



# Lifetimes

October 2024

From the Pastor



Pastor Kai Nilsen

At the end of one of my early conversations for *Building for Our Future*, I was thanking the couple for taking the time to talk about how they could financially support our future when one of them responded, “It’s about time. We’ve been waiting for a chance like this to give to our future.”

What a gift. What a heart.

My role as Senior Pastor has many organizational leadership responsibilities. I get to oversee the systems and processes by which we do our ministry together. But, my primary responsibility is focused on the spiritual vision and health of this community. At this point in our history our vision includes:

We long to:

- Fill the world with God’s grace and love.

We strive to:

- Learn to live and love like Jesus, for a lifetime.

We hope to:

- Imagine and then co-create a better, more loving world.

For that to happen, we need to imagine all of whom we are—our time, our energy, our passions, our creativity, and our money, being directed toward Jesus’ vision for this world. They are all gifts from God and ways we can offer ourselves to the world.

It’s also true, in a money-obsessed culture, that how we think about and use financial resources are a reflection of where we are on our spiritual journey.

So, at Incarnation, we don’t shy away from talking about money as an essential component of our lives of faith, not to make anyone feel guilty or burdened, but because what we do with our money, like the other parts of our lives, is a deeply spiritual response to God’s first gift of life. Think of how this was echoed in that earlier conversation, “It’s about time. We’ve been waiting for a chance like this to give to our future.”

I’m not sure how you regard the connection between your money and your life of faith. Is it energizing? Does it feel burdensome? Do you think about it at all?

Because it’s an important component of our faith journey, if you are interested in growing in your sense of generosity, here is a process that I have found to be helpful:

- **Start giving:** Do it simply. Do it one time and then find a way to do it again.
- **Give consistently:** Start to consciously look for ways to give. At this phase, don’t worry about the amount. Simply look for ways to give consistently so you develop a “habit of giving.” Anything we do habitually, over time, becomes who we are!
- **Give until you notice:** Many of us can offer a financial gift without even noticing it. But, when you give until you notice, you start making decisions about what the most important things are in your life. What gives your life the most meaning?
- **Give generously:** The biblical notion of the tithe (10%) is a starting point. But, generosity is never bound by a number, in money or time.

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- **Give as a way of life:** Over time, you won't be waiting for others to give you opportunities to give. You will think about it in every aspect of your life. What do I have to offer my family today? My community? My neighbor? The stranger in need?

Wherever you are on this path, know this, we respect where you are. Be there. Know God loves you where you are!

But, when you want to grow in your generosity, think about what a simple next step would be. No guilt. Just grace. Look at the process and take a step.

This fall, you will be invited to consider three opportunities to give as we plan for our 2025 ministry. We hope you understand that, as leaders and staff, we believe God is inviting us to extend our ministry at Incarnation because we want:

- To be filled with God's love and grace.
- To learn to live and live like Jesus, for a lifetime.
- To become co-creators of a better, more loving world.

Here is how that will happen for us:



Tracy Strantz  
Council President

One of my favorite Council activities is connecting with congregation families, visitors, and Incarnation staff at the Welcome Kiosk after Sunday worship services. Council members have a rotating schedule and I always look forward to my turn. It's been especially exciting this past

month with the additional energy of Fall activities launching. Seeing the smiles on young faces after they've experienced ILC Kids, sharing information on upcoming small groups and the Kairos series, providing the Looking Inward, Living Outward book that accompanies our Fall worship series, and telling newcomers about Incarnation, are just a few of the connections I've enjoyed. Another benefit is hearing the questions and suggestions I can bring back to the Council and our Communication Committee. One topic I was recently asked about was the Incarnation Endowment Fund.

- **Building for Our Future Appeal:** (if you haven't already made a commitment) This appeal begins now and extends through December 2026. The appeal funds:
  - Staffing for young adults and seniors
  - Support and expansion of our Outreach Ministry Partners
  - Facility upgrades that will help us become a sought-after facility for our community.
- **Operating Budget:** The everyday life of our congregation that supports our ministry of worship, small groups, learning for all ages, and our ordinary facility maintenance.
- **Mortgage:** The paydown of our mortgage debt.

Friends, remember: If you've been waiting for a chance to give for our future. Now is the time.

In the end, no guilt. Just grace. Let's see what good things God is going to work in our lives and in our community, together.

