



Lifetimes

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May 15, 2016

Mailed: May 11, 2016

Children, Youth & Family Summer Ministry Opportunities

By Rebecca Christiansen

I am excited the ice is out on area lakes and there is no more snow! I am excited to see new life growing from the plants outside my office window. It's fun to watch as the birds are busy building their nests! I'm also excited about all the summer ministry opportunities that we have been planning for this summer. Summer is just around the corner and we invite you and all your friends to be part of everything happening this summer that is being offered for children 4 years of age all the way through High School. Here are just a few of the important dates to remember: Vacation Bible School June 20 - 24, Art Camp July 12 - 14, Music and Theater Camp July 25 - 28, SEEDS at Camp Wapo July 15 - 17, Youth Camp at Camp Wapo July 17 - 22, Wapo One Day July 20, Tim Team at Camp Wapo/Ox Lake July 17 - 22, Family Camp at Camp Wapo August 19 - 21. We also have Summer Stretch, Serve and Play, Dad and Daughter Trip to the Wilderness Canoe Base located on Seagull Lake in the Boundary waters.

If you think you're too old to be part of these summer ministries, you're NOT! We are looking for great adult leaders who want to be influential in the lives of the children who are participating in the summer ministries. For more information about Children, Youth and Family summer ministry opportunities please visit the Incarnation webpage, visit with Children, Youth and Family staff or stop by the Incarnation Office.

- Children, Youth & Family Summer Ministry Opportunities.....pg 1
- From the Staff..... pg 1
- Kids Love FMSC.....pg 2
- Where There's A Will, There's A Way..... pg 2
- Summer Stretch Needs You.....pg 2
- Easter Banner..... pg 2
- Resources for Children in Worship.....pg 2
- Financials..... pg 3
- Memorial..... pg 3
- Among the Congregation..... pg 4

From The Staff

Denise Floe

Director of Small Group Ministry



Last summer I attended the Henderson Hummingbird Hurrah to hear one of my favorite speakers, and with the hope of seeing a hummingbird banding. I still can't imagine capturing those lightening-speed wings and placing a tiny band around the miniature legs. While there, I purchased a weekly calendar, mostly to support a friend and the Freshwater Society. The photos and nature notes are great, but I didn't need another calendar and left feeling some guilt about the purchase. What would I do with it?

As a new year arrived, so did a new idea for the calendar. Inspired by Incarnation friends, I started a practice of writing, in the square for each date, statements of gratitude. It's now a regular practice to pause, reflect, and write on most days. This regular pattern keeps me more mindful of gratitude and the abundance of blessings surrounding us. And, it naturally turns me to prayer. If I'm able to continue this new faith practice, at the end of December, I'll have a calendar filled with gratitude memories and prayers of thanksgiving.

On some days, my gratitude starts with the things you might think of right away - friends, family, food. On other days, I'm more aware of the simple, ordinary things that I might take for granted or skip by while moving too quickly - the unusual way a tulip opened, for example. This attentiveness to ordinary things also keeps me more present in the moment, spending a little less time living in the past or worrying about the future. Across time, my gratitude has shifted to watching for what others are grateful for and joining with them in giving thanks. I'm finding myself giving thanks for the people and experiences that have shaped my life. And, I'm noticing and giving thanks for people and places that are making a difference in the world for others.

For all of us, there are days when gratitude feels far away. The news is heavy. Loss or difficulties are close at hand. Our heart breaks for others who are hurting. At times like these, a practice of gratitude can seem empty, forced, and even irritating. Honestly, I'm not sure I'll be able to write on all those days (at least in the moment). What I've found, with advice from a friend, is that on tough days, this practice prompts me to imagine (or at least ask) where God might be active and working, even (or especially) in the midst of the difficult circumstances. It pushes me to look more deeply and move to more prayer. And, sometimes, this can bring me back to gratitude, once again.

