



TIDINGS

September 2020

RALLY DAY WORSHIP

The great news is that Mt. Carmel will be worship together on Rally Day, Sept. 13 at 10 a.m. We will gather in person at the triangle and also stream worship on Facebook Live for those unable or uncomfortable with attending.

In the case of rain, there will not be an in-person gathering, rather worship will be held via Facebook Live.

As we prepare for this service, we must all work to make it as safe as possible for everyone. To support that, the following protocols must be followed:

- Before you come to worship, please perform a self-check (see below). If you do not pass the self-check or believe you may have been in contact with someone who was or may have been infected with COVID-19, you need to stay home.
- If you are at risk or do not feel safe attending worship, please stay home and participate in worship via our Facebook Live stream.
- For the safety of drivers and potential riders, the Mt. Carmel bus will not be available for this event.
- Please bring your own chairs to worship.
- Maintain physical distancing of at least six feet from someone who does not reside in your household.
- Wear a mask at all times unless you are physically unable to.
- The church building and its rest rooms will be closed and unavailable for use.

Health Screening



If you have *any* of these symptoms, go home stay away from other people and contact your health care provider. *Via Stay Safe MN*

- Fever or feeling feverish
- Chills
- A new cough
- Shortness of breath
- A new sore throat
- New muscle aches
- New headache
- New loss of smell or taste

We hope for more outdoor services before the weather turns to winter, and the ability to make this a safe gathering for all is key to being able to continue them. There will be more communications about the event and reminders of these protocols as we get closer to Rally Day. We look forward to safely seeing those who are able to attend!

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DAILY DEVOTIONS

Every day members of Mt. Carmel will share daily devotions on Facebook. Each post features a Bible verse, thought and prayer. Find the devotions on our Facebook page daily after 8 a.m. You don't have to have a Facebook account to view the daily devotions at www.facebook.com/MountCarmelMpls.

MT. CARMEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are a faith community participating in the life of God, both as sheer gift to us and as a calling to the neighborhoods of Northeast Minneapolis. We are a multigenerational community that proudly celebrates our history while joining together with younger generations to follow where God is leading. We build our community through faith practices like prayer, dwelling in the Word and hospitality.

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By appointment

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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: Scout Troop 132, Venture Crew, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and Alcoholics Anonymous.

We are an ELCA congregation. All are welcome. Learn more about the ELCA at www.elca.org/About.



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

PASTOR'S PEN

For we know that all things work for good, with those whom God has called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

Most of us probably know this verse well. It is very hopeful, and while not suggesting that everything that happens *is good*, it unmistakably promises that everything can *work for the good!* How is that possible? By the power of the Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead. Because of this, we know that God's love brings life out of the ashes of death and defeat. God has the final word.

On Sept. 13, we will celebrate Rally Day Sunday, albeit amidst mitigating circumstances. COVID-19 has a bit of a stranglehold on our nation and its normal activities and churches have been far from exempt. Given the rapidly expanding death toll, the disruption of the many ways in which we gather, and the divisions that have arisen over how we navigate these dangerous waters, it is safe to say that COVID-19 has made our world more "broken" than usual.

And yet, Romans 8:28 speaks! In fact, all of scripture speaks. When God's people were enslaved by the Egyptians, God not only set them free, but they became a more cohesive people than ever before! When God's people were left to wander in the wilderness, God not only kept them together but God also provided guidance through the Ten Commandments, sustenance by manna and quail, a relationship of trust through the many trials they endured.

Mt. Carmelites, I invite you now as we begin a new year, to focus not only on what we can't do together because of the pandemic, but to ask these questions:

- What new things is the Holy Spirit doing among us?
- What new possibilities are present precisely because of the pandemic?

Let me share a few new "things" that have already begun and new possibilities that are signs of God's ongoing work among us, a God who will not take "no"—in any form—as an answer.

