

# October 2020 The Contact

*inspire renew empower*

Incarnation Lutheran Church



**South Carolina Synod**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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## **Worship Returns to the Sanctuary on October 4<sup>th</sup>!**

Flip to Page 2 to find instructions and guidelines for our return on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **New Weekly Activities at Incarnation!**

Incarnation's sanctuary is open for a time for Self-directed Worship on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11am to 1 pm.

Wednesdays at noon, Incarnation will be hosting a short devotional Bible study. Bible study will be held over Zoom and the office will email out the link for the meeting each Wednesday morning.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Do you have an hour or so to volunteer at Incarnation?

While we are in the process of hiring a new Office Assistant, we need volunteers to sit in the office. This would include answering the phone, collecting mail, and being a presence in the office from 9 to 1, Monday-Friday. If you are only available a few hours a week let us know what times you are available! If you are interested please email or call the church office with your availability!

## Reopening Taskforce

### **Worship Returns to the Sanctuary October 4th!**

A task force of members and staff have been meeting since May to try to plan our return to our beautiful new sanctuary. With numbers trending down, Council has approved a proposal to return to worship in the sanctuary on October 4th.

How will it work? Please read carefully to ensure a smooth transition.

- Worship will be at 9am and 11am
- Seating will be by reservation only -- we will send out a signup the Wednesday morning before worship. Call the office if you can't access it.
- Ushers will seat your group when you arrive. You may not be able to sit in "your" seat. Please be flexible!
- Masks will be required. We will have extras.
- Please plan to arrive early to allow time for everyone to be seated.
- Bathrooms will be available.
- Entry will be through the front doors only -- please don't come through the Fellowship Hall, even if you have a key.
- Sharing of the Peace will continue through sign language only.
- We will continue using individually-wrapped communion kits, picked up at the entrance along with the bulletin.
- Offering boxes in the Narthex will collect offerings.
- Music will be different -- we will use a spoken liturgy with no congregational singing -- hymns will be anthems or solos.
- CDC cleaning protocols will be followed.

We know this is a difficult time. If you would like to continue worshipping from home, please feel free. Worship will still be livestreamed on Facebook. Definitely don't come if you're feeling sick or have a temperature.

Finally, we still plan to have a church dedication and reception honoring Pastor Jane's ministries with us at a safer time.

Task force members:

Pastor Jane Mitcham, Previous Interim Pastor  
Pastor Emily Willhide, Pastor  
Patrick Hawkins, Music Director and Organist  
Sarah Harris, ILC Church Council  
Kim Yerrick, ILC Church Council and Altar Guild

Aubrey Sowell, MD  
Sarah Sawicki, ILC Church Council  
Carrie Wood, ILC Church Council  
Larry Marchant, ILC Church Council  
Billy Williamson, Head Usher

## *Highlights of the ILC Council Meeting September 21, 2020*

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Incarnation will welcome our new seminarian, Lorie Gladyness. Lorie will be focused on Faith Formation and Worship during her year with Incarnation.

Renovation Task force: Pews are getting installed & only two items left on the punch list.

Covid 19 Taskforce: Council approved guidelines and there are plans to worship in person in the sanctuary starting October 4th. We will also continue to broadcast worship on Facebook.

Parking Lot: A committee is working on future parking plans with the city.

100th Anniversary Committee will meet again on September 27th after worship.

Council approved to submit an amended Constitution to the Congregation for approval at the November 22nd Congregational meeting.

The Nominations committee are looking for candidates to serve on council. If you are interested please contact Porter Kinard, Mimi Fisher, Mark Hall, Larry Marchant or Shawn DeJames.

Policies committee is working on updating the Policies Manual.

Financial team is working on a budget to submit to the Congregation before the Congregation meeting.

Giving is down 21% from plan.

Stewardship is working on a narrative budget to submit to the Congregation.

Next council meeting October 19th.

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## Stewardship Committee



Finally we can feel the change in the air as autumn returns! Nights are cooler, the leaves have color and the kids are back in school – even if remotely. These are welcome changes after the long, hot summer.

