



TIDINGS

June/July 2021

WORSHIP TIME CHANGE

Beginning June 6, Mt. Carmel will return to worshipping at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

The first and third Sundays in June are outdoors, and the second and fourth Sundays are indoors. Reservations will be required for indoor, in-person worship. See the article on page 4

INDOOR WORSHIP: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Mt. Carmel will return to in-person, indoor worship on June 13 and June 27. Here's what you need to know:

- Masks and distancing will be required at all times in the building.
- Please perform a self-check for COVID-19 symptoms before coming to church. If you have any symptoms, please stay home.
- Capacity will be limited to 54. Reservations will be required to attend worship. You can reserve your slot beginning June 4 by contacting the office or going here: <https://rsvp.church/r/TLwHspGM>.
- Enter the church through the main doors on St. Anthony Parkway, leave via the the 31st Avenue door unless you need to use the elevator.
- Communion will be offered using the pre-packaged kits that have been used for our recent outdoor worship services.
- No bus transportation will be available.
- The bathrooms outside of the Fellowship Hall doors will be available.
- There will be no fellowship time following these worship services.
- All services will continue to be livestreamed on Facebook Live.

NOW HIRING: PART-TIME OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church is offering a flexible part-time Office Administrator position where you have the opportunity to do a variety of tasks, interact with congregants and the surrounding community while working in Northeast Minneapolis. If you're interested (or know someone who might be), check out the job description at https://bit.ly/MtC_OfficeAdmin and reach out for more information.

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

Office hours
By appointment

Interim Pastor
Christine Wenzel, ext. 103
pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org

Office
ext. 101
office@mountcarmelmpls.org

Interim Director of Music
Ruth Bills, ext. 120
ruthbills@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.



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

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Since I began my interim ministry at Mt. Carmel, I have heard some say that it seems like the same people do everything. I know it has been a year and a half since this pandemic began, but now we are moving towards opening in-person worship, meetings, and in all sorts of ways, we need all sorts of volunteers. The church is talking about opening up more and more, which means the need for more and more of you to fill the needs of getting back to in-person ministries.

You may have recognized by now that I love fables. Fables use stories to tell us about our identity without saying exactly what is meant. So here is another favorite which was lovingly shared with the staff at Mt. Carmel.

An elderly Chinese woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which she carried across her neck. One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water.

At the end of the long walks from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water.

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But, the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the woman one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house."

The old woman smiled, "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them."

For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table.

Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house.

So, to all of my cracked pot friends, have a great day and remember to smell the flowers on your side of the path!

Now, as we prepare to come back together in-person soon, and as the ministry of Mt. Carmel grows, remember, each of us has our own unique flaw. And it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. Let's celebrate each person for what they are and look for the good in them! Thanks be to God!

Pastor Christine Wenzel, Interim Pastor

MT. CARMEL CHILD CARE

A big thank you to all who bought, helped, and spread the word with our plant sale! We had gorgeous weather and another wonderful sale. Over the years this sale has helped us to buy new gym and outside toys, pay for staff training and ensure we have the right amount of art supplies our wonderful children use each day. As we see familiar faces that come back each year from our neighborhood, we are reminded of the wonderful support we receive from our Mt. Carmel community.

Brenda Wetzel, Director



THANK YOU TEACHERS!

"We Love Our Teachers" was the heartfelt message from the childcare board to the childcare teachers. This past year was a doozy in the childcare world and the board wants everyone to know how much we appreciate our teachers!

CONGRATULATIONS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to the following individuals who will be receiving Foundation Scholarships for the 2021-22 school year:

- Dylan Evans
- Vanessa Larson
- Zoe Lathrop

Providing student scholarships to be used towards our members' education tuition is a long-standing tradition that the Mt Carmel Foundation looks forward to awarding each year.

God's Blessings to each of these students as they further their education.

*Karen Moeller
Mt. Carmel Foundation Scholarship Committee Chair*

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

In honor of Larry A. Smith:
Myrna Flatland

Happy Father's Day!
In memory of Werner
Hegstrom: Marlys Hegstrom

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.

TASK FORCE UPDATE

The COVID Task Force is excited to announce that we are planning a return to indoor worship on June 13! To help ensure that we are keeping everyone safe as we resume normal church activities, we will be returning in stages. For June, we will have an outdoor worship service on June 6, the indoor worship on June 13, an outdoor service again on June 20 and indoor again on June 27. For these indoor services, we ask that everyone remain masked when in the building and maintain a 6-foot distance between individuals or households.

