



Lifetimes

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February 7, 2016

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Lent Begins February 10

Lent is just around the corner - Ash Wednesday is February 10. Please note the new worship schedule for Wednesdays in Lent.

On Ash Wednesday, worship will be at 12:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m. All services will include the imposition of ashes and communion. The remaining Wednesdays in Lent, worship will be at 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. On Ash Wednesday nursery will be available from 5 - 8:00 p.m. and Wednesday Lenten services from 7 - 8:00 p.m.

Sermon Series - Called to Community: The Role of the Church in an Age of Change

In the midst of radical shifts in our society and within Christianity itself, some see the trend of people disconnecting from church as a sign of its impending death; others see opportunity for resurrection and new life. In light of all this, it is time for some holy conversation about the present and future of the Church: What is the Church's role in the lives of individuals and families who no longer turn to it as the center of their social and family structure? What is the Church's role in a world that increasingly sees it as irrelevant or even antithetical to human progress? What is the Church's role in the lives of the people who continue to return to it as a source of strength, inspiration, solace and connection with God? What is the Church's role in the lives of the people who have never walked through one of our doors and those who have sworn they never will again?

On Wednesdays during Lent, the sermon series will include the video bundle "Called to Community" from The Work of the People. This video series features several of our generation's wisest souls reflecting on these issues and the larger question of "What is the role of the Church?" Our hope as leaders is this series will inspire imagination and conversation about how the community of Incarnation is called to be church for each other and in the world.

- February 10: Ash Wednesday/What is the Church?
- February 17: A Call to Kingdom Worldview
- February 24: A Call to the Body of Christ
- March 2: A Call to Justice
- March 9: A Call to Love
- March 16: What is the Church Becoming?

Soup Lunch & Soup Supper

Each Wednesday during Lent, a meal of soup and sandwiches will be served immediately following the 12:00 p.m. worship in Grace Hall and from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. in the Gathering Space. Cost: \$5/person or \$15 max /family. Volunteers are needed to help serve at these meals, if you are interested sign up at incarnationmn.org or in the Incarnation Office.

40-Day Prayer Experiment

Would you like to deepen your prayer life or build a habit of more regular prayer? Have you ever wished you had a person to connect with and pray for each other? If so, join the 40-Day Prayer Experiment. The 40-Day Prayer Experiment is just that - an experiment to see how this faith community might be impacted by a collective focus on prayer. The goal is to have 100 people or 50 pairs participate in this experiment. What's the commitment? 15 minutes a day for reading from *Draw the Circle: A 40-Day Prayer Challenge* and prayer, check in with a prayer partner (you can choose who or we'll match you with someone) and have conversation once a week using the provided discussion questions, and pray for your prayer partner. Books are available in the Incarnation Office for \$8. Sign up or learn more at incarnationmn.org/connect-grow/prayer or in the Incarnation Office.

Feed My Starving Children Returns

Packing over one Million Meals last year wasn't enough. We're back to pack more - lots more. This year, our goal is to pack 750,000 meals, enough to feed 2,055 kids for a year. Each year, the excitement starts on Ash Wednesday, this year it's February 10 - as the people of Incarnation sign up for packing spots, write checks to pay for the meals they will pack, and look forward to feeding another bunch of God's children who need these meals to thrive and grow. The crescendo builds in early May, when pallets of rice, soy, veggies, and vitamins roll off the semi-trailer, the crew from FMSC shows up, hairnets are donned, and more than 2,000 packers of all ages come into Incarnation Hall to make the dream of feeding hungry kids a reality.

Last year our Ministry Partner, Feed My Starving Children, challenged us to share our MobilePack™ expertise by partnering with other congregations in our area. Hosanna Lutheran Church in Forest Lake and Roseville Lutheran Church accepted our invitation and this year, Hosanna is hosting their own MobilePack™ in April and Roseville Lutheran will again partner with Incarnation in a joint MobilePack™ event. This is Incarnation's ninth event and when the food is shipped, it will mean that since 2007, we have fed over 12 thousand kids for a year!

From The Staff

Bill Conlin

Administrator



My father has been gone for over 3 years now, but his light and presence are with me every single day. This past Christmas, I felt his urging as the celebration of Jesus' birth grew closer. From about the time I was 8 until I was in high school, every Christmas Eve day, my father would round up my five siblings and me and take us in the family station wagon to

deliver a hot Christmas meal and simple gift to about six shut-ins through the Little Brothers/Friends of the Elderly organization. Those Christmas Eve day visits were a time where I saw the importance of sharing God's love with people who in most cases had no family to share Christmas with. The memories of those visits are vivid as is the lesson that Christmas is all about giving and has resonated with me ever since.

