



Lifetimes

Advent Begins November 26

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In the wider world, Advent officially begins on Sunday, December 3. If we followed the official calendar, the fourth Sunday of Advent would be December 24 - the morning of Christmas Eve. In order to experience the full season of Advent, Incarnation will celebrate the first Sunday of Advent on November 26. The theme for Advent this year is “Waiting for Christ”.

Please note: Because of Incarnation’s adapted Advent schedule, there will be no regular morning worship on December 24. Instead, there will be Christmas Eve worship services at 1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. All Christmas Eve services are in the Sanctuary.

The following opportunities are available to help you enter more fully into this Advent season of preparing for the coming Christ:

Mid-Week Advent Worship

Wednesday, November 29, December 6 & 13 from 7 - 7:30 in the Sanctuary

This candlelight service uses the liturgy of Holden Evening Prayer and is a wonderful way to find some peace and calm in the midst of what can be a busy season.

Blue Christmas: A Prayer Service

Tuesday, December 5 from 7 - 7:30 in the Sanctuary

This candlelight prayer service is for anyone who has experienced a loss of any kind or who finds the weeks leading up to Christmas to be less than joyful. In this service we seek comfort and hope in our God whose light shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it.

The World Is About to Turn: An Advent Study

Wednesdays, November 29, December 6 & 13 after Mid-Week Worship (7:45 - 8:15 p.m.); Wednesday, December 20 from 7 - 7:45 p.m.

This Advent study, based on the hymn “Canticle of the Turning” and Mary’s song, follows the ELCA World Hunger Advent calendar. It includes scripture, reflection, discussion, prayer and song. Led by members of the Hunger Advocacy and Awareness group. Pick up your calendar and learn more at the Alternative Giving Fair on November 19.

“Christmas in Christ Chapel” at Incarnation

Thursday, December 14 from 2 - 4:00 p.m.

As a congregational partner with Gustavus Adolphus College, Incarnation will have an opportunity to replay the performance of this year’s “Christmas in Christ Chapel” at Incarnation. Come for fellowship and music. Invite your friends. Sign up by Monday, December 11 in the Incarnation Office.

Devotional Resources

Advent devotional resources and ideas will be available to pick up on Sunday, November 26 after all worship services.

From The Staff

Janet Karvonen-Montgomery

Pastor for Wellness and Generosity



“Praise God from whom all blessings flow” . . . These recognizable words begin a familiar hymn written in 1674 by a clergyman in the Church of England, Thomas Ken. It is often called the doxology, meaning glory to God.

Recognizing God as the source of all life is a good place to start in one’s life of faith. *“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it, for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers” (Psalm 24).*

I recall singing the doxology before meals at church, particularly during my youth. It set a tone of thankfulness and reverence for the God of the universe, whose creation has yielded food for our sustenance. Food is just one of the many good gifts from God who provides for God’s people.

As you reflect upon your life, how have God’s blessings flowed into your life?

As the pastor for wellness and generosity, I believe part of my job is to help others more fully understand how God’s blessings are meant not only for us to enjoy, but also to flow outward, benefitting others in the world. By pointing to God as the source of all of life’s blessings, we can better integrate our entire lives around our faith, honoring both God and our neighbor in the process.

Are you living in the “flow”? As followers of Jesus Christ, we live with open hearts and open hands, allowing the love and blessings to flow through us, into the lives of others who so desperately need it. If we are grabbing resources and holding onto them with clenched fists, we restrict the movement of God’s blessing actions in the world.

Many years ago, while serving on the stewardship committee at Incarnation, I came across a

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Holidays (Holy Days) and Gift Giving

The Alternative Giving Fair on November 19 leads into Advent as a special season of giving. A continued focus on Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) World Hunger during the Advent season at Incarnation will extend our opportunity for alternative gifts for family and friends. It provides an opportunity for us to be reminded that few of us need things ourselves but we can share God's generosity to others through ELCA Good Gifts or outright gifts to the ELCA World Hunger program. (In 2016 Incarnation gave more than \$9,000 to this effort during Advent.)

Hunger is an ever-present issue and it is well addressed through the ELCA World Hunger program. ELCA World Hunger is a most effective and efficient way to help those with less in a dignified and empowering way. In addition to funding relief and development projects that assist our sisters and brothers in need, ELCA World Hunger engages ELCA



members in education and advocacy to help change the systems that perpetuate poverty. Through this comprehensive approach, ELCA World Hunger works to address hunger from all angles - both domestically and globally.

Incarnation's Hunger Education and Advocacy Group will be staffing a table each of the four Sunday mornings from November 26 through December 17. Stop by to "purchase" an ornament or give a gift. There will be the usual pigs, chicks, and bees but new gifts such as water filters and solar powered lanterns are now available. Checks can be made to Incarnation with "ELCA World Hunger" in the memo line or you can give directly through the ELCA.

Make these "holy gifts" a part of your holiday giving this year.

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definition of stewardship as "the management of one's life with Jesus Christ at the center." How do we know we are doing this? A couple of helpful ideas came from Luther Seminary's online resources: first, hold onto your possessions with a loose grip, and secondly, show love for your neighbor through concrete actions. This has continued to shape the way my family and I approach giving, reminding us to allow blessings to flow through us.

