



# INCARNATION

LUTHERAN CHURCH

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP



### January 18, 2026 | Worship at 9:00 am and 10:30 am

All live-streamed worship will be on Vimeo, but you don't need a Vimeo account to view the live stream. The live stream will begin about ten minutes before the start of the service, so you can make sure you can connect.

#### **Connect to Worship at 9:00 am [HERE](#)**

Prelude  
Welcome  
Opening Words  
Hymn—ELW #785 When Peace like a River  
Prayer  
Anthem  
Release ILC Kids  
Reading—Matthew 12: 15-21 (Justice to the Gentiles)  
Sermon—Pastor Kai  
Hymn—ELW #710 Let Streams of Living Justice  
Prayers and Sharing the Peace  
Communion (All are welcome)  
Next Steps  
Hymn—ELW #654 The Church's One Foundation (vv. 1-2, 4-5)  
Sending  
Postlude

#### **Connect to Worship at 10:30 am [HERE](#)**

Prelude  
Welcome  
Opening Words  
Songs—All The People Said Amen  
Do Justly  
Reading—Matthew 12: 15-21 (Justice to the Gentiles)  
Sermon—Pastor Kai  
Special Music  
Prayers and Sharing the Peace  
Communion (All are welcome)  
Next Steps  
Song—This Is Amazing Grace

[Watch later on Facebook](#)

[Watch later on the Web](#)

[Download a PDF of a guide for families worshipping together.](#)

## Prayer Concerns

Scott Durbahn; Dottie House; Gil Hartley; Carlos Rodriguez; Joan Volkmann; Erin Holmen; Deb Rykken; Karen Stauder; Kara Genia & family; Jon Nelson; Kate Tollefson & family; Carol Beckerleg; Marian Ness; Lowell Odland; Linda Hudepohl; Kathleen Erno's brother-in-law & niece; Nicole & Troy Heller's brother-in-law; Kay Leerssen's daughter; Tom Henk's brother; Deb Rykken's brother; Sue Bernlohr's mother; Mike Wielenberg's mother; Al and Carolyn Ek's son; Kara Johnson's friends Ken & Trish; Nancy Haugen's friends David, Michelle & family and Colette & family; Kim Wielenberg's friend, Cindy; Dede Mattison's friends, Allan and Yvonne; caregivers

### Sympathy

Sympathy to Mary Gustafson & family on the death of her son, Don

*To be added to the public prayer concerns list, please get in touch with [Julie Durbin](#). If you would like to add someone else to the public prayer concerns list, please obtain their consent first.*

## Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers Given to the Glory of God by Cathy Carter in loving memory of my husband, Mark.

*If you would like to have altar flowers given in honor or memory of someone, don't hesitate to get in touch with the Incarnation Office at 651-484-7213 to sign up (cost: \$25). Donations help offset the cost of the beautiful flowers the Worship Arts team provides. Altar flowers express our love for God, enhance our gathering around the Word and Sacrament, and represent changing seasons both in the church year and in nature.*



Click on the image above to link to our giving page.

## Giving a Gift

We are grateful for your continued support of the ministries at Incarnation. Your generosity is not only vital to our church's worship but helps us have an impact on people in the surrounding communities and beyond. We invite you to continue with us on this journey! If you have questions about setting up an electronic recurring donation or making a gift through stocks, an IRA, or a donor-advised fund, please reach out to [Amy Faymoville](#), our gifts manager.

Thrivent Choice®

# Making generosity easy

thrivent

Donate or Direct →



## Thrivent Choice Dollars®

Thank you to those who directed their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Incarnation in 2025.

Together, you were able to donate \$4,016.00 to benefit our Operating budget. We are so very grateful for the additional financial support.

If you would like to direct Thrivent Choice Dollars in 2026, please visit Thrivent's website for more information: <https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-choice>

## WORSHIP & MUSIC

### Epiphany Season Banner

White and green are the two liturgical colors used during the Season of Epiphany. White is the color associated with the festivals of Christ (Epiphany, Baptism of Our Lord, and Transfiguration of Our Lord). These three festivals are represented by a white Epiphany star and two white panels on a green background. White symbolizes purity, light, and glory. Green is the color of spiritual growth and life.

