



FROM THE PRESIDENT

NEW BEGINNINGS

I am excited to inform you that we have hired a new interim pastor! Her name is Christine Wenzel, and her first Sunday with us will be Nov.8.

She has been a pastor for 23 years, and an interim pastor serving various congregations for the last six years. She has also been involved with Bridgebuilders for many years. She comes highly recommended, and I believe that you all will share my excitement once you get to know her! Stay tuned for ways that you will be able to meet her—we are starting to plan ways to do that.

We are now entering a new chapter in the history of Mt. Carmel, and guess what? We get to be the authors of the new book! There are many things ahead to do, and we will get to decide together, along with our new pastor, how the book will be written. On the near horizon will be discussing ways that we will use the Insight Report to guide us forward. I have held off on releasing that report until our new pastor (and our partner) has had a chance to absorb it. Trust me that it will be shared with you shortly, and in a transparent way. Please know that I am not interested in hiding anything—you all deserve to see the full results of that report, and you will.

It is important that our entire church family chart our future course, and those of you who did not get interviewed by the consultants this summer will have a chance to have your voices heard. As you've likely heard before, we are all in this together!

Blessings to you all. Let us remain hopeful and trust that God and the Holy Spirit will be guiding us moving forward!

—Tim Quinlan, council president

SEEN THE SNOW?

Wondering what to do with the holidays?

Things are a-happenin' at Mt. Carmel. Ideas are coming in, from Advent wreaths to a drive-by Nativity Scene. We're hard at work deciding how to make the most of this important season. Watch more information in the weekly announcements, Candle emails and the December Tidings.

—Ruth Bills

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- From interim pastor . . . 2
- Support Little Kitchen
- Food Shelf customers . . 3
- COVID-19 Update 5
- Faith Formation 6
- Stewardship campaign 7
- Thanksgiving Baskets . . 7

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
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

Church Administrator

Steve Robertson, ext. 101
office@mountcarmelmpls.org

Interim Director of Music

Ruth Bills, ext. 120
ruthabills@gmail.com

Maintenance Engineer

Steve Panning, ext. 104
building@mountcarmelmpls.org

Tidings

Jenni Lathrop
jenni@jennilathrop.com

Mt. Carmel Child Care

Brenda Wetzels, 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; 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 NOTE

FROM INTERIM PASTOR CHRISTINE WENZEL

Where does one begin when they are asked to write an autobiography? Well, I decided to let you know who I have evolved into today. In addition to serving several congregations as an ordained minister for the past 23 years, I strive to faithfully live out my vocation as a wife, daughter, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, friend and member of my community.

I believe each one of us is created in the image of God. God has created us to be in community. These beliefs shape the way I serve as a pastor. My hope is that we always follow our calling to be a loving, compassionate, accepting, and non-judgmental community of faith. I understand the church community as a safe place to hear God's unconditional love, and grasp this amazing gift; a place to question, struggle, doubt and somehow leave filled with hope; and a place that sends us out to live as God's faithful people in our daily lives, partnering with God in building a more just world.

I am currently at the end of my fifth interim. I love change—the constant newness and growth as I enter into a new congregation about every year and a half keeps me energized. I enjoy working with key leaders who care about the mission and vision of the church and setting goals to keep focused on how God is calling us into the future. It is my hope that I am always respectful of all people, and I lead and serve with humility, joy, enthusiasm and grace.

When I'm not working, my family is my favorite pastime. I am married to Doug. We have two children: Joel who has worked with the homeless veterans for the past 12 years and Emily, who is married to Joe, giving us three beautiful grandchildren. When I am alone, I love reading, swimming, enjoying nature and working on my awareness and mindful practices.

For those of you who are familiar with StrengthsFinder, my natural strengths and gifts are the following: Maximizer, Arranger, Intellection, Input and Adaptability. I will be happy to discuss these with you at any time!

May God bless our ministry together over the next year or so!

—Pastor Christine

WANTED: ADULTS LOOKING TO CONNECT WITH YOUTH

We are looking for a number of adults—both men and women—to connect with a younger member of Mt. Carmel (6th-12th grade). Especially in this time of pandemic and distance community, creating relationships between our youth and faithful, authentic adults is so important. While this program is still in its planning phase, we are looking for Mt. Carmel members over 25 who are willing to be partnered with a Mt. Carmel youth through at least June 2021. Right now, that relationship building will be created through phone calls, emails and possibly video chats. And don't forget prayer! In the future, we will also look at in-person activities.