Peace, Kai

## Council Update

Sharing information on the Endowment Fund is very timely as we are currently recruiting for openings on the Endowment Fund Committee as part of our annual nominating process. We're also recruiting for our Incarnation Synod Representatives (featured in the August Lifetimes) and Congregation Council Members (featured in the September Lifetimes). All three roles provide opportunities to connect with others, learn more about our faith community, and support important initiatives. All while having fun too!

To provide more insights on the Endowment Fund, I reached out to Mark Tollander who chairs the committee. Mark, thank you for serving on the committee and providing your insights.

The primary purpose of the Incarnation Endowment Fund is to provide funding for causes that foster innovation and leadership. This focus supports the mission and vision of Incarnation and the broader church, to help ensure vitality for both in the years to

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come. Complementing Incarnation's "church without walls" emphasis, this includes two primary areas of funding:

**Budding Idea Grants:** The "BIG" program was established in 2020 to fund community outreach initiatives that support the mission and values of Incarnation Lutheran Church. Examples of BIG-funded projects include a Music Grant Program, the Friday Night Block Party, and a selected Eagle Scout Project among others.

**Leaders Growing Leaders:** Encompasses funding the exploration and launch of initiatives to identify future leaders, who strive to make a difference in this world through leadership in ministry or other service careers. One example is Incarnation's Summer Student Internship Program for young adults which launched in 2021.

The Endowment Fund Committee meets on a quarterly basis and currently has 6 members, along with Pastor Kai. The Committee may also engage in periodic meetings with applicants for a Budding Idea Grant. A recent example included meeting with leaders from Shobi's Table earlier this year to better understand their grant request which was later approved.

"For me personally, being part of our Incarnation Endowment Team helps me feel more connected

to this community. Attending the Block Party last month, attending Church on Sunday, playing Pickleball with fellow Incarnation members; these all allow me to feel connected to others and my community, which is important to me and an important part of my faith journey."

—Mark Tollander, Endowment Committee Chair

The Endowment Fund portfolio is managed by Thrivent Financial and includes a mix of stocks, bonds, a money market, and a checking account. We thank all the congregation members and families who have generously donated to the Endowment Fund. There are several ways you may contribute to the fund including:

- Gifts of cash, property, stocks, bonds, etc. (For those retired with IRA assets, a QCD Option at 70 1/2)
- Including Incarnation Endowment Fund in your estate plan
- Thrivent Choice Dollars or Thrivent Action Team funding

Please visit the Endowment Fund webpage on our Incarnation website for more information: <https://www.incarnationmn.org/give/endowment-fund/>

## A Special Message from the Council

The Congregation Council would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to Denise Floe and Danette Griffith for their many contributions to our Incarnation community. We wish them both the very best as they enjoy retirement!



As the Director of Small Group Ministry, Denise has shaped and cultivated our vibrant SGM community from its inception to the expansive program it is today. Her passion for learning and faith-based connections, commitment to providing resource support and leader training, and her continuous demonstration of gratitude and invitation have left a lasting legacy in our community. Please join us in Grace Hall following worship services on Sunday, October 6 to celebrate Denise's many, many contributions to Small Group Ministry.



Danette Griffith has served as our Incarnation Administrator for the past six years. She has been instrumental in supporting our finance team, facilities team, the Incarnation Staff, Council, and many other groups as she oversees the many day-to-day activities for Incarnation. Danette's focus on supporting all the changes needed throughout and following the pandemic forever changed our "church without walls" capabilities. She is currently hard at work transitioning responsibilities to our interim Administrator and her attention to detail and preparations will ensure a smooth transition. Both Staff and Council had separate retirement recognition events for Danette. Thank you, Danette, for being a great member of the team during your time with us. We hope you enjoy your retirement travels!



Welcome to the 2024-2025 Kairos season. This year we're introducing the Kairos logo, the Jerusalem cross, a universal symbol for Kairos/God's time. Kairos sessions will be held at 10:15 a.m. in the Fireside Room.

**October 6:  
Interfaith Literacy**

*Jen Kilps, Network Executive for the Minnesota Multifaith Network*



It is fear of the “other” or the unknown that keeps us from welcoming our neighbor. Religious literacy is a key component to breaking down that fear by helping us to understand the religious traditions of people in our community — how they are similar and different to our own and how we can work together for the common good.

