

# TIDINGS

Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

www.mtcarmel.net

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## What are you giving up for Lent?

### How about a couple hours to feed kids?

Each Friday in Lent, Mt. Carmel has reserved 20 spaces to pack food at the Coon Rapids location of Feed My Starving Children (FMSC). We have selected different packing times to accommodate a variety of schedules. Family, friends and neighbors – all are welcome to join us and we are not limited to 20!

Please consider signing up for one or all the sessions. Sign up may be done on the clipboard in the narthex or by contacting Audrey Erickson at 763-795-8681 or [ajajeric@gmail.com](mailto:ajajeric@gmail.com).

If you are unfamiliar with food packaging at FMSC, or FMSC in general, check out their website at [FMSC.org](http://FMSC.org) or speak to Audrey.

### Scheduled times are:

- Friday, February 28, 2:30–4:30 p.m.
- Friday, March 6, 6–7:30 p.m.
- Friday, March 13, 6–7:30 p.m.
- Friday, March 20, 9:30–11:30 a.m.
- Friday, March 27, 8–9:30 p.m.
- Friday, April 3, 6-7:30 p.m.



FMSC is located at: 401 93rd Avenue NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433.

## We Gather Together

### March 15

Our first “We Gather Together” event in 2020 will be held Sunday, March 15 following our worship service. Even though it is a month away, get it circled on your calendar so you don’t forget! More details will be in the March Tidings, bulletins and Candle.

## FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Mt. Carmel Church in Minneapolis Foundation is pleased to sponsor a scholarship program to support church members who are seeking post-secondary education opportunities. If you are interested in pursuing this, get an application from either Karen Moeller, scholarship chair, or from the church office. The deadline to submit your application is Feb. 29. Current recipients must reapply each year. Scholarships are not carried over year to year. If you have questions, please contact Karen Moeller at 612-619-3743.

# 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.

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

### Office hours

8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. M  
8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. T-F

### Pastor

John Strommen  
pastorjohn@mountcarmelmpls.org

### Director of Music/Organist

Abe Hunter  
worship@mountcarmelmpls.org

### Director of Faith Formation

Nick Ralston  
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### Church Administrator

Steve Robertson  
office@mountcarmelmpls.org

### Maintenance Engineer

Steve Panning  
building@mountcarmelmpls.org

### Tidings

Jenni Lathrop  
jennifer.lathrop@gmail.com

### Mt. Carmel Child Care

Brenda Wetzel  
612-781-2798  
childcare@mountcarmelmpls.org

[www.mtcarmel.net](http://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: 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](http://www.elca.org/About).



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

# PASTOR'S PEN

## Finding the "Push" Within

As many of us know already, Mt Carmel—like other volunteer organizations—struggles with volunteer burnout. We have had many discussions about this of late. If I might offer my thoughts on the matter, one of the biggest challenges is the perception that there is all this work to be done and few are stepping up to do it. So, we try our best to *pull* people forward to do a pre-determined job. Perhaps the biggest hindrance to this task is a lack of ownership: trying to get person A to fit into a program or function that persons B, C and D put together.

Now, it's entirely possible that person A has a natural interest in a certain activity. That's a good thing, because in any church there are activities that will always be necessary—worship, for instance. So, if someone has a genuine interest in hospitality, ushering might be a great opportunity for them.

Then again, person A may have little or no interest or motivation for that program or function. Then, if person A does step up, it is likely only out of a sense of duty. There is a place for duty, to be sure, but when most people in an organization are volunteering primarily out of duty, volunteering gets old fast. People get tired. They may have little ownership in the task that they're doing (again, someone else's program or idea), plus the activity or task may not their interests or skills.

