



TIDINGS

2021 LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Journey to the Cross: Encounters On the Way to the Cross

Deepen your Lenten journey as we hear from five biblical characters including Nicodemus, Mary, the mother of James and John, Caiaphas the high priest and others who encountered Jesus in their lives. As we stand in these characters shoes (sandals), seeing Jesus through their eyes, we will become more deeply engaged in our own journey to the cross. Through their encounters with Jesus, may we come to better know Jesus and understand what it means for us to encounter him in our own life and time.

Wednesday Lenten Worship: Feb. 24-March 24 at 7 p.m., Holden Evening Prayer

- Feb. 24—The Rich Young Man
- March 3—Mother of James and John
- March 10—Caiaphas the High Priest
- March 17—Pilate’s Wife
- March 24—Nicodemus

Holy Week Schedule:

- Palm Sunday Worship: March 28 at 10 a.m., “The Cry of the Congregation”
- Maundy Thursday Worship: April 1 at 7 p.m., Hand Washing
- Good Friday Worship: April 2 at 7 p.m., “The Stations of the Cross”
- Easter Sunday: April 4 at 10 a.m., Traditional Worship with Communion

MEET MT. CARMEL’S OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Great news! Julie Wilson has accepted the position of Office Administrator. She started Monday, Feb. 22! Julie is passionate about serving others. She is a life-long learner and has a wonderful volunteer and community service history.

Julie will be working 15 hours per week dividing her work week between First Lutheran (her other part time position) and Mt. Carmel. For now, Julie will be working at Mt. Carmel 8-11 a.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and 3-6 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday. This schedule might change in the future. We welcome Julie to Mt. Carmel.

Lynette Dubbels, Personnel Committee Member

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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.



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
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Office hours
By appointment

Interim Pastor

Christine Wenzel, ext. 103
pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org

Director of Faith Formation

Nick Ralston, ext. 121
faithformation@mountcarmelmpls.org

Office Administrator

Julie Wilson, ext. 101
office@mountcarmelmpls.org

Interim Director of Music

Ruth Bills, ext. 120
ruthabills@gmail.com

Maintenance Engineer

Steve Panning, ext. 104
building@mountcarmelmpls.org

Tidings

Jenni Lathrop
jenni@jennilathrop.com

Mt. Carmel Child Care

Brenda Wetzel, ext. 107
612-781-2798
childcare@mountcarmelmpls.org

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; Every Meal; 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.



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

I have been with you for a little over four months now—mostly connecting on-line because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Being that we are not meeting in person for worship or meetings or any other kind of gatherings, I realized I haven't shared much about what an interim pastor does. I know you were in interim time about five years ago, and may feel like you don't want to—or need to—do the work of interim ministry at this time. I also admit, I feel the challenges of all of this, but I do trust that God is working with us and through us.

Here are the eight foundations of interim ministry:

- **To maintain the vitality of the congregation.** What has worked? And what do you need to let go of as you move forward as a community of faith.
- **To bring closure to the previous pastor's ministry with you.** Some of you seem happy to see Pr. John leave. Others of you are sad that he chose to leave; "He married us." "He baptized our children." "He tried to make changes and people didn't like it."
- **To reinforce the ministry of the laity.** In my short time here, I have heard people say that Mt. Carmel needs a lot more volunteers. Recently, the council has listed over 10 areas of ministry that need your help.
- **To clarify the mission of the congregation.** What has been your mission? Has it changed or evolved over time? Does it reflect your emerging vision?
- **To address specific and special needs of the congregation.** Together, we will discover what the needs are in your community of faith, but also in your larger community.
- **To provide for a congregation self-study and develop a vision and mission plan.** A mission statement is a short sentence describing who you are—why you exist today. A vision statement tells what you are called to be and do.
- **To strengthen denomination ties.**
- **To prepare the congregation for your next leader.**

As I said at the annual meeting, I will be connecting with many of you to do one-on-ones. Through a series of conversations, I hope to identify high and low points; accomplishments and setbacks; shifts and major changes.

We need your perspectives and insights gained from your experiences. Talking about all of our experiences can heal wounds, resolves disputes and close gaps that keep people apart, freeing you, as a community of faith, to move forward together; to move forward creatively and effectively. To move forward!