As I write this today, the building is filled with the scent of soy. People of all ages, from all over, are together packing the vitamins, veggies, soy, and rice that will be lunch or dinner for someone who is hungry. I wish you could be here, across the week, to see wave after wave of people arrive and boxes leave. I'm so grateful for the Incarnation building, big enough and accessible enough for a FMSC mobile pack. I'm grateful for the vision of those who started this effort. I'm grateful for each person who has invited someone to join them. I'm grateful for the "green shirts" who keep it running. I'm grateful for this community - for being the hands of Jesus, feeding the hungry. I am so grateful for Incarnation - a blessing that keeps coming up in my writing, day after day, week after week. And, I'm grateful for you.

Kids Love FMSC

By Megan Schornstein

Have your children been talking about Feed My Starving Children at home? Are they requesting to do extra chores to collect money to put in their boxes? At my house, the money box sits prominently on the counter in the kitchen as a constant reminder of collecting change for the hungry. For most youth, this excitement began in February, which was the month that I had the privilege to share a Bible story and talk about hunger related issues with our Spark kids and confirmation students. This year's lesson was about Manna, Quail, and Water. As we learned in the story, God provides for our needs and he helps us provide for others. We also were able to talk about the many steps it takes for us to get the food from the planning stage to the packing stage to the food arriving at its final destination. Through this process, the children were able to see pictures of past Mobile Packs at Incarnation, Incarnation members serving on mission trips in Haiti through Healing Haiti in partnership with FMSC, and the many children that are blessed with and by the food that we pack every year.

This year the youth of Spark Sunday were given boxes to collect money to help purchase the food we'll pack. Their collection goal was \$500.00. I'm happy to share that through their hard work and dedication, they have blown right past their goal to raise over \$1,000! Our youth are living our mission! They are helping to provide God's children with manna, quail, and water in the form of vitamins, veggies, soy, and rice! Way to go Incarnation and a HUGE shout out to our amazing little ones. There are and will be God's hands and feet in this world far into the future!

Summer Stretch Needs You!

Summer Stretch is an ecumenical weekly all-day program for middle school participants and high school youth leaders. Incarnation participates alongside four other local congregations to form the Centennial Area Summer Stretch group. Summer Stretch meets on Wednesdays and our day includes a time of worship, service, Bible study and fellowship. Because our program involves anywhere between 150 and 250 students we rely heavily on the parents of those who sign up to partner with us as volunteers. 90% of our parent volunteers serve in the morning. These volunteers are paired with a small group of middle school youth, their youth leaders and are sent out to one of fifteen (or more!) service sites as drivers.

Many volunteers are hesitant of their role and importance before the day starts but when they return they are thrilled to share about the relationships that were formed with students from their congregation and other area churches. Volunteers also have the opportunity to serve at a number of local agencies that they have not served at before, broadening their service experience. Kim, a parent volunteer, shared these words "Summer Stretch has been a life changing experience not only for my daughter, but also for me. I have learned about so many wonderful agencies that are doing so much for the people here in our backyards and around the world. I have also loved getting to know middle and high school youth from my church and their friends who go to other churches around us."

Because of our numbers we cannot do Summer Stretch without people who are willing to drive and participate at service sites. While we still require parents to volunteer, we are trying to adapt our program to the changing dynamics of families. For the first time we are offering a 'buy-out' option, something that is commonly seen with sports teams. This 'buy-out' option releases families of their volunteer times for a fee of \$50. Because we are anticipating a number of students and families choosing this option we are in need of drivers. We need people who are willing to drive. People who are willing to be in relationship with middle and high school youth. People who are willing to serve. We need people like you!! If this is something that you are feeling called to be a part of this summer. Please contact Kristin Bloxham, Director of High School Ministry for more information.

Where There's a Will, There's a Way

Lutherans have a need to give, to make a difference in the lives of others as a response to God's grace. Garrison Keillor often speaks of Lutherans and notes that they are folk "who get up and do what needs to be done." Lutherans are generous people and have the means to be about God's work. Have you included Incarnation in your estate plan?