How can we help people discover what they have an affinity for? Or, if something is stirring within them, how can we help one another turn their interest or passion into action? To put it differently, how might we move from merely plugging someone into an existing pro-

gram to helping people discover one of the following paths forward: a) find the right opportunity for person A that interests them, or b) empower person A to find two or three others who want to try something new? In either of these scenarios, the dynamic is less about *pulling* and more about *pushing*—that is, finding the push that is within people. The energy that might draw them into meaningful serving, fellowship or learning. In fact, one might say that such energy is the Holy Spirit stirring within us, helping us to move forward and engage to be the church of tomorrow—and today!

Most of you recently received the Mt. Carmel Congregational Life Directory. That booklet has in its pages many opportunities for serving, growing and finding community. I hope you will read this carefully to see if something there elicits a *push* from within. Then act on that push! Let somebody know.

And perhaps you're aware of the recent meeting members had in December where there was brainstorming about many various activities that we could do but are currently not doing. Make sure you read about those. They were sent to you in the Candle, and one or two of the ideas there might resonate with you. If so, we have the makings of experimenting with something new! Pay attention to the energy or interest that may be pushing you to act!

2020 will be an exciting year as we learn to not rely too heavily on pulling and more on pushing—the pushing of the Holy Spirit within each of us and our collective self as well.

God's Peace in 2020,  
Pastor John

# JOY (Just Older Youth) Group

## Feb. 18 at Elsie's

Since we have several of our participants currently basking in the warm sunshine climates and because our Minnesota weather is so unpredictable this time of year, our February gathering will be at Elsie's restaurant and bowling alley in northeast Minneapolis. We will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 18. Please let Karen Moeller (612-619-3743) know if you plan on attending no later than Sunday, Feb 16. Come and enjoy a delicious lunch and good fellowship with us! Special thanks to those of the JOY group who have served coffee on the first Sunday of the month. We will continue to do this throughout the year.

## 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/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/MtCarmelYAYA/). Questions about YAYA? Contact Jenni Lathrop at [jennifer.lathrop@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.lathrop@gmail.com) or 612-205-6007.

## Stay up-to-date

Stay in the know and subscribe to Mt. Carmel's weekly email, "The Candle." Sign up online at [mountcarmelmpls.org](http://mountcarmelmpls.org) or contact the office.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Be sure to mark your calendar now for these upcoming events. Watch future Tidings, the weekly Candle email and the Sunday bulletin for details.

### February

**Sunday, Feb. 9**—Scout Sunday in worship

**Tuesday, Feb. 17**—Group of JOY Lunch, 11:30 a.m.

**Thursday, Feb. 20**—Youth and Young Adult movie night, 6 p.m.

**Sunday, Feb. 23**—Scout pancake breakfast and silent auction

**Wednesday, Feb. 26**—Ash Wednesday worship service, 7 p.m.

### March

#### Wednesdays, March 4-April

**1**—Lenten suppers and worship, supper at 6 p.m. and worship 6:45 p.m.

**Sunday, March 15**—We Gather Together lunch after worship

**Thursday, March 19**—Youth and Young Adult movie night, 6 p.m.

### April

**Sunday, April 5**—Palm Sunday youth breakfast after worship

**Thursday, April 9**—Maundy Thursday worship service, 7 p.m.

**Friday, April 10**—Good Friday worship service, 7 p.m.

**Sunday, April 12**—Easter Sunday worship, 9:30 a.m.

**Thursday, April 16**—Youth and Young Adult movie night, 6 p.m.

## DEATHS

Bethel Flikke, Dec 14

Darryl Olson, Dec 24

Dori Shackle, Dec 29

Joyce Perfetti, Jan 14

## GIFTS RECEIVED

### Altar Guild

#### In memory of Marianne

**Hanna:** Marlene Brown

#### In honor of Jesus' birthday:

Chuck Grider

### To the Mt. Carmel Foundation

#### In memory of Bethel Flikke:

Ray & Lorraine Carlson

#### In memory of Marianne

**Hanna:** Susan Harris; John  
& Mary Hedberg; Daniel  
& Laurie Boeke; Peter  
& Jacquelyn Ostlund;  
Michael & Diann Butters;  
Betty Claussen; Julie  
Brueggemeier

