



TIDINGS

October 2020

FAITH & WORLD FOR OCTOBER

Mt. Carmel has become a community that is eagerly seeking how to live out our faith in the world and make a difference there. We have therefore created an experimental educational discussion forum on Wednesday nights from 7-8 p.m. Everyone is welcome, but we ask that you register for the sessions ahead of time.

Our new Wednesday evening educational forum on Zoom continues in October with the following schedule:

- **Oct. 7, Disappearing Truth**—Ron Handberg is one of our members and the former news director at WCCO TV in the '80s. He will share with us his reflections on a topic of growing concern: the topic of "truth." Ron will share from his perspective as a journalist what it means to seek truth, listen to both sides and how the landscape for seeking truth has changed in the present time with cable TV and internet bloggers. As we discuss this with Ron, we will wrestle with what it means to be faithful to the eighth commandment, "you shall not bear false witness."
- **Oct. 14, Northside Justice Fellowship, Part I**—Pastor Jeff Nehrbass, pastor of Gethsemane Lutheran Church in North Minneapolis, will share with us what Gethsemane's mission is on the Northside and how we at Mt. Carmel can be partners with them—part of the "justice fellowship."
- **Oct. 21, Northside Justice Fellowship, Part II**—Pastor Jeff joins us again to talk about what justice means on the Northside in the wake of the civil unrest this summer and how Mt. Carmel can join the quest for justice.
- **Oct. 28, How a small group can find its mission in the world**—We will discuss what it means to be in fellowship with one another AND seek out how God is calling us to be in mission in our neighborhood and world. We are still working on a guest presenter. Stay tuned!

Find past sessions and registrations for upcoming sessions at mountcarmelmpls.org/tag/faith-world.

WATCH THIS SPACE GROW

Thank you to Dave and Leona Olson and Doug and Linda Jones who are leading the work to develop a low-maintenance, butterfly-friendly garden space near the Child Care storage shed and along the parkway and sidewalk area. This project is a part of our ongoing work to freshen up the exterior spaces around the church and improve the appearance of our church property. Watch the space to grow with plantings over the fall and then again into the spring.

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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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Office hours
By appointment

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John Strommen, ext. 103
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Tidings

Jenni Lathrop
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Mt. Carmel Child Care

Brenda Wetzel, ext. 107
612-781-2798
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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.



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

PASTOR'S PEN

WORDS FOR THE ROAD

And so, our time together at Mt. Carmel is soon drawing to a close. I have been your pastor for four years and a few months and it's hard to believe that much time has already gone by. What a journey! The best way to understand our time together, I think, is best captured in the word "anticipation." There has been from the start of my time at Mt. Carmel, a palpable sense of anticipation on the part of you all about *what comes next*. This anticipation has largely been born out of the realization that over the years, Mt. Carmel has gotten smaller and that that can't continue. We need to turn this around! How do we get back on track?

Perhaps anticipation can be divided into two categories: first, anticipating something about which you have a pretty solid image in your mind. And second, anticipating something that you can't see yet but believe is around the corner. For the first category, such anticipation often involves a fierce desire to rekindle the way things once were, and so there are many powerful images of past events, groups and programs that were meaningful. For those who have envisioned Mt. Carmel's revival in the first way, there may have been some disappointment with me, as I have suggested all along that God will create something new for Mt. Carmel's next chapter. Of course, it will mean building on the rich legacy at Mt. Carmel and keeping the parts of our past that we need to keep, but I don't believe that it means reviving the way things once were.

Rather, I firmly believe that God is creating a new expression of Mt. Carmel for a new time, and that way must be discovered on the ongoing journey of faith and mission. It will be discovered by using the gifts that God has already given to this faith community, building on the story that has already been unfolding for nearly a hundred years, and tapping into the spiritual energies among you!

My parting encouragement to you is to go deeper with all three of these three: gifts, story and energies. I believe God has a wonderful future for Mt. Carmel that will grow out of embracing these three treasures!

For instance, when 20 or so of you participated in the GPS course, it was so much fun to see all of you gradually become more and more energized as you explored and discussed how you were gifted and what that means for you lives and for this faith community. That work is far from done, but I sincerely hope that each member of Mt. Carmel will come to firmly believe that God has gifted you for multiple callings. And why not? You are, in fact, the church. You don't merely go to church—you are the church! So, explore your gifts! Those are vital clues about what is up to in you, and at Mt. Carmel.

