



# Lutheran Church of the Incarnation

## Service of Holy Communion

May 13, 2018 10:00AM

Seventh Sunday of Easter

*A WARM WELCOME is extended to all who are visiting with us today. We hope that your worship experience is meaningful and that you will come again. We invite you to fill out a Welcome Card located in the pew and place in the offering plate. If you're looking for a church home, we encourage you to contact Pastor Jane or the church office (803) 256-2381.*

Visit [www.incarnationlutheran.com](http://www.incarnationlutheran.com) for bulletins, online giving, and more  
Wifi Access: ILC\_Members\_5G PW: @ilc1921

### GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE:** Two Variations on Song 1 PAUL D. WEBER (B. 1949)

#### CONFESSION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Loving God,

**we confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways. Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly; we have not spoken or acted at all; we have hurt those closest to us; we have hurt those we have yet to know; we have thought more about ourselves than others; we have thought less of ourselves than we ought. Turn us around, and give us a fresh start, so that we can live again as your children. Amen.**

Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right. Even when we have messed up, God puts us together. God's love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children. Hear God say to you now: Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of ✚ Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN: ELW 645 Christ is Made the Sure Foundation WESTMINISTER ABBEY**

#### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## TEMPLE TALK

**CHILDREN'S TIME** *ALL AGES of children are invited to come to the altar steps for conversation and bucket offering.*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**FIRST READING:** A Reading from Acts

(Acts 1:15-17, 21-26)

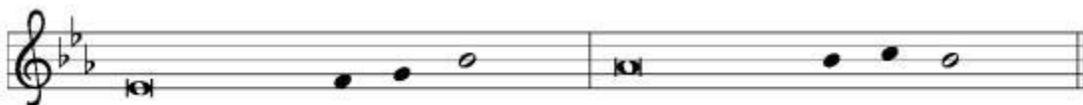
*In the days between Jesus' ascension and Pentecost, Peter oversees the process whereby one of the members of the community of believers is chosen to be the twelfth apostle, in order to fill the vacancy created by Judas's treachery and death.*

<sup>15</sup>In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, <sup>16</sup>"Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—<sup>17</sup>for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." <sup>21</sup>So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup>beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." <sup>23</sup>So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. <sup>24</sup>Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup>to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." <sup>26</sup>And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 1

*It is sung by all, with the congregation singing the **bold** verses.*



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.  
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<sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup>Their delight is in the law | of the LORD,  
and they meditate on God's teaching | day and night.

<sup>3</sup>**They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that | do not wither;  
everything they | do shall prosper.**

<sup>4</sup>It is not so | with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.

<sup>5</sup>**Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.**

<sup>6</sup>For the LORD knows the way | of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed.

**SECOND READING: A Reading from 1 John**

**(1 John 5:9-13)**

*God has borne witness to the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ. Whoever believes in the Son of God believes in the witness of God and has the promise of eternal life.*

<sup>9</sup>If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. <sup>10</sup>Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. <sup>11</sup>And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup>Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

<sup>13</sup>I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: S124**



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

**GOSPEL: John 17:6-19**

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In this reading the church hears Jesus' words on the night before his death. This gospel reports the words of Jesus' prayer, a prayer for his disciples and for all who would believe in him through their words.*

Jesus prayed:] <sup>6</sup>"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup>for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have

believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. <sup>12</sup>While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup>But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. <sup>14</sup>I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>15</sup>I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>17</sup>Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup>As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **SERMON**

Pastor Jane

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

*The assembly stands at the introduction to the hymn.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 322**

Oh, Love, How Deep

**DEO GRACIAS**

## **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Each petition concludes "Lord, in your mercy,"*  
*We respond: Hear our prayer.*

## PEACE

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*  
The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**  
*The assembly is seated.*

