

Church of the Incarnation

A Parish of the Episcopal Church, Diocese of Montana
The Right Rev. Marty Stebbins, Bishop

600 Third Avenue North, Great Falls, Montana
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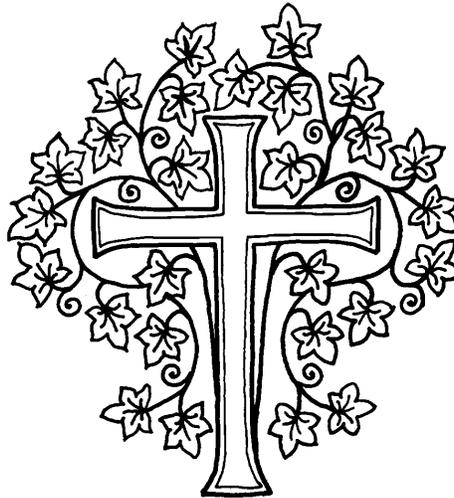
The Rev. Adam S. Linton, Interim Priest-in-Charge

Adam+'s Church Cell Phone: (406) 750-2155
Adam+'s Direct Church E-mail: incarnationpastor2022@gmail.com

The Rev. Marcia Lauzon, Deacon (currently on Leave)

Church Office Telephone: (406) 453-4167
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<https://www.churchoftheincarnationmontana.org>

The Messenger—June, 2022



*Surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare
and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)*

A WORD FROM OUR PRIEST

Dear Friends,

We've arrived at the Season of Pentecost. It makes up just about half of our worship year—the “long Green Season.” But it doesn't start with Green, of course, but Red. Red for Pentecost; this year June 5.

So first, I'd invite everyone to wear something red when coming to church on this special day. (I don't need to be the only one doing so.)

But second, and more importantly, I heartily urge every member of our parish to make a particular point—if at all possible—to attend church on this Sunday. This both because Pentecost Day is such an important celebration, and also—this year, in particular—because we just can't do a summertime “business as usual,” with a usual slump in worship attendance and other activities. We have much work that we must continue to do at Incarnation Church. It's joyous, hope-filled work, but our parish's future also depends on it. The stakes are high. Pentecost is both the culmination of Eastertide, and the beginning of everything else. So, let it be the beginning at a vital summer for us!

As we enter this time, I'd like to reflect with you on “where we are” at Incarnation Church, particularly how this relates to our ministry together—yours and mine—in this place.

As we discussed in some detail at our Annual Parish Meeting in January, our Parish is officially in “impaired” status. What this means, frankly, is that we are at risk of “not making it.” Not to get into blame-games, but the truth is that our descent to this place was many years in the making. So, Incarnation Church is under a much-heightened level of direct supervision by our Bishop. And we are charged to work with her, and her team to get things here strong enough so that we actually have a shot at a real future. We'll be in this status for some time to come.

I believe that we have made some substantial initial progress, since the beginning of this year, to re-establish basic Parish functionality. Thanks to all of you, as we've done this work together. I'm also seeing increased spiritual vitality, and a brighter, more-engaged “tone” in our congregation, as well. Our Holy Week and Easter services were vivid examples of this, indeed.

But as you know, we have much yet to do in many areas—including both financial stewardship and raising our profile in the Great Falls area. Are we guaranteed “success”? Of course not. But it is most certainly worth the effort. In fact, relying on God’s Grace (without which “our striving would be losing”), it is worth our **very best effort**.

And in all this, we can’t “take the summer off.” No, it’s time—right now—for the next phase of our work together.

My initial contract with you, as your Interim Priest-in-Charge, ends (as you know) at the end of June. But that contract had built into it the possibility of extension. While the Bishop is at present working on the particulars, I can tell you now, that I (God-willing) am continuing with you, through July, and beyond. More details soon!

