



Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

Tidings

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May 2017

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Youth, young adults and some adult assistants prepared for the annual Easter Breakfast by dyeing eggs. The youth and young adults raised \$310 to be donated to Lutheran World Relief. Thanks to all members and visitors for supporting this ministry of Mt. Carmel.

Please support our Nigerian ministry partners

The May 3rd Sunday offering will be in support of Nigerian ministry partners Bayo and Mary Beth Oyebade. The Oyebades operate the Mashiah Foundation in Jos, Nigeria.

The Foundation:

- operates a clinic with free HIV treatment, including counselling, nursing care, and consultation services. The clinic also runs a food support program for patients in great need;
- desires to improve the quality of lives of children by providing them with food, shelter, school fees, health care and counseling;
- operates a Sewing Training Program with over 100 HIV positive women in order to help them sustain themselves and their families, while empowering them with confidence and financial sustenance; and
- runs a youth ministry with computer training programs, discipleship and leadership programs, and HIV awareness.

Please consider giving to Mt. Carmel's Nigerian ministry partners during the 3rd Sunday of May.

PASTOR'S PEN

The Seven Virtues of Mt. Carmel

As we live into the Easter season as members of Christ's body, we consider what it means for us as a congregation to die and rise again. At a time when every church is facing change and transition to adjust to a new time, God promises resurrection or rebirth for us: Mt. Carmel for a new time, reaching people with the gospel message in new ways. This is a very positive message and yet there is something intimidating as well. That's because we think about the *dying* part. For we who are in Christ, any time there's change, even when it's good change, there is death. The old dies and we are led to believe that whatever new life there is, it will be completely new and unfamiliar. That's where we would be wrong!

For instance, when Jesus was raised from the dead, was he a completely new creation? No. He was still Jesus. There were all kinds of continuities between his new life and his life on earth. True, he was not always recognizable to his followers, so his appearance seemed to be different. But did Jesus' mission and commitment to the poor and the sick change? Did Jesus desire any less to forgive people of their sins? Of course not. We know this because by the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus passed on his work to his followers. Then they became the healers, forgivers, bearers of good news to the poor.

The change in Jesus' life was real enough: he died! But his death had to happen for sin and death to be defeated and then that defeat shared with humanity.

So what's the point I'm making? Simply this. Mt. Carmel faces new times and changes ahead. Significant

ones. But we'll still be Mt. Carmel, doing the very things that have made us special and important to the life of the Waite Park neighborhood and beyond. As we work on the strategic plan for the next several years, God's Spirit has led us to remember that we are not simply working on a plan to address our weaknesses (although we are!). More importantly, we are working on a plan that correctly identifies our strengths as a congregation, **and then builds on them!** We want to make sure that we can recognize the ways that God has uniquely blessed us and been present with us, **and then build on them!** This is the way forward for us into the future, developing the energy and gifts that God has already given to us.

We will be learning more than ever to tap these stories and pay attention to where God has shown up in our life together at Mt. Carmel. On the strategic planning team, as we have studied surveys you've filled out in the last couple of years, things you've said in focus groups and in informal conversations, we have a pretty good sense of the felt needs. But we also have paid attention to the clear strengths/blessings that this congregation has. We are calling them the seven virtues of Mt. Carmel! There are more, of course. We may have to expand the list. But see if this matches what you think our strengths and blessings are:

Our shared experience of Jesus' welcome embrace in worship.

Our rich tradition, legacy and identity.

Our hunger for and openness to new expressions of faith.

Our rich tapestry of generations.

From the pastor, continued on 6



Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

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Office Hours

8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., M-F

Pastor

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pastorjohn@mountcarmelmpls.org

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Bill Wilson
wilsonofminnesota@gmail.com

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The mission of Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church and its members is to Learn, Live and Share God's Word.

Ministry Affiliates:

Minneapolis Area Synod/ELCA; Northeast Senior Services, Inc.; Little Kitchen Food Shelf; The Sheridan Story; Eastside Meals on Wheels; Plymouth Christian Youth Center; Mission Northeast and Casa de Oracion a las Naciones.

The Mt. Carmel facility is shared with the following community groups: Boy Scout Troop 132, Venture Crew, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and Alcoholics Anonymous.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

CHILD CARE NEWS



What a blessing to have such a glorious sunny day for Easter. It makes a person ready to get in the garden. The "Plants a Plenty" plant sale is just around the corner on the following dates and times:

Thursday, May 18: Noon-7 p.m.