And Mt. Carmel's story. God started this mission outpost called Mt. Carmel in 1926 and for a reason: to reach this neighborhood with the good news of Jesus Christ and minister to their needs. A good way to learn about where God will lead you all in the future is to study the past, to really grab hold of our collective story and ask, "What is Mt. Carmel's sweet spot? When does it seem like God is really present? What does that look like?" God has a certain way of working through Mt. Carmel and to identify that is to identify a clue to the future. Keep building on what you already are and let God adapt it to a new time!

And lastly, spiritual energies. I know there has been angst of late about Mt. Carmel's identity. Who are we? Where are we going? Nothing will tell you that

Pastor's Pen, continued on 3

MT. CARMEL CHILD CARE

What a gorgeous start to our fall! The children are busy welcoming our new friends who have joined the center, most of our families currently live in the neighborhood (we used to have a large volume of families who lived in surrounding cities and would drop off on the way to downtown). It is fun to watch our Mt. Carmel kids grow together and build relationships that stay in the community!

We will be doing our braided bread fundraiser again this year and I will be posting online ordering options as well as curbside options for safe pick-up! The order window will be **Oct. 20-Nov. 9**. There will be a link and more details on the Mt. Carmel website as well as Facebook page.

Brenda Wetzel
Director, Mt. Carmel Child Care

Pastor's Pen, continued from 2

more than by paying attention to where there is energy in the congregation and then fanning the flames of that energy to create serious heat! Why? Because that energy tells you where the Holy Spirit is likely at work, seeking to draw you forward.

It has been so encouraging to me to see more than a little passion these past few months around helping our neighbors in a time of crisis. From food distribution efforts, to food drop weekends at church, to Sheridan Story, there is conviction here. The Holy Spirit is calling!

There is also quite a bit of energy around racial justice. After the George Floyd murder, we've discovered that a sizable and devoted group committed themselves to read the book, "The New Jim Crow," about systemic racism. This is something to build on because God is at work here!

One of the things the Insight interviews established is how many of you really want to connect more on a personal basis with our neighbors. There is a hunger to be equipped for such efforts. Again, God is up to something here.

The last energy cluster I'll mention is the desire to build more intergenerational community at Mt. Carmel. That's natural. It's who we are! A whole bunch of folks 55 and older and then a growing presence of young families. We've got to bridge these two generations better than we are, and yet, we are already one family. The Mt. Carmel family.

I will be so curious and filled with anticipation to hear how things are with you all in the months and years ahead! I encourage you to be open to what God is doing in and among you. Let God bring forth your gifts, your story, your energies!

God's Peace always,

Pastor John

GIFTS RECEIVED

SCOUT FUND

In memory of Chuck Kirk:

Ray and Loraine Carlson, Jim Evans, Carol Panning, Susan Kirk Vorlicky, Janell Wampler

MUSIC FUND

In memory of Chuck Kirk:

Charles Grider

ALTAR GUILD

In memory of his brother

David Grider: Charles Grider

FACILITIES FUND

In memory of Charles Kirk:

Diane Langer

UNDESIGNATED MEMORIALS

In memory of Chuck Kirk:

Harry & Lisa Yarian and family, Steve & Laurel Safford and family, Randy & Sally Gephart and family; Carol Kwiecien; LuAnn Swanson; Douglas & Cynthia Kirk; Kathleen & Bill McReavy

FOUNDATION

In memory of Mary Jane

Engbretson: Marlys Hegstrom

In memory of Bob Malli:

Myrna Flatland

TIDINGS DEADLINE

Oct. 20

Articles for the Tidings are due the Tuesday after the council meeting (usually the third Tuesday). Submit articles to jenni@jennilathrop.com. Issues are delivered the first week of the month.

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.

PRAYER CHAIN

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



Sidewalk chalk art courtesy of Girl Scout Troop 17026!

WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER

September food and personal hygiene collection

Thanks to all who donated food or personal hygiene items this past month. We started out Saturday with some misty, damp weather and ended on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. A wide variety of items were donated this time: baby formula, baby and adult diapers, laundry soap, rice, beans, peanut butter, cereal, canola oil and mac and cheese were just some of the items that came in. Thanks to volunteers for being available to accept the donations or driving them over to Gethsemane Lutheran Church. Volunteers included Barb Hollister, Kathy Halverson, Henrik, Eddie and Nancy Nordeen, Allison Gurney and Girl Scout Troop 17026, and Trina Benedict.

TREASURER REPORT

YTD Aug. 31, 2020

Mt. Carmel's financials are in a positive mode. The Federal Paycheck Protection (PPP) Loan we received provided us with \$37,440 that we expect to be forgiven. This benefit has now ended and we are now back to depending on our giving. Giving in August was down about \$2000 from what was budgeted, and year-to-date was down around \$13,000, however August ended with Mt. Carmel's financials healthy. The loan helped with salaries, benefits and utilities for Mt. Carmel Church and Mt. Carmel Child Care for eight weeks. Please keep your giving up to date by mailing in your donation or consider using our online donation system.

