



TIDINGS

November 2021

2021 ADVENT STUDY BOOKLETS

Advent Study booklets have been ordered from ELCA World Hunger. They will be available Sunday, Nov. 14 for you to take home as an Advent study guide. Each week there are different themes with real-life situations, questions to use for reflection and discussion, followed by a prayer. Pick your Advent Study booklet up after worship or call the church office and one will be mailed to you.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Mt. Carmel will be doing our Thanksgiving Basket outreach and because of COVID will again be providing Cub gift cards. If you or someone you know could use a helping hand to make this Thanksgiving a little brighter, please contact the church office or Barb Hollister. Also, we ask for your continued financial support of this important outreach through a special offering directed to this ministry. As always, we appreciate your support.

Kathy Halverson and Barb Hollister

GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD

Help a family break the cycle of hunger and poverty—for good. Mt. Carmel is decorating for Advent with a Christmas tree in the narthex filled with ELCA Good Gift animal ornaments. Please consider purchasing—figuratively—an animal for a family. Select the animal ornament(s) you wish to purchase, put your selection along with your cash/check in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. We will collect barnyard offerings through the fourth Sunday of Advent (Dec. 21). All gifts will be forwarded to ELCA Good Gifts. If you have any questions, contact either Lory Dubbels or Lynette Dubbels at 612-788-7785.

CONFIRMATION UPDATE

Confirmation classes will begin on Saturday, Nov. 6 at Gustavus (we will alternate meeting at the different churches). Students in 6th-8th grades from both congregations will meet from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Our new program will begin a three-year rotation curriculum: Our relationship with God (year A), Our relationship with the church (year B) and Our relationship with the world (year C). Along with the monthly classes, students will participate in several service projects through the year. If you'd like to help with these service projects or mentor a youth, please contact Jenni Lathrop at 612-205-6007.

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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 to give online.
- 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

Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Interim Pastor

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Office

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Tidings

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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, 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

This time of year is a busy time in the life of the church. As I write this article for the Tidings, we are sending letters to the families of members who have died this past year inviting them to the All Saints Worship service on Nov. 7. At the same time, we are ramping up our stewardship by sending a letter and pledge card to prepare for a celebration on Sunday, Nov. 14. The First Sunday of Advent begins on Nov. 28. Finally, the Transition Team has just sent out a survey, to be completed as soon as possible, to help them prepare the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) and calling your next pastor.

All Saints Sunday is Nov. 7. This is a meaningful Sunday for all those who have lost loved ones over the past year. Not only will we ring a bell and light a candle for each Mt. Carmel member who died since All-Saints Sunday last year, but we will also remember all of our loved ones who have died this past year. *For all the Saints, who from their labors rest (hymn 422).*

Stewardship/Celebration Sunday will be Nov. 14. What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me? (Psalm 116:12). Since we hope to experience offering as an act of worship, and not just an occasion for taking care of business, we will be asking for your pledge cards and blessing them as part of the offering on that day. We also will ask you to fill out a Time and Talent sheet that morning. *Take My Life, That I May Be (hymn 583).*

The First Sunday in Advent is Nov. 28. We will gather after worship for an all-congregation event (masks required). We will decorate Advent wreaths. We will also hand out an Advent devotional and learn more about an opportunity to support the ELCA World Hunger through Good Gifts. *Hark the Glad Sound, the Savior comes, the savior promised long (hymn 239).*

Finally, the Transition Team continues to meet. As part of their work, they want to give every member a chance to express your thoughts, feelings and hopes for Mt. Carmel as you anticipate calling your next pastor. If you have not already done so, please fill out the survey. This confidential survey is available online, by paper or by phone. We hope to have a summary of your responses by the first week of November. This will also be used to write the MSP. *Bless Now O God, the Journey (hymn 326).*

God has richly blessed this community of faith in so many ways. In this month of Thanksgiving, let us give thanks for all God has done for us!

You are in my prayers always! Please keep me in yours!

Pastor Christine Wenzel, Interim Pastor

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.

