



Lifetimes

Holy Week and Easter Worship

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March 11, 2018

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Passion (Palm) Sunday, March 25

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, March 29

7:00 p.m. - Traditional Service with Communion. Nursery Available.

Good Friday, March 30

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 1

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

Becky Benson

Director of Serve and Inviting Ministries



I've struggled reading the Bible with any regularity. I've tried numerous techniques including one year reading plans I found online, taking regular classes like Bible Study Fellowship, and even Incarnation's Bible Reading Challenge from a few summers ago. At best, I'd skip days and cram several days into one, or worse, get horribly behind, discouraged and give up. That is, until Pastor Gary Medin told me about a Bible he'd been using, *The NRSV Daily Bible: Read, Meditate, and Pray Through the Entire Bible in 365 Days*. What a fantastic resource!

Starting this process almost a year ago, I'm not even at Day 182 so clearly I'm on the two plus year plan. However, I'm finding that my Bible reading with this resource is far more regular and interesting than I've ever experienced before. In fact, I'm now challenging myself to shower as quickly as I can so I can get as much reading and reflecting done before the rest of the house wakes up. On good days, I get about 45 minutes in. I don't love getting up at 5:00 a.m., but this early morning time with God seems to be working and I'm grateful.

This particular Bible assigns the reader three or four chapters of a book each day. Each day's scripture is followed by an invitation to "Meditate" (on a single verse from the assigned reading), "Contemplate" a reflection and questions written by a wise and thoughtful Christian voice, and "Pray" in a way that's fitting for the overall theme of the day. Admittedly, there are some days when the assigned scripture leaves me with a feeling of "Seriously?! What am I supposed to do with THAT?!" (insert bug-eyed emoji for certain Old Testament books) as well as relief when I reach "Meditate". But, here's what's fascinating to me: I'm finding that the farther I'm into this process, the more I sense God working within me, connecting more deeply than I've previously experienced through Bible reading. Crazy as it may sound for someone who's struggled with regular Bible reading, the process and this Bible has caused me to want more morning time in devotion, not less. What else has been remarkable is the number of times the "Contemplate" reflection speaks, sometimes quite loudly, right into my current life circumstance. It's happening a lot.

Just for fun (?!), I'm augmenting my Bible reading with a couple additional resources which for me add to the richness of my reading and devotional time. One is *Surviving the Bible - A Devotional for the Church Year 2018* by Christian Piatt. This devotional walks the reader through the Revised Common Lectionary texts assigned each week, the same as Incarnation uses for worship most weeks. Piatt offers some context explanation for each passage, Bible term "decoding", points to ponder, deeper digging, connecting the texts to the world, and suggestions for use of pop culture resources (movies, articles, etc.) which he believes relate to the texts. It's a fun and creatively written book.

The other resource is *The Bible Tells Me So - Why Defending Scripture Has Made Us Unable to Read It* by Peter Enns. This book intends to help readers understand more about the different genres of the Bible, from the perspectives from which texts were likely written, by whom, when, for what purpose, and the culture of the time. And this author is FUNNY, sometimes when you least expect it. All three resources (and so many more that are available), are attempts made by smart, well-schooled, thoughtful writers who are trying to make the Bible accessible to readers, not by watering it down or making excuses for the way it behaves sometimes. But instead, they invite us to accept and enjoy the Bible just as it is, God's inspired Word, a place where we can expect to meet God through the stories of God's relationships with His children over time. Sort of reminds me of how God sees and loves us, just as we are.

Children's Ministry Stations

By Rebecca Christiansen

During the months of March and April, the Feed My Starving Children Action Group, in collaboration with Children's Ministry, will have stations set up down the hallway leading to the Youth Room. The focus will be learning more about Feed My Starving Children and addressing questions surrounding poverty. What is poverty? Who is affected by poverty? What is it like to live in other parts of the world? Most of the children that we minister to at Incarnation will not need to worry about where their next meal will come from, if they have a roof over their head, or if they will receive a present for their birthday. This will be an opportunity for the children to learn that there are others in the world who do not get a meal every day, they do not live in a well-built home, and some cannot receive medical care. It is our desire to gently open the eyes and hearts of all to see beyond our safe walls into what it would be like to live in another part of the world and/or in poverty. This is intended to be a journey of discovery.

This journey will include world maps showing all the places in the world nationally, and internationally, who receive relief from Feed My Starving Children. Students will experience what it would be like to carry heavy pots like they do in other parts of the world, just to gather water which may not be fresh and clean. There will be a grocery store set-up where the children will purchase pretend food with only a few dollars. Along with all of the educational items, there will be Bible readings for children to read and discuss the many emotions that go along with being hungry, what God has to say about helping people out in the world and locally. There will also be an educational display set-up answering questions regarding poverty and Feed My Starving Children.

In addition to the stations, SPARK children will be gathering offerings that will help to purchase the food for Incarnation's MobilePack™ scheduled for April 30 - May 3. All are invited to experience these stations!

