



Lifetimes

Lent and Holy Week Schedule

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March 12, 2017

Mailed: March 8, 2017

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Midweek Worship & Sermon Series

Wednesdays in Lent, worship will be held at 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Each Wednesday during Lent, a meal of soup and sandwiches will be served immediately following 12:00 p.m. worship in Grace Hall and from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. in the Gathering Space. Cost: \$5 per person or \$15 max per family.

The focus for the sermon series during midweek Lenten worship is “The Way to the Cross.” Using the scriptural Stations of the Cross as a frame, the goal of this series is to be immersed in Jesus’ journey to the cross, to savor the details, to confront our human realities and actions that drove Jesus to the cross, and experience the abundance and counter-cultural nature of God’s grace.

Each week will focus on a different scene from the Stations of the Cross and the following themes:

March 8: The Way to the Cross - Betrayal

March 15: The Way to the Cross - Denial

March 22: The Way to the Cross - Crowning with Thorns

March 29: The Way to the Cross - Promise

April 5: The Way to the Cross - Care

Holy Week

Passion (Palm) Sunday, April 9

8:45 a.m. & 10:05 a.m. - Traditional Service.

10:45 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. - Contemporary Service with Communion.

Nursery Available at All Services.

Maundy Thursday, April 13

7:00 p.m. - Traditional Service with Communion. Nursery Available.

Good Friday, April 14

11:00 a.m. - Worship Service for Young Families.

5:00 p.m. - Contemporary Tenebrae. Nursery Available.

7:00 p.m. - Traditional Tenebrae. Nursery Available.

Easter Sunday, April 16

7:00 a.m. - Sunrise Service with Communion.

8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. - Traditional Services. Nursery Available.

11:30 a.m. (in Incarnation Hall) - Contemporary Service. Nursery Available.

6:00 p.m. (in Incarnation Hall) Contemporary Service with Communion. Nursery Available.

From The Staff

Becky Benson

Director of Serve and Inviting Ministries



Jere, kidney donor & me – will I hear?

I’ll never forget the night my mother-in-law’s text came in to say that Jere was gravely ill. “You must pray”. Jere, one of Mark’s cousins, was at Woodwinds with septic shock and literally was fighting for his life. I’d not seen Jere in better than 25 years but of course I prayed, and you, Incarnation, prayed for several weeks, too, through the prayer concerns list. We will always, always be thankful for your prayers.

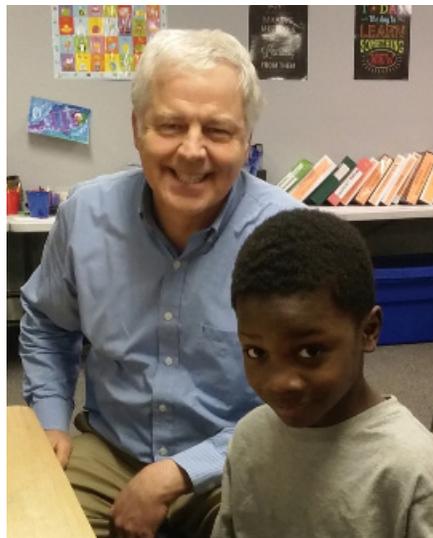
Jere did survive and after a LONG recovery in hospitals and rehab facilities, which among other things included adjusting to prosthetic legs after necessary amputations, Jere’s life was returning to some sense of normalcy (including driving!). “Normalcy” except for dialysis that was now required three times a week to do the work that his kidneys used to do prior to his illness.

I had no idea how difficult and often unpleasant (albeit life-saving) dialysis is. So, when in March of 2016, Jere was evaluated by the UMN as a possible kidney transplant recipient and deemed a good candidate, we were all thrilled. Being on a deceased donor list means a six or so year wait while receiving a kidney from a live donor meant he could see relief in a matter of months.

You may remember that during Lent last year, many at Incarnation took on the 40 Day Prayer Experiment. I was one of those people, and it was during one of the days (March 7, actually), that I felt the

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Solid Ground Rocks!



By Don Martin

Solid Ground Rocks! Located adjacent to Century College, Solid Ground provides housing as well as education, training and other services to help families transition from homelessness to...Solid Ground. In addition, Solid Ground provides a structured and well-organized opportunity for the members of the Incarnation

community to serve. My wife, Martie, first became involved with the “Jazz up January” event for parents and children from Solid Ground which was held last year at Incarnation. The event was a great success where we all joined in games, sports and crafts. Later, I was recruited by Gary Moen to help unload some furniture at Solid Ground. In the spring, we attended a fund raising breakfast that included an inspirational talk by a “graduate” of the Solid Ground program. She overcame challenges I have only read about.

