

January 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 has moved Online!

Worship will be streamed on Facebook. There is a direct link on our website as well. All bulletins will be posted on our website under the communications tab.

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.



Epiphany is around the corner!

Epiphany is celebrated on January 6th and commemorates the presentation of the infant Jesus to the Magi or the three wise men.

Highlights of the ILC Council Meeting December

- Financial Secretary:
 - 2021 Pledge card update and comparison to 2020:
 - 2021 - 27 pledges totaling 106,192.
 - 2020 - 31 pledges totaling 128,192.

- Worship & Music committee made a request to use unallocated funds from the Building project to be utilized toward a comprehensive study of the sound issues in the sanctuary to give us an overall picture of what will be necessary to solve various issues (ability to hear spoken words during worship, music, improved sound for our live streaming, etc.)

- Election of 2021 Officers:
 - Pres: Kimberly Yerrick
 - V. Pres: Mike Ely
 - Treas: Ed Skinner
 - Sec: Carrie Wood
 - Financial Sec: Randy Yaussy

- New Business:
 - Annual Reports due to the office no later than Jan 15, 2020.
 - Council is looking for 4 people who would like to serve on the 2021 Nominations committee. Please contact Kimberly, kimyerrick@gmail.com, if you are interested.
 - Council is looking for 2 Representatives to attend the 2021 SC Synod Assembly. Please contact Kimberly, kimyerrick@gmail.com, if you are interested.
 - Next Executive committee meeting will be Jan 10 @ 11:30
 - Proposed ILC Council retreat with Mt. Tabor Council Jan 23, 2021

Anniversary Committee



Our 100th Anniversary Begins!

Kick-off to the Anniversary Year

Sunday, January 3, 2021

Guest Preacher: The Rev. Rusty Kehl

Son of Incarnation

Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Greenwood, South Carolina

Installation of Pastor Emily Willhide

as Pastor of Incarnation Lutheran Church

It's finally here! Incarnation's 100th Anniversary celebration will officially begin on Sunday, January 3, 2021 with Pastor Rusty Kehl as our guest preacher and featuring the long-awaited installation of Pastor Emily Willhide!

January 3rd is the Sunday closest to the actual 100th anniversary, when Incarnation opened its charter for members at an organizational meeting at the old Schneider School on January 2, 1921.

A century later, we give thanks for the ministry of this place, and especially for the new ministry of Pastor Willhide. Pastor Emily had to hit the ground running this summer in the middle of a pandemic. COVID-19 has prevented us from properly installing her, but celebrating her installation on our 100th anniversary is a wonderful and hopeful way to begin a new year and a new century.

Our guest preacher that day will be Rusty Kehl. Rusty, the son of Mary Kehl and sister of Amy Kehl, grew up at Incarnation and spent his formative years here. He was an active member of our youth ministry group, Boy Scout Troop 8, and Incarnation's music program. He even starred in several musicals presented by Incarnation in the 1970s and 1980s, including *Godspell* and *Celebrate Life*.

As an adult, Rusty became Scoutmaster of Troop 8 during the 1990s and early 2000s, where he led many young men to the rank of Eagle Scout during his tenure. His wife Dee Dee was involved in every ministry Incarnation had to offer, including Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, choir, WELCA, and youth ministry leadership.

Rusty answered a long-delayed call to ministry when he graduated in 2016 from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary and was ordained a pastor. Since then, he has served in his first call to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Greenwood, South Carolina, and on January 17, 2021, he will begin a new ministry as pastor of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Florence, South Carolina.

We are delighted for the opportunity to officially install Pastor Emily and to welcome Rusty and Dee Dee Kehl home to inaugurate our anniversary year!

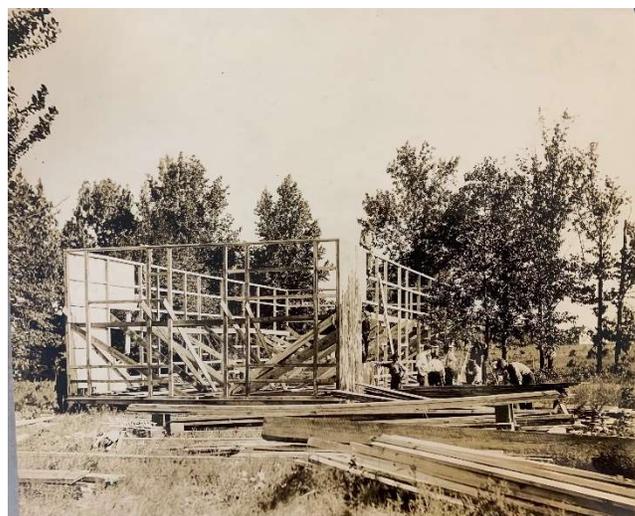
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- **Put these dates on your calendar:** (and hope and pray the pandemic is under control by then)
 - **January 3, 2021:** The day closest to the actual date of Incarnation's organization on January 2, 1921. While this is our actual kickoff date, larger 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!
-

