



Lifetimes

Holy Week Schedule

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April 9, 2017

Mailed: April 5, 2017

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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

Kristin Bloxham

Director of High School Ministry



Financial Peace University

Five years ago my husband and I opened our wedding presents. We were giddy with excitement as we opened box after box of new and exciting ‘things’ for our new life together. One gift was different. It came from one of Brice’s best friends from high school, his wife and his parents. The card attached simply said, “Make time to do this. It will change your life.” I was immediately excited to see what was behind the glittery paper. I would be lying if I didn’t say that I was a little disappointed to see a Membership Kit for Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University. Brice and I looked at each other, shrugged and put it in the pile next to a blender and some new bathroom

towels.

Fast forward to 2017. Brice and I are still married :) but life has changed in some dramatic ways. We purchased a house, have had to replace old cars, have had the joy of welcoming two amazing sons into our family, have had medical emergencies, unplanned stays in the NICU, specialists and doctors with titles I can hardly pronounce became like family because of our time spent at their clinics. Brice also went back to school to follow his call to become a pastor. Our lives and financial commitments have changed dramatically in a very short amount of time.

During a staff meeting last December, Pastor Jeanne mentioned that Incarnation would once again be hosting a Financial Peace University (FPU) class. I listened as details were discussed and found myself thinking about that unopened Membership Kit that was still sitting on our bookshelf. The one we had received so many years ago. That night Brice and I decided that this was something that we needed to do. Not just for us, but for our sons Simon and Silas as well.

Nine weeks later, we have completed the class. We are credit card free, have paid off a significant amount of our debt and have made changes to our policies and insurance coverage ensuring that we will be taken care of if the worst happens. While we struggled with some of the theological differences, both Brice and I have said that this class has changed our financial future and has bettered our marriage. Money is no longer something that we fear talking about.

While the benefits of taking this class now were overwhelming for us, it is impossible not to wonder where we would be, had we listened to that wise advice given to us the day after our wedding. It was through that wondering, that Pastor Jeanne and I started talking about offering a Financial Peace University class for young adults at Incarnation. It is with the support of gifts from this congregation that we will be offering a free Financial Peace University class this summer for young adults who are post high school and pre-baby. What a gift this will be for these young people to learn about how to manage their money in a way that will allow them to live into their full potential in the world.

How Does Feed My Starving Children Food Reach Those Who Need It?

By Don Martin

This May, we will pack one million meals - how does it get to the starving children?

For nine years, we have come together in early May to pack meals, for a total of almost five million meals; enough to feed more than 13,000 of God's children for a year. Have you ever wondered about how the food ends up feeding starving children in over 70 countries? Feed My Starving Children works with distribution partners that are in the various countries to support their mission and humanitarian work by providing the meals for almost no cost. Actually there is no cost to the distribution partner for the meals, but they do pay for the shipping, which will be between \$6,000 and \$15,000 per container. So the mission partner has "some skin in the game" to help ensure all goes well with the delivery. This offering of food allows the mission partner to concentrate on sustainable development (i.e. expand their school, orphanage, training, healthcare, spreading the word...) With the unique arrangement of the mission partner providing the shipping costs, the dedication of the FMSC staff, and prayers over the food, over 99% of the food does arrive to feed God's starving children of all religions, races and backgrounds. It is truly a miracle to be able to attain such a high delivery rate when you consider the food is going to some of the most impoverished and often unstable places on this earth. Food packed at Incarnation has gone to distribution partners that operate in Haiti, Guatemala, Guyana, Tanzania, Kenya, the Philippines and other countries.

Who are these distribution partners and how are they selected? Distribution partners are mission organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that operate continuously in various countries. So the schools, orphanages, and organizations are within the communities that are served. This is in contrast to a relief organization that "flies in" the week of a disaster and



"flies out" a few weeks later. Development work takes years, not weeks. A sustained effort to feed God's children over time is critical to developing countries. During natural disasters, it is a huge advantage to have "feet on the ground". For example, in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew in Haiti, meals that were in warehouses in Haiti for school feeding programs were diverted to become some of the first relief available for those affected by the hurricane. Then in the following weeks the food for the school feeding was replenished.

The distribution partners apply for meals online. Because of the limited supply, FMSC cannot say yes to all applications.

The FMSC Distribution Committee evaluates those applications

being considered for partnership based on the following criteria:

- Percentage of children the applicant serves (50 percent is required)
- Other food available,
- Type of feeding program
- Ability to receive and store meals safely.

