



September 2020

The Contact

inspire renew empower

Incarnation Lutheran Church



South Carolina Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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 follow along online, 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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Welcome!

This year we will be joined by a new Field Education student, Lorie Gladyness. Lorie is a second year student at LTSS and will be joining us for worship and faith formation education beginning in September.



Highlights of the ILC Council Meeting August 17, 2020

BUILDING RENOVATION: Punch list is complete, organ installation will be finished this week. Voicing will still need to be done at a date TBD. Mics for the pulpit and lectern need to be replaced.

CALL COMMITTEE: Pastor is working with Andrew Isenhower, Dean of Midlands Conference, to schedule her installation.

ILC COVID 19: Task force will meet in August to update the ILC policy. Pastor is tracking daily numbers.

AUDIT Committee has been tasked to audit 2019 and have a report at the end of the year.

COMMUNICATIONS: Tasked to update social media policy.

FAITH FORMATION: Pastor and Savannah are working on Youth programs. Setting up “DISCORD” for youth communications. Pastor is meeting with Confirmation families.

HOSPITALITY: Pastor, Kimberly & Leslie are tasked to update Funeral and Wedding policies.

MUTUAL MINISTRY: Pastor said does not need a team at this time.

COUNCIL NOMINATIONS: Nominating committee of Porter, Shawn, Larry, Mark Hall & Mimi Fischer were tasked to come up with 3 nominees for the Congregation meeting November 22.

OUTREACH: The Handbells played for the Devine St. sidewalk sale. Plans are in the works for ILC’s participation in “Devine Night Out,” tentatively scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 5 p.m.-8 p.m.

PERSONNEL: Council approved the posting of the Office Assistant job. Staff job descriptions were updated and approved.

SCOUTS: Council approved a motion to allow Scout Troop 8 to set up a tent in the parking area for meetings until they can meet in the CDC.

TREASURER & BOOKEEPER:

Checking: \$262,286.60 plus an increase in Merrill Lynch of \$5183.64, total: \$262,835.99.

Southern First Money Marked: \$28,000

Oktoberfest: \$87,000

\$95 in Paypal

\$20 towards Pastor Jane love offering

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CONSTITUTION/BYLAWS: Updates to the Constitution and Bylaws 2020 draft is almost completed and it will be brought to a vote to approve and send to the Congregation for approval at the November Congregation meeting.

POLICIES MANUAL: All committees are to review and update policies

NEXT MEETING DATES: Executive committee: September 13; Council: September 21

Stewardship Corner

I feel as if everywhere I go these days I am reminded of stewardship. We are good stewards of public health when we wear a mask and follow social distancing guidelines. We are good stewards of our environment when we look for local sources for food in response to nationwide shortages and when we ride our bike or walk places we previously would drive to. Most interestingly, I feel the pandemic has forced us to evaluate whether we are good stewards of our time.

Prior to the pandemic, our family was like many families. Overscheduled. Between work, activities for the children, adult social and volunteer commitments, we had little “free time.” In fact, I found an email I sent in late February apologizing that I would not be able to make an out-of-state baby shower “because we had something on the calendar every weekend through May.” Oh, if only February me could see August me.

The sudden transition from overwhelming busyness to overwhelming slowness was hard on all of us. We missed our friends, our routines. But in the transition we found something else. Dargan and Caroline became best friends (and sometimes best enemies). We took morning family walks. Dargan learned to ride his bike without training wheels. We got to know neighbors we didn't know before. We enjoyed more home-cooked meals. As we slowly return to normal, I hope we will be able to continue to be good stewards of our time.

Our family is lucky; we have not faced financial insecurity from the pandemic, and most of our inconveniences have been minor in comparison. I recognize that many of our church family may not be so lucky. If you are like me, I encourage you to keep up with your financial commitments to the church and your other organizations. For us, having e-giving already set up was perfect, because I didn't have to worry about how to get a check to the church, or play catchup when I finally got around to writing a check. If you don't have e-giving, I encourage you to check it out.

