



Lifetimes

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November 15, 2015

Mailed: November 11, 2015

Advent Begins..... pg 1

Invitation to Share God's Abundance.....pg 1

From the Staff..... pg 2

From the Long Range Planning Committee...pg 2

The Well.....pg 2

Financials.....pg 2

Memorials..... pg 3

Among the Congregation..... pg 4

Advent Begins November 29

Advent is a season of waiting and anticipation as we prepare for the coming Savior, Immanuel, who is God with us. The season of Advent is also an invitation to be thoughtful about how we are present to God and others in the midst of the preparation.

Advent Theme: The Invitation of Advent

This year, Advent begins on Sunday, November 29. The preaching theme for the four Sundays of Advent will be "The Invitation of Advent" as each week we explore a different invitation that God extends to us through the season of Advent:

- November 29: An Invitation to Presence
- December 6: An Invitation to Quiet
- December 13: An Invitation to Share
- December 20: An Invitation to Wonder

If you are interested in exploring this theme more deeply, sign up for the Advent to Epiphany E-Retreat. You can participate by receiving devotional emails 3 - 4 times per week or on the Facebook group. Learn more at incarnationmn.org/prayer.

Additional Worship Opportunities:

Blue Christmas: A Prayer Service

Tuesday, December 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Blue Christmas is a prayer service for anyone who has mixed emotions about the holiday season. While our culture proclaims it the happiest time of the year, people struggle during December for a variety of reasons. The Blue Christmas prayer service is a chance to name these realities and seek comfort in our God who took on flesh and walked among us precisely because this messy world needed a new way to hope. Come for yourself or bring someone you care about for this quiet, candlelit service.

Mid-Week Advent Worship

Wednesdays, December 3, 10 & 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

This half-hour worship service is a wonderful way to inject some calm and peace into what can be a busy season. The frame of the service is Holden Evening Prayer. The reflections will connect to the Advent Theme "The Invitation of Advent." Time for refreshments and fellowship follows each service.

Advent Appeal: ELCA World Hunger

Our Advent Appeal for 2015 is to support ELCA World Hunger. Incarnation has set an initial goal of raising \$10,000 through the month of December.

More than 800 million people - that's one in nine people in our world today - are hungry. As followers of Jesus, we are called to respond and, with generous, loving hands, work for a world in which all are fed. ELCA World Hunger has a distinctive approach to fighting hunger and poverty and is considered a model of effectiveness and sustainability because it is deeply relational and rooted in listening. ELCA World Hunger partners with local leaders to address real issues with viable solutions. ELCA Hunger is involved in 57 countries throughout the world, including 44 states in the United States.

If you would like to be a part of reaching this goal, you may do so by writing a check to Incarnation and designating 2015 Advent Appeal in the memo line or by going to the Incarnation website and following the links to donate through Incarnation on line.

Invitation to Share God's Abundance

This Christmas season give a gift that will transform someone's life in a way that another tie, sweater, or toy cannot do. You can find these gifts that are more heartwarming than a new sweater, more fun than a new toy, and more life-giving than a gift certificate to a restaurant at Incarnation's Alternative Giving Fair on Sunday, November 22 between all of the morning worship services. This year, we've added something new - a list of the ministry partners that will be staffing tables and a list of what will be offered at each table. This list is your invitation to consider which gifts you might give in honor of your family and friends - gifts that may change the life of someone you will never meet. You will also have the opportunity to share the gift of your time by volunteering with one of Incarnation's local ministry partners. Check out the list of possibilities on the website or pick up a list at the Information Center.

How will you share the wonder of the season with great gifts in honor of your friends and family? What touches your heart? Water for a village? A goat? A Microloan? Household supplies for a family moving into their first home? Food for a hungry child or some volunteer time for packing that food?

Mark your calendar now to pick up a list of items being offered at the Alternative Giving Fair and check out the many ways you can share the gift of presents and your presence with others.

From The Staff

Shawna Berg

Director of Confirmation & Faith Stepping Stones



Even though the retailers might be trying to run us right from Halloween to Christmas, there is another important day that comes in between. Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is actually one of my favorite holidays, partially because it hasn't become completely commercialized and complicated. It is simply a time for family, friends, good food, and a time to be thankful.

Being thankful is an important part of being a Christian, but it is something that many of us have forgotten how to do effectively. Psalm 100:4 says "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name."

Take a minute and think about how you pray. If you are like many of us, we find it easy to pray rote prayers (like dinner time prayers, etc.) and prayers when we need/want something from God (please help my friend get better, etc.). How often do you pray to thank God for something? How often do you pray to say "Awesome sunset God." Learning to be thankful is an art we need to practice not only at Thanksgiving, but year round. Now is a great time to begin a new practice.

It is not only good to practice thanksgiving, but it also good to remember to acknowledge where your gifts come from. James 1:17 tells us "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights". We must remember to thank God for all of the things we have been blessed with. We are thankful for God's beautiful creation. We are thankful for the love of our friends and families. We are thankful for the resources God has given us. We are thankful for the people that God has placed in our lives. The list could go on and on.