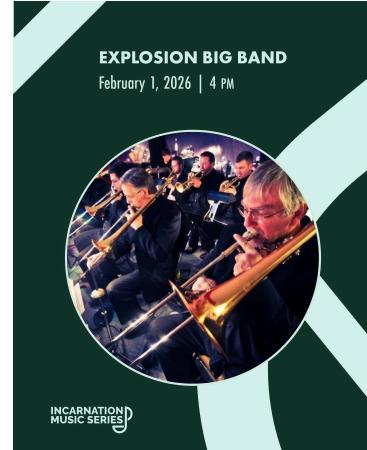


### Explosion Big Band at Incarnation!

Sunday, February 1, at 4 pm

Get ready for a high-energy afternoon of swing, jazz, and rock with The Explosion Big Band — a 17-piece big band led by Doug Haining and Scott Agster! The Explosion Big Band brings together a repertoire of rock and swing and compositions by Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Thad Jones, Clare Fischer, Pat Metheny, and others. Performance Length: 75 minutes

Learn more about the band at  
<https://www.explosionbigband.com>



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 2025 Giving Statements

2025 Giving Statements will be distributed electronically at the end of January via our new donor management system called Pushpay. Watch for the email.

**Note:** It will include all donations for 2025 regardless of what system it was processed through (Realm or Pushpay). Learn more at the link below:

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)



### **Updates and New Schedule for Wednesday ILC Kids**

New this year, there will be a few changes to ILC Kids Wednesday evening programming. We'll gather twice a month for kids of ILC to build community, connection, friendship, and fellowship, and to give parents a chance to join a small group or simply have an hour to themselves. Infants – Grade 5 are welcome!

We'll play games, craft, and have creative competitions, tying them together with a Bible Verse or Story. Infants–4-year-olds will play and create in the Nursery & 5-year-olds-5th Grade will gather in the Youth Room. Registration is required for each child. See below for dates, time, and the QR code to register. (Please note this is a separate registration from Sunday ILC Kids)

# WEDNESDAY ILC KIDS & NURSERY

Wednesdays 6pm-7pm

January 28

February 4 & 25

March 4 & 25

April 8 & 29



## Next Blood Drive

Our next blood drive is on **Thursday, January 29** from 10:00 am– 4:00 pm. If you can help, please visit our [website](#) to sign up! Or click the direct link below:

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=IncarnationLutheran>



## New Eagle Scouts from Troop 9416 Honored

Six New Eagle Scouts from Shoreview Troop 9416 were honored with a ceremony on December 23, 2025, at Incarnation Lutheran Church (ILC). The following Scouts were recognized: Xander Daire, Pierson Willmert, Elijah Englund, Wyatt Erwin, Jordan Erwin, and Wade Miller. These Scouts achieved the rank of Eagle, the highest rank in Scouting America, in 2024 or 2025. Each Scout completed at least 21 merit badges, held leadership positions, demonstrated outdoor skills, followed the Scout Oath and the Scout Law, and completed a service project to the benefit of the community. Only approximately 4% of Scouts earn the rank of Eagle Scout. These Scouts' names have been added to Troop 9416's Eagle Scout Plaque. The Eagle Plaque can be viewed near Door 3. For more information or if you are interested in Scouting [email Wes Erwin](#), Scoutmaster.



## Feed My Starving Children: New Year, Same Hungry Kids

Set a goal this year to give back to hungry kids throughout the world.

Next week, there are three shifts available at the Feed My Starving Children site in Coon Rapids. The needs are great, and volunteer registration is low right now. Join fellow Incarnation community members and make a difference. Visit [Incarnation's Feed My Starving Children Ministry web page](#) to see the different dates and times, and links to register to volunteer. The days and shifts are:

- Tuesday, January 20 — 7:15-8:45 pm
- Wednesday, January 21 — 2:30-4:15 pm
- Thursday, January 22 — 5:00- 6:30 pm

Invite your family, friends, neighborhood kids, or anyone else who wants to help. All are welcome at these monthly packing events!



