

April 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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Holy Week at Incarnation



Palm Sunday 10am
Festival of the Palms

Maundy Thursday 6pm
The Upper Room

Good Friday 6pm
The Cross

Easter Sunday 9am and 11am
The Empty Tomb

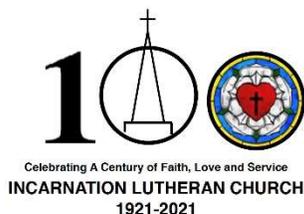


SC SYNOD

Are you interested in going to the Synod Assembly?

Delegates hear updates from the wider church, vote on resolutions while representing Incarnation, and meet other Lutherans from across the state. If you're interested in attending this year, please contact the church office.

100th Anniversary Committee



April Plans from the 100th Anniversary Committee!

The 100th Anniversary Committee continues to find ways to celebrate our centennial, even in the midst of a pandemic year. Check out our latest effort: two historical banners, posted outdoors on the iron fence in front of the CDC building, featuring the 1920s and 1930s. Throughout the year, each decade will follow!

The Committee has voted to **postpone** our originally scheduled Homecoming Event on April 18th, because of continued uncertainty around very large gatherings. It will be rescheduled at a later time.

Easter Sunday, April 4th

We will hold a modified and still socially-distanced outdoor celebration between our two services.

Our April guest preacher will be Southeastern Synod Bishop Kevin Strickland
(and our former Youth Director at ILC).

The event will be celebratory and joyful, featuring cupcakes, mimosas for adults and orange juice for children, balloons, Easter egg hunts,

and the sharing of some wonderful anniversary items with all who attend.

We hope you will join us!

The April 100th Anniversary Challenge!

We are focusing each month on a different “challenge” in honor of our 100th anniversary.

In April, celebrate new life and resurrection!

Celebrate the new life of the Resurrection this month by first attending Easter services on April 4th, either in person or online. On Easter, we will celebrate with a socially-distanced outdoor celebration between our two services.

Many wonderful surprises await!

Our April challenge is to plant a garden or outdoor plants to celebrate new life.

Plan to share your bounty with others as the season progresses.

Send pictures of planting your garden and how it is growing to the Church office at office@incarnationlutheran.com. We will put them on our Facebook page!

Facts from the 100th Anniversary Committee

In 1927, Incarnation Lutheran contracted for the design and construction of a stone edifice in front of the original wooden structure and facing Devine Street. This second unit took the entirety of 1928 to complete and the young congregation immediately began to have difficulty with the debt it was incurring prior to the sanctuary's completion. For a time offerings helped meet pleas for payment, but the unforeseen economic downturn that loomed would soon multiply the monetary issues of the congregation, its members, the city, state, nation and world.

In 1931, the church sponsored a show called "Madame Queen versus Andrew Brown" at the city's newly completed Township Auditorium (the city also had embarked on a building program at an unfortunate economic time) that netted enough profit to fully repay the debt owed the well-known local architectural firm of Lafaye and Lafaye and partially repaid the builder. Mortgage foreclosure was averted by the Savings and Loan's generous offer to trade Incarnation's adjacent vacant lot (bounded by Devine at the front and Kirkwood to the side) for a reduction in the new sanctuary's mortgaged amount with the option to repurchase later, freeing the congregation to eventually refinance the remaining mortgage debt on the new building at better terms. Interestingly, the Ladies' Auxiliary was the organization within the church that made the mortgage payments to repurchase the lot.

From the AV Committee – Update on our Sound System

As many of us are aware, we are having difficulty with speech intelligibility in the sanctuary. In February we formed an audio/visual subcommittee in part to address this issue. With the approval of council the AV subcommittee has contracted the acoustics design firm Kirkegaard to evaluate the space. Kirkegaard will be visiting in April to conduct analysis and provide recommendations on how to fix the problem with amplified speech while maintaining the qualities favorable for music. The engineer's initial impression is that our current speaker type and placement are not conducive to our reverberant space. Additionally, the AV subcommittee intends to discuss our microphone setup as well as the possibility of installing an assistive listening system for those with hearing impairments. We know that being unable to understand the sermon and readings is very frustrating and we are actively pursuing a timely solution to the problem. We are looking forward to beautiful worship services that can be understood by all members of the congregation!

A Note from Pastor Emily

*As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?
My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me continually, "Where is your God?" -
Psalm 42:1-3*

It has been a long Lent. In some ways it has been a *year* of Lent, as we have lived through a time of national illness and unrest. As of the writing of this article, over 555,000 Americans have died from this pandemic since this time last year, and no amount of rationalizing or looking ahead can wipe away that loss. Some of us have lost family and friends, some have lost jobs, and all of us have been impacted. I'm not entirely sure that we've really come to grips with all that we have endured this past year. I suspect the ramifications will play out over the coming months, weeks, and perhaps even years.

