



Lifetimes

September 2023

From the Pastor



Pastor Kai Nilsen

One of the goals for our council this year is the development of a three-year plan for Incarnation, 2024-2026. We are building the plan on three pillars:

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

As we are working with staff and leaders to put some specific goals to these pillars, I want to highlight a few keywords in each of the descriptors. *Under Deepening Faith*, **Jesus** is the first keyword. We want to invite our community to imagine living their life as Jesus would.

Secondarily, the phrase **for a lifetime** has given rise to these questions: What are the ages and stages of life that we are currently engaging? Which stages of life are we not intentionally engaging? As we move forward, we will be creating growth plans for our existing ministries (Children, Youth, and Family, and adult small groups) and then identifying possible ways for us to focus on the life stages we are not strategically engaging at this point— young adults and seniors.

Under the *Serving and Transforming Community* pillar, **co-creating** is the keyword. Co-creating takes us in two directions: How can we engage more of our community in active service? What community groups/ministries can we connect with to make the most impact? Paul reminds us in Galatians 5 that the whole law of God is summed up in these words, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Together we can co-create a better, more loving world.

For the *Responsible Stewardship* pillar the key words are “**what God has first given us.**” Stewardship is all about a deepening awareness that all we have comes to us as a gift from God. For us, that means our personal resources of time and money, the communal resource of our facility and property, and the natural world we inhabit are all gifts to be shared with the world in generous and welcoming ways.

There is a sense of building excitement among staff and leadership as these plans come together. We look forward to sharing more specifics in the weeks to come.

Peace, Kai

BLOCK PARTY

FRIDAY, SEPT. 8

5-8 PM

Everyone is welcome!

**PIG ROAST
VEGETARIAN OPTION/SIDES**

**LIVE MUSIC FROM
THE TEDDY HOLIDAYS**

**ROCKWALL
& BOUNCE FUN!**

FUN FOR ALL AGES

The Teddy Holidays

**Invite your friends
and neighbors!**



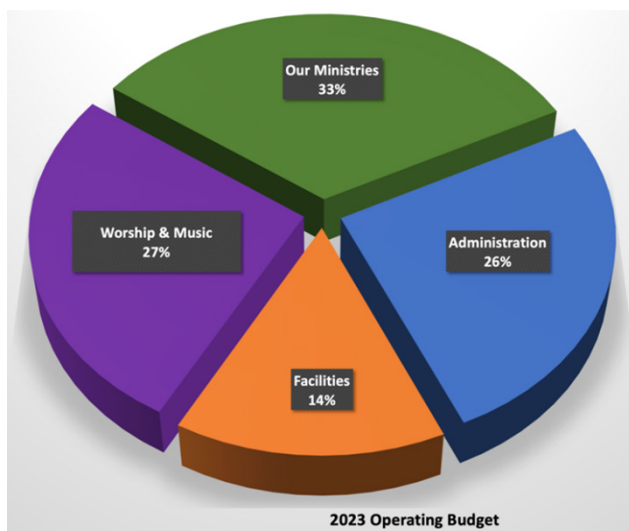
Jim Meinen
President

Let's face it. Church operating budgets are not very exciting. They are just about numbers and there is no drama or suspense. They can be long and detailed and it can be hard to stay awake while reading them.

While the budget itself may be boring, the purpose of budgets is not. When your council was working with staff last December to create a balanced budget for 2023, we confirmed how essential it is to the life of our church. It supports our ministries, worship services and facility. Bottom line: a strong operating budget provides us the opportunity to grow and touch more lives. It allows us to:

- Offer programs and services that help people grow in their faith.
- Support our children, youth, and adult ministries.
- Maintain our beautiful church facility.
- Support our worship and music.

For every dollar spent in the operating budget, about 33 cents supports our ministries, 27 cents supports our worship and music, 15 cents maintains our facility, and 26 cents supports our important administrative staff:



After we completed the 2023 budgeting process, it was so edifying to learn the vital role an operating budget has in changing lives and deepening our faith. Without it, we would lose our ministries, our worship experience and our facility.

I often get asked; “Why did we remove our ministry partners in our 2023 operating budget?” and “Why am I getting so many appeals?” These are excellent questions, and I will do my best to answer them.