We became more interested in how we could contribute to building up others who find themselves in similar circumstances. In the fall Incarnation does a coat drive for Solid Ground. While I worked with Joe’s Sporting Goods on a deep discount for several men’s winter coats (yes this is a pitch for a very generous LOCAL organization), Martie worked with the team at Incarnation sorting the hundreds of donated coats. It is a great feeling to help a person get a coat for the Minnesota winter. We are now tutoring one afternoon per week. Martie has a kindergartner and I have a 2nd grader. It has been challenging, but we are hopeful that we are making a positive difference in their lives and the lives of their families.

We are only one spoke in the wheel of supporting services and we always feel supported by the strong organization and staff at Solid Ground. I am looking forward to the breakfast meeting again this spring where we will share experiences around the table and hear inspiration from the podium. Our new Mission Statement at Incarnation is “Filled by God’s grace, we feed the hungry in heart, body, mind and spirit.” The partnership with Solid Ground is certainly aligned with this mission. I encourage you to contact Hannah Parish at 651- 846-9024, volunteer@solidgroundmn.org or Diane Betterley at 651-483-4916, dianebetterley@gmail.com to learn more about how your heart, mind, and spirit can be fed through work with Solid Ground.

Lenten Worship Arts

Our Lenten banners are a reminder to focus on repentance and preparation for Easter and to break away from things that would hinder us from being open to God’s call. The liturgical color for Lent is purple which signifies penitence and solemnity. Purple is also the color for royalty, a reminder that Jesus is our King.

The sanctuary banner is a drape of purple fabric. The branches hanging from it recall the flogging that Jesus endured before His crucifixion.

The banner in Incarnation Hall features a purple pathway which reminds us of the path Jesus traveled during His last days on earth. A palm branch recalls His entry into Jerusalem to the shouts of “Hosanna” from the crowd. The burlap fabric is reminiscent of the sackcloth garments worn in Biblical times as a symbol of penitence.

Help Build a Habitat House in 2017

Anyone age 16 or older (no upper age limit) is encouraged to join the Holy Hammers and help build a Habitat for Humanity house at 4396 121st Ave NE in Blaine. No prior experience or expertise is needed because there are volunteer opportunities for all skill levels including construction, painting, landscaping and food providers. This is an opportunity to serve as the hands and heart of Jesus to help a deserving family realize the blessing of a safe and affordable home. You can get information and/or sign up to participate after the Sunday morning services on 3/12, 3/19, 3/26 and 4/2 or contact Jim Fruehling at 651-484-1704 or jamesw.f@icloud.com.

Call Committee Appointment

The Congregation Council has appointed a Call Committee as directed by Incarnation’s Constitution. This Call Committee will engage in what Incarnation’s Synodical body, the St. Paul Area Synod, defines as a “targeted call”. The Committee’s work is to interview, and with prayerful discernment, decide whether or not to recommend a specific candidate to the congregation for approval of call as a part time associate pastor. This pastor would have responsibility to work with the senior pastor with the endowment and stewardship; developing and leading fellowship activities; and general pastoral responsibilities. The members appointed to the Call Committee are: Roxanne Eggen, Jim Fruehling, Dave Katzke, Mark Oswood, Emily Schwieters (Congregation Council Representative), Cindy Turkington, Michelle Wood, and Pastor Gary Medin. Please keep this group in your prayers.

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first nudge from God and wrote these words in my prayer journal “Jere, kidney donor & me – will I hear?”. People were lining up on Jere’s behalf to be evaluated as kidney donors, family members and friends alike. But, by August each of the four willing candidates had been turned down for a variety of reasons, and it was now clear to me why God had kept the idea alive in my mind and heart.

Throughout the fall, I took each step of evaluation required of me, praying all the way, “I am willing to go as far as You want, God, but make this of You and not of me. Close the door if this is not what You want.” On November 17, hours before the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was to begin, Jere and I learned we were officially approved for a transplant. Together with his dear friend, Jill, the three of us spoke on the phone and joyously agreed we’d move forward together to give him one of my kidneys. I was so happy, so grateful, so humbled that this opportunity was being made possible. And later that night when Jacy Smith of the 10:45 band sang the words “Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders” from the song “Oceans”, I wept.

The surgery took place on December 13 and for me, the days leading up to, the day of, and the days following are among the most moving and powerful of my life. God gave me such peace and every ounce of courage I needed. He equipped the UMN medical staff with brilliance, expertise, and the compassion necessary to serve Jere and me well. God called you beautiful people of Incarnation as well as others in the region and across the country to pray for and support us in a myriad of ways. I am beyond grateful for the entire experience.

