



INCARNATION

LUTHERAN CHURCH

WELCOME TO WORSHIP



December 7, 2025 | Worship at 9:00 am and at 10:30 am

All live-streamed worship will be on Vimeo, but you don't need a Vimeo account to view the live stream. The live stream will begin about ten minutes before the start of the service, so you can make sure you can connect.

Connect to Worship at 9:00 am [HERE](#)

Prelude
Welcome
Opening Words
Introit—ELW #561 Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory, v. 3
Reading for Two Voices — Peace — Advent Wreath Lighting
Hymn—ELW #254 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus [HYFRYDOL]
Prayer
Anthem
Reading—Matthew 11:1-11
Sermon—Pastor Kai
Hymn—ELW #264 Prepare the Royal Highway
Affirmation of Faith
Prayers of Gratitude and Grief & Sharing the Peace
Communion (All are welcome)
Communion Music—The First Noel
I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day
Next Steps
Hymn—ELW #243 Lost in the Night
Sending
Postlude

Connect to Worship at 10:30 am [HERE](#)

Prelude
Welcome
Opening Words
Introit—Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory
Reading for Two Voices — Peace — Advent Wreath Lighting
Songs—All Are Welcome, O Come O Come Emmanuel
Reading—Matthew 11:1-11
Sermon—Pastor Kai

Special Music—When Love Was Born
Prayers of Gratitude and Grief & Sharing the Peace
Communion (All are welcome)
Next Steps
Closing Song—Love Has Come
Sending
Postlude

[Watch later on Facebook](#)

[Watch later on the Web](#)

[Download a PDF of a guide for families worshipping together.](#)

Prayer Concerns

Julie & Royal Erlandson; Claudia Wiebold; Carlos Rodriguez; Julie Rowles; Joan Volkmann; Karen Gladen; Maria & family; Ron Anderson; Erin Holmen; Deb Rykken; Karen Stauder; Kara Genia & family; Jon Nelson; Kate Tollefson & family; Carol Beckerleg; Marian Ness; Lowell Odland; Linda Hudepohl; Lorinda Mishek's mother; Ruth & Paul Howard's niece; Nicole & Troy Heller's brother-in-law; Kay Leerssen's daughter; Tom Henk's brother; Deb Rykken's brother; Sue Bernlohr's mother; Mike Wielenberg's mother; Al and Carolyn Ek's son; Kara Johnson's friends Ken & Trish; Nancy Haugen's friends David, Michelle & family and Colette & family; Kim Wielenberg's friend, Cindy; Dede Mattison's friends, Allan and Yvonne; caregivers

Sympathy

Sympathy to Joy Burdick & family on the death of her sister

To be added to the public prayer concerns list, please get in touch with [Julie Durbin](#). If you would like to add someone else to the public prayer concerns list, please obtain their consent first.

Altar Flowers

If you would like to have altar flowers given in honor or memory of someone, don't hesitate to get in touch with the Incarnation Office at 651-484-7213 to sign up (cost: \$25). Donations help offset the cost of the beautiful flowers the Worship Arts team provides. Altar flowers express our love for God, enhance our gathering around the Word and Sacrament, and represent changing seasons both in the church year and in nature.



Click on the image above to link to our giving page.

Giving a Gift

We are grateful for your continued support of the ministries at Incarnation. Your generosity is not only vital to our church's worship but helps us have an impact on people in the surrounding communities and beyond. We invite you to continue with us on this journey! If you have questions about setting up an electronic recurring donation or making a gift through stocks, an IRA, or a donor-advised fund, please reach out

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Worship Banner

The banner brings the message of the candles in an Advent wreath. The first candle represents the Hope we have in Christ, the second is a reminder that Christ came to bring Peace, the third candle represents the Joy of Christ's coming, and the fourth candle represents God's Love through Christ. The banner features a fifth candle, a large white Christ candle that represents the light that was brought into the world when he was born. The Christ candle is a symbol of transition from prophecy to fulfillment. The candles are placed on a background of blue, the liturgical color of the Season of Advent.



Welcome to Advent!