Our operating budget for 2022 included \$43,100 for nine ministry partners plus \$83,000 for our synod. During our 2023 budgeting process, we could not balance the budget without making significant cuts to our own ministries, including children, youth and adult, as well as, our worship and music. We also discovered that we have a very generous congregation. In 2022, \$136,238 was donated to those nine ministry partners **in addition to** the \$43,100 from the operating budget! Therefore, the decision was made to continue to invest in our own ministries and provide the flexibility to our congregation to donate to their preferred ministry partners outside of the operating budget. We continued to keep the synod in our operating budget. The goal is to provide flexibility for donations and continue the vitality of our own ministries.

However, we overlooked the need to coordinate the appeals. As a result, a number of appeals went out asking for donations for our ministry partners. We acknowledge that we can do better and will focus on fine tuning the appeal process in 2024. As I like to say, we are “flexing new muscles.”

In summary, our operating budget provides the necessary resources to deepen faith, grow with Christ, create relationships and touch many lives. Incarnation is a wonderful community and we have so much potential to continue to strengthen and grow as a church without walls.

Congratulations, you made it this far without falling asleep. If you are still awake, you're probably a budget nerd like me. Or maybe you just really like my writing. Either way, I'm glad you stuck around. And remember, budgeting doesn't have to be boring. In fact, it can be kind of fun. Just ask any budget nerd.

PS: Can an article have a PS? This one does! Maybe I'm just trying to be funny. Whatever the reason, this is important. We need a volunteer that has accounting experience and knowledge to lead our internal audit. The team is in place and ready to go. Do you have experience to lead or know of someone? If so, please contact Danette Griffith, Administrator, at dgriffith@incarnationmn.org.

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



In **April** LifeHaven staff & Incarnation volunteers worked together to clean out the garage and rake the yard.

May & June brought LifeHaven an Incarnation small group gifted in gardening. LH's gardens were cleaned out and later filled with plants and vegetables! The windows were given a makeover with beautiful curtains made by an Incarnation member. All six bedrooms were brought to life with carefully picked out material to complement the specific wall color of each youth's bedroom. Ten beautiful quilts made by Incarnation Quilters also graced LifeHaven this Spring. They were delivered the day after they were displayed in the sanctuary on Mother's Day.

Incarnation's summer interns visited LifeHaven in **July** and were given a tour. They also spent most of the day helping put playground equipment together and clearing out storage rooms.



ILC Summer Interns engage with LifeHaven



Garage & Yard Clean-up Crew

Along with Sunday meals, wish list donations, and financial donations, these service partnerships help support the LifeHaven home and Lutheran Social Services staff to continue to provide a safe & loving place where teenage moms can work on life skills and develop a plan that will lead them toward stability for themselves and their children.

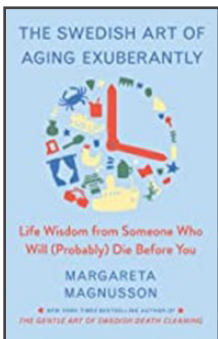
LifeHaven provides housing and support to young women who are pregnant or parenting in a home setting. LifeHaven is currently home to three mothers and three babies.



New Curtains



September 6 is "Read a Book Day" May we suggest:



The Swedish Art of Aging Exuberantly - Life Wisdom from Someone Who Will (Probably) Die Before You

By Margareta Magnusson

Who could resist a book with this title and subtitle. The author, Margareta Magnusson, says she is aged between eighty and one hundred. Something many of us can identify with! (Only later did I realize she is also the author of the popular title *The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning*).

Apostles Library Book Review

This book aims to focus on what makes each day worth living. Reflecting on the past helps as does acknowledging things about aging, some good and others not so good. It is filled with advice about aging gracefully, letting go of what doesn't matter and more. Magnusson focuses on appreciating beauty, connecting with others, and just plain enjoying life.

Chapters like "Keep An Open Mind" and "Eat Chocolate" make you want to read on, even when you get to "Take Care of Your Hair - If You Have Any" or "Don't Fall Over". How can you not help but listen to and smile along with Margareta?

It's never too early to begin "aging exuberantly" since everyone is growing older each day. This wise and witty, yet practical, book will be helpful for you and for someone else you know. Share it often.