I miss our church family and our time together. Until we can safely all be together again, I will “see” you on the web!

Elizabeth Thebo

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

Anniversary Committee

Our 100th 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).
- **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) or Elizabeth Johnson (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) 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 26th at 6:00 pm by Zoom. Contact Susan McArver (swmcarver@mac.com) if you would like to join us, or would merely like to send some suggestions!

Music Notes

Talk of the virus is 90% of what we hear these days, right? You can't turn on the news without it being one of the first stories told. These certainly are strange and troubling times for many here in the USA and around the world.

Recently, I invited Dr. David Lowry, a fellow colleague in town and Emeritus Organ Professor at Winthrop University, over to Incarnation Lutheran to see the Flentrop organ as it was being assembled in our sanctuary. He was absolutely thrilled to see it! We chatted about his long career as a church musician and he shared many delightful tales from his years studying in New York to his years spent educating countless musicians here in South Carolina. One of the comments he made really stood out to me. He said, "You know, people often forget that organists preach the Gospel every week when they lead the congregation in spiritual songs! It isn't a question of whether the spoken word is more or less important than the sung word; they both are equally important and need to be heard!"

Dr. Lowry's words reminded me about how important hymnody is in times like these. I also was reminded about how many composers suffered from illness throughout history. Did you know that the great English composer, Hubert Parry, the composer of the hymn tune *Jerusalem*, died in September 1918 from influenza? The American impressionistic composer, Charles Tomlinson Griffes, also died at age thirty-five in April of 1920 from the same virus. Decades later, Calvin Hampton, one of the most original of American composers of church music, died from AIDS. Two of his hymns can be found in the ELW.

We have yet to know what history will write about 2020 and COVID-19. As a lover of Baroque music—especially all things related to the great Lutheran composer, Johann Sebastian Bach—I take comfort in his story and in his music. Recently, I stumbled upon an [npr.org](https://www.npr.org) blog about music and pandemics. The bit related to Bach stood out to me and I'll quote it here:

From NPR.org's *When Pandemics Arise, Composers Carry On*:

As pandemics resurfaced and new ones cropped up, people centuries ago were, in general, keenly aware of the precarious nature of life. Johann Sebastian Bach was no exception. He was orphaned twice by age 10 and lost half of his 20 children and his first wife. Bach wrote music that could comfort in times of distress and music that directly confronted plagues in his Cantata No. 25, titled "There is Nothing Healthy in My Body." He wrote it in 1723, just a year after the great plague of Marseille, France ended, leaving over 100,000 people dead. Bach's anonymous text talks of the "world as a hospital" and "children laid low with sickness." A sober but lilting aria, the middle of the cantata declares, "My plague cannot be healed by any herb or ointment, other than the balm of Gilead."

When you have a chance, do listen to that Cantata. It is a masterpiece to be sure! I would also encourage you to read the text of ELW 703 "O God, Why Are You Silent" and set to the German chorale *Herzlich Tut Mich Verlangen* by Bach. The fourth stanza is really a song of hope for the Christian soul. I pray that these words and that this music will be a balm to you during any time of distress:

Music notes cont'd...

"May pain draw forth compassion, let wisdom rise from loss; oh, take my heart and fashion the image of your cross; then may I know your healing through healing that I share, your grace and love revealing, your tenderness and care."

Dr. Patrick Hawkins

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

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!

September Birthdays!

Ashleigh Nemeth 09/04, Shirley Lindler 09/08, Jason Sowell 09/12, Rose Duncan 09/13,
Donna Beauston 09/14, Jane Walters 09/17, Susan Wood 09/23, Molly Boozer 09/26,
Russ Rushe 09/27, Mark Boepple 09/28, James Posey II 09/28, Caroline Thebo 09/28

Happy Birthday everyone!

