

# August 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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In-Person Worship at Incarnation is held each Sunday at 9:00 am in the CDC Parking Lot.

Bring a lawn chair, wear a mask, and join us for Worship!

We are following all social distancing guidelines.

If you wish to not join us in-person please join us via Facebook Live.

Remember to click share at the bottom of the post to share us with your friends!

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Congratulations to the Rev. Ginny Aebischer, assistant to retiring Bishop Herman Yoos, who has been elected the new Bishop of the South Carolina Synod, ELCA.



## Highlights of the ILC Council Meeting July 20, 2020

The Council met via Zoom

\*Council welcomed our new pastor, Emily Willhide.

\*The Building Renovation team reported the stained glass window is installed.

\*Patrick reported that our new organ was delivered and installation will begin in August.

\*The Call Committee reported Pastor Emily will coordinate with the Bishop to determine a date for her installation.

\*Due to COVID-19, we are worshipping outside at this time with approximately 25 members each week in attendance. We are streaming the service live on Facebook and YouTube.

\*The 100th Anniversary committee is meeting Aug 5 at 6:00pm via Zoom.

\*The Nominations Committee members are Mark Hall, Mimi Fisher, and outgoing Council members Porter Kinard, Shawn DeJames and Larry Marchant. Please let one of them know if you are interested in serving on the ILC Council.

\*The Property Team dealt with the issue of an underground fuel oil tank, which ruptured and caused the sidewalk between the church and CDC to crack. One section has been fixed, but please be cautious while walking in that area.

\*Pastor Emily's office was repainted (donated by Kimberly Yerrick), carpet was cleaned, and she has a new table (donated by Leslie Skinner).

\*The Gathering Hall and Parlor lower part of the walls were repainted (donated by Kimberly Yerrick). Work has begun on the top part of the walls in the parlor, replacing wall paper with paint. Ed and Leslie Skinner are putting up framing for bulletin boards.

\*The Chancel railing and baptismal font top have been refinished. Work is almost complete on the stair rail. Council recommended cleaning and sealing the tile flooring.

\*OKTOBERFEST 2020 has been officially cancelled.

### Devine Street Summer Sidewalk Sale

August 7-9

The Devine Street Assoc. is holding their annual sidewalk sale, August 7-9. Incarnation's Youth will be passing out water and palm crosses from 10-2 on Saturday and 11-3 on Sunday. ILC's bell choir will be ringing for shoppers on Saturday from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. outdoors by the fountain, so stop by on your shopping break to hear some beautiful bell music and a refreshing drink. Store hours may vary so check the stores' websites or social media pages for hours and specials! Remember: It's a TAX-FREE weekend!



## Stewardship Corner

Every day that I come into the church, there is nearly always someone already here tidying, rejuvenating, or redecorating our space. If this building could speak, I think it would thank you for your excellent stewardship. The Incarnation family loves its church, and you are generous with your time, your talent, and your treasure. From cleaning the kitchen, to replacing damaged wallpaper, to handcrafting baptismal boxes, this church and its people benefit from your collective love and care.

Of course, much has changed in the days since March. Now, instead of scheduling a church-wide work day, we encourage folks to come in one or two at a time. And instead of church potlucks filled with good conversation, good food, and children underfoot, we are all trading recipes to find one more way to make pasta interesting. But perhaps our worship life has changed most of all. Communion and how we celebrate it has changed. Our liturgy has changed to decrease our singing. Even our giving has undergone a change. Remember the days when we used to pass an offering plate around the church? Ah, the good old days of five months ago.

But even with all of these challenges, we have found some unexpected blessings. From live-streaming to YouTube, the internet has been an unexpected blessing of connection. And, once we worked out the logistics for worshipping outside, that, too, has offered its own joys. From engaging with folks who are just passing by on Sunday morning as we worship, to the sounds of cicadas singing in the background, I have truly enjoyed our outdoor services. Even for folks who have stayed home and participated online, live worship just has a different feel to it. But I have also noticed that this enforced absence and continuing separation have made us better stewards of our time together. Needing to find new ways of connecting to one another has reminded us of how much we need one another. Now there is an unexpected blessing.

Indeed, I think that we will continue to benefit in ways we did not foresee. One area that I hope will continue to evolve and grow is our engagement with our online giving. Not only is it a boon to the church to have a regular, predictable income, but it is a blessing to families to be able to manage giving online when so many of our banks are online, too. We currently offer Simply Giving through Vanco, online giving through our website, and we are working on offering both PayPal and Venmo. If you need a tutorial on that strange looking QR code that we keep talking about, we can help you with that as well.

We will begin a stewardship drive in September as part of our preparation for writing our annual budget, and we ask you to prayerfully consider how you will support your church in the coming year. Regardless of *how* you give, thank you for your gifts to this church. Through your offerings of time, talent, and treasure we will continue to shine Christ's light in this community.

