



# Lifetimes

By Don Martin



Our time of transition at Incarnation began in January when Gary Medin announced his retirement. Your Congregation Council met with Bishop Patricia Lull to learn about steps and timeline for the transition. We formed a call committee and began the process of hiring an interim pastor. Now we are well into the transition. Gary Medin's last day as Senior Pastor has passed and Interim Senior Pastor Chris Smith started on August 1. The call committee has met several times and is working on the Ministry Site Profile (MSP), a document that helps inform prospective pastors about our faith community. The next steps include finishing the MSP, gathering information about prospective pastors, interviewing, and finally calling a new senior pastor. The timeline is posted in the display cases near the Incarnation Office and in the Gathering Space outside Incarnation Hall.

Above are the "nuts and bolts" of the transition. There are also a lot of emotions associated with a transition that transcend the tasks that need to be accomplished.

Times of transition provide opportunity for mourning, celebrating and appreciating the people and traditions of the past, reflection and discernment about what directions are open to us, and then moving in new directions with a hopeful and positive outlook. Many of us will go through periods of sadness, which will eventually shift to remembrance with joy and appreciation for what we have experienced. Then we begin "looking for what's next" and finally we strive to build a future based on our current circumstances and perceived opportunities. Thank you for your patience and understanding with fellow congregational members, council, staff, and yourself as we each work through the phases of transition; each at our own pace. The litany used in the June 24th service seems appropriate for our time:

PASTOR: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**PEOPLE: And also with you.**

PASTOR: Lord, we stand at the threshold of transition and look behind us. As we remember work done in your name, rituals we have loved, shared laughter, shared losses, learning and growing together in faith, receiving the gift of your abundant grace together.

**PEOPLE: We give thanks for your presence and faithfulness in all of it.**

PASTOR: Lord as we stand at the threshold of transition and look behind us, our hearts contain a range of emotions - grief and sadness as we prepare for goodbyes,

**PEOPLE: but also with gratitude, deep gratitude for what has been and how that prepares us for the future you put before us.**

PASTOR: Lord, we stand at the threshold of transition and look to the future.

**PEOPLE: We can't yet see clearly what it will be. That uncertainty makes us nervous and also fills us with wonder at the possibilities.**

PASTOR: Lord, as we stand at the threshold of transition and look to the future, fill our hearts with trust and hope, because you are the Lord of all Creation and you lead us to the future you desire for us.

**PEOPLE: You lead us into the mission you have called us to: Filled by God's grace, we feed the hungry in heart, body, mind, and spirit.**

PASTOR: God of transitions and new life, bless our grief and our gratitude, our nervousness and hope, fill us with visions of a world filled with your grand and love and big dreams of how this community can be part of making that happen.

**PEOPLE: God of past and future, bless this journey. Guide our steps. As we step across the threshold of transition, help us to walk in confidence that you walk beside us, go before us, and live within us. Amen.**

# Blessing of the Backpacks & The Great Incarnation Fall Get Together - Sunday, September 9!

"Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven." We say these words at every Baptism encouraging the newly baptized to "Be the Light" of Christ to those they meet. During all worship services on September 9, we will take time to bless our children as they begin the new school year and the children will take time to bless all those who help to teach them in school and at church.

This year's theme, "Be the Light" comes from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Mat. 5:13-16), where Jesus encourages his followers to be agents of change in the world around them. Join us as we seek to be agents of change in

our places of work, neighborhoods, schools, or communities each day in the month of September shining the light of Christ wherever we are. As is tradition, children will receive a special gift to hang on their backpacks as a reminder to "Be the Light" as they move through their school days and beyond.



After morning worship, celebrate the beginning of the fall program year with inflatables, yard games, service projects, and carnival food out on the front lawn of Incarnation from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Engage in a service project by making Baptism Blankets and Blessing Bags. Baptism Blankets are given to every child who is baptized at Incarnation, a tie blanket that represents the community of Incarnation praying for this child. Blessing Bags are Ziploc bags filled with items like water, Gatorade, granola bars, apple sauce, socks, beef jerky, etc., easily kept in one's vehicle, so that when you come across a person in need, you can "Be the Light" and meet that need immediately. We need your help in order to ensure all runs smoothly! Volunteers work one hour shifts serving food and drinks, monitoring those on the inflatables, and helping with the service projects. On August 19, 26 and September 2 there will be sign-up tables in the Atrium and the Gathering Space for you to sign-up for one of these shifts, or you can visit Incarnation's website and sign-up online. If you're out of town on the 9th but still want to participate, consider donating some of the items needed for the Blessing Bags service project. For more information, visit the Incarnation website at [incarnationmn.org](http://incarnationmn.org).

This is a community event and you're encouraged to invite your friends and family to all that's taking place this special day. What a perfect opportunity to "Be the Light" as you share Incarnation with others in your life.

## Staff Changes



### Goodbye Kelsey Blinn

After serving as the Financial & Small Groups Secretary for the last two years, Kelsey Blinn decided to leave her position here to pursue other professional opportunities. Kelsey recently went to school to become an Occupational Therapy Assistant at Anoka Technical College and was fortunate to quickly find a position at North Ridge Care Center. We will certainly miss Kelsey and wish her the best as she moves forward into this next chapter of her life!



