



Happy Easter

Mary

THE CONTACT

The official publication of Incarnation Lutheran Church

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR EMILY:

Of all the commandments, the one that is perhaps most precious to me but also the most difficult to keep is the third: Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy. Often we interpret that commandment to mean that Sunday ought to be both a day of rest and one that is dedicated to God. Worship, perhaps a family dinner, and time spent in quiet pursuits: these are often the hallmarks of our Sabbath keeping. Or at least that's what we imagine Sabbath keeping looks like when we are able to do it. Life is busy, and it seems to intrude into even the sacred spaces that have long held out against the plethora of events, responsibilities, and appointments that demand our time.

But as challenging as it is sometimes, I value the third commandment because it is a reminder that we need time to rest, and we need time to connect to God and our faith. Of course, as a pastor, Sunday is almost never a day of rest for me. And while I am certainly in church on a Sunday morning, it is sometimes hard to worship when I am distracted by the responsibility of leading the service. Instead, I find Sabbath time during some other portion of the week. Perhaps it's a Friday morning on a day off, or a Monday evening when there are miraculously no meetings to attend. But it is fluid, not so much centered on a day, but rather on the idea of rest and connection to God, wherever and whenever that happens.

Rabbi Abraham Heschel wrote: "The seventh day is like a palace in time with a kingdom for all. It is not a date but an atmosphere. It is not a different state of consciousness but a different climate; it is as if the appearance of all things somehow changed... the air of the day surrounds us like spring which spreads over the land without our aid or notice...It is a day that ennobles the soul and makes the body wise." (1)

It is not so much when we find time to rest and worship that is important as it is that we do so at some point in time. It is essential to our well-being.

My journey through the church has often ignored this need for rest. I have moved from call to call with as little as one to two weeks off between major changes in life and ministry. While ministry often energizes me, I have learned that time off is essential to keeping that true. To that end, this summer I will be taking an extended unpaid vacation from the beginning of June until mid-August. I hope to take some interesting classes, see family we haven't seen for awhile, and to perhaps even go somewhere other than our little piece of paradise in Hopkins. But regardless, I also hope to honor this Sabbath time with both rest and time spent with God.

Pastor Jesse Canniff-Kuhn, currently serving as a Pastor at USC, will be filling in for most of my time away. He, as well as a few other local pastors, will serve as emergency pastoral care providers should that be needed during these two months. If there is an emergency, please contact the church office, or our Council president, Ed Skinner, and they will put you in touch with whoever is on call that week.

Blessings on your Sabbath time this month!

1Abraham Joshua Heschel, *The Sabbath: Its Meaning for Modern Man* (1951; repr., Boston: Shambhala, 2003) 11.

Pastor Emily

SEMINARIAN GINA SCHAEFER

Dear Incarnation family,

Some of you may have already heard but after two years of field-education, my time with this congregation is drawing to a close.

I'll admit, I'm on my back foot here. I've never had to write a farewell letter before. Yet, now that I'm in the position to do so I can't help but feel its a bit ironic. This letter is just another example of how Incarnation has witnessed so many of my 'firsts' in ministry.

There's something to be said about a community that's willing to take in a new seminary student and walk with them as they learn for two years. It seems like a small task. One that doesn't make too much difference in the scheme of the church's life. However, for me, and my future ministry, it has made all the difference.

In May, I will graduate from seminary and that will end my time here at Incarnation. My last Sunday should be May 6th, although I will be supply preaching for Pastor Willhide over the Summer. As for my next step, in August I will go on internship at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Durham, North Carolina. To say that I'm excited would be an understatement. No doubt, there will be many challenges and a steep learning curve. However, I feel more than equipped and prepared for what comes next

I attribute my confidence in worship to all of you who have compassionately borne my mistakes and successes as I've learned. It is all of you who have listened to my sermons, sat in on my bible study, or talked to me after worship. You have been exceedingly good to me for two years, welcoming, friendly, and kind. This is an incredible congregation and I regret having to leave it, but I do so knowing I am loved.

I have no doubt that at some point in the future another field-ed student will come to stay with you. I also have no doubt that you will pay them same respect, generosity, and love you paid me. It will seem like a small thing. But I want you to remember that the Spirit of God dwells among you and has a keen habit of turning small things into big things.

So, thank you for letting me worship, play, and work among you for the past couple years. I hate having to say goodbye but grateful, nonetheless for the blessing you have paid to me.

Peace and Blessings,
Gina Schaefer

CDC

Spring Break Shenanigans!



FAITH FORMATION CORNER

What a glorious Easter season we are in! Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday were both such fun! Thank you to everyone who attended and donated candy for our Easter Sunday's Egg Hunt.

In May, Summer is on our mind. Summertime here at Incarnation means Vacation Bible School! Last year's VBS was a ton of fun for the kids who attended as well as for the adult volunteers. To make for a successful VBS, we need adult volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering contact Kimi (youth@incarnationlutheran.com). VBS is July 17-21. This year our theme is Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light. More information about VBS, registration and our donations list will be out in the next week.

On Saturday, May 6th we will have a Fellowship Event at Owens Field's Playground (1351 Jim Hamilton Blvd). Come play and enjoy a popsicle or two with other families at ILC. Put June 3rd, July 1st, and August 5th on your calendar for other Fellowship Events to come!