Wills and Bequests are an easy and meaningful way to witness what God has done in your life. Include the Incarnation Endowment Fund as one of your beneficiaries in your Will, Trust, or financial plan. Plant a "legacy seed" with a Bequest that will continue to grow forever as we serve our faith community and connect present visions with future generations. To learn more about a gift that keeps on giving, check out the following link for information: <http://incarnationmn.org/about/endowment/>

Easter Banner

We hope you have enjoyed the new banner hanging in the Sanctuary this Easter season. The artist, Katherine Reif Anderson, a resident of White Bear Lake and a member of St. Mary of the Lake Church in White Bear, shared with us the following thoughts:

"Inspired by the biblical story of the Easter mystery of the Risen Christ, I have created a painting entitled 'Morning of the Resurrection'.

I have chosen a color palette to represent the colors of spring against a background of an abstracted watery landscape, lit from above by a burst of light. This bright aura signifies our Savior's brilliant promise of redemption guaranteed by His ultimate sacrifice on the cross.

The river-like meandering body of water moving towards the light suggests how our life journey, buoyed by the waters of Baptism, leads towards our final resting place at our Lord's side in heaven. It is appropriate that the banner hangs above the Baptismal Font at Incarnation.

The style of painting, created on an airy gauze-like fabric, is rendered in a slightly abstract manner, to allow each viewer a personal interpretation. Individuals come to a place of worship for a huge range of reasons. They come to celebrate, to contemplate, to grieve. They come for introspection, for solace, for guidance, for camaraderie and a sense of belonging, for a way to be lifted above the busy-ness of earthly things. My hope is that, through my liturgical art, I have played a small part in enhancing the spiritual journey of congregation members and provided some source of joy, comfort, inspiration and beauty."

New Resources for Children in Worship

There are new resources for children to use during worship. For pre-readers, an adult can pick up a pack of "Worship Cues" to help young children understand what is happening in worship. For readers, there are clip boards with activity sheets. Adults - look for the Children's Worship Activity Cart for many resources in one place. In the Sanctuary, look just outside the Sanctuary near the sliding glass doors. In Incarnation Hall, the cart, Rainbow Bags, and SPARK Storybook Bibles are located along the west wall near the entrances to worship.



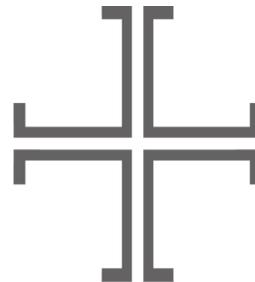
**INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH
GENERAL FUND - INCOME & EXPENSE REPORT
FOR THE MONTH ENDING MARCH, 2016**

REVENUE	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	YTD VARIANCE
Member Envelopes/Loose	\$414,346	\$444,424	(\$30,078)
Special Env./Misc.	20,572	14,652	\$5,920
Special Appeals	0	0	\$0
Total Offering	\$434,918	\$459,076	(\$24,158)
Other Income	3,018	1,894	1,124
Total Income	\$437,936	\$460,970	(\$23,034)
EXPENSES	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	YTD VARIANCE
Missions	\$58,153	\$56,150	\$2,003
Salaries/Wages	\$349,091	\$343,750	\$5,341
Ministries	\$20,395	\$26,837	(\$6,442)
Administration	\$13,807	\$18,375	(\$4,567)
Building	\$53,778	\$49,638	\$4,141
Total Expenses	\$495,225	\$494,750	\$475
Net Income (loss)	(\$57,289)	(\$33,780)	(\$23,509)

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Beginning of the Month balance	\$181,175
Net Income for the month	30,980
Mortgage Payment	(28,540)
Other Capital Expenses	(207)
Monthly Ending Balance	\$183,408

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



Incarnation Receives Memorial Gifts During the First Quarter of 2016

In the first quarter of the year, January to March 2016, 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: Don Engle

A Gift was Received from: Jim & Carol Fruehling, Bill & Bev Seabloom, Rollie & LeAnn Sullivan, Don & Jean Alsop

In Remembrance of: Richard Palumbo

A Gift was Received from: Marlys Nelson

In Remembrance of: Ken Nelson

A Gift was Received from: MaeEtta Jarvis, Will & Carolyn Liebenow, Marlys Nelson, Bev & Joe Stepka, Anna Thorstad, G & J Murakami, Douglas & Barbara Merchant, Kay Philbrook, Lila Recksiedler, Audrey Borr, John & Jennifer Hakes, The Lawless Family, Pat Kirchner, Jon & Michelle Wood, Carol Nelson