Our actual Income-Expense Ratio YTD as of August 31, 2020 was \$15,961.06. Last year at this time we were \$4,825.59.

Income/ to expense

August Actual	August Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
(\$4,864.29)	(\$550.34)	\$15,961.06	(\$6,585.99)

*Diane Davis Langer
Mt. Carmel Church Treasurer*

COVID-19 TASK FORCE UPDATE

In our meeting on Sept. 17, the COVID-19 Task Force recognized the success of the outdoor worship service on Rally Day and agreed that Mt. Carmel could try to hold several more outdoor services before the weather gets too cold. We appreciate that everyone in attendance followed the instructions to wear masks and keep distanced, which we will need to continue for future events as well.

We recognize that the current restrictions related to the virus are difficult. We hadn't been able to see each other and worship together for almost six months until Rally Day. And we know that having additional outdoor services are important in keeping our sense of community with each other. However, we, like other churches around us including Gustavus Adolphus, believe that it is not likely that we will worship in person in the sanctuary until sometime in 2021. However we continue to watch the trends and numbers and hope that they reverse themselves soon so that restrictions can be loosened enough to allow us to safely worship inside this winter.

We understand it is disappointing to hear that we may still be isolated from each other during Advent and Christmas. But having this direction in place now allows us to think of ways to be flexible and try new things to help us engage with each other. These may include multiple small group events, or outdoor gatherings, or distant visits to members' homes.

We do continue to slowly lift restrictions. Casa leadership has been invited back to produce their live-streamed worship in the sanctuary starting Sunday, Sept. 20. They also are planning on having small group bible studies in the building following the small group meeting procedures we announced last month. This is vital to helping them also strengthen their church community.

Please remember that two rooms have been opened to small group meetings and gatherings—Room 104 (the money counters' room), and the Choir Room. These meetings must be scheduled in advance with the office, and all participants must wear masks in the building at all times, maintain physical distance from each other, only use the designated restroom, not share food or drink, and clean up and disinfect all surfaces after use. Find the full list of protocols on our website at mountcarmelmpls.org/small-group-meeting-protocols

We are working to clarify guidance on outdoor gatherings on church property and while the details will be shared in the future, they will be similar to the guidelines for outdoor worship: masks at all times and maintaining physical distance.

To help you understand why we still need these tight restrictions, keep in mind that COVID-19 is highly infectious and studies are showing it to be transmitted through droplets in the air. These droplets come from singing, breathing or speaking. As we head into the winter months and spend more time indoors, the infection rate needs to decrease substantially for indoor events to be safe for larger groups of people. The only way to speed our return to indoor worship is to help minimize the infection rate in the general public so we know it is safe to gather as a group. With the likelihood of a vaccine still months or even a year off, the duty to protect ourselves and each other falls on us to be vigilant in following the guidance we have been given by government and health officials. We know that loneliness and isolation are an effect of the distancing we must take from each other right now, but it is necessary to ensure that everyone is alive and well for our next gathering.

Paul Lathrop

WITH SYMPATHY

Virginia Schall on the death of her daughter Janice in Arizona

Dick Jacobsen on the death of his brother Paul Jacobsen

FAREWELL & GODSPEED

Jeff and Melissa Kohler who have moved to Arizona to be closer to their son

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.

Oct. 3—Robert Monio

Oct. 19—Connie Wegner

Oct. 25—Rudy Roy

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.

MT. CARMELITE SOFTBALL

The Mt. Carmelites had a great season, ending the season with seven wins and attaining our goal of 100 runs. The team ended the regular season with 108 total runs going into the playoffs (the outcome of play-offs not determined at this writing).

The delayed season started mid-July and ended after playoffs on Sept. 29. We were fortunate to have 14 dedicated players and numerous fans who enjoyed the beautiful evenings at the ballpark. Thank you to all who attended, following social distancing rules, especially on our fan appreciation evening when we scored 22 runs. A special thanks to the Mt. Carmel Foundation for sponsoring the team. We had a great season and look forward to next year.

Diane Langer

2020 MT. CARMEL COUNCIL

Tim Quinlan, President
Barb Hollister, Vice President
Karen Matthes, Secretary
Diane Langer, Treasurer
Allison Gurney
Dave Larson
Patrick Lathrop

FAITH FORMATION AT A GLANCE

Coming up we have...

