



Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

Tidings

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January 2019

Inside this Issue

Pastor's Pen

Why embers need each other . . . 2

The Building Design Task Force

to host listening sessions. 3

Gifts received 3

A friendly reminder 4

Altar flowers. 4

Youth and Young Adults 4

Reflect 4

From the President

Goals for the New Year 5

Deaths 5

With sympathy 5

Stay Up-to-date 5

Forget-Me-Not 6

Hospitalizations 6

Will you consider being

a Stephen Minister? 6

We Gather Together

Sunday, Jan. 13

Circle Sunday, Jan. 13 on your calendar and join us after church in the Fellowship Hall for our second "We Gather Together" event. There will be a light lunch of "sloppy joes" (or "yum yums" or "taverns" as we called them in Nebraska!), chips, pickles, cookies and bars and beverage. Our first "We Gather Together" was a huge success and we look forward to this one being the same. You DO NOT need to sign up ahead of time but if you know you will attend, you can let any of the following know: Lory Dubbels, Barb Hollister, Karen Matthes or Karen Moeller. Come and join your Mt. Carmel family in fellowship and good food following worship! The cost is a free will offering. We hope to see you there.

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 education 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 is February 28, 2019. Current recipients must reapply. Scholarships are not carried over year to year. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Moeller at 612-619-3743. There will be further announcements in future Tidings and bulletins.

January Adult Forum

The Adult Forum will be on hiatus during January as other events are scheduled in Fellowship Hall for this time slot. See elsewhere in the Tidings to read about these events. The Forum will resume on Sunday, Feb. 3.

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www.mtcarmel.net



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MountCarmelMpls

Learn, Live and Share God's Word

PASTOR'S PEN

Why embers need each other

The great preacher Dwight Moody—the man who founded the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago—was once asked by a skeptic why Christian fellowship is so important. Why must Christians gather with one another? What many assume is that all that matters is what each person believes in our hearts. If so, why do we need each other?

Well, as the story goes, Moody didn't say anything to the man but simply went over to the fireplace nearby, where there were many embers clustered together, all of them burning red hot. He picked up one of the embers with his tongs and placed that ember on the hearth. Then he sat down, continuing in silence, just staring at the fireplace. After a while, the man who asked the question could see Moody's answer without him saying a word. The individual ember, which had once been red hot, had now lost a significant amount of heat and was no longer red. It was getting darker and darker and soon would be black. Meanwhile, in the pile of embers, each individual ember remained red hot.

The takeaway is obvious: if we are each like an ember—faith is like the heat of the ember and fellowship is like a pile of embers in the fire—then the best way to keep the temperature of our faith up is to be with each other. Embers retain their heat much longer when huddled together, than when they are separated from each other. It means we need each other to keep our faith strong! We need to have times when we gather to generate heat for our faith.

I share this because in our culture, people often talk as though the only thing that matters is whether a person believes in God or not, as a strictly private matter. That person just lives out their faith in their own way. Yet Christians from the get-go have been a "people" who were gathered by God to be a body of people, a "we." In the very first expressions of the church, on the day of Pentecost and following, believers gathered together daily for the apostles' teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayer. They needed each other in this time of transformation! They lived in a culture that was not supportive of them and they would have easily lost their way had they all gone it alone with their faith in their heads.

Our world is not so different from then. We live in a world that is largely not supportive of the values we profess as Christians. When we forget this and neglect gathering with one another, our faith will likely lose heat. In this new year, we will focus more and more on the importance of relationships—relationships with each other, with God, with our neighbor. This is where the power of our faith is found, where we are not only together, but where we are intentional about helping each other in our faith journeys, learn together, pray together, eat together. This has always been the case and always will be. May we discover new ways of drawing spiritual heat from one another in 2019!

God bless your new year!

*God's Peace,
Pastor John*



Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

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8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. M
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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.

The Building Design Task Force to host listening sessions

The Building Design Task Force invites congregation members to attend one of several upcoming Building Use Listening Sessions. We want to hear your thoughts, ideas, hopes and dreams regarding how our church building is now and can continue to be a tool for ministry with our congregation and community.

Participants in these small group gatherings will have an opportunity to reflect with members of the Design Team around two questions:

- Does the current building space meet our congregation's current needs for ministry?
- Will the building meet our needs in the next three to five years? Or what changes would be desirable?