Friday, May 19: 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Saturday May 20: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sunday, May 21: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

You will be able to pick up your preorders then and shop for bedding plants, herbs and tomatoes.

This is the weekend after Mother's Day so there is still time to purchase a gift certificate for that special woman in your life. They can be purchased in any denomination. Call Jeanette 612-781-2798 or email childcare@mountcarmelmpls.org.

These children are amazing and learn things very quickly. They learned a song in music and it is sung multiple times per day. Some of the toddlers are unable to sing it but have the hand motions down perfectly.

I invited all of you to come and have lunch with the children. So far, only Myrna Flatland has joined us. I guarantee you will enjoy yourself. Lunch starts at 11:45 a.m. and ends by 12:30 p.m.

Hope to see you all soon!
Jeanette Burmeister, Director

Thank you from Plymouth Christian Youth Center

Thank you for your recent gift of \$310 to Plymouth Christian Youth Center.

Your contribution helps us enrich the lives of thousands of children and youth in North Minneapolis each year, helping them develop their skills, believe in themselves and grow into confident, compassionate, and contributing members of our society and world.

We are grateful to know that you and so many others in this community believe in our work! We treasure your generous support and pledge to continue to do our part to mark our world a better place by investing in the well-being of youth and families.

Warmly,

Anne Long
Executive Director

BAPTISMS

Louise Sawyer

Brixton Ray

Tyler Ray

GIFTS RECEIVED

**TO THE MINIBUS FUND:
In honor of the Risen Christ:**
Chuck Grider

**TO FOUNDATION:
In honor of Mother's Day:**
Marlys Hegstrom

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

We are pleased to announce that Mt. Carmel has received \$375 through Thrivent Financial's Thrivent Choice® program. By directing Choice Dollars, eligible Thrivent members can recommend which nonprofit organizations they feel should receive charitable grant funding from Thrivent. If you have Choice Dollars available to direct, please consider directing to Mt. Carmel. We will provide you updates in the coming weeks.

To learn more about Thrivent Choice®, visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice. Or call Thrivent at 800-847-4836, and say "Thrivent Choice" when prompted.

WEED IT AND REAP: NE CLEAN UP

Join us for some fresh air and light exercise while we clean up streets and parks in Northeast. All routes will begin and end at the church. Then we will lunch together.

Schedule for Saturday, May 6

10 a.m.—Arrive at the front of the church where you will be assigned a route with a small group. If you arrive as a group, great; if you arrive individually, you can join a group on the fly. We will provide trash bags and disposable gloves but I encourage you to bring your own reusable gloves

10-11:30 a.m.—Pick up trash. Small groups will tackle trash along the streets on their way to meet other small groups at nearby parks to clean up trash together before returning to the church all the while competing in a friendly scavenger hunt!

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.—Return to the church to drop off your trash bags, wash your hands and eat lunch (in that order). A simple lunch will be available for a free-will donation. During this time, the winner of the scavenger hunt will be crowned

Any and all are welcome to join us for clean up and/or lunch. We encourage you to invite friends and neighbors to join us.

If you have not done so already (we already have 34 people signed up!), please contact Brent and Kim Carlson-Lee at 651-398-8115 or brentcarlsonlee@gmail.com.

Social Ministry/ Global Missions committee update

Easter Food Baskets were delivered to 18 homes on Saturday, April 15. A very sincere thank you to those who contributed \$513.87 to purchase the food items, to those who helped bag the groceries and to those who delivered the Easter Food Baskets. Way to go Mt. Carmel!

Easter Breakfast proceeds of \$310.91 will be sent to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you Mt. Carmel Youth and Young Adults for hosting the Easter Breakfast.

A big thanks to Brent, Kim, Eli and Asher for stepping forward to coordinate the upcoming Saturday, May 6 Northeast Minneapolis neighborhood clean-up day. The first full weekend of May and October the Northeast Minneapolis Chamber hosts a "Weed It and Reap" weekend where community members can work side by side cleaning up Northeast parks, streets and boulevards. Brent reports 34 people have signed up to clean-up. Join in on the fun; there is always room for more. Call or email Brent Carlson-Lee or the church office.

You can now give a financial gift to 3rd Sunday offerings via credit and debit card using Square. A Social Ministry Committee member has the Square reader and will be ready after worship to take your gift. Your gift will be reported on your financial giving statement. We will continue to offer on-site electronic giving throughout 2017 to gauge interest in giving towards 3rd Sunday ministry partners via credit and debit cards.