- **Reflect.** Reflect continues 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 way, and in the same time slot (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.
- **Sunday School/Faith Formation Resource.** This fall's Sunday School/ Faith Formation Resource will be online like the rest of faith formation— released on Facebook and via the church's website at mountcarmelimpls.org/tag/sunday-school. The first installment was Sunday, Sept 20. Engaging this reality means changing the format to fit the needs of the current context, the children and the families. Sunday School will be: 1) a faith formation resource that serves as both Sunday School as well as fully family discussion for those who have children older than Sunday School and even for adults; 2) designed to be engaging for all ages and can be catered to the ages of those participating very easily; 3) released at the same time every other week; 4) able to be done whenever the children, families or individuals have time in their schedule (so inherently not an online meeting-time format); and 5) will be a video and/or text document with content and questions that combine the wisdom one can find through the scriptures and the realities we find outside our front doors.
- **Confirmation.** Confirmation will begin in October. We will most likely proceed in two groups as those who were to be confirmed will be one group and the incoming and second year confirmands will be another meeting group. That information is to be determined.
- **Gatherings.** Lastly, I know that we are all beyond ready to be able to gather in person. Some are comfortable gathering outside without masks but distanced, others outside with masks and a meal, others without a meal at all, others only from their cars, and still others are not comfortable with gatherings in person yet. This is yet another reality of navigating this pandemic well, as a faith community, and respecting where every person and family is at. As a staff we are working tirelessly to navigate the complexities of a potential gathering and working closely with those who have been designated to ask those questions. Within my jurisdiction as faith formation director, I will be working closely with the task force and looking to have a gathering together as soon as safely and humanly possible.

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! My virtual door is always open to working with people on new ideas. Feel free to email me at faithformation@mountcarmelimpls.org

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

*Blessings,
Nick Ralston, Faith Formation Director*



Members present were (from left to right) Cheryl Sundly, Audrey Erickson, Val Hendrickson, Kathy Halverson, Barb Hollister, Julie Johnson, Jim Evans, Doug Jones, Linda Jones, Tessa Gurney, Myrna Flatland, and Matti Gurnery.

SHERIDAN STORY

On Sept. 10, 12 Mt. Carmel members dedicated three hours to packing weekend food bags for the Sheridan Story at their distribution center in Roseville, Minn. Our group, along with a handful of other volunteers, packed 2,964 bags totaling 11,560 meals at a food cost of \$8,892 for bags to be distributed through schools.

The Sheridan Story packs three different kinds of food bags. The one that we packed consisted of five food items, all non-perishable: canned fruit and vegetables, dry beans, canned meat and rice. The Sheridan Story's need has doubled since the COVID-19 pandemic began and they are trying to reach a goal of packing 15,000 bags per week, a very lofty goal.

MT. CARMEL CHURCH IN MINNEAPOLIS FOUNDATION

The Foundation has been able to fund several expenses for the church in the last few months. It was able to support \$7000 in boiler repairs, the cost of the Congregation Ministry check-up and Insight interviews/consultants, \$13,000 in education scholarships for five of our members, fund the Mt. Carmelite softball team and, most recently, approved funds for materials to be used by member Dave Olson to create a butterfly garden in the front area of our church. We are fortunate to have this resource to support Mt. Carmel members as they live God's word with these gifts.

Do you know of a need that the Foundation could consider yet this year?

Current Foundation policy calls for funding requests to be submitted to the Foundation president two weeks prior to a Foundation Board of Directors. There is one remaining meeting for 2020 fund requests to be considered (Nov. 17). 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, contact Diane Langer at ddl2@aol.com or 612-718-4229.

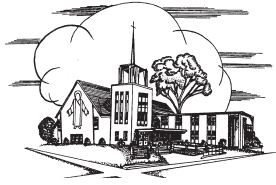
Diane Davis Langer, Mt Carmel Foundation President

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

We will continue Mt. Carmel's Thanksgiving Basket Outreach this year, but because of COVID-19 we are doing it a little differently. Rather than packing and delivering food, we are going to purchase and mail gift cards from Cub in an amount equal to the food cost. Here is how you can help:

- 1). Do you or someone you know need help this Thanksgiving? Please let Steve in the office, Barb Hollister (612-590-6469) or Kathy Halverson (651-633-1996) know by Monday, Nov. 9. Include the number of people and the mailing address.
- 2). Please be generous in your giving. Our goal is \$800 in funds to support this ministry. Please note on your donation that the money is for Thanksgiving Baskets. You can donate by sending a check to the church office or with an online, one-time donation through our website, mountcarmelmpls.org/give.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy or Barb. Thank you so much for your continued support of this very important outreach.



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.

Pastor

John Strommen

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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