



Weekly Announcements

Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

For the Week of December 12, 2021

MT. CARMEL FINANCIALS

Please HELP to erase our deficit by Dec. 31.

Income through Dec. 8, 2021: \$235,370.23

Expenses through Dec. 8, 2021: \$250,077.93

Deficit to erase: (\$14, 702.70)

Please prayerfully consider a special gift to Mt. Carmel, so we can erase the deficit and end the year paying our expenses.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP TODAY

Sunday school (preschool-5th grade) and youth group will follow worship, running from 10:30 – 11:15 a.m. Masks are required.

FUNDRAISING BAKE SALE DEC. 19

The youth group is holding a bake sale after worship on Sunday, Dec. 19. All funds raised will go towards Mt. Carmel's donation to Good Gifts. Because of COVID, our sale will be outside, and we will be limiting change back (to reduce the handling of money). Join us after the Christmas program (if you're watching from home, consider a drive-by baked good purchase) in front of the building.

BAKED GOODS WELCOME! Would you like to support this event by providing a baked good? Please contact Jenni Lathrop at jennifer.lathrop@gmail.com to coordinate a handoff on Saturday, Dec. 18. Due to COVID precautions, all donated baked goods must be packed up for sale when you donate (we cannot accept pans of bars, bread or treats that need to be cut and packaged).

GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD

Our barnyard is growing! So far, your generous donations will provide families with 9 goats, 6 chicks, 3 pigs, 3 roosters and 2 colonies of honeybees! If you'd like to add more animals to our barnyard, choose an ornament from the tree in the narthex. Pick up an envelope for this special offering and place it in the plate along with cash/check or send it to the office. The ornament is yours to keep! All gifts collected through Dec. 21 will be forwarded to our partner ELCA Good Gifts.

TIME AND TALENT/ CONGREGATIONAL LIFE DIRECTORY

2022 Activities Sign Up sheets went out in the November Tidings. Please fill out the form and place it in the basket in the Narthex or drop it off in the church mailbox. NEW today: Pick up a Congregational Life Directory in the Narthex to learn more about the many ways you can get involved at Mt. Carmel.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REHEARSAL SATURDAY

This year's Dec 19 Christmas program is called O Come Let Us Adore Him, by Marie Pooler. We'll rehearse again on Saturday, Dec. 11 at 11:00 and on Dec. 18 at 1:00. Meet downstairs in the music room. We'd like to have more kids join in! Contact Ruth Bills with questions (ruthabills@gmail.com).

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers this week are given by Rick and Cheryl Sundly in honor of their 51st anniversary!



612-781-2796



office@mountcarmelmpls.org



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THOSE WE ARE PRAYING FOR

- Carol Kwiecien, hospitalized after a fall
- Marlene Black, recovering from sacral fractures
- Brenda Wetzel and family, mourning the loss of both her Uncle Dell and her father John
- Aidan, Brenda Wetzel's nephew, who will receive a bone marrow transplant soon!
- Marilyn, Janell Wampler's sister, recovering from femur surgery and multiple infections
- Joe Prondzinski, Bob and Sandy Bauer's son-in-law, for pain relief and healing
- Kathy Halverson, recovering from surgery
- Ryan, friend of Greta Kutzer, struggling with MS
- Glenn, Brian Wirth's brother, fighting with cancer
- John Salveson, former Mt. Carmel music director, battling cancer.

To include your prayers on this list, contact the church office. If you would like the pastor to be aware of your prayer concerns but do not want them named publicly, please be sure to note that. Let the office know of any updates or changes.

HOMEBOUND AND LONG-TERM CARE

Ethel Antonson, Marlene Black, Lorraine Carlson, Annette Dahl, Marion Harris, Gerry Johnson, Carol Kwiecien, Jennie Porter, Virginia Schaal and Dorothy Warhol

FELLOWSHIP DECEMBER

- Good Fruits Bible Study—Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m. at Silverwood Park (Contact Leona Olson, onondave@yahoo.com)
- ONLINE Men's Bible Study—Wednesdays at 6:45 a.m. (Contact Ralph Matthes, marinosdelimpls@gmail.com)
- Racial Justice Book Study Group – Thursday, Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m. in Fireside Room (contact Barb Hollister, bjhollister@comcast.net)

REMEMBERING TO GIVE

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 mountcarmelimpls.org/give for online giving opportunities.
- Mail your check to the church or drop off in the secure mailbox.

Your generous support for Mt. Carmel and our ministry is truly appreciated.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dec. 17 – Kristina Burrack, Brian Doolittle

NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH?

The mini-bus is revved up and ready to take you to church! Call the church office (612-781-2796) by noon Friday to let us know you want a ride.

COVID INFORMATION

Masks are required in the building for worship and meetings. We continue to ask that everyone distance from each other.



MT CARMEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

1701 St Anthony Parkway NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Office Phone: 612-781-2796

Office Email: office@mountcarmelimpls.org



612-781-2796



office@mountcarmelimpls.org



www.mtcarmel.net



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Third Sunday in Advent

December 12, 2021

Congregation parts are printed in **bold**.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

ELW 247 (vs. 3)

**3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior.
 Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.**

Light three candles.

L: Let us pray: We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 264

**1 Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
 Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!
 Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:**

Refrain:

Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

- 2** God's people, see him coming: your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! [Refrain]
- 3** Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing: [Refrain]
- 4** His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding: [Refrain]

GREETING

- L:** The light of our Lord Jesus Christ, the warmth of God, and the hope of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C:** **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- L:** Let us pray: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C:** **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

He Came Down

ELW 253 (vs. 3)

**He came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
hallelujah forevermore.**

GOSPEL READING

Luke 3:1-6

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 3rd chapter:

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

ELW 256

- 1 **"Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim that God's pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever.**
- 2 **For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior; hills, bow down in humble favor.**
- 3 **Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

L: Holy God, renew your church and raise up leaders who announce your good news. You exult over us in singing. Enliven the song of this assembly and bless the ministry of church musicians. Grant peace to congregations in the midst of transition. Guide the work of transition and call committees. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

L: Creating God, your Spirit brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Breathe life into us, that we are inspired to live in harmony with one another and the planet. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Shepherding God, you lead your people in paths of righteousness. Raise up prophets in our own day who warn against captivity to greed and point us to the freedom found in generosity. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Nurturing God, you come near in times of worry and need. Cradle us in your arms, that we trust you and are not afraid. Attend to any who are hungry, imprisoned, or ill this day especially..... Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We give you thanks for your servants who showed us your goodness and grace. By the power of your Spirit, keep us steadfast in faith until we make our home with you. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of new life, you come among us in the people and places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen.

PEACE

OFFERING

Sanctuary Choir

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Let us pray: God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

C: Amen.

MEAL

- *There is bread on hand on a small plate. You may put a cloth or napkin on top if you like.*
- *There is wine or grape juice ready (or some other beverage if wine or grape juice is not available).*
- *That you have small glasses of some kind to drink from. The wine can either be poured ahead of time or at the time of serving.*

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

RECEIVING THE MEAL

L: The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Let us pray: Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host, and our guest.

C: Amen.

SENDING

FINAL BLESSING

P: The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

ELW 254

- 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.
- 2 Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Christ is near!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Thank you to Paul Lathrop for providing the audio and video support for our worship services.

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Text: Geon-yong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope

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Prepare the Royal Highway

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

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He Came Down

Text: Cameroon traditional

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788