



INCARNATION

LUTHERAN CHURCH

WELCOME TO WORSHIP



November 23, 2025 | Worship at 9:00 am and at 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— Heavenly Day (Jennifer Grimm)
Welcome
Opening Words
Hymn—ELW #693 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come
Prayer
Anthem
Release ILC Kids
Reading—Mark 12:38-44, Leviticus 19:9-10, 25:8-12
Sermon—Pastor Joy
Hymn—ELW #679 For the Fruit of All Creation
Blessing for Pastor Janet
Communion (All are welcome)
Communion Music—At This Table (Jennifer Grimm)
Next Steps
Hymn—ELW #840 Now Thank We All Our God
Sending
Postlude

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

Prelude
Welcome
Opening Words
Songs—All Are Welcome
A Thousand Tongues
Special Music—Heavenly Day (Jennifer Grimm)
Reading—Mark 12:38-44, Leviticus 19:9-10, 25:8-12
Sermon—Pastor Joy
Special Music—At This Table (Jennifer Grimm)
Blessing for Pastor Janet
Communion (All are welcome)

Next Steps
Song—Soon and Very Soon
Sending
Postlude

Thank-You to Jennifer Grimm

We would like to thank Jennifer Grimm for sharing her musical gifts with us this morning. We look forward to hosting her concert on December 14 at 7:00 pm as part of the Incarnation Music Series.

[Watch later on Facebook](#)

[Watch later on the Web](#)

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

Prayer Concerns

Joan Volkmann; Karen Gladen; Maria & family; Ron Anderson; Sitraka Rakotoarivelo; Pat & Ken Olson; Erin Holmen; Deb Rykken; Karen Stauder; Anna Thorstad; Kara Genia & family; Jon Nelson; Kate Tollefson & family; Carol Beckerleg; Marian Ness; Lowell Odland; Linda Hudepohl; Eric Sinkula's mother; Ruth & Paul Howard's 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 to the family of Anna Thorstad on her death; to Shirley Kangas and family on the death of her daughter Jennifer; Emily Villano & family on the death of her brother

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...

- Marlys M. Nelson & family in memory of her husband, Duane
- Incarnation Lutheran Church in honor of Pastor Janet's ministry



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



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.

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

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Advent Fest — December 5

Join us for a night of Advent Fun for all generations on Friday, December 5, from 6:00–8:00 PM! Enjoy a meal and music by members of our Incarnation worship team, then visit the different craft stations. Each station will include a craft, a devotion and scripture. This event is for all generations! **Sign-up by Wednesday, November 26** at <https://form.jotform.com/243015831505145>



Welcome to Advent!

Luke's Gospel begins the story of Jesus with this opening line: "In the time of Herod..." This detail may seem minor to modern readers; however, it reveals layers of information about the fearful world Jesus entered, one filled with rampant oppression, economic disparity, uncertainty, and instability. A world not so unlike our own. And yet, throughout the stories of Christ's birth, the whispers of angels deliver a surprising message: "Do not fear." In our own time, we might ask: Is it even possible to be fearless in a fearful world? When Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the magi are each called into God's redemptive story, they do not deny their fears—they move through them. They ask questions, hold fast to courage, trust in good news, and say, "Here I am, Lord." When we find ourselves in fearful times, can we acknowledge our fears while also insisting on hope?

Every Advent, we light candles, sing carols, and pray for Christ's coming because we believe God entered a frightened world to bring good news. We hold onto hope because we believe that Christ did come—that's the promise of the season. Our hope is not flimsy or fleeting. It's gritty, resilient, and can endure—no matter what we fear or face. This season, let us insist on hope and trust that good news is greater than fear.

What can you expect this Advent?

In addition to meaningful Sunday worship around this theme of hope, watch for these extras:

Holden Evening Prayer

On Advent Wednesdays – December 3, December 10, and December 17 at 6 pm
In the middle of this beautiful evening prayer by Marty Haugen, we will offer a scripture, a time of silence (where you may simply be present and/or pray a simple breath prayer that we'll offer), and a poem.

Blue Christmas

On Wednesday, December 3, following Holden Evening Prayer, we will have a Blue Christmas time of prayer and reflection in the chapel. Blue Christmas, December 3, 6:30 pm — Chapel

A time of quiet, prayer, candles, care for those who have experienced loss and are carrying grief or weariness in this season.

Advent Devotional – for personal use or to use in a Small Group

Our friends at A Sanctified Art have provided a special e-reader version of this year's Advent devotional, which you can access on your computer and mobile devices: online.flippingbook.com/view/361593675/

To protect their work, please refrain from sharing this link or posting it on social media.
We will also print copies by request for those who would like a printed booklet.