Luke's Gospel begins the story of Jesus with this opening line: "In the time of Herod..." This detail may seem minor to modern readers; however, it reveals layers of information about the fearful world Jesus entered, one filled with rampant oppression, economic disparity, uncertainty, and instability. A world not so unlike our own. And yet, throughout the stories of Christ's birth, the whispers of angels deliver a surprising message: "Do not fear." In our own time, we might ask: Is it even possible to be fearless in a fearful world? When Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the magi are each called into God's redemptive story, they do not deny their fears—they move through them. They ask questions, hold fast to courage, trust in good news, and say, "Here I am, Lord." When we find ourselves in fearful times, can we acknowledge our fears while also insisting on hope?

Every Advent, we light candles, sing carols, and pray for Christ's coming because we believe God entered a frightened world to bring good news. We hold onto hope because we believe that Christ did come—that's the promise of the season. Our hope is not flimsy or fleeting. It's gritty, resilient, and can endure—no matter what we fear or face. This season, let us insist on hope and trust that good news is greater than fear.

What can you expect this Advent?

In addition to meaningful Sunday worship around this theme of hope, watch for these extras:

Holden Evening Prayer

On Advent Wednesdays – December 3, December 10, and December 17 at 6 pm
In the middle of this beautiful evening prayer by Marty Haugen, we will offer a scripture, a time of silence (where you may simply be present and/or pray a simple breath prayer that we'll offer), and a poem.

Advent Devotional – for personal use or to use in a Small Group

Our friends at A Sanctified Art have provided a special e-reader version of this year's Advent devotional, which you can access on your computer and mobile devices: online.flippingbook.com/view/361593675/

To protect their work, please refrain from sharing this link or posting it on social media.

We will also print copies by request for those who would like a printed booklet.

Daily Social Media Posts inviting us to breathe and pray a simple breath prayer each day
OR if social media is not your thing, pick up a one-sheet calendar of the breath prayers for each day in December at the ushers' table.

Festive Christmas Worship

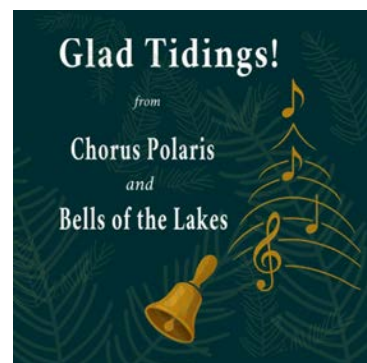
Christmas Eve worship will be offered at 1 pm, 3 pm, 5 pm, and 7 pm

Christmas Day worship will be at 10 am

First Sunday of Christmas worship will be at 10 am (December 28)

Glad Tidings!

Come celebrate the season with **Chorus Polaris** and **Bells of the Lakes**. They are teaming up to bring you **Glad Tidings**, a concert filled with shimmering handbells, beautiful choral harmonies, and music that feels like the holidays. You'll hear everything from the lively Riu Riu Chiu to Biebl's gorgeous Ave Maria, plus favorites like Christmas Time Is Here and a heartfelt Dona Nobis Pacem shared by both groups.



Join the choirs on **December 7, 3:00 pm**, at Incarnation Lutheran Church in Shoreview for an evening of joy, warmth, and beautiful music.

Tickets are \$20 and available online at <https://givebutter.com/GladTidings1207> or at the door.



"Home for the Holidays" with Jennifer Grimm

Nationally acclaimed and charismatic jazz vocalist Jennifer Grimm, joined by her talented family and

friends, will share her amazing vocal stylings in a program of holiday music. Arrive early to enjoy a festive Christmas cookie and bring a friend!

Sunday, December 14 at 7:00 PM

www.JenniferGrimm.com

(Performance time: 75 minutes)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dish Washing Volunteers Needed To Join Our Team!

We need 10+ people who will support the Incarnation ministry by helping with dishwashing for funerals and special events.

- A commercial dishwasher is used, so no standing over a soapy sink and limited drying is needed!
- The commitment is usually during daytime hours and for roughly 2 hours.
- There are dishwashing leads that will email when help is needed, and you can decide your availability based on your schedule.
- The leads will also train new volunteers on how the kitchen works behind the scenes.
- If you volunteer for dishwashing, you also get to partake in the yummy food that is served for that event!

Dishwashing Volunteers Needed!

