



# INCARNATION

LUTHERAN CHURCH

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP



### January 11, 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 #595 Jesus Loves Me  
Prayer  
Anthem  
Release ILC Kids  
Reading—Matthew 3:13-17  
Sermon—Pastor Joy  
Hymn—ELW #732 Burning Cry  
Prayers and Sharing the Peace  
Communion (All are welcome)  
Next Steps  
Hymn—ELW #881 Let All Things Now Living  
Sending  
Postlude

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

Prelude  
Welcome  
Opening Words  
Songs—Living Waters  
A Thousand Tongues  
Reading—Matthew 3:13-17  
Sermon—Pastor Joy  
Special Music  
Prayers and Sharing the Peace  
Communion (All are welcome)  
Next Steps

Song—How Great Thou Art  
Sending  
Postlude

[Watch later on Facebook](#)

[Watch later on the Web](#)

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

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## Prayer Concerns

Scott Durbahn; Dottie House; Kathy Kvinge & family; 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; Scott Durbahn's brother, Glen; 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 Pastor Kai Nilsen, Patty & family on the death of their brother-in-law; Cindy Schlafmann Olson & family on the death of her father; Toni Stedman and family on the death of Charlie Peterson; Mary Cooper & family on the death of her father; Duane McEwen & family on the death of his brother; Lorinda Mishek & family on the death of her mother

*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.*

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## Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Mark & Ann Oswood in memory of our parents, Rev. Christian & Charlotte Oswood, and Jim & Pat Simonsen

*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.*

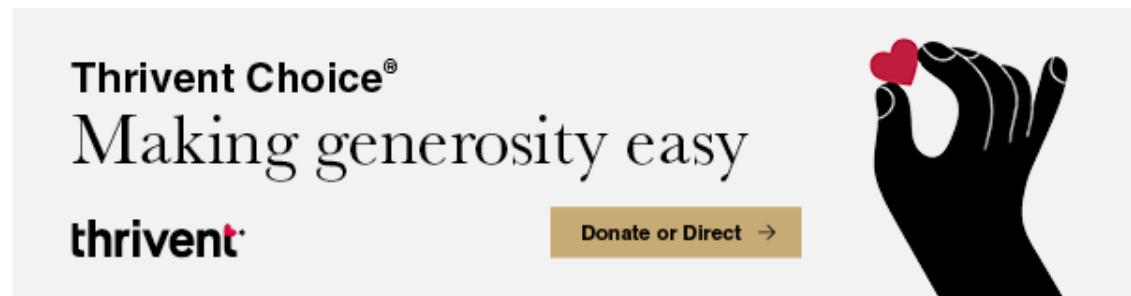


### Giving a Gift

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

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

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 →](#)

A graphic of a hand holding a small red heart.

## 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](#)

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### 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)



## 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.



**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.**

*NOTE: There will be no Kairos on December 21. Kairos resumes on January 11.*

## January 11 & 18

**Learning from Both the Tender and the Harsh Words of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew**

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.



## Thank You, Incarnation, from LifeHaven!



*Members from Mom's ILC Small Group and Hands & Hearts joyfully wrapped the gifts before they were delivered to LifeHaven.*

The staff & Youth at LifeHaven send many thanks for the generous gifts from Incarnation through the **LifeHaven Youth Holiday Gift Drive!** There were more than 120 gifts (including a beautiful handmade crib quilt & hand knit blankets) and \$300.00 in gift cards given to twelve youth and their children.

Fifty additional gifts were donated to the LifeHaven House & Program. This included items to welcome new youth to LifeHaven, such as PJs, slippers, desk chairs, &



comforters. There were also items donated to help youth transition into independent living, such as pots & pans, 2 vacuums, & dishware sets. \$875.00 in gift cards were donated to the LifeHaven Program for year-round use for birthdays, rewards for achieving set goals, use before benefits become available, & other emergency situations. We also had \$1,000.00 given to the LifeHaven program in cash donations that were very timely in repairing & replacing two LifeHaven house refrigerators!

The LifeHaven House is currently housing & supporting five youth & their children. LifeHaven staff also continue to support & be a resource to seven young adults & their children that have transitioned out of LifeHaven and into independent living.