CARE OF CREATION CORNER



A global Ecumenical Advisory Committee for the Season of Creation has invited people of faith around the world to join in the ecumenical celebration of the Season of Creation. This season unites the world's 2.6 billion Christians in prayer and action to protect Earth, our common home and to discern the guidance it offers us for bringing about the New Creation. The annual celebration begins September 1, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, until October 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. The theme for 2023 is "Let Justice and Peace Flow." Many resources are available at the Season of Creation website, including this beautiful prayer which can be used during the entire season:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Nf1_H9JaqOac06_Sly04-i6BpmiuXerA/view?pli=1

Positions Available at Incarnation

Faith Formation Leader for Children's Ministry

This person will assist in adapting curriculum for the program year, assist in executing ministry on Sunday and Wednesday for children in preschool through fifth grade, assist with the planning and preparation for family & pre-teen fellowship events throughout the year and assist with special projects as they come up. The ideal candidate will have a heart for Jesus and children along with a minimum of two years of experience working/volunteering with children in a ministry setting. Computer skills are required. This position has flexibility to work remotely or in an office environment. Please submit a cover letter and resume to dgriffith@incarnationmn.org.

Formation Leader for Middle School Ministry

Join the CYF team at Incarnation and work with a passionate and gifted team! This part-time, hourly position (10 hrs/wk) is an integral part of the Teens & Families Formation Team and embodies administrative support to Middle School Ministry as we listen for, take note of, and invite others into what God is doing in our community. Responsibilities include managing database accounts and Realm registrations, assisting with printing, and gathering small group materials. This flexible and fulfilling position reports to the Formation Leader for Teens & Families. Please submit a cover letter and resume to dgriffith@incarnationmn.org.



<https://elca.org/ldr>

Give Now to Lutheran Disaster Response

Photo credit: Sean Hawkey, Life on Earth

Registration is now open for
our 10th Annual Gala!

Buy Your Tickets Now!

**BRING IT
Home
DINNER & AUCTION**

Friday, October 6th at 6:00 pm
North Oaks Golf Club

Please join us for Solid Ground's 10th Annual Gala, a premier fundraising event to prevent and end homelessness.

The evening includes testimony from our families and staff, in addition to a delicious dinner, desserts, and amazing silent and live auctions.

Proceeds from this year's event will support our three permanent supportive housing programs: East Metro Place, Home Front, and Welcome Home Washington.

Tickets:
\$100 (early bird pricing)
\$125 (after September 15)

Tables of 10 guests:
\$1,000 (includes signage)

Register online at www.solidgroundmn.org by October 1, 2023.

Semi-formal attire.

2023 Print & Online Picture Directory

On Sunday, September 17 and 24, and on Wednesday evening, September 13, photographers will take your picture.

For security reasons, no addresses or phone numbers will be included in this publicly available directory. Address and phone number information will be available through Incarnation's Realm software program. Coaching on the use of Realm is available.

Get to know more people at Incarnation by using this directory. Sign-ups will begin September 10. Walk-ins will also be welcome.

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



Winter can be a challenging time for many families, and your generosity will provide warmth and comfort to those who need it most. Please consider donating new or gently-used coats, boots, hats, weatherproof gloves, snow pants, and scarves. The families at Solid Ground will appreciate the warm gear as they walk in cold weather to bus stops and as children play in the snow. A collection box will be available inside Incarnation from September 3 to October 1. Monetary donations are especially helpful to purchase coats or boots when sizes are not available to meet the needs of families. Please feel free to invite your family, friends and neighbors to participate. We believe that by coming together as a community, we can make a significant impact and bring joy to the lives of our Solid Ground neighbors. All winter wear donations not used by Solid Ground families are brought to the Alley Shoppe in Arlington Hills Lutheran Church so others can keep warm this winter.

Volunteers will be needed to work in a group setting at Incarnation to help sort and mark donations in September. Additional volunteer opportunities will be available the first week of October to set up the Coat Shop at Solid Ground and assist families in the selection of winter wear. Times to be announced. If you can help with one or more of these opportunities, please contact Claire Gilbert at claireg11@msn.com to sign-up.