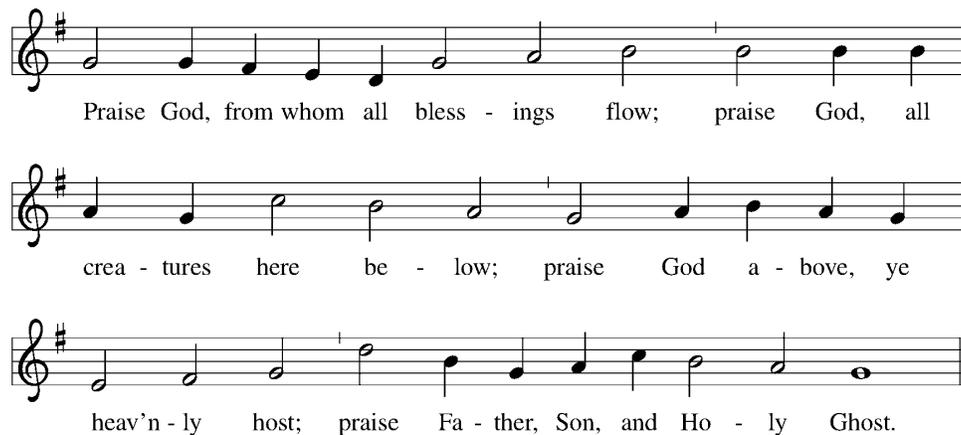
## MEAL

### OFFERING

**Offertory Anthem:** All my Spirit Longs to Savor George F. Handel (1685-1759)

*The assembly stands at the invitation of the presider as the offering and communion elements are brought forward.*

### OFFERTORY



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all  
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world.  
**Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS: S130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

... With this bread and cup, we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast.  
Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.  
Breathe new life into us.  
Send us forth,  
burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places,  
with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars,  
we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

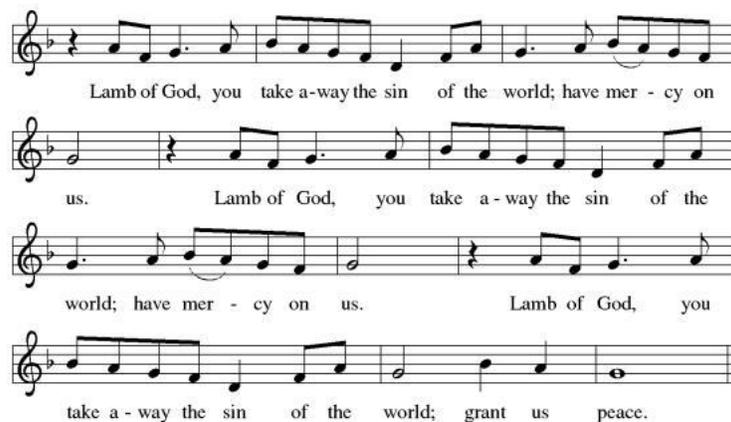
## LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Now let us feast this Easter day on Christ, the bread of heaven. Hallelujah!

## LAMB OF GOD: S135a



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## COMMUNION

*All are welcome to join in communion, trusting that Christ promises to be truly present. Whole wheat communion bread is served. Gluten-free bread is available upon request. Red communion wine is served: the first cup is a common cup (for drinking from) and the second cup is for intinction (dipping the bread). Those unable to partake of both elements are assured that the Church affirms our Lord's full presence in, with, and under each element alone. Those who choose not to receive Communion are welcome to come forward to the altar railing for a blessing.*

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:*

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

**HANDBELL ANTHEM:** Spirit in the Wind

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**HYMN:** ELW 463 Lord, Who the Night You Were Betrayed SONG 1

*The Assembly Stands*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

## SENDING

*God send us out to be Christ's body in the world, sharing what we have heard and seen.*

## SENDING PRAYER

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## BLESSING

May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy.