The psalmist has known similar trouble. Oppression and injury, abandonment and loss: the psalmist articulates his grief with an expression of yearning for God. "My soul thirsts," he writes, "for the living God". In the face of death, he understands and craves the God of life.

This is a feeling we know well. We live it in our lives and we witness it around us. In the face of death, we seek to reaffirm life. Even God's creation mirrors this. Flowers are blooming, pollen is flying and leaves are slowly unfurling. Spring has come to South Carolina. And just as winter gives way to spring, Lent inevitably gives way to Easter. Into the midst of *our* uncertainty and fear and sadness, God has placed an empty tomb as a reminder that those things do not have the final word. God doesn't just overcome death in Jesus Christ, God strips it of its power and breaks its hold on our lives.

Sometimes we just need to be reminded of that. We need to marvel at the stone that has been rolled away. We need to see the empty tomb, and poke among the grave clothes. We need to hear the words, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" We need to be reminded that we are not people of the tomb.

We are people of the resurrection.

In the face of death, we long for the living God. And because our God is not a God who disappoints, he comes to us, overflowing with grace, mercy, love and new life. Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Happy Easter,
Pastor Emily



Council Notes

Incarnation Congregation members,

Your council has identified some projects that are important for ILC moving into our next 100 years.

Council has already approved an evaluation by Kirkegaard, an acoustics firm specializing in noise and vibration control, to analyze and assist in the purchase of the equipment needed to have clear audio in our sanctuary. Approximate cost for that evaluation and plan is \$ 8000.00.

While about half of this was paid for with the building project funds, some new equipment will likely need to be purchased. \$ TBD.

The audio visual committee is also getting quotes for recording equipment (cameras, microphones, and a computer system to run it) so we may continue our outreach mission on social media. Currently, we are borrowing personal equipment from various staff and members. Estimated cost is between \$10,000 -15,000.

The BackYard task force is working on plans for a parking lot and pavilion. This is a substantial project that will benefit Incarnation in a number of ways. It will help to ameliorate our parking shortage, and the pavilion will serve as an outdoor worship/gathering space for the church, the CDC, and Oktoberfest. \$ TBD.

In association with the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists, we will be hosting a Bach course and festival on July 10 & 11, 2021. This event will feature a dedication of our new organ, as well as evening concerts that are open to the public. This will be funded by the music fund. The cost is \$2400.00.

The decorating committee will be meeting on April 18th @ 11:30am to address getting our Conference / Sunday school room, Kids / All purpose meeting room, Parlor & Gathering Hall and Ladies Lounge cleaned up and decorated. All interested members are welcome to join the meeting. Please bring your ideas. \$ TBD.

Music Notes

Join us on April 2nd for our Good Friday liturgy at Incarnation Lutheran Church. Between the seven readings for the day, we will hear hymns, arias, and solos for flute and organ composed by the Baroque master, Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). Cynthia Hopkins will be our guest flutist for the service and Emma Schwertfuehrer will be our soprano soloist.

Good Friday

Incarnation Lutheran Church
3005 Devine Street
Columbia, South Carolina

April 2, 2021
Service at 6:00 PM

A service of
Scripture and
music of J.S. Bach





2021

Easter Egg Hunt

SUNDAY, APRIL 4TH

10 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING

BETWEEN THE 9 AM & 11 AM SERVICES

INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Events for every age group!

Ages 5 and Under

Ages 6 to 10

Ages 11 to 17

Adult prizes too!

CDC

Backyard Egg Hunts are the best!



Upcoming Events in April

We will welcome Bishop Kevin Strickland to our Easter worship next Sunday on April 4th at our 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services

Sunday, March 28th - Palm Sunday Service at 10 a.m.

Thursday, April 1st – Maundy Thursday Service at 6 p.m.

Friday, April 2nd – Good Friday Service 6 p.m.

Sunday, April 4th – Easter Sunday Service at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m, 10 am Easter Egg Hunt and Reception in the Memorial Garden between services

Monday, April 5th – Office Closed for Easter

Sunday, April 11th - Executive Council Meeting at 11

Sunday, April 18th – Decorating Committee Meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Monday, April 19th – **Council Meeting**

Thursday, April 22nd – Personnel Meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Handbell Choir will be meeting Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Adult Choir will be meeting Sunday at 9 a.m. before service.

Bible Study: 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.



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 Incarnation Lutheran Church

 Incarnation Lutheran Church Columbia, SC

Lutheran Church of the Incarnation

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