Civic Life and Faith

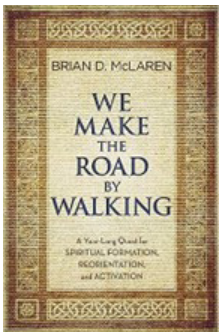
The ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) in 2019 authorized developing a social statement on government, civic engagement and the relationship of church and state that will be presented to an upcoming ELCA general assembly. The fundamental ELCA commitment: as we talk together about tough social issues, we form a community of moral deliberation. You have an opportunity to engage in study and discussion of civic life and faith based on a study by the ELCA in small group sessions facilitated by Carol Lacey or as part of a self-study. In the small group, each gathering will include prayer, scripture, discussion, and a chance to get to know one another. The group will not cover specific issues, but rather how to engage in conversations around civic life. Group members will prepare by reviewing materials and videos and, following each session, will be able to send survey responses to the ELCA. Group members will also be able to be part of Kairos forums on this topic (Sept. 24, Oct. 1 and Oct. 2). Sign up for a DAYTIME or EVENING fall group or take part in a SELF-STUDY (Zoom is available for the evening group). Register: dfloe@incarnationmn.org.

Daytime Fall Group: Thurs., 1:00-2:30 p.m., at Incarnation on 9/7, 9/14 and 9/21.

Evening Fall Group: Thurs., 7:00-8:30 p.m., Hybrid (Incarnation/Zoom), on 9/7, 9/14 and 9/21.

We Make the Road by Walking

Take the next step in your faith journey by getting together with others to talk about Brian McLaren's book, *We Make*



the Road by Walking. The book is a chance to explore an honest, living, growing faith by retelling the Biblical story and reintroducing the Christian faith in short chapters 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 or Bible reading is needed. Led by Anne Cremons. Register: 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

Creation Care – Awakening to God's Call to Earthkeeping

The Bible starts with a creation story! Are you interested in caring for God's creation? This small group will take part in a Bible study and discussion of God's call to care for creation, along with exploring ways to put our faith and creation care into action. All ages and backgrounds are encouraged to join, especially those with a love of nature, the outdoors or a concern for the environment. Over four sessions, the group will talk about the resource, *Creation Care – Awakening to God's Call to Earthkeeping*. The group will be facilitated by Mike Vant. Register: mjvant@gmail.com. If you are interested but unable to attend, use this resource for your own self-study and let us know of your interest in future groups.

When/Where: Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m., at Incarnation, starting on October 3

A Jesus' Shaped Vision for Life

Jesus has a vision for living life – it's a life lived for others. What does it look like to live out this vision in your own life and in the world today? Where are you already living out this vision and where can you grow? What practices or habits can help you to remember that you are God's beloved, with unique potential to make a difference for others? If you had a map for a Jesus shaped life, what would it look like?

This fall, new small groups are a chance to talk with others about the themes you hear during Sunday worship and unpack how the messages shape your life. Small groups on the fall theme of Jesus' vision for life will meet for just five sessions between October and December. There is also a shorter "sample" small group of just three gatherings meeting on Sunday mornings after 9:00 a.m. worship or before 10:30 a.m. worship. Get to know others and take a closer look at how the themes are lived out in your life.

Find all the latest information by visiting the
Incarnation website.
→ Ministries → Small Groups → New Small Groups

Alleluia Ringers

Adults are invited to join this exciting handbell ensemble. No prior handbell experience is necessary, but some background in music is very helpful. We focus on developing all handbell techniques and expanding musical expression with repertoire that enriches the worship experience.

The Alleluia Ringers play in worship at least once a month from September to May. Contact director Amy Maakestad for more information and to join.

Rehearsals start on September 13 and continue on Wednesdays from 6:00 – 6:50 p.m. in the Handbell Room.

Bells of Praise

Youth in Grades 4 – 12 are invited to join this fun handbell ensemble. Rehearsals are spent developing both handbell and handchime technique while reading music. In addition to forming lasting friendships, important outcomes of belonging to this ensemble are learning the songs of our faith and contributing to worship.

Bells of Praise will play in worship about once a month from October to May, primarily at the 9:00 a.m. service. Contact director Amy Maakestad for more information and to join.