#### In memory of Larry Harris &

**Sam Hanna:** With love from  
Susan Harris

#### In memory of Darryl Olson:

Richard & Margot Jacobson

## Save the Dates: Lent

- Ash Wednesday worship, Feb 26, 7 p.m.
- Lenten suppers and Services, Wednesdays, March 4-April 1; supper at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall; worship in the sanctuary at 6:45 p.m.
- Annual youth breakfast, Sunday, April 5, following worship
- Maundy Thursday worship service, April 9, 7 p.m.
- Good Friday worship service, April 10, 7 p.m.

## Have your charitable gift matched

Thanks to the Carl Johnson estate gift, charitable donations of \$25-50 dollars given by our members will be matched where the gift was given to charity providing support and services (must be given to a 503c charity, not-for-profit organization. No political organizations, PACs or Mt. Carmel programs.)

When members give a charitable gift, submit a receipt of charitable giving along with the completed form (available from the church office). If the organization checks out as a 503c organization the church office will issue a check directly to the organization matching your donation up to \$50. Let Mt. Carmel help increase your charitable giving. If you have questions, please contact Lynette Dubbels.

## 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.

## We'd like to stay in touch

If you have any changes in your contact information including dropping a land line, new cell phone number, email or physical address change, please contact the church office at [office@mountcarmelmpls.org](mailto:office@mountcarmelmpls.org).

# Keys to the Future campaign

The Keys to the Future campaign raised \$20,200 in gifts and pledges. With those funds, Abe Hunter has secured a pre-owned Steinway Model A piano for Mt. Carmel that is now in place in the sanctuary chancel. We purchased the piano for \$18,000 plus the trade-in of our old piano, a true bargain.

The 'Model A' is regarded as one of the finest concert quality instruments that Steinway has ever produced. We now have a truly beautiful instrument to enhance our worship space and, once we work through the deferred maintenance, we will have a top-quality piano that will allow Mt. Carmel to become a destination for the community and will last for many years to come.

The Keys to the Future campaign is more than a fund for the piano. The gifts received will also allow us to strengthen our music program and enrich our worship experience by way of guest musicians, modernizing our choir library and development of new initiatives.

If you have not invested in your "key" to the future, please consider making a gift today to support music ministry at Mt. Carmel.



## Putting your faith into action

Mt. Carmel's Social Ministry Committee is excited to offer \$50-\$100 grants to help pay for a service project's expenses that benefits others. Funds from the Carl Johnson estate gift have been earmarked for these "Putting Faith Into Action" grants. Here are some examples of how you might use these funds:

- Buy yarn to knit or crochet baby caps for premies or cancer patients.
- Buy supplies for a lemonade stand to benefit a charitable organization.
- Buy supplies for a sandwich making event for the homeless.
- Buy supplies for a work project like raking yards or painting a fence for a senior neighbor.
- Buy supplies for making fleece blankets to be donated.
- Buy food items to make dinner at Minneapolis Area Crisis Nursery or youth homeless shelter.

The Social Ministry Committee encourages families and individuals to apply for these grants. We will request that you provide a photo if possible of the event or of the items being donated so we can share with our Mt. Carmel family how these grants are being used. The process to apply for the funds will be simple. Just call Lynette Dubbels 612-788-7785 or Martha Hoppe 612-220-4457 for details including your service project idea and the date or schedule for the service project completion.

## TIDING SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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

- All articles and images should be emailed to [jennifer.lathrop@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.lathrop@gmail.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 and in weekly worship Powerpoint slides.
- 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.

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

## **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.

Feb. 9: Patty Griffith  
Feb. 10: Ron Handberg  
Feb. 12: Chuck Grider  
Feb. 16: Pr. George Cruys  
Feb. 17: Dick Jacobson  
Feb. 19: John Hedberg  
Feb. 22: Dorothy Warhol  
Feb. 28: Ethel Antonson

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.

