

November 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 Has Returned to the Sanctuary

Please go to Page 2 to find instructions and guidelines for attendance.

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.

Reopening Taskforce

Worship Returns to the Sanctuary

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.

Highlights of the ILC Council Meeting October 19, 2020

SPECIAL TEAM REPORTS:

COVID: Masks are required in the church

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

100th ANNIVERSARY/ARCHIVES: 100th Anniversary Logo. Plans are on the calendar for Celebrations.

PERSONNEL: Committee is conducting interviews for the office assistant position

STEWARDSHIP: Planning a campaign later this month, with pledge cards and magnets.
Working on the Narrative budget, recruiting for Temple Talks.

WORSHIP & MUSIC: Working on WIFI for Facebook connection, and sound in the sanctuary.
68 attended the first indoor worship.

FINANCIAL: 2021 Budget was approved and will be sent to the Congregation by Nov. 11.
Financial Secretary Report: Randy reported giving is -20%

ILC CALENDAR:

Nov. 22, 2020 - Annual Meeting

Jan. 3, 2021 - 100yr kick-off, guest pastor: Rusty Kehl, cupcakes w/coffee mug

Feb. 7, 2021 - Epiphany meeting

April 18, 2021 - 100th yr Homecoming, guest pastor: Kevin Strickland, catered lunch

Oktoberfest 2021 – Oct. 8, 9&10

Oct. 31, 2021 - Reformation, guest pastor: David Donges, catered lunch

OLD BUSINESS: Constitution & Bylaws were sent out on Oct 22.

NEW BUSINESS: ILC Backyard Task Force is being formed. If you interested in serving on this committee please see Sarah Sawicki

NEXT MEETING DATES:

Executive –Nov. 8

Council – Nov. 16, 6:00pm at the church

Stewardship Committee

Greetings church family! What an exciting time! Worship has returned to the newly renovated sanctuary. We have an amazing new pastor, and we are coming up on the church's 100th anniversary. We are also entering into the month where we will be conducting our stewardship drive. Be on the lookout for more information, videos, and other exciting events as we make our financial commitments to the church

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

All Saints Sunday, November 1, 2020

Everyone is invited to bring a photo of a loved one who is now a saint in Heaven. The ushers will collect these photos at the door and bring them to the altar during the service. Everyone is also invited to bring a flower of remembrance to place in a community vase in the narthex.

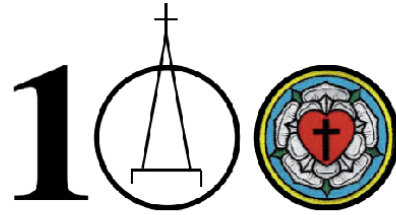
2020 Church Directory

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 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!

Introducing our 100th Anniversary Logo!



Celebrating A Century of Faith, Love and Service
INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH
1921-2021

We have a logo for our 100th anniversary year! You will become very familiar with it, as it will be used on many communications and items throughout the anniversary year. Our thanks go to designer Kim Yerrick and all others who submitted suggestions!

The Anniversary Committee continues to make plans for 2021, even though we recognize that they may be changed by the course of world events. We have all certainly learned to be flexible! Here are some things on our schedule for now:

January 3, 2021: Kick off to the Anniversary Year, featuring Rusty Kehl, a son of the congregation, as our guest preacher. This is the date closest to the actual date of Incarnation’s organization on January 2, 1921. Because we don’t believe the pandemic will allow a traditional covered-dish lunch, we are currently planning on the celebratory sharing of “Anniversary Cupcakes,” the official start of the “One Hundred Challenge and Calendar” project, and surprise gifts for all members.

April 18, 2021: Homecoming. Kevin Strickland, Bishop of the Southeastern Synod and former Youth Director of ILC, will be our preacher. If possible, we will celebrate with joyful worship in the new sanctuary and an outdoor catered meal.

October 31, 2021: Reformation Sunday. David Donges, retired Bishop of the SC Synod and former pastor of Incarnation, will be our preacher. We are also planning a catered outdoor meal, with all invited to wear red and celebrate the past century as we look forward to the next one.

Other upcoming plans:

Devine Night Out: If Devine Night Out is held in November 2020 – which is uncertain, as of this writing—we will be ready with treats and displays!

The return of “sons and daughters” of the congregation, former pastors and former seminarians: We are inviting a host of guests with ties to Incarnation back for preaching throughout the year.

The 100th Monthly Calendar and the 100th Challenge: Join in activities each person and family can do to give thanks to God for the life of this congregation and its outreach (we'll keep you in suspense for now!)

Hymn Sing! We plan to worship throughout the year using previous worship hymnals - you can date yourself by whether you remember the "black hymnal," the "red hymnal," the "green hymnal" or our present "cranberry hymnal." One of our services in 2021 will feature your favorite hymns! If you want to make a request now, contact Mary Kehl at makwak3553@aol.com

The "Art of Incarnation": We are working on a booklet that will describe and give the history of many of the items that make our worship space so beautiful, including the needlepoint kneelers, banners, Chrismons, stained glass windows, the mural, the work of our quilters, etc. If you have "history" or information to share, please contact Susan McArver (swmcarver@mac.com).

