



Lifetimes

Holy Week and Easter Schedule

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March 13, 2016

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Passion (Palm) Sunday, March 20

8:45 a.m. - Traditional Service with Communion.
10:05 a.m. - Traditional Service with Communion.
10:45 a.m. - Contemporary Service.
6:00 p.m. - Contemporary Service with Communion.

Maundy Thursday, March 24

7:00 p.m. - Communion. Nursery Available.

Good Friday, March 25

11:00 a.m. - Worship Designed for Young Families
5:00 p.m. - Contemporary Tenebrae. Nursery Available.
7:00 p.m. - Traditional Tenebrae. Nursery Available.

Easter Sunday, March 27

7:00 a.m. (Sunrise) - Communion
8:00 a.m. Nursery Available.
9:00 a.m. Nursery Available.
10:00 a.m. Nursery Available.
11:00 a.m. Nursery Available.
11:30 a.m. (in Incarnation Hall) Nursery Available.
6:00 p.m. (in Incarnation Hall with Communion) Nursery Available.

From The Staff

Becky Benson

Director of Inviting Ministry



What is it about worship?

Worship can feel like a counter-cultural thing to do in 2016. We see it by the many things scheduled on Sunday mornings (or evenings) such as kids' sports practices and games, athletic races, professional conferences, exercise classes, music lessons, and gatherings with friends and family. Even as someone who doesn't have much competing for her time on Sundays, I'll admit there are days I don't feel much like going to a worship gathering . . . that is, until I remember that worshipping is a lot like nurturing a relationship, my relationship with God. If I'm honest, sometimes I'm not in the mood to tend to the human relationships in my life, but I do it anyway because these relationships are with those I love, care about, and am otherwise invested. My relationship with God is one I want to nurture which is one of the reasons I choose to be a part of worship gatherings on a regular basis, allowing for all the unexpected but magnificent ways God can speak to us.

While I am thrilled when I receive great insight on faith and life from a sermon (and most often do!), I'll admit I don't always listen as carefully to the message preached as I could, because I'm distracted. My brokenness and apathy can also get in the way of my ability to hear the message as intended. More and more I'm discovering that it's the portions of the service in which I'm invited to participate - singing, reading responsively, or praying silently, that anchors my worship experience. Selfishly, it makes me grateful for the pattern of worship used at Incarnation which encourages participation versus just observation. (I've even been known to sing when I'm not really invited to, like during the offering music, eliciting THE LOOK, from my family).

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Help Us Feed 2,055 Kids for a Year

By Lynda Thompson

If you've been around Incarnation for any length of time, you know that during this time of the year the excitement builds toward Incarnation's FMSC MobilePack™ event. What you may not know is that we have been doing this for nine years because in 2006 several folks who were in their twenties at the time decided that for them, worshipping God meant serving others. They had the crazy idea that the people of Incarnation could come together for a few days in the (then) new space of Incarnation Hall and pack enough meals to fill one of Feed My Starving Children's semi-trailers. Luckily, they proposed the idea to their senior pastor who loved the crazy idea of getting the entire congregation together to do something amazing for others and the rest is history. This year, Incarnation will partner with Roseville Lutheran Church to pack 750,000 meals which will feed 2,055 kids for one year on May 2-5. That will mean that Incarnation's nine-years of MobilePacks will have fed more than 12,000 kids for a year. Over the past few years, these kids have mostly been in Haiti, The Dominican Republic, and Nicaragua. Each child now has a good chance to live a healthy and productive life because of the 1.5 hours each of you spends packing. That is amazing! If you haven't signed up for this loud, crazy, and audacious event yet, you can do it by clicking on the bottom box on the home page of the Incarnation home website.

Each year we try to add a little something to make the pack more meaningful and this year the Planning Team came up with the idea of gathering together to learn more about the solvable problem of hunger in the world and to explore how Jesus calls us to be part of the solution. We are calling this opportunity, Nourishing Hope. Three sessions will be facilitated by Pastor Gary Medin and one of the sessions will be packing at the FMSC MobilePack™ Event at Incarnation. You won't want to miss this opportunity to enhance your understanding of this pervasive problem and to gather with others who share your interest in feeding God's beloved children in the world. The sessions are scheduled for April 7, 21, and May 19 from 7 - 8:45 p.m. You can sign up for this event in the Incarnation Office or online.

Goodbye to Pastor Kyle Jackson



As was announced in worship on February 28, Pastor Kyle Jackson has accepted a call to St. Andrew's Lutheran Church as the Pastor of Congregational Care. Pastor Jackson will direct, administer, and coordinate the day to day pastoral care needs of that congregation. He will also serve as the part-time chaplain of St. Andrew's Village, a senior facility with apartments, assisted living, and memory care facilities. We will most certainly miss the

gifts Pastor Jackson has shared in ministry at Incarnation, but also know that his ministry gifts and skills will be a blessing to the people of St. Andrew's and that God's kingdom will be served.