**Welcome to the 2025-2026 Kairos season. The Kairos logo, the Jerusalem cross, is a universal symbol for Kairos/God's time. Kairos sessions will be held at 10:15 am in the Fireside Room unless otherwise noted.**

## January 18

### Learning from Both the Tender and the Harsh Words of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew, Pt 2

Presenter: Matt Skinner, Asher O. and Carrie Nasby  
Professor of New Testament, Luther Seminary

All four Gospels present Jesus as a teacher with both reassuring and unsettling things to say. The contrast is most striking in Matthew's Gospel, where you can read a passage full of grace and comfort, then turn the page and be taken aback by threats of judgment. How do Jesus's promises of mercy relate to his warnings? This overview of some of the main themes in Matthew will offer a clearer view of how the Gospels remember Jesus's teachings, what those teachings mean, and how we might sort through them ourselves to make better sense of Jesus's message to us.



Skinner, also Scholar for Adult Education at Westminster Presbyterian Church, is a longtime cohost of Sermon Brainwave, a weekly podcast that helps preachers work with biblical passages as they prepare their sermons. One of his recently published books is Matthew: The Gospel of Promised Blessings, which explores the Gospel of Matthew and its most important themes.

## January 25

### Religion & Politics: Like Oil & Water?

Presenter: Gary Anderson, Retired Senior Pastor, Incarnation Lutheran Church

There is a great deal of confusion and disinformation about the relationship between religion and politics today. There are also worrisome, if not dangerous, associations between them being advanced by some churches and politicians. In this session, we will explore the complex relationship and the challenges it entails, especially for Lutherans, given the historic disassociation between the two and a basic Lutheran attitude of simply staying out of politics.



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## Door Greeters Needed to Welcome Players and Keep the Game Going!

Our gym is open for pickleball! We're looking for enthusiastic players and friendly **door greeters** to help welcome everyone. Door greeters will cover two-hour shifts each session to let players into the building. For instructions and to sign up for available dates and times, click the link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C45ABAB28A57-51542625-pickleball#/>

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**FREE**

**FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**

**FEB 10, 5:00-6:30 PM**

- **5:00 Pizza Dinner, Activities, Jump House & more!**
- **5:45 CONCERT with UNCLE DAVE!**

Bring your Teddy Bears & Lovies to Dance Along!



**INCARNATION**  
**DISCOVERY CENTER**  
*Early Childhood Education Program*



**4880 Hodgson Rd, Shoreview MN**

**PrimeTimers:**  
**Pati Kachel Presents**  
**“Conversations with Corrie Ten Boom”**

Join us for a morning with local storyteller Pati Kachel as she presents “Conversations with Corrie Ten Boom.” Through her vivid storytelling, Pati will bring this remarkable story to life, weaving moments of warmth, humor, and emotion that will leave you both laughing and moved to tears.

**PRIMETIMERS**

PRIMETIMERS EVENTS



Pati Kachel Presents  
“Conversations With  
Corrie Ten Boom”

PRIMETIMERS WINTER EVENTS

- Thursday, January 29, 2026
- Doors open: 10:00 am
- Program starts: 10:30 am
- Lunch: 11:30 am | \$10 (payable at the door)

Don't forget to reserve your lunch spot—please give Julie Durbin a call by **Monday, January 26**, at 651-484-7213 to sign up.

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# INCARNATION

## SMALL GROUPS

### **Small Groups in the New Year**

We are about to begin a new season of Small Group Ministry!  
Look for the Small Group tables on **Sunday morning, January 18**.

### **Our Money Stories**

"Christians are usually sincere and well-intentioned people until you get to any real issues of ego, control power, money, pleasure, and security. Then they tend to be pretty much like everybody else. We've often given a bogus version of the Gospel, some fast-food religion, without any deep transformation of the self; and the result has been the spiritual disaster of "Christian" countries that tend to be as consumer-oriented, proud, warlike, racist, class conscious, and addictive as everybody else—and often more so, I'm afraid."

