



# Lifetimes

October 2023

## From the Pastor



Pastor Kai Nilsen

### It's Worth It!

Whenever someone utters that phrase, you know they have made a judgment that the action they took was worth the sacrifice of time or energy or money or even struggle that they put into it.

**It's worth it.**

*It's Worth It* is our stewardship theme for 2023 at Incarnation. Stewardship is the big churchy term that simply answers the question, "How do I manage or oversee the gifts that God has first given me?" Given all the good ways that we can spend our time or energy or money, we are grateful that so many of you, in small and larger ways, say "It's Worth It" simply by your presence and support of our ongoing ministry.

We have tied our stewardship theme to the overall fall sermon series, *Life Worth Living*, because throughout we are asking the same kinds of questions. What is significant about the life I've been given? What gives it meaning and value? What will I do, in a meaningful way, with the gifts of time and energy and money that God has given me?

Beginning this month, you will start hearing stories from people in our congregation whose lives are full and complex but who have made choices to invest in our ministry through small groups, worship, family learning, and outreach. They, like you, have 7 days in a week and 24 hours in their day. They, like you, could be doing many

other good things. They have chosen to invest their time and energy and money in the God-work that we are doing together at Incarnation. For them, *It's Worth It!*

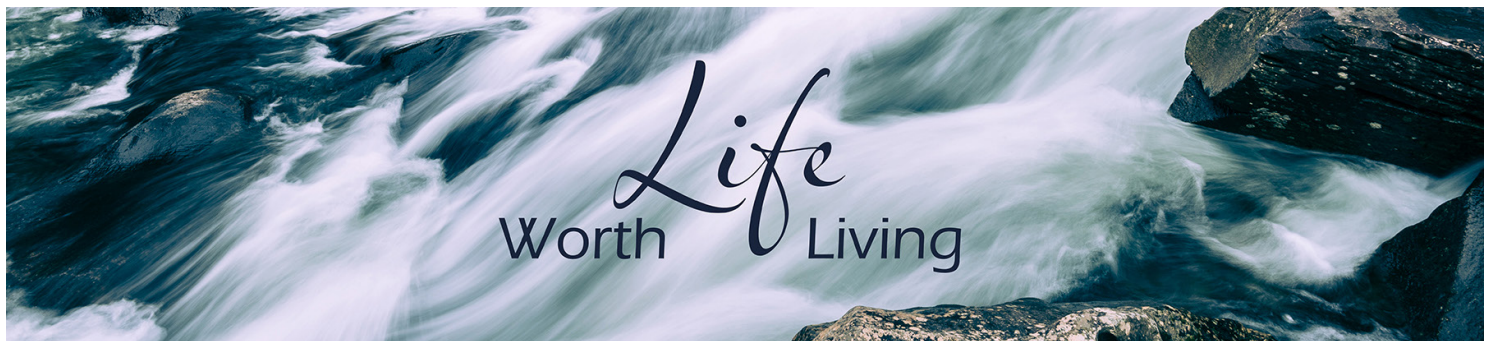
Throughout October or at our November 12, Commitment Sunday service, you will be able to make your commitment to our ongoing ministry for 2024. It's an exciting time to be at Incarnation. You can make your commitment online at [incarnationmn.org/give/itsworthit](http://incarnationmn.org/give/itsworthit).

Remember, these commitments are simply part of your *Life Worth Living*. As we continue the fall sermon series, if you are not able to join us on the weekend, we will be posting the sermon a few days later so you can listen and share it with friends. The weekly devotional booklet we created for the series is available in hard copy at the church or for you to download at [incarnationmn.org/ministries/a-life-worth-living](http://incarnationmn.org/ministries/a-life-worth-living)

Our hope is that you will use those devotionals to deepen your personal worship experience and then invite your friends into the important questions we will be exploring this fall.

What makes *Life Worth Living*? Come and see. Come and explore. Come and experience. *It's Worth It!*

Peace, Kai



We are pleased to share with you the progress we are making on our strategic plan to guide our church into the future. The plan is based on three strategic pillars:

1. Deepening our Faith: Learning to live and love like Jesus, for a lifetime.
2. Serving and Transforming our Community: Co-creating a better, more loving world.
3. Responsible Stewardship: Caring for and sharing what God has first given us.

In this article, we would like to share our vision for success under the first pillar, *Deepening our Faith*. This pillar has two main themes:

- A. Innovate ways to encourage spiritual formation across life stages.
- B. Enrich our worship and music experience.