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN:** ELW 432

The Head That Once Was Crowned

ST. MAGNUS

## DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** Majeste' du Christ demandant sa glorie a' son Pe're ("The majesty of Christ demanding its glory of the Father"), from L'Ascension Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

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## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Ushers:	Team 2
Crucifer:	Katie Sawicki
Acolytes:	Porter Boepple, McNally Sowell
Lay Assistant:	Mary Kehl
Lector:	Janet Hoffman
Communion Assistants:	TBA
Eucharistic Minister:	Laura Jackson

## Welcome Dr. Patrick Hawkins!

Today we officially welcome Dr. Patrick Hawkins as our new part-time organist and choir director here at Incarnation! Although Dr. Hawkins has already been playing most Sundays for us for the last several weeks and directing our adult choir, several previous engagements on his calendar prior to accepting our position needed to be fulfilled before he could join us permanently.

Patrick is originally from Roanoke, Virginia and received his Bachelor of Music degree at the Peabody Conservatory of Music at The Johns Hopkins University where he majored in organ performance and earned minors in voice and harpsichord. He earned a Masters of Music from East Carolina University and a Doctor of Musical Arts from Arizona State University, also in organ performance.

He currently serves full-time as a music teacher at Spring Valley High School, and three weeks ago took a group of his students there to perform at Carnegie Hall. He has performed as a keyboard soloist in major festivals, churches and cathedrals throughout the United States, England, France, Germany, South Korea and Wales and is maintaining this busy performance schedule in our area. You can even find his music on CD and YouTube :-)

Read more about him in the June Contact, but be sure to "officially" welcome him to Incarnation!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SUMMER WORSHIP:** Beginning Sunday, May 27 and continuing through the summer, we will move to a more casual yet properly liturgical service. An altar table closer to the congregation, a new seating arrangement for the choir, a more familiar liturgy, and other helpful changes await! As you make your summer plans, please remember to make Sunday worship a priority.

**Thanks to Kim Yerrick** for volunteering to serve as flower coordinator. Many, many thanks to Toni Parker and Fran Sims for their dedication to this ministry over the years!

**Placing flowers on the altar** for our worship services is a wonderful way to honor someone you love and appreciate or to remember a departed loved one. Arranging to place flowers is as simple as signing up at the flower chart on the door of the sacristy or a phone call (256-2381) or email (office@incarnationlutheran.com) to the church office. Tell us what information you would like printed in the bulletin, Have a nice garden or access to floral arrangements, not a problem. All arrangements have to be delivered to the Sanctuary prior to services.

**Thanks again to the council** for leading us in our conversations of discernment of the vision and mission for Incarnation. Thanks to Steve Cook, Susan McArver and Leslie Skinner for their words of insight and challenge. Today we hear a report from our financial officers and again will hear insight and challenge.

**Congregational Conversations dates:** Your voice is both wanted and needed as we process together information shared in the temple talks. The schedule is listed below:

**Sunday, May 20** – Immediately following worship will be a pizza lunch  
(at no cost) with congregational conversations

**Wednesday, May 23** – 6pm supper and congregational conversations

**Sunday, May 27** - Immediately following worship congregational conversations

## BIRTHDAYS

Aubrey Sowell 5/14, Dargan Thebo 5/15

## BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

Janet Hoffman 5/13, Memi Kinard 5/14, Landon Moras 05/18

## SAVE THE DATES

**Sunday, May 20** – Immediately following worship will be a pizza lunch  
(at no cost) with congregational conversations

**Monday, May 21** – Deadline to receive articles/dates for our June newsletter

**Wednesday, May 23** – 6pm supper and congregational conversations

**Thursday, May 24** – 6pm Holy Guacamole gathering at CasaLinda Mexican Restaurant

**Sunday, May 27** - Immediately following worship congregational conversations

**May 31 – June 2** South Carolina Synod Assembly

<b>Financial Update:</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Plan</b>	<b><i>Difference</i></b>
<b>Last Week</b>	\$ 5,319	\$ 4,479	\$ 840+
<b>Year-to-Date</b>	\$ 75,194	\$ 76,148	\$ 952-

### **Current Concerns**

Abigail Murdock, Leon Tokunaga, Walter Lindler, Cecilia Eaddy(CDC mother),  
Delores DeJames (mother of Jeff DeJames), Sarah Parker (mother of Mike Parker), Harry Evans

**New Prayer List Guidelines:** Names will be on the prayer list and prayed for during the intercessory prayers for four Sundays. If you wish the name you submitted to continue, please notify the office at the end of the four weeks.