Kilps considers interfaith education her vocation. She has worked for the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in WI, Lutheran Volunteer Corps, Minnesota Council of Churches, and national Church

World Service refugee services and resettlement programs. She focused on hospitality in her doctorate in theology from the Centre for the Study of Religion and Politics at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

**October 13:  
Reading the Bible Like Grownups**

*Anna Marsh, Visiting Assistant Professor of Old Testament, Luther Seminary*



Encounters with classic stories from the Bible began when we were children, reading stories of heroes and villains, talking animals, and miraculous surprises. Moreover, these stories tended to have clear lines, straightforward lessons, and happy endings and shaped our imagination about what it means to be a child of God and a member of a faith community.

But as we grow and our lives become more complex, so too should the way we read the Bible. In this two-week series, revisit some familiar stories from the Bible and read them with “grown-

up glasses,” finding new avenues to explore and new possibilities for how the Bible can engage our imagination.

Marsh, a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College a Luther Seminary, served on the St. Paul Area Synod staff while completing her doctoral studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

**October 27:  
What Did Martin Luther Think He Was Doing?**

*Mark Granquist, Lloyd and Annelotte Svendsbye Professor of the History of Christianity, Luther Seminary*

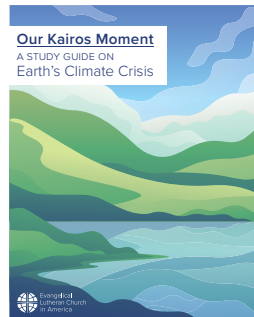


Lutherans, and all Protestant Christians, trace the beginning of their Christian traditions back to the actions of a single 16th-century person, Martin Luther. So in those fateful years leading up to the Protestant Reformation, what did Luther intend to do – literally, what was he thinking? Granquist is the author of many books and articles on the history of Lutheranism.



**Small Groups — Starting Soon!**

Connect with others, deepen your faith, and engage in conversations on faith and life. Small groups are a place to learn, share, pray, and serve as part of a community. Check out the new small groups below. More information is on the website at: [www.incarnationmn.org/ministries/small-groups/](http://www.incarnationmn.org/ministries/small-groups/). Register at [dfloe@incarnationmn.org](mailto:dfloe@incarnationmn.org).

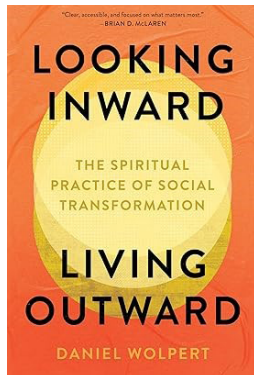


**Creation Care (small group)**

What would a Christ-centered view of creation look like? This small group will learn about creation care while connecting with one another to talk about the study, Our Kairos Moment.

*When: Four Mondays,*

*7:00-8:30 p.m., September-October.*



**Looking Inward, Living Outward (small groups)**

The fall sermon series at Incarnation will be based on the book by Daniel Wolpert, Looking Inward, Living Outward. Engage in conversations with others around the themes, faith practices, and next steps. Check the website for more information. Register by Wednesday, September 25. Starting in late September or October, groups will take place on:

- Sunday mornings, 10:05-11:15 a.m. (4 sessions)
- Tuesday afternoons, 1:00-2:00 p.m. (4 sessions)
- Thursday evenings, 6:30-8:00 p.m. (5-6 sessions)

**The Way of Love (small group)**

How do we shape our life in a way that follows Jesus? Explore and try out intentional faith practices to live a Christ-centered life. Discover creative ways that others have found to live out each faith practice in today's world. Register by Friday, October 4.

*When: Wednesdays, 10:00-11:30 a.m., starting in mid-October.*

**The Saint John's Bible (small group)**



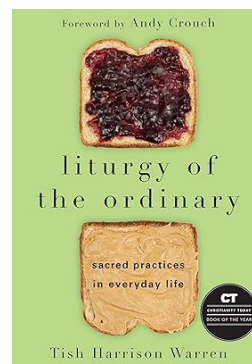
Explore the illuminations (artwork) and calligraphy (written text) of The Saint John's Bible. Hear how this illuminated Bible was created and how it is being used to ignite spiritual imaginations. Afternoon and evening groups are available, meeting once a month.

*Afternoon Group:*

*Tuesdays, 1:30-3:00 p.m., starting in October*

*Evening Group:*

*Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m., starting in October*



**Liturgy of the Ordinary (small group)**

Tish Harrison Warren writes "In overlooked moments and routines, we can become aware of God's presence in surprising ways. How do we embrace the sacred in the ordinary and the ordinary in the sacred?" Talk about her book, Liturgy of the Ordinary, in a small group

setting. All ages are welcome. Nursery may be available depending on space with pre-registration. Register by Wednesday, September 25.

