



Lifetimes

May 2024

From the Pastor



Pastor Kai Nilsen

Pastor Joel often introduces a biblical reading by saying, “Hear these words from the Book we love.” I delight in his piety and his deep connection and love for the biblical narrative. Most times when I hear it, I’m encouraged. Other times I wonder, “Can we love a

book that has been the source of so much misunderstanding, and, subsequently, so much pain and misery for so many?” Love is complicated sometimes, isn’t it?

Recently, I stumbled over this thought from Jordan Harrell on Facebook.

Genocide is biblical.

Loving your enemy is biblical.

But only one is Christlike.

Slavery is biblical.

Chainbreaking is biblical.

But only one is Christlike.

Patriarchy is biblical.

Counter-cultural elevation of women is biblical.

But only one is Christlike.

Retributive violence is biblical.

Grace-filled restoration is biblical.

But only one is Christlike.

Segregation is biblical.

Unity is biblical.

But only one is Christlike.

Think about how often claiming something is biblical is meant to snuff out a conversation or hammer

someone with rigid morality. “It’s biblical,” taken out of context, can be used for destructive, selfish plans rather than constructive, unselfish purposes.

And yet, the bible cradles the defining stories of our faith and gives birth to how we understand God and our connection to one another in community. So, how can we discover the full force of its goodness and follow the gracious path of Jesus?

This summer, our preaching series will focus on the core stories of Luke’s Gospel. Throughout, we will ask the question “What is Christlike?” as we engage each story. For the Christian community, the lens through which we read this narrative is the God of Love who was revealed in a Jesus who loved and invited us to be people who love. Join us this summer and bring a friend!

This week, remember also “the Pastor we love,” Pastor Joel, as he concludes his public ministry at Incarnation. Come and bless him as he has blessed us.

May 1:

Children, Youth, and Family “Super” Pizza night. Come and celebrate Pastor Joel and his family from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

May 5:

Church Council will host a reception after each service to celebrate Pastor Joel’s ministry.

Peace, Kai



Caring for Pets Can Be Environmentally Important, Too

New pets or old, you may already have items in your home that can meet their basic needs. For example, you can use non-pet specific items such as bowls for food and water, blankets and old pillows for bedding, and regular towels for wiping paws. Many other items such as leashes, collars, and carriers can be found secondhand, often online through places such as Facebook, Craigslist, NextDoor, or eBay. Pet clothing, boots, and costumes are popular items for reuse, too.

Primetimers



HELPING PAWS will present an overview of how Assistance Dogs are trained and an example of the skills taught to further people’s independence and enhance quality of life.

Thursday, May 23. Grace Hall doors open at 10:00am. program at 10:30 a.m.

Lunch to follow. Cost \$10.00. PLEASE make reservation with church office. Call 651-484-7213.

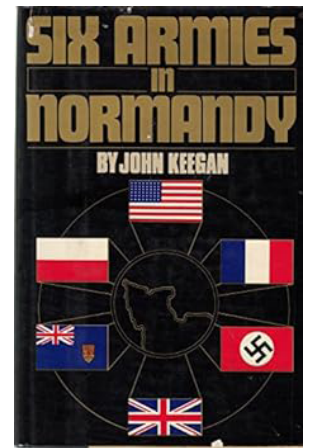
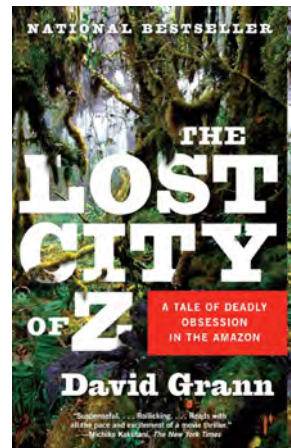
The Men’s History Book Group meets the first and 3rd Tuesdays in Bethany Lounge at 9 a.m. Even if you have not read the book for that month, you are welcome to participate in the discussion if the topic is of interest to you. The upcoming books are as follows:

May:

The Lost City of Z: A tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon by David Grann. A fascinating story that touches on science, history, and some truly obsessive explorers.

June:

Six Armies in Normandy by John Keegan. The stories of the armies of six countries in Normandy from D-Day to the liberation of Paris.



Summer Hymns

Do you have a favorite hymn that you’d like to sing at the 9 a.m. worship service this summer? Submit one or several choices to Director of Traditional Worship, [Amy Maakestad](#). Thank you!



Sean Turner
Minister of Worship,
Music & the Arts

Greetings from the Music Department!

What a wonderful month we've had of music in worship! The St Olaf Brass

Quintet, our bell choirs, children's choir, senior choir and contemporary band all played vital roles in leading worship!

I want to especially thank Kathleen Johnson for her wonderful work in preparing "Joyful Noise" for their musical offerings!