Today, Jere and I are healing well. Jere’s new kidney is sustaining him just as it needs to and my remaining kidney is sustaining me. Isn’t it incredible how God equipped us with a spare? The story is not over, though; I’m certain of that. My prayers have now turned to “what now, God?”, and it again is my prayer and hope that I will hear.

Packing Food Brings Meaning to LifeHaven and Solid Ground Residents

"I just loved it!", said Arrianna, a former teenage resident of LifeHaven who moved out of the LifeHaven house recently with her two children. Her enthusiasm and appreciation for her Feed My Starving Children packing experiences at Incarnation came across loud and clear through the phone. "Being with others who want to help, the music, the vibe of the whole thing was just great!". Arrianna has joined other moms, LifeHaven staff, and LifeHaven volunteers from Incarnation to pack FMSC food for the last two years. Arrianna was so jazzed about packing in 2015 that she came to the 2016 MobilePack™ with her three day old son (in a front pack – he slept the whole time); she didn't want to miss out on the fun! Both years, Incarnation volunteers have watched the remaining children back at the LifeHaven house while the moms participated in the MobilePack™ as a part of "Girls' Night Out". What Arrianna remembers most about her packing experience, she said, "It was the little kids...like 8 year olds, who were happy and excited about what they were doing.... younger kids who are doing something for others in the rest of the world." Since packing the first time, Arrianna said "I did a lot of research on the organization (FMSC) and know what they stand for. I like what they do and I'd actually appreciate the opportunity to pack again."

Similar enthusiasm was echoed by Darcelle, the mother of three children who are residents of Solid Ground, and who will be moving out on their own by the end of February. "I was so inspired after packing the food, that I went out and bought stuff to make 100 sandwiches. We (her family) went to St Paul to hand them out to people in need." Darcelle joined a group of seven adults, nine children (two of whom were Darcelle's), and three staff from Solid Ground two years ago to pack at Incarnation's



MobilePack™. Some of the Solid Ground community returned last year to pack, also. But what Darcelle remembers is how good it felt to help others. "I like that my kids are learning how they can make a difference." Darcelle mentioned also how she hopes to return to Incarnation's MobilePack™ this year with the Solid Ground group that will pack, so her oldest can have the experience her other children have had with FMSC (as her oldest was sick the day Solid Ground packed).

Each May, Solid Ground holds an Every Family Needs a Home fundraising breakfast. At each of these breakfast gatherings, a resident from the Solid Ground community speaks about their experience at Solid Ground and what it has meant to their families to have housing stability and support. In May of 2016, Kari, who was the guest speaker shared her very challenging story which included heartache after heartache. Kari also shared that upon getting settled at Solid Ground, she found herself joining every opportunity offered since she had time and a desire to connect with others....including the opportunity to pack FMSC food at Incarnation. She said, "...packing was so good for my girls and me....it felt good to give back when we'd received so much...."

Incarnation's new mission statement says "Filled by God's grace, we feed the hungry in heart, body, mind, and spirit." At times we may think this is just about "us" feeding "them" but it's stories like these that remind all of us that in our efforts to feed others, we are also fed.

The 2017 "All Hands on Hope fueled by Incarnation MobilePack™" will take place May 1- 4. Go to the Incarnation website (www.incarnationmn.org) to sign up for packing shifts and make a contribution to help pay for the food we'll be packing together.

Incarnation Lutheran Church

Worship, Prayer & Among the Congregation

Those hospitalized: Marit Swenson; Linda Armstrong.

Sympathy to: The family of Ardelle Peterson on her death.

Hospitals Have Changed Notification Practices

Hospitals have changed policies to protect patient privacy and care centers no longer notify churches when a member has been admitted. The only way the Incarnation staff will know if you or a loved one is in the hospital is if you contact the Incarnation Office at 651-484-7213 or email one of the pastors. For an emergency over a weekend or holiday, call the Incarnation Office and listen for the prompts to leave a message in the Pastoral Emergency voicemail. The on-call pastor will contact you as soon as possible.

Connect and Grow

Discover Incarnation

Discover Incarnation is offered for anyone who wants to learn more about Incarnation's mission, vision, and values, and is required for those who wish to step into membership. Childcare is available for those who make an advanced registration. Registration is due by 4:30 p.m. March 29.