What are you thankful for this season? Have you thanked God?

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

REVENUE	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	YTD VARIANCE
Member Envelopes/Loose	\$1,241,564	\$1,296,746	(\$55,182)
Special Env./Misc.	39,657	30,458	\$9,199
Special Appeals	0	2,575	(\$2,575)
Total Offering	\$1,281,221	\$1,329,779	(\$48,558)
Other Income	6,797	9,123	(2,326)
Total Income	\$1,288,018	\$1,338,902	(\$50,884)
EXPENSES	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	YTD VARIANCE
Missions	\$164,956	\$166,125	(\$1,169)
Salaries/Wages	\$1,001,619	\$1,016,250	(\$14,631)
Ministries	\$56,968	\$81,863	(\$24,895)
Administration	\$47,391	\$61,500	(\$14,109)
Building	\$129,790	\$136,013	(\$6,222)
Total Expenses	\$1,400,724	\$1,461,750	(\$61,026)
Net Income (loss)	(\$112,706)	(\$122,848)	\$10,142

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Beginning of the Month balance	\$177,717
Net Income for the month	22,206
Mortgage Payment	(68,540)
Other Capital Expenses	(76)
Monthly Ending Balance	\$131,307

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

From the Long Range Planning Committee

Greetings all. This is one of a series of updates on the activities of the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC). The LRPC is a derivative committee of the Church Council charged with making recommendations as to the structure, function and emphasis of our congregational activities in the next phase in the life of Incarnation Lutheran Church. The LRPC takes on this responsibility prayerfully and humbly, guided by the light of the Holy Spirit and empowered by the grace and mercy of our Lord. The overall planning process has four major phases:

Phase 1: Interviews and assessments by the Holy Cow! consulting group (completed)

Phase 2: Evaluation, consideration and discussion of the Holy Cow! report by the Church Council (completed)

Phase 3: Establishment of Long Range Planning Committee. The LRPC to review materials from the Holy Cow! Group and from the Council, develop thoughts and ideas for moving forward, meet with parishoners and congregational leaders and make recommendations to the Council for advancing the mission and vision of Incarnation (in progress)

Phase 4: Church Council review of LRPC recommendations and development of an action plan (future).

As you can see, we are a little more than halfway finished with the entire process and the LRPC has been meeting regularly. The members of the LRPC are: Pastoral and Staff representatives: Denise Floe, Jeanne Hartfield, and Gary Medin. Congregational Council representative: Dick Trapp. Members at large: Dave Bernlohr (Chair), Sally Lawless, Josh Lowe, Julie Meinen, and Lisa Schroetke.

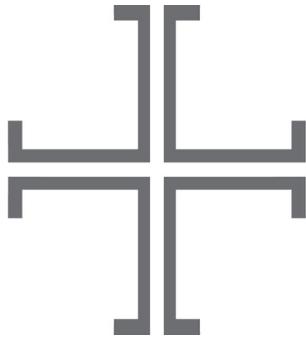
Currently, the LRPC has completed a self-assessment of congregational programs and activities and framed these within the context of the congregational survey (Holy Cow! report) and Church Council responses. We anticipate progressing over the holiday season towards ideas and recommendations and will hold congregational meetings to get feedback prior to making a full recommendation report to the Church Council. Please include the members of the LRPC in your thoughts and prayers and please feel free to talk with anyone on the Committee about the process, your ideas or your concerns.

The Well

By Pastor Kyle Jackson

As you enter the sanctuary, you may notice that the lights are a little darker. You also may notice a guitar and cello, and a unique instrument called a cajon. There are prayer stations set up, and there is a canoe in the sanctuary! Welcome to The Well, Incarnation's experiential, intergenerational and contemporary worship service put on by the Children, Youth and Family Staff on the second Sunday of every month. Everyone is invited. You are encouraged to move about freely during the service. You are encouraged to sing and dance. If your child is antsy, it is absolutely OK to get up and walk them to one of the prayer stations and interact with the Bible story and prayer.

Each month, we will be looking at a different story where Jesus encounters a person on the water, in the water, or someone searching for living water. Jesus comes to us as the living water. Jesus shares it with the woman at the well, and in turn, she shares it with her entire village. This living water can be experienced by us still today. We invite you to come and be apart. If you are interested in being a part of the worship team, or if you are in elementary, middle school or high school and would like to be a reader, please contact Pastor Kyle in the Incarnation Office.