First of all, we will be worshipping outdoors for Rally Day on Sept. 13! And while this is not new to us, it kind of seems new, doesn't it? After all, we haven't worshipped in person since early March. Sometimes, the circumstances of this world can help us appreciate things that we might take for granted—things like in-person worship. My sermon that morning is entitled, "The Church Finds a Way," a reminder of how God helps us find our way in the face of many obstacles.

Second, ELCA Bishop Emeritus Mark Hanson will preach on Sept. 20 on "Faith, Separation, Sorrow and Hope in the Midst of the Pandemic." Drawing on his own experiences, Hanson will offer us a reflection to help us navigate these difficult times. On Sept. 27, I will preach on "Where we're going from here: what the Insight Report has told us about ourselves."

Third, we begin a new online educational/fellowship series on Wednesday nights called "Faith & World." While Sunday morning may be closed for now, we have talked over the years about developing Wednesday evenings as a programming and fellowship time, and now is our opportunity! Faith & World is a pilot project we will test on Wednesdays from 7-8 p.m. on Zoom, beginning Sept. 16. The purpose of this forum is to explore ways that our faith connects with the world, whether through social justice or by using your gifts to make a difference in the world. One thing I've noticed over these past few months is an increased interest on the part

Pastor's Pen, continued on 3

Pastor's Pen, continued from 2

of you all to connect our faith lives with the world and get to know our neighbors more—including the ones who are not exactly like us.

So, our series will begin with a two-part series on Sept. 16 and 23 entitled **Housing Affordability: Challenges and Opportunities** by Katie Topinka, who is a newer member and works for the city of Minneapolis on affordable housing policy. Katie's presentation will focus on our calling as Christians to pursue socio-economic justice on behalf of our neighbors—specifically, affordable housing.

We will continue on Sept. 30 with ELCA Bishop Emeritus Mark Hanson leading our "Faith & World" conversation on the topic of "**Being Church with Diverse Neighbors.**" He will discuss how a commitment to listen and learn from our neighbors might inform the ministry of Mount Carmel and our daily lives of faith.

In October, we will continue with discussions on racial justice in North Minneapolis, along with the general topic of how faith intersects with politics, voting and bridge-building.

Fourth, this summer we have already begun a new partnership with Northside Justice Fellowship and Gethsemane Lutheran Church. Gethsemane distributes a massive amount of food on the northside and several of our members have been helping them weekly. In September, we are recruiting a team for Fridays.

Fifth, our book study on racial justice has been meeting in August and has been robust! We will continue in September on Thursday evenings from 5:45-7 p.m.. When we are finished with "The New Jim Crow," we will most likely continue with another book.

Sixth, have you noticed on our Facebook page the wonderful daily devotions that some of our members have been providing?! About ten members have participated in this, and it has been a rich platform for them to share their own faith stories and reflections, anchored in scripture. They have been truly inspirational! Maybe you will be a devotional writer, too?

Lastly, Nick Ralston, our faith formation director, and fellow Sunday morning leadership team members, Barb Hollister and Karen Moeller, continue to find new ways to gather and move forward! Their planning around new opportunities can be found in this issue!

These are just a few examples of the new things that are starting or emerging as we begin a new program year, much of which is a direct result of the events of this year in our world and around us.

Amen.

For we know that all things work for good, with those whom God has called according to his purpose.

*God's Peace,
Pastor John*

DEATHS

Charles Kirk who died Aug 5

GIFTS RECEIVED

TO THE FOUNDATION

In memory of David Grider:

Charles Grider

In memory of Dolores

Nypan: Myrna Flatland

In memory of Charles Kirk:

Margot & Dick Jacobson

THOUGHTS ON FAITH AND LIFE

Join Pastor John on the Mt. Carmel Facebook page every Wednesday for a time of spiritual reflection 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? Email pastorjohn@mountcarmelmpls.org to share your thoughts.

MEETING ONLINE

These groups are meeting online:

Reflect Group—Sundays at 11 a.m. (Contact Nick Ralston at faithformation@mountcarmelimpls.org)

Good Fruits Bible Study—Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m. (Contact Leona Olson at onondave@yahoo.com)

Men's Bible Study—Wednesdays at 6:45 a.m. (Contact Ralph Matthes at marinosdelimpls@gmail.com)

KEEP US INFORMED

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.