I also want to congratulate Amy Maakested and her wonderful team on a very successful inaugural season of the Incarnation Music Series. What a diverse curation of high-level artists! I hope you are as excited as I am to see the line-

up for next season! Thank you to all who were able to come out and support this important endeavor.

Here is a follow up to last month's article on the growth of the live-stream component in worship.

From Emily Turner:



Emily Turner
Media Arts Director

viewers of our services online. Over the last three years, our sound and live stream team grew from a tiny trio to eleven skilled technicians who research trends and innovations, set up equipment, and operate the soundboards and livestream equipment each week.

"It's been incredible to watch the exponential growth of the live stream part of worship. At times there have been 200+

This team has a lot planned for the next couple of years. We plan to move the live stream sound board and live stream media equipment into separate studios. We will also install more cameras to provide an enhanced online visual experience among many other additions.

I am so proud of what the live stream sound and media arts team has accomplished! I want to thank the techs for their hard work, expertise, flexibility, and willingness to learn new skills in this rapidly evolving landscape. We could not have gotten to this point without their dedication!"

Thank you Emily for all that you and your team does week in and week out to provide this important connection to our community!

See you all in worship!
—Sean

Blood Drive

Give blood.

Every 2 seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.

American Red Cross



Blood Drive Incarnation Lutheran Church Incarnation Hall

4880 Hodgson Rd
Shoreview, MN 55126

**Tuesday, May 14, 2024
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Please use the Red Cross Donor App, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Incarnation Lutheran to schedule an appointment.



Scan to schedule an appointment



Scan to schedule an appointment

It's spring! It's hard to believe that Incarnation's next Red Cross blood drive is only a month and a half away.

We'd love to have you schedule an appointment to donate blood and help save lives.

The drive will be Tuesday, May 14, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

[Click here to schedule your appointment online](#), or call Gil Hartley (651-270-5376). You can also use the QR code below.



1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

Public Prayer List:

Carl Johnson; Tom Kosobayashi; Shirley Clare; Kahla Jensen; Jon Nelson; Kate Tollefson & family; Fred Knox; Dale Anderson; Joe Doncits; Dede Mattison; Jan Kuhrmeyer; June Fischer; Kirsten Blaseck; Wayne Quehl; Carol Beckerleg; Gene Lindholm; Marian Ness; Joe Stepka; Lowell Odland; Linda Hudepohl; Dave Swanson's aunt; Wanda Peterson's mother; Sue Bernlohr's mother; Lana Bergin's brother; Nicole & Troy Heller's brother-in-law; Mike Wielenberg's parents; Al and Carolyn Ek's son; Kim Wielenberg's friend, Cindy; Dede Mattison's friends, Linda and Yvonne

Sympathy To:

The family of Roger Mattison on his death; the family of Frank Weiss III on his death; the family of Gretchen Kvikstad on her death; the family of Nancy Ruehling on her death; Harry Johnson & family on the death of his sister

Recently Baptized:

Oscar Larson, son of Pete & Jill Larson

SUMMER
with INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Worship, Bible, Family & Community

SCUBA
When: June 17 - 20, 9:00 a.m. - Noon
Ages: Pre-K - 4th Grade (last completed)
Cost: \$25/child, max \$70/family

When: July 14 - 18
Grades: 1st - 12th (last completed)
Cost: varies

GREEN LAKE LUTHERAN ministries

ART CAMP
When: July 8 - 10, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Grades: 2nd - 5th (last completed)
Cost: \$25.00

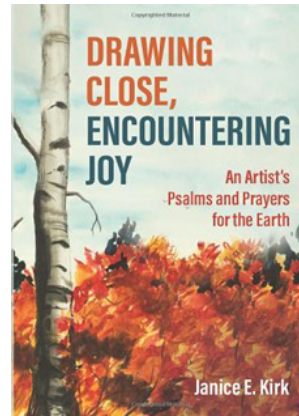
When: July 16 - 20
Grades: Current 8th - 12th
Cost: \$1500 w/ \$150 deposit
Registration Due: February 14

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering
CREATED TO BE
BY MYLE

Summer Stretch
When: August 6 - 8, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Grades: 5th - 12th (last completed)
Cost: \$50 - \$100

For more information register at incarnationmn.org/2024-youth-and-family-summer-camps.

Drawing Close, Encountering Joy
An Artist's Psalms and Prayers for the Earth
By: Janice E. Kirk



In a world like ours where we are well aware of the need to care even more carefully and creatively for God's creation, it is sometimes good to take a step back from the science and business of preservation and protection simply to appreciate and rest in the joy and peace of the natural world. *Drawing*

Close, Encountering Joy: An Artist's Psalms and Prayers for the Earth can help us do that.

