



Lifetimes

October 2022



Pastor Kai Nilsen

From the Pastor

Recently, a representative from our quilter's group approached a staff member and said something like, "We don't all need the handicapped spaces in the new parking lot project but some of us do. So, we'd like to give \$600 toward the project."

We were grateful for their participation, for sure. But, what struck me most was what they said, "We don't all need the spaces, but some of us do. So, we'd like to give."

Which means this: Since many of them will have no need, at this time, for the spaces, they aren't giving for themselves. They are giving for those who need.

In a consumer world (we are all shaped in some ways by our consumer world), we give because it will benefit us. In Christian community, we give as a response to God's love and because someone else is in need.

This Stewardship Season, we are inviting each of you to explore the "why" of giving. Our Stewardship Team has developed a 40 Day Generosity Journey that will launch on October 3 and run through Commitment Sunday, November 13. There will be hard copies available for you to pick up and use throughout the journey. There will also be a pdf that you can download from the website (add the link if we can have it up and running).

A few notes on the resource:

- It is written to invite you into daily reflection (no more than 5-10 minutes) or action on some aspect of the generosity journey.
- You will explore biblical texts, quotes from historic and current thought guides, the stories you remember from your childhood about money, and your own motivations for giving. Three examples:

- On 10/3 you will be invited to read Matthew 6: 25-34 and then make a list of all the gifts of God that you are grateful for.
- On 10/5 you will be invited to think about the messages your parents gave you about money when you were growing up and how that shaped your thinking.
- On 10/27 you will be invited to give a simple gift to someone without them knowing. Some say the highest form of giving is giving without the expectation of recognition.

- Our hope is that in your contemplation about giving (the inward journey) and your acts of giving (the outward journey), your heart is gradually moved, one small step at a time, from a consumer (I give because it benefits me) attitude to a Jesus (I give in response to God's gift to me, for the sake of others in need) attitude.

A few notes on the process:

- Feel free to invite a friend, spouse, or small group to join you on the journey.
- PLEASE. Think about this as an invitation not a demand. If you miss a day or two, just pick it up again.
Our lives of faith are shaped by contemplation (the inward journey) and action (the outward journey).

Good News: We can become more generous, more like Jesus!

Commitment Cards, for our ongoing ministry in 2023, will be available for you to fill out anytime between October 2 and November 13, Commitment Sunday. If you have not filled them out by November 13, please bring them with you to worship that day and we will celebrate what God is doing through your generosity journeys.

Peace, Kai



Wyatt Stahl
President

On Tuesday mornings, our Centering Prayer group meets at 7:30 am in the chapel. his morning, as I entered our church to go the chapel, I walked past the sanctuary and saw some significant work being done installing the new sound system. Emily Turner, Media Arts Director, was nearby, so I peppered her with questions about all this activity. She explained to me that new, line array speakers are being installed. They will provide clearer, more consistent sound reinforcement in the sanctuary. And the new speakers will be accompanied by new power amplifiers, soundboard and controller.

The AudioVisual Improvement fund that we used to purchase the new sound system was started in 2021 during the COVID lockdown. Donations to this fund ranged from \$15 to many tens of thousands.

The generosity of congregational members made this happen! Once this new sound system was purchased, the equipment then spent many months at sea as supply chain challenges and cargo shipping “waiting lines” slowed their delivery.

Now, however, the system has arrived and is being installed. By this Sunday, October 2, all who attend services in the sanctuary will be able to enjoy the new sounds.

See you on Sunday.

Wyatt Stahl

As always, if you have questions for church council, please ask us or email: council@incarnationmn.org.

First Communion Milestone

Sunday, November 13 will be our time of learning.

First and Second Grade 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Third Grade and older 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

If you have children in each age level, you choose the time that works best for you.

Sunday, November 20 will be our time of communion together at 9:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. worship.