Below is a description of what success may look like for the two themes.

### **Theme A: Innovate ways to encourage spiritual formation across life stages.**

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Young adults will experience personal transformation, growing in character, relationships, and the ability to love and serve others. Seniors will experience physical and emotional well-being, connected to a supportive community, engaged in meaningful activities, and living with hope and peace. Children and youth will develop their gifts and talents, participating in a variety of activities that help them discover and develop their God-given gifts. People in life transitions will find hope and support, connecting with others who are going through similar experiences and receiving spiritual guidance and support as they navigate their transitions. Finally, through a spiritual growth training process, people will develop a deeper understanding of their faith, learning how to apply faith to their lives and grow in their relationship with Jesus.

Examples of success may include:

- A young adult coming to know Jesus and deepening their faith.
- A senior experiencing a renewed sense of purpose and belonging.
- A child developing a strong foundation in their faith that will carry them through their lives.
- A person in a life transition finding hope and support and discovering new purpose and direction.

- A preschooler developing a foundation in their faith and their social and emotional skills.
- A person of any age developing a deeper understanding of their faith and their spiritual gifts.

### **Theme B: Enrich our worship & music experience.**

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Worship services that are engaging, inspiring, and relevant to people of all ages and backgrounds. They are welcoming and inclusive and the worship space is flexible to meet the needs of a variety of worship styles. Students are involved in worship and they are passionate about using their gifts to lead others in worship.

This worship experience can have a profound impact on people's lives.

- A person who has been struggling with their faith could find a new sense of purpose and meaning.
- A student who is feeling lost and alone could find a sense of community and belonging.
- A family who is new to the area could feel welcome and included.
- A student who is passionate about music could discover their calling as a worship leader.

It is exciting to envision the future and develop a plan to achieve it. The planning process will continue through the fall; however, we continually looking for additional input and feedback.

On Sunday, November 26, your Council will be presenting an overview of the plan (still in draft form) at Kairos. We will also provide an update on other activities that the Council has been working on throughout 2023. There will be time for questions and discussion. We invite all those that are interested to please attend.

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### **2023 Council Priorities**

1. Create a 3-Year Plan
  2. Increase Transparent Communications
  3. Conduct an Internal Financial Audit
  4. Create Budgets with Positive Net Contributions
  5. Rethink Giving
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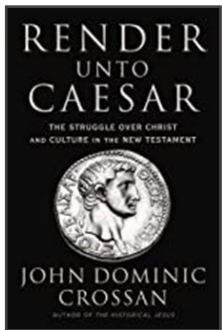
In our Baptism liturgy we ask parents to make promises to help their kids grow in their faith, we say to them, “You are entrusted with gifts and responsibilities: to live with your children among God’s faithful people, to bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, and nurture them in faith and prayer so that they learn to trust God . . .” As a faith community we value worshiping together with all generations, and we want our worship space to have as few barriers as possible for all generations to gather. This coming month we will be creating a “Praise Ground” for

families with young children. An area in the Sanctuary that will have small tables, toys, books, and other activities for young children to participate in worship with developmentally appropriate items for them to use. In order to make this space, some of the pews will be removed and a new rug will be put in place so that the littlest in our church family know that they are welcome, that they belong, and that Incarnation is a safe place for them to be.

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## Apostles Library Book Review

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*Render Unto Caesar: the Struggle Over Christ and Culture in the New Testament*  
By: John Dominic Crossan

John Dominic Crossan, leading Biblical scholar here provides new insights into the Christian culture wars which began in the New Testament and continue today. In this book, he explores the debates over church and state—from a biblical perspective, exploring the earliest tensions evident in the New Testament, and offering a way forward for Christians today.

For decades, Americans have been divided on how Christians should relate to government and lawmakers, a dispute that has impacted every area of society and

grown more rancorous over the past forty years. Crossan, however, makes clear that this debate isn’t new; it can be found in the New Testament itself, most notably in the tensions between Luke-Acts and Revelation.

In the texts of Luke-Acts, Rome is considered favorably. In the book of Revelation, Rome is seen as the embodiment of evil in the world. Yet there is an alternative to these two extremes, Crossan explains. The historical Jesus and Paul, the earliest Christian teachers, were both strongly opposed to Rome, yet neither demonized the Empire. Crossan sees in Jesus and Paul’s approach a model for Christians today that can be used to cut through the acrimony and polarization roiling our society and dividing us.