## **SIMPLY GIVING**

Consider setting your 2020 pledge up for automatic withdrawal from your checking account or credit card. Go to the church website under "Giving" or look for the "Simply Giving" forms available in the Narthex to sign up. Contact Steve Robertson in the church office for more information.

# **Adult Forum**

## **February**

2—"Exploring Discipleship" with Karoline Lewis. Dr. Lewis will lead us in examining what it means to follow Jesus.

9—The gift of your personality (GPS 9) God made you with a unique personality in order to bring good things to this world. What is your personality? How can you celebrate it and see how God is using it for good?

16—"Being Church with Diverse Neighbors" with Bishop Mark Hanson. Mark Hanson is the former bishop of the ELCA and is now starting an institute at Augsburg University to develop interfaith community.

23—Fully utilizing the freedom of our faith (GPS 10). How can we embrace and celebrate the incomparable freedom we are given through God's grace, rather than see our faith as limiting us?

## **March**

1—GPS 11: The gift of the kingdom of God

8—GPS 12: The gift of partners

15—Small Catechism/Apostle's Creed/God the creator

22—Small Catechism/Apostle's Creed/God the creator

29—Small Catechism/Apostle's Creed/God the creator

## **April**

5—Small Catechism/Apostle's Creed/God the redeemer

12—Easter. No Adult Forum.

19—Small Catechism/Apostle's Creed/God the redeemer

26—Small Catechism/Apostle's Creed/God the redeemer

## **May**

3—Small Catechism/Apostle's Creed/God the empowerer

10—Small Catechism/Apostle's Creed/God the empowerer

17—Small Catechism/Apostle's Creed/God the empowerer

24—Memorial Day weekend. No Adult Forum.



## Out with the old, in with the new...

On Thursday, Jan. 16, Mt Carmel said "goodbye" to an old familiar friend. The Hobart commercial dishwasher that has served this congregation well for sixty years was retired. This workhorse, built of solid stainless steel, copper and cast iron was sent to the metal scrap yard for recycling. It was retired with a fond but quick farewell "From dust you came, and to dust you shall return."

The old dishwasher was quickly replaced with a Jackson HH model which works with just the flick of a switch. This new dishwasher is Energy-Star compliant, efficient and much more nimble in its functioning. It uses less water and power to do a better job of cleaning. Soon it will be fully function-

ing with new soap and rinse dispensers.

The new dishwasher has been made possible through the funding provided by several memorial gifts for Arleen Kirk and the Kirk family, a gift from the Mt. Carmel Foundation and funds collected over the years in the dedicated Funeral Committee account. Council member Tim Quinlan spear-headed the final selection and purchase of a unit with the able consultation of Ralph Matthes. Building Engineer Steve Panning helped to coordinate the installation with the plumbers and electricians and the unique challenges our building holds.



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

**Address Service Requested**

**Mt. Carmel  
Lutheran Church**

612-781-2796  
Fax: 612-781-1621

**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  
and 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 Wetzal, Director  
612-781-2798

THE HONOR OF YOUR  
PRESENCE IS REQUESTED AT

*Choir, Bells & Special Music*

ON A SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY\* OF YOUR CHOOSING

PLEASE RSVP AS THE SPIRIT MOVES YOU TO:  
ABE HUNTER IN-PERSON AT THE ORGAN ON SUNDAY, OR AT  
612-505-4599 OR WORSHIP@MOUNTCARMELMPLS.ORG

*\*Although choir and bells meet weekly, you may find that attending only  
one rehearsal prior to Sunday is perfect for you. We prepare music that is fun  
and approachable in a welcoming environment.  
Gift us only with the honor of your presence.*

Find us online!  [www.mtcarmel.net](http://www.mtcarmel.net)  /MountCarmelMpls