Pictures of the building of Incarnation's First Sanctuary – August 1921

Day 1: Members of Incarnation, St. Paul, Mt Tabor, Holy Trinity, St. Luke, Ascension and Ebenezer begin construction in August 1921.



Day 2:



Day 3:



Day 4:



Meals were provided by women of the churches every day of construction.



Final interior of the first ILC sanctuary.



INCARNATION AT 100: FUN FACTS! **The Roaring Twenties**

Each month of the 100th anniversary year, Contact will feature "Fun Facts" about the history of Incarnation. This month's column features fun facts from the 1920s.

Did you know that . . .

Incarnation officially turns 100 years old on January 2, 2021. The date marks a century since a charter was opened for signatures for a new congregation in the emerging suburb of "Shandon," which had been established in 1903.

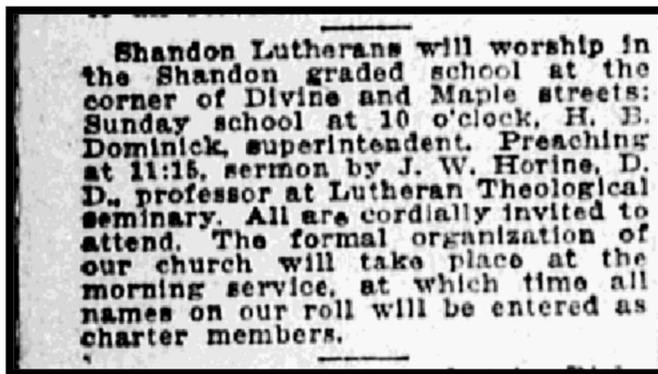
Two women really should receive a lot of the credit as principal "founders" of Incarnation. As Lutherans started to move away from the downtown area, two women, Hannah Elmgren and Elsie Holler, began a persistent phone tree campaign to convince Lutherans moving into Shandon to start a new church.

A little good-natured interdenominational rivalry apparently spurred the formation of Incarnation. The reason these women reportedly got busy on the phone was because they became concerned that their children were joining youth groups with their friends at Shandon Presbyterian and Shandon Methodist and might not remain Lutheran!

An organizational meeting with 28 in attendance was held at the old Schneider School on the corner of Devine and Maple, then called simply the "Shandon graded school" (and now the GranDevine Apartments). Numerous other denominations in Shandon, including the Baptists, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and Methodists organized their congregations there as well.

Charter members included an optometrist, a pharmacist, a dentist, a florist, stenographers, and several clerks. Thirty-two members eventually signed the charter, which remained open until Easter Sunday 1921.

The name "Incarnation" was chosen in honor of the Christmas season. Pastor John W.



From *The State* newspaper, January 2, 1921

Horine, a seminary professor initially serving the little congregation, suggested the name, as organizational plans took shape in December 1920. "Incarnation" is a theological term meaning that Christ became truly human at his birth for our sake.

The original sanctuary for Incarnation was raised in just four days in August 1921. In one of the most famous episodes from Incarnation's early history, Lutherans from St. Paul, Mt Tabor, Holy Trinity, St. Luke, Ascension and Ebenezer all joined with the charter members of the new congregations to build a simple building in less than a week. Wood for the building reportedly came from Ft. Jackson, which had been shut down after World War I.

Incarnation began the year 1922 with a bank balance of \$8.05. Church Council sometimes struggled to pay the pastor's salary.

Twenty men of the church put their own fortunes on the line by endorsing the bank loan necessary to build the first stone sanctuary in 1928. They didn't know the Great Depression was coming.

The stone sanctuary erected in 1928 at the corner of Sims and Devine served the congregation until the dedication of the current sanctuary on January 3, 1960.

The little wooden sanctuary remained in use as a Sunday School building and church offices until the formal dedication of the Educational Building (the present CDC building) in 1950.

Music Notes

A special Christmas Greeting was recorded for the members of ILC. We encourage you to follow this link to watch it!