"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) if you have treasures to share.

Collecting names: We are still gathering physical and email addresses for current and former members to invite them to "come home" for one or more celebrations. If you have names of former friends and family, please share them with Shirley Lindler sjltalks@bellsouth.net or Beverly Crider bmcridersc@gmail.com.

Pandemic or no pandemic, we are looking forward to a great year!

From the desk of Dr. Patrick Hawkins

Outreach. I just Googled the definition and found “the extent or length of reaching out” and “reach further than.” In the church realm, we often speak about our various outreach ministries. Many of you can count countless hours of volunteer work with some of these—our Oktoberfest immediately comes to mind as a brilliant outreach to our greater metropolitan community. Since my arrival at Incarnation Lutheran three years ago, I have been delighted to hear many on Staff and Council who have made a point of speaking about a vision for musical outreach to our city. In fact, a major topic of discussion during our building renovation meetings circled around how to beautify our space and make it a space worthy of musical events, concerts, and meetings.

Our latest musical outreach involves the Palmetto Chamber Orchestra. Under the baton of Dr. Suzanna Pavlovsky, this is a local community ensemble. If you can play an instrument and want a place to make music with others, then they just might have a spot for you! The vast majority of the orchestra members work 9-5 in various careers, but they all share a common passion for music and they want to perform together with others in a social setting. The product of their work, of course, are numerous concerts given in the Midlands at such locations as the Main Street Public Library, Washington Street United Methodist Church, and even at Incarnation Lutheran Church on Devine Street.

During the COVID pandemic, the orchestra had to halt their weekly rehearsals at Washington Street United Methodist, because the church had closed its doors to the general public over safety concerns (as did our church and others in town). Today, WSUMC still remains on lockdown. Dr. Pavlovsky called me on the phone this past month and shared that about 12 to 14 members of the orchestra were really suffering with depression and simply wanted a safe place to rehearse where they could easily spread apart, mask up, and play their violins and other instruments. I am happy to report that since our church has reopened we are allowing them to have their rehearsals here at Incarnation Lutheran on Thursday evenings either in our Fellowship Hall or in the Sanctuary. After their first time back together this past week, I received a glowing letter from Suzanna thanking everyone at Incarnation for this outreach ministry. In her own words, “Your church is really making a musical contribution to Columbia and we all thank you so much.”

What lies ahead? Well, Suzanna and I are thinking about a virtual concert in December and she has even asked our handbell choir to join in the celebration of music this holiday season. More on that in the upcoming weeks...



Hanging of the Greens 2020!



Before we know it, Advent will arrive on November 29th, so that means it will soon be time for our traditional “Hanging of the Greens!”

However, as we all know by now, NOTHING is traditional in 2020.

Because of the pandemic, we will not be able to hold our traditional chili lunch, followed by decorating the sanctuary and Chrismon trees all at once as usual. However, the trees will go up and the sanctuary will be “greened”!

We will do our tree-raising and decorating in small groups of 2-3 masked people at a time, **beginning November 22.**

We especially need strong folks to help put the artificial trees in place and folks willing to climb tall ladders to hang ornaments near the top. (Bonus feature: The lights are already on the pre-lit artificial trees; thank you, Carol Black!)

This is a great opportunity for a family! We welcome all ages to a socially distanced Advent/Christmas tradition!

If you are available and would enjoy helping to beautify our newly renovated sanctuary, please contact Susan McArver (swmcarver@mac.com) or Leslie Skinner (drlwskinner@gmail.com) to get on the schedule.

Youth News

Fall is by far my favorite season. In Fall the leaves are changing colors and the weather gets a little chilly. Things are a little different this year. However, the leaves are still changing, and we are no longer drudging through 95 degree days.

We have not been able to do much Faith Formation due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. It saddens me that we have spent so much time apart. We are kicking off late in the school year but it will be just as great!

Kick Off 2020-2021 will be a family cookout here at Incarnation! We will also take the chance to talk about our plans for the rest of the school year! We will gather at the church on Saturday, November 7th at 5:00pm. Please bring a picnic style dinner that you can roast over the fire (i.e hotdogs).

Social distancing practices will be in place. Families will be spread out around the backyard and we ask everyone who attends to please wear a mask.

All middle and high school youth and their families are welcome!

If you have any questions please contact Savannah Edis at youth@incarnationlutheran.com

South Carolina Lutheran Church Youth News!

The registration form for the 2020 Hand-in-Hand service event is available. Just visit the link below to sign up. We need adults as well as youth so please consider joining us! It will be slightly different this year due to the pandemic. The event will begin on Saturday November 21 at 10 am and we'll be sleeping in "box tents" outside! See the registration form for more details.

[2020 Hand-in-Hand Registration Form](#)

Also, check out our latest post to [Instagram \(SCLCY\)](#) and [Facebook \(SCLCY\)](#)!

It's our very own LCY Chaplain, Mattison Scott, with an uplifting devotion for all of us! Stay tuned to our Facebook and Instagram pages each week for a devotion from one of your LCY leaders.