Pastor Emily Willhide

SUMMARY OF GENERAL FUNDS CONTRIBUTIONS				
	Month		YTD	
Actual	\$12,954.55		\$92,510.55	
Budget	\$19,232.00		\$125,008.00	
Prior year	\$18,861.32		\$104,528.63	
Actual vs Budget	-\$6,277.45	-32.6%	-\$32,497.45	-26.0%
Actual vs Prior Year	-\$5,906.77	-31.3%	-\$12,018.08	-11.5%

Numbers from  
July 2020

## Anniversary Committee

### 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 ([Fisher173@aol.com](mailto:Fisher173@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!
- **Join the anniversary Committee:** Our next meeting is Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm by Zoom. Contact Susan McArver ([swmcarver@mac.com](mailto:swmcarver@mac.com)) if you would like to join us, or would merely like to send some suggestions!

## Music Notes

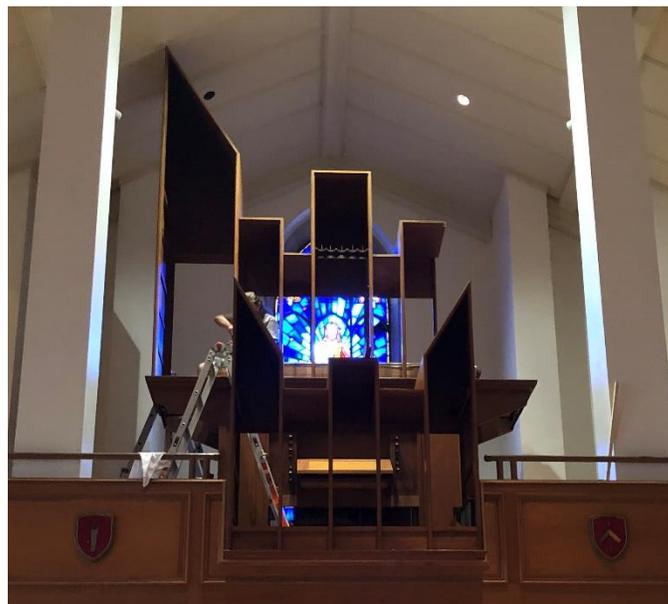
from the desk of Dr. Patrick Hawkins, Cantor/Organist

Dear Friends at Incarnation Lutheran,

It is hard to believe that two years have passed since our Building Committee and Church Council received a letter dated June 17, 2018 from our organ consultant, Peggy Haas Howell, former Organ faculty member at the Peabody Conservatory of Music. Peggy and her husband, Richard Howell, were hired in 2018 by our church to advise us about our organ and to offer suggestions for improved music-making in our sanctuary. In Mrs. Howell's report, she offered the possibility for the placement of the choir in the balcony to "help support and lift up the congregational singing from behind" and noted this as the traditional placement in Lutheran churches, especially those in Europe. She also mentioned that an organ of "ten to 15 stops" if well-voiced should be sufficient for our space given the very favorable acoustics. Lastly, she also suggested the church may wish to consider purchasing an existing organ rather than having to raise a substantial amount of funds to have a new one built.

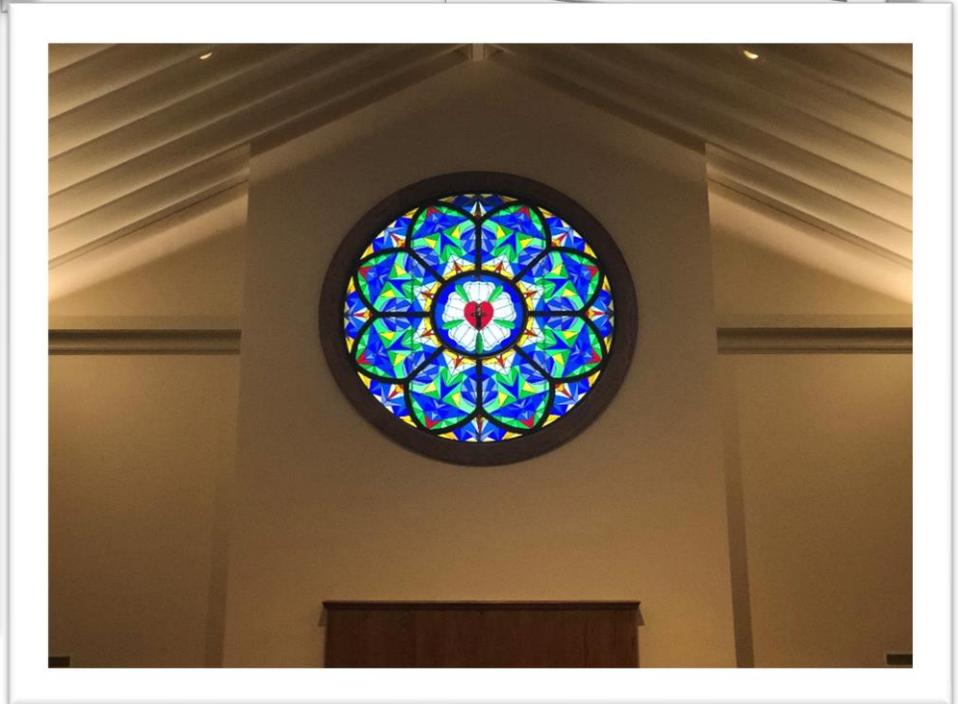
I have to pinch myself two years later to believe that our committee members listened to this advice and were able to acquire a tracker-action organ by the highly respected Flentrop firm in the Netherlands. The eleven-stop instrument was originally built in 1957 for the Goede Herderkerk in Leeuwarden. Sadly, the church closed its doors in the early 2000s and the Flentrop company has been looking for a happy new home for the organ. Miraculously, the size of the instrument fit our balcony dimensions and required rather minor adjustments to that space. The organ will be placed in the rear of our beautifully renovated church to help lead our congregational songs for years to come.