Rehearsals start on September 20 and continue on Wednesdays from 5:15 – 5:45 p.m. in the Handbell Room.

Grace Notes

Children in Grades 1-5 are invited to join this new handbell ensemble. We focus on learning basic handchime technique, learning music notation, and playing together with others. Children will experience a positive and supportive environment during rehearsals as we learn to make music as an ensemble.

Grace Notes will play in worship about once a month from October to May, primarily at the 9:00 a.m. service. Contact director Amy Maakestad for more information and to join.

Rehearsals start on September 20 and continue on Wednesdays from 4:45 – 5:15 p.m. in the Handbell Room.

Prime Chimers

Making music is fun! This new group will play handchimes, sing, and probably laugh while enjoying fellowship, devotions, and light snacks. Our primary purpose is to encounter God's gift of music without the stress of preparing for performance. No music background is necessary, but a desire to learn through experience is a plus.

Contact director Amy Maakestad for more information and to join.

Rehearsals start on September 18 and continue on Mondays from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room.



Joyful Noise

Children in Grades 1-5 who love to sing are invited to join this fun new singing ensemble. We will gather each week in a positive environment to learn the words and music to new songs as a group. Children will make new friends as they sing God's praises together. Joyful Noise will sing in worship about once a month from October to May, primarily at the 9:00 a.m. service.

Contact director Kathleen Johnson or Amy Maakestad for more information and to join.

Rehearsals start on September 20 and continue on Wednesdays from 5:15 – 5:45 p.m. in the Fireside Room

Senior Choir

Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

The Senior Choir is a vocal choir. All are welcome to join the choir, no prior experience is necessary. The Senior Choir provides worship leadership almost every Sunday from September to May and occasionally during the summer.

Contact Sean Turner for information or to join the Senior Choir.

Incarnation Brass Ensemble

The Incarnation Brass Ensemble provides music for periodic 9:00 worship services during the year. The ensemble will typically rehearse on Wednesdays from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. two weeks in advance of the selected service.

Contact Sean Turner for information.

Incarnation "Borchestra"

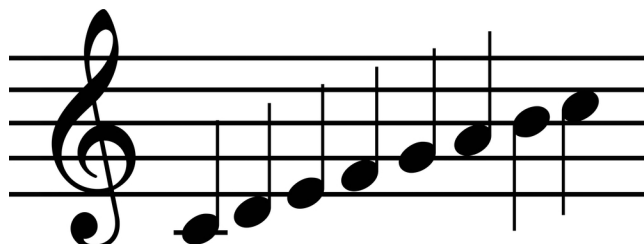
The Incarnation "Borchestra" is open to all band and orchestra musicians of all ages and abilities. All are welcome! This ensemble would provide selected music for one service in the Fall and one service in the Spring. Rehearsal days and times will be based on availability.

If interested, please contact Sean Turner for information.

Instrumental/Vocal Soloists or Ensemble Musicians

If you sing or play a musical instrument and would like to be involved in music at Incarnation as a soloist or as part of a small ensemble, we would love to hear from you! There are many opportunities to share your gifts throughout the year.

Please contact Sean Turner for information.



Preschool Alumna Gives Back

Preschool alumna, Claire O'Quinn, recently decided to give back to the Preschool through the completion of her Girl Scout Gold Award. The Gold Award is the highest award that a Girl Scout can earn. Claire, a recent Mounds View graduate, reached out to the Preschool to see where there was a need. After discussions, planning, measuring, and installations, we are happy to see some lovely new additions to the playground. Claire and her team provided some educational materials as well as a beautiful shade canopy for little ones to enjoy. They also spruced up the area by pulling weeds, cleaning some climbing structures, and adding some paint on the shed door. We are grateful to Claire and her team for the hard work and organization that went into this project. Thanks Claire!



Posted on Saint Paul Area Synod Blog Friday August 25, 2023

How did you travel this year? How far did you go?

To many of us, relating travel, wealth and hunger probably only means that when we travel, we get just a drink and peanuts on a flight. But there are other connections that can and should be made as we think about the opportunities for airline travel for many of us today.