You are in my prayers. Please hold me in yours!

Pastor Christine

MT. CARMEL CHILD CARE

The children at Mt. Carmel have been very busy this January learning about winter and Ice. The preschoolers experimented with freezing different containers with colored water and watching it freeze. The toddlers also enjoyed painting with frozen paint mixed with water.

In February we were excited to be able to hold small Valentines parties in our classrooms, we were even able to pass out Valentines! We talked about feelings, friends and food. We look forward to the warmer temps come spring where we can enjoy our beautiful outside play spaces.

—Brenda Wetzel, director, Mt. Carmel Child Care

NOTES FROM WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Things have been very busy in our little corner of Mt. Carmel. Many thanks to Laurel and Lynette Dubbels, Karen Moeller and Barb Hollister for packing and sending the Lenten packets to members of our Mt. Carmel family. You will also see several volunteers who have come forward to enhance our Sunday and Wednesday evening services.

We're looking to form a pop-up choir for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services. It will require a couple of rehearsals and singing special music those Sundays. Sing with us before? C'mon back! (This is a one-time commitment)

Watch for other happenings and come join us to make our Lenten and Easter season all that it can be.

Peace to All,
Ruth Bills, ruthabills@gmail.com

NEW BOOK STUDY STARTING IN MARCH

You may remember last summer that Pastor John started a book study to help us understand the realities of everyday life for a Black person living in the US and, yes, in Minnesota. We finished "The New Jim Crow" in September. What you may not know is this group has continued learning together and just finished the book "Caste."

We are going to continue learning together and invite anyone interested to join us. Our next book will be "Tightrope" by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn beginning Thursday, March 11.

We meet every other Thursday via Zoom, 6:30-8 p.m. (we're hoping to meet in person once the weather gets warmer and we can be outside). Schedules are busy so not everyone can meet each week and sometime when we meet not everyone has had a chance to read the chapters. That's okay! Everyone has something to say not only because of the book but because of things we've seen, heard or read since our previous meeting. We welcome your participation. If you are interested, please contact Barb Hollister at 612-590-6469 or bjhollister@comcast.net.

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Weekly Sunday

Announcements: Sunday mornings. Due by 5 p.m. the Wednesday prior.

The Candle weekly email:

Sent Wednesday mornings. Due by 10 a.m. the Tuesday prior.

The Tidings Monthly

newsletter: Mailed the last Wednesday of the month. Due by 10 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month (Please email all Tidings submissions to jenni@jennilathrop.com).

Please contact the office with your submissions or with any questions.

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

Stay updated on our community life. Join our email list to receive The Candle once a week, special announcements and important church communications.

To subscribe, email office@mountcarmelmpls.org or visit the church website at www.mtcarmel.net.

MEETING ONLINE

These groups are meeting online:

Reflect Group—Sundays at 11 a.m. (Contact Nick Ralston at faithformation@mountcarmelmpls.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.

TREASURER REPORT

YTD: Jan. 31, 2021

Mt Carmel Financials started the year in a positive mode. Please keep your giving up to date by mailing in your donation, dropping off at church mail box, or giving online at mountcarmelmpls.org/give.

Our Actual Income-Expense Ratio YTD January 31, 2021 was \$1,306.72. Last year at this time we were (11,441.43).

Income/ to expense

January Actual	January Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
\$1,306.72	(\$1,792.28)	\$1,306.72	(\$1,792.28)

*Diane Davis Langer
Mt. Carmel Church Treasurer*

MT. CARMEL FOUNDATION AND REQUESTING FUNDS

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 various Mt. Carmel ministries including higher education scholarships, staff development, lay leader training, facility repair and renovation, program supplies and equipment. The Foundation has also sponsored young families attending 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. Some big ticket sponsored items last year included funds toward the new dishwasher and \$7,000 towards boiler repairs.

Are you aware of a need that meets the guidelines? Are you wondering what the process is to request funds? Current policy calls for funding requests to be submitted two weeks prior to a Foundation Board of Directors meeting to the president of the Foundation. Meetings available this year for 2021 fund requests are March 16, May 18, Sept. 21 and Nov. 16. Persons requesting funds are asked to attend a portion of the meeting to explain the request. The request should be for the purpose of funding a church-related expense not provided for in the annual budget. Application forms can be found on the church website or contact Diane Langer at ddl2@aol.com or 612-718-4229.

