



Inside this Issue

Pastor's Pen 2

Guns and the God of peace 2

Child Care News 3

gifts received 3

From NE Seniors 3

Property Notes 4

Stay Up-to-date 4

From the President 4

February 2018 council notes 5

March Adult Forum 5

Serving dinner at Greater
Minneapolis Crisis Nursery. 5

Good News! 5

A friendly reminder 5

Forget-Me-Not 6

Hospitalizations 6

February fun for grades 3-6 6

March small group:
Coffee, tea with good fruits 6

April feminine hygiene
product drive 6



Easter breakfast: Date Change

March 25, 8-9 a.m. and 10:30-11:30 a.m.

This year the Youth and Young Adult annual Easter Breakfast will be a week earlier (on Palm Sunday). This change allows more youth and young adults to participate and hopefully allows members and visitors to enjoy a meal without having to rush out of church after worship for Easter festivities. As always, this meal is free of charge, though a free-will offering will be collected. All proceeds will go to a charity of the youth group's choice.

Watch upcoming Sunday bulletins and the Candle for information on donating egg bake and other food to this event! Contact Jenni Lathrop if you have any questions.

Spring clean-up event

Calling all buckets, mops and rags! Come to the Spring Clean-Up scheduled for Saturday, April 14 between 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Come in the morning, come in the afternoon or stay for the day! Sandwiches will be served at Noon.

There's a task for everyone, so mark your calendars.



FIND US ONLINE!

www.mtcarmel.net



mountcarmelmpls



MountCarmelMpls

PASTOR'S PEN

Guns and the God of peace

This month we've all witnessed yet another horrific mass shooting, this time in a Florida school. It raises the question, once again, "what is going on?" Why is it that our nation is so tragically plagued by these shootings and the off-the-charts gun violence that we see? For the Christian, where is God in all this?

Well, we've probably all heard of one particular theory that's making the rounds: the school shootings are taking place because we've pushed God out of schools. What do you think? Does that wash? Think about it: this theology would suggest that God protects children in schools as long as they have an organized, forced prayer time for all students. If not, it's open season on the kids! What a petty, vindictive and very small god that would be.

Luther made it clear that God is always at work in schools, governments and courthouses, working to make sure that people have protection and safety, that lives are nourished. And God works through and with people of all races, creeds and persuasions. This is true whether people believe it or not. So, the God we believe in does not walk away from us just because we didn't demonstrate a certain public religious practice that some Christians deem important. We don't control God so easily.

The bottom line is: God loves us and wants life for us! And so, God does everything God can to give us life and take care of us. This God is trustworthy! We can count on the God of the Bible. Luther said that sin is nothing other than misplaced trust, having faith in the wrong things.

Which brings us to this observation: our problems with violence, in my estimation, are due to misplaced trust and misguided values. Many Americans hold a tribal view of reality, which stresses that "my people" are good and that we are in a struggle against other tribes that are inferior or a threat to us—or both! Other tribes might be other faiths, other ethnicities, etc. It's an "us vs. them" paradigm. This value, or worldview, is contrary to what Christians hold, as we understand God working toward a unity of peoples bound by love, not fear.

But with a tribal view of things, we disproportionately value security and defense because protection of our tribe/family is paramount. Here's where misguided values lead to misplaced trust. We put our trust in something that will protect our tribe this worldview asserts, because the world is a fearful place. So a gun is necessary because the "other" cannot be trusted and the "other" is all around us. Over time, our thinking and imaginations get shaped by guns and tribal values. You begin to see the "other" more and more as a potential threat. When fear is fed, fear wins, and love goes out the window.

We live in a nation right now where we think and imagine reality differently than people in other countries. At least some do. This inevitably comes out in the behavior of some people, and in tragic ways. When our gods are security, guns and power, we are not living as God intended us to live.

