



TIDINGS

EVERY MEAL PACKING EVENT

Every Meal—formerly The Sheridan Story—has open slots available for food packing on May 24 from 1-2 p.m. Join Mt. Carmel volunteers to pack food for Every Meal! 20 spots are reserved for Mt. Carmel members.

Mt. Carmel has supported Every Meal for over six years through amazing fundraisers, packing lockers at Waite Park Elementary School and working at the distribution center preparing meal bags. During this time of pandemic-imposed social distancing and economic downturn, we must step up and do some work for our children in our communities.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Matti Gurney at Matti.Gurney@gmail.com or 651-269-2167. If you'd rather donate directly to Mt. Carmel's financial commitment Every Meal, please contact the church office or send a check directly to the church indicating that the funds be part of Mt. Carmel's commitment.

Mt. Carmel is committed to supporting this effort through recent council actions to support the 2019-2020 school year and the 2020-2021 school year. Please help Mt. Carmel support and get meals in children's homes.

PLANTS-A-PLENTY PLANT SALE FUNDRAISER

Pre-order plant pickup: Thursday, May 14 and Friday, May 15, noon to 4 p.m.

In-person plant sale: Saturday, May 15 and Sunday, May 16, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Your favorite annuals, hanging baskets and patio pots. Flowers and vegetables available both days!

Online buying and outside pickup: At Pletscher's Greenhouse Garden Center, May 17-23. Order on Pletscher's website at pletschers.com, use **mtcarmelchildcare** (all one word) at checkout and the Childcare Center will receive 10 percent of the order purchased. Top soil, mulch, fertilizer, annuals, hanging baskets, patio pots, gloves and other garden tools included.

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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.

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612-781-2796
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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

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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

Pondering is such a good title for my newsletter articles. When I looked up the meaning of pondering, it says to think on or reflect deeply about something. It also stated that some common synonyms of ponder are meditate, muse and ruminate. There has been a lot of things to ponder over the past year, months, weeks and days.

With COVID numbers on the rise again; with the trial, and now verdict of former police officer Derek Chauvin taking place; with mass shootings and more killings of black people by police; with conversations around when we should open for in-person worship, it seems all we can do is ponder all these things in our hearts, just like Mary pondered—in her heart—all that it will mean to bring the baby Jesus into the world.

With all the disruptions, uncertainties and questions we all carry, we might ponder just what it is that God is doing in the midst of all this? Our Minneapolis Interim Pastor's Group met on Zoom last week, and we talked about the hybrid church of the future. In other words, we asked the questions, what will the church look like after the pandemic? What have we learned? What are some new possibilities? Is the Spirit calling Mt. Carmel into something new?

Susan Beaumont is a church resource person. Her mission states that every faith-based organization has a God-given mission that is a unique reflection of the community it serves. Susan reminds us that we are in that liminal space—the space between that which we were familiar with and comfortable with, and the new unknown. All of us, in our interim meeting, admitted we don't know what the future church will look like.

Here are some predictions for the future church:

- Some churches will close: They were already there before the pandemic.
- Some churches will just survive: Will look back to the familiar past and what was.
- Other churches will thrive: These forward-looking churches will welcome change.
- Church buildings will be used more as a hub for mission outside the walls.
- Can no longer avoid talking about current issues. Stop saying "political," and start saying "gospel."
- Social media presence will continue.
- Physical gatherings will look smaller.
- 70% of boomers will be in-person. Most everyone else will have an on-line presence.
- Congregations will partner in ministry.

As we ponder the future of Mt. Carmel, remember that first and foremost, we are called to be faithful to a loving and faithful God.

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

TROOP 132 PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Scout Troop 132 will hold the 22nd Annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, May 23, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Mt. Carmel. The cost this year will be \$7 for a breakfast that includes pancakes, sausage and eggs. This year's breakfast will be curbside pickup only. Troop 132 will not be providing any indoor or outdoor seating.

COVID TASK FORCE UPDATE

First off, the good news: We are planning at least two worship services in May. The first, an outdoor service on Sunday, May 2, and the second—likely outdoors as well—on Sunday, May 16. And there may be another in-person service on May 23.

At this time, we do not know when we will return to indoor worship. But we are hopeful that the signs will be there for a safe return soon.

COVID continues to be challenging, and as hopeful as things are with vaccinations fully underway, the infection rates are climbing right now, particularly affecting younger people in our community—the group that is the least vaccinated at this time, and is particularly susceptible to the new variants of the virus.

The task force has been struggling with some of the numbers we're seeing: to date, the state reports that 30% of the population have been fully vaccinated and about 42% of the state has received at least one dose. Vaccinations to those under the age of 16 haven't happened at all, and vaccinations to the general adult population have only really been open for a few weeks. And meanwhile there are still close to 2000 new infections reported per day.

We fully understand the desire to return to in-person worship and return to "normal." We know that our congregation is older, and that our vaccination numbers may be higher than the general population. But as we've said consistently through this pandemic, we believe it still isn't safe for an at-risk population to gather indoors in a large number.

