



TIDINGS

April 2021

QUIET PRAYER IN THE SANCTUARY ON GOOD FRIDAY

As we await the full reopening of our physical church, we know how important it is during Holy Week to come to church and pray. Mt. Carmel will open the sanctuary to quiet in-person prayer on Good Friday, April 2, from 1-6 p.m.

Before coming to church, please conduct a self-check to make sure you aren't experiencing any COVID symptoms. While we don't know how many people may be in the sanctuary at any given time, determine for yourself if you will feel safe indoors with others.

Once at church, please follow these protocols:

- Enter the main door at the corner of Ulysses and St. Anthony Parkway.
- Everyone will be asked to sign in.
- Please wear a mask at all times in the building.
- Remain six feet from anyone not from your household (so no hugs or handshakes, please), and refrain from socializing.
- Pews will be marked off to indicate where you can sit.
- Exit via the stairs and door on the 31st Street side, and do not walk into or through any other areas of the church.
- The restrooms downstairs in the hall outside of Fellowship Hall will be available, but we ask that they be used only if absolutely necessary.
- The elevator will be available if needed.

There will be a volunteer available to direct you if needed.

PLANTS-A-PLenty CHILD CARE CENTER PLANT SALE

Let the Child Care Center help you plan your flower and veggie gardens this year. Our annual plant sale fundraiser will be Saturday and Sunday, May 15-16. See the pre-order form inside the Tidings for plants offered at a discount for those ordering early. Pre-orders will be available for pick up on Thursday and Friday, May 13-14. Completed pre-orders are due Wednesday, April 7 to Brenda Wetzel, child care director.

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HOLY WEEK AT MT. CARMEL

- **Palm Sunday, March 28 at 10 a.m.:** Cry of the Congregation
- **Maundy Thursday, April 1 at 7 p.m.:** Hand Washing
- **Good Friday, April 2 at 1-6 p.m.:** Quiet Prayer in the Sanctuary
- **Good Friday, April 2 at 7 p.m.:** Stations of the Cross
- **Easter Sunday, April 4 at 10 a.m.**

All services will be live on Mt. Carmel's Facebook page.



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
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
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Maintenance Engineer

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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.



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

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

A LOSS OF PURPOSE

I have been with you for five months now! In the next couple of months, I will be contacting some of you to hear your various voices on who you understand you are, and what you believe is important to do as a member of Mt. Carmel. Our conversations are full of stories, memories, and hopes. Real change begins with the simple action of people talking about what they actually care about. As you plan for the future, know that planning is discernment—people expressing their differences and their perceptions.

Here is a wonderful fable written by an unknown author, called, "A Fable of a Loss of Purpose."

Once upon a time, a group of concerned citizens decided to build a lighthouse in order to aid those in distress at sea. Even more, this group decided not only to provide a beacon of light for those who were lost, but also to form rescue squads who would brave dangerous waters to save those imperiled by shipwrecks.

In the beginning, the purpose of the group was clear; everyone who joined them knew that they, too, would be trained to save people in distress. Within a short time, however, some who joined the group began to question whether it was necessary to answer every distress signal. "Perhaps," they said, "it would be acceptable to have only certain hours when they would be on duty."

Next, they began to wonder if it were necessary for everyone to be a part of the rescue mission. "Perhaps," they thought, "only certain members should go out, while most just watched from shore."

After a time, the rescue mission stopped altogether, and the group said, "Enough of going out to sea. If the people are lost, we've got a light on our house to guide them. They can simply follow the light."

Next, the group began to be more concerned about the comfort of the lighthouse and their own safety. They began to argue about the interior design and the exterior decorations of the lighthouse. In addition, they did not want wet and soggy people, rescued from the sea, messing up the lighthouse.

The more they argued, the dimmer the light on the house became. One day the light went out, and no one even noticed.

Finally, the group had a nice, comfortable house, and they changed its' name from "Lighthouse" to "Clubhouse."