Appendices and notes will help you as you read and ponder his look at culture wars both then and now.

Incarnation’s first Red Cross blood drive was a success! Our next blood drive is scheduled for

**Thursday, November 9, 2023**  
**10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

As Barb Davis says below, “Blood is the gift of life.” Please, follow this link if you are moved to schedule an appointment to donate:

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=Incarnation Lutheran>

A number of generous blood donors have already signed up.

On August 13, Megan Salisbury, RN, (with her sons, Calvin and Jonah) spoke to the congregation about her experience as a pediatric ICU nurse and the vital role blood transfusion plays in the care of the babies she works with.

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## Red Cross Blood Drive - Set for November

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Barb Davis would also like to encourage as many people as possible to donate and writes:

“I’ve been living with multiple myeloma, a blood cancer, for 16 years. I’ve had two stem cell transplants, and both required lots and lots of whole blood, packed red blood cells, platelets and four infusions of a component of plasma called IVIG which is derived from 3,000 to 10,000 donors for each dose! Without all of these blood products I would not have survived the stem cell transplants, and so would not be here today to help other myeloma patients, or see my daughter get married and give birth to our precious granddaughter.

I am eternally grateful to all donors who help me and other cancer patients. Blood is the gift of life.”



**Kairos meets Sunday Mornings at 10:15 a.m.  
in the Fireside Room  
Mondays, Zoom, 7-8:30 p.m.  
Link to meeting on  
on [incarnationmn.org/ministries/adult formation](http://incarnationmn.org/ministries/adult%20formation)**

### **Oct. 1: Faith and Civic Life:**

#### **Our Voices on ELCA Social Statement**

##### **Incarnation members with Carol Lacey**

As dynamic members of the ELCA (individually and corporately) we at Incarnation have an opportunity to consider, reflect and respond to the challenges of faith and civic life. Incarnation participants in small groups in September with Carol Lacey will share conversation and invite you to consider how we gather as a church as a community of moral deliberation, then go into the world to do God's work, how worship invites and prepares us to "go in peace to love and serve the Lord."

### **Oct. 8: MicroGrants and Lights On!**

#### **Don Samuels, CEO MicroGrants & Lights On!**

Charitable work often perpetuates poverty and dependency and is based on a presumption of hierarchy. We are more often moved more by our own assets, our own timing, and our own sentiments in how we give and serve. We are seldom moved by the pains, priorities, or opportunities of the objects of our charity. Don Samuels, CEO of MicroGrants and Lights On!, will share efforts to do charity differently in a way that prioritizes timing, healing and prosperity in ways that might lead, more quickly, to equality, grants to low income-people of potential to boost a business, education, or career.

### **Oct. 15 & Oct 16: Bega Kwa Bega: Scholarships**

#### **Harold Torunsky, Bega Kwa Bega group**

Incarnation has a long history of working with our ministry partners, Mkwawa and Kigamboni in Iringa, Tanzania, through prayer, presence, and projects that include scholarships and capital investments.

Hear stories of those who have benefitted from this partnership as Harold Torunsky, leader of Incarnation's Tanzania Action Group (TZAG) leads discussion of the Bega Kwa Bega (Shoulder to Shoulder) accompaniment approach to missions and how Incarnation could learn from its ministry partners to fulfill the Great Commission.

This connects with a "special ask" for funding to further the progress and future goals of this global ministry, which in the past has been funded in part by Incarnation's regular budget.

### **Oct. 22: Luther and Vocation**

#### **Mary Gaebler, Religion Professor**

##### **Gustavus Adolphus College**

Mary Gaebler, Religion Professor at Gustavus Adolphus College, will focus on rediscovery of the Gospel by way of God's power and presence, made manifest in a "call," what "cooperation" with God means and how we experience it. Gaebler will emphasize the "gift" element of God's calling through Christian vocation and consider parallels between how empowering this was in Luther's day, and how empowering it can be for us in our present historical context.

### **Oct. 29, 30 and Nov. 5, 6:**

#### **Practicing Hope in a Time of Anxiety**

##### **Marty Stortz, Professor Emerita**

##### **Augsburg University**

Marty Stortz, retired Christensen Chair in Religion and Vocation at Augsburg University, will begin this two-week series with a story and then distinguish between true hope and false hope, hoping for something and hoping in something, having hope and the sense that hope somehow has you, and hope as a kind of DIY matter and hoping with someone or a community.