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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#/>



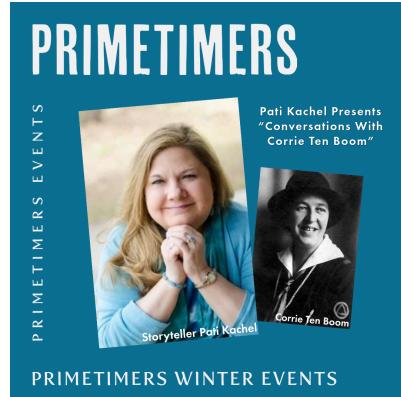
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## PrimeTimers: Pati Kachel Presents "Conversations with Corrie Ten Boom"

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.

- **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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## 2025 Holiday Baking Drive Campaign for Ralph Reeder Food Shelf — Final Results and THANK YOU!

We cannot thank you enough for your generosity in giving to our 2025 Holiday Baking Drive Campaign. We transported carloads of donations and baking goods throughout the campaign, weighing in at 2560 pounds. And one Small Group donated an additional 175 pounds for the holidays.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION  
*Mounds View Public Schools*

In total, we donated 2735 pounds to the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf for holiday giving to our neighbors. That is over a TON of generosity! Thank you!!

As well, you have been very generous in giving financial donations this fall and through the holiday season. Through your generosity, we have received \$26,900! Ralph Reeder Food Shelf can make great use of these funds, acquiring items that are greatly needed through their channels. Again, thank you!!

During this season of giving, thank you for being a part of our "Church Without Walls" ministry and providing generously for our neighbors through our partnership with the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf.

While this year's campaign has officially come to an end, food insecurity, unfortunately, has not. Please continue to support the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf and those they serve here in our community.

Incarnation donation link – choose 'Ralph Reeder Food Shelf' in the Fund drop-down:  
<https://pushpay.com/g/incarnationmn>

Ralph Reeder Food Shelf donation link: <https://www.ralphreederfoodshelf.org/donate>

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## 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!

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We are about to begin a new season of Small Group Ministry!  
Look for the Small Group tables on **Sunday mornings, January 4, 11, 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.

ILCKids/Childcare is available for participants of this Small Group with advance registration—to register for childcare, see 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 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 the 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, 6:30-7:30 pm. Jan 5, Jan 19, Feb 2, Feb 16, March 2

## **A Preview of Lent Small Groups**

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

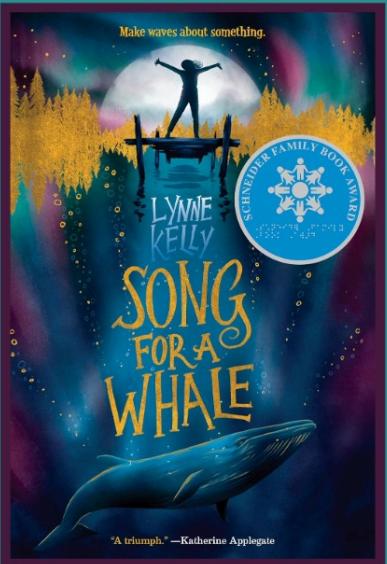
Lent was originally a season for those new to faith to learn and prepare for their baptism at Easter. During that time, they would study what was central to Christianity. What are the core, foundational parts of Jesus' life and ministry? What makes it good news? Can we trust that the good news is truly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

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**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, 1/7, we ate, played, sang, explored our gifts, and shared community. Younger middle schoolers sang and played some more and practiced living into the “brand-new-thing” God is doing in us and the world (2 Corinthians 5:17). In true Epiphany fashion, we gathered around an old liturgical lighthouse banner, on which we placed lit candles along with our written hopes for 2026. And we were reminded who and whose we are. 8th graders dove into learning about spiritual gifts and how they have been intentionally formed to be an extension of God’s love in the world. Through a gifts assessment, they each found their Top 3—the inward journey. Again, we were reminded who and whose we are. Next week, 1/14, younger middle schoolers will jump 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.

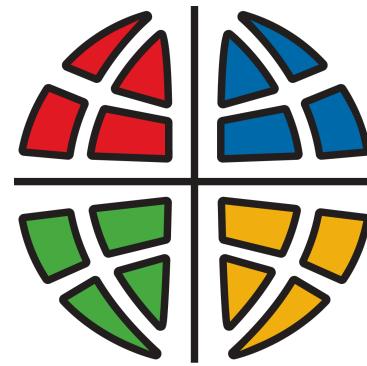
## National Day of Racial Healing

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](#).



## ELCA

## 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.



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