### Welcome Amy Faymoville

Amy Faymoville is the new Financial & Small Groups Secretary at Incarnation Lutheran Church. Amy comes from Living Waters where she was the Director of Church Operations for the past three years, as well as a Charter Member. Her and her husband Todd have two adult children and one grandson, named Henry. They recently moved to North Branch where she gets to enjoy her hobbies of photography and gardening. Please stop into the Incarnation Office and meet Amy Faymoville if you haven't done so already!



### Welcome Brenda Goetsch

Brenda Goetsch joined Incarnation as the new Accountant. Brenda's background as a CPA with extensive experience in all areas of general and technical accounting will be a great benefit to Incarnation. She has just moved to Coon Rapids with her husband, Al and is currently decorating her new home. She also enjoys cooking and baking, along with time spent with her three daughters and four grandchildren, ages 6, 4 and 2 year old twins. Welcome Brenda!

## Among the Congregation

**Hospitalized:** Sherb Sherburne, Pat Miller, Bev Stilwell, Duane Nelson, Maren Badger, Marcia Wallin, Meg Gerlach, Bette Olson, Dave Bahr, Cal Wilson.

**Sympathy to:** The family of Pat Hobrough on her death; the family of Herbert King on his death; the family of Dennis Nelson on his death; the family of Sterling Rule on his death; John St. Martin and family on the death of his mother; Terry Moore and family on the death of his mother; the family of Don Wallin on his death.

**Recently Baptized:** Lillian Erika, daughter of Kayla and Shane Stockton; Tillie Mingxuan, daughter of Jeanne and Andrew Hartfield; Ryan Thor, son of Jenna and Christopher Turgerson; Lou Rocky, son of Marni and Derek Gorowsky; Brody Steven, son of Kristen and Matthew Bare; Isabelle Ruth, daughter of Noelle and Brandon Henning; Ava Marie, daughter of Stacy and Matt Nelson; Everly Meghan, daughter of Amanda and Matthew Linn; Quentin David, son of Trent and Allison Riter.

**Recently Married:** Emily Kelly and Matt Gallagher.

**Congratulations to:** Congratulations to Elise and Charlie O'Donnell on the birth of their daughter Eleanor Grace, born July 2; Steve and Melissa Quick on the birth of their daughter, Sloan Mackenzie, born May 20.

## Announcements

### Tons of Love: Update

Incarnation has exceeded the original goal of raising five tons of food and goods for the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf by collecting 10,825 lbs. and a remarkable \$17,041! Thank you for your generosity! Please remember that usage remains high at Ralph Reeder through August as children are not yet back in school and families cannot rely on school lunches. You may drop off donations in the Ralph Reeder bin near the Information Center anytime the building is open. Thank you for making the 2018 Tons of Love Food Drive a huge success!

### Ralph Reeder Community Open House

*August 21, Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: 3 - 4:00 p.m.; Food and Celebration: 4 - 7:00 p.m.*

Join the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf as they celebrate their fantastic new space at 2544 Mounds View Blvd in Mounds View on August 21. All are invited! Food, fun and refreshments provided for all ages. Bring a friend, meet food shelf staff and receive a tour.

### Blessing of the Backpacks and The Great Incarnation Fall Get Together

*September 9*

Be a part of the Blessing of the Backpacks during all worship services, followed by The Great Incarnation Fall Get Together from 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on September 9! Invite your friends and family to come along with you. Sign up to volunteer to help that day on the Incarnation website at [incarnationmn.org](http://incarnationmn.org).

### Tanzania Mission Trip Information Session

*Thursday, August 23 at 7:00 p.m.*

Learn what is being planned for the summer 2019 Youth, Family and Adult Tanzania Mission Trip to Iringa, Tanzania, through conversation and Q&A with Peter Harrits, Director of Bega Kwa Bega of the St. Paul Area Synod, Becky Benson and Kristin Bloxham. Contact Becky Benson at [bbenson@incarnationmn.org](mailto:bbenson@incarnationmn.org) with advance questions.

### Children, Youth and Family Ice Cream Social

*Wednesday, September 12; 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.*

Join the Children, Youth and Family Staff as we kick off another great year of ministry! Come play volleyball, eat a delicious ice cream sundae with all the fixings, and learn about all of the exciting ministry opportunities for the upcoming program year! ALL are welcome at this event!

### Youth, Family and Adult Tanzania Mission Trip

*June 15 - 30, 2019; register by September 24, 2018.*

Experience God through Incarnation's partners in Tanzania and with others from Incarnation! In addition to time spent with Incarnation's partners of Mkwawa and Kigamboni Lutheran Churches, this trip will also allow you to connect with those of the Huruma Center Orphanage, students within secondary school, and many others while also building relationships with your Incarnation travel companions. A \$500 non-refundable deposit holds your spot. Total cost is anticipated to be approximately \$4,500 per person. Funding raising will be possible. Contact Becky Benson at [bbenson@incarnationmn.org](mailto:bbenson@incarnationmn.org) or Kristin Bloxham at [kbloxham@incarnationmn.org](mailto:kbloxham@incarnationmn.org) with questions.