*When: Wednesdays, 9:30-11:00 a.m., starting in early October.*



Sean Turner  
Minister of Worship,  
Music & the Arts

Greetings from the music department! We are off and running with all of our programming! It is wonderful to see so many people taking part in the various musical activities that are available this fall. We know that the beginning of this season can be very hectic and want to make sure everyone is aware of the different opportunities for both children and adults. Please see the list below and contact [Sean Turner](#) or [Amy Maakestad](#) with any questions.

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## About the Music Ministry

Incarnation's Music Ministry has opportunities for people of all ages, offering great ways to use your musical gifts to help lead worship as part of an ensemble and to connect with one another within this faith community. Whether you are an advanced musician or new to music, vocalist or instrumentalist, there is a place for you to use your passions for music to glorify God. Questions about Music Ministry or want to get involved? Contact [Sean Turner](#).

### Handbell Ensembles

#### **Alleluia Ringers**

***Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 6:15 – 7:15 PM in the Handbell Room.***

The first rehearsal is September 11. Adults are invited to join this exciting handbell ensemble. No prior handbell experience is necessary, but some background in music is very helpful. We focus on developing all handbell techniques and expanding musical expression with a repertoire that enriches the worship experience. The Alleluia Ringers play in worship at least once a month from September to May. Contact director Amy Maakestad at [amaakestad@incarnationmn.org](mailto:amaakestad@incarnationmn.org) for more information and to join.

#### **Bells of Praise**

***Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 5:30 – 6:10 PM in the Handbell Room.***

The first rehearsal is on September 18. Youth in Grades 5 – 12 are invited to join this lively handbell ensemble. Rehearsals are spent developing both handbell and handchime technique while reading music. In addition to forming lasting friendships, important outcomes of belonging to this ensemble are learning the songs of our faith and contributing to worship. Bells of Praise will play in worship about once a month from October to May, primarily at the 9 AM service. Contact director Amy Maakestad at [amaakestad@incarnationmn.org](mailto:amaakestad@incarnationmn.org) for more information and to join.

#### **Grace Notes**

***Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 4:50 – 5:30 PM in the Handbell Room.***

The first rehearsal is on September 18. Children in Grades 1–5 are invited to join this introductory handbell ensemble. We focus on learning basic hand chime technique, learning music notation, and playing together with others. Children will experience a positive and supportive environment during rehearsals as we learn to make music as an ensemble. Grace Notes will play in worship about once a month from October to May, primarily at the 9 AM service. Contact director Amy Maakestad at [amaakestad@incarnationmn.org](mailto:amaakestad@incarnationmn.org) for more information and to join.

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### Prime Chimers

**Rehearsals are on Mondays from 10:30 – 11:30 AM in the Handbell Room.**

The first session will be five weeks, November 4 – December 2. Making music is fun! This group will play hand chimes, sing, and probably laugh while enjoying fellowship, devotions, and light snacks. Our primary purpose is to encounter God’s gift of music without the stress of preparing for performance. No music background is necessary, but a desire to learn through experience is a plus. Contact director Amy Maakestad at [amaakestad@incarnationmn.org](mailto:amaakestad@incarnationmn.org) for more information and to join.

### Choirs and Ensembles

#### Senior Choir

**Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 7:00 – 8:30 PM in the Sanctuary.**

The first rehearsal is on September 4. Do you love to sing? Then please consider joining Incarnation’s “largest small group.” The Senior Choir leads worship three out of four Sundays per month. Lift your voice, make new friends, and lift listener’s spirits while taking part in this wonderfully welcoming ensemble! Contact director Sean Turner at [sturner@incarnationmn.org](mailto:sturner@incarnationmn.org) for more information and to join.

#### Joyful Noise

**Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 5:30 – 6:10 PM in the Fireside Room.**

The first rehearsal is on September 18. Children in Grades 1-5 who love to sing are invited to join this joyous singing ensemble. We will gather each week in a positive environment to learn the words and music to new songs as a group. Children will make new friends as they sing God’s praises together. Joyful Noise will sing worship about once a month from October to May, primarily at the 9 AM service. Contact director Kathleen Johnson at [tobycat4@comcast.net](mailto:tobycat4@comcast.net) or Amy Maakestad at [amaakestad@incarnationmn.org](mailto:amaakestad@incarnationmn.org) for more information and to join.

