



# Lifetimes

January 2024



## From the Pastor



Pastor Kai Nilsen

This past fall we began a three-part preaching series designed to help us ask the right questions about and take some small steps toward a “worthwhile” life. *Life Worth Living* began with the vision that Jesus has for our lives—lives that reflect his goodness and compassion and love.

That series then invited us to develop routine practices and habits that reinforced and shaped that kind of life.

*Love Worth Experiencing*, the series we just immersed ourselves in through Advent and Christmas, narrowed our scope to the nature of the love we have experienced in God through Jesus and how that kind of love could be expressed in this world.

In the New Year, we launch our series *Light Worth Sharing*. Think, for a moment, about the things, places, or events that you most excitedly share with others. We devour a good book and can't wait for our friends to experience it in the same way we did. We experience a new restaurant

or museum or concert and we burn through the speed dial numbers on our phones hoping that someone will be available to listen. What are those experiences you have had that you couldn't wait to share with someone?

What if you experienced a light that shines even in the darkest time, a strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, a peace that passes all human understanding, a new courage to start again, a love so deep that nothing would ever separate you from that love? Would that light and love be worth sharing?

Come to think of it, that sounds a lot like the life and light that Jesus embodied and embraced.

So, welcome to 2024! We hope you will continue to journey, at least with small steps, toward a life worth living, embraced by a love worth experiencing, and energized by a light worth sharing.

Peace, Kai



Jim Meinen  
President

The year 2023 has been a whirlwind of activity for our church council, propelled by two driving forces: commitment and teamwork. These qualities carried us as we tackled the five priorities set at the beginning of the year. We gained significant progress on each priority and laid the groundwork for further refinement and implementation in 2024 and beyond.

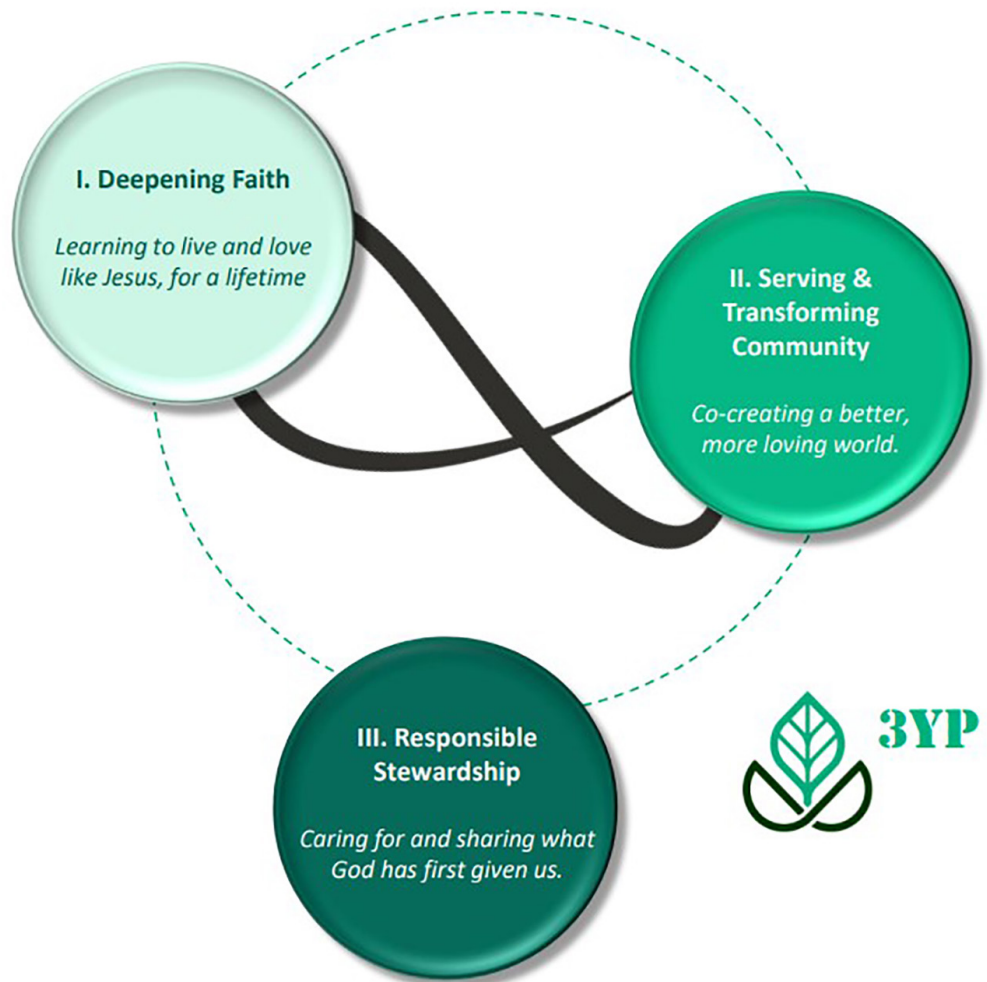
Our five priorities were:

