



Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

Tidings

Volume 17

Issue 11

December 2017

Inside this Issue

Pastor's Pen: An Advent tale. 2
 Child Care News 3
 End of the year contributions 3
 Thrivent Choice Dollars 3
 Baptisms 3
 Weddings 3
 Deaths 3
 With sympathy 3
 Ways to pray for one another 3
 Gifts received 4
 December adult forums 4
 Christmas smorgasboard 4
 Thanksgiving basket thanks. 4
 From the President 5
 Funeral volunteers wanted 5
 Youth and Young Adults 6
 Group of JOY Christmas Luncheon 6
 Council notes 6
 Social Ministry Update 7
 Greetings from The Church
 of the Damascus Road 7
 Forget-Me-Not 8
 Hospitalizations 8
 Women of Mt. Carmel. 8
 Stewardship at Mt. Carmel. 8

Special congregational meeting

All Mt. Carmel members are asked to attend our special congregational meeting during fellowship time on Sunday, Dec. 10 to elect new members to the Congregational Council. This vote will be the only item on the agenda.

New members session

A new member session is being planned for early 2018. The church office is collecting the names of those who want to become members of Mt. Carmel Lutheran. If you would like to become a member, please call Lynette in the church office at 612-781-2796 or talk with Pastor John. You will be notified shortly after Jan. 1 when the next new member session is scheduled.

Sunday education hour and beyond

Beginning in January we will be offering a new platform for small Groups to form, meet and gauge interest. There will be a Small Groups Bulletin Board that groups can post about events, meetings or survey interest. We will also be using a sign-up sheet to help small groups meet during the education hour on Sunday in the Fireside Room, Fellowship Hall, choir room, etc. If you have any questions or are interested in forming a small group contact Hope Dieringer.

First call for Foundation scholarship applications

The Mt. Carmel Church in Minneapolis Foundation is very pleased to sponsor a scholarship program to support church members who are seeking post-secondary educational opportunities. If you are interested in pursuing this, you may get an application from either Karen Moeller, scholarship chair, or the church office. The deadline to submit your application will be February 28, 2018. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Moeller at 612-619-3743. There will be further announcements in both Tidings and Sunday bulletins.

FIND US ONLINE!

www.mtcarmel.net



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MountCarmelMpls

Learn, Live and Share God's Word

PASTOR'S PEN

An Advent tale

A couple weeks ago, I got ready to take the usual five mile walk that Heidi and I normally take every Sunday afternoon (after the Vikings' game!). As I put on my jacket, gloves and hat, I thought to myself, "Maybe I should take my camera with me." You see, I am a photographer at heart and I also have a pretty good camera that I've invested in. Unfortunately, it's big enough that it must be carried in a camera case/backpack that is relatively cumbersome. So, it's very easy to rely on my smart phone for pictures I see along the path of life. It fits in my pocket! And true enough, most of the pictures I take are on my smart phone.

Now, sometimes I plan to go out and take photographs with my Nikon big boy camera. But what I've noticed is when I go out like this to "find" good photos, the results are often lacking. What usually happens is that I stumble upon really good photo opps, that a photograph "presents" itself when I least expect it and am unprepared. Thank goodness for the smart phone! The trouble with the smart phone camera is that the pictures are fine, but for someone like me who likes to work on photos in Lightroom and Photoshop (digital editing programs that are what darkrooms used to be for photographers), the smart phone pics don't compare to the nuance and clarity I can get on my Nikon.

So on this Sunday, I thought to myself, "If I get in the habit of taking my Nikon with me, I can always have my camera with me when the photo presents itself." I have also decided to take my camera with me every day and lug it around, because, well, you never know. Sometimes, those downtown Minneapolis shots at sunset are pretty cool!

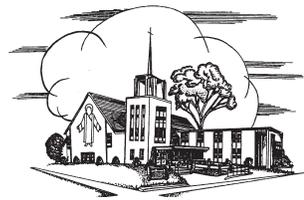
Well, I went on my walk and I was thinking, "No way I'll see any good shots. It's November and everything is brown." Then I arrived at Medicine Lake (in Plymouth) just before sunset, and certain images were given to me as if from heaven. I found an incredible tree leaning over the lake with its reflection in the water. I saw some ducks swimming around in the glassy water with the light dancing around. One of the best bird or animal shots I've ever taken came out of that trip, and I never could have predicted it. Even when I took it, I never knew how good it could look in the editing dock.