## New Member Class

Have you found your new church home at Incarnation? Are you interested in becoming a member? Join us for our New Members Class on Sunday, October 15 from 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (following the 10:30 a.m. worship service). A lunch will be served, as we explore our joined faith in Christ and discover our Mission, Vision, and Values as a community of faith. [Click here to register!](#) You may also call Julie Durbin at 651-484-7213 or use the QR code below.



Nursery care will be available during that time for children 10 and under, simply indicate if you need nursery care on the registration form.



### PONYFOLK

**OCTOBER 6, 2024, 4 PM**

*Freewill offering will be taken*

Combining multiple folk music traditions, complex vocal harmonies, acoustic guitars, strings and synth, Ponyfolk brings its unique indie folk rock band vibe to open the second season of the Incarnation Music Series. Their music has been described as “the dark side of Simon and Garfunkel” and “early Pink Floyd mixed with Lord of the Rings soundtrack.”

Incarnation Lutheran Church  
4880 Hodgson Rd, Shoreview, MN 55126  
[www.incarnationmn.org](http://www.incarnationmn.org)





# INCARNATION MUSIC SERIES

The Incarnation Music Series returns for a second season! We are striving to fill the world with God’s grace and love through locally available, high-quality music and are happy to offer this series as a gift to the community. All concerts are on Sundays at 4:00 p.m. and are followed by a reception. A free-will offering will be taken to support the continuation of the series. Mark your calendars, plan to attend, and bring a friend!



**October 6, 2024, 4:00 p.m.**

## Ponyfolk

Ponyfolk brings its unique indie folk rock band vibe to open the second season of the Incarnation Lutheran Church Music Series. Their music, featuring intricate finger-picking techniques and Scandinavian-inspired styles, has been described as “the dark side of Simon and Garfunkel” and “early Pink Floyd mixed with Lord of the Rings soundtrack.”



**December 15, 2024, 4:00 p.m.**

## Copper Street Brass

Creating brand new music for the brass quintet by employing a dazzling fusion of brass, keyboard, guitar, percussion and electronic instruments is the mission of the Copper Street Brass Quintet. Expect the unexpected, as every concert presents an unparalleled variety of music that goes beyond the ordinary.



**April 6, 2025, 4:00 p.m.**

## Sean Turner & Friends

From his beginnings as a soloist with the St. Paul Chamber Symphony alongside Metropolitan Opera Soprano Lucy Shelton to his present-day activities as an award-winning composer for film, television, and media — the universal language of music has been the common thread woven through Sean’s diverse musical career.

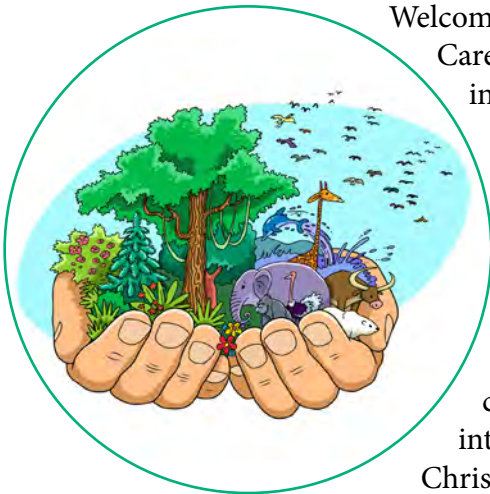
## Finance Report

### Finance Report August 2024

Actual August Operating Giving	\$128,744	YTD Operating Giving	\$1,491,464	YTD Operating Giving Budget	\$1,707,359
Actual August Operating Expense	\$214,203	YTD Operating Expense	\$1,528,423	YTD Operating Expense Budget	\$1,675,548
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>-\$85,460</b>		<b>-\$36,959</b>		<b>\$31,811</b>

Actual August Mortgage Giving	\$10,247	YTD Mortgage Giving	\$187,585	YTD Mortgage Giving Budget	\$230,000
Actual August Mortgage Expense	\$20,675	YTD Mortgage Expense	\$190,400	YTD Mortgage Expense Budget	\$190,400
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>-\$10,428</b>		<b>-\$2,815</b>		<b>\$39,600</b>





Welcome to the Creation Care Corner, information from the Creation Care Action Group. We believe that as Christians we are called to care for God's creation as an integral part of our Christian faith and

identity. The Creation Care Action Group is dedicated to embracing this calling. Our hope is to keep you informed about Creation Care projects at Incarnation as well as provide ideas and resources for your own journey in creating a more sustainable world. We hope you find this information helpful. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact [Nancy Stutzman](#) or [Mike Vant](#).