The first Tuesday of every month, I have been fortunate enough to be one of the Meals on Wheels drivers for my son Johnny's class. We made our first visit back in September and the kids were naturally tentative, as were some of the elderly people we visited. However, at one of our stops in Roseville an elderly woman, Andrea, who came to the door lit up when she saw me with these five smiling fourth graders. I had a sense from that moment that this woman was a strong Christian. Now, the kids are allowed out of school for one hour once a month to participate in the Meals on Wheels program, which means we usually don't have time to

sit and visit. When we came to Andrea's door on the first Tuesday in December, I noticed that in her rather stark apartment she had a manger scene set-up. I said; "Looks like you're getting ready for Christmas!" She replied; "Yes, Jesus is coming! It's the season of Advent." The students wished her a Merry Christmas and she gave them God's blessings and told them to rejoice in Jesus' birth.

With my father's urging, I called Andrea to find out if she would be open to our family visiting her on Christmas Eve day. Andrea, or Sister Andrea as I learned when I called her, was excited for the opportunity. I invited my 82-year old mother along and my three boys and I had a very enjoyable time getting to know Sister Andrea. It's hard to put into words what happened during our two hour visit, but I guess my son Will may have said it best as we drove away: "Dad, I'm glad we did that!"

God has given us many talents and gifts. *"From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded."* Luke 12:48. As the new year begins, I invite you to find a way to serve God's people. We have many wonderful ministry partners in which you can find opportunities to serve. You can make and serve a meal to single mothers and their children at LifeHaven in St. Paul. Spend an hour or two a week tutoring school children at Solid Ground. You can volunteer with the Sandwich Project Minnesota by packing sandwiches at Incarnation and then delivering them to the Midway CO-OP. Another way to make a difference in someone's life is to join the Care Team Ministry, where you'll respond to the non-medical "quality of life" needs of individuals and families of all ages who live in our community. For more information on ways to serve, visit the Incarnation website at incarnationmn.org.

Middle School Mission Trip & Camps

By Shawna Berg

This summer, Incarnation middle school students will have many different opportunities to connect, grow and serve. Incarnation is very excited to once again be partnering with Youthworks! to do a mission trip to beautiful Duluth, MN July 31- August 5. The scenic shores of Lake Superior offer a beautiful back-drop for this community that has consistently been recognized as a great place to live. Unfortunately, this is not the case for all residents of Duluth. Poverty, homelessness, and economic hardship are a stark reality in this town, especially for youth. During our time in Duluth youth and adults leaders will partner with local organizations to serve this community. We will work with food shelves, clothing distribution shelters, soup kitchens, children's programs and/or elderly care facilities. In the evenings, students will join with other churches in fellowship at Canal Park and will help host a community cookout and share a meal at the Union Gospel Mission.

Students will also have the opportunity to serve and connect with each other and other churches and community organizations through Summer Stretch. Summer Stretch is a collaborative ministry with 4 other area churches who gather on Wednesday's during the summer for worship, service and fellowship. Middle school students will serve at Feed My Starving Children, LifeHaven, area elderly care facilities, the food shelf and community gardens to help find the area of service that they are passionate about and to see the needs that we have in our communities. In the afternoons they will enjoy bowling, waterparks and more as they get to know friends from Incarnation and other area churches. Both the Mission trip and Summer Stretch are open to students who are currently in 6th-8th grade.

In addition to these opportunities, students in grades 4-8 will have the opportunity to go to the week long camp at Camp Wapo this summer. Camp Wapo in Amery, Wisconsin provides students the opportunity to connect with God and other campers from Incarnation and many other churches as they play games, explore bible studies, do arts and crafts and enjoy opportunities to worship at this beautiful camp. Incarnation heads to Camp Wapo July 17-22. For more information about all of these opportunities check out the Incarnation website or contact Shawna Berg at sberg@incarnationmn.org.

Living with Loss, Healing with Hope

By Pastor Jeanne Hartfield

Many transitions, while difficult and challenging, are predictable assumptions about life. Others break the rules, shattering dreams and hopes, interrupting or forever changing lives. Such occurrences can be personal or might be responses to local, national or world events. Maintaining resiliency at such times can be difficult. Hope may not return easily.