Building Use Sessions are scheduled for:

- Thursday, Jan. 10 at 7 p.m.
- Sunday, Jan. 13 at 4 p.m.
- Sunday, Jan. 20 immediately after worship (no Adult Forum that day)
- Tuesday, Jan. 29 at 10 a.m.
- Monday, Feb. 4 at 1 p.m.

Most will be held in the Fireside Room. Come when you can. No reservations are needed for these informal gatherings.

As we look to upgrade and update our facility, the Design Team is also working hard to make sure our building works as a tool for our ministry with our congregation and community partners for years to come. We are stepping back to consider how our building can enhance our connections with the community and help us to share our relationship with Christ with others around us. We are asking how our individual rooms are utilized by church members, fellowship groups and community partners, including the Casa de Oracion a las Naciones congregation, Scouts, AA and others. What is working now, and what could be enhanced? How can we make our facility more accessible, more energy efficient and more welcoming to visitors and the community?

You may also respond to the questions in writing or speak to one of the Design Task Force members: Tim Quinlan, Audrey Erickson, Kim Carlson-Lee, Barb Hollister, Mary McCosky and Church Administrator Steve Robertson.

When we have heard from you and processed our ideas, we will be sharing our visions and plans with the congregation in the upcoming months.

GIFTS RECEIVED

UNDESIGNATED

MEMORIALS

In memory of John Kwiecien:
Marlene Brown

In memory of June Belawski:
Becky Warhol

In memory of Ila Chiquist:
Ray & Lorraine Carlson

MUSIC FUND

In memory of John Kwiecien:
Chuck Grider

MINIBUS FUND

In honor of those who ride:
Chuck Grider

ALTAR GUILD FUND

In honor of Jesus' birthday:
Chuck Grider

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

In memory of Mary Grider:
Chuck Grider

MT. CARMEL CHILD CARE CENTER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

**In memory of Norma Nelson,
Ila Chiquist and June
Belawski:** Myrna Flatland

UNIFIED FAITH GIVING

In memory of Ila Chiquist:
Lory Dubbles, Lynette Dubbles

In memory of June Belawski:
Lory Dubbles, \ Lynette Dubbles

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. And be sure to lock all the outside doors. Thanks!

ALTAR FLOWERS

Sign up to provide altar flowers in worship for the rest of 2018 and the first half of 2109 on the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in the Narthex by the elevator. The cost is \$27 per bouquet (two bouquets per week). Flowers can be given in memory of loved ones or in honor of birthdays, anniversaries or special events and milestones.

Youth and Young Adults

Youth in sixth grade through 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. when Sunday school meets) we will meet in the youth room for conversation, Bible study and games.

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 our Facebook group to know what's going on, www.facebook.com/groups/MtCarmelYAYA/. Questions about YAYA? Contact Jenni Lathrop at jennifer.lathrop@gmail.com or 612-205-6007.

Reflect

Join us Sunday mornings for a brand-new option for adults during Faith Formation hour after service called "Reflect." Reflect exists to provide a space for casual conversation, sharing and listening in community (fellowship) while we reflect on the scriptures and message of each week's sermon. Reflect will take place in the Fireside Room. Snacks will be provided (bring your coffee or drink from downstairs).

The schedule will be as follows: 10:45-11 a.m.: snacks and casual conversation; 11-11:15 a.m.: highs and lows, checking in; and 1:15-11:45 a.m.: An open reflection and discussion of the scripture/message of that Sunday's sermon.

This discussion will be facilitated by the faith formation director or a willing member of the group appointed by the director. The last Sunday of each month will simply be a group game following highs and lows. Plan to join in for as much or as little as you are able! We hope to see you there. For more information, contact Faith Formation Director Nick Ralston.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Goals for the New Year

2018 marked a milestone for this church council: for the first year in several, we weren't having to manage a crisis—that is, responding to a situation that needed a remedy. It was a wonderful feeling for us (okay, maybe just for me), since it gave us the opportunity to really start visioning and building the Mt. Carmel that we all imagined during the call process.