1. **Develop a 3-year Plan:** This roadmap for our future ensures we move forward with intention and purpose, aligning our goals with the needs of our congregation and community.
2. **Increase Transparent Communications:** We established a Communication Committee that worked to foster open dialogue and keep everyone informed. We continue our commitment to transparency to strengthen trust and foster a sense of shared ownership.
3. **Conduct an Internal Financial Review:** Thanks to the team that conducted the financial review, we can be assured our financial practices are in good shape. There were a few recommendations to further strengthen our financial operations that will be implemented in 2024.
4. **Create Future Budgets with Positive Net Contributions:** We are committed to financial sustainability, ensuring that our giving outpaces our spending and allows us to invest in our future endeavors. Our proposed 2024 budget reflects our need for growth and financial strength.
5. **“Rethink” Giving:** We are partnering with Infinity Giving, an organization specializing in fundraising and sustainable giving models. Their expertise will be invaluable in securing the resources needed for our 3-year plan, capital projects, and building a long-term framework for financial stability.

Beyond these priorities, a task force completed a comprehensive capital plan to address the needs of our facility. We also established a dedicated Facilities Committee to oversee the implementation and ongoing capital plan projects and updates.

As we move forward, let us remember that Jesus’ work guides our path towards a future filled with hope, love and service to others. With each step we take, with each act of generosity and collaboration, we become living testaments to His legacy, ensuring that the impact of His work continues as we serve others and transform hearts for generations to come.

In closing, I want to express my deepest gratitude to each member of the 2023 church council. You poured your time, talent, and passion into serving our congregation this year. The progress made on each priority, the foundation laid for future endeavors, and the spirit of teamwork that was present in all you did – thank you for your dedication and hard work.



### THANK YOU!

We cannot thank you enough for your generosity in giving to our 2023 Holiday Baking Bags Campaign for the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf. Because of the increased need, Ralph Reeder asked us to run the campaign for six weeks this year. We transported carloads of donations and baking bags through those six weeks. And one Small Group donated 14 hams for the holidays. According to Ralph Reeder, we donated 2,963 pounds to the Food Shelf for holiday giving. That is over a TON of generosity! Thank you!

Your financial donations was also very generous in this holiday season. We received \$3,110! Ralph Reeder Food Shelf can make great use of those 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. Visit [www.incarnationmn.org/ministries/ministry-partners/ralph-reeder/](http://www.incarnationmn.org/ministries/ministry-partners/ralph-reeder/).

### Preschool Registration

---

Give your preschooler a wonderful school experience that is a safe and loving environment! Registration opens this month for Incarnation Preschool. Registration packets for 2024-25 school year are available for pick up at the Preschool or Incarnation office. Forms may also be downloaded from the Incarnation website. Call Kirsten Henry at 651-766-0723 for more information, to schedule a tour or to have a packet mailed to you.

#### Wednesday, January 3

Open enrollment period for currently enrolled children.

#### Wednesday, January 10

Processing begins for forms received from returning/ previously enrolled families and NEW children from Incarnation member families.

#### Friday, January 12

Processing begins for forms from the general public.

Forms/fees may be submitted early but will be date/time stamped and held for processing on the appropriate date listed above. Confirmation of enrollment status will be mailed within two days of processing.



**THURSDAY, January 25, 10:30 a.m.**  
**GRACE HALL at INCARNATION**  
**OLD, BUT PRECIOUS**

On Thursday, January 25, Primetimers will be hosting an ANTIQUES SHOW!

Mr. Richard LeFebvre will be here to identify and appraise YOUR antique items. Richard has been in business since 1969, had antique shops for 42 years and is past president of the MINNESOTA ANTIQUE DEALERS ASSOCIATION. He does lecturing and teaching, estate sales and appraisals!

