrate during the Christmas season to come.

But, as I reflect on the gift of the birth of Jesus, my mind always jumps ahead to Easter. The Christmas gift is important because of what happened on the cross and at the tomb.

On the cross, Jesus, God Himself, defeated sin and death and gave all believers the gift of salvation.

On the cross, Jesus forgave those who crucified him.

On the third day after a lifeless Jesus was taken from the cross and placed in the tomb, the women who arrived at the tomb found it empty. God had conquered death.

For Christians, God's gift-giving abounds. But gift-giving does not stop with Christmas. The gift-giving that begins with Jesus' birth extends to the Resurrection – where our own eternal life is promised.

And, life forever with God truly is the greatest gift.

Pastor Pam

If you have not checked out the Sandy Run web site lately, I encourage you to visit sandyrunlutheranchurch.org. And, thank you to Gary Hardee for his work on our online presence.

ADVENT – CHRISTMAS CALENDAR



Christmas dinner: The congregational Christmas potluck will be held following worship December 18. The congregation will give gifts to the children and youth. Contributions to purchase the gifts may be made through the church. Note “Children’s gifts” in the memo line of your check. Deadline: December 11.

Caroling: Members of the congregation will carol to homebound and senior members on December 21. Meet at the church at 5 p.m. to join the caroling party.

Christmas Eve: Candlelight worship with Holy Communion is at 6 p.m. Saturday, December 24 and will be followed by a time of fellowship hosted by the WELCA. Please bring finger foods to share during the fellowship.

Christmas Day: 10:30 Sunday morning. A Christmas breakfast will be held in lieu of Sunday School. Herbert has agreed to cook grits and tomato gravy – but we need other breakfast items. Please sign up in the sanctuary to bring a food item or beverage.