During this interim time, let us allow space and time for the intrusion of God, or the movement of the Spirit to continue to create a "lighthouse."

You are in my prayers. Please keep me in yours!
Pr. Christine

COVID TASK FORCE UPDATE

The COVID Task Force met on Thursday, March 18. We continue to watch the numbers and guidance from the state to help us determine when we can reopen for in-person worship. We do not have a definite date yet, but can offer some hope.

Unfortunately, we do not feel that we can safely reopen for Easter worship. The infection numbers have been on a slow climb again, and we are concerned by the possibility of a wave of infections related to the COVID variants as well as an expectation that there still will be a large number of people who will not have been vaccinated by that time. Many ELCA churches in the area will also remain closed for Easter, so we are remaining in alignment with them.

While this is certainly not good news, we did decide to pursue several other ideas. First, as noted elsewhere in the “Tidings,” the sanctuary will be open to quiet prayer on Good Friday from 1-6 p.m. We did set protocols that everyone who wishes to attend will need to follow, including remaining six feet apart from people from other households, and wearing a mask at all times in the building. Please see that article for more details.

We are also planning for a late-April outdoor worship service. We haven’t been together since late October, and we want to have a service that will allow us to reconnect as soon as the weather allows.

And finally, we are being flexible with this, understanding that trends and numbers with this virus change frequently, but we are working toward an in-person indoor or outdoor worship for May. With the belief that most adults in Minnesota will be vaccinated by the end of May, this seems like an achievable target.

That brings me to something all of us on the task force agreed on: if you have the opportunity to receive a vaccine, we urge you to do so. As I’m writing this (on March 18), about 14% of the state’s population has completed the vaccine series, and that’s been through two-plus months of vaccination. While vaccine programs are ramping up, we still have a long way to go to reach that herd immunity point—or a level where people can safely gather together because the chances of anyone carrying the virus in that gathering would be very low.

I’ve been asked by a few people recently why we can’t just open up to those who have been fully vaccinated. There are a couple of issues with this approach, the most important of which is that the majority of the state’s population isn’t yet eligible—or is eligible, but can’t get the vaccine due to supply. Opening worship only to those who are vaccinated explicitly excludes those who haven’t been vaccinated.

The bottom line is this: we’re still waiting for our primary goal of a safe return to in-person worship to come into sight. We are doing what we can to plan for the next steps, but we also need you to do your part—get vaccinated, wear your mask in public places, stay distanced from those from other households and be safe. I invite you to contact any of us on the task force if you have questions. The members are: Diane Langer, Rich Feist, Lynette Dubbels, Pr. Christine and myself.

Paul Lathrop, COVID-19 Task Force

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.

MT. CARMEL COUNCIL

Tim Quinlan, President

Barb Hollister, Vice President

Karen Matthes, Secretary

Diane Langer, Treasurer

Allison Gurney

Doug Jones

Dave Larson

Patrick Lathrop

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)

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.

April 8: Gerry Johnson
April 14: Robert Anderson
April 16: Bill McReavy

PRAYER CHAIN

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

TREASURER REPORT

YTD: February 28, 2021

Good news for Mt. Carmel. We have received official word that the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan received by Mt Carmel in 2020 was forgiven. Year to date, Mt. Carmel is in the positive at \$6,625.11. This is due to significantly lower expense than budgeted in February.

February

Actual Contributions/ Income	Pledged/Budgeted Contributions/ Income
\$19,594.75	\$22,852.88

Actual Expense	Budgeted Expense
\$14,276.36	\$24,798.69

Actual income/expense for year to date 2021: \$6,625.11

Though we have delayed pledging process for 2021 due to the pandemic, please consider keeping your giving and planned pledges up to date. We pray pledges and giving keeps us on a healthy trend in 2021.