- Seeking 10+ helpers for funerals & special events
- Fast commercial dishwasher – no soaking or heavy drying
- About 2 hours, usually daytime
- Flexible: respond to emails based on your availability
- Training provided by dishwashing leads
- Enjoy the delicious meal served at the event!

Interested? Contact Julie Durbin in the office.

If interested, please contact [Julie Durbin](#) in the office. Thanks for making Incarnation the place to be!

Safety & Security Update

Incarnation has taken steps to protect anyone in the building: members, children, staff and visitors:

After some startup issues, the inside doors at Door 1 are now locked Monday – Thursday, 8 am to 3 pm.

- All outside doors are locked during office hours.
- Door 1 vestibule doors will be open with the staff granting entry via video intercom.
- Small Group Leaders meeting during office hours will need to greet members at Door 1 to allow entry.
- Doors will auto-unlock for Sunday mornings, Wednesday nights and other events as needed.
- Preschool entry processes at door 2 will continue unchanged.
- Door 1 has new interior and exterior automatic access buttons. There may be times when Staff is not available to respond to the intercom.
- Please be patient as we continue to work through processes and be sure to smile at the receptionist at the intercom! Thank you!

Incarnation Solar Garden Celebration

ILC SOLAR GARDEN STARTUP CELEBRATION

10:00–10:15 AM • Grace Hall

Solar Team Information Table

8:30 AM–12:00 PM • Atrium

- Drone Video
- Free Electrical Swag
- Solar Fact Sheet
- Live Production Output
- Project Timeline

SUNDAY
DECEMBER

7

On **Sunday, December 7, at 10 am in Grace Hall East**, there will be a fifteen-minute program to celebrate the startup of the Incarnation solar garden. Also, before and after each Sunday service there will be a table in the atrium staffed by solar team members where you can get information on the solar installation, view live production data, and pick up some electrical swag.



Welcome to the 2025-2026 Kairos season. The Kairos logo, the Jerusalem cross, is a universal symbol for Kairos/God's time. Kairos sessions will be held at 10:15 am in the Fireside Room unless otherwise noted.

December 7

Parents Letting Go

Presenter: Jack Stoltzfus, Clinical Psychologist, author and America's Launch Coach

Parents are more challenged to let go of adult children than in past generations. We need to learn how to let go, whether the young adult is living at home or not. Letting go in love is foundational and has its roots in our experience of God's love in Christ. Stoltzfus counsels parents and writes about young adult parenting challenges in his recent book, *"The Parent's Launch Code: Loving and Letting Go of Our Adult Children."* His website: parentslettinggo.com



December 14

Foundations of Hope: Ruth and David (Pt. 2)

Presenter: Kathryn Schifferdecker, Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary

Advent is about hopeful waiting, but we're not the first ones to wait and hope for a Redeemer. The Bible is filled with stories of hope, including the stories of two particular ancestors of Jesus: Ruth and David. Come study anew the stories of the Moabite widow and the flawed Israelite king, her great-grandson, who helped lay the foundation for the story of Jesus the Messiah, the center of our Advent hope. Schifferdecker co-hosts the podcast, "Everything you wanted to know about the Bible but were afraid to ask" at [EnteringtheBible.org](https://www.EnteringtheBible.org). She is also a frequent contributor to [WorkingPreacher.org](https://www.WorkingPreacher.org).



Door Greeters Needed to Welcome Players and Keep the Game Going!

Our gym is open for pickleball again! We're looking for enthusiastic players and friendly **door greeters** to help welcome everyone. Door greeters will cover two-hour shifts each session to let players into the building. For instructions and to sign up for available dates and times, click the link:



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C45ABAB28A57-51542625-pickleball#/>

Ralph Reeder Food Shelf Holiday Baking Drive Ends on December 7

The Ralph Reeder Food Shelf (RRFS) has a Holiday project underway! We want to help RRFS meet its goal of providing all of its clients with a bag of goodies for holiday baking. You can help to provide this baking opportunity to our neighbors with food insecurities in a number of ways.

First, you can provide any number of complete "Holiday Baking Bags" by collecting each item in the "Holiday Baking Drive" list (see below) into a shopping or gift bag; then drop them off at Incarnation or RRFS.