As before, I need to stress that I can’t be your “permanent” priest. I can only take you so far. Then, it will be time for me to “pass the baton.” Meanwhile, please know of my deep care for you, and my heartfelt affection. My commitment is to maintain an unbroken chain of pastoral care, and priestly leadership, for as long as I am here. It is my joy and honor in the Lord to serve you.

So far, much of my work here has been in the re-establishment of basic church norms. This was truly necessary for us, before we tried to do anything else. Now, however, I will be devoting more of my focus on the next steps of our congregational development—most especially seeking to equip **you**, as you begin this long-term endeavor.

In all this, please feel free to be in conversation with me. Call, e-mail, text, set up an appointment. That’s what I’m here for (both when I’m in Great Falls, and also at my home on the other side of the mountains).

All God’s Blessings to you, dear ones, now and always.

Adam+

WORSHIP SERVICES

Worship services, every Sunday, at both 8 AM and 10 AM. On June 5, 12, and 26, there will be Holy Eucharist. On June 19 there will be lay-officiated Morning Prayer, with a virtual sermon from Adam+ “patched in,” viewed during the service in church on large-screen TV.

(And please note that Sunday services are also placed on our Parish's YouTube channel [see our website for the link], and these are up and available for viewing that same Sunday afternoon.)

OUR PRIEST'S TIMES OF RESIDENCE IN GREAT FALLS THIS MONTH

June 3-6, 10-13, and 24-27.

OTHER ACTIVITIES/DATES OF NOTE

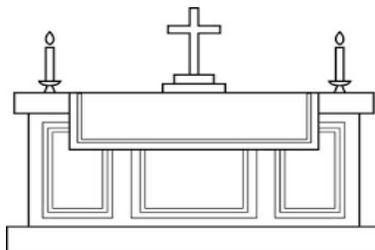
Tuesdays, 10:00 to 11:15 AM, Guild Room (and Zoom). **Bible Study. (No Bible Study Tuesday, 6/21)**

Saturday mornings during June: 9-11 am, building and grounds clean up.

Monday, June 20, deadline for submission of materials for July Messenger Newsletter (send to the Church Office e-mail).

Saturday, June 25 Wedding of Ellen Boland and Eric Monroe, 4 p.m.

Sunday, June 26, 11:30 am, Guild Room. **Vestry.**



ALTAR GUILD

Please pray and explore your hearts, pondering if perhaps now is the time for you to help care for Our Lord's table, dishes and linens. Just imagine ... YOU being able to set Jesus' table and care for His things.

Interested? Any person, man or woman, teen or older, is welcome. Come and see!

Please send your email to: cherylquintero@yahoo.com thank you for your prayers and consideration.

FROM OUR SENIOR WARDEN

Dear Parish Family,

First and foremost, thank you all the volunteers who make our church beautiful! Cliff and Tiff for the lawn work; Patti for the flowers; Peter for his constant vigilance and for helping me move things around; the Jennings for recycling; the Altar Guild for all they do; Stacey for your paperwork. And thank you to those who volunteer for coffee hour and bringing cleaning and other supplies! Remember, we have a fund in our ECW account for coffee hours, and fellowship. Just turn your receipts in for reimbursement.

If anyone is interested in setting up luncheons, dinners or events, please let me know so I can get it on our calendar. Again, this is something that can be reimbursed (and would be fun!). If you have time, please consider driving around our church during the week to check on our beautiful grounds. We need everyone's help on that.

Special notes: Please be sure to turn your cell phones off before a service begins. Also, please do not sit directly in front of the camera so as not to block it. Last, please consider this: some of us suffer from allergies this time of you and we know how miserable that can be. However, some of us suffer from allergies to perfumes and cologne. It can cause a reaction that can be debilitating, especially for people with lung issues. Therefore, please refrain from wearing any scents while at church.