SOFTBALL SEASON CONTINUES

**The Mt. Carmelites softball season concludes !
Fans are welcome.**

- Sept. 1, 7:15 p.m. at Freedom
- Sept. 8, 6 p.m. at Freedom
- Sept. 15, 8:30 p.m. at Freedom

Players, umpires and spectators should maintain 6 feet physical distancing on and off the field. New Brighton suggests that spectators bring their own chairs. Players, umpires and spectators are encouraged to wear a mask or other face covering. Please contact Diane Langer at 612-718-4229 with questions.

Lions Park: From 694, exit at Long Lake Road, go south. Long Lake Road turns into 10th Street, turn left onto Old Highway 8, turn left into Long Lake Regional Park and turn left into parking lot.

Freedom Park: From the intersection of 694 and Silver Lake Road, go north on Silver Lake Road, turn right on 14th St. NW. Park on right (14th St and Silver Lake).

TREASURER REPORT

YTD July 31, 2020

Mt. Carmel ended with July healthy financials. We have weathered the summer largely due to the Federal Paycheck Protection (PPP) loan we received. In July we used the balance of those funds to supplement our income. Our giving in July also stayed close to budget, though year-to-date giving was down around \$10,000.

The loan helped with salaries and benefits for Mt. Carmel Church and the Mt. Carmel Child Care Center for eight weeks, which has now ended. Please keep your giving up to date by mailing in your donation or consider giving online at mountcarmelimpls.org/give.

Our actual income-expense ratio **YTD July 31, 2020 was \$21,237.92**. Last year at this time we were \$10,030.40

Income/ to expense

July Actual	July Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
\$5,644.50	(\$550.34)	\$21,237.92	(\$6,035.65)

*Diane Davis Langer
Mt. Carmel Church Treasurer*

SMALL GROUP MEETING PROTOCOLS

At its last meeting, the COVID-19 Task Force agreed to allow small group meetings on a limited basis in the church building. Protocols have been developed and will be available on the website at bit.ly/MtC_SmallGroup and from the church office or Paul Lathrop.

At this time, meetings can only be held in room 104 (the money counters' room) and the Choir Room. We are limiting the meeting size for each room to six people in room 104 and 14 people in the Choir Room. These rooms have been chosen because of their lack of carpeting and soft services that can harbor the virus more easily.

Meetings must be scheduled at least one day in advance to ensure availability and reserved by contacting the church administrator or office. One AM and one PM slot is available per day unless granted an exception. This will permit us to limit potential exposure by ensuring enough time between uses.

Groups must clean and disinfect the hard surfaces contacted by those in the meeting prior to leaving. Cleaning materials will be available.

All individuals in the group must perform a self-check prior to coming to the building (see the health screen questions on page 1). If any of the criteria of the self-check are met, or if the individual believes they may have come into contact with someone who is infected or may be infected with the COVID-19 virus, they must stay home.

Masks must be worn at all times in the building unless eating or drinking. Groups cannot serve or share food or drink during the meetings but are allowed to bring in their own. The doors to the rooms must remain closed during the meetings and everyone in the meeting must maintain physical distancing of six feet.

We ask everyone to enter the building using the child care door (the education wing door on St. Anthony Parkway) whenever possible. You may use the hand sanitizer station there and then go directly down the stairs to access the two rooms. Groups should not go to or through other areas of the church, especially those used by the child care center, to avoid possible contamination of those spaces.

The rest room at the base of the stairs near the youth room is being made unisex and will have a lock installed. This rest room will be the only available rest room for groups to use. Again, we ask that surfaces be disinfected after use. Water fountains will not be available for use.

We will require contact information for the meeting organizer at the time the meeting is scheduled. The meeting organizer is also required to maintain a list of meeting attendees in case of a possible COVID-19 exposure so that we can perform contact tracing and notify those who may have been exposed.