### Today's topic: For Every Generation

Recently Pastor Kai focused on a question from Joshua 4 "What will we tell the next generations about how God was working through us in our time?", and the flip side of that same question "What will the next generation say about how God was active and alive through us?" If we look at those questions through the lens of creation care we can ask "What will we tell the next generation about how God was working through us to care for and heal our natural world?" and "What will the next generation say about how God was active and alive through us in caring for the world now and for future generations?"

One sometimes divisive and controversial topic in our culture is the climate crisis. While debates can rage about the existence, causes and solutions to the climate crisis, what is not debatable is that many people are experiencing tremendous stress

due to the evidence surrounding climate change. There are numerous studies showing the effects of climate anxiety on our teenagers and young adults around the world. Some young people feel humanity is doomed and a significant percentage state fears about the future of our world makes them reluctant to have children. While exact numbers can be debated, the overwhelming majority of the global scientific community believe that the current rate of climate change is largely due to human activity. As stewards of God's creation and as Christians caring for all of God's children, both now and in the future, how do we respond?

The ILC Creation Care Action Group seeks to raise these questions and to help us all take some sort of action. The topic can be overwhelming but there are concrete steps we can all take. There are many issues but there are also many solutions. It will take all of us making changes large and small to make a difference. The technology available right

now for fighting climate change is amazing, from continually emerging battery technologies to new clean energy sources. Small things like reducing personal water use, consistent recycling and reducing your use of plastics can make a big impact. If we all raise our awareness and do something, no matter how small, the results will make a difference. We are called by God to do nothing less, for ourselves and future generations.

Resources:

<https://e360.yale.edu/digest/young-people-are-experiencing-widespread-anxiety-about-climate-inaction-study-finds>

[https://www.howlifeunfolds.com/sustainability/5-eco-friendly-habits-sustainable-lifestyle?utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_source=google&utm\\_campaign=Benefits\\_Sustainability\\_Phase&utm\\_term=reduce+environmental+impact&gad](https://www.howlifeunfolds.com/sustainability/5-eco-friendly-habits-sustainable-lifestyle?utm_medium=cpc&utm_source=google&utm_campaign=Benefits_Sustainability_Phase&utm_term=reduce+environmental+impact&gad)

"God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations.'"  
—Genesis 9:12

## Did You Know This About the Incarnation Library?



Did you know...

... that the Incarnation library is open whenever the church is open? Even if the lights are off, the door is unlocked and you are welcome to browse. Please check out items (directions are posted) and enjoy the variety of materials in the collection.

Did you know...

... that the Incarnation Library Group meets monthly on the second Thursday to maintain, update, check, display and do whatever else in the library? We share a devotion, a treat, and continue to support each other as well as the church library ministry. New members are always welcome to join.

Did you know...

... that library volunteers are in/out of the library on Sunday mornings more than happy to answer your questions? Currently, the computer is not available to check the library catalog, but many of the volunteers remember what we have and where to find it. You can self-help by placing returned books in the large basket by the desk or filling out the card at the back of the book and placing the card in the basket on top of the desk when checking out a book.

Did you know...

... that the Library Group maintains an active “Wish List” from which we order materials for the library? Recommendations from members and friends of the Incarnation community are more than welcome. We accept donations and either return what we cannot use or pass items along to other organizations as appropriate. Check out the “New Additions to the Library” shelf.

Did you know...

... that we DO send occasional overdue notices? We don't do it often (and certainly don't charge fines), but we do want to keep items circulating. If you get a notice, please try to find the book in your home and return it quickly. Someone may be waiting for it.

Did you know...

... that the Library Group is always more than willing to share about books and materials? Ask about recommendations for small groups, Bible studies, seasonal books, books of devotions to share, and fiction, too.

Questions? Ask Vernita Kennen, [dvkennen@aol.com](mailto:dvkennen@aol.com)

— The Library Group







**All blood types are needed.**

Schedule your blood donation appointment today.



Please join us for our next quarterly blood drive at Incarnation if you're able. Thursday, November 7 from 10:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m. Follow the link to sign up or scan the QR code. Thank you!

<https://tinyurl.com/ILC-Blood-Drive>



For questions or more information, please email [Gil Hartley](mailto:gil.hartley@incarnationmn.org) or call him at 651-270-5376.

