



Weekly Announcements

Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

For the Week of December 26, 2021

ANNUAL MEETING

Mt. Carmel's annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, Jan. 30. We'll meet in the Sanctuary following the service.

BAKE SALE UPDATE

The Youth Group held a bake sale to support Mt. Carmel's donation to ECLA Good Gifts. They blew past their goal and raised \$630! Thank you all for your generous contributions. They have voted and decided their gift will go toward the purchase of 1 cow, 1 fish farm, and many chicks!

GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD

Our barnyard is growing! So far, your generous donations will provide families with 20 goats, 11 chicks, 5 pigs, 4 roosters and 5 colonies of honeybees! We also received gifts that will purchase Bibles, school uniforms, and water filtration. Thank you all for your support.

MT. CARMEL FINANCIALS

Please HELP to erase our deficit by Dec. 31.

Income through Dec. 16, 2021: \$244,716.50

Expenses through Dec. 16, 2021: \$258,322.88

Deficit to erase: (\$13,606.38)

We request your help to cover invoices and additional expenses that are due in December AND defeat the deficit before the end of the fiscal year on Dec. 31. Please prayerfully consider a special gift to Mt. Carmel, so we can erase the deficit and end the year paying our expenses.

WEBSITE UPDATE

Our website has been updated. Go to mountcarmelmpls.org to check it out! Thank you to Jenni Lathrop for the design work.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP TODAY

No Sunday School and Youth Group for the next 2 weeks. See you January 9!

THOSE WE ARE PRAYING FOR

- Aidan and his brother Adam, Brenda Wetzel's nephews, who have completed a successful bone marrow transplant and are recovering well!
- Carol Kwiecien, hospitalized after a fall
- Marlene Black, recovering from sacral fractures
- John, Maryjo Wiggen's cousin, hospitalized with covid and pneumonia
- Julie Craig, recovering in transitional care for rehab
- Brenda Wetzel and family, mourning the loss of both her Uncle Dell and her father John
- 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 Salvesson, 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.



612-781-2796



office@mountcarmelmpls.org



www.mtcarmel.net



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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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dec. 30 – Diane Langer

ALTAR FLOWER SIGN UP

If you would like to place flowers on the altar in honor of or in memory of a loved one there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex by the elevator. The cost of one bouquet is \$27. You may pick up the flowers following the service.

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 mountcarmelmpls.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.

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
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Office Phone: 612-781-2796

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STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Christine Wenzel, Interim Pastor

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Brenda Wetzel, Child Care Director

Ext. 107, childcare@mountcarmelmpls.org

PRAYER CHAIN

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



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First Sunday of Christmas

December 26, 2021

Congregation parts are printed in **bold**.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The light shines in the darkness,

C: And the darkness did not overcome it.

L: To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.,

C: And we have seen Christ's glory.

L: The Word was made flesh and lived among us.

C: In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all the people.

CHRISTMAS CAROL

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

ELW 288

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**
- 2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**
- 3 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

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: Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

CHRISTMAS CAROL

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ELW 272

- 1** Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.
- 2** Isaiah had foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.
- 3** This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us
and lightens ev'ry load.
- 4** O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;
O Savior, king of glory, who dost our weakness know:
bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven
and into endless day.

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

L: Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD'; and then they would return to their home.

Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the LORD and with the people.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

CHRISTMAS CAROL

From Heaven Above

ELW 268 (verses 1-3, 12)

1 "From heav'n above to earth I come to bear good news to ev'ry home!
Glad tidings of great joy I bring to all the world, and gladly sing:"

2 "To you this night is born a child of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
this newborn child of lowly birth shall be the joy of all the earth."

3 "This is the Christ, God's Son most high, who hears your sad and bitter cry,
who will himself your Savior be and from all sin will set you free."

12 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy child, prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
a quiet chamber in my heart, that you and I may never part.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2: 41-52

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 2nd chapter:

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

P: Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

CHRISTMAS CAROL

Your Little Ones, Dear Lord

- 1 Your little ones, dear Lord, are we,
and come your lowly bed to see;
enlighten ev'ry soul and mind,
that we the way to you may find.**

- 2 With songs we hasten you to greet,
and kiss the ground before your feet.
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night
that gave you birth, our soul's delight.**

**3 Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord,
and to us all your grace accord;
true faith and love to us impart,
that we may hold you in our heart.**

**4 Until at last we too proclaim,
with all your saints, your glorious name;
in paradise our songs renew,
and praise you as the angels do.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Joining our voices with the heavenly host throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

L: You come to us in gatherings of your church. You come to us in acts of justice and forgiveness. Open our hearts to forgive one another. Supply us with the wisdom to be clothed with love. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: You come to us in the diverse splendor of the universe. Grant us the humility to trust our place in the network of creation, that we live in service to you and the natural world. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: You come to us through relationships of many kinds: families, friendships, communities, and nations. Guide us in these relationships, that we recognize the Christ child in one another and show your love to those most vulnerable. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: You come to us through people whom the world forgets. Poor shepherds announced your good news. Send your Spirit to all who are imprisoned, struggling with addiction, unwell, or in any need this day, especially.....
Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: You come to us through those who have died yet live with you forever. Comfort all who mourn, especially the family of Eve Kwiecien, and all those whom we love and have gone before us. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L; Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

PEACE

OFFERING

Sanctuary Choir/Anna, soloist

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.*

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: 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.

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

RECEIVE THE MEAL

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

CHRISTMAS CAROL

Love Has Come

ELW 292

- 1 **Love has come—a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**

- 2 **Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.**

**3 Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!**

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

SENDING

FINAL BLESSING

L: May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

C: Amen.

L: May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.

C: Amen.

L: May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

C: Amen.

L: And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

CHRISTMAS CAROL

Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW 290

Refrain:

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. [Refrain]

2 The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]

3 Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Christ is with you!

C: Thanks be to God!

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

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866

Lo How a Rose E'er Bloomington

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845-1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st. 4

From Heaven Above

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

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Your Little Ones, Dear Lord

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694-1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845-1925, alt.

Love Has Come

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

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Go Tell It on the Mountain

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.