This is the first of many steps in fully reopening the building and returning to in-person worship. If you have any questions about these protocols, please contact Paul Lathrop.

OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES

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

- Online by credit card or bank account. Visit mountcarmelmpls.org/give for online giving opportunities.
- Mail or drop off your check to the church office.

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

WHERE CAN I FIND...?

During this unusual time, our communications team is working hard to keep you updated and connected.

Website

One of the best ways to find information is on the church website at www.mtcarmel.net.

Find wind worship videos and documents, congregational mailings and other information on the NEWS page. Visit the news page directly at mountcarmelmpls.org/news.

Facebook

Worship is live on Sunday mornings through Facebook live. Also find our daily devotions, videos with Pastor John and event information.

You do not need to have a Facebook account to view our videos and posts, simply visit www.facebook.com/MountCarmelMpls on any computer or mobile device.

FAITH FORMATION AT A GLANCE

As the summer officially comes to a close, we look ahead to the fall in life and in faith. This will be a different fall no doubt, some schooling will be online, some work remains online, even my seminary will be online in the fall. In faith formation here at Mt. Carmel we are planning simple, life-giving solutions to our traditional practices beginning online as well. I'm proud of what we have come up with and when we finally do return in person, there will be new look to faith formation. We know as a society that there is no going back to "the way things were," there is only pressing forward into a new reality—it will be the same with the church and it will be the same with faith formation.

Check-ins for this fall: Coming up we have:

- **Reflect.** Reflect remains on! For security purposes, please simply email me if you would like to join us for Reflect. We have been and will continue to gather each week, after service, via zoom, in the same way, and in the same time slot (11-11:45 a.m.) to retain the greatest sense of normalcy as is possible! I invite you to join our conversation and fellowship and directly engage that faith formation opportunity.
- **Sunday School.** This fall Sunday School will be online like the rest of faith formation. Engaging this reality means changing the format to fit the needs of the current context, the children and the families. While specific details are still being finalized by the teachers and myself, Sunday School will be a resource released at the same time weekly or bi-weekly, able to be done whenever the children and families have time in their schedule (so inherently not an online meeting-time format), and will include a video and/or text document with content and questions that combine the wisdom one can find through the scriptures and the realities we find outside our front doors.
- **Confirmation.** As many of you know from previous updates, we were set to have four second year confirmands be confirmed this spring, but when COVID-19 hit, those plans were not able to be enacted. Those of us who have been through confirmation know that Confirmation Sunday is much more than simply being confirmed. Most people still remember their confirmation Sunday as the sights and sounds, receiving cards and congratulations from all the members of the church, sharing their thoughts on faith, taking a full confirmation picture, a celebration with cake downstairs afterwards, etc. It is a wonderful time—and for this reason, we will continue to be patient and wait for our ability to gather in person before these four young men are confirmed. As it is, this confirmation class is much younger than what is typically the age of confirmands in the Lutheran church—so it is truly time we have to utilize in order to have the best Confirmation Sunday we possibly can. Until then, confirmation will be gathering online this fall and new upcoming confirmands will be joining us!
- As always, what are your ideas? If you have an idea that is not listed above for something positive and in the realm of faith formation or fellowship for our community, email me! My virtual door is always open to working with people on new ideas. Feel free to email me at faithformation@mountcarmelmpls.org.

I look forward to gathering with you all again when it is safe.

*Blessings,
Nick Ralston, Faith Formation Director*



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Several Mt. Carmel women enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of fellowship on Tuesday, Aug. 18. While wearing face masks and maintaining social distance outside, we were able to share the things that made our hearts happy while also asking others to pray for our troubles. As I left the meeting, I thought about the women who were not able to attend and I pray that we will be able to share in our community another time soon.

I pray that God watches over us and will help us find ways to support each other during this difficult time of isolation, worry, and health concerns. Thank you Jesus for showing us how to love one another and be present as we live each day. And all God's children said "AMEN!"