This fall's campaign Share the Grace is underway to fund the annual budget and building mortgage. It is an invitation to grow in faith and to allow God's gift of grace to flow through us, through Incarnation, and out into the community and into the world. As we continue to give thanks to our creator God for every good gift, may these gifts be a blessing for the world God loves so much.



Incarnation Receives Memorial Gifts During the Third Quarter of 2017

In the second quarter of the year, July to September 2017, 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: Joseph Kult

A Gift was Received from: Cal & Sharon Wilson; Vicki Smith

In Remembrance of: Louise Holmes

A Gift was Received from: Norman Asplund & Martha Potts; Joseph & Jeanne Gall; Carol Stadler; Karen Cucci; Mildred Arndt; Boyd & Arylene Paulu; Lucille DeWitz

In Remembrance of: Marit Swenson

A Gift was Received from: Duane & Marlys Nelson

In Remembrance of: Mona Lund

A Gift was Received from: Earl & Kathleen Currie

In Remembrance of: Cal Wilson's Sister

A Gift was Received from: Ken & Rosalie Grosch

In Remembrance of: Duane Nelson's Brother

A Gift was Received from: Ken & Rosalie Grosch

In Remembrance of: Don Huemoeller

A Gift was Received from: Alice Huemoeller; Timothy & Judith Holmquist

Gifts to the Endowment Fund

In memory of Gladys Johnson was received from Duane & Marlys Nelson.

In memory of Jerry Nelson was received from Roger Jorgenson & Dr. Janice Meyer, David & Pamela McCarthy, Glen & Sharon Witt, Janice Miller, Arlene Dickelman, Thomas & Betty Olson, Ralph & Marlys Swenson, Lucy Larson, Susan Herfindahl, James Horst.

In memory of Marit Swenson was received from Duane & Marlys Nelson.

In memory of Paul Roe was received from Duane & Marlys Nelson.

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

REVENUE	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	YTD VARIANCE
Member Envelopes/Loose	\$1,203,093	\$1,280,952	(\$77,859)
Special Env./Misc.	\$22,383	\$31,749	(\$9,366)
Total Offering	\$1,225,475	\$1,312,701	(\$87,226)
Other Income	\$5,760	\$9,657	(\$3,897)
Total Income	\$1,231,235	\$1,322,358	(\$91,123)
EXPENSES	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	YTD VARIANCE
Missions	\$167,200	\$166,500	\$700
Salaries/Wages	\$1,022,375	\$1,050,000	(\$27,625)
Ministries	\$31,900	\$80,362	(\$48,462)
Administration	\$43,009	\$50,438	(\$7,428)
Building	\$130,288	\$157,950	(\$27,662)
Total Expenses	\$1,394,772	\$1,505,250	(\$110,478)
Net Income (loss)	(\$163,537)	(\$182,892)	\$19,355

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Beginning of the Month balance	\$167,497
Net Income for the month	23,336
Mortgage Payment	(28,540)
Additional Principal Payment	(25,000)
Other Capital Expenses	(87)

Monthly Ending Balance \$137,206

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

How Can I Give Stock?

Stocks are an ideal gift to the Incarnation Operating and Capital funds with contributions of all sizes working for Incarnation's mission forever. We do ask you to consider this option and to take action before December 1 to ensure the transfer is complete before the end of the year. For detailed information on how to transfer stock, either call or email Kelsey Blinn in the Incarnation Office.



Incarnation Lutheran Church

Worship, Prayer & Among the Congregation

Hospitalized: Max Halbur; Babs and John Riedel; Ray Kermode; Mae Etta Jarvis; Wilma Jorgenson; Kathy Winchell; Danny Boehm; Don Gustafson; Megan Schornstein; Millie Gustafson; Carol Sykes; Bill Seabloom.

Sympathy to: The family of Darlene Stensby on her death; Jim DeJarlais and family on the death of his brother; Andrea Johnson and family on the death of her father; the family of Dorothy Carlson on her death; the family of Ray Kermode on his death; the family of JoAnn Moffatt on her death; Jan Ginn and family on the death of her mother; Carol Paulson and family on the death of her brother; the family of Jane Backer on her death; Jane Anderson and family on the death of her father; Jeff Smith (Marlene) and family on the death of his mother; the family of Lloyd Tack on his death.

Thanksgiving Eve Service

All are invited to the Thanksgiving Eve worship service at Incarnation, which is followed by pie and connecting time. Wednesday, November 22, 7:00 p.m.

Centered in Jesus: Prayer Stations

Spend some time guided in prayer by the prayer stations and explore what it looks like for Jesus to be at the center of your life. When: Now through December 31 in the Chapel.

Connect and Grow

Connecting in Grace Small Groups

Connect with others and deepen your faith in a once a month small group. Explore values at the heart of faith-filled living: hunger for God, love and grace, relationships, discovery, generosity, serving others, physical hunger, and living a life of worship. Groups meet on a variety of days and times. Check the Incarnation website for the latest information (search: new small groups). Suggested contribution: \$10. Register at dfloe@incarnationmn.org.