However, 2020 has already been full of changes for us, some maybe not so welcome. We've been wearing masks, working from home, attending Zoom meetings and holding Church services in the parking lot. Parents have had to help their kids adjust to a whole new way of attending school.

Also, a lot has been put on hold. We've had to postpone moving into our beautiful new sanctuary, gathering for celebrations and even Oktoberfest. But with all of these changes have come blessings. Families have had more time together. People have become more creative as they find new ways to work and play safely. Holding services outside, while warm at times, has provided a whole new perspective. We have become better at using technology, which has actually extended our outreach.

While a lot has changed, important things remain the same: the love of God, our strong church family and our commitment to do God's work in the world. We may not know exactly how we will operate next year and we may be doing things a bit differently, but we do know that with everyone working together our church can continue to grow and flourish.

As we begin our stewardship drive, please prayerfully consider how you can best support our missions. Your pledge will be crucial as we create our plans to continue God's work within our congregation and community. Remember the blessings you've received this year as you also consider ways to share your time and talents with your church family. Even with the many changes we've faced this year, our church is a stabilizing force, our rock to always help us weather any changes that come our way.

Debbie Shurr, Stewardship Committee

<http://www.incarnationlutheran.com/giving.html>

**Our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is Coming!**

Did you know that in 2021, Incarnation will turn 100 years old? Pandemic or no pandemic, we are preparing to celebrate - and we want your contributions to help make it festive!

While our original timetable has already been changed by the course of world events – and may change again - here are some things you can do now:

- **Enter the Logo contest:** Submit your ideas for an anniversary logo and slogan which will be used all year to highlight our centennial. It will appear everywhere – bulletins, shirts, bags, ornaments, etc. Use your creativity and submit ideas for either a logo, slogan, or both to Leslie Skinner ([drlwskinner@gmail.com](mailto:drlwskinner@gmail.com)).
- **Contribute to the “One Hundred Reasons” project:** What are “100 reasons” to be a member of Incarnation? What are some concrete ways we can show our thanks to God for our congregation? What ministries can we do for others to celebrate? Contribute your ideas, large and small, of things we can do as individuals, families, or a congregation to honor the last century and lead into the next one. Send your ideas to Mimi Fisher ([FisherM173@aol.com](mailto:FisherM173@aol.com)) or Elizabeth Johnson ([elmjohnson01@gmail.com](mailto:elmjohnson01@gmail.com)).
- **Gather “historic artifacts”:** Do you have mementos of life at Incarnation over the last 100 years? Old pictures? Confirmation certificates? Decades-old Sunday bulletins or wedding announcements? We would love to see and display them (and you can have them back, of course!)  
Contact Susan McArver ([swmcarver@mac.com](mailto:swmcarver@mac.com)) if you have treasures to share.
- **Put these dates on your calendar:** (and hope and pray the pandemic is under control by then)
  - **January 3, 2021: Covered Dish lunch**, on the day closest to the actual date of Incarnation’s organization on January 2, 1921. While this is our actual kickoff date, larger events follow later in the year.
  - **April 18, 2021: Homecoming**, a day filled with a catered meal, outdoor seating, and celebratory worship. Invite your friends, neighbors and former members!
  - **October 31, 2021: Reformation Sunday**, a day to wear red and celebrate the past century as we look forward to the next one!