Allison Gurney

UPDATES FROM THE COUNCIL

Congregation council members: Tim Quinlan, President, Barb Hollister, Vice-president, Karen Matthes, Secretary, Diane Langer, Treasurer, Allison Gurney, Dave Larson, Patrick Lathrop

- The Congregation Council had a short meeting in July to review and discuss the proposed COVID-19 preparedness plan presented by Paul Lathrop on behalf of the COVID Task Force. Paul will serve as the administrator of the plan and will keep it updated as state and ELCA recommendations change. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the COVID 19 preparedness plan. The document will be posted when the building is open.
- The July treasurer's report showed that giving was down \$6,000 from June. The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP loan) has been helping to cover payroll expenses.
- The council met with Jerry Wahl and Mary Halvorson for a presentation of the results from the Insight Listening sessions that took place in early June. The council will be discussing next steps at the September council meeting for sharing with the congregation.
- There was not a council meeting in August. The next council meeting will be in September.

Karen Matthes

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 received 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.

TIDING SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Your information is important. Please follow these guidelines for submissions:

- All articles and images should be emailed to jenni@jennilathrop.com.
- We may not be able to include your images, but please include captions when you send images. We can also share images on Facebook.
- Send all articles as Word or Google Doc attachments. Please do not send articles in the body of emails.
- Articles will only be run once unless requested.
- Short headlines are the best. Use subheads for longer articles.
- Articles will be edited for style and may also be edited for clarity and to fit the available space. Please keep submissions under 500 words.

Thanks! Let Jenni Lathrop know if you have any questions about the Tidings.

HELPING OUR NORTH MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORS VIA FOOD/PERSONAL HYGIENE COLLECTION

Many people continue to be unemployed or furloughed. There is a real need for packaged/canned food items and personal hygiene items. We are collecting these items to be distributed by Gethsemane Lutheran in North Minneapolis. The drop off dates and times at Mt. Carmel:

- Saturday, Sept. 12, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Sunday, Sept. 13, 11 a.m.- 2 p.m.

The drop off spot will be on Ulysses St. right outside Mt. Carmel. Please tell your neighbors and friends to donate as well. If you are not able to drop off any items, consider dropping off a check written out to Mt. Carmel and write "food drive" on the memo line. We will combine with other monetary gifts and forward to Gethsemane Lutheran so food items can be purchased to fill in what hasn't been donated.

ABOUT THE MT. CARMEL FOUNDATION

The Mt. Carmel Church in Minneapolis Foundation is an important organization that enables Mt. Carmel members to live God's word, exploring and discerning the gifts of the congregation. The Foundation supports Mt. Carmel ministries including higher education scholarships, staff development, lay leader training, facility repair and renovation, and program supplies and equipment; as well as sponsoring young families heading to camp and the church softball team.

Gifts naming the "Mt. Carmel Church in Minneapolis Foundation" are invested in perpetuity with the interest spent on vital ministry support. This year we sponsored \$7000 towards boiler repairs.

Do you see a need in one of these areas to request funds? Current policy calls for funding requests to be submitted to the Foundation president two weeks prior to a Foundation Board of Directors. Remaining meetings for 2020 fund requests will be held Sept. 15 and Nov. 17. People requesting funds are asked to attend a portion of the Foundation meetings to explain their request. The request should be for the purpose of funding a church-related expense not provided for in the annual budget. Applications can be found on the church website at <https://mountcarmelmpls.org/live/mt-carmel-foundation/>. Questions? Contact Diane Langer, Mt. Carmel Foundation president, at ddl2@aol.com or 612-718-4229.

FAITH & WORLD

Our new Faith & World program will be weekly on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Watch for details with links and about how to join in the online discussion.

Sept. 16 and 23, Katie Topinka will kick off our new Wednesday evening series, Faith & World, with a presentation on our calling as Christians to pursue socio-economic justice on behalf of our neighbors. Specifically, she will be speaking on issues of affordable housing. Her presentation is entitled, Housing Affordability: Challenges and Opportunities.