Daily Social Media Posts inviting us to breathe and pray a simple breath prayer each day
OR if social media is not your thing, pick up a one-sheet calendar of the breath prayers for each day in December.

Festive Christmas Worship

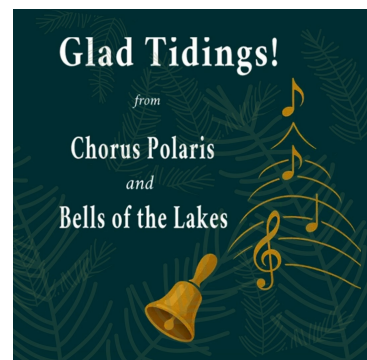
Christmas Eve worship will be offered at 1 pm, 3 pm, 5 pm and 7 pm

Christmas Day worship will be at 10 am

First Sunday of Christmas worship will be at 10 am

Glad Tidings!

Come celebrate the season with **Chorus Polaris** and **Bells of the Lakes**. They are teaming up to bring you **Glad Tidings**, a concert filled with shimmering handbells, beautiful choral harmonies, and music that feels like the holidays. You'll hear everything from the lively Riu Riu Chiu to Biebl's gorgeous Ave Maria, plus favorites like Christmas Time Is Here and a heartfelt Dona Nobis Pacem shared by both groups.



Join the choirs on **December 7, 3:00 pm**, at Incarnation Lutheran Church in Shoreview for an evening of joy, warmth, and beautiful music.

Tickets are \$20 and available online at <https://givebutter.com/GladTidings1207> or at the door.

Incarnation Music Series Presents: "Home for the Holidays" with Jennifer Grimm

Nationally acclaimed and charismatic jazz vocalist Jennifer Grimm, joined by her talented family and friends, will share her amazing vocal stylings in a program of holiday music. Jennifer Grimm grew up singing her way across the country with her family's variety act for the first 13 years of her life. After settling down in the Twin Cities in her teens, she earned her degree in mathematics from Augsburg College and continued performing in a variety of venues. After college, she appeared on stages locally with Garrison Keillor and Debbie Duncan, and in New York, Europe, and the Caribbean. Join us for what is sure to be a memorable holiday event.

www.JenniferGrimm.com

(Performance time: 75 minutes)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Safety & Security Update

Incarnation has taken steps to protect anyone in the building: members, children, staff and visitors:

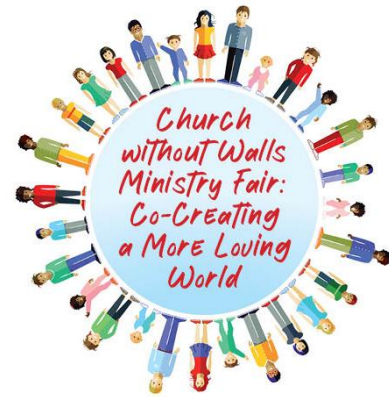
After some startup issues, the inside doors at Door 1 are now locked Monday – Thursday, 8 am to 3 pm.

- All outside doors are locked during office hours.
- Door 1 vestibule doors will be open with the staff granting entry via video intercom.
- Small Group Leaders meeting during office hours will need to greet members at Door 1 to allow entry.
- Doors will auto-unlock for Sunday mornings, Wednesday nights and other events as needed.
- Preschool entry processes at door 2 will continue unchanged.
- Door 1 has new interior and exterior automatic access buttons. There may be times when Staff is not available to respond to the intercom.
- Please be patient as we continue to work through processes and be sure to smile at the receptionist at the intercom! Thank you!

Church Without Walls Ministry Fair

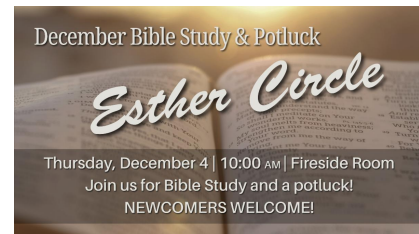
Tomorrow, November 23, outreach tables will fill the hallways at Incarnation, showcasing ways to share

God's love in our community and beyond. Stop by before the 9 am service and throughout the morning to learn, connect, volunteer, or support the ministries we partner with. Discover opportunities in hunger relief, family shelter, housing, memory care, global partnerships, and more. Come and see how you can extend God's love this season.



Esther Circle — Time Change for December Gathering

The Esther Circle Bible study will meet in December, but at 10 am instead of 9 am, and the time together will include a potluck luncheon. Newcomers are invited and very welcome to join in!



Thursday, December 4, 10:00 am, in the Fireside Room



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.