SO - bring your easily portable items along for identification and appraisal! (No chests of drawers, please!)

Program to start at 10:30 with lunch served at 11:30 - cost is \$10 payable at the door. Please make your reservations by January 22 for the luncheon through the church office at 651-484-7213.

### Bread for the World Offering Letters

---

Our advocacy letters, e-mails and phone calls in support of those who live with hunger will happen earlier this year.

The Farm Bill was extended for a single year and final adoption will likely come early in 2024. We will want to be urging Congress to continue to support programs that feed those who are hungry not only in our country but in other countries around the world. Watch for more information coming soon and mark your calendars for February 11, 2024.

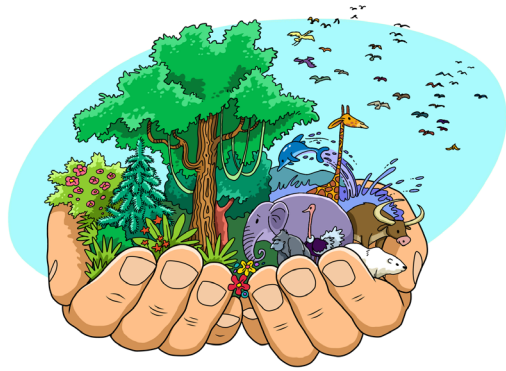
- Hunger Awareness and Advocacy Team



**breadfortheworld**  
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.



## CARE OF CREATION CORNER.



“God so loved the world...” Most often Christians hear John 3:16 in relationship to personal salvation. But look again, it’s just not all of the people, it’s the whole entire world! All of creation, not just humans. If God so loved the world, then we need to also. Choose at least one aspect of creation and love it through your action and advocacy.

Recycle your Christmas cards. Plain paper Christmas cards can go straight into the paper recycling bin, no questions asked. But shiny cards, ones printed on photo paper, and ones with metallic embossing or glitter are no-no’s. However, look closely—even they may have a half that is free of the contaminants. Cut apart and safely recycle the good side. Before you dispose of the cards, take an extra minute to reread them and give thanks for your family and friends.

January 4, 2024

6:30-8:00 p.m.

“The life of God at work in us and among us” is how licensed marriage and family therapist, spiritual director, and author Melissa L. Johnson, LMFT defines beauty. When it comes to messages about what defines beauty, we are often swimming in toxic waters. Melissa will help us look with a new lens at how to cultivate a healthy body image. She will explore:



*Melissa Johnson, speaker*

- The widespread impact of media.
- How beauty and diet culture impact mental health and body image
- The importance of redefining beauty from a spiritual perspective

To learn more, please check out Melissa’s new book, *Soul-Deep Beauty: Fighting for Our True Worth in a World Demanding Flawless* and her podcast “Impossible Beauty.”

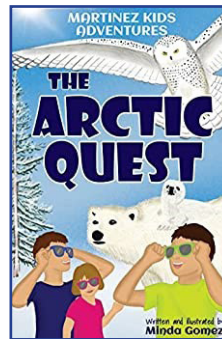
To assist with planning, please indicate your presence by contacting Julie Durbin at 651-484-7213 or emailing [jdurbin@incarnationmn.org](mailto:jdurbin@incarnationmn.org) This is a free event open to all ages. A free will offering will be taken. Questions: contact Pastor Janet Karvonen Montgomery at [jkmontgomery@incarnationmn.org](mailto:jkmontgomery@incarnationmn.org). Bring your friends and neighbors!

## Thank You from LIRS & World Hunger

The library group thanks you for your support of the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service’s “**Hope for the Holidays**” effort in collecting Christmas cards to share with immigrants and asylees in our country. Making cards and information available at the Ministry Fair meant many of you joined us in preparing cards for LIRS. Jan Ginn provided countless handmade cards which many of us used to brighten the days of many who might have been feeling lonely. We were able to mail more than 150 cards to LIRS. We hope to participate in this effort again next holiday season.

Thank you to all who supported the **ELCA World Hunger Program’s “Good Gift”** campaign during the holiday season. Many of you purchased ornaments/gifts at the displays on three Sunday mornings while others of you faithfully contribute using the Good Gifts catalog and ordering on-line. Still others are regular contributors to ELCA World Hunger through Incarnation. There are many reasons why people are hungry in our world but any efforts to help them are important; thank you for being that gift this holiday season.