## A Prayer for Autumn

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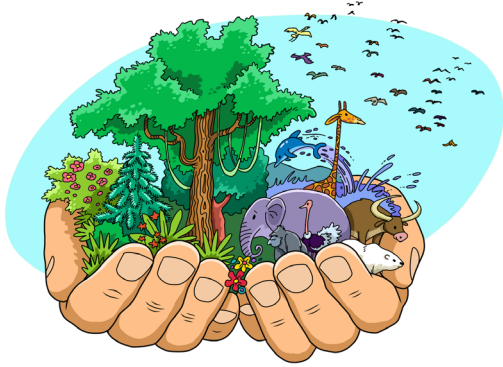
I praise you, Lord, for autumn:  
for falling temperatures and morning chill,  
trees turned gold and red, brown and orange,  
falling leaves and blowing leaves,  
the smell of burning leaves,  
the joy of leaf-pile jumping.

I praise you, Lord, for autumn:  
the interplay of outside temperatures  
and inside warmth,  
the promise of cider and pumpkin bread,  
the blessing of blankets and sweaters.

I praise you, Lord, for autumn:  
the beauty and hope in the change of season,  
the promise that the coming of autumn  
heralds another ending,  
a new beginning,  
and the wonder of another winter,  
another spring,  
another summer,  
yet to come.

by Bob Hostetler

## CARE OF CREATION CORNER.



Tis the season for the pumpkin! As you look for the best shaped and most orange-colored pumpkin for your holiday decor and carving, remember that there are ways you can make extra use of the pumpkin and share with more of God's world than just your family or visiting goblins on Halloween. Consider simply using paint or markers to draw a face which will make the pumpkin last longer. If you are planning to carve, save the seeds for toasting; pumpkin seeds are a tasty treat. **AND**, by all means, plan to recycle your pumpkin later by composting. Many communities provide special receptacles for pumpkins after the holiday or they can be taken to local compost sites.

## Creative Space: Sharing Our Stories

Lyngblomsten Community Services  
Mondays, October 9-November 13 10 a.m.-noon  
St. John in the Wilderness (2175 1<sup>st</sup> St., White Bear Lake)

This six-week class is for persons who are experiencing early to mid-stage memory loss and are living at home. Join us for two hours of creative fun as we share stories and make music together with award-winning teaching artist Diane Jarvi. She'll lead you through a variety of activities that will have you smiling and laughing as you express yourself and connect with one another.

Cost: All participants will be asked to pay a suggested amount based on income. No one will be denied participation due to the inability to pay.

Registration due by October 2, 2023  
To register, contact Lisa Brown at (651) 632-5320 or [caregiving@lyngblomsten.org](mailto:caregiving@lyngblomsten.org).

## Faith Explorers Book Group for Men

2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. via Zoom

This book group is for men interested in exploring aspects of faith through reading and lively discussion of current faith-based books. Attendance is open to all men interested in doing significant faith-based reading on what it means to be a Christian. Sessions are usually led by Pastor Gary Anderson. Brew your own coffee at home and be prepared for an engaging discussion. Contact Dave Eckmann at [d.eckmann@comcast.net](mailto:d.eckmann@comcast.net) for the Zoom link. More information available at: <https://www.incarnationmn.org/ministries/adult-formation/>.

## Hearts > Heads > Hands > Voices

This is the understanding of the work of Incarnation's Hunger Awareness and Advocacy group. We come to the group with a concern and passion for working together to end hunger in God's world. We study, share, and learn together. We seek how best to use our hands in efforts throughout our communities, physically working to end local hunger. And we learn to advocate with our elected officials to end hunger here in Minnesota, in the United States, and around the world.

Our meetings, at Incarnation, on the third Tuesday of the month (September - May) at 7:00 p.m. are informative as well as empowering. We would welcome you to join in our efforts. New hearts, heads, hands, and voices are always welcome. Please be in touch with Vernita Kennen at [dvkennen@aol.com](mailto:dvkennen@aol.com) if you have questions.

## New Members Class

Have you found your new church home at Incarnation? Are you interested in becoming a member? Come join us for our New Members Class on Sunday, October 15, after the 10:30 a.m. worship service. A lunch will be served, as together we explore our joined faith in Christ and discover our Mission, Vision and Values as a community of faith. Use the QR Code to register.



Nursery care will be available during that time for children 10 and under, simply indicate if you need nursery care on the registration form.