The First Communion Milestone at Incarnation is one of the ways we strive to help families honor the promises made at Baptism.

*If your child celebrated their First Communion during COVID and would like to celebrate this Sunday as well, we invite you to join in this celebration of First Communion together.

Link: <https://incarnationmn.org/youth/milestones/>

First Communion Milestone



November 13 a time of learning together.
November 20 a time of communing together.

October 29



10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Candy, games & fun!

If you're a small group, committee, or family that would like to decorate your trunk and park in the front parking lot we encourage you to sign up! This will be a safe and fun morning for kids and families to come through to collect candy, play games and have fun! There will be a prize for the most creatively decorated trunk. We encourage a child friendly trunk.

Link to vbspro.events/p/75104c

Club 4/5

Sunday, October 30

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Pumpkin Carving Fun!



Kids in grades 4 and 5 join in the fun of pumpkin carving on Sunday, October 30. Come dressed to carve.

Link to vbspro.events/p/a74406

ILC Kids has many opportunities for you to connect with kids and/or support the ministry here at Incarnation. If you are interested, contact Rebecca for more information.

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Small Group Opportunities

Questions God Asks Us

Take a closer look at the theme, Questions God Asks Us, using Trevor Hudson's book and small group conversations. The chapters are a quick read, while raising thought-provoking questions. Evening and daytime groups are available on Zoom. More information: <https://incarnationmn.org/new-small-groups/>. Contact: dfloe@incarnationmn.org.

Writing for the Soul

Whether you consider yourself a writer or not, explore writing as a spiritual practice. A variety of approaches to writing will be introduced, accessible to writers of all levels. This group meets every other week on Zoom with time for writing in the group. More information: <https://incarnationmn.org/new-small-groups/>. Contact: dfloe@incarnationmn.org. When: Once/week on Thursday evenings, 6:30-8:15 p.m. on Zoom

A Few Notes from Worship & Music

While still basking in the wonderfully uplifting 60th anniversary celebration, the music department is excited for a very active Fall!



Rehearsals for Senior Choir are in full swing with four brand new members already and a focus on beautifully lyrical music tied to the message.

We were thrilled to have ILC volunteer musicians lend their gifts in worship services for ten consecutive weeks this past summer. Volunteer ensembles are now being formed and initial interest is very encouraging. Rehearsals will begin soon and ensembles are open to all ages.

The contemporary ensemble has expanded their repertoire and looks forward to a wide stylistic variety of offerings this fall with a number of interesting instrumental combinations.

We plan to offer several levels of youth choir experiences for a six week pilot program in the spring followed by a full launch in the fall.

After a summer spent attending reading sessions, researching new releases, connecting with colleagues, and reorganizing the rehearsal space, the handbell program is primed for a new season.

The Youth Handbell Choir welcomed 9 new ringers at the first rehearsal! Their overall enthusiasm and eagerness to learn is exciting to experience. They will be playing in worship in October.

The Adult Handbell Choir is pleased to return to a non-pandemic format and is preparing to expand their musical knowledge with more challenging repertoire this year. Several ringers attended “Ready. Set. Ring!” in September. This day-long workshop, hosted by Twin Cities Bronze, allows ringers to work with a notable clinician to develop their skills without the pressure of a performance at the end of the day.

The Traditional Service has been solidifying a core of essential hymns over the past year. By deliberately rotating through 12 hymns, and then adding 11 more, the children who attend the early service have sung hymns that will shape their faith for years to come. We are now ready to learn some new hymns! Be sure to open your Cranberry Hymnal when you see an unfamiliar title. Even if you aren’t great at reading music, the printed page can be really helpful.

Update on Building Projects

Water Intrusion Project

COST: \$197,798

Raised to Date: \$198,254

DONE! THANK YOU!

UPDATE: Windows are installed and sheetrock is being installed.