Incarnation Receives Memorial Gifts During the Third Quarter of 2015

In the third quarter of the year, July to September 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: Gil Backer

A Gift Was Received from: Mae Etta Jarvis, Anna Thorstad, Murt & Rollie Seltz, Margaret Miller, Carl & Jan Johnson, Marlene Selvog, Marlys Nelson

In Remembrance of: John C. Riedel

A Gift Was Received from: James Lippitt, Gary & Nancy Zabel, Carl & Jan Johnson, Denise & Theodore Cabak, James & Roberta Goebel, Marian & Steven Woodford, Ken & Rosalie Grosch

In Remembrance of: Toby Iverson

A Gift Was Received from: Joan & Jack Iverson

In Remembrance of: Jim Buege

A Gift Was Received from: Erica Fultz

In Remembrance of: Rob Covey's mother

A Gift Was Received from: Claudia & Don Wiebold

In Remembrance of: Tom Krueger's mother

A Gift Was Received from: Audrey Carlson

In Remembrance of: Grandma & Grandpa, Carl & Vi Swenson

A Gift Was Received from: Keelan, Evan & Jenna Watkins

In Remembrance of: Clif Molzen

A Gift Was Received from: Jim & Carol Fruehling, Gene & MaryLou Lindholm, Jim & Julie Meinen, Bill & Bev Seabloom, Rollie & LeAnn Sullivan, Karin Brown, Larry & Donna Wipf, Larry & LouAnn Reese, Marlys J. Nelson

In Remembrance of: Don Fultz's sister

A Gift Was Received from: Paul & Alice Holm

In Remembrance of: Arne Blomquist

A Gift Was Received from: Cal & Sharon Wilson, Joseph & Susan Everson, Ken & Rosalie Grosch

In Remembrance of: Bev Kohl

A Gift Was Received from: Louise Ostergren, Linda Kohl & George Beran, John & Vicki Nyman, Marie Hulterstrum, Robert & Carole Stucker, Duane & Marlys Nelson, Mary Lou & Gene Lindholm, Nancy & Jerry Conner, Larry & Judy Hull, Steve & Sue Carlson, John & Maureen Vruno, Peg Brenden & Deb Olson, Douglas & JoAnne Zarling, Gary, Carolyn, Daniel & Jon Zarling, Audrey Schedin, Marlys Nelson, Larrie & Lou Ann Reese, Bill & Bev Seabloom, Rob & Lisa Morse, Bill & Tam Mittelstadt, Harriet Anderson, Jim & Carol Fruehling, Yvonne Nyman, Jane Kemp, Jeffrey & Mary Jo Joyner, Larry & Judy Hull and family, Miriam Ryken & John Schulz

In Remembrance of: Ken Anderson

A Gift Was Received from: Harriet Anderson & family

In Remembrance of: Kent Anderson

A Gift Was Received from: Harriet Anderson & family

Gifts were made to the Endowment Fund in memory of Clif Molzen by Harry & Marian Johnson, Carl & Jan Johnson, and Bill & Nancy Swenson. Gifts were also made to the Endowment Fund in memory of Bev Kohl by Bill & Nancy Swenson and Carl & Jan Johnson. A gift was made to the Endowment Fund in memory of the Reverend Arvid Bidne by Anne Bidne.



Incarnation Lutheran Church

Worship, Prayer & Among the Congregation

Recently Hospitalized: Linda Nelson; Kara Genia; Carolyn Fischer; Peter Swenson; Don Engle.

Sympathy to: The family of Martin Strandness on his death; Diane Iverson and family on the death of her father; Jan Wolke and family on the death of her mother; Chris Boyer and family on the death of her mother; Don Fultz and family on the death of her sister; Al Anderson and family on the death of his sister.

Congratulations to: Lidiya Dergacheva and Adam Valberg on their recent marriage.

Connect & Grow

Small Groups: Knitting

Several groups gather, once a month, to take part in conversation and devotions, while working on individual projects. Morning, afternoon, and evening groups are available. Find out more at: dfloe@incarnationmn.org.

Serve

Worship Assistant Recharge

Interested in serving as a worship assistant during Sanctuary worship? Learn more about the ministry, receive resources, tips and guidance, as well as connect with other worship assistants, both seasoned and new to the ministry. RSVP by contacting Becky Benson at bbenson@incarnationmn.org or just come. Confirmed high school youth and older, are invited to serve!

When: Sunday, November 22, 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Communion Server Orientation

Interested in serving communion? Orientation will include discussion of the importance of communion serving as part of worship and some theological perspective on the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Practical preparation for serving will also be provided. RSVP at bbenson@incarnationmn.org or just come. Confirmed high school youth and older, are invited to serve!

When: Sunday, December 6, 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Non Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
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Twin Cities, MN
Permit No. 538

Address Service Requested

4880 Hodgson Road
Shoreview, MN 55126

Incarnation Lutheran Church



Thank you from Solid Ground

The families at Solid Ground would like to thank the people of Incarnation who generously donated to the coat drive. 335 coats and 500 boots, hats, scarves and mittens were collected to provide warm clothing for 40 adults and 110 children at Solid Ground. The remaining items will be going to others in the community who need warm winter wear. Solid Ground also thanks those who sorted, set-up and arranged the winter wear and to those who helped families select the right sizes for their children and themselves.



Congregational Business

Congregational Meeting on November 22

There will be a brief congregational meeting, for the sole purpose of election, following all four worship services on Sunday, November 22. 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 as Synod Representatives.

When: Sunday, November 22, after all worship services.

Incarnation 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.