Janice E. Kirk, is both the author and the illustrator for this book. She is a teacher of art, language arts, and music at Simpson University in Redding, CA. Here she writes of her sixty-year pilgrimage through "deserts, mountains, canyons, plateaus, playas, fertile valleys, prairies, and mesas" as her travels have taken her from the Pacific Coast to New Mexico.

She says she writes these prayers and meditations to praise, proclaim and thank God for the glories of creation and for the miracle of life. Sharing her feelings will make you look at your surroundings, your backyard and your garden in new and thankful ways. This book includes discussion questions, notes and a recommended reading list, too.

Safety Team

The Incarnation Safety Team is looking for additional members to be part of this important conversation that happens once a month. We are looking for a chairperson and additional members to be part of the Safety Team. If you have experience with safety and security or are passion about creating a safe environment here at Incarnation, we would love to welcome you to the team. [Email Rebecca](mailto:rchristiansen@incarnationmn.org) at rchristiansen@incarnationmn.org

Thank you!

The semi-trucks have been loaded with pallets of MannaPack™ meals. Incarnation Hall, Grace Hall and the rest of the spaces used at Incarnation are back to their normal set ups and many volunteers are taking a much-needed rest after a busy five days. We are still waiting for final numbers to report on volunteers, funds raised, meals packed and, most importantly, kids fed for one year. Follow our social media channels and weekly worship emails for that information or check back in the next issue of Lifetimes. We are still accepting donations to reach our goal of \$180,000. Funds received that exceed that amount will go toward our next MobilePack™ event in 2025. You can donate using [REALM](#), drop off a check at Incarnation's office or use the [FMSC website](#).

Incarnation's FMSC Action Group

would like to say a heartfelt, sincere thank you to many people who made our 17th All Hands on Hope MobilePack™ happen:

Volunteers who packed meals, welcomed visitors, monitored the packing floor, affixed labels, made boxes and provided meals to



the FMSC staff and volunteers. It was exciting to see so many local community organizations, churches and businesses come together to support the MobilePack™.

Individuals, businesses, local churches and community organizations who made financial donations and sent groups of volunteers

which covered the cost for the meals packed.

Everyone who held up this event in prayer, from the planning and logistics, volunteer recruitment and donations, FMSC staff, in-country partners who deliver food and the children who will receive these life-saving meals. We know none of this could be done without God guiding us every step of the way.

Incarnation's staff and Congregation Council. The behind the scenes support is invaluable from everyone at ILC!

There are many ways you can continue to support Feed My Starving Children throughout the year:

On the 3rd Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each month, members of the Incarnation community along with their friends and family members, gather at the FMSC permanent site in Coon Rapids to pack meals. Visit our website to see days and time and register [here](#).

March Minnesota Foodshare Campaign a Huge Success

On behalf of the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf Action Group, I want to extend a HUGE THANKS for making this year's March MN FoodShare campaign a HUGE success. Through your generosity, we donated 2518 pounds (that's over a ton!!) of non-perishable items and \$12,770! Thank you for your giving to help our neighbors who struggle with food insecurity. Blessings to you all this Easter season.

Pickleball Ends May 23

Please note: The last day of Pickleball for the summer will be May 23. Pickleball will start again in the fall.





Incarnation Preschool Book Drive

Incarnation Preschool is collecting new and preloved children’s books for The Free Book Buggie! “TFBB” provides books to children in under resourced communities in the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota.

What: Bring new or preloved children’s books (ages birth-18)

Where: Drop in the “Book Bin” outside the Preschool Office

When: National Children’s Book Week
Thurs May 2-Wed, May 8



Thank you for getting books into the hands of children!

Preschool Position Available

Incarnation Preschool is seeking a qualified candidate to fill an Assistant Teacher role for the upcoming school year. The part time position is on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:15 a.m.-1:45 p.m. Additional hours are required throughout the school year for meetings, trainings, prep work, orientation, and school events. Substituting hours are also available if interested. For more information and job descriptions, contact [Kirsten Henry](#) or 651-766-0723.

Incarnation Preschool Whacky Wednesday

The teachers and Incarnation Preschoolers recently celebrated “Whacky Wednesday” and learned about the letter “W.” Here are a few cute staff pictures!

Follow the preschool on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) .