## Apostles Library Book Review



*The Arctic Quest*

By: Minda Gomez

We live in diverse communities today that didn’t exist even in the past 30 years. Our local schools host children with a multitude of languages; some speak only a language other than English in their homes. *The Arctic Quest* is a title by a Minnesota author, Minda Gomez, as part of a series of Martinez Kids’ Adventures.

It’s best for upper elementary children who can read it on their own or can be easily shared with a good read-aloud to those who are younger.

Gomez is a Minnesotan and ESL teacher with three bilingual children she refers to as “Mexigringo” blending her culture with that of her Mexican husband. She is passionate about teaching children and families to be proud of their bilingual “superpowers”.

Helpfully for most of us, the book begins with a list of Spanish words with their pronunciations. The story is engaging as well as informative about the Arctic. And there is even a recipe for Tita’s Atole de Avena, a hot oatmeal drink which sounds interesting!

**Kairos meets Sunday Mornings at 10:15 a.m.  
in the Fireside Room Mondays, Zoom, 7-8:30 p.m.  
Link to meeting on [incarnationmn.org/ministries/  
adult formation](https://incarnationmn.org/ministries/adult-formation)**

**January 7 and 14, 10:15 a.m.**

**January 15, 7-8:30 p.m.**

**Belonging: What the Samaritan Woman at the Well  
Teaches Us About Following Jesus**

**Karoline Lewis, Marbury E. Anderson Chair in Biblical  
Preaching, Luther Seminar**

Sitting at the well with the Samaritan woman and Jesus in John 4 we learn key characteristics of what it looks like to follow Jesus. Karoline Lewis, Marbury E. Anderson Chair in Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary, will guide us to listen in on this extraordinary conversation and invite us to think in new ways about what it means to follow Jesus.

Lewis holds degrees from Northwestern University (B.A.), Luther Seminary (M.Div.), and Emory University (Ph.D., New Testament Studies and Homiletics). She is the Program Director for the Festival of Homiletics, a contributing writer for Working Preacher, and co-host of the site's weekly podcast, Sermon Brainwave.

Lewis leads conferences, workshops, and retreats internationally on the Gospel of John, the New Testament, interpreting the Bible, preaching, leadership, women in ministry, and trips to the Holy Land. Lewis was one of a 100 religious scholars in the United States to be a part of the Values and Voices Campaign 2016 and again in 2021.

**January 21, 10:15 a.m.**

**The Church at a Crossroads: Learn from college  
students about the present and future of Christian  
community at the U of M and beyond.**

**Pastor Kate Reuer Welto**

Lutheran Campus Ministry-Twin Cities is situated amongst 55,000 young adults at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Join the conversation about what we're learning at LCM about the kinds of Christian communities young adults crave, where young adults find meaning, and what their hopes are for the world. We'll also share how you can be a part of this life changing ministry!

Pastor Kate Reuer Welton has worked as a community organizer and teacher in a wide range of places including Lutheran Social Service of MN, Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya, and Native Arts High School on Lake Street in Minneapolis. She completed a Master of Divinity degree at Harvard Divinity School. Called to serve as Campus Pastor at the University of Minnesota in 2010, she remains excited about proclaiming the Gospel in this lively context and working with student leaders to discern God's call for our community each year. Her approach to the Christian life? "Awe, wonder, and curiosity."

**January 28 and February 4, 10:15 a.m.**

**January 29, 7-8:30 p.m.**

**Seeing Eyes**

**Gary Anderson, Retired Incarnation Senior Pastor**

Eyes and sight, (not always physical!) is a consistent theme in the Bible. In these sessions we will explore the many references to eyes and the gift of seeing not just the world around us but seeing the presence of God. Gary Anderson, retired Incarnation senior pastor, will lead us to dig into both the Old and New Testaments and perhaps see scripture with new eyes.

A graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College, he received his M.Div. from Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago (LSTC). Following his 2004 retirement from Incarnation, he became interim seminary pastor at Luther Seminary for two years, then worked part-time for the Saint Paul Area Synod ELCA as director of "Crossing Bridges," a three-year, \$2 million mission appeal and later completed a six week interim pastorate at the English-speaking international congregation in Vilnius, Lithuania.

---

## Red Cross Blood Drive Scheduled

Incarnation's next Red Cross blood drive is scheduled for  
**Thursday, February 1, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Visit: [www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/dive-  
results?zipSponsor=Incarnation](http://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/dive-results?zipSponsor=Incarnation) Lutheran to register.