Naturally, I was tickled pink that I had strategically thought to take my camera with me, because you really don't know when that great photo opp will drop from the sky, so you better be ready!

Matthew 25:13 tells us, "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour." It is part and parcel of the Advent experience to wait and to watch, knowing that we cannot save ourselves, but must be ready. And so we are urged to acquire a mindset, a faith, that doesn't always get what it wants right now. It is a different timetable that we must learn to trust. It means cultivating an expectation that wonders and gifts are coming to you from a loving God, but it is on God's terms. I think I understand. I have that duck shot to prove it! Happy Advent!

By the way, I have a website of my best photos at: strommen.smugmug.com. I don't sell them, but I like it when people enjoy them!

Peace, Pastor John



Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

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Office Hours

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

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John Strommen
pastorjohn@mountcarmelmpls.org

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Mt. Carmel Child Care

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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

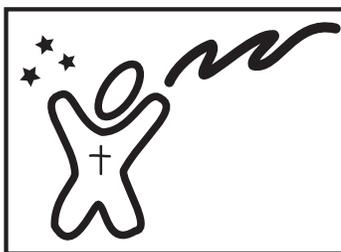
I am writing this just before Thanksgiving. I am very thankful that the Mt. Carmel Congregation opened the Mt. Carmel Child Care Center and that I have had the privilege to nurture and love all these wonderful children. I feel truly blessed.

We have not been able to be outside due to the recent cold snap. We did get out on the week before Thanksgiving and it was very much enjoyed by the children and staff both. There were lots of rosy cheeks, their lunches disappeared and they all napped well.

We have been busy talking about our favorite books and authors, the bakery and, of course, Thanksgiving. These children really enjoy books and often when we prepare to read one someone always says that they have the book at home. They recognize books that have won awards. It was fun to ask them what they were thankful for. There were a wide variety of responses. The children replied about food and often family members.

We have invited the child care families to join us for our mid-week advent supper and service. I hope some of them can come. I know the holiday season can be hectic, so it will be good for all of us to stop and reflect.

I wish all of you a joyous holiday season!



Jeanette Burmeister,, Director

End of the year contributions

The fiscal year ends Sunday, Dec. 31. Cash and checks received by the church office on or before that date will be recorded on your 2017 Mt. Carmel giving statement. We will post checks received in the mail after Dec. 31 only if the check is dated Dec. 31 or before **and** the envelope carrying the check is postmarked Dec. 31 or before.

All financial gifts and offerings received after Dec. 31 will be posted to the 2018 first quarter statement.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

We are pleased to announce that Mt. Carmel has received \$685 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.

BAPTISMS

Benjamin Thomas Wirth

WEDDINGS

Juston Dooley and Alexis Jauss

DEATHS

Ann Johnson

WITH SYMPATHY

The Braun Family upon the death of Beth's mother, Susan Jungeberg,

WAYS TO PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

1) Call the church office (612-781-2796) to request that someone be added to the bulletin prayer list. Those names will also be read aloud during the Prayers of the People in our Sunday worship service. Names will be removed after 3 consecutive Sundays unless a request is received to continue longer.

2) Call Trish Samletzka at 763-706-0408 to be added to the Prayer Chain. These are special prayers passed on by phone to all members of the prayer chain.

GIFTS RECEIVED

UNDESIGNATED MEMORIALS

In Memory of Ann Johnson:
Charles Grider

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of Ann Johnson:
Lory Dubbels

The Sheridan Story

In Memory of Ann Johnson:
Lynette Dubbels

GROUP OF JOY

In Memory of Ann Johnson:
Carol Panning, Karen Moeller

In Memory of Larry Anderson:
Karen Moeller

In Memory of Millie Bruhjell:
Karen Moeller

In Memory of Russ Anderson:
Karen Moeller

In Memory of Joan Nowlan:
Karen Moeller

December adult forums

The schedule for the Adult Ed hour for December is as follows:

Dec. 3—No adult forum, but a multi-generational Christmas card-making event to make cards for our shut-ins. Everyone is welcome

Dec. 10—No forum due to the council election. Please participate in this important meeting.

Dec. 17—Smorgasbord buffet. The Adult Forum Committee sponsors this event. See separate article for details. All are invited to eat and share fellowship at this annual tradition.

Dec. 24—No forum on Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas everyone!