If you have questions or want to participate, please contact Nick Ralston at faithformation@mountcarmelmpls.org or Jenni Lathrop at jennifer.lathrop@gmail.com.

MT. CARMEL CHILD CARE

Support the Mt. Carmel Child Care and enjoy tasty bread at the same time. Order your braided bread today! Orders are due by Nov. 9. Orders will be available for curbside pickup on Nov. 23. Contact me if you have any questions at 612-781-2798. There are two ways to order:

1. Order online at http://bit.ly/MtC_ChildCareFundraiser_Order
2. Order using the PDF order form and dropping off the order form and payment in the church mailbox. Find the order form online at http://bit.ly/MtC_ChildCareFundraiser_PDF

—Brenda Wetzel, director, Mt. Carmel Child Care

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Council met Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m.

- The council has approved to make an offer to an interim pastor. We are hoping the interim pastor will be with us in early November.
- The council approved a request by the design team to remove the church pew that is currently in the Narthex as well as the nametag cart that is also in the Narthex.
- The logo and branding process has been put on hold as it was determined that the extensive questions and understanding about the self-identity of the congregation would not be able to be answered effectively at this time.
- The Faith and World classes will continue for the next few weeks as scheduled. In order for this program to continue, we need one or more volunteers to lead this effort.
- Steve Robertson will be acting lead for the staff until an interim pastor is appointed.
- Steve & Jenni Lathrop are creating a privacy policy for use, security and sharing of church member contact information.
- We used our full PPP loan proceeds to cover payroll and benefit costs of the church and child care center for the months of late April, May, June and concluding in July. We expect that the full amount of the loan will be forgiven by our lender Northeast Bank under the SBA terms when they begin receiving forgiveness applications.
- Treasurer's Report highlights: Our income is down again about \$6,000 in faith commitments. Because of the PPP loan, we are doing okay. Projection is that we will be fine for this year. Diane requested we hire someone to do an audit of the books.
- We had some discussion about the need to form a stewardship committee this fall. Dave Larson will reinvigorate the stewardship committee
- Update on 2021 staffing plan task force. Barb presented a proposed 2021 budget based on several changes to the staff position descriptions and job duties.
- Karen will recruit a couple of people to serve on a nominating committee to begin asking people to fill several open seats on council.

—Karen Matthes

GIFTS RECEIVED

UNDESIGNATED MEMORIALS

In memory of Thomas D. Campbell: Bill & Kathleen McReavy

Thomas Campbell (1926-2020) often said he was in one of the first confirmation classes when Mt. Carmel was built.

MT. CARMEL FOUNDATION

In memory of Delores Nypan: Ruth Emerson

Given in memory of Bill Anderson (brother of Dick Anderson): Ruth Emerson

Given in memory of Chuck Kirk: Jodi & Brian Wirth

Given in memory of Dale Thorsen: Jodi & Brian Wirth

SUPPORT LITTLE KITCHEN FOOD SHELF CUSTOMERS

Put together "HAPPY BIRTHDAY BAGS" which we will donate to Little Kitchen. Each bag should have cake mix, frosting/icing, candles, paper plates, napkins and optionally tissue paper to insert in the birthday bag. Deadline for collection is Nov. 20. Contact Myrna Flatland at 612-246-7095 to coordinate donation submission.

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.

MT. CARMEL HAS A GREAT FOUNDATION!

I mean, the building is in great shape, right? Yes, of course! But, in addition to our great looking building, we have another Foundation—the one that usually has a Legacy Brunch. Remember that great event that we had last year? It doesn't look like a full brunch will take place this year, but we are looking into other options and hope to have something to share soon.

The Mt. Carmel Foundation has existed for 55 years. Over that time, the Foundation has distributed more than a half a million dollars for higher education scholarships, camp registrations, Bibles for children, spiritual retreats, strategic planning endeavors, CaramelFest, softball team registration fees and equipment, property repair and improvements including technology upgrades, carpeting, dishwasher and capital improvements along with many other requests.

The 2020 Foundation Board is President Diane Langer, Treasurer Myrna Flatland, Secretary Kathy Halverson, Mary Catherine, Ralph Matthes, Karen Moeller, Matt Nordeen, Roger Peterson, Justin Sawyer and Brian Wirth. We thank our out-going vice president, Martha Hoppe, who has recently moved. If you feel called to serve on the board, please contact me at 612-868-5266, one of the other board members or the church office at 612-781-2796 or office@mountcarmelmpls.org.