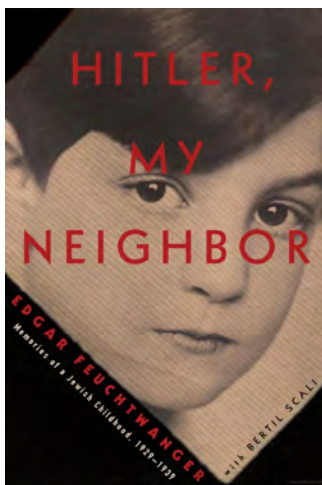


Scouts of Scout Troop 9416, which meets at Incarnation Lutheran Church, pulled weeds and raked the pea gravel in the preschool playground on Monday, August 12, 2024. The Scouts enjoyed improving the play area for the little ones.

—Submitted by Wes Erwin, Scoutmaster, Troop 9416



Men's History Book Group



All are welcome to attend any session of this group for a discussion of a non-fiction history book each month, even if you have an interest in the topic but have not read the book. Meetings are from 9:00–10:00 a.m. on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday in Bethany Lounge.

**October:** “Hitler My Neighbor: Memories of a Jewish Childhood” by Edgar Feuchtwanger. How a young Jewish boy remembers Adolph Hitler, his neighbor in Munich for 10 years.

**November:** “April 1865: The Month that Saved America” by Jay Winik. This book reintroduces us to the thirty most momentous days in the American calendar.





Did you realize that ELCA World Hunger is celebrating 50 years of work this year? Many of us are familiar with “Golden wedding anniversary” celebrations and recognize the feeling of celebration and memories while also looking ahead. Here’s a way for you to celebrate with ELCA World Hunger this October.

A special free online event is being planned to honor the impact that World Hunger has made in those 50 years. It will be held on October 15 at 7 p.m. (CDT) and coincides with the celebration of World Food Day. Hosts for this special zoom event will be the Reverend Amy Current, bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, and Imran Siddqui, vice president of the ELCA. The webinar will feature firsthand stories from partners in ELCA World Hunger projects, one in Chile and one in the Quad Cities of Iowa and Illinois.

Join in the celebration of work well done and learn how you can be equipped and involved in being a part of the next 50 years of ELCA World Hunger work. Register today and receive reminders, event information, World Food Day resources and the event recording. Register here: <https://community.elca.org/world-food-day-2024?erid=05b9ab8f-54a1-4ec7-84e7-f421f043ce61&trid=05b9ab8f-54a1-4ec7-84e7-f421f043ce61>

It truly is a “golden” opportunity. Celebrate all that has been and all that is yet to come.

Interactive guide:

[https://www.elca.org/assets/Hunger50thAnniversary/Hunger\\_50th\\_Anniversary.html](https://www.elca.org/assets/Hunger50thAnniversary/Hunger_50th_Anniversary.html)

## Solid Ground Tutors Needed

After-school tutoring sessions have begun for K-8 students at Solid Ground. Each student is paired with a tutor to assist with homework and learning enrichment activities. This is a wonderful opportunity for a child to benefit from special time with a supportive, positive role model each week... and a powerful experience for the tutor as well! No experience is required and training is provided. College students and older high school students are invited to volunteer. Tutors are especially needed Mondays–Wednesdays from 4:30-5:30 p.m. A one-hour/week commitment is preferred. Please contact Dylan at 651-846-9024, or [DMcDonough@solidgroundmn.org](mailto:DMcDonough@solidgroundmn.org).

Gary & Mary Ann Anderson	Memorial – Endowment	Joe Stepka
Sue Krabbenhoft	Memorial – Feed My Starving Children	Joe Stepka
Joyce Anderson	Memorial – Kitchen	Charles Knox
Jack & Karen Ruff	Memorial – Undesignated	Charles Knox
Bruce Sachs	Memorial – Undesignated	Charles Knox
Ella Snyder	Memorial – Kitchen	Charles Knox
Luther Dale	Memorial – Recycling	Maia Pratt
Jim & Carol Fruehling	Memorial – Habitat for Humanity (Holy Hammers)	Dale Kennen’s Brother
Jim & Carol Fruehling	Memorial – Esther Circle	Bev Stepka
John Miller	Memorial – Feed My Starving Children	Carl Johnson
Don & Sue Richards	Memorial – Habitat for Humanity (Holy Hammers)	Carl Johnson
Bill & Joyce Winefeldt	Memorial – Quilters	Christina Ramirez (Joan Lindquist’s Daughter)