The Social Ministry Committee is collecting eye glasses and forwarding them to the Lions Club for reuse. The collection box will be next to the office. Just look for the box with the big blue eyeglasses on it. We will be collecting glasses through Aug. 31. Time to clean out the drawers and cabinets and donate those old pair of glasses!

The May 2017 3rd Sunday ministry partner is in support of Nigerian Ministry Partners, Bayo and Mary Beth Oyebade. Read more about their amazing ministry at www.mashiahfoundation.org or on Mary Beth's blog www.marybetho.blogspot.com.

Our June 2017 3rd Sunday will highlight Little Kitchen Food Shelf. You will not want to miss this celebration.

Spring cleaning? Consider donating items to the Little Kitchen Food Shelf fundraiser garage sale June 23-24. The garage sale will be at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran on Johnson St. Got items now and don't want to hold them? Call or email Lory Dubbels or Lynette Dubbels to arrange a pickup of items to be stored for the sale.

Social Ministry ears are open for you to tell us what community outreach is important to you. Would you like to share that passion with others at Mt. Carmel? Consider contacting anyone on the Social Ministry Committee for help with communications, requests for volunteers, etc. Social Ministry Committee members are Kathy Halverson, Barb Hollister, Martha Hoppe, Jenni Lathrop and Lynette Dubbels.

Adult forum

Join us for weekly adult forum sessions on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall.

May 7—Karoline Lewis, Reading the Bible. Getting the wonder of the Bible back might mean changing your mind about how you choose to read the Bible. In this session, we will explore different ways of reading the Bible that might lead to new discoveries. This is the final session of four sessions presented by Pastor Lewis. This is also the final adult forum until the fall.

Join us for softball!

Fans welcomed and encouraged

April 25—Mt. Carmelites vs. NBCC, Sunny Square, 7 p.m.

May 2—Mt. Carmelites vs. Isotopes, Vets Field, 6 p.m.

May 9—Mt. Carmelites vs. No Glove to Love, Sunny Square, 7 p.m.

May 16—Mt. Carmelites vs. Dan's Sewer Service, Hanson #4, 7 p.m.

May 23—Mt. Carmelites vs. That Pitch Cray, Vets Field, 6:00 p.m.

May 30—Mt. Carmelites vs. Big Ten Bombers, Sunny Square, 6 p.m.

June 06—Mt. Carmelites vs. Ill Media Brama Bulls, Vets Field, 7 p.m.

June 13—Mt. Carmelites vs. Scared Hitless, Hanson #4, 7 p.m.

June 20—Mt. Carmelites vs. The Replacements, Vets Field, 6 p.m.

June 27—Mt. Carmelites vs. Adagios, Hanson #4, 7 p.m.

July 11—Mt. Carmelites vs. Bobdogs 2.0, Vets Field, 6 p.m.

July 18 & 25, Aug. 1—Please keep these dates open for make-up rain out games and single elimination tournament

Directions to fields

Vets-Field (Veterans Park)—From intersection of 694 and Silver Lake Road, take 694 to Long Lake Road exit, go south, road turns into 10th Street. Turn right onto Old Hwy 8, turn left onto 8th St. Field is located behind New Brighton City Hall.

Hanson #4—From intersection of 694 and Silver Lake Road, go south on Silver Lake Road, turn left onto 7th Street, turn right onto 12th Ave.

Sunny Square—From intersection of 694 and Silver lake Road, go north on Silver Lake Road about 2 miles, turn right on Gregory St (just past railroad tracks), go straight to reach park

FR (Freedom Park)—From intersection of 694 and Silver Lake Road, go north on Silver Lake road, turn right on 14th Street (lighted field). Note: Bridges at Hwy 96, 10th St and E2 will be shut down during various times this summer. To avoid delays, come into New Brighton on 694 or Hwy D exits

Weather cancellation hotline: 651-638-2141

Questions? Contact Diane Davis Langer at 612-718-4229.

ALTAR GUILD SEEKS ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

Altar Guild wants to add to our membership roster. Members setup and cleanup the altar for worship. We divide the year into teams of two or three. We serve by month of Sundays at time about twice a year. It requires about 45 minutes to setup the altar and make sure the pews are stocked with pencils and pew envelopes. Clean up is about 15-30 minutes after worship to wash and store the communion items. Working in teams makes quick work of the setup and cleanup and ensures that there is always someone ready to serve. Interested? Call Kathy Halverson or the church office.