On a personal note, I will be your Senior warden for 8 more months. At that time, the end of January 2023, the rest of the vestry also finishes their terms. We are serving during an unusual time: Covid, the shut-down, the re-opening, and the retirement of our former Rector, Father Tim. The next group of vestry members will hopefully be the ones to be part of our search for a permanent rector! I ask you all to search your hearts about possibly serving on the Vestry beginning in 2023. For now, I am continuing in my endeavors to organize and beautify all rooms, archives, and old paperwork.

I plan to be in the church office on Wednesday and Saturday mornings.

New directories are now available in the back of the church. If you need one mailed to you, please contact the office at 406-453-4167. If you have updates, please notify the office at the same number or incarnationgreatfalls@gmail.com.

Blessings to you all, *Sara*

FROM THE DIOCESE

The Diocese Of Montana Receives A 2022 United Thank Offering Grant

We are pleased to announce that The Diocese of Montana is the recipient of a 2022 United Thank Offering (UTO) grant for \$22,180.00 ! The focus for grants this year was Creation Care and the Diocese responded by creating a grant that has two main thrusts:

1. Education about how to lower our carbon footprint using the Episcopal Carbon Calculator and;
2. Installation of low flow toilets and sink aerators in a majority of the rural parishes. Now that we have secured the grant, Montana Interfaith Power and Light (MT IPL) representatives, The Venerable Roxanne Klingensmith Ret. and Deacon Connie Campbell-Pearson, will be in contact with parishes to set up times for education, help parishes to calculate their carbon footprint and strategically plan how to help each parish that wishes to participate to reach net zero within the next 10-15 years.

Additionally, MT IPL will have grants of up to \$2,000.00 available from other fund resources to assist parishes that wish to landscape with native grasses and reduce their water usage and water bills.

Vicki Van Rensselaer

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The 2023 United Thank Offering (UTO) Grant Focus

Over the next 3 years, The United Thank Offering, in the spirit of Matthew 25:36, will focus on areas of ministry that serve those whom society has left out and left behind. Therefore, the UTO grant focus for 2023 will be on innovative mission and ministry projects addressing all aspects of the worldwide incarceration crisis, specifically:

- preventative programs and intervention;
- prisoner support outreach;
- prison reform work;
- or post-prison re-entry.

The grant application form and associated materials will not be released until the General Convention (July 7-14, 2022). More information regarding the 2023 UTO grant focus can be found at <https://unitedthankoffering.com/granting/>

FISH ACTIVITIES

During the week of 18 – 22 April 2022 those from The Church of the Incarnation who helped serve 20 families with this heartfelt effort were: Bob Shanks, Fr Glen Gleaves, Corrie Dorrington, Gerry and Chuck Jennings, Jack Corcino, Cheryl Quintero, Gregg and Pat Holt, Sara Quay, and Cassie Wilson (from another church). A big thank you from FISH for a job well done!

The Church of the Incarnation is scheduled to support the FISH program in July 2022 from 5 – 8 July 2022. If you would like to help with this endeavor, please contact Bob Shanks at (406) 454-9063.

FISH Data for April 2022

The chart below is a comparison of those serviced by FISH between April 2021 and April 2022. As you can see there was an increase in demand in 2022 compared to 2021. There was an increase in the number of Families (non-singles), singles, adults, children, meals served, and pounds of food delivered; we were up 77.8%, 52.6%, 56.7%, 122.2%, 70.6%, and 33.0% respectively. There were no decreases in any of these categories. And for the year-to-date (YTD) numbers there was a decrease in the number of Families (non-singles), adults, children, meals served, and pounds of food delivered; we were down; 4.0%, 16.0%, 10.0%, 14.4%, and 6.0% respectively. And there was an increase in the number of singles: we were up 8.9%. However, FISH still provided about 2.2 tons of emergency food to our community during the month of April 2022 and 8.8 tons for the months of January through April 2022 (that’s 2.2 tons per month).