We will implement a reservation system to ensure that we are not over capacity, and signing up for a slot in this system will be required of all who wish to attend the indoor, in-person worship. There will not be reserved seats, just available spaces for people/households to sit. **You may begin reserving your or your household's slots on Friday, June 4 for both indoor services by either contacting the office or going to <https://rsvp.church/r/TLwHspGM>.** If you are able to sign up for a slot in one indoor service, please do not take a slot in the other indoor service to allow everyone to have a chance to attend these services if they wish. All worship services will continue to be livestreamed on Facebook Live.

Communion will be offered using the pre-packaged kits that have been used at the outdoor worship services. There will not be any fellowship time following these services. We ask that everyone attending worship enter through the main door on St. Anthony Parkway, and exit via the 31st Avenue door unless you need to use the elevator. The bathrooms in the hall outside of the elevator and Fellowship Hall will be available for use. Please stay out of areas used by the child care, including the main floor of the education wing, the women's bathroom on that level, and Fellowship Hall. Unfortunately, we will not offer bus transportation for these June services.

We ask that everyone self-assess themselves for COVID symptoms before coming to church on any Sunday we are together, whether indoors or out. If you have any symptoms, please stay home.

The task force will continue to monitor and adjust our response as necessary, and will announce plans for July worship as soon as we are able, but for now, no decision has been made.

We understand that while this return to worship may not be exactly what some people may have hoped for, we ask for your patience and cooperation with the protocols we have put in place. Keep in mind that while you may be fully vaccinated, there will be people attending worship who are not—including children under 12 who are not eligible for the vaccination, so we will continue to mask and distance for those who may still be at risk.

We also understand the desire to stop wearing masks and maintaining distancing. But please keep in mind that while the state has rescinded the mask mandate, at the time of this publication the City of Minneapolis continues its mask mandate, and we must follow that guidance in addition to any additional protocols we feel are necessary.

We hope to be back to a relative normal by the fall, but we need to see increased vaccination numbers and lower infection rates.

There will be more information coming over the next couple of weeks about these services. Please continue to watch the Facebook page, the Candle email and the Sunday announcements.

Paul Lathrop

MT. CARMELITES SOFTBALL

Going strong. We love fans!

Come and enjoy outdoor softball at Lions Park Softball Field on Tuesday evenings for some Mt Carmel camaraderie.

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

Don't miss the Annual Fan Appreciation Night at the June 28 game, baseball treats provided.

- 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, 9 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 Fan Appreciate night!
- 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 in New Brighton, 1500 Old Highway 8. Turn into park and immediately turn left into the parking lot. Field is a few hundred feet to the west.

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.

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 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 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.

SEEKING NEW FRIENDS AND/OR ADVENTURE?

Camden Food Shelf could use help prepping food boxes for their neighbors in North Minneapolis from 10 a.m.-noon, Monday-Friday. Report to Joyce when you arrive. Donations received from Cub Food stores need to be repackaged for neighbors in need at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 4656 Colfax Ave. N. For more information contact Myrna Flatland or Diane Langer.

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.

FOUNDATION FUNDS REQUESTS

There are two meetings this year for 2021 fund requests to be considered: Sept. 21 and Nov. 16. Mt. Carmel members requesting funds are asked to attend an early portion of the meeting to explain their request. Requests 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. Contact Diane Langer at ddl2@aol.com or 612-718-4229 with questions.

Diane Davis Langer, Mt Carmel Foundation President



BUTTERFLY GARDEN UPDATE

These tulips were blooming the last week of April and are located in Mt. Carmel's Butterfly Garden. This flower bed is along St. Anthony Parkway near alley. Stop by anytime to view which flowers are currently in bloom and watch for butterflies.

Thank you to Dave Olson, lead volunteer, and others who planted the flowers, donated rock and assist with maintenance tasks. You are our garden heroes that create a beautiful and peaceful space for all to enjoy during these traumatic times. Article and photos by Janell Wampler.

CALLING FOR MOWERS!

Mt. Carmel has a team of drivers that deliver meals for Meals On Wheels (MOW). Many years ago, when our congregation was higher in numbers, there were many drivers available. However, the number has shrunk, and the MOW team is down to seven drivers. For about the last year we have only been responsible for four drivers for one day each month, usually the fourth Friday, but starting in June 2021 we will be switching back to the pre-COVID schedule of Thursday and Friday.