There is a nationwide critical shortage of blood products. Please, make an appointment using the link below to donate blood and help relieve the shortage, so that those suffering with cancer or after trauma or with other medical conditions that require transfusion of blood products will have renewed hope.



---

## 2023 Photo Directory Distribution

For those of you who have family pictures in the 2023 Photo Directory, you can pick up your copy at a table in the atrium as follows:

**Sunday, December 31: 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.**

**Sunday, January 7: 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.**

After January 7, directories will be available in the church office.

What a year! As we look back through 2023, I am so humbled and grateful for the many musical blessings we've experienced in our community. The amount of participation from our congregational members as soloists and participants of ensembles is truly inspiring.



Our children's musical ministries are growing exponentially thanks to the dedicated work of Kathleen Johnson and Amy Maakestad. I am extremely grateful to all members of the Senior Choir for their dedication and faithful leadership in worship services - we've had so much fun this year! I also want to express my gratitude to all of the musicians in the contemporary ensemble that lead our 10:30 worship services. They are the cream of the crop in their areas of expertise and contribute greatly to our worship experience and expanded musical offerings.

We have also been blessed with a number of experiences that have included musical groups and artists from our greater community. T. Michael Rambo, the Jack Brass Band, Bruce Henry, Harpist Anna Koopman, our string players for Holy Week and All saints Sunday, The St. Olaf Brass Ensemble, brass musicians for Easter and Christmas, Siana (Guitarist/Vocalist from the Congo), and Jearlyn Steele. Whew!

The Incarnation Music Series under Amy Maakestad's leadership, has hosted two phenomenal concerts in the first half of its inaugural season. I encourage those of you who have not had a chance to attend one of these concerts to please mark your calendars for the final two exciting events of the season.

The first concert features none other than our own - Amy Maakestad. It may seem unnecessary to tout her musical prowess since we are all blessed to hear it every week in so many ways - but let me just say, I don't know what you think of when you think "organ recital" - but I can guarantee that Amy will offer a program that will make you re-think whatever you preconceived notions might be. Let's show our appreciation to Amy by packing the Sanctuary to capacity! Event details: **Sunday February 11, 2024, 4:00 p.m.** More information on the final event of the season will be forthcoming.

We are so grateful for your support this year in participation as well as financial contribution. We look forward to an exciting 2024 glorifying God through His gift of music! See you in worship!

Sean Turner

---

### Men's History Book Group

The history book group meets the first and third Tuesday in Bethany Lounge at 9:00 a.m. Even if you have not read the book, you are welcome to participate in the discussion if there is a topic that interests you. The upcoming books are as follows:

January- *Road to Surrender: Three Men and the Countdown to the End of WWII* by Evan Thomas. This book takes us into the hearts and minds of Henry Stimson, American secretary of war; General Carl Spaatz, head of strategic bombing in Europe and the Pacific; and Japan's foreign minister, Shigenori Togo, the only member of the Supreme War Council that advocated for surrender.

February- *The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America* by Erik Larson. The combination of the birth of Chicago, the magic of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, and a serial killer is a compelling read.

---

### Prayer for the New Year

*Lord, You make all things new  
You bring hope alive in our hearts  
And cause our Spirits to be born again  
Thank you for this new year  
For all the potential it holds.  
Come and kindle in us  
A mighty flame  
So that in our time, many will see the  
wonders of God  
And live forever to praise  
Your glorious name.*

*- Author Unknown*



### Year in Review and Looking Ahead in 2024

The Incarnation Feed My Starving Children Action Group along with our community of supporters has had a full and impactful year in 2023:

- Promoted and hosted three shifts per month at the FMSC permanent packing site in Coon Rapids
- Hosted the 16th All Hands on Hope MobilePack™ where 1,923 volunteers packed 582,336 meals which fed 1,595 kids for one year
- Volunteered at 3 different Food Truck Festivals over the summer, raising an amazing \$2,683 for our 2024 MobilePack.
- Attended the MobilePack Summit where we learned from and were inspired by other MobilePack Hosts and FMSC Staff.
- Packed meals at Target Field for FMSC's Pack in the Park event in August.