On February 22, author and speaker Ted Bowman will present at Incarnation on the theme "Living with Loss, Healing with Hope." In this interactive session, participants will explore a framework for grieving, which includes shattered dreams. A mixture of literary, psychological, and spiritual resources, which can aid in finding hope and healing, will be woven throughout the session.

This opportunity is for any one who is experiencing or has experienced loss, grief, or transition of any kind. Come for yourself or invite a friend or loved one and come with them. Sign up in the Incarnation Office by Thursday, February 18. Questions? Contact Pastor Jeanne Hartfield at jhartfield@incarnationmn.org.

FMSC, continued from pg. 1

The kick off for the 2016 MobilePack™ will be on Ash Wednesday - February 10. On that day you can begin signing up to pack meals. Invite your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers to join you. Make a donation and begin praying that kids' lives will be changed across wherever in the world they eat this food. You can sign up and donate by going to Incarnation's website (incarnationmn.org) and clicking on the FMSC announcement.

Mark May 2-5, 2016 on your calendar and come to Incarnation where the energy will be high, the music will be cranked up, and the Holy Spirit will be present in an amazing way. Each year poor nourishment kills 3.1 million children under five years old and that's not OK with us because hunger is a preventable problem. As Mark Crea, Executive Director of FMSC, says, "Help us feed a child. Just another one." You don't want to miss this chance to feed lots of hungry kids!

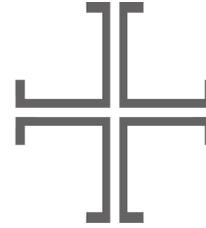
**INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH
GENERAL FUND - INCOME & EXPENSE REPORT
FOR THE MONTH ENDING DECEMBER, 2015**

REVENUE	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	YTD VARIANCE
Member Envelopes/Loose	\$1,874,361	\$1,875,000	(\$639)
Special Env./Misc.	66,389	56,000	\$10,389
Special Appeals	0	5,000	(\$5,000)
Total Offering	\$1,940,750	\$1,936,000	\$4,750
Other Income	9,407	13,000	(3,593)
Total Income	\$1,950,157	\$1,949,000	\$1,157
EXPENSES	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	YTD VARIANCE
Missions	\$221,013	\$221,500	(\$487)
Salaries/Wages	\$1,344,836	\$1,355,000	(\$10,164)
Ministries	\$104,237	\$109,150	(\$4,913)
Administration	\$73,468	\$82,000	(\$8,532)
Building	\$169,484	\$181,350	(\$11,866)
Total Expenses	\$1,913,037	\$1,949,000	(\$35,963)
Net Income (loss)	\$37,120	\$0	\$37,120

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Beginning of the Month balance	\$162,511
Net Income for the month	147,165
Mortgage Payment	(88,540)
Other Capital Expenses	(372)
Monthly Ending Balance	\$220,764

Thank you for supporting the ministries, missions, and programs of Incarnation with your continued contributions. Your gifts are greatly appreciated.



Incarnation Receives Memorial Gifts During the Fourth Quarter of 2015

In the fourth quarter of the year, October to December 2015, Incarnation Lutheran Church received the following memorials. We would like to publicly thank these people for remembering Incarnation. "We gratefully acknowledge these gifts and join in loving remembrance."

In Remembrance of: Jan Strecker

A Gift Was Received from: Bill & Gracia Strecker, Duane & Marlys Nelson, Marlys Nelson

In Remembrance of: Joanne Renstrom

A Gift Was Received from: Sheila Anderson, Kenneth & Irene Olson, Al & Joyce Anderson, Jan & Carl Johnson, Jill Beck, Diane K. Anderson