Some details as to what the time commitment is: The time for pick-up of meals is 11:15 a.m. on assigned days. The MOW pick-up location is on Lincoln Street NE (one block west of Johnson St NE), just south of 33rd Ave. NE, at the side entrance of the Waite Park Wesleyan Church. Deliveries can take anywhere from 45 minutes to 1 ½ hours, depending on how many deliveries there are to make and the distance between deliveries, but usually it doesn't take over an hour. Routes are planned so that deliveries stay within a reasonable delivery area. Insulated bags must be returned to the MOW location on Lincoln St. after deliveries are completed. I send out an email every month to find out who is available to drive, and try to give everyone a break once in a while, if possible.

If you have time to drive for MOW, even if it's only occasionally, please get in touch with me. Drivers are needed! Contact Jo Alice Boatright at 612-781-8542 (land line) or joalbo@yahoo.com.

THANK YOU!

A big thanks to the Scout Troop (Cub & Boy Scouts) who collected food donations for Little Kitchen Food Shelf on May 8. They collected 458 pounds of food. What a wonderful, coordinated effort from the Scouts! Thank you, thank you!!!

Myrna Flatland

Words cannot express my gratitude to God for my recovery from recent illness, and to you, the faith community of Mt. Carmel, for your prayers through this long health ordeal. You were able through your prayers to stir the healing power of God. I have turned the corner and can't wait to fellowship again with you in person.

Al Erickson

STAYING UP-TO-DATE

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 receive 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 the office at 612-655-7594 or office@mountcarmelmpls.org.



Congratulations to Gethsemane Lutheran Church (4656 Colfax Ave. N., Minneapolis) on their newly-built food shelf.

MEETING ONLINE

These groups are meeting online:

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.

June 14: Marion Harris

June 22: Russ Ingebretson

July 9: Marlene Brown

July 9: Jane Hagstrom

July 16: Barb Thorsen

July 21: Tom Belawski

July 27: Jennie Porter



EVERY MEAL FUNDRAISER

Mt. Carmel is raising funds for Every Meal (formerly Sheridan Story) to meet its commitment for the 2020-21 school year. We are selling refrigerator magnets at a suggested donation of \$5. All proceeds go directly to Mt. Carmel's commitment to Every Meal. Magnet sales will be available after each Sunday's service or by contacting Matti Gurney at Matti.Gurney@gmail.com or 651-269-2167.

TREASURER REPORT

April 30, 2021.

Mt Carmel is in the positive with YTD Actual Income/Expense at \$2,982.15. Our actual income/expense for month was actually at a deficit of -\$6,072.57, however our expenses have been significantly lower than budgeted resulting in positive YTD.

YTD: Actual Income/Expense
\$ 2,982.15

YTD: Budgeted Income/Expense
(-7, 029.71)

A reminder that in good faith, the congregation passed a deficit budget for 2021 of -\$25,246.19. Please continue keeping your giving and pledges up to date, so we can continue towards erasing the budgeted deficit. We pray pledges and giving keeps us on a healthy trend in 2021.

Diane Davis Langer, Mt. Carmel Church Treasurer

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.



Congratulations to our newest confirmands: Max Labandz, Leif Kutzer, Henrik Nordeen and Nik Nordeen.

FAREWELL FROM NICK RALSTON

Dear Mt. Carmel Family, it is with the bittersweet feeling that comes with taking the next step in my education and Christian leadership journey as I leave my role as faith formation director at the end of May. I will be serving at Oak Knoll Lutheran in Minnetonka as part of my ELCA candidacy process as well as the completion of my M.Div. degree from Luther Seminary

It has been an incredible learning experience to serve here at Mt. Carmel. I still remember my first meeting with Pastor John at Hazel's to discuss the position—the rest has been written in history.

I have many highlights from my time at Mt. Carmel: working with the youth, family camp with the families, getting to know the congregation, preaching, serving and the richness of the Lutheran tradition. Don't forget, this role has not only been my introduction to Mt. Carmel, to living and working in Minnesota, to Northeast Minneapolis, but also to the Lutheran church! I thank Mt. Carmel for accepting me into your service for the past three years, a part of my journey I won't forget.

Lastly, I would like to give a shout out to all of those who made my program, Reflect, that I crafted intentionally to serve Mt. Carmelites, what it was. Especially the faithful Zoom attendees during the pandemic.

*Peace be with you all,
Nick Ralston*

NEXT TIDINGS DEADLINE

July 20, 10 p.m.

Submit articles to
jenni@jennilathrop.com.

Issues are delivered the first week of the month.

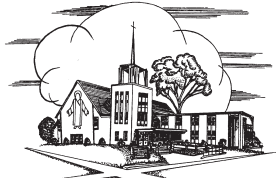
KEEP US INFORMED

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.

PRAYER CHAIN

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



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

9:30 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, 9:30 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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