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Join us for softball!

Fans welcomed and encouraged

- May 1: Mt. Carmelites vs. Isotopes, Sunny Square, 6 p.m.
- May 8: Mt. Carmelites vs. That Pitch Cray, Vets Field, 6 p.m.
- May 15: Mt. Carmelites vs. Dan’s Sewer Service, Vets Field, 6 p.m.
- May 22: Mt. Carmelites vs. Bobdogs 2.0, Sunny Square, 7 p.m.
- May 29: Mt. Carmelites vs. That Pitch Cray, Hanson #4, 6 p.m.
- June 5: Mt. Carmelites vs. Scarde Hitless, Vets Field, 6 p.m.
- June 12: Mt. Carmelites vs. The Replacements, Hanson #4, 7 p.m.
- June 19: Mt. Carmelites vs. triple III Media Brama Bulls, Vets Field, 6 p.m.
- June 26: Mt. Carmelites vs. Big Ten Bombers, Sunny Square, 7 p.m.
- July 3: No game, Fourth of July holiday
- July 10: Mt. Carmelites vs. Pitch Please, Hanson #4, 6 p.m.
- July 17: Mt. Carmelites vs. Adagios, Sunny Square, 7 p.m.
- July 24, 31, Aug. 7—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

Weather cancellation hotline: 651-638-2141. Questions? Contact Diane Davis Langer at 612-718-4229.

FIND US ONLINE!

www.mtcarmel.net



PASTOR'S PEN

Somewhere

My wife and I have this ongoing feud about which musical is better, and probably the best of all time: *The Sound of Music* (Heidi's choice) or *West Side Story* (my choice). So what do you think, people of Mt Carmel, which one is the greatest?

Both musicals are great and convey universal themes of identity, freedom and salvation (escaping the present world to a better place). Perhaps no song conveys the yearning for salvation better than, "Somewhere," from *West Side Story*. In the movie, the love Tony and Maria feel for each other is doomed by the unforgiving, tribal world around them. Sensing this doom closing in around them, they imagine and desperately try to believe in a world "somewhere" where people will learn a new way of living, find a way of forgiving.

Lutheran theologian Carl Braaten makes the case, in fact, that all people know in their heart that the world we currently live in is not the way it's supposed to be. Things are not as they should be. We are compromised in some tragic way and we all live with the brokenness. We could all sing our own version of "Somewhere." This is evidenced by the fact that most people of any persuasion believe the end of this earthly life is not the final end, but that there's another life, another world, somewhere. Meanwhile, many in this life—as they live with the awareness that things are not as they should be—diligently work towards social change and better education to move us as a people to a better, less compromised place.

The point is, sometimes people are critical of the church for speaking of sin and salvation, that we should be less "guilting" in our teaching and more focused on this world than the next. I agree with much of the concern, but what I don't is this: all we Christians mean by sin is the simple observation that we as humans are tragically compromised. There is evil and narcissism in our world that is run amuck. Anyone can see it. Call it what you will, but we call it sin.

And salvation simply expresses what everyone yearns for: to be whole, to be fully loved and to be a part of a community where everyone's life flourishes. So we as people will always try to save ourselves, which is ultimately doomed. As Braaten notes, "There is no world from which God is absent and in which he does not stir up a longing for salvation which he alone can bring." Indeed.

In the GPS class, we've been exploring callings and how we are called to bear witness to the good news that breaks into the yearning in all of our souls—the yearning for "somewhere." It's universal that we need a vertical connection with our God for life to be made whole. And here we Christians are, believing that to the lonely, God promises membership in a family—now and forever. To the grieving, God promises Easter, that life will rise again from the ashes of our despair. To the guilty and shamed, God promises forgiveness and reassurance that we have value and are loved. To the broken, God promises healing.

This is the good news of Easter: the God of life has won out over sin, death and brokenness. Somewhere has been located. May we learn how to speak of it and celebrate it always!

*God's Peace,
Pastor John*



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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

The "Plants a Plenty" plant sale is less than a month away. The sale will go on snow, rain or shine.

Thursday, May 17—Noon-7 p.m.

Friday, May 18—9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Saturday May 19—9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sunday, May 20—9 a.m.-3 p.m.

During the sale you will be able to pick up your preorders (thanks to all of you who submitted orders), shop for bedding plants, tomatoes, peppers and herbs. We will even have mint this year.

If you need a gift between now and then (how about for Mother's Day?) you can purchase a "Plants a Plenty" gift certificate. Just contact me and we can get you one quickly.

The children have been busy learning about science (we did a few simple experiments), space and Earth Day and recycling. This is a very inquisitive group of children who ask amazing questions.

With the short break in the weather we got a chance to go outside and ride a few of our riding toys. Unfortunately, that was short lived with the recent blizzard.

We are having an in-house field trip: the Reptile and Amphibian Zoo visited the Child Care Center on Wednesday, April 25. The cost of hiring a bus is quite large so we don't go on many field trips.

I look forward to seeing you at the "Plants a Plenty" sale, if not sooner.