In Remembrance of: Arne Blomquist

A Gift Was Received from: Walt Harmer, Carl & Gina Nerison

In Remembrance of: Martin Strandness

A Gift Was Received from: Karen & Mark Johnson

In Remembrance of: Charles & Virginia Linden

A Gift Was Received from: Carol Jo Forneris

In Remembrance of: Marlowe Hamerston

A Gift Was Received from: Bill & Bev Seabloom

In Remembrance of: Shirley Kangas' mother

A Gift Was Received from: Marlys & Duane Nelson

In Remembrance of: Clif Molzen

A Gift Was Received from: Carl & Gina Nerison

In Remembrance of: Eileen Boder

A Gift Was Received from: Carl & Gina Nerison

In Remembrance of: Don Fultz's Sister

A Gift Was Received from: Carl & Gina Nerison

In Remembrance of: Cherie Supina's mother

A Gift Was Received from: Carl & Gina Nerison

In Remembrance of: Bev Kohl

A Gift Was Received from: Steve & Margot Kohl

In Remembrance of: Gina Morri

A Gift Was Received from: Marilyn Army

Gifts to the Endowment Fund were received from Carl and Gina Nerison for Karen Fox, Dale Ruff, Gar Kachel. Kathy Eckmann's father, Carol Salmon and Mary Lunstad's brother. Additional gifts to the Endowment Fund were received in honor of Mae Fransen, Shirley Kangas' mother from Larrie and LouAnn Reese, Freda Munson, David and Shirley Kangas, and Ron and Fran Kaliszewski.



Incorporation Lutheran Church

Worship, Prayer & Among the Congregation

Recently Hospitalized: Sue Henk; Julie Omland; Dennis Nelson; Wilma Jorgenson; Zach Douglas.

Sympathy to: The family of Don Engle on his death; Glenn Medenwaldt and family on the death of his mother; Chris Cairl and family on the death of her mother; Gina Kristufek and family on the death of her father; Emilee Tapani on the death of her father; Andrew Callinan on the death of his mother; Bonnie Moore on the death of her mother; The family of Ken Nelson on his death.

Congratulations to: Tamra Knight and Mark DeRee; Anne Kirkland and Myles Carlson on their recent marriages.

Congratulations to: Todd and Jane Anderson on the birth of Drew Edward; Josh and Amy Johnson on the birth of Teagan Elizabeth.

Connect & Grow

New Small Groups

Interested in a small group, but haven't found one that works for you? Contact dfloe@incarnationmn.org to learn about groups planned for the future. If you've been part of a small group and you'd like to learn about the small group leader training, contact dfloe@incarnationmn.org.

Sunday Morning Small Group: Faith-Filled Conversations

Take a new step in your faith. Watch and talk about short videos based on the book, *Love Does*, writer, Bob Goff. Great for those new to small groups! Leader: Grant Rykken. Register: dfloe@incarnationmn.org.

When: Sundays, once/month, 9:45 - 10:45 a.m.

Small Group for Moms: Pause for Prayer

Connect with moms with children ages 0-18. Learn different ways to pray and talk about questions on prayer. Welcome to those new to prayer and those who have been praying for years! Cost: \$5. Leader: Emily Schwieters. Register: dfloe@incarnationmn.org.

When: Four Saturdays, 9 - 11:00 a.m., February - April.

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Shoreview, MN 55126
4880 Hodgson Road

Incorporation Lutheran Church



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Small Group for Lent: What Wondrous Love

Through the art of John August Swanson, explore the scriptures of Holy Week. Watch interviews with the artist and theologians, unpacking the messages of the texts and Swanson's artistic interpretation. No experience needed. Suggested contribution: \$5. Register at dfloe@incarnationmn.org.

When: Four Tuesdays, 5 - 6:15 p.m., February - March.

Nourishing Hope

Join Pastor Gary Medin for a four-session faith study in April and May, including a packing session during the May 2-5 FMSC MobilePack™ at Incarnation. These sessions will enrich your MobilePack™ experience and include discussions about the solutions to hunger framed by Jesus' teachings about feeding the hungry. Register in the Incarnation Office or sign up online by clicking on the FMSC/Nourishing Hope banner.

When: Registration begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10 - Wednesday, March 30.

Children, Youth, and Family

Butter Braid Fundraiser

Youth and mission trip participants will be selling Butter Braids in the Atrium and Gathering Space to raise money for the summer camps. Butter Braids are \$12 and can be picked up after all worship services on March 20, just in time for Easter!

When: February 21, 28, and March 6.

Serve

Sewing for Haiti

Join others to sew dresses, shorts, or tote bags for children in Haiti. Easy patterns are provided on the Incarnation website. Even those who don't sew are welcome to join the fun to do support jobs. Register with Becky Benson at bbenson@incarnationmn.org by February 10. For questions, contact Barb Chapin at bchapin@incarnationmn.org or Becky at bbenson@incarnationmn.org.

When: Friday, February 12, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Incorporation Lutheran Church Office: 651-484-7213

Web Site: www.incarnationmn.org - If registering online, most major debit and credit cards accepted
If payments are made at the Incarnation Office, Visa and Mastercard are accepted for payment.