	April 2021	2021 YTD	April 2022	2022 YTD
Families (non-singles)	27	152	48	146
Singles	19	124	29	135
Adults	67	450	105	378
Children	18	161	40	145
Meals	1,275	9,165	2,175	7,845
Pounds of Food	3,285	18,647	4,370	17,535

Clearly, there is still a demand (in our community) for the emergency food we distribute through FISH. **Amen!**

Bob Shanks
 Member of the FISH Board of Directors
 Representing the Church of the Incarnation

Saint Andrews Men's Breakfast

Saint Andrews breakfast is an event for the men and boys of The Church of the Incarnation and is normally held on the second Saturday of each month. The breakfast for the month of June 2022 is scheduled to be held on June 11, 2022. The breakfast is held at the Perkins restaurant located on the corner of 2nd Avenue North and 6th street at 8:30 AM in the morning.

SUMMER ON FLATHEAD LAKE AT CAMP MARSHALL.

Summer is coming - Let's go to Camp Marshall!

The Memorial Foundation is once again offering Camperships for any parishioner who wants to attend Camp Marshall. Your registration fee will be paid by the Memorial Foundation.

If you want to attend Camp Marshall this summer, please contact our Interim Rector, Fr. Adam, our Sr. Warden, Sara Quay, or a member of the Memorial Foundation.

CAMP MARSHALL SCHEDULE - SUMMER 2022

June 19-24	Family Camp #1 for all families.
June 26- July 1	Jr. Middler Camp for grades 3-8.
July 3-8	Family Camp #2 for all families.
July 10-15	Sr. High Camp for grades 9-12
August 12-14	Celebrate Camp Marshall.

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS: WE NEED YOUR HELP.

This summer camp is hosting three youth weeks. Each week we will need volunteers to help make this summer come together.

For Jr. Middler Camp (students entering grades 3 - 8) we currently have 30 students enrolled. The break down is 18 boys and 12 girls. To pull off this week with students currently enrolled we will need at least one boys counselor (volunteer). If we have any other girls sign up for camp we will need at least two girls counselors.

For Senior High Camp we currently have 4 boys and 10 girls signed up for camp. To make this week a go we will need at least two female counselors (volunteers).

To learn more about being a volunteer this summer (or if there is someone you can share this with) campmarshallmontana.org.

Please pray about volunteering for camp. You will make a world of difference.
*All Staff/Volunteers must be vaccinated before coming to camp.

Last Call for Grace Camp:

Currently - as of 5/31/2022 we have four girls signed up for Grace Camp. To have a reboot of camp it would be GREAT to have 10 - 12 campers total.

With the staff / volunteers we currently have we have space for 12 boys and up to 8 more girls. We would very much like to see several more students.

We NEED both campers and volunteers. To get there we will need your help.

To learn more: campmarshallmontana.org.

MUSIC FUND

Our music fund needs your help! We could definitely use donations to our restricted fund which pays for musicians each Sunday. Please be generous! Thanks so much.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS AND SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Family Promise is seeking volunteers willing to make and/or bring dinners to the families staying at the Promise Place Shelter. Please call or email if you are interested in joining the Promise Place Shelter Support Team. Volunteer training can be accomplished in person or online. Call to schedule an in-person visit or request an online training link. 406-866-0288 or www.familypromisegf.org. A "Current Needs" list is included in the flyer on the bulletin board by the parish hall.

Episcopal Relief and Development update about our \$300K Spring Match for Children. [We have decided to extend our deadline to 6/8 so that we can reach those who are so vulnerable: our children.](#) Your gift will have a lasting impact on the lives of many children and their families.

Cursillo Opportunity

Have you been to Cursillo? We haven't had it here for a while, but Cursillo will soon be returning to the Diocese of Montana. There is a volunteer opportunity for people who have been through the course and are willing to help. Cursillistas are needed to serve on the Secretariat, the group which will organize Cursillos.

A representative from Great Falls is sought, and it would be good for us to be represented. If you have been to Cursillo and are interested, contact the Rev. Deacon Doug Anderson of Missoula, at djka740@live.com, or at (406) 728-8822.

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P. O. Box 3046
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