But there is reason for hope, even if that hope isn't immediately at hand.

We will be seeking our input soon in the form of a survey, available both online and sent in the mail from the office. More details will be coming shortly, but if you do not have internet access or would prefer a printed survey to complete and mail back, please contact the office to have it sent to you when it is ready. This survey will help us understand what your comfort level is with resuming church activities, and will help us decide when the time will be right to return to indoor worship as a congregation.

I know this past year hasn't been easy on anyone. And I know that Mt. Carmel is one of those places you can turn to to help you lighten your heart in times of trouble. And we can't be there for each other in person. Yet. Thank you for your patience and for staying safe and keeping others safe as well. Soon, we will be able to be there in person for each other again.

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

GIFTS RECEIVED

TO THE FOUNDATION

Happy Mother's Day!

In memory of Marian

Hegstrom: Marlys Hegstrom

FOOD BASKET THANKS

Many thanks to our Mt. Carmel family for your generosity and continued support of our Food Basket Outreach Program. Because of COVID-19—and like we did at Thanksgiving—we mailed Cub gift cards rather than trying to deliver food. We were able to help 17 families; six were referrals from the Northeast Seniors and 11 were Mt. Carmel members, family members or friends. As you know, this outreach has been going on for many years and it continues because of you.

We have a limited amount of funds remaining in the food basket account. If you would like, you can still financially support this program by mailing your check to Mt. Carmel with the notation “food basket outreach.”

May God bless each of you as you have blessed the families we help.

Kathy Halverson and Barb Hollister

PLANT SALE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to help move plants and flats. We really could use your help for a short period of time. This is really one of those tasks where many hands make light work. Bring the family and help us setup and pack-up each day of the plant sale. Call Brenda at 612-781-2798 and let her know what time you can help.

Volunteers are needed:

- Thursday morning, May 13 at 7:30 a.m. to unload delivery truck.
- Thursday afternoon, May 13 anytime between 2-5 p.m. to move patio pots and hanging baskets to garden area.
- Saturday morning, May 15 at 7:30 a.m. to unload delivery truck and setup for Saturday sales.
- Saturday afternoon, May 15 at 4 p.m. to bring plants in after sale day.
- Sunday morning, May 16 at 9 a.m. to setup for Sunday sales.
- Sunday afternoon, May 16 at 4 p.m. to bring plants in after sale day.

MT. CARMELITES SOFTBALL

Come see the team or join in to play

You can still get on the roster and get in a practice. We will practice Sunday, May 2 at 1 p.m. at Waite Park (weather permitting) to warm up before our first game.

Spectators! Come and enjoy outdoor softball.

Our first game is Tuesday, May 4, at 9 p.m. at the Lions Park Softball Field at Long Lake Regional Park in New Brighton.

Fans are asked to follow social distancing rules, there are stands there and a few picnic tables, or bring your own chair. Players will be wearing masks

- May 4, 9 p.m.—Mt. Carmelites vs. Adagios
- May 11, 9 p.m.—Mt. Carmelites vs. BobDogs Blvd Autoworks
- May 18, 6 p.m.—Mt. Carmelites vs. That Pitch Cray
- May 25, 6 p.m.—Mt. Carmelites vs. Pitch Please
- June 1, 9 p.m.—Mt. Carmelites vs. Beauties and Beasts
- June 8, 6 p.m.—Mt. Carmelites vs. Booze it or Lose It
- June 15, 7 p.m.—Mt. Carmelites vs. Straight Outta Quarantine
- June 22, 7 p.m.—Mt. Carmelites vs. Adagios
- June 28, 6 p.m.—Mt. Carmelites vs. BobDogs Blvd Autoworks
- July 6, 6 p.m.—Mt. Carmelites vs. That Pitch Cray

All games will be at the Lions Park Ball Field at Long Lake Regional Park.

If you are interested in joining the team, or for more information, call Diane Langer at 612-718-4229 or email ddl2@aol.com.

DO YOU LOVE TECHNOLOGY? WE COULD USE YOUR HELP

As it looks like we may be returning to in-person worship in the near future, we are seeking volunteers to help with the Worship Technology Team

The basic role of the Worship Technology Team will be to help run and support the technology side of worship. During in-person worship, this work includes advancing the slide show, adjusting volume on the microphones and basic troubleshooting before and during the worship service. With our move to live-streaming worship, the team also runs the live-streaming, including setting up the cameras, adjusting the screen as needed, and keeping an eye on any prayers in the live-stream comments.

Once in-person worship resumes, we would ideally have two members of the team for each service. One to run the live-stream and camera, and one to run the sound and slide show. Ideally, we would like eight to 10 people on this team, with the goal of having each person help with worship once a month. We will train everyone on what to do and how to troubleshoot, so no experience is required.

If you are interested in joining the Worship Technology team, please email Patrick Lathrop at patrick@lathropworld.com.