Would you like to learn more about becoming a Legacy Partner with the Foundation, the church or both? Legacy Partners are church members who have chosen to include Mt. Carmel, the Mt. Carmel Foundation or both, as a beneficiary of their estate by designating so in their will. The wall in the Fireside Room displays a plaque with the names of the Legacy Partners on the leaves. There are still leaves without a name on them and as this tree fills up, we would love to create a second plaque with the names of additional partners leaving a legacy gift to Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church and the Foundation. If you would like more information on becoming a Legacy Partner, contact a board member. You may also consider making gifts to the Foundation, perhaps in honor or in memory of someone dear to you. Gifts can be sent to the Mt. Carmel Foundation. Contact the office for more information.

—Matt Nordeen, Mt Carmel Foundation member

CEMETERY PLOTS AVAILABLE

Mt. Carmel has been the recipient of two sets of two cemetery plots at Sunset Cemetery. We would like to donate the plots to someone in need.

If you or someone you are aware of could be a recipient, please reach out to the church office.

—Diane Langer

TIDINGS DEADLINE

Nov. 17, 10 p.m.

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

COVID-19 TASK FORCE UPDATE

We've been fortunate to have three outdoor worship services together over the last several weeks. But it looks as though the infection data and the weather may be conspiring to prevent us from having one more service, and that's unfortunate.

We recognize how hard it is to have to quarantine or keep yourself isolated in the face of this pandemic. We know that being together would help us get through this difficult year. But the reality is that being together is exactly the thing that is causing the infection rates to skyrocket right now, so it is important that we continue to keep our distance and ensure the safety of ourselves, our family, our friends and our neighbors.

The task force will continue to watch the infection data and the weather over the next few weeks to see if there is an opportunity to have one last gathering before winter. Obviously, we can't guarantee anything, but we've committed to working to making it possible if the conditions are right.

We've been approached by Ruth Bills and the SMELT team to review some of their creative ideas to help us distance together, and they all seem like good ideas while also ensuring that we can all stay safe, so look forward to some of those announcements soon.

I want to emphasize why we aren't back to worshipping together in our building yet, even while other churches are back, and while the state guidance says it's okay at 50% capacity or whatever allows proper distancing.

The data really tells the entire story: in areas where businesses and indoor gatherings have been allowed to open and happen, or mask usage is low, the infection rates are going up. As restrictions are lifted, infection rates go up. In order to avoid spreading COVID-19, we need to continue to keep our distance from each other.

It's an important and difficult risk analysis that the task force performs: to determine when the risk in gathering together is low enough that we won't be putting anyone who wants to worship in the building in danger. But we do understand the desire to connect with each other, and we want to make that happen. We just need to do it safely.

This is a time to try to think outside of the box and be creative and take that extra time to reach out to each other, say a prayer for each other, and simply be grateful that for the most part we've all been able to stay healthy so far.

—Paul Lathrop

CALL FOR DEVOTIONAL WRITERS

Wait! Don't stop reading! Instead, think for a moment about sharing your insights. We are looking for members who would like to share their thoughts on scripture and faith with our community. We're not looking for "professional writers" or "paid theologians." We're looking for your meaningful stories, thoughts and even questions. Why is a Bible verse important to you? When did your faith see you through a challenging time? What are your own questions about scripture and faith?

All ages are invited to share a devotion with a faith community excited to hear your own words. We'll walk you through the process. Email the office if you have questions or if you would like to write.

WITH SYMPATHY

Isabel Hansen died Oct 9.

FAREWELL & GODSPEED

Pr. John and Heidi Strommen.

Pr. John's last Sunday at Mt.

Carmel was Oct 11.

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.

Nov. 17—Ray Carlson

Nov. 19—Mary Gursky

Nov. 21—Dave Johnson

Nov. 27—Carol Panning

Nov. 29—Annette Dahl

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.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to our faithful “Crewe” of Money Counters. During the pandemic, when the church has been worshiping primarily online and contributions have been arriving by mail and drop-off, they have been arranging to come in at least twice a month (physically-distanced and masked) to process your financial contributions. The “Crewe” includes Jim Evans, Julie Larson, Dan Gillett and Ralph Matthes.

THANK YOU

To my Mt. Carmel Family: A special thank you to all who provided kind words, get well wishes and cards before and after my recent hip surgery. All were greatly appreciated. I look forward to “teeing off” next spring! God bless you all.