Holy Hammers to Build in St. Paul

By Jim Fruehling

In 2018, the Holy Hammers, an ecumenical coalition of 15 local churches working through Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, will build a single family home at 717 Geranium Ave. E in St. Paul from April 16 - June 29. There will be a variety of volunteer opportunities to support this ministry including construction worker, food provider, devotion leader and financial support. Last year, Incarnation's support involved 50 workers who contributed 125 days of construction labor and 23 women who provided eight days of food for lunches and morning treats.

On three Sunday mornings, March 11, 18, and 25, there will be a Habitat for Humanity table in the Atrium and Gathering Space where you will be able to get information about the Holy Hammers, the 2018 project details and sign up for a volunteer opportunity.

Since 1999, the Holy Hammers have built 22 complete homes, portions of 10 others, facilitating the purchase of an affordable home for more than 180 people, and have donated over \$1,352,899 to help sponsor the building projects. The labor and financial contributions allow the Habitat home to be affordable for the homebuyer family.

By supporting the Holy Hammers, we are helping to feed a deserving family in heart, body, mind and spirit. In addition, each volunteer receives a dose of health and happiness as a result of the physical activity, social interaction, mental stimulation and good food. For more information or questions, please contact Jim Fruehling at 651-483-1704 or jamesw.f@icloud.com.

One Neighborhood's Story of Packing Food Together

By Jerry and Lana Walen

As children of the great depression and greatest generation parents, food was an important topic at the dinner table. We always had enough to eat but the variety was nothing like today. We both recall that "cleaning your plate" was mandatory with no



other options. Often times you were told that there were children in Africa or some other continent/country who were starving and had NO FOOD to EAT at all. Funny such a simple message can stay with you your whole life. Sadly, the same conditions still exist in many parts of the world even though the abundance and variety of food has exploded in the last 50 years.

For our married years we have tried to do what we could through food drives and events both at Incarnation and with other organizations. So when Feed My Starving Children came to Incarnation it seemed like a great fit for us. FMSC makes it so personal, rewarding and leaves that feeling in your heart that you are working through God to help others who are less fortunate.

A few years ago we moved from our Shoreview home to a detached townhome community in Hugo. As the homes were completed and families moved in, we developed a close friendship with many of the neighbors. This led to organizing a social committee where events and activities were planned on a monthly basis. Most were parties, meals at restaurants and gatherings in our center island gazebo to share stories of life and family. A few years ago, we brought up that one of our events should involve some type of service. We already knew that most folks had charities, churches and other organizations that they were actively involved in. FMSC was brought up and it was enthusiastically embraced. Many had already participated through events at the main campus or in MobilePacks™ throughout the cities.

We agreed to coordinate and manage our group. What a success! People signed up quickly and could not wait for the event to occur. "When is the event this year?" "That was so much fun!" "What great work FMSC does for people, especially kids, around the world!"

This year will be our 3rd or 4th year (when we got into our 60's frankly we cannot agree on how many) and it is expected that our group will be as excited and committed as ever. In fact, we even have some extended family members participate - which we always welcome. Plus, we get to go to Culver's for ice cream after; who would turn that down?

God has been good to our family and we feel his spirit in our souls as we help others less fortunate through this wonderful church event.

Call Committee Appointed

The Congregation Council has appointed a Call Committee as directed by Incarnation's Constitution. The Committee's work is to interview, and with prayerful discernment, decide whether or not to recommend a specific candidate to the congregation for approval of call as a senior pastor. The members appointed to the Call Committee are: Dave Katzke (committee chair), George Aram, Anne Cremons, Jim Fruehling, Amy Johnson, Brenda Roloff (congregation council representative), Emily Schwieters (congregation council representative), Mike Styba, and Heather Trettel. Please keep this group in your prayers.

Worship Arts: Lent

By Jane Gehrking

The Lenten banners are a reminder to focus on repentance and preparation for Easter and to break away from things that would hinder us from being open to God's call. The liturgical color for Lent is purple which signifies penitence and solemnity. Purple is also the color for royalty, a reminder that Jesus is our King.



The Sanctuary banner is a drape of purple fabric with hanging branches to recall the flogging that Jesus endured before his crucifixion. The twisted circle of branches is a reminder of the crown of thorns placed on his head.

The banner in Incarnation Hall features a purple pathway which reminds us of the path Jesus traveled during his last days on earth. A palm branch recalls his entry into Jerusalem to the shouts of "Hosanna" from the crowd. The burlap fabric is reminiscent of the sackcloth garments worn in Biblical times as a symbol of penitence.

Surviving the Summer and Staying Sane!

We've all been there . . . it's only three days into summer vacation and already parents are playing referee to sibling conflicts, problem solving for kids who are saying, "I'm bo-red!", and negotiating how much screen time is allowed when we know they were at the limit by noon!

Join us in expanding our ideas for boredom busters, avoiding excess screen time and creating fun and practical alternatives that will promote peaceful family functioning. This event is on Monday, April 2 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Sign up for childcare, if needed, and scholarships are available upon request. Please register by Monday, March 26. Contact Rebecca Christiansen at rchristiansen@incarnationmn.org for questions.