Parking Lot Project

COST: \$350,000

Raised to Date: \$309,784

89% to DATE

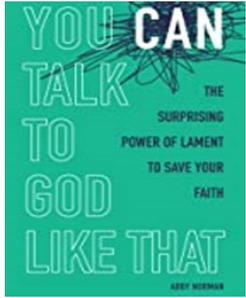
ISSUE: Improper runoff of drain water and no handicapped parking near building.

HISTORY: The parking lot has served well for many years, but needs proper drainage installed to avoid water pooling. The handicapped parking is not next to the building which makes members and guests cross moving traffic to get to the building.

PLAN: Redesign parking lot with handicapped slots next to the building. A sidewalk will be installed along the south side of the building to connect Door One and Door Two. In this first phase, the south parking lot will be resurfaced and restriped. Future phases will include other parking areas.

UPDATE: The storm sewage drainage project will begin on October 14..

Apostles Library Book Review



You Can Talk to God Like That: The Surprising Power of Lament to Save Your Faith

By Abby Norman

Are you ever annoyed or sometimes even really angry with God? Have you ever told God so?

Or are you still being oh so careful as you “behave around God” and sort of tippy-toe in your prayer life? Does the thought of shouting at God make you awfully nervous?

You Can Talk to God Like That: The Surprising Power of Lament to Save Your Faith, a new book by Abby Norman, might be of help to you. Abby is a United Methodist pastor who felt freed when her mother told her she could be mad at God when the suffering from fibromyalgia during her teenage years became intense.

Our world and lives are filled with very real sorrow and pain. While we often feel there is no way to connect this to our faith in God, our scriptures are filled with lament. This lack of knowing how to lament - an ancient practice of expressing anger and pain to God - damages us personally and spiritually. Pastor Abby Norman shows us how to express our laments to God (and to each other) when things are definitely not okay. Through this process we will discover a richer connection with God. She urges people to be comfortable in church in saying “I’m not OK today” and others of us to just sit with those who lament and help them hold that pain.

There is an excellent interview and conversation about the book with Pastor Abby Norman in the September 2021 issue of Living Lutheran. A copy of the magazine is in the church library.



Faith Formation: Renovare Book Club

Are you interested in reading deeply soul-shaping, Christ-centered books? Take part in the 2022-2023 Renovare book club. Over the course of a year, the book club reads four books with on-line discussions, exclusive podcasts and essays, weekly e-mails and study questions. Books for this year are:

- *Seeking God* by Trevor Hudson
- *Orthodoxy* by G.K. Chesterton,
- *Learning Humility* by Richard Foster and
- *The Narrative of Sojourner Truth*

For more information: www.renovare.org/bookclub. To find out more about Renovare contact Pastor Kai who has served as a speaker, writer and teacher with Renovare.

Your Support Matters in the Lives of Young People!

Those of Incarnation who supported Tanzania Education Sponsorship in 2021 made 2022 education possible for 38 young people from our partner congregations, Mkwawa and Kigamboni Lutheran Churches and eight youth from the Huruma Centre Home for Children. Gifts toward education over the years have given hope to these communities and they continue to help future generations develop their own God-given gifts and abilities. The importance of education sponsorship has been affirmed through Zoom conversations, as well as What'sApp communications where we share our lives with one another. It's fun to see faces of some of those sponsored youth through photos we've received!

Some of you have already donated this year in support of 2023 education for young people of our Tanzania partners. We are most grateful for your gifts; thank you. If you haven't given a gift this year in support of 2023 education of our partners' youth, we are asking for your support.

Money donated to the campaign primarily supports second student tuition of \$400 which includes full annual tuition supplies and boarding. If you are not able to give a full \$400, give what you can because every dollar you donate helps give hope. Our goal is to support students for their entire secondary experience, which makes secondary tuition our first priority. Any surplus funds gathered will support

other education initiatives such as secondary school capital projects, secondary school scholarships for students within communities who don't have St. Paul Area Synod partners and the post-secondary student scholarship fund.