Housing costs, especially for renters, are rising more quickly than incomes. Unsheltered homelessness has increased across the country, including in the Twin Cities in recent years, and racial inequities persist in housing. Topinka will share the history behind these challenges, including policies and disinvestment that have led us to where we are today. She will also explore ways we can make positive change, both as individuals and as a society, including an overview of policies the City of Minneapolis is pursuing.

Topinka is a member of Mt. Carmel and currently works for the City of Minneapolis on affordable housing policy. She previously worked for the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency and Senator Al Franken. She enjoys running and was planning on running in The Boston Marathon in back in April. Topinka grew up in Madison, Wisc., and attended the University of Wisconsin–Madison. She has a master’s in Public Administration from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. Topinka, Andrew and her family joined Mt. Carmel in 2018 and live in the Waite Park Neighborhood. Their kids, Josie and Otto, were baptized at Mt. Carmel.

On Sept. 30 we welcome Bishop Emeritus Mark Hanson on the topic of “Being Church with Diverse Neighbors.” He will discuss how a commitment to listen and learn from our neighbors might inform the ministry of Mt. Carmel and our daily lives of faith.

We also welcome Hanson to the Mt. Carmel pulpit on Sunday, Sept. 20. Hanson was scheduled to preach on Sunday, March 15 before the emerging COVID-19 pandemic forced us to cancel in-person worship. We are grateful to welcome him to preach for our online worship service.

He was the third presiding bishop of the ELCA. Before being elected presiding bishop, he served as bishop of the Saint Paul Area Synod and as pastor of three Minnesota congregations. In addition to serving as presiding bishop, Hanson was the 11th president of the Lutheran World Federation. Hanson is the founding director of Interfaith at Augsburg University, an institute to promote inter-religious Leadership. This new institute reflects Augsburg’s continuing commitment to the faith and theological tradition of the Lutheran church and Augsburg’s commitment to the growing diversity of students, faculty and staff.

FREE DIGITAL ANSWERING MACHINE

This compact AT&T model 1740 telephone answering machine was used briefly by the church office between our old phone system and our new phone system. It is like new. We are offering it free; a small contribution to the church will be appreciated. Contact Steve Robertson in the church office to arrange to pick up.

2020 MT. CARMEL COUNCIL

Tim Quinlan, President
Barb Hollister, Vice President
Karen Matthes, Secretary
Allison Gurney
Dave Larson
Patrick Lathrop

TIDINGS DEADLINE Sept. 15

Articles for the monthly Tidings are due the Tuesday after the monthly council meeting (usually the third Tuesday). Please submit your articles (or submission questions) to jenni@jennilathrop.com. Each issue is delivered the first week of the month.

PRAYER CHAIN

To to lift up a prayer concern for the prayer chain, please contact Leona Olson at 612-859-7075.

MT. CARMEL CHILD CARE

We have had a very nice summer at Mt. Carmel Child Care! As we say goodbye to our pre-K kiddos and welcome new families in, we are enjoying the last few weeks of this very different summer. We have adapted really well to our new and increased COVID-19 policies; to keep everyone at the center safe, while having fun teaching our children and watching them grow.

We welcome fall with our themes around leaves, weather, colors, numbers and singing!

Brenda Wetzel, Director

SHERIDAN STORY NEEDS OUR HELP.

There is a great need for packing at the Sheridan Story distribution center in Roseville. Mt. Carmel has supported the Sheridan Story both financially and through our volunteer packing events at Waite Park Elementary School for over six years.

This year, as we all know, everything is different; food insecurity for our neighborhood school aged kids still exists and we need to help out. Please join Matti Gurney on Sept. 10, 1-4 p.m. for bag packing at the Sheridan Story Distribution Site, 2723 Patton Road, Roseville. The Sheridan Story practices social distancing at the facility and is limited in the number of people allowed to participate. Here is a video highlighting the need and showing the social distancing measures: <https://vimeo.com/410803131>.

Matti Gurney has created a group registration with Sheridan Story so if you are interested please email (Matti.Gurney@gmail.com) or call (651-269-2167) to be added to the registration list. If you'd rather make a donation to the Sheridan Story, please do so through the church.