I pray for our nation to ask the right questions about guns, rather than thinking we are destined to arm everybody to be protected from this Pandora's Box we find ourselves in. Our faith teaches us to work towards unity, diversity

Pastor's pen, continued on 3



Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

1701 St. Anthony Pkwy, NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418
612-781-2796
Fax: 612-781-1621

Office Hours

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

Pastor

John Strommen
pastorjohn@mountcarmelmpls.org

Director of Music/Organist

Megan Crosby
stonme01@luther.edu

Director of Faith Formation

Hope Dieringer
hopedieringer@gmail.com

Office Administrator

office@mountcarmelmpls.org

Maintenance Engineer

Steve Panning
spanning@mountcarmelmpls.org

Tidings

Jenni Lathrop
jennifer.lathrop@gmail.com

Financial Secretary

Susan Feist
smfeist@gmail.com

Mt. Carmel Child Care

Jeanette Burmeister
612-781-2798
childcare@
mountcarmelmpls.org

www.mtcarmel.net

**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

These months sure fly by, don't they? It never ceases to amaze us how fast the children grow. It feels like after a weekend they have all grown. They are always excited by the things they can do like reaching the hand towels in the high towel rack or holding the upper railing.

Recently, we learned about dinosaurs and the children know quite a bit about them and the names of many of them. In the classroom we always have a toy bin of dinosaurs and the children play with them frequently. During dinosaur week, we had more dinosaurs out in the dramatic play area. We also have two very large dinosaur puzzles that can be a little tricky to put together. Often one or two children will work on these together. One of them is a 3-D puzzle and has 48 pieces.



We had a party on Valentine's Day. Children who do not normally come on Wednesday were able to join us. We enjoyed a red and white snack (pudding and strawberries) and headed to Fellowship Hall for some games. The children could make a heart book, string a heart shaped macaroni bracelet, get a tattoo, race each other on riding squares or play musical hearts. They also passed out Valentines for their friends. We always finish with a story or two.

This week we are learning about dental health. We have a large set of teeth so that they can practice brushing them. Over the years we have compiled many great books, some of which contain their favorite characters.

The warmer weather was nice and things melted, but then the next day, things were frozen over and we could not get outside.

Put your gardening thinking caps on. We did not receive the prices from all our suppliers yet, so we will be sending out the "Plants a Plenty" order blanks with next month's Tidings. A reminder: gift certificates are available in any denomination for the plant sale. See Jeanette in person or email her at childcare@mountcarmelmpls.org.

*Have a great month.
Jeanette Burmeister, Director*

Pastor's pen, continued from 2

and peace. It also teaches us that if we think our group of people—whoever that may be—is better than "them" then we are delusional and the truth is not in us.

God grant us the wisdom to see our own sin. God grant us the love to see the goodness in the "other." God give us the strength to rise up, work side by side with the God of peace to co-create a more trustworthy and life-giving world. Prayer is not enough, but must be joined with action.

There is something deeply hypocritical about praying for a problem you are unwilling to resolve. Miroslav Wolf

*God's Peace,
Pastor John*

GIFTS RECEIVED

BOY SCOUT TROOP 132
In recognition of Mt. Carmel Scout Troop 132 Program and honoring Abraham Lincoln:

Charles Grider

UNDESIGNATED MEMORIALS

In memory of Rob Griffith: Patty Griffith, Rick & Cheryl Sundly

GROUP OF JOY

In memory of Rob Griffith:

Marianne Hanna, Carol Panning

In memory of Shirley Moeller:

Patty Griffith

FUNERAL COMMITTEE

In honor/memory of Rob Griffith: Ellen Jacobsen

From NE Seniors

Thank you for the gift to Northeast Senior Service in the amount of \$230.

We appreciate your support of the work we do to help the seniors in our local community. The needs of seniors are many and we work hard to ensure that they are connected to the resources they need to continue to live as independently as possible.

In 2017 we answered over 1,337 inquiries from seniors about rides, home repairs, senior housing, wellness, foreclosure prevention/assistance and a wide range of other issues.

It's your support that makes it possible for us to carry out our mission, "Helping Seniors to Live Independently with Dignity."

Thanks again! Your generous gift helps us to continue to bring the programs and services seniors need.

Kay Anderson, Executive Director

PROPERTY NOTES

- LED bulbs were installed in the light fixtures in the childcare hallway.
- Fireplace in the Fireside Room is back up and running after changing out the batteries powering the ignition switch.
- The garbage disposal is operational again. The switch was replaced and plastic/debris stuck in the disposal was removed. (P.S. Please no plastic straws or pop caps in the disposal please.)
- Several atomic clocks have been installed eliminating the need to reset wall clocks twice a year for daylight savings time adjustments.