A recent article from the Washington Post (July 7, 2023) made me reconsider my most recent airline travel. The author of the article, Michelle Singletary, realized that the price of seats on airlines is a perfect analogy for the wealth gap in America. She, like me, was sitting rather uncomfortably on a long-distance airline flight in economy class.

The middle class, in our American economy, has become smaller and smaller in the past 50 years. Those years correlate with the times that I have been an airline passenger. I know well that the seats are smaller and rows closer together. Flying in economy class is definitely not as comfortable as it was when I took my first flight in the "cheap seats." Extra fees for baggage, window and aisle seats, and other upgrades in seating are apparent. Who

Grief Support: Growing through Loss

This 6-week series provides an opportunity to obtain information and support for a variety of loss and grief issues. Each session begins with an educational presentation by a professional from the community (also live-streamed on YouTube), followed by small groups facilitated by leaders who understand the grieving process. Registration takes place each evening before the program. Each session is complete in itself; attend any or all sessions. The next series begins on Monday, September 11 and continues for six Mondays at Centennial Methodist Church in Roseville. For more information, call 763-755-5335 or visit www.growingthroughloss.org. This series is offered through the North Suburban Grief Support Coalition.

Travel, Wealth, & Hunger

boards first? Whose carry-ons fill every bin?

The same is true for many people in our country. A college education, a home of one's own, even a used car, and much more have become less and less affordable for many considered "middle class." What about those who live below the middle class? The ones for whom hunger is often a constant in their lives?

A report from Oxfam, an international advocacy group, reminds us that "A tax of up to 5% on the world's multimillionaires and billionaires could raise \$1.7 trillion a year, enough to lift two billion people out of poverty and fund a global plan to end hunger." Likely that would not affect you and me. And I, like most of you, am still able to fly!

Think about that while you eat a good dinner tonight.

Vernita Kennen
ncarnation, Shoreview

Reprinted by permission.

Memorials

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

Date Range: 7/23/23 to 8/27/23

Donor	Fund Name	In Memory of
Gene & Mary Lou Lindholm	Memorial – Cemetery	Al Anderson
Larry Hink	Memorial – ELCA – World Hunger	Al Anderson
Dale & Vernita Kennen	Memorial – ELCA – World Hunger	Al Anderson
Roger & Andrine Nelson	Memorial – ELCA – World Hunger	Al Anderson
Don Alsop	Memorial – Endowment	Al Anderson
Karen Anderle	Memorial – Endowment	Al Anderson
Dennis Anderson	Memorial – Endowment	Al Anderson
Shirley Bever	Memorial – Endowment	Al Anderson
Barbara Bragg	Memorial – Endowment	Al Anderson
William Brandt	Memorial – Endowment	Al Anderson
Margaret Christians	Memorial – Endowment	Al Anderson
Susan Cunningham	Memorial – Endowment	Al Anderson
Arvin & Jane Gehrking	Memorial – Endowment	Al Anderson
Alan Johnson	Memorial – Endowment	Al Anderson
Carl & Jan Johnson	Memorial – Endowment	Al Anderson
Harry & Marian Johnson	Memorial – Endowment	Al Anderson
Martha Johnson	Memorial – Endowment	Al Anderson
Paula Johnson	Memorial – Endowment	Al Anderson
Cori Olson	Memorial – Endowment	Al Anderson
Mary Birkeland	Memorial – Good Samaritan	Al Anderson
Carol Lacey	Memorial – Good Samaritan	Al Anderson
Duane McEwen	Memorial – Good Samaritan	Al Anderson
Marlys J. Nelson	Memorial – Good Samaritan	Al Anderson
Larrie & Lou Ann Reese	Memorial – Good Samaritan	Al Anderson
Jean Rieke	Memorial – Good Samaritan	Al Anderson
Sandra Schley	Memorial – Good Samaritan	Al Anderson
Murt Seltz	Memorial – Good Samaritan	Al Anderson
Jerry & Carolyn TerEick	Memorial – Good Samaritan	Al Anderson
Anna Thorstad	Memorial – Good Samaritan	Al Anderson
David Jacobson	Memorial – Parking Lot	Al Anderson
Philip Lilja	Memorial – Parking Lot	Al Anderson
Leonard Oleson	Memorial – Parking Lot	Al Anderson
Kenneth Olson	Memorial – Parking Lot	Al Anderson
Marilyn Olson	Memorial – Parking Lot	Al Anderson
Barbara Qualey	Memorial – Parking Lot	Al Anderson
Margaret Miller	Memorial – Quilters	Al Anderson
Madison & Nancy Overmoen	Memorial – Undesignated	Al Anderson
Farron Wings	Memorial – Undesignated	Al Anderson
Computype	Memorial – Undesignated	Martha Husby
Sue Krabbenhof	Memorial – Undesignated	Martha Husby
John & Velinda McLaughlin	Memorial – Undesignated	Martha Husby
Wayne & Barbara Quehl	Memorial – Endowment	Martha Husby
Tim & Katie Gray	Memorial – Operating	Dennis Paulson
Ken & Rosalie Grosch	Memorial – Undesignated	Nancy Strantz