Your contribution can be made in a number of ways:

- Write a check to Incarnation with "Tanzania Education" in the memo.
- Make a one-time gift via Incarnation's secured online giving site. incarnationmn.org/give
- Make a recurring donation via Incarnation's secured online giving site. incarnationmn.org/give
- Note that \$8/week will support a secondary student for a year.
- Use a grant via donor-advised charitable funds. For instructions or questions, please contact Amy Faymerville, at afaymerville@incarnationmn.org

If you have questions about this partnership or would like to be a part of the Tanzania Action Group which helps to ensure Incarnation's partnership with our siblings in Tanzania is strong and healthy, contact any of the members of the action group: Ollie Olsen, Sue Nelson, Johanna Pokorny, Harold Torunsky or Traci Tapani.

PS. Watch for the Tanzania table at the Alternative Giving Fair on November 20.

Incarnation has a woodworking group that will again begin to meet monthly. **YOU ARE INVITED!**

The Incarnation woodworkers learn from each other, describe or show items they have made, tell of discoveries found, work on projects for the congregation or for the church's partners, and have a good time together. (The woodworkers have completed nearly 40 projects for Incarnation.)

In October, the gathering will be on October 11, from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the shop of Dick Trapp, 1045 Lake Oaks Drive. Dicks says we will discuss what projects you have done during the pandemic and if you have one, please bring a jig that you have used in building any project in the past.

Incarnation Holy Hammers



PRAYER CONCERNS

Murt Seltz, Lu Durbahn; Anne Bidne; Emily Mikkelson; Jim Crawford; Kara Genia; Orris Haraldson; Joe Stepka; Jon Hansen; Wayne Quehl; Lowell Odland; Erling Husby; Erica Bratland; Jim Morse; Linda Hudepohl; Chris McDermid; Jim Mishek's sister; Erick Mikkelson's father; Dan Sailsbury's Mom; Joan Lindquist's daughter; Sue Bernlohr's Mom; Claudia & Don Wiebold's daughter; Al and Carolyn Ek's son; Shawn & Julie Durbin's sister-in-law; Kirsten Bornus' friend Nick & Carly; Carol Lacey's friend Steve; Bill & Joan Reichwald's friends Mike, Emily, Jonathan & Harper; Kim Wielenberg's friend, John; Josh & Amy Johnson's friend, Joel

Sympathy to: Mark Oswood & family on the death of his mother; Ted Trahan & family on the death of his father; Sue Bernlohr and family on the death of her father

Recently Married: Diana Hoff and Brian Thesenvitz

Recently Baptized: Walter Joseph Bzdok, son of Anna and Joseph Bzdok

Memorials

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

Date Range: 8/22/22 to 9/18/22

Donor	Fund Name	In Memory of
Rachel Ecklund	Memorial – Worship & Music	Dick Pontinen
Jim & Carol Fruehling	Memorial – Endowment	Tim Abraham
Scott & Kathy Ginsbach	Memorial – Ralph Reeder Food Shelf	Douglas Wikum
Marlys M Nelson	Memorial – Ralph Reeder Food Shelf	Dick Pontinen
Walter & Alice Tritsch	Memorial – Undesignated	Tim Abraham
Cal & Sharon Wilson	Memorial – Endowment	Tim Abraham
Ken & Rosalie Grosch	Memorial – Parking Lot	Don Trahan

August Financials

Actual August Operating Giving	\$159,894.33	YTD Operating Giving	\$1,223,348.69
Actual August Operating Expense	\$161,403.97	YTD Operating Expense	\$1,344,185.89
	(\$1,509.64)		(\$120,837.20)
Actual August Mortgage Giving	\$40,351.67	YTD Mortgage Giving	\$237,785.50
Actual August Mortgage Expense	\$20,675.00	YTD Mortgage Expense	\$198,265.00
	\$19,676.67		\$39,520.50

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