**Did you know that you can make an immediate, measurable impact on lives across the globe?** Our partnership with the St. Paul Synod and the Iringa Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania through Bega Kwa Bega (Shoulder to Shoulder) facilitates our connections through prayer, presence, and projects.



**You can feel the mutual joy** of supporting high school education that is otherwise out of reach for poor families and orphans. Currently, Incarnation supports 44 students with full or partial scholarships, depending on need.

Our goal is to maintain and increase our scholarship support for the growing Huruma Centre Orphanage, located on the Kigamboni church campus.



**You can be part of the excitement** of a flourishing ministry by helping to build, maintain and staff “preaching points” – seven satellites of the two original churches, Kigamboni and Mkwawa. Click on link to hear the Children’s Choir at the Mawelewele Preaching Point: <C:\Users\Harold\Downloads\Childrens Choir - Mawelewele Preaching Point.MP4>

**You can help us honor our commitment** to our sisters and brothers in Tanzania, building on 20 years of financial and prayer support, as well as in-person connections forged during trips to meet face to face with our partners.

**You can feel confident** that your money is being used wisely, with oversight provided by Bega Kwa Bega staff as well as direct communication and coordination with leaders in Tanzania.

Huruma Centre Orphanage

Ask any of the task force members or a previous participant from a trip to Tanzania – life-changing work is being done in Tanzania, and we are honored to be part of their mission.

The emphasis remains on walking “shoulder to shoulder” – not doing for, **but partnering with an energetic church that humbles us with their commitment and joy.**

**More information on this mission partnership** will be highlighted in October during church services on October 1, 8, and 15 in addition to a presentation at Kairos on October 15 and 16. Lastly, please visit our Incarnation Tanzania Partnership Facebook Page: [Incarnation Tanzania Partnership - Search Results | Facebook](#).

**Our goal is to raise \$35,000** to honor the remainder of our 2023 commitment, and to fund our 2024 goals. As noted in the “from the council” article in the September edition of Lifetimes, designated congregational funding for mission partners was cut out of the 2023 church budget. To continue this vital partnership, we need increased financial support from individual members of Incarnation. Gifts can be made on Realm at any time, choosing one of the following fund options: Memorial - Tanzania Education, Tanzania Education, and/or Tanzania Congregational Support found under the “Fund” dropdown at this link: <https://onrealm.org/IncarnationLuth/-/form/give/now>.

In addition, please continue to support our mission partnership in **your prayers**. Also, consider joining our **task force** to help the Tanzania Action Group (TZAG) continue to build our partnerships. Finally, **dream big** and contemplate joining a future trip to Tanzania – our Tanzanian brothers and sisters name our presence as incredibly valuable, as it shows the depth of our commitment. Asante Sana (Thank you very much!)

The TZAG: Melanie Ahlstrom, Sue Nelson, Ailie Olson, Johanna Pokorny, Traci Tapani, and Harold Torunsky.

Take part in the Renovare' book club and read deeply soul-shaping, Christ-centered books. Over the course of a year, the book club reads four books with on-line discussions, podcasts, essays, weekly emails and study questions. Books for this year: *A Different Way* (Christopher Hall), *The Great Divorce* (C.S. Lewis), *Faith Like a Child* (Lacy Finn Borgo), and *The Eternal Promise* (Thomas Kelly). This book club is offered and coordinated through Renovare' and costs \$60. For more information: [www.renovare.org/bookclub](http://www.renovare.org/bookclub). In addition to the Renovare' discussion groups, if you'd like to connect with others from Incarnation who are participating, contact: [dfloe@incarnationmn.org](mailto:dfloe@incarnationmn.org). To find out more about Renovare' contact Pastor Kai who has served as a speaker, writer and teacher with Renovare'.

### Primetimers is Back!

We are happy to announce that PRIMETIMERS - a luncheon and program for elders - is back on the calendar!

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 10:30 AM**  
**GRACE HALL at INCARNATION**

Primetimers will be scheduled once a month - a chance to meet with old friends and make new ones - with a program and luncheon.

The first gathering will feature a display of watercolors by ARVIN GEHRKING, a member of Incarnation. Arvin began painting in 2005 after a career as an electrical engineer. For many years, he studied under Frank Zeller at the White Bear Center for the Arts. Arvin enjoys painting a variety of subjects including landscapes, seascapes, old buildings, animal portraits, still lifes and wildlife.