Co-hosted by Children, Youth, and Families and Incarnation Preschool. Presented by Tricia Sedlacek MSW, LICSW & Parent Coach with In Tune Connections.



Incarnation Receives Memorial Gifts During the Fourth Quarter of 2017

In the second quarter of the year, October to December 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: Marit Swenson.

A Gift was Received from: Marlys Nelson.

In Remembrance of: Dorothy Carlson.

A Gift was Received from: Marlys Nelson, Al & Joyce Anderson, Carl & Jan Johnson.

In Remembrance of: Jane Backer.

A Gift was Received from: Mrs. Donald Papenheim, John Nygren, Beatrice Backer, Janet Schultz, James & Elizabeth Nygren, Carl & Jan Johnson, Margaret Miller.

In Remembrance of: Palmer Hanson.

A Gift was Received from: Ken & Rosalie Grosch.

In Remembrance of: Thelma Sebelius.

A Gift was Received from: Ken & Rosalie Grosch.

In Remembrance of: Mary Swenson.

A Gift was Received from: Ellen Stiehl.

In Remembrance of: JoAnn Moffatt.

A Gift was Received from: Miriam Dafoe, David & Sharon Kill, Tomas Moffatt, Darren & Betsi Olson, Brian & Shawna Berg.

In Remembrance of: Ray Kermode.

A Gift was Received from: Sally Kermode, Philip & LuAn Schutte, Bonnie Radunz.

In Remembrance of: Alvina Mayo.

A Gift was Received from: Joe & Bev Stepka, Wally & Mary Billington, Marlys Nelson, Eric & Sunny Emerson, Harry & Marian Johnson, LeAnn Sullivan.

In Remembrance of: Charles & Virginia Linder.

A Gift was Received from: Carol Jo Linder Forneris.

In Remembrance of: Virginia Linder's 100th Birthday.

A Gift was Received from: Carol Jo Linder Forneris.

In Remembrance of: Jill Todd.

A Gift was Received from: Jim & Carol Fruehling.

In honor of: Dick & Ann Christiansen.

A Gift was Received from: Bernie Joyce.

Gifts to the Endowment Fund

In memory of Marit Swenson were received from Carl & Jan Johnson, Joe & Denise Fleming.



Incararnation Lutheran Church

Worship, Prayer & Among the Congregation

Sympathy to: Gina Kristufek and family on the death of her sister; Donna Rauch and family on the death of her father; the family of Merry Fragomeni on her death; Gary Moen and family on the death of his father; Deb Styba and family on the death of her father; the family of Sheryl Dickison on her death.

Congratulations to: Waylon Hennen and Laura Kaslow on their recent marriage.

Connect and 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 membership. Childcare is available with advanced registration. Registration is due Wednesday, April 11 by 4:30 p.m. When: Saturday, April 14, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Monday Morning Small Group for Men

Led by Tim Gray, this group is a chance to deepen your faith while connecting faith with daily life. Check the website (search: new small groups). Suggested contribution: \$10. Register at: dfloe@incarnationmn.org.

When: Mondays, 6:30 - 7:30 a.m., once or twice a month.

New Small Groups

Interested in a small group, but haven't found one that works for you? Contact dfloe@incarnationmn.org to learn about future groups. New groups start throughout the year. Also, if you've been part of a small group and you'd like to learn about the small group leader training, contact dfloe@incarnationmn.org.

Gustavus Faith Conference: Doubt and Difference

Outlaw Christian writer, Dr. Jacqueline Bussie, and Dr. Munib Younan, former ELCA Bishop to Jordan and the Holy Land, will speak on living an authentic, bold, and active faith in times of differences. For more information: gustavus.edu/churchrelations/gacac/faithconference. Contact: dfloe@incarnationmn.org.

When: Saturday, April 21, 9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., at Gustavus.

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Incararnation Lutheran Church



Serve

LifeHaven Childcare and Sunday Meals

LifeHaven, housing and support for 16 and 17 year old moms and their children experiencing homelessness, is seeking volunteers to provide childcare during Thursday evening "Girls' Night Out/In" as well as volunteers to prepare Sunday evening meals. If you are new to these volunteer opportunities, you may learn more by contacting Khaliya Dorry at Khaliya.Dorry@lssmn.org or 651-776-9805.



2018 All Hands on Hope Feed My Starving Children 11th MobilePack™ Event Registrations Are Open!

Help pack 750,000 meals, feeding 2,054 kids for one year by going to incarnationmn.org to make your reservation. Follow Incarnation's Facebook page or the "FMSC MobilePack™ at Incarnation" Facebook page for updates and share! Use #AllHandsOnHope as a way to draw attention, organize, and promote this event.

When: the MobilePack™ date is April 30 - May 3.

Meals on Wheels Coordinator

Meals on Wheels is a program that delivers meals to senior citizens. Incarnation provides drivers for a route each Friday and a coordinator is needed to schedule the Incarnation drivers each quarter. This role does not take much time and can be done from your home. To volunteer, contact Becky Benson at bbenson@incarnationmn.org.

Incararnation 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.