



TIDINGS

Greetings, people of Mt Carmel and friends,

We have all passed through the wormhole into a new world! How strange it is to be unable to gather for work, worship or play. I hope you all are doing well and finding ways to cope, connect and take advantage of opportunities as they present themselves. For instance, have you been looking for the chance to binge-watch anything? Or perhaps you have been trying to institute game night in your family but nobody was ever home and free at the same time. Well, opportunity knocks.

I think there are opportunities that go deeper than that. As I've pointed out numerous times before, faith communities like ours have already been experiencing dislocation and thrust into change simply because the world has been changing around us.

Now, in pandemic times the need for change is put on a fast track. We do well to remember Romans 8:28: ***For we know that all things work for the good for those who God has called according to his purpose.*** Translation: not all things are good, but by the power of God to bring life even out of death, God can bring forth good results from bad events. Or dark, pandemic clouds hanging over us.

For instance, social media has been called both blessing and curse, and now we are actively exploring how it is a blessing; how we can use it to not only post what we did today, but it can help us get work done, maintain friendships and keep communities together.

As we are learning to meet via Zoom, Facebook Live and Google Hangout, we are developing skills that will help us all be more agile and responsive in the years ahead. Perhaps when we can worship in the sanctuary again, we will continue to broadcast our service to connect with those who cannot or do not wish to be at church physically.

Perhaps when we offer a class at church, there will be two audiences: those who are physically present, and those who are with us via Zoom.

As we navigate our fears and boredom, we are called to be creative and help each other. So, I would like to ask you all:

1. How can we at Mt. Carmel be of assistance or encouragement to you?
2. How does your faith get lived out now without access to our building?
3. What are questions and topics that would like to see addressed in sermons and groups?
4. What new practice, routine or insight are you learning that you might like to share with others?
5. Where do you see Good News around you—evidence of the risen Christ?

To any or all of these questions, please email, phone, or comment on Facebook. This is a time for increased communication, not less!

I look forward to what God will reveal through each of you and us together in the weeks ahead!

Christ is risen!
Pastor John

WORSHIP ONLINE

Join with Pastor John and the Mt. Carmel faith community for **worship on Facebook Live.**

To access the worship online, go to the Mt. Carmel Facebook video page at **facebook.com/pg/MountCarmelMpls/videos** anytime after worship is scheduled to begin. Select the video with the red "LIVE" tag to start watching. You do not have to have a Facebook account to watch the worship service. Videos are available to watch at any time after the live event.

For more on worshipping with us using Facebook Live, visit **mountcarmelmpls.org/watching-worship-on-sunday-mornings.**

THOUGHTS ON FAITH AND LIFE with Pastor John

Join Pastor John on the Mt. Carmel Facebook page every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for a time of spiritual reflection and devotion. Join him at live at Noon on Facebook (you don't need a Facebook account to watch) or watch the video at any time.

Are there topics you would like Pastor John to focus on or dig deeper into? Drop him an email at pastorjohn@mountcarmelmpls.org to share your thoughts.

Mt Carmel Lutheran Church

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MT. CARMEL FINANCIALS

Treasurer Update YTD: March 31, 2020

Though we have not been able to worship in person, our expenses have remained steady. Our giving, however, has taken a severe downturn this last month.

March Actual Income	March Budgeted Income	YTD 3-31-2020 Actual Income	YTD 3-31-2020 Budgeted Income
\$15,641.07	\$25,695.73	\$63,741.90	\$75,937.23

March Actual Expenses	March Budgeted Expenses	YTD 3-31-2020 Actual Expenses	YTD 3-31-2020 Budgeted Expenses
\$25,764.08	\$27,762.74	\$79,505.07	\$78,954.85

WAYS TO GIVE

Please continue to support our congregation with your faithful financial contributions to Mt. Carmel. There are several ways to give:

- Online by credit card or bank account. Visit mountcarmelmpls.org/give for online giving opportunities.
- By phone using your credit card or bank account. (call 1-800-675-7430, ext 0)
- Mail your check to the church office.

Your generous support for Mt. Carmel and our ministry is truly appreciated.

VIRTUAL FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Join us online via Zoom on Wednesday evenings from 7-8 p.m. for **Fellowship Hour on Wednesday Night** with Pastor John. While we can't have Fellowship Hour in-person on Sunday morning, Pastor John thought it would be good to recreate our fellowship time in some fashion. Join us to check-in with each other on how our lives are going and just chat for a half hour or so.

In the second half hour, Pastor John will look at the Gospel text for the coming Sunday for your questions and insights about the text; he would love to know what interests and connects with you. This will be time for all of us to spend time in scripture and give Pastor John a better sense of how to approach his sermon the following Sunday. Join us for as much or as little time as you are able.

This fellowship event will happen with Zoom, an online conferencing program. You can call in on a traditional phone line or download the app and use the video option on your phone, tablet or desktop computer (you just need to make sure you have a microphone and video camera on the device you are using). **Watch for the weekly email on Tuesdays with the link for your computer and information to join by phone, cell phone, or tablet. Or send an email to Steve Robertson to get the direct Zoom link.**

STAYING UP-TO-DATE

In this time of physical distancing, stay up to date with Mt. Carmel and our community through our website. Visit www.mountcarmelmpls.org/news to download weekly announcements, view past worship services and find information on special events and learning opportunities. Make sure to subscribe to The Candle email list as well.

If you find it difficult to access our information online, contact the office to be added to our weekly postal mailing list. Each week you will receive the weekly announcements and the text of the previous Sunday's sermon.

To subscribe to The Candle or have your name added to our postal mailing list, please contact Steve Robertson at 612-655-7594 or office@mountcarmelmpls.org.

MEETING ONLINE

These groups are meeting online:

- **Good Fruits Bible Study**—Tuesdays at 2 p.m. (Contact Leona Olson at onodave@yahoo.com)
- **Men's Bible Study**—Wednesdays at 6:45 a.m. (Contact Ralph Matthes at merinosdelimpls@gmail.com)
- **Reflect Group**—Sundays at 11 a.m. (Contact Nick Ralston at faithformation@mountcarmelmpls.org)