Attached are some pictures showing the arrival of the organ in the shipping container. A huge thanks to all who volunteered to unpack the container and help move the organ into the sanctuary. We hope to have Lincoln Pipe Organ Builders in North Carolina assemble it in August. Some final "voicing" of the organ may be needed once we hear it in the space. Due to the COVID pandemic, the organ dedication has been temporarily postponed from this year until 2021. I am working with the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists to plan the official dedication recital then. Dr. Janette Fishell, Organ Professor at Indiana University at Bloomington, will be the guest recitalist. More information to come about this brilliant concert in the future.



## ILC Child Development Centers Are Back Open!

“Welcome back friends!” Those were the words we cheerfully shared on June 1 when we re-opened the Child Development Centers. We had been shuttered with the rest of the world since March 16. Our school age (5K - 5th) joined in on June 8. We are thrilled to have our friends and teachers back with us. Many of our parents are working from home and keeping their little ones with them; however, our attendance at both locations has steadily increased. We have safety protocols in place, and they are working well. Stay safe, mask up and together we will make through this!



## 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!

## *A Note from Pastor Emily*

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

*-Isaiah 43:1b-2*

Welcome to an August unlike any other. Many of us did not have “pandemic” on our 2020 bingo cards. Nor did we likely have spaces for “sustained protests” or “civil unrest”. In fact, between the so-called murder hornets and the possible UFO photos released by the Pentagon, I find myself strangely eager for the normal challenges brought on by our annual hurricane season.

No one knows what this summer and fall will bring. We are each finding our own way forward, navigating situations to the best of our ability, without any special training to help us do so. But we continue to do the work of the church, keeping faith that God will equip us to meet whatever this year brings and sustaining hope that the Spirit will guide us into new creative endeavors.

And that faith and hope are not unfounded. Already we are finding our path in this strange new world. Our Child Development Center, under Teresa Boykin’s adept leadership, is seeking out ways to act as a bridge between school and online education. Our Faith Formation team is meeting and discussing new ways to foster and grow our faith through the marvels of modern technology. Our Worship and Music team continues to fine-tune how we offer in-person and online worship that both inspires us and keeps us safe. Our 100th Anniversary committee is planning a year of celebration and socially-distanced festivities. And so the work of the church continues.

The good news in all of this is that, despite everything, our community remains strong and engaged. Your comments and greetings during our online worship never fail to lift my spirits. Our outdoor worship service is a testament both to our commitment to keep one another safe, through masking and distancing, and our deep desire to maintain ties of fellowship and communal worship. We have a brand new-to-us organ ready to be installed in the coming days, and a beautiful new stained glass window adorns our worship space. Praise God for all of the wonderful developments in this church!

May God bless us this summer, and may God bless our ministry in whatever form it takes next.

Pastor Emily Willhide

## New Member Spotlight!

Welcome to the Bickley Family!

This month we extend a warm welcome to our newest members: Brandon, Emmy, and Declan Bickley. We welcomed Brandon and Emmy through Affirmation of Baptism, and we welcomed Declan through the Rite of Baptism.



## August Birthdays!

Andea Baughman 8/2, Larry Marchant 8/4, Cheryl Carroll 8/5, Teresa Boykin 8/7,  
Mary Crosby 8/7, Dylan DeJames 8/7, Mary Powers 8/8, John Sawicki 8/8,  
Savannah Edis 8/9, Sean O'Hara 8/10, Jeffrey DeJames 8/11, Judy Price 8/11,  
Dalmer Sercy 8/11, Jenny Gantt 8/12, Gabriela Nester 8/15, Jacinto Moras 8/16,  
Toni Parker 8/18, Torin DeJames 8/19, Kimberly Yerrick 8/19, Stacey Meyer 8/22,  
Doris Garber 8/25, Carroll Eargle 8/30, Mary Huth 8/30, Deborah Muller 8/30,  
Richard Elam 8/31, Nancy White 8/31 Happy Birthday everyone!

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Incarnation Lutheran Church



Incarnation Lutheran Church Columbia, SC

**Lutheran Church of the Incarnation**

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