Dec. 31—New Year's Eve, no forum. Have a happy and safe new year!

Christmas smorgasbord

The Christmas Smorgasbord will take place Sunday, Dec. 17 at 10:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Ralph Matthes will again supply his excellent Italian Swedish meatballs and mashed potatoes. This year we've invited the folks from Casa de Oración to join us in fellowship. Please bring your appetite and your favorite holiday dish and help us celebrate the season.

Thanksgiving Basket Thanks

A heartfelt THANK YOU to each and every one of you for helping to make our Thanksgiving Food Basket Outreach a success.

In addition to your monetary contributions, we could not do this without the generous gift of time given by so many. Huge kudos, thanks and hugs to the following people:

Our great packers—Janell and John Robert Partyka, JoAlice Boatright, Steve Ristuben, Rich Feist and Wayne Halverson. And thanks to our drivers—Al Erickson, Rich Feist, Dave Olson, Wayne Halverson, Nancy Tonnell, JoAlice Boatright, Steve Ristuben and the Labandz family.

This year we prepared food baskets for 18 families. We served nine families from within our congregation, daycare or church referrals, six from Northeast Senior Services and three from the broader community.

It's hard to express to you the gratitude we hear from the people we serve. This outreach program makes such a difference to so many people and Kathy and I thank all of you for helping us make it happen.

This continues to be a very important outreach program for us and is one way we LEARN, LIVE AND SHARE GOD'S WORD!

You touched the hearts and made a difference to 18 Northeast families. THANK YOU!

Barb Hollister and Kathy Halverson

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Time to talk some more about the Strategic Plan.

No, it isn't the only thing I talk about. Even though it probably seems that way. But there's a reason for that: as long as we're following the Strategic Plan, all of us are going to need to communicate clearly to each other about it because it isn't really a directive—it's a framework for how we want the church to move forward.

What does that mean? In short, the pastor and the council won't be setting our direction and telling everyone "below" them what to do. Instead, that direction should come from individuals and groups and radiate outward to others who can help and implement those ideas.

Won't that eliminate the need for committees? NO. We need our committees right now more than ever.

Committees and groups are the structure that lets us do our work in our church and community. They're filled with people who have the knowledge, skills and drive to get things done. We need you to continue meeting and continue doing the things you've done, but look for different ways to do things, or ask yourselves "what else could we do?"

There may come a time when your committee or group will realize that you'll have more impact if you change—do different things, serve a different purpose or even break up to reorganize with other groups or committees. The thing is, there's no blueprint here. There's no expectation that our existing structure will or won't look the same in months or years to come.

And that's fine, because we all need to continue to realize that the change we are making under the Strategic Plan can take on many different forms.

But—and this is a big one—all of us working in our current structure (council, committees, groups and even staff) need to work more closely together. This means that we all need to do a much better job of communicating with each other so that we know what everyone's doing and can find areas to help others with. So committees and groups: keep having meetings and record the minutes of those meetings, but let council and other groups you work with know what you're doing and planning and what you may need help with. And when you have ideas, share them with everyone you can.

I know this seems like an obvious point, but it's an easy one that can and has gotten lost at times. Change does that: we assume things are changing and stop doing the things we've been doing. But we need to understand that while we're working for change, we need to continue to maintain the structures and functions we've built to serve that change until we recognize the opportunity to change that structure.

For my part as council president, I pledge to do a better job of reaching out to others and proactively communicating about things we're doing or planning. And I ask all of you to communicate your work with members of council and other groups. Together, we'll be able to better help each other and fully realize the Strategic Plan.

Thank you all for the hard work you do.

Paul Lathrop

FUNERAL VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The Funeral Committee is headed by LuAnn Swanson. The group is looking to expand their numbers. The time commitment includes setting tables prior to the meal, serving the meal/desert (catered by the family) and refreshments, and then Fellowship Hall cleanup. Funeral serving is one way of the being there for the family. Can you help serve when there is a funeral? Please contact LuAnn at 612-587-1405 or luann.swanson0807@gmail.com.

STAY UP-TO-DATE

Watch for updates in the Candle, our weekly e-newsletter. Not receiving the Candle and would like to? Email office@mountcarmelmpls.org to add yourself to the mailing list.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER

Please kindly turn off all lights in the building if you use the building in the evening and are the last person to leave. Thanks!

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Youth in sixth grade up to college are invited to join the Youth and Young Adult group for our regular monthly events.