Second, you can purchase any items from the "Holiday Baking Drive" list and drop them off at Incarnation or RRFS: flour, white sugar, brown sugar, oil, chocolate chips, vanilla, baking powder, baking soda, optional examples – sprinkles, cookie cutter, measuring cups, favorite cookie recipe

Third, you can make a financial donation that is always welcome. Donate online (<https://pushpay.com/g/incarnationmn>) or make checks out to Incarnation -- with "Ralph Reeder Food Shelf" as the Fund or in the memo. Double your impact by donating during the Holiday Match period in November and December!

Please note that non-perishable donations should be dropped off at Incarnation or RRFS by December 7 at the latest. Thank you for making the holidays merry and bright for our neighbors in need!





INCARNATION

SMALL GROUPS

Join a Small Group

Advent Small Groups have begun – here are two more opportunities in December and opportunities in the New Year!

Preschool Parents/Parents of Young Children Small Group

A Bible study for parents interested in exploring the challenges of raising our children to be more dependent on God than us as they grow up. We will dig into God's word, discuss approaches and parenting insights from God that we can, in turn, apply at home. Spouses switch off who comes. It's organically worked out that dads come one week and the moms come the opposite.

Tuesdays in December, Dec 2 and 16, 8:30 – 9:30 pm at the Cordes home
Small Group Leader: Caleb Cordes

Hungry for Hope Young Adult Small Group — *group has openings*

Small Group Leaders – Pastor Joy and Mike Sell

3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30-7:30 pm

Will meet six times: Nov 18, Dec 16, Jan 20, Feb 17, Mar 17, Apr 21

Interested in These Opportunities in the New Year?

5 open spots for this January group

Matthew: The Gospel of Promised Blessings by Matthew Skinner

Planned to begin in late January 2026

The Gospel of Matthew portrays Jesus and his message as full of tender compassion and urgent warning. This six-part exploration of an enigmatic Gospel takes readers into the themes, topics, and tensions at the heart of Matthew's story about the life and work of Jesus. Chapters focus on blessing and comfort, judgment and retribution, the meaning of discipleship, Jesus' vision for the Church and world, conflicts and complaints, and how the Gospel of Matthew speaks to believers today.

Components include video teaching sessions featuring Matthew Skinner and a comprehensive Leader Guide.

Offered by:

Liv Rosin – on Wednesdays in the early afternoon, starting in late January

Our Money Stories

As you reflected on the theme in November, were you interested in a deeper conversation with a small group about the way that your own life and faith has been shaped as you remember, release, reimagine, and reconcile? Consider this new short-term small group led by Tim Gray that will use the full version of the Our Money Stories Study Journal to explore the focal scriptures through art, reflections, and writing prompts. Proposed timing - Sunday afternoons at 4:00 pm

Caregivers Group - *group is full but taking names on the waitlist*

Small Group Leaders – Katie Solfest & Patty Nilsen

Tuesdays in January 6, 13, 20, and 27

Purpose: The purpose of the group is to meet with others in our faith community who are serving as caregivers, share our stories, and find encouragement and renewal through deep listening and companionship over our month together. Book: After further review of the **Refilling The Reservoirs** resource book, and considering its cost of \$24, we will discuss some topics from the book, but it is not required reading.



Solid Ground Volunteer Opportunities

❑ Christmas Tree Donations

Many Solid Ground families would love to have a Christmas tree this year but don't have the resources to purchase one. As part of the Ministry Fair, we're collecting **new or gently used 4–6 foot Christmas trees** to share with our Solid Ground neighbors.

- Pre-lit trees are preferred but not required.
- Please bring donated trees to the **Incarnation office by December 10**.
- Financial donations toward the purchase of trees are also appreciated — please note **"SG Christmas Trees"** in the memo line.

❑ Wrapping Paper, Bags & Bows

Help us make the season brighter! We're collecting **Christmas wrapping materials** to wrap gifts for Solid Ground families.

Please drop off **wrapping paper, gift bags, and bows** in the Solid Ground donation box at Incarnation by **December 7**.

❑ Holiday Express

Join us in spreading holiday cheer to Solid Ground families! Contact **Dylan**

McDonough at dmcdonough@solidgroundmn.org or **615-846-9024** if you'd like to:

- Purchase gifts for a family or individual, or make a financial donation
- Volunteer on **December 10 or 12** (9 am–noon or 1–4 pm) to receive and organize donations
- Help **deliver gifts** at East Metro Place on **December 17 from 4:30–6:30 pm**

Young Adult Minstry News

Gather Twin Cities has another event coming up for young adults:

- December 14, we welcome Bishops Jen and Patricia to co-host Gather with us at Norseman Distillery! (More info in the graphic below.)