Please make your reservations for the luncheon through the church office at 651-484-7213.

### 2023 Print & Online Photo Directory

Photo sessions are done for the photo directory but it's not too late for you to submit a photo!

Please send a family photo attached to an email with all people listed to Danette Griffith at [dgriffith@incarnationmn.org](mailto:dgriffith@incarnationmn.org) by October 15.

There will be no cost for the directory to you – it is being funded by the men's coffee group. Each family participating will receive a directory.

### Trunk or Treat Saturday, October 28 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

How does Trunk-or-Treat work?

- Participants park their cars, trucks, vans, etc. in the church parking lot and kids walk to the trunks of the vehicles to get candy and treats.

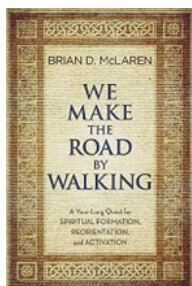
How can I participate?

- Sign up by emailing Rebecca at [rchristiansen@incarnationmn.org](mailto:rchristiansen@incarnationmn.org) to participate by providing a vehicle.
- Decorate your vehicle or provide a game for kids to play at your vehicle (optional). Be creative! Please, no scary themes. Prizes will be given for the top three trunks.
- Bring about 250 pieces of candy. You will give one piece of candy to each child who comes by your vehicle. Extra candy is available at the Welcome Table. We will deliver it to your vehicle as needed or you may also come to the Welcome Table located by door #6 to pick up candy as needed.
- Sit at your vehicle and give out candy to the kids who come by. Bring a lawn chair or something to sit on.

## Small Group Ministry Opportunities

### Starting Soon - Small Group: Creation Care

How does care for the earth connect to living a life of faith? Take part in a small group this fall to explore this and other questions on caring for creation and faith. The group will reflect on Biblical texts and discuss God's call to care for creation, while also exploring concrete ways to put faith into action. Led by Mike Vant, the group will meet on four Tuesday evenings. Register: [mjvant@gmail.com](mailto:mjvant@gmail.com).  
When/Where: Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m., at Incarnation, starting on October 3.



### Starting Soon - We Make the Road by Walking

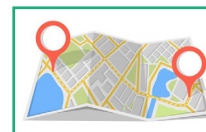
Connect with others to talk about selections from *We Make the Road by Walking* by Brian McLaren. Explore an honest, living, growing faith by retelling the Biblical story and reintroducing the Christian faith with Bible readings, reflections by Brian McLaren, and thought-provoking questions. This group will meet every

other week for six sessions, covering two short chapters at each gathering. No experience with Bible study is needed. Led by Anne Cremons. Register: [acremons@gmail.com](mailto:acremons@gmail.com). Purchase your own book in your favorite format (new/used, paperback, audiobook, eBook).

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

### Starting Soon - A Jesus' Shaped Vision for Life

Connect with others before or after worship on Sunday morning or on a Wednesday morning to talk about themes from the fall worship series, *A Life Worth Living*. Small groups begin in early October and meet for just three sessions (shorter sample group) or for five sessions. The groups will use a faith study, *A Jesus' Shaped Vision for Life* that corresponds with themes from the fall worship series.



Jesus has a vision for living life – it's a life lived for others. What does it look like to live out this vision? Where are you already doing this and where can you grow? If you had a map for a Jesus shaped life, what would it look like? Get to know others and take a closer look at how the themes are lived out in your life.

When/Where: Sunday morning groups meet after the 9:00 a.m. worship service or before the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Wednesday group meets at 10:00 a.m. at Incarnation.

Find all the latest information by visiting the [Incarnation website](#).  
→ Ministries → Small Groups → New Small Groups

## Among the Congregation

PRAYERS: Kari Sundberg & the Sundberg family; Jim Mishek; Becky Trancheff; Pastor Donald & Emmy Kiwanga; Jaime Stockton; Maddie St. Martin; June Fischer; Kirsten Blaseck; Wayne Quehl; Carol Beckerleg; Carl & Jan Kuhrmeyer; Gene Lindholm; Marian Ness; Joe Stepka; Lowell Odland; Linda Hudepohl; Donna Yates' sister-in-law; Patti Williams' brother; 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; Roger & Dede Mattison's friends, Linda and Yvonne

SYMPATHY TO: the family of Tom Schultz on his death; Steve Erickson and family on the death of his mother.

