



TIDINGS

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Calling all those who might be interested in applying for a post-secondary scholarship provided by the Mt. Carmel Foundation. Please contact Mary Catherine at 612-226-1722 or marycat81@gmail.com if you are interested in applying. You will be provided with the necessary information in order to complete your application. All applications must be completed and received no later than March 1, 2022. If you know of someone who might be interested in applying, please pass along this announcement to them. Applicants must be a member of Mt. Carmel.

COVID TASK FORCE UPDATE

Going to online-only worship for several weeks at the end of January was a necessary but difficult decision, brought on primarily because there were multiple confirmed COVID cases in the congregation.

With restrictions regarding masking and vaccinations being reimposed in Minneapolis, St. Paul and several neighboring suburbs, as well as the continued overloading of our hospital systems, it is our duty as members of these shared communities to do the right thing and do what we can to help minimize the risk of spreading the virus any further.

It was disappointing to us to have to make these decisions. And I'm certain, disappointing to you to not be able to attend church in our sanctuary. It just reinforces that all precautions are important: distancing, mask wearing and quarantining if you have been in close contact with someone who may be infected.

For now, we ask that all groups and committees meet online only. While the building is not closed, we want to help minimize the risk of infection to our staff, congregation, child care center, and others who use the building.

BOOK STUDY BEGINS MARCH 10

We meet every other Thursday at 6:30 p.m. either in person, via Zoom or a combination of the two. Our next book, "Just Mercy," is a memoir written by Bryan Stevenson. As a young lawyer he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, which defends death row inmates, the poor and others trapped by an unjust criminal justice system including children.

For March 10, please read the whole book and if time permits, watch the show on Netflix. We will begin discussing both at our book study. If you have any questions, contact Barb Hollister at 612-590-6469 or bjhollister@comcast.net.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Pastor's Ponderings2
- Mt. Carmel Child Care . .2
- Treasurer Report3
- Council Update3
- Baptism3
- Gifts Received3
- Camp Wapo
registration open3

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.

- Feb. 6—Ruth Bills
- Feb. 10—Ron Handberg
- Feb. 12—Chuck Grider
- Feb. 17—Dick Jacobson
- Feb. 19—John Hedberg
- Feb. 22—Dorothy Warhol
- Feb. 28—Ethel Antonson



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

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

Interim Pastor

Christine Wenzel, ext. 103
pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org

Office Administrator

Nancy Nordeen, 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 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

“O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through joys and perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” (ELW, Service of Evening Prayer.)

Over these past months with you, I have heard concern and anxiety from the members Mt. Carmel: afraid of the future, afraid of failure, afraid you may have to merge with another congregation or even close. Over the years, you have experienced decrease in membership to the point that you are facing a record-breaking deficit for 2022, and you may be wondering about your continued vitality and sustainability.

Mt. Carmel's leadership is asking for everyone to get involved and participate in addressing the issue of how you will move into the future. A small group of council members are already working on growing our partnership with Gustavus Adolphus. The budget team has cut the budget to the bare bone. You are still left with a \$62,000 deficit. Now what? This is a congregational problem, and you are needed.

Longing for the “good ole days” is part of history and story. It is normal to want to return to a more secure past. I hear this around the current pandemic. COVID has shattered the world we once knew. How often have you heard or even lamented, “Will we ever get back to normal?” In the church, the dream of reliving the glory days, when the Sunday School and church pews were filled to the brim, is understandable. God has done wonderful things in your congregation, and we need to celebrate that.

The message in the prayer quoted above is: Do not be afraid. Be strong and courageous. God has led you this far. God will never forsake you. Preparing to move forward in this unknown time, may mean letting go of the past and looking to where God is calling you into the future. The future is not without hope! God is faithful!

You are in my prayers. Please keep me in yours!
Pastor Christine

MT. CARMEL CHILD CARE

January brought lots of winter fun to Mt. Carmel Childcare! We had lots of fun making our own ice cream and s'mores. Both of our classrooms have been doing great art projects that tie to our themes, and our preschoolers have even been able to bundle up and play in the courtyard. We are counting down the days until we can put our fencing back up and play outside but we are so grateful for our gym space (Fellowship Hall), the teachers work hard everyday setting out a variety of large muscle activities that cover all of our age developments.

Stay safe and warm.
Brenda Wetzel, Director

TREASURER REPORT

Dec. 31, 2021

Mt Carmel's finances for 2021 ended with a deficit of (\$8,930.34). Due to COVID-19, Mt. Carmel has faced many challenges and received many blessings. We started the year faithfully passing a deficit budget of (\$25,246.19). With our congregations generosity we were able to recover two thirds of that deficit, and a significant amount in December.

December Actual Contributions/ Income	Budgeted Contributions/
Income	
\$ 32,507.56	\$22,752.88
December Actual Expense	Budgeted Expense
\$25,444.40	\$24,798.69

Actual Income/ Budgeted Income for the Year to Date 2021: (\$8,930.34)

The pledging process for 2022 has completed. This year is predicted to be very challenging with a significant projected deficit predicted (not finalized at this date). Please prayerfully consider increasing your giving and planned pledges. We pray pledges and giving proceeds go into 2022 on a healthy trend

Diane Davis Langer, Mt. Carmel Church Treasurer

COUNCIL UPDATE

Notes from the January 2022 council meeting.

- Two new council members will be voted in during the Mt. Carmel Annual Meeting. Lory Dubbels and Karen Moeller take two open seats on the council. Tim Quinlan, council president, will leave council. Thank you to Tim for serving two consecutive terms (six years) on the council!
- The 2022 council members include: Barb Hollister, president, Karen Matthes, vice president, Lory Dubbels, secretary, Dave Larson, Allison Gurney, Patrick Lathrop, Doug Jones, Karen Moeller.
- The Mt. Carmel budget and preparation for the annual meeting has been a primary focus of the council.
- A review of Mt. Carmel's 2020 financial records by the audit committee, made up of church members Julie Larson, Bob Hollister and Adam Walz, was completed fall 2021. The council will be reviewing their report at the upcoming council meeting.
- An updated Congregational Life Directory is available for members to pick up when coming to church on Sundays or anytime during church office hours.
- Property: Repairs have been made in the kitchen near the dishwasher that had some water damage. It was noted that Steve Panning has been doing a great job clearing the sidewalks from many recent show falls.
- The transition team (Steve Ristuben, Sinead Carolan, Karen Matthes and Pastor Wenzel) has almost completed the ministry site profile (MSP).
- The COVID Task Force continues to meet biweekly because of the high COVID rates.

BAPTISM

Jan 16—Clyde Harold Fischer

GIFTS RECEIVED

TO THE FOUNDATION
In honor of Jesus' birth:
Chuck Grider

CAMP WAPO REGISTRATION OPEN

It is time to register for Camp Wapo! We are so fortunate to have full scholarship support from the Foundation. Our kids have reserved spots through Feb. 15. After that date, you can still register and you can still receive the scholarship, but the August availability is not guaranteed.

This link will take you directly to our group's registration page, <http://lwlbc.com/mtcarmel>.

Summer Camp Dates

- Wapo Youth Camp: Aug. 14-19 for kids finishing grades 4-8.
- SEEDS Camp: Aug. 5-7 for kids finishing grades 1-3.
- Family Camp: July 8-10 and Aug. 12-14

Contact the office if you have questions about registration and deposits.



Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

1701 St. Anthony Parkway NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Non-Profit.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Twin Cities, MN
Permit #93097

Address Service Requested

**NEXT TIDINGS
DEADLINE**
Feb. 15, 10 p.m.

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



/MountCarmelMpls