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.

New 2023-24 Preschool Staff

Incarnation Preschool is excited to welcome Lisa Chan and Carol Lee as Assistant Teachers for the upcoming school year!

Lisa is already a part of the Incarnation family, sharing her love for little ones as a nursery attendant. She comes with a degree in elementary education and her Minnesota teaching license for K-6. Three of Lisa's children have come through the Incarnation Preschool program and she has served as a member of the Preschool Parent Committee for the last two years. She is eager to share her love of learning with all the children of Incarnation!

Carol has been a part of the preschool world for many years! She joins us with a degree in elementary education but has been teaching in a preschool setting for the past 12 years. Carol has been fortunate enough to teach in faith-based settings and is excited to continue to share God's creation and love with our preschoolers.

Incarnation Preschool starts Tuesday, September 5. For more information about what we have to offer your child, contact Kirsten Henry at khenry@incarnationmn.org or call 651-766-0723.

Faith Explorers Book Group for Men

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 some significant, stimulating, faith-based reading that can lead to greater understanding of what it means to be a Christian and to spiritual growth. The first book for this fall is Rob Bell's "Everything Is Spiritual." In this book a leading contemporary religious thinker and popular author explores his own growth in faith through the years in a breezy, personal style that is both interesting and easy to read. The first session is on Tuesday, September 12 at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom. Sessions are usually led by Pastor Gary Anderson. Brew your own coffee at home and be prepared for an engaging discussion. Contact Dave Eckmann for the Zoom link at d.eckmann@comcast.net.

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

Among the Congregation

PRAYERS: Jim Fruehling; Tom Schultz; Barb Stockton; Jaime Stockton; Maddie St. Martin; Cathy Larson; June Fischer; Kirsten Blaseck; Faith Zernicke; Wayne Quehl; Carol Beckerleg; Carl & Jan Kuhrmeyer; Gene Lindholm; Marian Ness; Jim Crawford; Kara Genia; Joe Stepka; Lowell Odland; Linda Hudepohl; Chris McDermid; Cathy Nelson's niece; 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; Dan & Caroline Beckman's friend Drew; Dan & Caroline Beckman and Paula Schreifels' friend, Gina; Jon & Jill Nelson's friends Steve & Suzanne; Roger & Dede Mattison's friends, Linda and Yvonne

SYMPATHY TO: Katie Gray & family on the death of her mother; Linda Hagen & family on the death of her mother; Connie Pederson & family on the death of her mother; Ken Pederson & family on the death of his mother; the family of Dennis Paulson on his death; Jim & Mary Crawford on the death of their son; the family of Martha Husby on her death

Financial Report - July 2023

Actual July Operating Giving	\$166,732	YTD Operating Giving	\$1,133,688	YTD Operating Giving Budget	\$1,089,415
Actual July Operating Expense	\$165,660	YTD Operating Expense	\$1,183,555	YTD Operating Expense Budget	\$1,195,857
TOTALS	\$1,071		-\$49,867		-\$106,442

Actual July Mortgage Giving	\$8,479	YTD Mortgage Giving	\$217,174	YTD Mortgage Giving Budget	\$173,894
Actual July Mortgage Expense	\$20,675	YTD Mortgage Expense	\$169,725	YTD Mortgage Expense Budget	\$169,725
TOTALS	-\$12,196		\$47,449		\$4,169