MUSIC

Cardinal Newman School hosts an Organ Crawl twice a year! We were honored to have their students come visit Incarnation and learn about our organ and others around Columbia. Please join us on Sunday, May 7th at 4:00 pm for a service of Evensong followed by a concert.




INCARNATION
LUTHERAN ELCA


*Choral Evensong
and an Organ Recital*

May 7th at 4:00pm

Please join us for a service of Evensong followed by a concert of the complete Opus 122 (Eleven Chorales) by Johannes Brahms.



Patrick Hawkins



STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship of Community



“You shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord. –Leviticus 19:18b

And who is my neighbor? –Luke 10:29b

Think of all the homes, apartments and condos within walking (or easy driving) distance of our congregation. Now ask, how do we interact with these neighbors? Does our congregation understand their issues, joys, opportunities and challenges? How can we love them as ourselves?

Though God has filled the world with neighbors for us to love, we have a special opportunity and responsibility with neighbors who are nearby us. They form our immediate community. Many congregations narrowly define “community” as people who are already part of church, but God calls us to broaden our vision.

Congregations across our denomination are finding renewed energy and purpose by connecting (or reconnecting) with their community neighbors. It takes work and a willingness to go outside our comfort zone, but worth the effort pays off for them and us.

“It’s within our power to become good neighbors, to care for the people around us and to be cared for by the people around us,” write Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon in *The Art of Neighboring* (2012, Baker Books, p. 22), a handy guide for a church to start a neighboring movement. “There really is a different way to live, and we are finding that it is actually the best way to live.”

Loving our neighbors we naturally gather together as community that is blessed by God. It holds true in our personal lives as well as our congregations.

As spring and summer unfolds, let’s commit to finding ways to be better stewards of our community, engaging our neighbors, especially those who live closest to our congregation.

MAY AT INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
7 RED DOOR SUNDAY! 9:00 am - Sun. School 9:15 am - Kids Sun School 10:00 Worship 11:30 am Confirmation Class 4:00 pm Evensong & Concert by Dr. Patrick Hawkins	8 9:30 am - Tiny Dancers 6:00 pm - Troop 8	9 9:00 am - Staff Meeting 10:00 am - Quilting Group: Fellowship Hall Sanctuary: Chapel 3:45 6:30 pm - Council	10 Bible Study: 11 am Sanctuary: Chapel 11-12 Handbells: 6:00 pm Choir: 7:00 pm	11 6:00 pm Mary Martha	12	13 Fellowship Event / Play Date 9:00 am - Owens Field Resurrection Lutheran Reception in Fellowship Hall 12:00 pm
21 9:00 am - Sun. School 9:15 am - Kids Sun School 10:00 Worship 11:30 am Confirmation Class	22 9:30 am - Tiny Dancers 6:00 pm - Troop 8	23 9:00 am - Staff Meeting 10:00 am - Quilting Group: Fellowship Hall Sanctuary: Chapel 3:45 6:00 pm - Pack 8	24 Bible Study: 11 am Sanctuary: Chapel 11-12 Handbells: 6:00 pm Choir: 7:00 pm	25 6:00 pm Holy Guacamole	26	27
28 9:00 am - Sun. School 9:15 am - Kids Sun School 10:00 Worship 11:30 am Confirmation Class	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30 9:00 am - Staff Meeting 10:00 am - Quilting Group: Fellowship Hall Sanctuary: Chapel 3:45 6:00 pm - Pack 8	31 Bible Study: 11 am Sanctuary: Chapel 11-12 Handbells: 6:00 pm Choir: 7:00 pm			

Weekly 2023:

Quilting Group - Every Tuesday at 10:00 am

Handbell Choir: Every Wednesday at 6:00 pm

Choir: Every Wednesday at 7:00 pm

Mary Martha - Every Second Thursday at 6:00 pm

Holy Guacamole - Every Fourth Thursday at 6:00 pm

LITTLE FREE PANTRY

As Summer approaches, please remember the Little Free Pantry. We refill the pantry twice a week. Our community seems to depend on our help to feed them. Please remember to bring some of the items listed below or donate specifically to the Little Free Pantry online or in your usual donation.

Items needed: Tuna Fish, Canned Meals like Chili, Beef Stew, Mac and Cheese, and Ravioli, Cereal - hot and cold, Fruit cups, Soup, Granola Bars, Fruit bars Crackers - plain and filled, Pasta, Spaghetti sauce, Water, Toiletry items - toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo (NO mouthwash,) Hand Wipes, Hand Sanitizers - small size

Thank you, Marcy Coster-Schulz

GET IN TOUCH

Our Ministry Staff contacts are:

Rev. Emily Willhide.....pastoremily@incarnationlutheran.com
Dr. Patrick Hawkins; Dir. of Music & Organist.....music@incarnationlutheran.com
Kimi Dail; Faith Formation Coordinator.....youth@incarnationlutheran.com
Amy Kehl; Bookkeeper.....amy.kehl@incarnationlutheran.com
Teresa Boykin; CDC Director.....cdc@incarnationlutheran.com
Cherry Samuel; CDC-Byron Rd.....cdcbyron@incarnationlutheran.com
Charlotte Dover; Parish Administrator.....office@incarnationlutheran.com
Gina Schaefer; Seminarian.....office@incarnationlutheran.com

Worship: Sundays at 10 a.m.

(10 a.m. Worship is also live streamed on Facebook.)

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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