#### **—Richard Rohr, Breathing Underwater: Spirituality and the 12 Steps**

Join in this Small Group for a safe space to talk about your own life stories and how you have been shaped by your relationship with money. Consider this an opportunity to begin the new year in a positive way. We will use the fuller version of the ***Our Money Story*** Study Journal to support our conversation.

*Offered by* Tim Gray—suggested timing, Sunday afternoons at 4:00—reach out if you'd like to propose different timing

### **Matthew: The Gospel of Promised Blessings by Matthew Skinner**

Planned to begin in January 2026

The Gospel of Matthew portrays Jesus and his message as full of tender compassion and urgent warning. This six-part exploration of an enigmatic Gospel takes readers into the themes, topics, and tensions at the heart of Matthew's story about the life and work of Jesus. Chapters focus on blessing and comfort, judgment and retribution, the meaning of discipleship, Jesus' vision for the Church and world, conflicts and complaints, and how the Gospel of Matthew speaks to believers today.

Components include video teaching sessions featuring Matthew Skinner and a comprehensive Leader Guide.

*Offered by:*

Liv Rosin – on Tuesdays, 1:30-3:00 pm, beginning January 13.

### **Parents Small Group**

This Small Group's purpose is to gather parents of young (and growing) children to grow in faith together, create relationships with each other, as well as share conversation about the joys and challenges of parenting. We will dig into God's living word, share ideas, and explore how to form faith together with our children and as a family. All are welcome, including Incarnation Preschool families and those worshiping at Incarnation who have a preschooler. Dates are set to match evenings when there is a pizza supper (5-6 pm) or a Lent meal (5:30–6:45 pm).

ILCKids/Childcare is available for participants of this Small Group with advance registration—to register for childcare, see *the link below*.

Wednesdays, 6-7 pm on the following dates: January 28 (pizza), February 4 (pizza), February 25 (Lent), March 4 (Lent), March 25 (Lent), April 8 (pizza), April 29

Small Group Leader: Caleb Cordes

[https://onrealm.org/IncarnationLuth/PublicRegistrations/Event?  
linkString=NTM5ZDM2NDYtYzhhYS00Mjc4LWE0NTgtYjNiMDAxMzE5NTNm](https://onrealm.org/IncarnationLuth/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=NTM5ZDM2NDYtYzhhYS00Mjc4LWE0NTgtYjNiMDAxMzE5NTNm)

**Renewal and Encouragement for Caregivers** - *this group has limited openings, contact Katie or Patty to be added*

The purpose of the group is to meet with others in our faith community who are serving as caregivers, share our stories, and to find encouragement and renewal through deep listening and companionship over our month together.

Optional book - *Refilling The Reservoirs* by Brenda Bos—we will discuss some topics from the book, but it **is not required reading**.

Small Group Leaders – Katie Solfest & Patty Nilsen, Small Group Room C

Tuesday afternoons in January 6, 13, 20, and 27, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

**Practicing Meditation with the Psalms** – *this group is full, contact Emily to be added to the waitlist*

We will meet in the chapel with candles and dim light. Participants can sit in a traditional chair or bring a mat or blanket to sit on the floor. We will listen to one Psalm together and have a short conversation on it. Then we will do a traditional guided meditation, including deep breathing, attention to body, listening, etc. Before the meditation is complete, we will hear the Psalm again and end with a breath prayer. We will all leave quietly.

Small Group Leader: Emily Schwieters

Meeting 5 Monday evenings 6:30-7:30pm. Jan 5, Jan 19, Feb 2, Feb 16, March 2

**Hope Comes in Small Actions**– *this group is full, contact Connie & Patti to be added to the waitlist*

If you've been wanting to be more involved but weren't quite sure where to begin, this small group is for you. We'll dive into a treasure trove of helpful resources, information, and materials for peaceful actions. The best part? Many actions can be done in the comfort of your home rather than protesting in the MN cold! Two local "everyday activists" will join us. They'll be sharing personal stories, giving you a peek into \*how\* and \*why\*, plus offering

encouragement to find your own path to Hope. Our goal is to show how even the smallest actions will leave you feeling an emotional high. Together we can create Hope in a time when it is most needed.