Second Sunday Serving. On the second Sunday of every month the youth and young adults share in Mt. Carmel's hospitality by serving coffee.

Third Thursday dinner and a movie. Join us at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month for dinner, conversation and a movie.

Sunday morning YAYA. Every Sunday morning during the education hour (10:45-11:45 a.m.) we will meet in the youth room for conversation, Bible study and games.

And let me add with the importance of all caps, **FRIENDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.** You don't have to be a member of Mt. Carmel to join us for any of these activities, especially movie night.

Join us on Facebook for more information about the events. To join this private group, contact Jenni Lathrop at jennifer.lathrop@gmail.com.

Group of JOY (Just Older Adults) Christmas Luncheon

Please bring either children's gloves, mittens or hats to be given to Waite Park School.

Get your Christmas sweaters ready for our Group of JOY Christmas luncheon on Tuesday, Dec. 19 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. There may even be a prize for the best sweater! A catered lunch will be provided by Ralph Matthes. The tradition of singing "The Twelve Days of Christmas" will once again be a highlight along with the opportunity to sing other carols. But don't think that's all. There will be one more Christmas surprise! Also, we will be collecting children's glove/mittens/hats to be given to Waite Park School. Kids often don't have them or forget them so the school likes to have some on hand during the winter months. Sign up with Karen Moeller by Dec. 15 either at church or call 612-619-3743. Cost of the luncheon is \$7 payable that day. Hope to see you there!

Council notes for October 2017

The Treasurer's Report revealed there was no significant change in the deficit. Stewardship Sunday is set for Sunday, Nov. 19 with the theme Make a Difference! We're asking two things of members: 1) increase their contributions by 10% and 2) pledge if they haven't done so in the past. Also, we are encouraging members to use electronic giving through the Simply Giving program.

We've had extensive discussion over the past several months on the Strategic Plan/Staffing Plan. It's become clear that the business administrator salary needs to be increased. The Personnel Committee will be doing a final interview and, if appropriate, go ahead with the hire. The Strategic Plan presentations went well. We need to encourage members to act on their passions.

A meeting with Casa has been scheduled. Paul Lathrop, Dave Olson and Tim Quinlan, along with Pastor John, will be attending. They hope to set up a regular meeting exchange between Mt. Carmel and Casa.

The budgeting process is underway. All committees are asked to forward their budget needs to Lynette Dubbels and Diane Langer. A draft of the budget will be presented to the council at their December meeting.

*Submitted by
Lory Dubbels, Council Secretary*

Social Ministry Update

Kay Anderson, Executive Director, **Northeast Senior Services** worshiped with us on Nov. 19. Northeast Senior Services' mission is helping seniors live independently with dignity. Kay told us the seniors rides program continues to be an important one. Volunteers take seniors to and from medical and dental appointments. Should you need a ride call Northeast Senior Services. Another popular service is foot clinics. Seniors can receive low-cost foot care through the clinics arranged by Northeast Senior Services. Mt. Carmel's November 3rd Sunday offering will be forwarded to them. We will collect offerings until the end of the year for Northeast Senior Services. Please donate to this much appreciated senior serves organization.

The new contact information for Northeast Senior Services is:

900 42nd Ave #317
Columbia Heights, MN 55421
(located in Crest View on 42nd)
Phone: 612-781-5096

The **2017 PCYC Gift Sale** is coming up on Dec. 9. This event provides children with the opportunity to purchase gifts for family members. Mt. Carmel will be collecting gifts through Dec. 5. Gifts are to be valued at \$8-10 each or re-gift items that you have received as gifts but never used. Place the gifts in the big box by the church office. If you can volunteer to bring the gifts over to PCYC, during business hours on Dec. 6, please let Lynette Dubbels know.

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) was the 3rd Sunday Ministry Partner in September. To date, Mt. Carmel has received \$288 for LDR. In 2017, hurricanes, fires, floods and earthquakes have devastated many lives. Many homes were wiped out completely and the need for help will continue well into the future. Please consider giving to LDR between now and the end of the year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Social Ministry Committee: Lynette Dubbels, Matti Gurney, Kathy Halverson, Barb Hollister, Martha Hoppe and Jenni Lathrop.

Greetings from The Church of the Damascus Road

Dear Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

Thank you for your extremely generous gift of books for the Storytellers Program at The Church of the Damascus Road (CoDR) and your commitment to mission partnership. Thank you for believing in CoDR.