Diane Davis Langer, Mt. Carmel Foundation President

COVID-19 TASK FORCE UPDATE

I have heard some frustration with the amount of information and direction we're putting out regarding Mt. Carmel's COVID-19 restrictions. I appreciate those comments and promise to do better, though there are times that we may simply not have any updates, in those instances, I will continue to explain why the task force is keeping the restrictions where they are.

First off, some good news: we will again open the church to small group meetings. We will follow the same rules as in August and September, with only the Choir Room and money counter's room (room 104) available for meetings. All meetings must be scheduled in advance with the church office, and the meeting organizer will be responsible for making sure that the protocols we have put in place are followed so that we can ensure the safety of those gathered at the meetings and for the staff and children of the child care.

You can find the procedures document on our website (mountcarmelmpls.org/small-group-meeting-protocols/), or contact the church office. We have made one change in the procedures, though, and that is to limit meetings in the Choir Room to 10 people for the time being.

We've done this because while the state guidance we follow hasn't been dialed back yet (limiting indoor social gatherings to two households and 10 people max.), the infection numbers have been in a consistent downward trend for several weeks, and other gatherings are being allowed.

While this is a milestone on the way to reopening for worship, we still will be closed to in-person worship for the foreseeable future. I've been asked why some churches are open and Mt. Carmel is not, and the answer is that while the state mandates say that we could reopen to up to 50% capacity as long as physical distancing is observed, we know that over 2/3 of the congregation are in the at-risk category. In addition, under current guidelines we could not have fellowship time or any social time in the building, and CDC, MDH and other guidance would prevent us from singing or recitations during indoor worship.

In the meantime, while it has been difficult for many to find the vaccine, we still strongly encourage everyone to get the vaccine as soon as they are eligible to do so. Targets for so-called "herd immunity" have mostly been above 75% of the population, and everyone will be safer if more people than that are vaccinated.

We still have no way of saying when the church building will reopen to normal operations. During the past year, many of the predictions of the virus' scope and danger have been largely correct. Minnesota and the nation have experienced two predicted waves, and many experts are now warning of a coming spike related to the new variants of the virus. As a result, even though there are positive trends at the moment, there is still too much uncertainty to make any predictions for our future path.

I would like to thank those who have been in touch and have expressed their frustrations and thoughts. The task force knows this has been a deeply challenging year, but we acknowledge that keeping you informed, even when there is no new information to share, is important.

As always, if you have any questions for us, please contact the church office, Pastor Christine, or Paul Lathrop.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

A lot has changed since our church directory was last done in 2017. It's time for an update and while we would like to do a picture directory, because of COVID, that will have to wait. In the meantime, we are going to put together a revised membership roster with updated contact information.

The plan is that all church members will be in the directory unless you OPT OUT! If you don't want to be listed in the directory or don't want your contact information shared within our church membership, please contact the church office. Also, please let the office know if your address, telephone or contact information has changed.

We are looking for a volunteer to help put this information together in an easy-to-use format. We'd love to hear from you if you can help with this important project. Please let Barb Hollister or the church office know if you are interested.

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.

March 1—Carol Kwiecien,
Virginia Schaal

March 14—Marlene Black

March 28—Ruth Emerson

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.

PRAYER CHAIN

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

NEXT TIDINGS DEADLINE

March 16, 10 p.m.

Submit articles to jenni@jennilathrop.com. Issues are delivered the first week of the month.

GOOD FRUITS

Good Fruits, a small Bible study group, continues to meet weekly on Tuesday afternoons at 2:30 p.m. At this time we are meeting via Zoom.

Our Good Fruits group has begun a new series with a Lent focus. We plan to use Epistle/New Testament lessons from the lectionary for each Sunday, as our study. We'd love to have you join us. We often have participants use internet or other resources as study guide to gain greater understanding to these texts, but that's not necessary. All are welcome.

Here are the lessons we will use:

- Romans 4:13-25, March 2
- 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, March 9.
- Ephesians 2:1-10, March 16.
- Hebrews 5:5-10, March 23.
- Hebrews 10:4-10, March 30.
- Philippians 2:5-11, April 6. (Easter is April 4).