Small Group Leaders: Connie Wikman and Patti Williams

Jan 22, 29, Feb 5

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 pm

**Moms of Young Adults – A New Small Group**

For moms with "kids" in late high school, college, or early to late 20s. Join us once a month for meaningful discussion and reflection as we navigate the exciting season of launching our children into adulthood while reimagining our own lives.

Together, we'll explore how to embrace new opportunities as our nests empty and discover fresh ways to grow in faith and purpose. Enjoy discussion and relationship-building with other moms experiencing a similar stage of life.

Small Group Leaders: Melanie Ahlstrom & Tracy Strantz

Second Tuesday of the month, 6:30 – 8 PM at Incarnation (launching in February 2026).

***A preview of Lent Small Groups***

**Tell Me Something Good: Grounding ourselves in the good news this Lent**

Lent was originally a season for those new to faith to learn and prepare for their baptism at Easter. During that time, they would study what was central to Christianity. What are the core, foundational parts of Jesus' life and ministry? What makes it good news? Can we trust that the good news is truly good, even when it challenges us?

The good news brings us back to our roots, back to what grounds us: loving our neighbor, caring for the vulnerable, pursuing justice and mercy, and resting in God's unending grace. The good news grows like a mustard seed that flourishes rapidly into a tree to shelter the

birds. It sounds like children laughing. It feels like feet washed with tender care. The good news is alive in the world. When we are grounded in the good news, the goodness of God can infinitely flourish and grow.

We hope this series will provide fertile ground for conversation and worship, rooting our hearts and lives in the expansive goodness of God. This Lent, may the teachings of Jesus lead us forward. Let the good news ground us. And let that good news inspire us to take action in a world desperate to hear, see and taste what is good.

Interested? Sign up at *Small Groups table* on January 4, 11, 18



## Welcome Baskets

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### January 4- 25, 2026

- Brooms & dustpans
- Mops & Vacuum cleaners
- Microwaves & Kitchen utensils
- Knife sets of 3 & Pot & pan sets
- Kitchen wastebaskets
- Mixing bowls & bakeware
- Queen-size bedspreads, comforters, quilts
- Crib sheets
- Children's plates, bowls, sippy cups and silverware

**Drop-off at Incarnation in the bin marked Solid Ground**

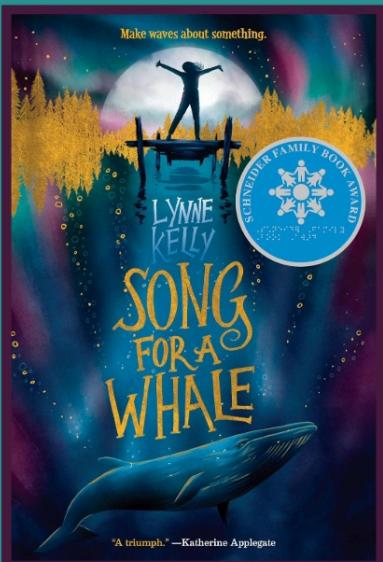
### Solid Ground Welcome Baskets

Each January, Incarnation collects items most needed by Solid Ground families who are settling into their new homes and community. A Welcome Basket filled with essential household supplies is given to each family upon arrival at Solid Ground. Your generosity not only meets a crucial need for families transitioning from homelessness but also serves as a warm and hospitable welcome to their homes as their new journey begins.

Please consider donating one or more items from their wish list: brooms & dustpans, mops, vacuum cleaners, microwaves, kitchen utensils, kitchen wastebaskets, pot & pan sets, crib sheets, mixing bowls, bakeware (cookie sheets, 9x13 pans, 9x9 pans etc), queen size bedspreads/comforters/quilts, children's plates, bowls, silverware & sippy cups.



**Donations can be dropped off at Incarnation in the bin marked "Solid Ground Welcome Baskets" from January 4 through January 25.** Monetary donations are also appreciated as they will help provide Welcome Baskets items throughout the year when supplies run low. Please indicate "SG Welcome Baskets" in the memo line of donations. Thank you for your generosity!



# WOMEN READ

**Wednesday, January 21**

**1 PM in Adult Room D**

Join us for friendship and conversation about "Song for a Whale" by Lynne Kelly.