At Incarnation, we are encouraged to think about ways we can imagine and co-create a better and more loving world. As we turn the page to 2024, there are several ways you can do this by supporting Feed My Starving Children at Incarnation:

#### Volunteer:

Our 2024 All Hands on Hope MobilePack™ will be held at Incarnation April 24-28, 2024. We will need at least 2,000 volunteers to fill the packing room to reach our goal of packing 614,304 meals and feeding 1,683 kids for a year. Shifts are being finalized and will be published in early 2024. For now, mark your calendar for those important dates and bookmark our MobilePack web page for the latest news. Just one two-hour shift makes a major impact on world hunger. We love to see multiple generations of families, co-workers, civic organizations, student athletes, gym buddies and Incarnation small groups having fun and serving together.

We are also looking for volunteers to serve with our Action Group. We meet monthly to plan MobilePacks and coordinate other activities throughout the year, but volunteer commitment would vary depending on schedule and availability. Roles include volunteer recruitment and

coordination, fundraising, hospitality, event coordination and communications. We welcome anyone who has an interest or a passion to help feed God's beloved kids around the world. Contact Mike Vant for more information on how you can help.

#### Donate:

Our financial goal for our 2024 MobilePack is \$180,000 to pay for the meals we will pack. You can easily donate to the MobilePack today by visiting our event donation page. Think about these amounts as you prayerfully consider your donation:

- \$106 feeds a child for a year
- \$424 feeds a family for a year
- \$2,255 feeds a classroom of 21 kids for a year
- \$12,000 feeds a village

We also encourage corporations, both large and small, to be a part of this important event. We are looking for financial sponsorship and volunteers to encourage community participation and team-building. For more information on corporate sponsorship, please contact Don Martin.

#### Pray:

We trust that our God will provide for us to reach our 2024 goals and we ask him to guide us as we do this important work. With the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, devastating food shortages and violence in Haiti and drought conditions globally, we are living through largest hunger crisis in modern history. Please pray for the children around the world who will receive these meals, the FMSC partner organizations delivering meals and our volunteers who are planning events and packing meals.

Thank you to everyone who has participated over the last year and plans to participate in 2024. Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2024!

**“The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.” Proverbs 22:9**



---

## Among the Congregation

#### PRAYER LIST:

Jim Crawford; Joe Doncits; Roger & Dede Mattison; Marian Johnson; Sue Lange; Jan Kuhrmeyer; June Fischer; Kirsten Blaseck; Wayne Quehl; Carol Beckerleg; Gene Lindholm; Marian Ness; Joe Stepka; Lowell Odland; Linda Hudepohl; Liv Rosin's mother & father; Kirsten Bornus' niece and friends; Sue Bernlohr's mother; Lana Bergin's brother; Bob & Sue Lange's nephew; Nicole & Troy Heller's brother-in-law; Mike Wielenberg's parents; Bill Fitzsimmons' brother; Al and Carolyn Ek's son; Kim Wielenberg's friend, Cindy; Kris & Steve McCormack's friend, Lori; Roger & Dede Mattison's friends, Linda and Yvonne

SYMPATHY TO: the family of Audrey Friedman on her death

## Winter Small Group: The Saint John's Bible

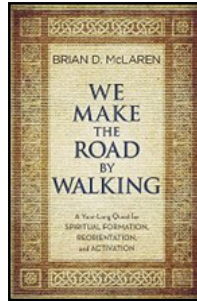
Explore the illuminations (artwork) and calligraphy (written text) of The Saint John's Bible. Hear how this illuminated Bible was created and how it is being used at Incarnation and in the community to ignite spiritual imaginations. Experience the faith practice of Visio Divina to see and hear how the illuminations speak to you and to others. This is an exceptional opportunity – Incarnation has a Heritage Edition of The Saint John's Bible (one of only 300 copies). Past group members have found this small group to be rich with insights and information. Led by Grant Rykken. To express interest or find out more: [dfloe@incarnationmn.org](mailto:dfloe@incarnationmn.org).