RECENTLY BAPTIZED: Hunter James Reichert, son of Daniel & Brianna Reichert and Liam Thomas Hayden, son of Tim & Anne Hayden

## Financial Report - August 2023

Actual August Operating Giving	\$128,109	YTD Operating Giving	\$1,261,796	YTD Operating Giving Budget	\$1,248,628
Actual August Operating Expense	\$151,266	YTD Operating Expense	\$1,334,821	YTD Operating Expense Budget	\$1,362,184
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>-\$23,157</b>		<b>-\$73,024</b>		<b>-\$113,556</b>

Actual August Mortgage Giving	\$16,414	YTD Mortgage Giving	\$233,588	YTD Mortgage Giving Budget	\$198,736
Actual August Mortgage Expense	\$20,675	YTD Mortgage Expense	\$190,400	YTD Mortgage Expense Budget	\$190,400
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>-\$4,261</b>		<b>\$43,188</b>		<b>\$8,336</b>



## Introducing the Incarnation Music Series

The Incarnation Music Series will feed the heart, mind, and spirit of the community through the gift of music. We are striving to fill the world with God's grace and love through locally available, high-quality music. This is an opportunity for us to give generously and inspire hope. We invite you to experience the transforming power of music. Bring a friend!



**October 8, 2023**  
**4:00 p.m.**  
**Jack Brass Band**  
**Freewill Offering**

Based on the traditions of New Orleans' brass bands, Jack Brass Band is an ambassador to the Crescent City's rich musical history.

"If you like your gumbo spicy and your music hot, check out the Jack Brass Band," said Wynton Marsalis after hearing them.



**December 10, 2023**  
**4:00 p.m.**  
**Twin Cities Bronze, handbell ensemble**  
**Freewill Offering**

Twin Cities Bronze is an auditioned handbell ensemble of advanced ringers known for its energetic and visually appealing performance style. Distinctive among handbell groups for performing without a conductor, audiences experience the sensitive musical interpretation and technical precision of this excellent ensemble.



**February 11, 2024**  
**4:00 p.m.**  
**Amy Maakestad, organist**  
**Freewill Offering**

Celebrating 25 years of Incarnation's Cassavant organ, Amy Maakestad pulls out all the stops to perform a program spanning 300 years of pipe organ repertoire. Maakestad loves

showing people the amazing things that only the pipe organ can do.



**April 14, 2024**  
**4:00 p.m.**  
**Known MPLS**  
**Freewill Offering**

*Known - to be recognized, understood, or validated.*  
*Jeremiah 29:11*

Known MPLS is an audition-based community youth choir under the direction of Courtland Pickens. The choral ensemble was established in 2019 as a non-profit music organization striving to train and develop the next generation of singers and composers throughout the Twin Cities area.

Known MPLS has had the opportunity to share the stage with some of the most prominent musical artists in the Twin Cities and has performed in a wide variety of venues. They use performance-based music education to galvanize youth between the ages of 12-25 as agents of change by promoting self-esteem, leadership skills, cultural awareness, discipline and a commitment to excellence.

### Feeding Kids Doesn't Stop When the MobilePack™ Ends

The FMSC Action Team and members of the Incarnation community were busy all summer volunteering at various events and preparing for our next MobilePack™.

Each month throughout the year, volunteers gather at the FMSC permanent packing site in Coon Rapids. These are standing reservations on the same days/times each month for a two-hour packing shift with other members of our Incarnation community. There is always room for all to join in the fun and an easy way to make a difference. You can find more information here including links for registration for future dates.

- There were three different Food Truck Festivals in Hopkins, St. Paul and Anoka where Incarnation members were encouraged to volunteer. Eleven volunteers donated their time to check IDs, secure wristbands, sell water and provide general information to attendees. These volunteers provided 42 hours of service which earned \$2,683 towards our 2024 All Hands on Hope MobilePack™! Thank you to those who volunteered to help feed starving kids.
- In August, several members of the FMSC Action Group attended the MobilePack™ Summit in Burnsville, MN, sponsored by FMSC. For two days, the team met with FMSC staff members and other MobilePack hosts from around the country to share strategies and tactics for leading a successful event. The team toured the machine packing facility and the Marketplace fulfillment center in Eagan. In addition, they learned how FMSC coordinates getting meals to in-country Partners and even heard from one of the partner organizations on specific work they are doing around the globe. After the summit, the team headed to Target Field to participate in the Pack at the Park MobilePack™.