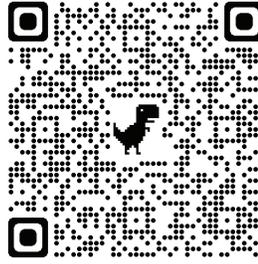
MT. CARMEL CHILD CARE

There is still time to order bread and support the Mt. Carmel Child Care Center. Ordering is easy as we have a paper option (pay by check/cash) or an online order and pay option. This is our third year selling bread and we have purchased gym equipment and enjoyed field trips. Extra order forms can be picked up in the church office.

Bread orders and payment are due by Nov. 8. Funds from this fundraiser have been used for our cubbies and various large muscle toys. Contact Brenda or Nancy in the church office with any ordering questions.

We have had a wonderful fall at Mt. Carmel; the weather has been gorgeous, and we have had lots of outside time with neighborhood walks! We have had lots of fun painting pumpkins and other fall projects.

Thank you for your continued support!
Brenda Wetzel, Director



Use your phone's camera to scan this QR code and order online!

OFFICE UPDATE

Next time you are in the building, take a second and peek into the office. We have replaced the carpeting (a mandatory replacement because of mold) and replaced the antiquated office furniture with some gently used, new-to-us office furniture. A member of our church family, who wishes to remain anonymous, graciously provided the money needed to purchase a new desk, a filing cabinet and a bookcase. Our heartfelt thanks for this gift to our church. The office not only looks great, but it is also more welcoming to members, guests and our new office administrator.

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Mt. Carmel has a YouTube channel! Right now our channel is primarily used for worship (watch live or recorded!) though we have several other videos online including virtual Sunday school lessons from last fall. You can find us online at www.youtube.com/channel/UC94maDuJuSVixXfWYKoBaSQ (that's a mouthful!) but if we can get enough subscribers, we'll be able to get a custom URL (something easier to remember!). Subscribe to our YouTube channel today.

DEATHS

Patty Griffith (died Aug. 7)

Joyce Hegstrom (died Aug. 11)

WITH SYMPATHY

The Sundly family on the death of Cheryl's brother Denny

The Hegstrom family on the death of Joyce

The Griffith family on the death of Patty

GIFTS RECEIVED

TO THE FOUNDATION

In memory of Joyce

Hegstrom: Marlys Hegstrom, Mary Bacha

TO SCOUT TROOP 132

In memor of David Grider:

Chuck Grider

NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH?

The mini-bus is revved up and ready to go. Call the church office at 612-781-2796 by noon Friday to let us know you need a ride for Sunday.

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@mountcarmelimpls.org or visit the church website at www.mtcarmel.net.

PRAYER CHAIN

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

SMALL GROUP MEETINGS

Good Fruits Bible Study—
Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m. at Silverwood Park. (Contact Leona Olson at onondave@yahoo.com)

Online Men's Bible Study—
Wednesdays at 6:45 a.m. (Contact Ralph Matthes at marinosdelimpls@gmail.com)

Anti-Racism Book Club—
Every other Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room (Contact Barb Hollister at 612-590-6469 or bjhollister@comcast.net)

TREASURER REPORT

Sept. 30, 2021

Mt. Carmel's finances have experienced a setback. Giving has been down through the summer and while expenses have been down as well, the year end is closing in on us and we have a ways to go to erase the budgeted deficit.

YTD: Actual Income/Expense
(- \$ 14,400.85)

YTD: Budgeted Income/Expense
(-18,758.76)

A reminder that in good faith, the congregation passed a deficit budget for 2021 of (\$25,246.19). Please consider keeping your giving and pledges up to date, and possibly a little extra so we continue towards erasing the budgeted deficit. We pray pledges and giving can return to a positive trend.

Diane Davis Langer, Mt. Carmel Church Treasurer

COVID TASK FORCE UPDATE

Thanks to all your dedication to fighting COVID, we've been able to cautiously reopen the church building to normal activities! It's been slow progress—possibly slower than some of you wish—but it's been progress, perhaps even further than some of us thought would be possible at this time last year.

We know from our survey earlier this year that all of our eligible members have received the full dose of a COVID vaccine. We know that there's a strong desire to get vaccinated and reengage in church activities. And we're getting there.

Hopefully, those of you who are eligible for a booster will get one when you have the opportunity. Find out if you're eligible at <https://bit.ly/2ZcFMey>. And hopefully very soon, approval will come for children ages 5-11 to get vaccinated, which will be a huge blessing for many of our young families.