Monday Small Groups for Men

Connect your faith with your life at work, at home, and in the community. These small groups are easy to do, meeting just once a month or twice a month. Dive into a Connecting in Grace faith study for meaningful discussions, while also getting to know one another. Check the Incarnation website (search: new small groups). Suggested contribution: \$10. Register at: dfloe@incarnationmn.org. When: Once/month on Mondays, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Children, Youth and Family

Keepsake Christmas - Incarnations Evening in Bethlehem

Families and friends are invited for a special evening where you will love hearing the Christmas story being told from the perspectives of Mary, Joseph, and an angel. As you listen, each character will guide you through the creation of your very own nativity set. These keepsakes will be treasured by your family each year. Please register by November 27 in the Incarnation Office. After November 27, you will be placed on a wait list. Cost is \$15 per family. We also ask that you bring a non-perishable food item to be given to the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf. When: Friday, December 1, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Serve

Thank you from Solid Ground

The families at Solid Ground would like to thank members of Incarnation who so generously donated to the coat drive. More than 700 coats, boots, hats, scarves and mittens were collected... more new items than ever before! You provided warm clothing for all the families who needed them at Solid Ground. In addition, the remaining items will be going to others in our community to help keep them warm. Solid Ground also expressed their gratitude to the members of Incarnation who sorted, set-up and arranged the winter wear and to those who helped families select just the right sizes for their children and themselves. Many of our neighbors will be warm this winter because of your generous donations!

Congregational Business

Congregational Meeting on November 19

There will be a brief congregational meeting, for the sole purpose of election, following all four worship services on Sunday, November 19. The worship service will end and the meeting will begin immediately with each portion recessed after the election vote. As this is a continued meeting throughout the day, the only opportunity for presenting additional names from the floor will be the portion of the meeting immediately following the 8:45 a.m. worship gathering. Elections will be held to serve in positions on the Congregation Council and the Endowment Committee. Those recommended for election by the Nominating Committee and the Congregation Council are: Congregation Council: Sally Lawless; Brenda Roloff; Dan Zibell. Endowment Committee: 1st term: Vicki Engelen; Jim Grubs; Wayne Quehl; Matt Rowles; Tim Skildum; 2nd term: Scott Ginsbach; Paul Tillquist. When: Sunday, November 19.

Alternative Giving Fair

This Christmas, give gifts that transform lives by purchasing items at Incarnation’s Alternative Giving Fair held in Grace Hall (new this year!). Also available will be opportunities to share the gift of your time by volunteering with one of Incarnation’s local ministry partners.

When: Sunday, November 19, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Accounting Position

Incarnation is seeking someone with accounting experience to work as a part-time accountant. This is an hourly position for 25-28 hours per week with pro-rated benefits. For more information contact Kathy Kalsow at kkalsow@incarnationmn.org.

Sunday Morning Custodian

Incarnation is seeking a part-time custodian to support Sunday morning worship and activities. Position includes setting up computer and audio equipment, moving tables and chairs, unlocking the building and rooms, supplying bathrooms, snow removal and general cleaning as needed. For more information contact Rick Gravley at rgravley@incarnationmn.org.

Living Lutheran Magazine

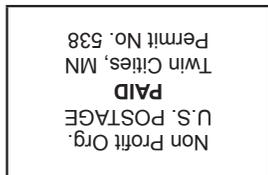
Incarnation will subsidize the subscription cost for anyone who is interested. Subscriptions for 2018 are being renewed. If you would like to receive Living Lutheran (formerly named “The Lutheran”), please send a check for \$7.00 payable to Incarnation. Please write “Living Lutheran” in the memo. The deadline is November 20, 2017.

Don’t Forget the End of 2017 is Coming!

Checks and cash that are placed in the offering plates, paid online or delivered to the Incarnation Office on or before Sunday, December 31, will be credited to your 2017 giving statement and may be claimed as a charitable contribution deduction for 2017. Mailed gifts must be postmarked on or before December 31.

How Can I Give Stock?

Stocks are an ideal gift to the Incarnation Operating and Capital funds with contributions of all sizes working for Incarnation’s mission forever. We do ask you to consider this option and to take action before December 1 to ensure the transfer is complete before the end of the year. For detailed information on how to transfer stock, either call or email Kelsey Blinn in the Incarnation Office.



Address Service Requested
4880 Hodgson Road
Shoreview, MN 55126
Incarnation Lutheran Church



Celebration Gifts Supporting ELCA World Hunger!

Though interest in the Christmas flower garden has dwindled, people’s desire to celebrate loved ones during the Christmas season remains high. Instead of purchasing plants, people may make a donation to ELCA World Hunger in honor or memory of loved ones this Christmas. Turn in your order form and payment (checks made out to Incarnation Lutheran Church with ELCA World Hunger in the memo) to the Incarnation Office by Monday, December 11. The Celebration List of gifts made in honor or memory of loved ones will be available at the Information Center and in the Gathering Space beginning December 24.

Donation amount: _____

_____ In Memory of: _____

_____ In Honor of: _____

From: _____ Phone: (_____) _____