The Distribution Committee prays, gives the application a rating and allocates meals accordingly. Meals are allocated a year at a time, giving partners a stable food supply they can count on. Their first priority is to serve the requests of long-standing partners. FMSC considers new partners as they

have the capacity.

All but the smallest partners are required to "tithe" five or ten percent of the food they receive to other, smaller ministries who might not be able to afford shipping. This program in particular has helped a missionary in Liberia who has visited Incarnation Lutheran Church.

Whenever we give of our time, talent, and money to an organization in support of a cause, we have the hope and expectation that the resources are used efficiently and have the intended result. One reason we have supported Feed My Starving Children for ten years is that it does in fact have the intended result in fulfilling the mission at Incarnation, "Filled by God's Grace, we feed the hungry in heart, body, mind and spirit."

New SPARK Registration Process

By Rebecca Christiansen

SPARK Sunday/Wednesday is rolling out a NEW Registration process for the program year of 2017/2018. We have made registration so much easier for everyone! If your child is enrolled in SPARK Ministry already, we have automatically moved them to the next grade at the same SPARK Sunday/Wednesday hour. You will receive a letter in the mail, if you haven't already, along with a registration with the most current information that we have on your child(ren) in our database. The only action that you need to take is to carefully look through the information and sign the form and turn it into the Incarnation office or the Children's Resource Center by April 30. If you are new to SPARK ministry, registration forms can be found online or in the Incarnation Office.

We also have indicated where volunteers are needed for the 2017-2018 program year. We have a new volunteer position called SPARK Small Group Advocate. As a SPARK Small Group Advocate, you will check in with small group leaders throughout the SPARK learning hour that you have signed up for. As with any of our volunteers a completed background check will be done.

If you have any questions about what is happening in SPARK, please don't hesitate to contact Rebecca Christiansen at rchristiansen@incarnationmn.org or 651-484-7213.



This is a picture of Sylvester with the FMSC food and a picture (above) of kids at his church/school (this picture was sent before they received the FMSC food). Sylvester started a church and school in Liberia. He has been at Incarnation and has been in conversation with Gary Medin before, during and after the Ebola outbreak in Liberia. I (Don Martin) met him on a Sunday when he was visiting Incarnation. We were able to get his small school connected to one of the larger FMSC partners in Liberia which is sharing some of their food with his school.

Confirmation Process

By Shawna Berg

This spring our 9th grade students will be confirmed as part of our three part Affirmation of Baptism process at Incarnation. We, as a community of faith, should be very proud of these students, their parents and this community for supporting them on this very important journey of faith.

The journey for these students and their families didn't just begin three years ago when they signed up for their first Confirmation class. This journey began for many around 15 years ago. This journey began when, with babes in arms, these parents stood before God, their faith community and their family and friends and made some pretty significant promises. Promises to place in their hands the Holy Scriptures. Promises to bring them to church. Promises to teach them the Lord's prayer. Promises to make sure they might come to know who God is, and through that knowledge that they may fully know and experience Christ's love in their lives.

We, on behalf of the church, also made promises. We promised to be partners with parents on this journey. We promised because God's children are our children. We promised because we know being a parent is hard, and because we know parents need allies. We promised because we believe this work is important. We promised because we love these children. We continue to make these promises every time there is a Baptism because this is who we are at the core.

In a world where promises are often broken, more than they are kept, the confirmation of these students is something to celebrate. The confirmation of these students represents a lot of families who kept their promises - even when it was difficult.

Currently each confirmand has a prayer partner. As representatives of this congregation, they are praying for their students and will walk through the Celebration of Passage with their confirmand in April. This is a beautiful reminder to our confirmands and their families that the congregation has kept their promise. The congregation has supported our ministries

through gifts of prayer, through your offering and by giving your time and talents to teach in our programs. As a congregation and representatives of the church we have kept our promises.

These confirmands are now embarking on a new journey. A journey where they are making promises. Promises to continue on their faith journey. Promises where they will boldly claim their faith as their own, and yet they know that still, they will not be alone. This congregation will continue to love them and pray for them as we know the journey will not always be a smooth one. One thing we know for sure is that they have a great legacy before them of people who have kept their promises - and I have great hope for the journey that they are on. Thank you for being a part of the journey.

Easter Banners

2 Corinthians 5:17 — Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come.

The Incarnation Hall banner for Easter season features two symbols of the Resurrection, an empty cross and a butterfly. The empty cross represents a risen and living Christ. The butterfly signifies bursting from the grave and being raised to a new life. Parallels have been drawn between the stages of the life of a butterfly and the life of a Christian. The plain looking cocoon, wrapped in what reminds one of burial shrouds, parallels the grave. The cocoon emerges as a beautiful butterfly. We, who were wrapped in the shrouds of sin and death, emerge in Christ as the beautiful people God intended us to be.