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.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Next time you're in church, take a look around at the people you're there with and think about the strengths and gifts that both you and they bring to Mt. Carmel.

Council did that as an exercise during our retreat in February. Led by Rollie Martinson, we each were asked what gifts we felt we brought to council—and, really, by extension, to the church. Then we shared that list with a discussion partner, and through that discussion, came to choose and share with the whole group the one dominant gift that we each bring to Mt. Carmel.

What our individual gifts are as a council isn't the point of this article, though they will become clear as this year moves along as we focus on using those gifts to move us forward. The purpose of that exercise was to help us get to know each other and to determine where and how we can best serve the goals council has, specifically relating to a primary goal of adopting and acting on the Strategic Plan.

Since it was announced, we've all struggled with the Strategic Plan. And the result is that very little movement on the areas discussed in the Strategic Plan. We as leaders have been asking why.

Conversations we've had both within council and also with some of you in the congregation helped us reach an understanding at the retreat: There's a sense of excitement over the Strategic Plan, but also frustration and anticipation over what the next steps or expectations are and when they'll come. And we, as leadership, haven't done a good job of communicating what the Strategic Plan means and how it needs to be acted upon by all of us in the church.

We recognized that the Strategic Plan is just that: a plan. It's a vision and set of guiding principles similar to the mission statement. It's a broad vision for what we'd like the church to do, and areas we'd like to focus on in order to do those things, but it doesn't spell out specifics of how to do those things. For a church that for decades has been built on direct instructions and expectations, the plan changes the game plan. So we need to define goals to help get us started on the path of implementing the plan. There's work to be done there.

We also realized that the Strategic Plan needs clarification. The language used is sometimes complicated and confusing. We'll revisit that and work to make it more accessible. With clearer language and some defined goals in place as we start work on implementing the Strategic Plan, we will get some traction and will achieve some recognizable results.

Finally, council understands that in order to lead Mt. Carmel into the journey we've laid out in the Strategic Plan, we need to actively consult with, support and communicate with all of you. We presented this to you and haven't really asked what we can do to help you do the work it expects. We've developed a plan to do this and will start that work very soon.

So what's the bottom line? We as the church council are reenergized and have a plan to lead the church forward into implementing the Strategic Plan. It means that we've recognized our mistakes, apologize for them and are ready to fix them and do the work to lead the church into the next stage of our faith life together as a community of God.

Paul Lathrop, Council President

February 2018 council notes

The Property Committee reported that the Design Team met and reviewed four areas needing to be refreshed. The Design Team determined that the Fireside Room would be first. Design concepts and costs are now being gathered.

The council is encouraging members to get involved! If you'd like to tackle a project, find some like-minded people, prepare a plan and bring the idea forward for help in execution. Review the "Get Connected" brochure to find committees or groups you are interested in learning more about or becoming active in.

Lenten Soup Supper will be hosted by various groups and committees. On Wednesdays through Lent, the Soup Suppers start at 6 p.m. followed at 6:45 p.m. by a Taize service which will be held in Fellowship Hall.

An energy audit was conducted by an outside company. Their findings and recommendations were prepared in a report which has been turned over to the "Green Team." Talk to either Brent Carlson-Lee or Matti Gurney if you're interested in joining their green efforts.

The council participated in a retreat on Saturday, February 17 to discuss imagining Mt Carmel's future with a focus on the Strategic Plan. Rollie Martinson led us through this eventful and rewarding day of discovery and action.

*Respectfully submitted,
Lory Dubbels, Secretary*

March Adult Forum

March 4: "What about Kate?" Last fall we learned a lot about Martin Luther, but what about his wife? Kate was a multi-talented woman. She was a business woman, a lay theologian, a healing practitioner and more. How did she help to shape Luther's views of marriage? Come to learn more about this fascinating person, who was a forerunner of the modern woman.

March 11: "An American Conscience" part 1. This is a PBS documentary that explores the life and work of theologian Reinhold Niebuhr. His work spanned from WWI through the Vietnam War era, but his reflections are as relevant today as they were decades ago. Niebuhr's writings and political activism influenced the thinking of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and US presidents from Jimmy Carter to Barack Obama. Come to learn and share how this vibrant voice for justice speaks to us today.