For more information, please get in touch with [Pastor Joy](#).

YOUNG ADULT EVENT SUNDAY DEC. 14TH

Norseman Distillery | 6:00pm-8:00pm



Bevies with the Bishops!



Join Bishops Lull & Nagel for an
Ask Them Anything night!

Garden Suite at Norseman Distillery
6 PM | Drinks available for purchase
(alcoholic & non-alcoholic)

Youth & Family Ministry The Weekly Update

On Wednesday, 12/3, we ate Mansetti's pizza, then participated in meaningful Advent worship together in the sanctuary. After that, we headed into our small groups to discuss the perfectly imperfect example of disciple, Simon Peter (6/7th grade), and how our sacraments—baptism and communion—are important rituals of connection to Christ and to each other (8th grade). It was a night of talking about welcome, belonging, and unity across our differences. We'll follow the same schedule (i.e., worship, then small groups) on December 10 and 17. On Wednesday, December 17, (weather permitting) after pizza at 5:00 pm and worship at 6:00 pm, we'll head out into the surrounding neighborhood for a time of carolling... There will be hot chocolate afterward. At the high school youth group on Sunday, 11/30, we sang songs and Pastor Joy led us through a prayer bead exercise—a simple format to help us talk to and hear from God.

A Few Updates

1. At the high school youth group on Sunday, 12/7, we will keep moving through Advent together!
2. Bring a first-time visitor and receive a \$5 Caribou gift card for each
3. Our usual time slot is Sunday, 6:45-8:00 pm
4. Open gym/gathering time at 6:00 pm
5. Serve cookies and coffee on Sunday (2 hrs) — [sign up here](#)
6. Be a Pizza Person on Wednesday (next one: 11/19)— [sign up here](#)

To view our schedules and loads of other stuff, head to our [MSM](#) or [HSM](#) webpages.

Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing, and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and worldwide. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

International:

- [Middle East Crisis](#)
- [Eastern Europe Crisis Response](#)
- [Horn of Africa Drought](#)
- [Middle East & Europe Refugee Crisis](#)
- [South Sudan Relief](#)
- [AMMPARO: Protecting Migrants](#)

Domestic:

- [Flooding](#)
- [Hurricanes](#)
- [Severe Storms](#)
- [Tornadoes](#)
- [Wildfires](#)

Like Lutheran Disaster Response on [Facebook](#), follow @ELCALDR on [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) and follow @ELCA_LDR on [Instagram](#).

- If you are new to Incarnation or you want to learn more about Incarnation ministries, [please complete this online form](#) we'll use to connect you to a ministry leader according to your interests.
- Please consider [giving online](#), allowing Incarnation to receive the funds quickly. You will be able to donate to the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf, Feed My Starving Children, the Operating Budget and more through the same link.
- [You can find the online worship web page here.](#)
- [To email the council directly, click here.](#)
- To request council minutes, please email [Julie Durbin](#).
- To be added to the public prayer concerns list, contact [Julie Durbin](#). If you would like to add someone else to the public prayer concerns list, please obtain their consent first.
- If you are ill, someone is hospitalized, or there is a death, call the Incarnation Office at 651-484-7213. If it is outside of Office Hours, contact the on-call Pastor at 651-484-7213 ext. 204.
- [The Staff Directory, with email addresses, can be found here.](#)
- Questions? [Contact Julie Durbin](#).

Incarnation Lutheran Church

incarnationmn.org

651.484.7213

UNSUBSCRIBE — UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION

If your contact information has changed or if you would no longer like to receive Online Worship Emails from Incarnation, please contact [Marina Nyberg](#) to take you off the list.

Please note that when you choose to unsubscribe using the link below, you will no longer receive ANY Incarnation email communications through Constant Contact. For this reason, you're asked to email [Marina Nyberg](#) if you wish to be removed from specific Incarnation email communications.



Incarnation Lutheran | 4880 Hodgson Road | Shoreview, MN 55126 US

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