What's next? We will be announcing the 2024 All Hands on Hope MobilePack™ dates in the near future. But, we need your help. The Action Team is looking for more volunteers to join us as we support our ministry partner. We meet monthly to plan MobilePacks™ and coordinate other activities throughout the year. Roles include volunteer recruitment and coordination, fundraising, hospitality, event coordination and communications. We would welcome anyone who has an interest or a passion to help feed God's beloved kids around the world. Contact Mike Vant at [mjvant@gmail.com](mailto:mjvant@gmail.com) for more information on how you can help.

*For YOU are great and do wonderful things. Psalm 86:10*



**Heather Hoecke** (she/her) is our new Formation Leader for Middle School. Heather and her husband Kyle have been members at Incarnation for over 20 years, where Heather has participated in small groups and bell choir, served on the welcoming crew for new members, and has regularly served communion. Both of her children, Elise and Elena were baptized and confirmed at Incarnation. Elise is now a freshman at the University of Northwestern St. Paul, while Elena is a sophomore at Centennial High School. Heather loves to spend time with her family, traveling, boating, watching sports, and enjoying time outdoors!



While Heather's first occupation was as an attorney, since leaving the profession, she has spent many years volunteering with youth in the community in the Centennial School District, leading the Centennial Volleyball Club, and volunteering to help those in the surrounding community through Feed My Starving Children and Shobi's Table. Heather is excited to continue and grow her relationship with the Incarnation Community in this new role!

**Kathleen Johnson** is our new Joyful Noise Choir Director. Kathleen comes to us with a wealth of experience and a deep love for teaching and directing music in a worship setting. Kathleen has graciously provided us with some biographical information for those of you who might not yet be acquainted:



"I grew up on a dairy farm in Southern Wisconsin. I attended a one-room country school through seventh grade and was active in Adams Lutheran Church near Argyle, WI. I graduated from Waldorf and Augsburg Colleges with a degree in elementary education. I sang in both the Waldorf and Augsburg Choirs and studied music courses along the way. I have sung in church choirs over the years, as well as in the Northern Lights Chorale (a 70-voice auditioned ensemble based in the Twin Cities) for ten years.

In the public schools, I taught 3rd grade in Chisago City and 3rd and 5th grades in Columbia Heights. I also taught music to K-8th graders for six years at NE Regional Catholic School in NE Minneapolis, which included directing 2-3 musicals per year.

I directed a children's choir at Christ the King in New Brighton for 17 years. I have given piano lessons to many children and continue to teach piano today.

My interests are music (including playing the piano and teaching my grandkids to play as well), travel, reading, gardening, and spending time with my family. I am excited about this new opportunity to work with the children at Incarnation as the Joyful Noise Choir Director."

Please welcome both new staff members.



# Memorials

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

Date Range: 8/24/23 to 9/23/23

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Fund Name</b>	<b>In Memory of</b>
John Miller	Memorial – Undesignated	Orv Bratland
Steve & Annie Bullert	Memorial – Undesignated	Hazel Howes
Scott & Kathy Ginsbach	Memorial – Ralph Reeder Food Shelf	Martha Husby
John & Velinda McLaughlin	Memorial – Undesignated	Martha Husby
Tim & Katie Gray	Memorial – Worship & Music	Gloria Huss
John Miller	Memorial – Undesignated	Jim Landis
Marlys M. Nelson	Memorial – Ralph Reeder Food Shelf	Chris McDermid
Murt Seltz	Memorial – Undesignated	Tom Hay
Don Alsop	Memorial – Undesignated	Dennis Paulson
Gary & Mary Ann Anderson	Memorial – Endowment	Dennis Paulson
Jim & Carol Fruehling	Memorial – Deferred Maintenance	Dennis Paulson
Gene & Mary Lindholm	Memorial – Cemetery	Dennis Paulson
Harry & Marian Johnson	Memorial – Endowment	Dennis Paulson
John Miller	Memorial – Undesignated	Dennis Paulson
Marlys J. Nelson	Memorial – Worship & Music	Dennis Paulson
Larrie & Lou Ann Reese	Memorial – Undesignated	Dennis Paulson
Andrea Johnson	Memorial – Feed My Starving Children	Mary Ulvenes

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.

## Upcoming Events

**October 8, Jack Brass Band**

**October 15, New Members Class**

**October 28, Trunk or Treat**

**October 29, Confirmation Sunday**

**Reception of New Members**

**November 5, All Saints' Sunday**