March 18: "An American Conscience" part 2. The second part of this PBS documentary deals with the later work of theologian Reinhold Niebuhr. After WWII, he called for a change of Christian attitudes toward Jews, and Niebuhr's calls for justice served to influence Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement. Throughout these decades he warned the nation against the sin of pride and served as an advisor to the State Department. How does this voice for justice speak to us today? Come to learn and share your thoughts. You are welcome even if you missed part 1.

March 25: No session due to Easter Breakfast.

SERVING DINNER AT GREATER MINNEAPOLIS CRISIS NURSERY

Mt. Carmel will be serving dinner at the Minneapolis Crisis Nursery on Thursday evening, April 19. We need to be there at 4 p.m. Groceries and a meal menu will be waiting for us and we will prepare and serve dinner. Children eat around 5 p.m. Clean-up afterwards. A minimum of 6—but no more than 8—volunteers are needed. Volunteer minimum age is 12. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Contact Kathy Halverson at 651-485-9507 if you can help.

GOOD NEWS!

Mt. Carmel received confirmation that the picture directory was delivered to the printer! We will receive a copy to proof then it goes to final printing. Thanks for your patience.

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!

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.

**March 1—Carol Kwiecien,
Virginia Schaal**

March 9—Pat Stadum

**March 13—Lois Buchinger,
Leona Kirkham**

March 14—Marlene Black

March 15—Carl Johnson

March 28—Ruth Emerson

March 31—Marianne Hanna

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.

February fun for grades 3-6

Last month, seven students from Mt. Carmel attended a Winter Youth Retreat at Luther Crest Bible Camp with Hope Dieringer, faith formation director. They enjoyed time outdoors, playing broom-ball, making new friends, singing goofy worship songs, diving into the Bible, all-camp games like "Uncle Dooger" and "Mighty Noodle Scoop", performing in skits at the camp talent show, cross-country skiing and making crafts! It was a packed weekend. Special thanks to the Mt. Carmel Foundation for helping to fund the fun and fellowship.



MARCH SMALL GROUP: Coffee, tea with good fruits

Coffee shouldn't be limited to just after Sunday worship after all! Thursdays during March (1, 8, 15 and 22) anyone who's interested is invited to meet at Silverwood Park at 2:30 p.m., and we'll see where it goes. We'll be covering the Fruits of the Spirit talking about two fruits each meeting. If a weekly gathering continues, Leona and Hope have lots of ideas (and perhaps you do too!). Different locations, different days and/or times or direction of topics are welcome once our first four week gathering is complete.

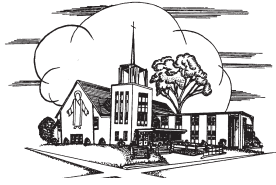
You can bring your own cup or purchase a beverage or snack at the Silverwood snack counter. Since we start with the fruits topic Leona will bring healthy fruit snacks the first few weeks!

April feminine hygiene product drive

Hannah and I are collecting feminine hygiene products for homeless women in Minneapolis. When people donate, it's often clothes or food or regular hygiene products, but many women don't get the feminine hygiene products they need, as most items are expensive, and other more important things end up being bought first. We are doing the drive because this is a topic many feel uncomfortable talking about, but this is a problem that needs to be discussed and brought to people's attention so we can work to solve it as a community.

We will be collecting menstrual pads, tampons, menstruation cups or any other types of feminine hygiene products in a box by the office during the month of April. If you have a group or committee that would like to help, both Hannah and I would be happy to attend a meeting to talk further about this project. If you have questions, reach out and we'd be happy to answer them. Thank you.

Zoe Lathrop



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

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Twin Cities, MN
Permit #93097

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

LENT AND EASTER AT MT. CARMEL

Sunday Mornings during Lent

9:30 a.m.—Worship

Wednesday Evenings during Lent

6:00 p.m.—Soup supper in Fellowship Hall

6:45 p.m.—Taizé Worship and Contemplative Coloring
in Fellowship Hall

Holy Week

March 25, 9:30 a.m.—Palm Sunday Worship with Palm Procession

8-9 a.m. and 10:30-11:30 a.m. Easter
Breakfast served by Mt. Carmel Youth and
Young Adults. *(Date change)*

March 29, 7 p.m.—Maundy Thursday Service

March 30, 7 p.m.—Good Friday Service

Easter Sunday

April 1, 9:30 a.m.—Worship