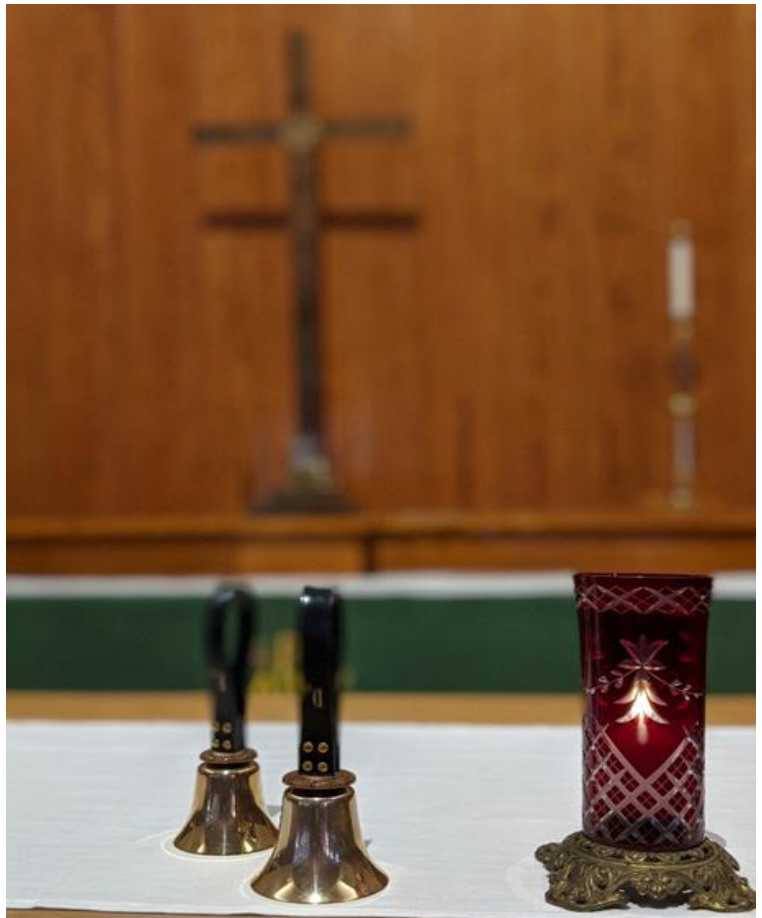
## Music Notes

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Dear friends,

While Church Council in an abundance of caution does not want the vocal ensembles practicing during the Covid-19 pandemic, they have given permission for the handbell choir to resume weekly rehearsals. If you or a friend is interested in joining this group, then please come Wednesday evenings from 6:00 PM until 7:00 PM. We will meet in the main sanctuary. Participants must wear a mask. Ringers also will wear their own gloves. Hand sanitizer is available and we all will remain as socially distanced as possible during the practice session.

Yours,  
Dr. Patrick Hawkins  
Cantor and Organist



## 2020 Church Directory!

You read that right! The office is currently putting together a photo directory! We only need a few things from you!

- A current picture of you and your family! It does not have to be a professional picture, just make sure everyone in your household is included.
- We also need updated contact information, even if you recently gave updated information. We want all information to be up-to-date! Please include your family's primary address, preferred phone numbers for all adults in the household, and current email addresses for all adults.

Please send all information with pictures attached to Savannah at [office@incarnationlutheran.com](mailto:office@incarnationlutheran.com)

If you are a household with adult children, please forward this information to them so we can have their updated information and images as well!

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### *A Note from Pastor Emily*

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Fall is in the air. Foliage is starting to change color, football season is underway, and temperatures are finally dropping, although I'm sure we still have a few warm days left in store for us. But, even with the expected changes that this season brings, things are still not quite normal. Football games are taking place in mostly empty stadiums, schools are online or working on adjusted schedules, and masks are ubiquitous. But, as with everything else, humanity has begun to adjust to life during a pandemic and find ways forward. Holiday themed masks are right around the corner, I am sure.

The church, too, is finding our way forward during this strange time. Outdoor worship has been a blessing, as we've gathered together in socially distanced fellowship. And our live-streaming experiment on Facebook has been a tremendous addition to our worship life. We have managed to stay in community with one another, even while we have been forced to keep our distance.

As we continue to learn more about this virus and its transmission profile, we have continued to adjust our plans to re-open to in-person worship in our sanctuary. We are all anxious to be in our new space, but we also want to keep our members safe and healthy. While we hope and plan to worship indoors on October 4th, we will be following the guidance of the CDC, as well as some guidelines developed by our church leadership, in assessing the numbers of cases and the positivity rates in our communities. We are specifically monitoring the case load in Richland, Lexington, and Sumter counties as one of our determining factors.