When/Where: Tuesdays, 1:30-3:00 p.m., at Incarnation, starting January 16

## Daytime Small Group: We Make the Road by Walking

As we start a new year, take the next step in your faith journey. Talk with others about Brian McLaren's book, *We Make the Road by Walking*. Explore a living, growing faith and how to live out this faith in today's world. Before each gathering, the group will read short chapters with Bible texts, reflections by Brian McLaren and thought-provoking questions. Starting January 9, the group will meet every other week, for six sessions. No experience with Bible study or Bible reading is needed. Led by Anne Cremons. Purchase your own book in your favorite format (new/used, paperback, audiobook, eBook). Find out more on the Incarnation website at [www.incarnationmn.org/ministries/small-groups/new-upcoming-small-groups/](http://www.incarnationmn.org/ministries/small-groups/new-upcoming-small-groups/)). Register: [acremons@gmail.com](mailto:acremons@gmail.com)



When/Where: Tuesdays, 1:30-3:00 p.m., at Incarnation, starting January 9

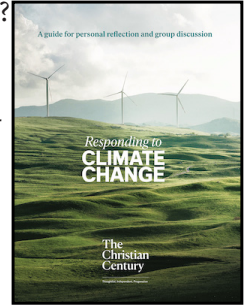
## Sunday Morning Small Group – January 2024

Connect with others to explore short readings, engage in conversation, and try new faith practices. Sunday morning small groups are open to all and designed especially for those new to Incarnation. They are easy-to-do with no preparation needed and a short commitment, usually meeting for only 3-4 gatherings. The winter small group will meet from 10:00-11:15 a.m. at Incarnation. Interested? Contact Denise Floe at [dfloe@incarnationmn.org](mailto:dfloe@incarnationmn.org).

When/Where: Sunday mornings, 10:00-11:15 a.m. at Incarnation

## Creation Care Small Group – Responding to Climate Change

How are we to respond to climate change? Do small, everyday actions make any difference? How do we understand our role in both large-scale actions and small-scale steps? In a small group context, read and talk about *Responding to Climate Change*, a publication from the Christian Century, with short chapters and engaging questions. The small group will study and discuss God's call to care for creation, along with exploring ways to put faith into action. All ages and backgrounds are welcome to join. If you are interested but unable to attend, use this resource for self-study or in another group and/or let us know of your interest in future groups. Leader: Mike Vant. Register: [mjvant@gmail.com](mailto:mjvant@gmail.com). Find out more about the resource at: [christiancentury.org/free-guide-climate-change](http://christiancentury.org/free-guide-climate-change).



When/Where: Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00 p.m., at Incarnation, starting January 16

## Engage: Lent Small Groups

Lent arrives early this year with Ash Wednesday on February 14. Incarnation looks forward to the start of a number of small groups that will correspond with the Wednesday evening worship theme. This year's theme focuses on five spiritual practices that are part of the outward journey of faith: study, worship, service, celebration and community. Groups will use a faith study based on *Engage*, a Lenten resource written by Pastor Kai Nilsen for the Renovare community. Watch this webpage, the Sunday announcements or the monthly Lifetimes to find out more details. Interested in serving as a small group leader? Contact Denise Floe for information on the leader training/orientation. Or, interested in taking part in a Lent small group? Contact Denise Floe at [dfloe@incarnationmn.org](mailto:dfloe@incarnationmn.org).







The staff and Youth at LifeHaven send many thanks for the generous gifts from Incarnation through the LifeHaven Youth Holiday Gift Drive! There were more than 100 gifts (including six beautiful handmade crib quilts) given to twelve youth and fifteen children (including two babies expected soon!).

Sixty additional gifts were donated to the LifeHaven House and Program. This included items to welcome new youth to LifeHaven, such as robes and slippers. There were also items donated to help youth transition into independent living, such as pots and pans. In addition, \$655.00 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, and other emergency situations.

The LifeHaven House is at full capacity, housing and supporting six youth, four children, and two babies expected in the next few weeks! LifeHaven staff also continue to be a



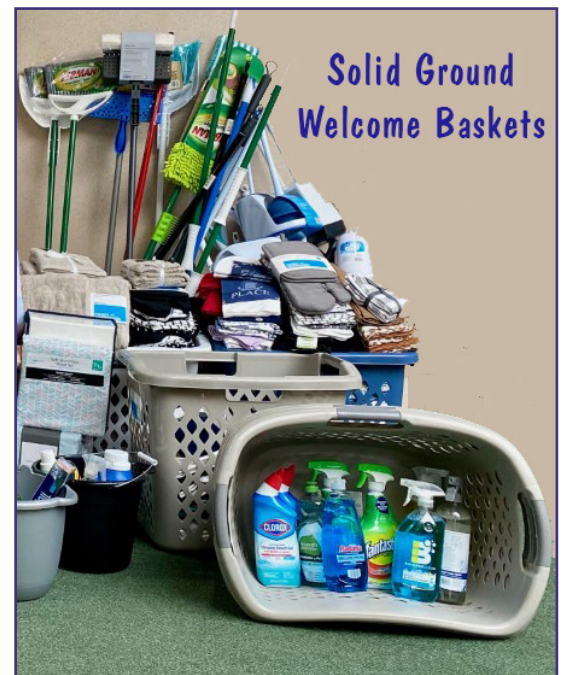
*Members from an Incarnation Small Group and Hands and Hearts had a lot of fun wrapping the gifts before they were delivered to LifeHaven.*