We meet for an hour, there is no long term commitment, no book to purchase (we make the assumption that you have access to a Bible) and no limit if you want to attend just once, or only when your schedule allows.

If you'd like more information or the Zoom connection information, please contact Leona at onondave@yahoo.com. If you'd like to be on an email list to keep updated on a weekly basis, let Leona know that as well.

FAITH FORMATION AT A GLANCE:

Reflect: Reflect remains on! For security purposes, please email me if you would like to join us for Reflect. We continue to gather each week, after service, via Zoom, in the same time slot (11-11:45 a.m.) to retain the greatest sense of normalcy as possible! I invite you to join our conversation and fellowship and directly engage in this faith formation opportunity.

Confirmation: Confirmation is in full swing with monthly Zoom classes. We look forward to the spring to do some more outdoor classes.

Camp Wapo: A major Camp Wapo update! We currently have 10 of our Mt. Carmel youth signed up for the smaller-numbers and COVID-safe Camp Wapo weeks of camp! This was a joint effort as availability was even more limited this summer than it normally is at our beloved Camp Wapo, but Mt. Carmel is in and the kids are excited for camp!

Fundraisers: Faith formation exploring potential options for COVID-safe youth fundraisers in the spring—stay tuned.

Monthly Reminder: And 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 at faithformation@mountcarmelimpls.org! My virtual door is always open to working with people on new ideas.

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

*Blessings,
Nick Ralston, Faith Formation Director*

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Council met Tuesday, Feb. 9.

Church Directory: There is a need to provide an updated church directory so people can stay connected with current information. We need a volunteer to help format the information from our Church Management System into a document that can be shared with the congregation. A new printed directory with photos will be created after a new pastor is called.

Office volunteers: Lynette has a spreadsheet of duties that are being done by various volunteers until a new office manager is hired.

Personnel: Zac Copa has been hired for the five-hour financial position. The 15-hour office manager position is still open. Barb is sitting in on staff reviews in February.

Discretionary funds: As discussed at the annual meeting, the \$500 pastor's discretionary fund money was transferred from the undesignated memorial account to the Pastor's discretionary account.

Formation of new teams: With the many things that need to be done, and some of the work that was formerly done by the church administrator, we are in need of volunteers and the formation of teams to get this work done when the needs arise. Also mentioned in the meeting were the other active teams/groups that may need additional help.

- **Finance:** Diane Langer has found one person and may look for one more.
- **Property:** Doug will pull together a group of people to handle property concerns as needed
- **Stewardship:** Dave Larson and Pastor Christine will work on stewardship.
- **Communications:** Barb will work with Jenni Lathrop to form a communications team
- **Technology:** Patrick will work with the existing technology group to determine tech worship needs both during and post-COVID.
- **Constitution update:** Tim has some of the revision information and will work on updating the constitution.
- **Transition:** Karen will work with Pastor Christine when it is time to form a transition team.
- **Fundraiser:** Allison will work with Matti Gurney to begin plans for a fundraiser to raise funds for our commitment to Every Meal (formerly The Sheridan Story).

Officer elections: Having no new volunteers for president, vice president or secretary, nominations were made and approved for Tim Quinlan to serve as 2021 council president, Barb Hollister to serve as vice president and Karen Matthes to serve as secretary.

We are looking into the odor issue in the pastor's office and hope to replace the carpet soon in the main office.

On March 13 there is a Synod Toolkit event for church leaders, <https://mpls-synod.org/event/tool-kit/>

The Synod Assembly is on March 23 & 24.

—Karen Matthes

WATCH SUNDAY'S WORSHIP ONLINE

Did you miss worship this week or would you like to watch it again? You can watch the recorded videos on our website at mountcarmelmpls.org/category/worship following worship each week. We also post the text to the sermon at mountcarmelmpls.org/pastors-page/sermons (when available).

MT. CARMEL COUNCIL

Tim Quinlan, President

Barb Hollister, Vice President

Karen Matthes, Secretary

Diane Langer, Treasurer

Allison Gurney

Doug Jones

Dave Larson

Patrick Lathrop



Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

1701 St. Anthony Parkway NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

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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.

Interim Pastor

Christine Wenzel

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.



612-781-2796



office@mountcarmelmpls.org



www.mtcarmel.net



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