If we are able to resume indoor worship on the 4th, worship, like everything else right now, will look a little bit different. To begin, we ask that you all enter through the double doors on Devine St. so that we can control the flow of traffic. When you enter the church, we ask that you do so as a family unit so that you can be seated together. If one of your party shows up later, they may be seated somewhere else, due to the nature of our seating arrangements. Once you've all arrived, ushers will seat you, and we will fill the church from the front to the back. Yes, this does mean that you may have to sit closer to the front than Lutherans typically do, and you may not find yourself in your normal pew. Ushers will also dismiss the congregation by row when church is over, again to regulate the flow of traffic and to minimize our exposure to one another.

Masks will be required when we are gathered inside. If you don't have one, one will be provided. We also ask that you practice good mask etiquette; make sure that it covers both your nose and your mouth and that it fits to your face without gapping. We will be offering two worship services, one at 9am and one at 11am, and we ask that you sign up for services either through the online sign-up that we will email out on Wednesday, September 29th, or by calling into the office. In between services, we will be disinfecting the sanctuary.

Bulletins, communion kits, and an offering box will be placed in the narthex for you to gather worship materials and place your offering, in order to eliminate the need to pass these items through the congregation. We will worship with the windows open, both to enjoy the cooler weather, and to increase the airflow in the church. We will not be singing our liturgy or our hymns, but we will have beautiful music, utilizing our new organ, our fantastic bell choir, and other appropriate instruments.

We are sure that there will be a learning curve, as we adjust to this new way of worshipping, but we are also confident in the grace and patience of this congregation as we do so. See you all soon.

Pastor Emily



## Kidz Korner

<sup>22</sup>By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

Galatians 5:22-23

The Bible verse above is about fruit. No, we aren't talking about apples and oranges. It is about a different kind of fruit -- the fruit of the Spirit. We are talking about the way we act when we put our faith in Jesus. The Bible tells us that when we do that, the Holy Spirit fills us with God's love and produces some good fruit in our life.

If you see an apple tree, what do you expect to find on that tree? Apples! Well, when you see someone who is filled with the Holy Spirit, you expect to see what the Bible calls the fruit of the Spirit. What is that? It is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Oh my, that is some good fruit, isn't it?

Are we always patient? Are we always gentle and kind? No, there will be times when we fall short. When we fall short, we ask God to forgive us and fill us with God's Spirit so that we will produce the kind of fruit that God wants to see in our lives.

Heavenly Father, fill us with your Spirit so that we will show the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### Pineapple Cups

**Step One:** Ask a grown up for help, and cut a green piece of paper horizontally (hotdog style). The piece that you cut should be about 2 inches tall and 11 inches long.

**Step Two:** Make smaller cuts on the long side of the strip of paper. Make sure you don't cut all the way across. Once you have cut all the way down, roll the paper together.

**Step Three:** Flip a paper cup upside down (make sure it is empty). Color the outside like a pineapple or use your imagination! Tape or glue the green paper to the bottom of the paper cup.



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 Incarnation Lutheran Church

 Incarnation Lutheran Church Columbia, SC

**Lutheran Church of the Incarnation**

3005 Devine Street, Columbia, SC 29205

Office Hours: M-F 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

[www.incarnationlutheran.com](http://www.incarnationlutheran.com)

email: [office@incarnationlutheran.com](mailto:office@incarnationlutheran.com)

803-256-2381

Our Ministry Staff contacts are:

Rev. Emily Willhide.....pastoremily@incarnationlutheran.com

Patrick Hawkins; Dir. of Music & Organist.....music@incarnationlutheran.com

Savannah Edis; Faith Formation Minister.....youth@incarnationlutheran.com

Amy Kehl; Bookkeeper.....amy.kehl@incarnationlutheran.com

Teresa Boykin, CDC Director.....cdc@incarnatioplutheran.com

Dot Hudson, CDC-Byron Rd.....cdcbyron@incarnationlutheran.com