Help welcome Solid Ground families as they settle in their new homes and community. A Welcome Basket filled with cleaning supplies is presented to each family when they first arrive at Solid Ground. Many families arrive with limited household items. Your generosity not only fills an essential need for families transitioning from homelessness, but also serves as a warm and hospitable welcome to their new home and community.

Please consider donating one or more of the following new items: waste baskets (tall & short), broom and dustpan sets, laundry baskets, mops, laundry detergent, dishwasher detergent, dish soap, hand soap and toilet paper. Donations can be dropped off at Incarnation in the bin marked "Solid Ground Welcome Baskets" from January 7 through January 28. Monetary donations are also appreciated as they will help provide Welcome Basket items throughout the year when supplies run low. Please indicate "SG Welcome Baskets" in the memo line of donations. Thank you for your generosity!

*Solid Ground families would like to thank the Incarnation community for the many Christmas tree donations this year. Your gifts filled their homes with light and joy!"*

## Solid Ground Welcome Baskets



# Memorials

We honor the memory of loved ones in the memorial gifts given below:  
Date Range: 11/27/23 to 12/20/23

Donor	Fund Name	In Memory of
Don Alsop	Memorial – Undesignated	Carl Kuhrmeyer
Gary & Mary Ann Anderson	Memorial – Undesignated	Carl Kuhrmeyer
Mary Birkeland	Memorial – Undesignated	Carl Kuhrmeyer
Jim & Karen Clapper	Memorial – Endowment	Carl Kuhrmeyer
Luther Dale	Memorial – Undesignated	Carl Kuhrmeyer
Marin & Kevin Hansch	Memorial – Undesignated	Carl Kuhrmeyer
Bryan & Kimberly Hughes	Memorial – Undesignated	Carl Kuhrmeyer
Dale & Vernita Kennen	Memorial – Feed My Starving Children	Carl Kuhrmeyer
Jeff & Carol Klein	Memorial – Undesignated	Carl Kuhrmeyer
Jay & Cindi Littlejohn	Memorial – Undesignated	Carl Kuhrmeyer
Jim & Julie Meinen	Memorial – Operating	Carl Kuhrmeyer
Craig Miller	Memorial – Undesignated	Carl Kuhrmeyer
Jim & Lorinda Mishek	Memorial – Undesignated	Carl Kuhrmeyer
Janny Moses	Memorial – Undesignated	Carl Kuhrmeyer
Marlys J. Nelson	Memorial – Undesignated	Carl Kuhrmeyer
Lowell & Evie Odland	Memorial – Undesignated	Carl Kuhrmeyer
Dennis & Janice Peterson	Memorial – Undesignated	Carl Kuhrmeyer
Murt Seltz	Memorial – Undesignated	Carl Kuhrmeyer
Multiple Unknown Cash Donors	Memorial – Undesignated	Carl Kuhrmeyer
Marlys M. Nelson	Memorial – Ralph Reeder Food Shelf	Freda Munson
Anna Thorstad	Memorial – Ralph Reeder Food Shelf	David Thorstad

This list reflects donations that were made payable 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.

## Financial Report - November 2023

Actual November Operating Giving	\$203,615	YTD Operating Giving	\$1,704,107	YTD Operating Giving Budget	\$1,763,947
Actual November Operating Expense	\$170,539	YTD Operating Expense	\$1,829,555	YTD Operating Expense Budget	\$1,876,772
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$33,075</b>		<b>-\$125,447</b>		<b>-\$112,825</b>
Actual November Mortgage Giving	\$19,673	YTD Mortgage Giving	\$294,857	YTD Mortgage Giving Budget	\$273,262
Actual November Mortgage Expense	\$20,675	YTD Mortgage Expense	\$264,925	YTD Mortgage Expense Budget	\$264,925
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>-\$1,002</b>		<b>\$29,932</b>		<b>\$8,337</b>