November 30 & December 14

Foundations of Hope: Ruth and David

Presenter: Kathryn Schifferdecker, Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary

Advent is about hopeful waiting, but we're not the first ones to wait and hope for a Redeemer. The Bible is filled with stories of hope, including the stories of two particular ancestors of Jesus: Ruth and David. Come study anew the stories of the Moabite widow and the flawed Israelite king, her great-grandson, who helped lay the foundation for the story of Jesus the Messiah, the center of our Advent hope. Schifferdecker co-hosts the podcast, "Everything you wanted to know about the Bible but were afraid to ask" at [EntertheBible.org](https://enterthebible.org). She is also a frequent contributor to [WorkingPreacher.org](https://workingpreacher.org).



December 7

Parents Letting Go

Presenter: Jack Stoltzfus, Clinical Psychologist, author and America's Launch Coach

Parents are more challenged to let go of adult children than in past generations. We need to learn how to let

go, whether the young adult is living at home or not. Letting go in love is foundational and has its roots in our experience of God's love in Christ. Stoltzfus counsels parents and writes about young adult parenting challenges in his recent book, *"The Parent's Launch Code: Loving and Letting Go of Our Adult Children."* His website: parentslettinggo.com



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

Our gym is open for pickleball again! 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#/>

Hunger Advocacy & Creation Care Offer Learning Opportunity

Manna Market is an organization in Spring Lake Park that works to alleviate hunger and food waste by rescuing quality, unsold food and distributing it to those facing food insecurity. In 2023, they provided 3.25M meals to families, keeping food out of landfills and feeding the hungry. You can learn more about Manna Market on **Monday, December 1, at 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room.**

Ralph Reeder Food Shelf Holiday Baking Drive

The Ralph Reeder Food Shelf (RRFS) has a Holiday project underway! We want to help RRFS meet their goal of providing all of their clients with a bag of goodies for holiday baking. You can help to provide this baking opportunity to our neighbors with food insecurities in a number of ways.

First, you can provide any number of complete "Holiday Baking Bags" by collecting each item in the "Holiday Baking Drive" list (see below) into a shopping or gift bag; then drop them off at Incarnation or RRFS.

Second, you can purchase any items from the "Holiday Baking Drive" list and drop them off at Incarnation or RRFS:



- Flour
- White Sugar
- Brown Sugar
- Oil
- Chocolate Chips
- Vanilla
- Baking powder
- Baking Soda
- Optional examples – sprinkles, cookie cutter, measuring cups, favorite cookie recipe

Third, you can make a financial donation that is always welcome. Donate online (<https://pushpay.com/g/incarnationmn>) or make checks out to Incarnation -- with "Ralph Reeder Food Shelf" as the Fund or in the memo. Double your impact by donating during the Holiday Match period in November and December!

Note that non-perishable donations should be dropped off at Incarnation or RRFS no later than December 7. Thank you for making the holidays merry and bright for our neighbors in need!



INCARNATION

SMALL GROUPS

Advent Small Groups

What do you fear? Insisting on Hope this Advent

When we find ourselves in fearful times, can we speak honestly about our fear while also insisting on hope? This Advent, we share a booklet (by e-Reader or paper copy) that takes seriously the angels' message and trusts that Christ's birth truly is good news of great joy for all people. We'll look closely at the fear looming in the background during the time of Jesus' birth and consider the fears that we hold now. Fear can divide and paralyze us. This Advent devotional booklet gently invites us to identify where fear is present—both in the Advent story and in our lives—while also finding our way together toward hope. Our hope is not flimsy or fleeting. It's gritty, resilient, and can endure.

There is still space for people to sign up in three of our short-term Advent Small Groups—in addition, long-term Small Groups are welcome to use these materials as you meet together this Advent. To register, contact the group leader directly or Pastor Joy at jcoltv@incarnationmn.org

Advent Theme — What Do You Fear? Insisting on Hope this Advent

This is a short-term Small Group experience, and there will be several different days/timeframes/formats to choose from, and groups will meet 3-4 times during the Advent season (Nov 30 to Dec 23).

Offered by:

- Dianne Timmer – Sunday afternoons in Arizona - *group has openings*
- Jane Trapp – Thursdays afternoons at 3 pm – Dec 4, 11, and 18 – meeting on Zoom - *group has openings*
- Melanie Ahlstrom – In-person at Incarnation, Wednesdays at 5 pm – Dec 3, 10, 17 – *group has openings*
- Donna Rauch and Deb Morey – In-person at Incarnation, Wednesdays, 10 am – Dec 3, 10, and January 7 - *group is full but taking names on the waitlist*

Preschool Parents/Parents of Young Children Small Group

A Bible study for parents interested in exploring the challenges of raising our children to be more dependent on God than us as they grow up. We will dig into God's word, discuss approaches and parenting insights from God that we can in turn apply at home.

Spouses switch off who comes. It's organically worked out that dads come one week and the moms come the opposite.