FAITH FORMATION AT A GLANCE

- Reflect. Reflect remains on! For security purposes, please email me if you want to join us for Reflect. We continue to gather each week after service, via Zoom from 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.
- Confirmation Sunday! Mark your calendars everyone. Confirmation Sunday will be during our outdoor service on May 16! We invited you to join us in celebrating our confirmands in this long-overdue celebration: Leif Kutzer, Max Labandz, Henrik Nordeen and Nik Nordeen.
- 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, but Mt. Carmel is in and the kids are excited for camp!
- Monthly Reminder. And as always, what are your ideas? If you have an idea that is not listed above for something 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*

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.

PRAYER CHAIN

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

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)

Anti-Racism Book Club—Every other Thursday (Contact Barb Hollister at 612-590-6469 or bjhollister@comcast.net)

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.

5/1 – Kay McReavy

CELEBRATE NICK RALSTON

Join us on May 23 as we celebrate the ministry of Nick Ralston, faith formation director, and wish him farewell. His last day with us will be May 31.

ARE YOU CREATIVE OR ARTISTIC?

Do you like to write, edit or work with various social media platforms?

Do you have ideas for articles of interest or information to share?

If you answered yes to any of these, we hope you will join us. We're putting together a small team of volunteers to help communicate and connect with our congregation and with our neighborhood. We're just getting started and would welcome your ideas and participation. If you are interested, please talk to Barb Hollister, Karen Matthes or Jenni Lathrop.

TREASURER REPORT

YTD: March 31, 2021

Positive news! Mt. Carmel giving was above projected budget for March, expenses close to budgeted for March. Our actual income-to-expense ratio year to date, March 31, was \$2562.19. Last year at this time we were -15,763.17.

While we are doing considerably better than last year, we did pass a 2021 budget with a (\$25,246.19) deficit. Please keep your pledges up to date, and thank you for your gifts to continue to erase our deficit. We pray that Mt. Carmel pledges and giving remains on this positive trend.

March Actual Income	March Budgeted Income	YTD 3-31-21 Actual Income	YTD 3-31-2021 Budgeted Income
\$28,364.20	\$23,252.88	\$77,636.75	\$69,112.01

March Actual Expenses	March Budgeted Expenses	YTD 3-31-2021 Actual Expenses	YTD 3-31-2021 Budgeted Expenses
\$25,802.01	\$24,798.69	\$68,517.57	\$74,395.91

Income/ to expense

March Actual	March Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
\$2562.19	(\$1545.81)	\$9,119.18	(\$5283.90)

Diane Davis Langer, Mt. Carmel Church Treasurer

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Council met Tuesday, April 13.

- The Congregational Life Directory and Time and Talent form will be updated and then made available to the congregation.
- The pastor will be attending the Synod Assembly on April 23-24 and will provide an update in May.
- The council affirmed and recognized the four youth confirmands being confirmed on May 16: Henrik Nordeen, Nik Nordeen, Max Labanz and Leif Kutzer.
- The Minneapolis Area Synod has asked the Minneapolis chief of police and other civic leaders to help churches prepare for the week of the verdict in the Chauvin trial. Mt. Carmel will follow their recommendations for safety.
- The COVID Task Force is planning for a few outdoor, in-person worship services in May.
- Scouts are planning for a modified pancake breakfast at the end of May.
- Team updates were provided:

Finance—Diane Langer and Bob Hollister are looking for a couple of people to join the finance team.

Property—Doug Jones provided a report that listed a few projects that are being worked on or need to be worked on. These include roof leak/repair, carpeting in the office, and LED bulb replacement options.

Stewardship—Dave Larson is working on an idea to reach out to the congregation and noted there will be a stewardship drive next fall.

Communications—Barb Hollister and Karen Matthes are meeting with Jenni Lathrop to discuss forming a communication team.

Every Meal fundraiser—Matti and Allison Gurney are tossing around event ideas, similar to last year for food packing and a volunteer event. We need to raise \$3,000 for Mt. Carmel's commitment to the Every Meal program and talked about doing the Third Sunday ministry, and planning additional fundraising.

Technology—Patrick Lathrop has written up information for the time and talent/congregational life directory in order to begin recruiting volunteers. This team will need two volunteers every Sunday when we return to in-person worship.

Constitution update—Tim Quinlan said he will need assistance getting this work done.

Transition—Pastor Christine will be meeting with the executive team to determine when to begin the transition process/forming a team.

The May and June council meetings will move to May 10 and June 14 to avoid a conflict with the Mt. Carmel softball games.

Pastor John Strommen was leading our involvement with the Partnership for Missional Church (PMC), a program that was just getting started pre-COVID. The three-year program has been on hold during COVID. Pastor Christine mentioned an ELCA program that sounded similar, but she didn't have details to share with the council during the meeting. .

Karen Matthes, Secretary

NEXT TIDINGS DEADLINE

May 18, 10 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE:

The June & July issues are combined. The August deadline will be July 20.

Submit articles to
jenni@jennilathrop.com.

Issues are delivered the first week of the month.

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.



Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

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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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