As vaccination rates increase and delta variant infections decrease, the task force is watching and working to determine the right timing to complete our reopening, including one in particular that several of you have asked me about: indoor fellowship following worship. While we don't feel it's safe to have fellowship indoors right now, we are hoping to allow it soon, if trends continue. As always, we'll let you know when we make changes.

It's been great to see a consistent presence of people in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings as well as online. It's encouraging to see the minibus operating again. And it's exciting to hear young voices in church again as youth group and Sunday school are meeting again. All of these things give us hope and make us look forward to being able to fully return to normal.

While there's no way to set a timeline for that return, as long as everyone does their part to help eliminate COVID risks, we know that that day will come.

Paul Lathrop

AFGHAN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

As the US withdrew its troops from Afghanistan this past summer, many Afghans who had been involved with support services for our troops were in grave danger from the Taliban and Isis-K. They fled their homeland and are now refugees in other countries. Some of these refugees have come to the US, and are temporarily being housed at army barracks across our country, the largest group of them are at Camp McCoy in Wisconsin. Lutheran Social Services () and other charitable organizations are seeking to move these refugees into more permanent housing, so LSS is reaching out to local congregations to partner with them in this ministry of hospitality.

At the October council meeting, a proposal was passed that Mt. Carmel would partner with LSS at the sponsorship level to assist in resettling one of these Afghan refugee families through the Circle of Welcome program. This program is designed to help refugee families to become self-sufficient in their new community more quickly. Hospitality is one of the faith practices that has deep roots in both the Jewish and Christian traditions as can be seen by frequent Biblical references for showing kindness to sojourners. This resettlement program is a modern-day extension of the ancient practice of hospitality to the stranger.

You can assist in this ministry in one or more of several ways. First, to be a sponsoring congregation, LSS asks for a \$6,000- \$8,000 commitment to help defer the family expenses in the first 6 months, most of this goes to guarantee rent payments. Any amount you could contribute toward reaching this goal would be appreciated. If you can make a monetary contribution please indicate that it is for refugee resettlement. We also will be asking the broader neighborhood for contributions.

A second way that you could assist in this ministry is with the contribution of your time. We need about 10 volunteers who will have the most frequent contact with the family. So far, we have three. Some of the activities which these volunteers will be involved with the family include setting up their apartment, practicing English, running errands, teaching them to use public transportation and the like. Most of this time commitment will be in the early months and will then taper off as they become more acclimated to their new surroundings. We will attempt to locate them in Northeast Minneapolis or a nearby suburb, so this will be more convenient for all concerned.

Other members may be asked to help our new neighbors more indirectly through the contribution of household furnishings and clothing. More will be said about that in future updates as we assess their personal needs.

Like many other ministry opportunities, this will be a two-way mutual relationship. Certainly, we will be giving these new neighbors our time, money and energy. However, it will also be an opportunity to build new friendships and learn to appreciate a different culture with all of its diversity some of which may be new to us. Those who participate will be blessed by the experience. As we participate in this faith venture, we are called to be a blessing to others out of gratitude for what God has already done for us.

If you have questions about this program or would like to volunteer in some capacity, please contact Dave Olson or the church office.

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. 19: Mary Gursky
Nov. 21: Dave Johnson
Nov. 27: Carol Panning
Nov. 29: Annette Dahl

NEXT TIDINGS DEADLINE

Nov. 16, 10 p.m.

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

MT. CARMEL COUNCIL

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



Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

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Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

Interim Pastor

Christine Wenzel

Office hours

Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sunday worship

9:30 a.m.—In person or online on
Facebook or YouTube.

Mt. Carmel Child Care

Brenda Wetzel, Director
612-781-2798

**Mission: Learn, live
and share God's Word**



WORSHIP WITH US

Join the Mt. Carmel faith community for worship in person or live on Facebook and YouTube, Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

Worship with us in person or live online. For now, masks and physical distancing are required for all worship services and meetings. For those unable to worship with us in person, **we also broadcasting worship live on Facebook and YouTube.** Videos are available to watch at any time after live worship on YouTube.



612-781-2796



office@mountcarmelmpls.org



www.mtcarmel.net



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