Morning of the Resurrection is the title for the Easter banner hanging in the sanctuary. The banner features a watery landscape lit from above by a burst of light. The bright aura signifies Christ's promise of redemption. The water moving toward the light suggests our life journey, buoyed by waters of Baptism, leading us toward our final resting place in heaven at our Lord's side.



Incarnation Lutheran Church

Worship, Prayer & Among the Congregation

Those hospitalized: Bill Fitzsimmons; Carlene Bouley; Don Fultz.

Sympathy to: Kami Bandt and family on the death of her mother; The family of Fran Elfstrom on her death; Travis Vanden Broeke and family on the death of his mother.

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

Introduction to Lutheran Theology

Are you new to the Lutheran church or would like a refresher? Celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the start of the Reformation by digging deeper into the core teachings that shape the Lutheran church. Sign up in the Incarnation Office by Monday, April 17. When: Thursdays, April 20, 27, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Casual Biking and Cycling Fellowship Groups

Coming this summer! Watch the Sunday inserts or Small Group Ministry on the website for more information or contact Denise Floe at dfloe@incarnationmn.org.

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. Child care may be available. Register: dfloe@incarnationmn.org. When: Once a week on Wednesdays, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m., April - 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

Moonlight Madness

Attention all students in grades 6-9! Come on Friday, April 28 for the Spring Moonlight Madness Lockout. Meet at Incarnation at 8:30 p.m. and head to Worship and then to a rec center (swimming, ice skating, open gym, rock climbing), a movie, and finish up the night with bowling, laser tag and arcade games. Return to Incarnation at 7:30 a.m. Cost: \$40 and friends are welcome! Pick up registration information in the Incarnation Office. When: Register by Monday, April 24.

Serve

All Hands on Hope Feed My Starving Children MobilePack™ will pack ONE MILLION MEALS

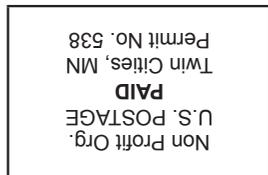
Online registrations for packing May 1 - 5 are open and All Hands on Hope are needed to pack the ONE MILLION FMSC meals we've committed to pack! Celebrate Incarnation's 10th event by inviting 10 others to pack with you so together we may feed 2740 kids for one year. Go to incarnationmn.org to make reservations. Help raise at least \$143,000 to purchase food that will be packed by writing a check to Incarnation with "FMSC MP" in the memo or make an online donation. Thanks for being a part of this life-saving ministry! #AllHandsOnHope.

When: May 1 - 5.

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.



Congregational Business

Congregation Invited to Vote on Call

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, May 7 immediately following each of the three morning worship services for the purpose of voting on extending a call to a part-time Associate Pastor. This candidate is unanimously recommended by the Congregation Council and the Call Committee. As stated in the prior announcement of the formation of the Call Committee, this half-time 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 Call Committee and the Congregation Council are excited to present a candidate who is qualified and gifted in these areas to help the congregation live out our Mission, Vision and Values. To respect the candidate and the call process, the candidate's name will not be released until two weeks prior to the vote. If approved, it is anticipated that this candidate will join the staff sometime in May.

When: Sunday, May 7 after the morning worship services.

Address Service Requested

4880 Hodgson Road
Shoreview, MN 55126

Incarnation Lutheran Church



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

REVENUE	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	YTD VARIANCE
Member Envelopes/Loose	\$275,482	\$285,977	(\$10,495)
Special Env./Misc.	\$1,552	\$5,637	(\$4,085)
Total Offering	\$277,034	\$291,614	(\$14,580)
Other Income	\$1,576	\$1,312	\$264
Total Income	\$278,610	\$292,926	(\$14,316)
EXPENSES	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	YTD VARIANCE
Missions	\$36,065	\$37,000	(\$935)
Salaries/Wages	\$226,137	\$233,333	(\$7,197)
Ministries	\$9,629	\$17,858	(\$8,229)
Administration	\$12,080	\$11,209	\$872
Building	\$27,660	\$35,100	(\$7,440)
Total Expenses	\$311,571	\$334,500	(\$22,929)
Net Income (loss)	(\$32,961)	(\$41,574)	\$8,613

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Beginning of the Month balance	\$212,017
Net Income for the month	40,756
Mortgage Payment	(28,540)
Other Capital Expenses	(119)
Monthly Ending Balance	\$224,114

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