Diane Davis Langer, Mt. Carmel Church Treasurer

MT CARMEL CHURCH IN MINNEAPOLIS FOUNDATION:

The Foundation is fortunate to be able to offer funding for some upcoming ministries and upgrades for our church. In the first quarter of 2021 we are able to support up to \$7,000 for a much needed technological upgrade that is taking place this year, updating our phone, computer and internet systems and say good-bye to our antiquated server and systems.

We are also again supporting the Mt Carmelites softball team in their registration, and providing close to \$5,000 in scholarships to 11 Mt. Carmel children who are attending Camp Wapo in August. What a blessing to provide these funds and that these activities will take place this summer providing evangelism and comraderie for our members.

We are in process of reviewing the 2021 scholarship applications and will be announcing those recipients in May.

We are blessed to have this resource to enable Mt Carmel members to live God's word with these gifts.

Reminder: 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. The next meeting is May 18, and requests due by May 4. Persons requesting funds are asked to attend an early portion of the meeting 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. Questions: Call Diane Langer at ddl2@aol.com or 612-718-4229.

Diane Davis Langer, Mt. Carmel Foundation President

SOFTBALL FEVER, START THE WARM-UPS!

The Mt. Carmelites softball team is celebrating 30 seasons!

- Wanted: Mt. Carmelite co-ed softball players, 18 to 107. Previous experience is not required.
- When: All games played on Tuesday evenings. First game is Tuesday, May 4, time and place to be determined
- Where: New Brighton. Fields and game times will be emailed and in the May Tidings.
- Practice: Sunday, April 25 and May 2 at 1 p.m. at Waite Park on (33rd & Ulysses St NE), weather permitting. Give it a try!

Come join in the fun and fellowship! We would love you to join the fun as players or fans.

Call Diane Langer at 612-718-4229 or email her at ddl2@aol.com to sign up for for more information. A sign up will also be posted outside the church office in hopes we will be back in the building soon.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Council met Tuesday, March 9.

- Paul Lathrop gave an update from the COVID-19 Task Force. Things keep changing and the task force will continue to follow recommendations from the state. The task force is developing a one-page flyer to send to the congregation. Currently there are no plans for in-person services or opening the church completely. Small groups of 10 can meet in the church choir room or six people in room 104, socially distanced. Signs will be added to these rooms with the proper cleanup instructions for those using the space.
- Members will be asked to update their information (address, phone, etc) in advance of creating a new church directory (no photos). The directory will be made available to church members only for download. Some printed copies will be available for pick-up and delivered to members who cannot drive.
- The Synod Assembly on April 23-24 is open to a few members to attend along with Pastor. An announcement will be provided in the Candle.
- Time and talent sheets will be updated and sent out with a stewardship letter.
- New teams are being formed to work on some of the many things that need to be done and watched over. Last month we identified some initial teams and discussed updates from council members (finance, property, stewardship, communications, Every Meal fundraising—formerly Sheridan Story—technology, updating the constitution and transition). There are many opportunities for members to get involved but it is a challenge to get things moving from a distance.

Karen Matthes, Secretary

DIRECTORY OPT-OUT

A reminder that we will be updating the church directory and we need your input. If any of your information has changed (address, email or phone), please let the church office know by Friday, April 30. Contact the office at 612-781-2796 or office@mountcarmelimpls.org. A reminder that Julie is not in the office every day but you can leave a message and she will get it. If you do not want your contact information in the updated directory, you need to let the church office know that you are OPTING OUT. And because of COVID we will not be creating a picture directory at this time.

GIFTS RECEIVED

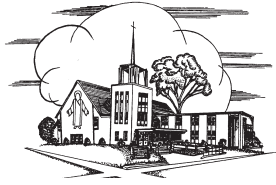
To the Foundation

Given in memory of Rollo Black: Marlene Black, Scott & Terry Black

NEXT TIDINGS DEADLINE

April 20, 10 p.m.

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



Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

1701 St. Anthony Parkway NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

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Address Service Requested

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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