FREE SUMMER PRODUCE

Sept. 19 At Little Kitchen Foodshelf

Little Kitchen Food Shelf is hosting free monthly summer produce distributions on the third Saturday of the month through September (Sept. 19). Free and open to the community, no pre-registration or ID/proofs required!

All distributions take place Noon-2 p.m., rain or shine. Masks required; social distancing enforced. Grace Center for Community Life, 1500 6th St NE, Minneapolis MN 55413. For more information, please call 612-788-2444 or email LittleKitchenFoodshelf.org.

BOOK STUDY

It has only been a few weeks and already the discussions on "The New Jim Crow" have been interesting, insightful and thought provoking. There has been some soul searching and questioning while we encourage each other to look at racism and racial injustice through a different lens. If you have time on a Thursday evening from 6-7 p.m., consider joining the conversation. We meet in the triangle across from church, read one chapter each week and keep our discussions to an hour. If you would like more information or have some questions, please contact Pastor John or Barb Hollister.



BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL*

A report from the Design Team

Bold and beautiful work has been going on inside Mt. Carmel during the pandemic. When we physically return, we'll be met with some changes. Worshipers may have noticed that the PowerPoint slides are bordered with portions of the stained-glass windows that grace our building. When we enlisted a designer to assist in color selection, she suggested we highlight the beautiful and bold colors of these windows. We worked to find colors that really stood out but also had meaning as we Learn, Live and Share God's Word. Not only are our windows beautiful and a treasure, but they proclaim the Word of God.

The window to the left in the entry proclaims "I lift my eyes to the mount." Mt. Carmel! The second, "Help comes to me from God." Important words as we enter and ascend to worship with our brothers and sisters. Sanctuary windows tell the story of Christ in both color and verse.

"God created colors with inherent properties that would draw out parts of his Glory." (Artist Christine Olmstead)

The two new key accent colors share a story for the Church and for our church. They represent much more than the color alone. Blue, the liturgical color of Advent, reminds us of hope. Our faith acknowledges that Christ came to save us from our sins and will ascend again from the (blue) heavens. Yellow/gold helps to evoke the joy we receive in the resurrection and fills us with warmth, love and happiness.

The purple of the mount on the entry window is stunning. Many in the church identify purple with royalty—Christ!—and spiritualism in general.

We hope that the clean, painted walls will lift spirits upon our return. As time and money permit, we will be adding artwork. Our resident photographer, Pastor John, will provide us with shots of our lovely windows. They will be displayed in various places in the church. An amazing piece of art, in the form of a quilt (currently in work), will be a focal point of our Narthex. We hope that you will soon be able to enjoy how the sun shines through our treasured windows and splashes the light into our church home and our hearts.

Audrey Erickson

P.S. The color blue as a liturgical color is said to have its origin in Scandinavian countries. Lest you think there was any bias, we know Mt. Carmel was the Norwegian church and the blue/gold scheme in no way reflects the colors of the flag of any other Scandinavian country!

*Proverbs 24: 3-4; Acts 4:29

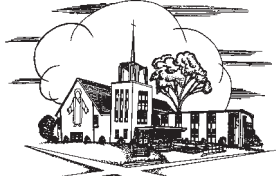
FORGET-ME-NOT

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.

Sept. 22—Bev Lerold

Sept. 26—Bev Obright

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.



Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

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Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

During this season of COVID-19, the church building is closed. But our faith community is always open.

Pastor

John Strommen

Office hours

By appointment

Sunday worship

10 a.m.—Facebook Live at
facebook.com/MountCarmelMpls

Mt. Carmel Child Care

Brenda Wetzel, Director
612-781-2798

**Mission: Learn, live
and share God's Word**



WORSHIP WITH US ONLINE

Join the Mt. Carmel faith community for worship on Facebook Live, Sunday mornings, 10 a.m.

To access the worship online, go to the Mt. Carmel Facebook video page at facebook.com/pg/MountCarmelMpls/live 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.



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