When: April 1, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The Best Yes Small Group for Moms

Connect with other moms (children ages 0-18) and deepen your faith on Wednesday mornings. This group will watch videos from *The Best Yes* series and talk about how to make wise, faith-filled decisions in a time of endless demands. Suggested contribution: \$10. Child care available (register by March 15): \$35/child or \$45/family. Register: dfloe@incarnationmn.org.

When: Once a week on Wednesdays, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m., late-March to early-May.

Gustavus Faith Conference: Faith, Science, and the Freedom to Serve

Explore the connections being made between religion and science to address the world's most pressing challenges at the 2017 Faith Conference at Gustavus. Incarnation is a member congregation of the Association of Congregations at Gustavus. For more information, contact dfloe@incarnationmn.org.

When: Saturday, April 22, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at Gustavus.

Children, Youth and Family

The Great Surprise Family Lent Event

Come for the Great Surprise Family Lent Event, Friday, April 7. Families will experience hands-on fun with a variety of surprising activities. Through these WOW experiences, everyone will discover an amazing surprise! Drop in anytime between 6 - 8:00 p.m. and move through the stations at your own pace. Cost: \$15 per family.

When: April 7, 6 - 8:00 p.m.

Serve

All Hands on Hope Feed My Starving Children MobilePack™ Registrations and Promo

The All Hands on Hope FMSC MobilePack™ online registrations for packing May 1 - 4 have opened! Celebrate Incarnation's 10th event by inviting 10 others to pack with you so together we pack 750,000 meals, feeding 2,054 kids for one year. Go to incarnationmn.org to make reservations. Follow Incarnation's Facebook page or "FMSC Mobile Pack at Incarnation" Facebook page for updates, and share! Use #AllHandsOnHope as way to draw attention, to organize, and to promote this event.

When: May 1 - 4.

All Hands on Hope Feed My Starving Children MobilePack™ Financial Contributions

Make a contribution to help raise the \$143,000 needed to purchase the food which will be packed during the All Hands on Hope Feed My Starving Children MobilePack™ event. A person typically packs \$50 worth of food in one session. Write a check to Incarnation with "FMSC MP" in the memo or make an online contribution by going to incarnationmn.org. Approach your company about doing a company match or if you are Thrivent member, form an Action Team. Instructions for both can be found at incarnationmn.org.

March is MN FoodShare Month

A portion of all donations of food and dollars to Ralph Reeder Food Shelf in March is matched by Minnesota FoodShare. Dollars can be stretched as food is purchased through discounted suppliers. Drop off donated items in the large bin near the nursery. Thank you for your continued generosity.

When: During March.

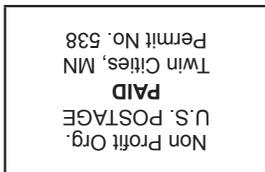
Volunteer at LifeHaven

Several volunteer opportunities are available through one of Incarnation's ministry partners, LifeHaven, a program that provides housing and support to teenage moms experiencing homelessness. Making a Sunday meal, providing childcare, and/or being a driver for Moms' Night Out are all opportunities for you to support these young moms. Details about these opportunities can be found at incarnationmn.org/serve/ministry-partners/families-in-transition/lifehaven.

Summer Cookie Servers

Incarnation is in need of summer cookie servers. There are three different shifts each Sunday morning. Please stop in the Incarnation Office if you are interested.

When: June 4 - September 3.



Address Service Requested

4880 Hodgson Road
Shoreview, MN 55126

Incarnation Lutheran Church



INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH GENERAL FUND - INCOME & EXPENSE REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING JANUARY, 2017

REVENUE	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	YTD VARIANCE
Member Envelopes/Loose	\$145,050	\$137,398	\$7,652
Special Env./Misc.	\$1,080	\$1,737	(\$657)
Total Offering	\$146,130	\$139,135	\$6,995
Other Income	\$603	\$464	\$139
Total Income	\$146,734	\$139,599	\$7,135
EXPENSES	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	YTD VARIANCE
Missions	\$18,565	\$18,500	\$65
Salaries/Wages	\$109,128	\$116,667	(\$7,538)
Ministries	(\$650)	\$8,929	(\$9,579)
Administration	\$7,249	\$5,604	\$1,644
Building	\$11,798	\$17,550	(\$5,752)
Total Expenses	\$146,090	\$167,250	(\$21,160)
Net Income (loss)	\$644	(\$27,651)	\$28,295

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Beginning of the Month balance	\$192,493
Net Income for the month	48,129
Mortgage Payment	(28,540)
Other Capital Expenses	(65)
Monthly Ending Balance	\$212,017

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