We appreciate your faithful and extremely generous support for the prison congregation. You are a blessing to many individuals struggling to get their lives on track with the help of Jesus. The CoDR is vital and growing. Its ministry is touching many lives, not only lives of the guys but their families as well.

Thanks again for your generous gift.

Grace and Peace to you and your house.
Paul Stone, Pastor

THANK YOU

Dear friends at Mt. Carmel,

I can't thank you enough for that wonderful Thanksgiving basket. It was so generous for many meals to come. I do still cook for myself and live alone but have several caregivers so that I can still live in my old house.

I am Lutheran by church, I do appreciate your ministry and may visit your church depending on my health. I will be celebrating my 90th birthday next week but am due for more surgery in several weeks.

I am also grateful for the service of Northeast Senior rides who make connections to get this basket.

Thanks you again so very much,

Carol Nelson

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.

December 8: Dick Anderson

December 12: June Belawski

**December 23: Wilma Anderson,
Gloria Anderson**

December 25: Carol Rignell

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.

HOSPITALIZATIONS

Did you know that because of privacy laws, hospitals and nursing homes do not call us to report if a parishioner has been admitted, or if a person's condition has worsened?

That means we rely on family members and friends to keep us informed. Please call the church office, 612-781-2796, if you or someone you know of is hospitalized.

Women of Mt. Carmel

Early in November, over 30 women gathered together to brainstorm and share ideas about forming a community of women at Mt. Carmel. There was lots of laughing, lots of energy and many ideas exchanged about things we could do. Our list of ideas was varied and long but we were able to identify four-to-five activities to work on/start in the next few months. The women of Mt. Carmel will be leading activities that may be for women only or may include children and men (e.g. Christmas caroling).

If you would like to learn more about our meeting and our list of ideas, we would love to share with you. We will communicate via email (send us your email address to receive updates including activities and opportunities), the Mt. Carmel website and a women's network bulletin board (to be located in Fellowship Hall).

We want to be an inclusive group. It is not important your age, your ethnicity, whether or not you belong to Mt. Carmel or any other distinguishing characteristic. What's important is that you want to be part of a women's fellowship to learn, live and share God's word. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Karen Matthes, Barb Hollister, Martha Hoppe, Kathy Halverson, Lynette Dubbels, Lory Dubbels, or Hope Dieringer. Please think about joining us. We would welcome your participation, your ideas and your energy. God's blessings to all.

Karen and Barb

Stewardship at Mt. Carmel

"Make a Difference!" is this year's Stewardship theme. Stewardship Sunday was Nov. 19. We asked all members to prayerfully consider two things: 1) increase their contributions by 10%, and 2) pledge if they haven't done so in the past. Members also have the ability to use Simply Giving.

It was a fun day! After the children's message, Patrick Kutzer had the kids go out into the congregation to collect members' pledge envelopes. The envelopes were then deposited into the Stewardship box at the front of the sanctuary. The kids collected a total of 57 pledge envelopes. THANK YOU!

If you haven't returned your pledge yet, you can drop your pledge card in the Stewardship Pledge box in the narthex. Extra pledge cards can be found on top of the box or call the church office to have one mailed or emailed to you.



Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church
1701 St. Anthony Parkway NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

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Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

612-781-2796
Fax: 612-781-1621

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

The Advent and Christmas Season at Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

Sunday, Dec. 3

9:30 a.m.—Worship

Wednesday, Dec. 6

5:45 p.m.—Light Supper,
Fellowship Hall
6:15 p.m.—Holden Evening
Prayer, Sanctuary
6:15 p.m.—Contemplative
Coloring, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, Dec. 10

9:30 a.m.—Worship

Wednesday, Dec 13

5:45 p.m.—Light Supper,
Fellowship Hall
6:15 p.m.—Holden Evening
Prayer, Sanctuary
6:15 p.m.—Contemplative
Coloring, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, Dec. 17

9:30 a.m.—Worship and
Children's Christmas Program

Wednesday, Dec 20

5:45 p.m.—Light Supper,
Fellowship Hall
6:15 p.m.—Holden Evening
Prayer, Sanctuary
6:15 p.m.—Contemplative
Coloring, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, Dec. 24

4 p.m.—Christmas Eve Worship,
The Birth of Our Lord

Sunday, Dec. 31

9:30 a.m.—Worship