—Karen Moeller

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

Faith Formation at a glance:

This faith formation at a glance will recap our plan for Virtual Sunday School/ Faith Formation Resource and provide the regular information for our weekly activities. Check-ins for this fall:

- **Reflect.** Reflect remains on! For security purposes, please email me if you would like to join us for reflect. We continue to gather each week, after service, via Zoom, 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.** The Sunday School Faith formation resources have arrived! We have completed three installments of this Virtual Faith Formation and Sunday School resource and things are going great. Children, families, and individuals of all ages are discussing faith in their homes by walking through familiar Old Testament stories like creation, the calling of Moses, and God freeing God’s people out of Egypt. Find these lessons online at mountcarmelmpls.org/tag/sunday-school.
- **Confirmation.** Confirmation has arrived! Confirmation had its socially distanced kick off in the month of October outside in the triangle. A good time of learning and fellowship was had by all. Confirmation will continue to gather in two groups online for the foreseeable future until we are able to gather in the church again.
- **Gatherings.** We are already looking toward the holidays and planning is underway for some distanced, perhaps from-our-cars, holiday events. Faith Formation will let you know as soon as the ideas take shape and the COVID guidelines are clear for these potential events.
- **Monthly Reminder.** And as always, what are your ideas? If you have an idea that is not listed above for something positive and in the realm of faith formation or fellowship for our community, email me! 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.

—Nick Ralston, Faith Formation Director

FAITH + WORLD SERIES

Wednesdays Zoom 7-8 p.m. Classes free and open to public

Need future presenters and topics; can you help with an idea or presenter? Having attended these popular and inspiring classes/discussions myself, I am hopeful that we can keep them vibrant and alive. What ideas do you have? Let’s keep the passion burning for knowledge on how we can change and be a change agent.

Past topics and presenters we have enjoyed:

- Housing Affordability: Challenges and Opportunities
- Being Church with Diverse Neighbors
- Disappearing Truth
- Who is my Neighbor
- Northside Justice Fellowship

Can you help? Contact Barb Hollister 612-590-6460 or email bjhollister@comcast.net.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Mt. Carmel's annual stewardship campaign usually begins this time of the year. During the campaign we let our members know how we are doing and what our financial needs are for the coming year. This is also the time that we collect pledges (financial as well as time and talent) for the coming year. These pledges are a helpful tool in developing our church budget.

In this unique year, the church, like most of you and your families, is facing a lot of changes. Especially with the transition in pastoral leadership and an opportunity to re-imagine our ministry in a post-pandemic era, we feel like the best course is to wait until January to send out the pledge cards. At that time, we will have a better idea of what Mt. Carmel will look like in 2021 and beyond.

Your continued faithful stewardship is greatly appreciated. We are receiving financial gifts in person, by mail and electronically, and they are contributing to our continued ability to serve. The building may be closed, but the ministry with the people of our congregation continues. Please continue your financial contributions through the end of 2020 and into 2021. And if you can give a little something extra at this year-end or the beginning of next year, that will be much appreciated as well.

If you would like some help with setting up electronic giving through Vanco Simply Giving, please contact Church Administrator Steve Robertson at 612-781-2796 or me at 651-280-7451 and we can help you. You can also set it automatic or one-time giving online at mountcarmelmpls.org/give.

Please remember that even though we are not in the church building together, the people of Mt. Carmel are the church.

—David Larson

TREASURER REPORT

YTD Sept. 30, 2020

Mt. Carmel Giving is significantly below what was budgeted Year to Date (YTD). Following August giving which was \$2,000 below what was pledged, September giving was \$5,076 below what was pledged. Total YTD giving is below what was pledged by \$22,157

Mt. Carmel financials are still in a positive mode due to the Federal Paycheck Protection (PPP) Loan we received that provided us with \$37,440 that we expect to be forgiven, in addition to our expenses coming in at lower levels.

Though September has still shown Mt. Carmel Financials healthy, if giving continues at current rate, we will quickly be moving to a deficit. Please prayerfully consider bringing your giving up to date by mailing in your donation, or consider setting up automatic online donations at mountcarmelmpls.org/give.

Our actual Income-Expense Ratio YTD as of Sept. 30, 2020 was \$12,735.31 . Last year at this time we were (\$12,259.37).

Income/ to expense

September Actual (\$2953.27)	September Budget (\$2717.00)	YTD Actual \$12,735.31	YTD Budget (\$9,302.99)
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—Diane Davis Langer, Mt.Carmel Church treasurer

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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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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