Pastor Jackson's last Sunday as a pastor of Incarnation will be on April 3rd. On that morning we invite you to visit with Kyle and thank him for his ministry with us during a continuous reception in Grace Hall from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. and in The Gathering Space following 10:45 a.m. worship.

Habitat for Humanity

By Jim Fruehling

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit Christian housing ministry with a mission to eliminate poverty housing in the Twin Cities and to make decent, affordable shelter for all people a matter of conscience. Holy Hammers is an ecumenical coalition of 14 congregations including Incarnation that since 1999 has built 21 homes providing housing for more than 155 people.

In 2016 the Holy Hammers will spend 11 weeks building a single-family home at 11 East Maryland Ave. in St. Paul starting April 25. This project will include many opportunities to serve this ministry in order to allow a deserving homebuyer family to realize their dream of homeownership. Anyone 16 years and older can volunteer to help with construction. No particular skill is needed, just a willingness to learn and work with others. Participation offers the health benefits of physical activity, mental stimulation and social interaction. Additional ways to serve are as follows: help provide lunches and morning snacks, be a site host and provide financial support. Many of you already include Habitat for Humanity in your planned giving. If so, please consider making a contribution to Incarnation with the designation to TCHFH/Holy Hammers so that gift goes directly to our project.

Since the homebuyers are required to invest between 300 - 500 hours of sweat equity prior to finalizing their mortgage, there are usually many days when we are able to work side by side with the homebuyer family members. These times are especially meaningful because we learn first-hand how a new home in a safe and stable neighborhood can transform a family.

Everyone will have an opportunity to get information and sign up to volunteer from April to July following Sunday morning worship services on 3/20, 4/3 and 4/10 at the Holy Hammers table in the Atrium and Gathering Space. For more information, contact Jim Fruehling at 651-483-1704 or jcfruehling@icloud.com.

From the Staff, continued

Participatory worship leaves me with the sense that I've been a part of an active relationship with God.

I don't mean to suggest that I don't experience God in powerful ways when I pray by myself, when I'm reading the Bible, when in service, or am out in God's amazing creation, because I do. But there's something different, sort of mysterious and uniquely profound to be in the presence of others during a worship gathering. It's hard to explain but it's been good for me. Simply seeing others worshipping (either in person or the names entered in the blue folder each week) tells me I am not alone on this journey, encourages me when I have doubts, and reminds me of the bigger picture beyond my own cares. All of YOU who also show up, do this for me and tell me you also are tending to your relationship with God.

A number of times this season, I have entered worship, 6:00 most often, with a heavier than usual heart due to the pain people in my life are experiencing. The 6:00 p.m. service with the lights dimmed, candles and prayer station, many congregational songs, and prayers to be spoken, often pulls me out of my slump and has given me the hope and inspiration needed for the next day and week. That's what relationships can do for us, lifting us up and redirecting us towards a brighter, more hopeful tomorrow.

Long Range Planning Committee Update

The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) has been meeting regularly throughout the Christmas season and will continue to do so through Lent and into Easter. The primary emphasis of the Committee has been on Visioning for the Future around three primary components of our congregation: *Worship, Music and Prayer; Invite, Engage and Grow; Care, Serve and Empower.* We believe that these three themes connect with everyone, regardless of your age, gender, interest or faith history. We believe that Incarnation has the capacity and the congregational spirit to be transformational in each of these areas. We have taken the congregational survey plus inputs from the Congregation Council to imagine what our future might hold along these three axes. In transforming vision into recommendation, we rely on the Incarnation statement on Mission, Vision and Values as guideposts.

Over the next weeks and months the LRPC will transition towards Formulating Recommendations in each of the three major theme areas. Moreover, we will be visiting a number of churches in the metro area to assess how their ministry goals are translated into action. We anticipate connecting springtime with the Incarnation congregation once we have refined our ideas and benchmarked them against other successful congregations in the area.

Goodbye to Bill Conlin



After ten years of service at Incarnation, Bill Conlin has resigned his position as the Business Administrator to pursue other career opportunities. Bill's care and concern for the people involved with Incarnation has added much to our ministry together. His dedication, faithful service, ability to talk with anyone and make them feel welcome, and his many other gifts will most certainly be missed. Please

keep Bill and his family in your prayers as they move through this transition. Please also keep Incarnation in your prayers as we transition and begin the search for a new business administrator in the next few months.

INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH GENERAL FUND - INCOME & EXPENSE REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING JANUARY, 2016

REVENUE	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	YTD VARIANCE
Member Envelopes/Loose	\$121,100	\$143,364	(\$22,264)
Special Env./Misc.	175	2,748	(\$2,573)
Special Appeals	0	0	\$0
Total Offering	\$121,275	\$146,112	(\$24,837)
Other Income	980	334	646
Total Income	\$122,255	\$146,446	(\$24,191)
EXPENSES	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	YTD VARIANCE
Missions	\$10,407	\$18,717	(\$8,310)
Salaries/Wages	\$116,574	\$114,583	\$1,991
Ministries	\$9,550	\$8,946	\$604
Administration	\$2,546	\$6,125	(\$3,579)
Building	\$19,824	\$16,546	\$3,278
Total Expenses	\$158,901	\$164,917	(\$6,016)
Net Income (loss)	(\$36,645)	(\$18,471)	(\$18,175)

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Beginning of the Month balance	\$220,764
Net Income for the month	31,090
Mortgage Payment	(28,540)
Other Capital Expenses	(116)
Monthly Ending Balance	\$223,198

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

Advent Appeal Total

By Vernita Kennen

The final figures for the Advent Appeal are in and Incarnation's generosity and caring for those who are living with hunger and poverty around the world are heartwarming. The goal amount of \$10,000 was reached and more than reached again with a final total of \$26,796.26. Thank you to everyone, young and not so young, who "gifted" family, friends, and others of God's children by sharing through the World Hunger program of our ELCA. Your gifts are being put to use through more than 300 programs in the U.S. and in 50+ countries around the world.



Incarnation Lutheran Church

Worship, Prayer & Among the Congregation

Those hospitalized: Gretchen Anderson; Mary Blomquist; Silas Bloxham.

Sympathy to: Marilee Giere and family on the death of her sister-in-law; Pam Davey and family on the death of her mother; Bob Arndt and family on the death of his brother-in-law; Robin Norsted and family on the death of her sister; Leigh Olson and family on the death of her brother.

Congratulations to: Lori Peterson and Jeff Bird on their recent marriage.

Connect & 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 associate membership. Childcare is available for those who make an advanced registration. Registration is due by 4:30 p.m. April 13. When: Saturday, April 16, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Faith and Work Gathering

The final Faith and Work Gathering for the season will be April 12 where Dr. Jeanne Buckeye from St. Thomas University will be the guest speaker. Cost is \$10 for meal and program. Register by contacting Becky Benson at bbenson@incarnationmn.org by April 8 at 4:30 p.m. When: Tuesday, April 12, 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Summer Small Group for "Recently Retired" or "About to Retire"

Connect with others in a similar stage of life, for this summer 2016 small group. Explore how to live with purpose, meaning, joy and a growing faith, in this new life stage. The group is based on, *How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free*. Suggested contribution: \$10. For more information or to register: dfloe@incarnationmn.org.

Sunday Morning Small Group: Faith-Filled Conversations

Meet with others on Sunday mornings, once a month, to take a new step in your faith. Watch and talk about short videos based on the popular book, *Love Does*, writer, Bob Goff. A great starting place, if you're new to small groups! Leader: Grant Rykken. Register: dfloe@incarnationmn.org. When: Sundays, once/month, 9:45 - 10:45 a.m.

Serve

Feed My Starving Children MobilePack™ Sign Up

Once again Incarnation will host a FMSC MobilePack™ on May 2-5. Sign up with your family, friends, neighbors, small group beginning on the Incarnation website.

When: May 2-5.

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 evening sessions will enrich your MobilePack™ experience and include information and discussions about the solutions to the problem of hunger framed by Jesus' teachings about feeding the hungry. Registration for Nourishing Hope begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10 and continues until Wednesday, March 30. Register by stopping by or calling the Incarnation Office or sign up online by clicking on the FMSC/Nourishing Hope banner.

When: April 7, 21, and May 19 from 7 - 8:45 p.m. and then a MobilePack™ shift.

Feed My Starving Children Contributions

Do you work for a company that will match your giving to non-profits? If so then you know you could double your donation to Incarnation's Feed My Starving Children MobilePack™. If you're not sure, check with your employer and then ask them to match your contribution to Incarnation's 2016 MobilePack™, May 2-5 and help reach the goal of raising \$165,000 to 2,055 kids for a year. With your help we can make this happen.

When: May 2-5.

March is MN Food Share Month

A portion of all donations of food and dollars to Ralph Reeder Food Shelf in March are matched by Minnesota Foodshare. The more they raise the bigger their match. Or pick up a list of most-needed items at the Information Center and then fill a shopping bag with items and drop it off in the large bin by the Information Center.

When: During March.

Prayer Partners

Incarnation is still looking for prayer partners for the 2016 Confirmation Class. You need to be available Monday, April 18, 2016 from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m., in addition to writing a few notes to the confirmand you are paired with. Please contact Debbie Morse in the Incarnation Office as soon as possible at 651-484-7213.

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Incarnation Lutheran Church Office: 651-484-7213

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If payments are made at the Incarnation Office, Visa and Mastercard are accepted for payment.