Tuesdays in December, Dec 2 and 16, 8:30 – 9:30 pm at the Cordes home

Small Group Leader: Caleb Cordes

Hungry for Hope Young Adult Small Group - group has openings

Small Group Leaders – Pastor Joy and Mike Sell

3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30-7:30 pm

Will meet six times: Nov 18, Dec 16, Jan 20, Feb 17, Mar 17, Apr 21

Interested in these opportunities in the new year?

5 open spots for this January group

Matthew: The Gospel of Promised Blessings by Matthew Skinner

Planned to begin in late 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 Wednesdays in the early afternoon, starting in late January

Our Money Stories

*As you reflected on the theme in November, were you interested in a deeper conversation with a small group about the way that your own life and faith has been shaped as you remember, release, reimagine, and reconcile?. Consider this new short-term small group led by Tim Gray that will use the full version of the *Our Money Stories* Study Journal to explore the focal scriptures through art, reflections, and writing prompts. Proposed timing - Sunday afternoons at 4:00 pm*

Caregivers Group - group is full but taking names on the waitlist

Small Group Leaders – Katie Solfest & Patty Nilsen

Tuesdays in January 6, 13, 20, and 27

Practicing Meditation with the Psalms - group is full but taking names on the waitlist

Small Group Leader: Emily Schwieters

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



Solid Ground Volunteer Opportunities

☐ **Christmas Tree Donations**

Many Solid Ground families would love to have a Christmas tree this year but don't have the resources to purchase one. As part of the Ministry Fair, we're collecting **new or gently used 4–6 foot Christmas trees** to share with our Solid Ground neighbors.

- Pre-lit trees are preferred but not required.
- Please bring donated trees to the **Incarnation office by December 10.**

- Financial donations toward the purchase of trees are also appreciated — please note “**SG Christmas Trees**” in the memo line.

❑ **Wrapping Paper, Bags & Bows**

Help us make the season brighter! We’re collecting **Christmas wrapping materials** to wrap gifts for Solid Ground families.

Please drop off **wrapping paper, gift bags, and bows** in the Solid Ground donation box at Incarnation by **December 7**.

❑ **Holiday Express**

Join us in spreading holiday cheer to Solid Ground families! Contact **Dylan McDonough** at dmcdonough@solidgroundmn.org or **615-846-9024** if you’d like to:

- Purchase gifts for a family or individual, or make a financial donation
- Volunteer on **December 10 or 12** (9 am–noon or 1–4 pm) to receive and organize donations
- Help **deliver gifts** at East Metro Place on **December 17 from 4:30–6:30 pm**

Young Adult Minstry News

Gather Twin Cities has another event coming up for young adults:

- December 14, we welcome Bishops Jen and Patricia to co-host Gather with us at Norseman Distillery! (More info in the graphic below.)

For more information, please get in touch with [Pastor Joy](#).



YOUNG ADULT EVENT
SUNDAY DEC. 14TH
Norseman Distillery | 6:00pm–8:00pm

Bevies with the Bishops!

Join Bishops Lull & Nagel for an *Ask Them Anything* night!

Garden Suite at Norseman Distillery
6 PM | Drinks available for purchase
(alcoholic & non-alcoholic)

The graphic features a purple background with a circular logo on the right that says "GATHER twin cities" over a map of the Twin Cities. On the left, there is a photo of two people in "Twins" jerseys posing with a large teddy bear mascot, all enclosed in a gold picture frame.

Youth & Family Ministry

The Weekly Update



On Wednesday, 11/19, 6th and 7th graders stepped into the imaginative idea of the Sheep in the New Testament, learning about their instinct to follow the crowd (just like us), their vulnerability, and their ability to know their leader's voice (just like us). Jesus will lead us and guide us through good and bad, forgive our sins, and bring us close as we learn to live and love like Jesus. 8th graders finished their *Jesus Story* core course with a look at how the music we listen to can communicate truths about the nature of God and our relationship to God. We engaged in practical theology as we looked at God through a culturally specific (contextual) lens. On 11/23, there is no cyf programming because of the Thanksgiving holiday. Read below for a high school update...

A Few Updates

1. No CYF programming on Wednesday, 11/26, because of the Thanksgiving holiday
2. At high school youth group on Sunday, 11/16, we did "ask Pastor Joy"—30 youth showed up!
3. No youth group on 11/23
4. Bring a first-time visitor and receive 1 \$5 Caribou gift card for each
5. Serve cookies and coffee on Sunday (2 hrs) — [sign up here](#)
6. Be a Pizza Person on Wednesday (next one: 11/19)— [sign up here](#)
7. No CYF programming on Wednesday, 11/26, because of the Thanksgiving holiday

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

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](#)

Domestic:

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

- Middle East & Europe Refugee Crisis
- South Sudan Relief
- AMMPARO: Protecting Migrants

- 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

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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