Faith Formation

²⁴"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. ²⁵The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. Matthew 7:24-25

As summer is winding down and we are preparing to go back for a new school year, a lot of things look different. We expected this, changing how we do things to accommodate a pandemic is nothing new to us. However, it still stings to know that our High School Seniors will not get their last first day of high school and all the traditions that go with it and our kindergartner's first day will look a lot different than how their parents pictured it.

The rains fell, the flood waters rose, and the winds blew; but our house still stands. The swaying of a house during a storm can be one of the scariest parts but we know that our foundation is strong, and we will make it through the storm. We still have a way to go but we know that God does not leave us when times get tough. Our goal for this school year is to kick up momentum with our youth and reach out to our community. There are many ways we can do that while still working our way through this pandemic.

One new way we are reaching out to our youth is through an application called Discord. On Discord you can follow along on servers that have specific focuses, ours is titled Incarnation Youth. Each Thursday a link to a video will be posted for everyone to log in and chat about. As we continue to learn the ins and outs of Discord we will add more activities.

Our Faith Formation team has also started up again for Fall 2020. We will start by celebrating Rally Day a little differently, this year we will send out goodie bags with a back-to-school blessing for all of our students. Keep an eye out for yours!

If you are interested in serving on our Faith Formation Team please reach out to Savannah. We have some awesome plans in the works, and we want you to be a part of it!

Savannah Edis

A Note from Pastor Emily

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

-Ecclesiastes 3:1

There is something invigorating about Autumn. Even though it's still hot enough to fry an egg on the sidewalk, there is something in the air of September that promises cooler days to come. It may only be a refreshing breeze in the early morning, or the slow erosion of the day, but September brings change. Of course most of us have experienced enough change and upheaval in the past six months or so that we would relish a return to whatever normal looks like these days. But even so, the predictable change of the seasons gives me reason to hope that, like all things, this too shall pass. After all, change is part of life and part of God's plan for us.

Most of us find too much change upsetting, but the coming of fall reminds me that change can also be invigorating. Like the hint of chill in a late summer evening, change within the church can rouse us from our complacency and invite us into new activities and new ways of being. It's hard to find a silver lining to a pandemic, but perhaps one such might be how we have come to value and appreciate our time together.

Someday soon, God willing, we will gather again in our sanctuary and lift our voices in the centuries old liturgy that shapes our life together. But we will also bring a new understanding and a new appreciation for what it means to gather together as the church in one place, at one time. Our challenge then will be to take this new appreciation of the gift of community and translate it into our understanding of mission outside of our walls.

Community has always been a strength of the church. Indeed, the church remains one of the few places where people gather across generations, across economic boundaries, and across political divides. But never has there been such a need for this kind of connection than there is right now. The world is desperate for community. We all feel it as we linger over even the most basic of interactions, just to experience a brief reminder of what it feels like to connect to other people.

In the coming months, the church will have an opportunity to act as a bridge within our community, reminding people of all kinds that God created us to live together. May God bless us in this time of change and use it and us to bring God's grace, peace, and mercy to this community.

Pastor Emily Willhide

Kidz Korner

¹²God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Genesis 9:12-13

Coffee Filter Rainbows

You will need:

- Coffee Filters
- Washable Markers
- Craft Paper; White
- Glue Sticks
- Glue
- Scissors
- Water Spray Bottle
- Permanent Marker



STEP 1. Flatten round coffee filters, and draw colors in circles, in rainbow order with washable marker.

STEP 2. Place the colored coffee filters on a gallon size zipper bag or metal baking sheet pan and then mist with a water spray bottle. Watch the magic as the colors blend and swirl! Set aside to dry.

STEP 3. Once dry, fold the coffee filters in half and then cut along the fold with scissors, creating two rainbow shapes from each filter.

STEP 4. Trace one cloud shape onto white craft paper and cut out with scissors. Attach cloud to rainbow with glue sticks.

STEP 6. Draw eyes, and mouth on the cloud, using the photo as your guide.



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 Incarnation Lutheran Church

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