Jeanette Burmeister
Director

Take Me Out to the Ballgame" Lunch

Sunday, May 20 in Fellowship Hall

Join us after service on Sunday, May 20 in the Fellowship Hall for our annual "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" lunch. We will be serving delicious baseball fare including hotdogs (the good kind), chips, cookies and an ice cream treat. Wear your Twins t-shirts or jerseys to church that day (please no caps in church). There will be a free will offering with proceeds going towards church camp scholarships for our youth. We are fortunate to have a group of kids eager to start on their faith journey by going to camp for the first time. Let's help them make it happen. Hope to see you on May 20. A good time will be had by all!

Graduating this spring?

Make sure to let the office know so we can share it in next month's "Tidings." Please let us know the student's name, where they are graduating from (including what degree or program and school) and what their plans for the fall will be (or career goals). Send this information to office@mountcarmelmpls.org.



APRIL 2018 COUNCIL NOTES

Options for Carmelfest are being discussed by Brent Carlson-Lee and Matti Gurney.

Council approved a commitment to the Sheridan Story for their 2018-2019 school year. Matti Gurney is leading Mt Carmel's relationship with the Sheridan Story and will help the council determine the amount to fund.

Pastor John reported the Casa partnership team is working on a joint fiesta for June 23. More details to follow. He also stated that Casa has been rocked by the threat of deportations with the crackdown on immigrants. Please keep them in your prayers. The GPS course starts on April 11 and continues for six weeks. There are about 25 people signed up to participate.

Paul Lathrop is forming a Constitution Working Group to update the constitution and bylaws with needed changes. This hasn't been done since 2010.

The Design Task Force, headed by Tim Quinlan, are in the early stages of meeting with a designer on the entryway, office hallway and narthex area

Respectfully submitted,
Lory Dubbels, Secretary

DEATHS

Elaine Bergquist—living in Texas, Fort Snelling internment this summer

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 19: Alice Naslund

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.

GIFTS RECEIVED

TO MUSIC FUND

In memory of Shirley and Kurt Boetcher: Charles Grider

WITH SYMPATHY

The Evans family mourning
Delores Evans

The Partyka family mourning
John Partyka

The Hollister and Pundey families
mourning Bill Pudney

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Progress!

It's hard to see progress in life unless there are concrete results you can point to. And that's been a challenge with the Strategic Plan so far: we haven't had results to hold up to demonstrate how this is supposed to work. But the good news is that we're starting to see those things already.

Just thinking of some highly visible areas to start, we can look at the Women's Group—started on its own by a core group of Mt. Carmel members without the involvement of council or the pastor. They're planning events (even though the cleaning day had to be cancelled due to weather, it was still their plan and event), and encouraging activities.

Hannah and Zoe Lathrop also took up the mantle of community support and launched the Feminine Hygiene Product Drive on their own, simply asking council to help share the purpose of the drive with other committees and groups, and asking the church office to receive any contributions that came in directly.

The Eco-Faith series came out of the focus of a small group within our congregation who are working to make sure we are all good stewards of God's creation.

And Pastor John has launched his GPS course which shows results in two areas. First, it fulfills a commitment that we agreed to when Mt. Carmel called him to be our pastor—recall that we agreed to call him at 4/5 time so that he could go back to school at Luther Seminary and pursue further education. The GPS course is a direct result of his coursework as he developed it for one of his classes. Second, it delivers on the learning portion of the Strategic Plan.

One key thing that all four of these examples have in common is that people started these groups or initiatives on their own because they saw a need to serve the community outside of our church, share common interests or strengthen our own church community. That's what the Strategic Plan aims to do. That's what we all should do as part of God's community.

But I know that there's one aspect of this that is a very un-Lutheran thing to do: brag about what you or your group is doing. Share what they're doing. Tell people inside and outside of the church how you are helping your community, and enlist people to help you do it. It isn't about pride, it's about building community and power to serve the world we live in.

Share what you're doing whenever you can. Do it any way you can: during fellowship on Sunday, at coffee with friends during the week, with your family, coworkers or even here in the "Tidings." Let council know as well. Send an email to me at palathrop@gmail.com or drop a note in my box in the office and tell me what you and your group are doing and how it's serving our community and I'll share it as well.

Finally, be inspired by what you're seeing others do in the church and determine if you want to join a project or group or start one of your own. Do what you're called to do. If you have questions, talk to Pastor John, myself, anyone from council or even some in the groups I've talked about here. We all want your ideas to succeed.

Paul Lathrop, Council President



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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

I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT

Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly, May 4-5

Two millennia after the original Pentecost, we assemble. And, like the first disciples, we trust God to pour out the Spirit. Will the old among us dream dreams; will the young see visions?

Certainly, as with the community in Acts, the church today needs the Spirit's inspiration. So, we assemble—for Bible study and witness, storytelling and singing, budgets and elections—and we pray together for the Spirit's guidance and power.

And we firmly believe the Spirit who gathers us will also stir us up and send us forth with new boldness to participate in God's work of mercy, community, and justice in the world.

Mt. Carmel is eligible to send and pays the registration for Pastor John, plus two women, two men and one youth representatives to this year's assembly at Lord of Life in Ramsey, Minn., on May 4-5 (Friday, 2-8:30 p.m. and Saturday 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.). Contact Pastor John if you're interested.