In Remembrance of: Terry Lundgren

A Gift was Received from: Jan & Mike Carey, Marlys Nelson

In Remembrance of: Peggy Detwiler

A Gift was Received from: Bette Olson

In Remembrance of: Gene Egelkraut

A Gift was Received from: Bette Olson

In Remembrance of: Rollie Sullivan

A Gift was Received from: Marianne Johnson, Ken & Rosalie Grosch, Jon & Jill Nelson, Bette Olson, Gordon & Eileen Stutzman, Karen & Steve Schreiner, Carol & Jim Fruehling, Elaine McGillivray, Donna Yates

Gifts were made to the Endowment Fund in memory of Mae Fransen by Marlys and Duane Nelson, Larrie and LouAnn Reese, Freda Munson, David & Shirley Kangas, Ron & Fran Kaliszewski and Marlys J. Nelson.

A gift was also made to the Endowment Fund in memory of James Richards from Duane and Marlys Nelson.

Bill and Nancy Swenson made a gift to the Endowment Fund in memory of Rollie Sullivan.





Incorporation Lutheran Church

Worship, Prayer & Among the Congregation

Those hospitalized: Jan Johnson.

Sympathy to: Janny Moses and family on the death of her husband.

Congratulations to: Danielle Santos and Chad Friesen on their recent marriage.

Connect & Grow

Casual Biking Small Group

Bike at a casual pace, experience creation, and connect with others who enjoy biking. This small group takes easy to moderate trails around the Twin Cities, meeting at each trailhead. The group bikes for 2-3 hours, up to 20 miles (8-12 mph). Men and women are welcome. Register: dfloe@incarnationmn.org.

When: Five Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., June - September.

Cycling Fellowship Group for Adults

Connect with other cyclists and explore Twin Cities bike trails. This group cycles on Saturdays, 20-25 miles (approximately 14 mph). The group also takes part in devotions together, led by the group leaders. It is designed for cyclists who are ages 18 and above. Register at dfloe@incarnationmn.org.

When: Five Saturdays, 8 - 11:30 a.m., June - August

Summer Small Group on Sunday Mornings

Meet and connect with others, while taking a new step in your faith. This small group will watch a variety of faith-based DVD segments, and talk about how the messages connect to daily life. If you're new to small groups, this is a great starting place. Leader: Grant Rykken. Register: dfloe@incarnationmn.org.

When: Five Sundays, 9:45 - 10:45 a.m., June - August.

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Incorporation Lutheran Church



Summer Small Group on Tuesday Evenings

Connect with others and talk about how to actively live out your faith. Watch segments from an unconventional video series, where Jon Weese describes how loving people, as God does, is meaningful and fun. Explore themes related to caring about others through the video, Jesus Prom. Suggested contribution: \$5. Register: dfloe@incarnationmn.org.

When: Six Tuesdays, 7 - 8:30 p.m., July - August.

Congregational Business

Summer Incorporation Office and Building Hours

May 27 through September 2, the Incorporation Office and building will be closed on Fridays at 12:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, the Incorporation Office will be open from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Sundays 8:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Preschool Director Position Available

Incorporation Preschool is now accepting resumes for the Director position. Visit the Incorporation website at <http://incarnationmn.org/about/employment/> for position description and qualifications. Send resume and cover letter to Pastor Jeanne Hartfield at jhartfield@incarnationmn.org.

Celebrate Martie Martin's Retirement

All past, current, and upcoming Incorporation Preschool families are invited to an open house to enjoy a cookie and wish Martie well in her upcoming retirement. No RSVP required. Gather at the Incorporation Preschool Playground or in event of rain, the Gathering Space outside Incorporation Hall.

When: Friday, May 20, 3 - 5:00 p.m.

Incorporation 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 Incorporation Office, Visa and Mastercard are accepted for payment.