A Note from Pastor Emily

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. *-1 Thessalonians 1:2-3*

At this month's council meeting I used these verses from 1 Thessalonians to ask our council two questions: Who were they thankful for in their lives of faith, and how did they understand their presence on council as a "work of faith and labor of love." They're good questions for us all to consider, especially this month as we celebrate a national day of Thanksgiving.

As I thought about this coming month, when we intentionally give thanks for all of the blessings in our lives, I wondered how this Thanksgiving might be different from ones of the past. Certainly, there will be some practical differences. Families with high-risk members may choose a Thanksgiving that is celebrated over video chat. Others will host outdoor meals. But I also wonder if what we are thankful for might change as well.

After months of very little socializing, I wonder if we might be thankful for the continuing presence of friends in our lives, those folks who don't let a little thing like a pandemic get in the way of staying in touch. Or perhaps we'll find ourselves giving thanks for our teachers and educators, now that we all have a better understanding of how demanding those jobs are. Or maybe we will give thanks for the work of scientists, researchers, and volunteers who are working so hard to find a vaccine for this virus. I don't know about you, but I am also thankful for the chance to worship together again. There's something about being *together* that is so critical to a life of faith. It was a tremendous blessing to be able to meet in person, first outside, and now in our lovely sanctuary.

Giving thanks is only the first step though, isn't it? When we give thanks, we are recognizing something that is valuable in our lives, whether that is a friendship, a vocation, or a church family. The next step is to then do our best to better support those things for which we are thankful. As a disciple of Jesus Christ, this then becomes *our* "work of faith and labor of love." Our desire to serve, our need to care for one another, our drive to give, all of these are rooted in our thankfulness for God's abundant blessings in our lives. They flower and fruit into the many ways that we express our care and concern for our neighbor and for all of creation.

And despite the madhouse that this year has been with a pandemic, hurricanes, wildfires, civil unrest, and more, we are still hopeful in our thanksgiving because we also understand that God holds all things, all people, all outcomes in the palm of the divine hand. Luther famously said that, “Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.” That is hope speaking.

So, living in hope, we give thanks. In giving thanks, we also find our labor of love, our work of faith. And by faithfully carrying out that work, we proclaim the Gospel of Christ’s love for the world.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving.

Please note:

Pastor Emily, Patrick and the Music and Worship Committee are working on the sound system in the church. We are trying different mics and other technical modifications, and hope to improve the sound for future in-person and streaming worship services.

Congregational Sympathy to Pastor Emily and Family

Pastor Emily's mother, Kathy Phillips, passed away October 7. The congregation extends its sympathy to Pastor Emily and her family. Below is Mrs. Phillips' obituary.

Kathy M. (Weaver) Phillips, 70, of Palmyra, PA, passed away peacefully at Columbia Cottage, Palmyra on Wednesday, October 7, 2020. She was born Sunday, September 10, 1950 to the late Kenneth and Mary (Lehr) Weaver. She is survived by her loving husband of 50 years, Terry D. Phillips.

In addition to her husband she is survived by her children: Tricia Geib (Casey), Emily Willhide (Michael), Eric Phillips (Lauren), and Rachael Kraft (Dennis); grandchildren, Ella Geib and Kate, Aidan, Luke, and Ben Willhide; sister, Linda Abel; and brothers, Richard and Dwayne Weaver.

Kathy was a caretaker in the best sense of the word. As an RN, she took exceptional care of her patients. As a wife and mother, she made sure that her family spent time together, despite a busy and complicated family calendar. She did her best to make sure that the people in her life were able to do all the things that were important to them. For example, this found expression in the incredible variety of lessons and activities that her children participated in. From horse shows and the local 4-H, to dance and tap lessons, to sports like swimming, soccer, gymnastics, hockey, and figure skating, to a brief stint of organ and guitar lessons, she was game to be involved in whatever her kids showed an interest in. She was also fearless whenever the situation called for it. She was afraid of heights and tight spaces but, married to a pilot, she loved to fly. She was quick to laugh, and quick to shed sympathy tears when someone she loved was hurt. She was a peacemaker in a family that loved to argue. She was an avid Scrabble player, so long as the games didn't extend past 10:15 at night, at which time she would begin to snooze in between turns. She loved horses and loved spending time outdoors. Family camping trips were the stuff of legend. More than anything she loved her family and relished spending time together. She was a supportive wife, a present and engaged mother, an indulgent grandmother, and a loyal sister. But above all, she loved and was loved in return. May God bless her and keep her. May God make his face to shine upon her and be gracious to her. May God look upon her with favor and grant her peace.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to a charity or organization in Kathy's name:
*The local 4-H, where Kathy volunteered for years, through the Penn State Cooperative Extension. Please make checks out to PSCE-Lebanon County and send them to:

Martha Gregory
Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development
Penn State Extension
2120 Cornwall Rd. Suite 1
Lebanon, PA 17042

*The Lewy Body Dementia Association through their website www.lbda.org

*The Capital Area Therapeutic Riding Association through their website www.catra.net

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 Incarnation Lutheran Church

 Incarnation Lutheran Church Columbia, SC

Lutheran Church of the Incarnation

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