Memorials

We honor the memory of loved ones in the memorial gifts given below:

Date Range: 3/20/24 to 4/18/24

Donor	Fund Name	In Memory of:
Jim & Carol Fruehling	Memorial – Feed My Starving Children	Yvonne Bretoi
Carl & Jan Johnson	Memorial – Endowment	Jim Crawford
Gary & Mary Ann Anderson	Memorial – Endowment	Marian Johnson
Joy Burdick	Memorial – Feed My Starving Children	Marian Johnson
Jim & Carol Fruehling	Memorial – Feed My Starving Children	Marian Johnson
Will & Carolyn Liebenow	Memorial – Ralph Reeder Food Shelf	Marian Johnson
Bev Seabloom	Memorial – Undesignated	Marian Johnson
Mike & Cindy Spellman	Memorial – Undesignated	Marian Johnson
Joy Burdick	Memorial – Feed My Starving Children	Matt Monzel
Gary & Mary Ann Anderson	Memorial – Endowment	Mary Beth Mutchler
Marlys M. Nelson	Memorial – Ralph Reeder Food Shelf	Mary Beth Mutchler

The list above 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.

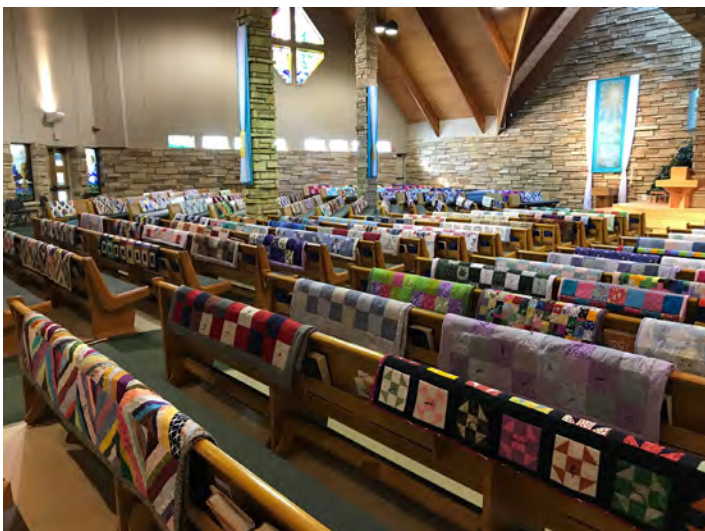
Note: If a memorial gift is received and the check isn't written out to Incarnation Lutheran Church, it will be forwarded directly to the organization that the check was made payable to. Those memorials are typically acknowledged by the organization that receives the donation.

Finance Report March 2024

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Actual March Operating Giving	\$177,000	YTD Operating Giving	\$624,018	YTD Operating Giving Budget	\$696,300
Actual March Operating Expense	\$168,003	YTD Operating Expense	\$571,369	YTD Operating Expense Budget	\$680,275
TOTALS	\$8,997		\$52,650		\$16,025

Actual March Mortgage Giving	\$27,714	YTD Mortgage Giving	\$94,983	YTD Mortgage Giving Budget	\$103,000
Actual March Mortgage Expense	\$33,175	YTD Mortgage Expense	\$74,525	YTD Mortgage Expense Budget	\$74,525
TOTALS	-\$5,461		\$20,458		\$28,475



On Mother’s Day, May 12, quilts assembled by the Incarnation Quilting Women will be on display in the Sanctuary. Most of the quilts will be given to Global Health Ministries for distribution to ELCA hospitals

around the world. Quilts are also donated to Life Haven, Gillette Children’s Hospital, Safe House, Solid Ground and other church and community outreach efforts.

Quilts will be available for purchase and proceeds used to buy materials such as batting and fabric for backing. Contact a quilter at the table in the Narthex for assistance after the service or contact Julie Durbin in the office at 651-484-7213 to connect you with a quilter. Quilts will be packed and distributed May 13.

Quilters appreciate any donated quilting fabric, pillow cases, and any volunteer help whether for one hour or a few days at home or at church. Please join the group for fellowship and assembly of the quilts the second and third Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room year-round. No previous sewing experience required. New volunteers are always welcome.

Solid Ground Spring Shower



You’re invited to donate essential household items to assist families transitioning from homelessness to stable housing at Solid Ground. Upon arrival, families often lack cookware, linens, and other basic necessities. Your generosity can help them establish their new homes and embark on a journey of hope and opportunity. Since January, 16 families have moved to Solid Ground

and another 4 to 8 families will be arriving soon. Your donations not only fulfill vital needs for families arriving at Solid Ground but also extend a warm welcome from their community.

Please consider donating new items from the wish list provided below and placing them in the designated bin labeled “Solid Ground Spring Shower” located in the Atrium. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated to support ongoing needs when supplies run low. Please indicate “SG Spring Shower” in the memo line of financial contributions.

Urgently needed items include:

- Queen & Twin Sheets
- Queen & Twin Blankets/Comforters
- Pillows
- Shower Curtains & Rings
- Toasters
- Mixing Bowls
- Microwaves
- Vacuums
- Pots or Pots & Pan sets
- Knife Sets
- Mops
- Size 5 & 6 Diapers