The Church Council is actively engaged in evaluating our congregation's needs as we go forward in mission. Council members have been giving Temple Talks before our recent morning services, and starting next week, we will have a series of opportunities for discussions about our next steps. The following are summaries of the previous Temple Talks given by Steve Cook, Susan McArver and Leslie Skinner:

#### **Summary from Steve Cook's Temple Talk on Sunday, April 29**

Many of you are familiar with the council and how it works to serve our congregation. In fact many of you have served on the council and we are hopeful that many of you will volunteer to do so again in the future. We are aware though that many of you may not know much about the council or how it works. Some of you might not even care. Don't feel bad if that's the case. Personally, I had no idea of what council really did before I joined.

The church council conducts a great deal of business on behalf of Incarnation. In a nutshell the council worries about a lot of things so that you, the congregation, doesn't have to. However, there are some issues where the council cannot make a decision for the congregation. We have spent lots of time considering how to have a meaningful dialogue with church members about the blessings and the changes we are experiencing in Church Life. We want to include everyone in these discussions. New members, old members, our youth and guests and friends of the congregation.

With that in mind we will take the next several Sundays to discuss our church vision and mission. Over the next 4 weeks we will address the congregation with thoughts on the church of the past, what congregations look like today and how they are changing, volunteerism and future financial models of the church. In addition to the Sunday morning talks we will be providing written info on Wednesday nights along with further discussion.

On May 20 we hope you will join us for a forum after worship so we can get your feedback on these efforts. It is our hope that after receiving this feedback we will be able to formulate and propose a plan to move forward and present it for the consideration of the entire congregation.

Change is coming to Incarnation. That is inevitable. I think there are two ways people tend to view change. One is with fear, skepticism and apprehension. The other view of Change and what it might bring, and the one I hope that Incarnation embraces, is to view the coming change with excitement. With optimism. And with Joy for what God has in store for us.

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### Summary from Susan McArver's Temple Talk on Sunday, April 29

Incarnation was founded in 1921 as a Lutheran congregation to minister to those in the fast-growing suburbs of Columbia, when the corner of Devine and Sims represented the outer edge of those suburbs. Like most churches during the 1950s and 1960s, Incarnation grew along with the Baby Boomer Generation, and church provided a major place for families to come together. Women often provided the backbone of the volunteer labor at a time when many of them did not work outside the home. Times are different now, and we are a smaller congregation. Life seems more hectic these days (is it really . . . ?) with many activities and occupations demanding our time. But Incarnation is blessed with the ministry of our two Child Development Centers and the vitality of many young families and fresh faces. On any given Sunday morning, we represent a very healthy mix of ages. Take a look at the numbers of children coming up for our children's sermons, the enthusiasm of our Confirmation students who love going to "Faith Alive" events at Lutheridge, and the large group we have going to the Youth Gathering this summer in Houston! We are at in a fortunate place to build and grow as we look to our future ministry. And we want to be able to provide the same ministries of support and spiritual home for this generation of worshippers as we have done in the past. Incarnation is part of the larger Evangelical Church in America, the ELCA, whose motto is, "God's Work, Our Hands". The Church is not a social club we "join," like the Rotary Club. The Church is the body of Christ in the world, and we are called to be the open arms of Christ. Ove the next few weeks, we will be discussing our future, and how each of us can participate in the work of this congregation. The Church Council invites you to join us as the Spirit moves among us!