<https://youtu.be/Xzlh-FPnwhM>



Yours,
Dr. Patrick Hawkins
Cantor and Organist



A Note from Pastor Emily

On Dec. 21st there was a spectacle in the sky, as Jupiter and Saturn lined up, nearly perfectly, to present a brilliant light in the nightscape. Some dubbed this the Star of Bethlehem, harkening back to the guiding light seen by the three wise men that prompted them to seek out the baby Jesus. While we don't know if this is what they saw, it's still neat to think about.

This conjunction of these two planets happens every twenty years or so, but rarely do they approach such close alignment with one another. The last time was in 1623, during the lifetime of Galileo but, even then, their proximity to the sun would have made it difficult to see them. You have to go back nearly 800 years to find a similar event that would have been visible in the night sky.

It's telling to me that we track this sort of thing.

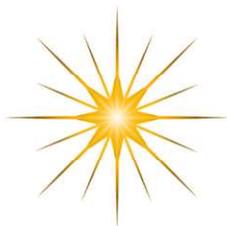
We are wired to look for meaning in the world around us, and something as strange and rare as an extra bright star appearing in our sky seems like it must mean *something*. Even when we understand the astronomical underpinning of such an event, it plucks at our sense of awe and wonder. As a person of faith, you can't help but wonder if *this* is what drew the magi across the miles to worship at the feet of baby Jesus.

When I was growing up, there was a show called Star Hustler that explored the fascinating realm of the night sky. The show ended with the memorable line, "Keep looking up!" It was a call to remain curious about the world around us, and resonated with an entire generation that had grown up hearing about flights to the moon, but had also watched the Challenger explode shortly after take-off. It was both a reminder that there was a cost to exploration, and that it was worth it to see what was out there.

I wonder if the magi felt the same way as they traveled hundreds of miles to see what the star promised, even as they were confronted by Herod and entangled in the local politics.

As we begin this new year of our Lord, 2021, I find myself looking out my window, searching for a sign of what new thing God will do in our world this year. Where is God calling our church to go, and how will we choose to answer that call? What we know is that God promises that the benefit will far outweigh the cost, and that there is more to see, more to experience, and more to grow if we choose to follow the signposts God has planted for us.

May you have a blessed Epiphany, and may we all keep looking out for the ways God is moving in this world.



Faith Formation

We have made it through the hustle and bustle of the holiday season! Christmas is winding down and we are heading into Epiphany. In the church, Epiphany is the season of light. We look forward to the time ahead and we reflect on how to show Christ's love to the world. We are also looking toward 2021 and some people might be making New Year's Resolutions.

Usually these resolutions involve going to the gym more or drinking less soda. Instead of taking things away from ourselves, I want us to think about what we can add to our daily lives that will help us reflect this season of light through the remainder of 2021.

Now, this might seem difficult given the global pandemic we are wading through, but there are many ways we can lend a hand to our neighbors. Call a local shelter and ask what their needs are, or take a collection of items to them and help support their ministry. Volunteer your time to a ministry here at Incarnation. Take time at the beginning and end of your day to pray and meditate on all that God has blessed you with and how you can share those blessings with others. Support the ministries of our South Carolina Synod and our national ELCA church body. This is just the beginning of a long list. As youth and young families in the church you have many accessible forms of reaching out to your community to help and support others while also staying socially distant and a good steward of your health and the health of our community.

Throughout 2021 I challenge you to pick up a habit of reaching out to others and building our community up. I myself have set a challenge to give birthday, anniversary, and holiday gifts through ELCA Good Gifts this year. I have provided a link to ELCA Good Gifts below, this is a wonderful ministry of the ELCA that allows people to purchase gifts in honor of a loved one that will be sent to developing countries or families who need assistance.

<https://goodgifts.elca.org/>

I pray that you all continue to have safe and healthy 2021.

Christ's Peace,

Savannah Edis

CDC

John and James enjoying the best seats in the CDC!



Upcoming Events in January

Sunday Worship:

Sunday Worship will be live streamed on Facebook at 10 am. Bulletins are posted on the ILC website and are available to pick up at the office Fridays between 9-1 pm.

Second Sunday of Christmas:

Service will be on Sunday, January 3rd and live streamed via Facebook. We will welcome Pastor Rusty Kehl and celebrate Pastor Emily Willhide's installation.

Faith Formation

Interest meeting on Sunday, January 17th.

Self-directed Worship

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. the sanctuary will be open for self-directed worship. We ask that those who attend please wear a mask and remain socially distant from others.

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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