*The list above reflects donations that were made payable (or endorsed/transferred) to Incarnation Lutheran Church in memory of someone. Memorials are applied to whatever fund the donor designates. If not designated, sometimes the family requests what fund they would like the memorials designated to.*

*Note: If a memorial gift is received and the check isn't written out to Incarnation Lutheran Church, it will be forwarded directly to the organization that the check was made payable to. Those memorials are typically acknowledged by the organization that receives the donation.*

## Among the Congregation

**PUBLIC PRAYER CONCERNS:** Pat Fitzsimmons; Sue Odell; Kirsten Bornus; Mike Branch; Mike Wielenberg & family; the Incarnation Call Committee; Kara, Jackson, Michael & Kaitlyn Genia; Jon Nelson; Kate Tollefson & family; Jan Kuhrmeyer; June Fischer; Kirsten Blaseck; Wayne Quehl; Carol Beckerleg; Gene Lindholm; Marian Ness; Lowell Odland, Linda Hudepohl, Larrie Reese’s brother Douglas & sister-in-law Marion; Jon & Diane Iverson’s sister-in-law; Marilee Giere’s brother-in-law; Katie Johnson’s cousin; Sue Bernlohr’s mother; Lana Bergin’s brother; Nicole & Troy Heller’s brother-in-law; Mike Wielenberg’s

parents; Al and Carolyn Ek’s son; Mike & Kara Johnson’s friend, Jenny; Kim Wielenberg’s friend, Cindy; Dede Mattison’s friends, Linda and Yvonne

**SYMPATHY TO:** Anna Thorstad and family on the loss of her sister; Andrea Johnson & family on the death of her mother; the family of Bev Stepka on her death; Dale Kennen & family on the death of his brother; Bill Olson & family on the death of his mother; Joan Lindquist & family on the death of her brother-in-law, Lee; the family of Dwight Peterson on his death

## Save the Date for the 2025 All Hands on Hope MobilePack™



School is back in session, the leaves are beginning to turn and the days are getting shorter. Many people are back to their busy back-to-school schedules. As you are adding important dates to your calendar, make sure you include the 18th *All Hands on Hope MobilePack™*, held April 30

to May 4, 2025, at Incarnation. This will be an opportunity to gather as a community and help feed many of God's children from around the world. Save the date, prayerfully consider any financial contributions, and look for more information in upcoming Lifetimes newsletters, our event web page found here and our social media accounts listed below.

The MobilePacks are coordinated by Incarnation's *Feed My Starving Children* Action Group. This group meets monthly to plan details for the event, as well as other efforts to support our Ministry Partner, Feed My Starving Children. We are currently looking for more

members to join our Action Group. While we have regular monthly meetings, volunteers would not be required to attend each month. We are specifically looking for people passionate about making a difference in the lives of hungry kids to assist with volunteer coordination and registration and fundraising for next year's MobilePack™. For more information, please contact Mike Vant at [mjvant@gmail.com](mailto:mjvant@gmail.com).

Until all are fed!

Facebook: @IncarnationMobilePack

Instagram: @fmssc\_at\_incarnation

## Pickleball @ Incarnation... Returns October 1



### A Few Things to Remember and Something New:

- Everyone is encouraged to bring food shelf items for Ralph Reader each time.
- It's a casual atmosphere for all levels of players. It's about fellowship, not victories. Mix it up with new partners.
- Please wear a name tag and introduce yourself.
- Incarnation members may invite a guest, but please accompany your guests (and limit the number of guests a little) due to limited court times.
- Please record or report all injuries should they occur. Safety first, please.
- Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:00–8:00 p.m.

**NEW THIS YEAR:** For safety reasons, entrance door #2 will be locked with a doorbell for entrance. There will be greeters to let you in. [Sign up here](#) as an Incarnation Ambassador & Greeter. The door chime will be in the gym, and other players can let you in if a greeter is not present.

### Pickleball Greeters Needed — FYI, FAQs, ETC...

- Door #2 is locked after 3:00 p.m. for building security reasons.
- A doorbell for entry is at door #2.
- Greeters are needed to let folks in the door... OR players who hear the doorbell can stop playing and let people in the door.
- Greeters sign up for 2-hour shifts on Sign Up Genius.

### For Now:

- If players are present for your entire 2-hour shift, the greeter does not need to stay for the full 2-hour shift.
- Greeters are needed from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- You can be both greeter and player for the same shift... just stop playing to let folks in the door.
- LISTEN for the doorbell !!

Be Nice... Play Nice... Don't Get Pickled... Bring a Friend.