JOIN US FOR KNIT NIGHT

Beginning in May, Knit Night will meet once a month on the second Thursday of the month. We meet in the Fireside Room from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Questions? Contact Jenni Lathrop, 612-205-6007.

FORGET-ME-NOT

Birthday greetings to each of the members listed below who will reach or surpass the 80th milestone in this month. We pray that God bless you on your special day and in the year to come.

May 1: Kay McReavy

May 9: Merle Erickson

May 25: Carmen Haug

May 29: Millie Bruhjell

It is the policy of Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church to not publish the phone numbers and addresses of members. If you wish to call or send a card to these individuals, please refer to your church directory or call the office.

From the pastor, continued from 2

Our willingness to step up and serve.

Our consistent generosity.

Our heart for feeding and helping our neighbors.

I hope you feel that we are in the ballpark. We will refine these some more as we learn to celebrate God's gifts to us. And make no mistake about it, these gifts and the stories behind them will point the way where God is leading us. Certainly, there will be new expressions of these themes, even resurrections, but our resurrections will always be about becoming more fully who we already are!

Have a blessed Easter season!

*God's Peace,
Pastor John*

FROM THE OFFICE

The budding trees and blossoming flowers usually get me thinking about my relationship to the earth. With which landscapes do I have a connection? What do I associate with land? What are my priorities? How does my relationship to the earth influence how I think about God?

I've always enjoyed being outside, exploring the woods around my house growing up in Oklahoma, hiking with my husband in the Adirondacks and Shenandoah Valley, farming for a summer among the rolling hills in western New York. I feel most "me," my truest self, when I'm out in God's creation. I feel closer to God, too, because I'm intimately surrounded by what God has created—not what humankind has created.

How to describe my relationship to the earth? One of parent and child. One of teacher and student. I'm the child and student, learning from and being cared for by God through creation. I also see myself in a position "over" creation as caregiver and steward—not over creation in dominion but in love and care. Then I become the parent and teacher. Throughout scripture (even Leviticus of all places!) we see God loving and caring for creation, and we humans, made in God's image, are to tend the garden, too. In Genesis 2, we see God's intention from the very beginning of creation to make something "to till the ground" (Genesis 2:5). We then learn that humankind is that something.

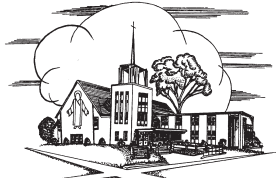
I always look through that theological lens—God as creator, caregiver, lover of the natural world. And we are part of that, too, not only caregiver to the earth but loved fiercely by God as part of creation. But we're different, set apart, from the natural world, too, and it's that difference that we ponder.

Isabel Vitale, Office Administrator

Council notes for March/April 2017

- Strategic Planning Presentation: After the March meeting, the Strategic Planning Team refined their focus and presentation. The April presentation was a concise plan recapping our mission, our vision, and strategic priorities. They are continuing to work on some of the initiatives within the plan. The council will be looking forward to their next presentation in May. (They're on track to make a full presentation at the council retreat in July.) Presentation to the membership is pending for late summer or fall.
- The council is working on a form to improve communications between standing committees and the council. Since not all committees have council representation, committees will be able to report their activities and if needed, request help from the council via a form. The council can use this communication to coordinate activities between groups, etc.
- It's recommended that Mt. Carmel members view the Minneapolis Area Synod website monthly, <http://mpls-synod.org/events-page/>, for Synod news and events. There are upcoming events that will be of interest to our members.
- The council is working to update our agreement with Casa.

*Submitted by,
Lory Dubbels
Council Secretary*



Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church
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Minneapolis, MN 55418

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Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

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Pastor

John Strommen

Office Hours

8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
office@mountcarmelmpls.org

Sunday Worship & Nursery

9:30 a.m.—Holy Communion
(nursery provided)
10:30 a.m.—Coffee Fellowship
10:45 a.m.—Education Hour
11 a.m.—Adult Forum

Mini-bus Transportation

Call 612-789-7855 to be added
to Sunday's list.

Mt. Carmel Child Care

Jeanette Burmeister
612-781-2798

www.mtcarmel.net

Lutheran *bite*

Digging deeper
into our faith in
bite-sized pieces

Let's continue our mini-exploration of Luther's catechism.

In March, we heard a little about confession. After confession, Luther talks about the sacrament of the altar. He asks and then answers these five questions:

1. What is the Sacrament of the Altar?
2. Where is this written?
3. What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?
4. How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?
5. Who receives this sacrament worthily?

Want to find out how Luther answers?

Go to <http://catechism.cph.org>.