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### Dr. Leslie Skinner's Temple Talk on Sunday, May 6

Have you ever thought about how signs affect us? Last week I noticed a billboard while driving and suddenly Ed made a comment that instantly made me realize that he had been pondering the same sign at the very the same time. I also have repeatedly passed a new banner that Eastminster Presbyterian Church had recently placed in their front yard advertising a 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Yesterday I decided to reviewall of the different trains of thought that repeatedly reading it as I passed had generated. There was the inevitable math to the founding date, followed by a trail into the history of the period and the surrounding area and time period, and the inevitable comparison with Incarnation's age and thoughts of a centennial celebration in a few short years. Another time the sign reminded me of the usual memories that passing this particular church always triggers- funerals there for a high school friend and a for a mentor and colleague and stories they had told about being members there...then

prayers for another currently fighting for his life in the hospital. Cars coming out of the parking lot as I wait to turn onto Trenholm Road always remind me of our son Justin's Eagle Scout review held in the educational facilities there and his excitement at announcing his success when he got into my car. Another repeated thought path the sign produced had to do with the date, May 20<sup>th</sup>, and its being Pentecost Sunday...which inevitably lead me to our own congregational plans on that day and wondering if or how things might be similar. The sign also made me wonder for whom the announcement was intended, as it didn't read like an invitation and was to be a service of commitment, which really made me ponder how other churches are doing and what they are doing.... And if there was a lesson or several for Incarnation in all these musing about 1 sign at a neighboring church.

Even though we didn't have that sort of banner in front of our church, I felt like last Sunday's service was full of signs again speaking directly to me...and they were lessons and signs of the Holy Spirit's work just like Pastor Jane had said in her sermon when she warned us to "Watch Out, Incarnation! The Holy Spirit is at work!" Pause a minute with me and review last week: The service began with a joyful announcement that Abigail Murdock had recovered enough to be with us at worship! Our confirmands lead us in a perceptive look at the 10 Commandments followed by an exuberant participatory camp song. Then we had a baptism in which we, as a congregation made a commitment to support a family in doing such things as "...bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the 10 Commandments...nurture them in faith and prayer so that they may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace." How fitting to then be reminded in the temple talk of the motto of our national church body, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or ELCA. "God's Work, Our Hands" This motto articulates that we as Christians are called to do and be Christ's body in the world, living out his commandments and commission in all aspects of our lives. This is a calling for prayerful consideration of our commitments to our Lord and all aspects of his work. What are our roles? What are we being called to do in God's service? What signs is he giving us about our mission in His world?

The deepening of our discipleship brings joy and peace to others as well as to ourselves, but in today's fast-paced, secular-centric world, it can often feel like a juggling act. In those times, I am often reminded of and bolstered by this passage from Luke: "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." We all have been blessed with so much in a variety of ways! And we all have been asked to do things difficult for us. I also remember the sign our daughter Jessica bought soon after she was lead after an experience at Incarnation to go into the ministry and began 4 more years of study at the seminary. It reads, "God doesn't call the qualified, he qualifies the called." We are all called to ministry continuously... a never-ending ministry commitment of many facets and aspects...all of which are important. Your church, as part of the Body of Christ, needs you to empower it to do God's work in the world. Thank you for all that you already do. Please prayerfully consider acting upon the signs of calling that God is constantly giving you and think of ways that you can answer affirmatively. Take a moment and reread or sing the lyrics of Hymn 574, "Here I Am, Lord" as you ponder, pray and listen now and in the coming weeks.

Concurrently we will also be exploring Incarnation's Call -Our collective Mission and Vision in God's present and future world in a specially planned congregational conversation to take place on Sunday,

May 20<sup>th</sup> and continue Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please see bulletins and updates for details and plan to be a part. As the sign in front of Mt Tabor Lutheran currently simply says, “We’re serving for Jesus’ sake.”



**South Carolina Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

**Lutheran Church of the Incarnation**

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