## Youth & Family Ministry

### The Weekly Update

#### MSM Update

On Wednesday, 1/14, younger middle schoolers jumped into the story of the Pharisees & Sadducees, while 8th graders will continue their exploration into their spiritual gifts and how they work in community. We will meet each Wednesday in January.

#### A Few Updates

1. SIGN UP NOW... Summer Service Trip to Duluth, MN – July 26-31 – current 6-8 grade – [register here](#)
2. Christmas Eve Worship at 1:00 (families w/ young children), 3:00, 5:00, 7:00; Christmas Day and 12/28 at 10:00 am
3. Our First Thursday schedule in January shifts – Thursday, January 8, 7:00-8:30 am
4. Serve cookies and coffee on Sunday (2 hrs) – [sign up here](#)
5. Be a Pizza Person on Wednesday (next one: 1/7) – [sign up here](#)

To view our schedules and loads of other stuff, head to our [MSM](#) or [HSM](#) webpages.



#### National Day of Racial Healing

Join us online or in-person at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Naperville, Ill., on Jan. 20, 2026, from 6-8 p.m. Central time for a night of centering multiracial voices from across the ELCA as we observe the [2026 National Day of Racial Healing \(NDORH\)](#). Presented by the ELCA in partnership with Augsburg Fortress, this free program will feature intentional storytelling through words and music and provide opportunities for deep listening, reflection, and drawing closer together as fellow children of God.

Online attendees: No registration is required. A link to join virtually will be available on the [NDORH webpage](#).

In-person attendees: Space is limited, and registration is requested. [Register here.](#)

For more information, visit [elca.org/NDORH](http://elca.org/NDORH).

## A Message From the Six ELCA Bishops in Minnesota:

In the midst of fear, grief, and uncertainty in our state, the six ELCA bishops of Minnesota shared a joint message:

A Message From the Six ELCA Bishops in Minnesota

## Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing, and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and worldwide. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

### International:

- [Middle East Crisis](#)
- [Eastern Europe Crisis Response](#)
- [Horn of Africa Drought](#)
- [Middle East & Europe Refugee Crisis](#)
- [South Sudan Relief](#)
- [AMMPARO: Protecting Migrants](#)

### Domestic:

- [Flooding](#)
- [Hurricanes](#)
- [Severe Storms](#)
- [Tornadoes](#)
- [Wildfires](#)

Like Lutheran Disaster Response on [Facebook](#), follow @ELCALDR on [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) and follow @ELCA\_LDR on [Instagram](#).

- If you are new to Incarnation or you want to learn more about Incarnation ministries, [please complete this online form](#) we'll use to connect you to a ministry leader according to your interests.
- **Please consider giving online, allowing Incarnation to receive the funds quickly. You will be able to donate to the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf, Feed My Starving Children, the Operating Budget and more through the same link.**
- [You can find the online worship web page here.](#)
- [To email the council directly, click here.](#)
- To request council minutes, please email [Julie Durbin](#).
- To be added to the public prayer concerns list, contact [Julie Durbin](#). If you would like to add someone else to the public prayer concerns list, please obtain their consent first.
- If you are ill, someone is hospitalized, or there is a death, call the Incarnation Office at 651-484-7213. If it is outside of Office Hours, contact the on-call Pastor at 651-484-7213 ext. 204.
- [The Staff Directory, with email addresses, can be found here.](#)
- Questions? [Contact Julie Durbin](#).

## Incarnation Lutheran Church

[incarnationmn.org](http://incarnationmn.org)

651.484.7213

### UNSUBSCRIBE — UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION

If your contact information has changed or if you would no longer like to receive Online Worship Emails from Incarnation, please contact [Marina Nyberg](#) to take you off the list.

Please note that when you choose to unsubscribe using the link below, you will no longer receive ANY Incarnation email communications through Constant Contact. For this reason, you're asked to email [Marina Nyberg](#) if you wish to be removed from specific Incarnation email communications.



Incarnation Lutheran | 4880 Hodgson Road | Shoreview, MN 55126 US

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