There was a lot that Mt. Carmel imagined and put forth in the Call Committee's Ministry Site Profile. And even after calling Pr. John, there's been even more envisioned. To his credit, Pr. John has fully embraced one of the key points of our call—to identify and empower lay leadership. The Strategic Plan identified the areas of focus, and laid out a road map of what we'd like to concentrate on going forward.

But as with all things, along with an explanation of what needs to be done, we need to start working to figure out HOW to do those things.

So, much like you when you make those New Year's resolutions or goals, council came to a realization that there was a lot more work to be done to lay the groundwork for the groups and things that the Strategic Plan envisioned. So with Pr. John's leadership and guidance from Rollie Martinson, council has been and will continue to expand our role as leaders in the church to provide the support that is needed for our church community to build those things we've dreamt of.

What does that mean? We'll be more active in identifying and developing leaders among the congregation, and we'll be working to determine how to better support those leaders and groups in getting their work done effectively and efficiently. Personally, I refuse to believe that there is anyone at Mt. Carmel who can't find an area that could benefit from their gifts, whatever they may be. So one area where council can work is to help people identify and connect people with their projects and passions.

In addition, the church constitution and bylaws will get a major overhaul in 2019. This work had already started prior to 2018, but it became obvious during this past year that the requirements and structure that the constitution and bylaws of Mt. Carmel provide needs to change in order to better support everything we do, from Sunday worship to the work of our staff, to supporting and funding small groups for everything from Bible studies to community events. This doesn't necessarily mean that things will be going away, and it may not even visibly change parts of the church. But it does mean that there is some antiquated structure that needs to be addressed to determine if it serves a purpose any longer or not.

This may not sound like much on the surface, but it represents a shift in how Mt. Carmel operates: we need to get away from being a top-down organization, where direction comes from the pastor and council, to becoming a church that develops ideas from all areas of the church. In 2019, council will drive the push to get to that point, but we need all of you to support and embrace it from there.

It's going to be an exciting year!

Paul Lathrop

DEATHS

June Belawski—died Dec. 2

Ila Chiquist—died Dec. 7

WITH SYMPATHY

Fred Chiquist on the death of his mother Ila Chiquist

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.

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.

Jan. 4—Bethel Filkke

Jan. 11—Charles Kirk

Jan. 23—Lorraine Carlson

Jan. 30—Roger 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.

Will you consider being a Stephen Minister?

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2, NRSV).

No, this has nothing to do with helping Building Engineer Steven Panning or Church Administrator Steve Robertson (though neither would object to you volunteering to help).

Stephen Ministry is one-to-one lay caring ministry. Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.

You'll find Stephen Ministry in congregations from more than 170 Christian denominations, across the U.S. and Canada and in 30 other countries. The program has been going strong for over 20 years in hundreds of congregations. More than 13,000 congregations have enrolled in the Stephen Ministry program and more than 75,000 pastors and lay leaders from those congregations have been equipped at Leader's Training Courses. Perhaps most importantly, more than one-and-a-half-million people have had a Stephen Minister to walk with them, providing one-to-one Christian care during tough times.

If you would like to learn more about whether this might be a way that God is calling you, please consider joining a group from Mt. Carmel going to the Stephen Ministry Introductory Workshop on Saturday, March 2 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. In this half-day event you will catch a vision for lay caring ministry, experience a sample of Stephen Minister training and learn the basics about Stephen Ministry—how it works, the benefits it offers and how to bring Stephen Ministry to our congregation. Even if you just want to improve your caring and visitation skills, the workshops are worth the time.

Please be in touch with Tim Quinlan to learn more about Stephen Ministry and/or register for the workshop. Tim has served as a Stephen Minister previously and is leading the group exploring Stephen Ministry at Mt. Carmel.



Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church
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Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

612-781-2796
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Pastor

John Strommen

Office Hours

M 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
T-F 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.—Faith Formation

Mini-bus Transportation

Call 612-781-2796 to be added
to Sunday's list.

Mt. Carmel Child Care

Brenda Wetzel, Director
612-781-2798

www.mtcarmel.net

Mt. Carmel's annual congregational meeting will be held on **SUNDAY, JAN. 27, 2019**. All members are asked to attend.

The 2019 church budget will be presented during the education hour. This will be followed by a potluck and then the meeting.

The deadline to get committee reports to the office for inclusion in the meeting packet is **Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019**.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING