



TIDINGS

LENT AND HOLY WEEK

Plans are underway to try something new for the mid-week time of Lent and Holy Week this year. Because Mt. Carmel and Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church are finding various ways as neighborhood churches to work together to meet the needs of the community—and to get to know each other better—we will worship together on Ash Wednesday and during Holy Week.

Pastor Susan from Gustavus (GA) and Pastor Christine from Mt. Carmel, along with their worship and music leaders, are in the process of putting together a shared Ash Wednesday worship service to be held at Mt. Carmel.

During Holy Week, we will share the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship services, which will be held at GA (1509 NE 27th Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55418). Combined choirs will provide music of the season for these services.

Each church will hold their own Wednesday evening services during Lent. We look forward to the beautiful music of Holden Evening Prayer again this year.

A Lenten knapsack containing ashes, a soup packet, corn bread and dessert mixes, Lenten devotions, and more will be available for pickup. If you cannot pick up a bag, and would like one, please contact the church office, and we will deliver one to you.

All of our services will be held at 7 p.m. They will also be available on-line. Everyone is warmly invited to come together for this important time of Lenten reconciliation and Easter resurrection.

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LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 2, 7 p.m.: Ash Wednesday—

Worship at Mt. Carmel

March 9-April 6, 7 p.m.

Wednesday—Worship at Mt. Carmel with Holden Evening Prayer

April 10 , 9:30 a.m.: Palm Sunday—

Worship at Mt. Carmel

April 14, 7 p.m.: Maundy Thursday—

Worship at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran

April 15, 7 p.m.: Good Friday—

Worship at Gustavus Adolphus

April 17, 9:30 a.m.: Easter Sunday—

Worship at Mt. Carmel

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.

March 1: Virginia Schaal, Carol Kwiecien

Mach 14: Marlene Black

March 28: Ruth Emerson

Happy 100th birthday to Virginia Schaal!

PRAYER CHAIN

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



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
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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

God calls us to cast less shadow and more light. To do so, we need to explore the shadows they create, and experience the transformation that comes from God.

Excerpts taken from: "Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation" by Parker Palmer.

1. First Shadow is the insecurity about identity and worth. Many times, we plunge into external activity to prove that we are worthy—or simply to evade the question. When we are insecure about our own identities, we create settings that deprive other people of their identities as a way of lifting up our own. God's gift is the promise that our identity does not depend on the role we play or the power it gives us over others. It depends only on the simple fact that we are children of God, valued in and for ourselves.

2. Second Shadow is the notion that the universe is a battleground, hostile to human interests. We use images of warfare—terms like tactics and strategies, wins and losses. There is another way of doing business, which is consensual, cooperative, and communal. God's gift is the promise that creation is working together for good. Death is part of the cycle of life. When we learn to move gracefully with that cycle, God brings harmony!

3. Third Shadow is the belief that ultimate responsibility for everything rests with us. This is the unconscious, unexamined conviction that if anything decent is going to happen here, we are the ones who must make it happen. It leads us to impose our will on others. It often ends in burnout, depression, and despair, as we learn that the world will not always bend to our will. God's gift is we need not carry the whole load but can share it with others, liberating us and empowering them—doing only what we are able and trust the rest to God and others.

4. Fourth Shadow is fear, especially our fear of the natural chaos of life. We attempt to eliminate all chaos from the world - to organize and orchestrate things so thoroughly, that messiness will never bubble up around us, imprisoning rather than empowering. God's gift is knowing that chaos is the precondition to creativity: as every creation story has it, life itself emerged from void. Even what has been created needs to be returned to chaos from time to time, so that it can be regenerated in a more vital form.

5. Fifth Shadow is the denial of death itself. We deny the fact that all things must die in due course. Those who participate in this denial often demand that the people around them keep resuscitating things that are no longer alive. Ministries that should have been unplugged long ago are kept on life support. Within our denial of death, lurks fear of another sort: the fear of failure. Yet, if what we tried was tested for good reason, there is always a source of new learning. God's gift is that even though death comes to everything—death does not have the final word. By allowing something to die when its time is due, we create the conditions under which new life can emerge.

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

MT. CARMEL CHILD CARE

Our classrooms had wonderful Valentine's Day parties this year! These included: Valentine's bingo, crafts, cookie decorating and of course, passing out Valentines. We are planning a small "fun day" for St. Patrick's Day which will include themed bingo, making crowns, leprechaun stickers and a small surprise for all the children. Spring is on our minds, and we are making the most of this cabin fever, the gym is always amazing, and the teachers do an amazing job of challenging the children with both learning and play.

*Be safe and healthy
Brenda Wetzel, Director*

COVID TASK FORCE UPDATE

It feels good to finally be the bearer of good news for once: Beginning Feb. 27, in-person coffee fellowship resumed following worship!

With infection numbers dropping below 10% for the first time since December (to 9.9% as of February 17), it's finally safe to resume another of our community practices.

But we need to remind all of you that **masks are still required in the building at all times**, except for when you're actively eating or drinking; and that you should still keep a distance between yourself and people from other households. To help with that, we will have only 6 chairs per table in Fellowship Hall for fellowship and will continue to have every other row blocked in the sanctuary.

If food is served during fellowship, it will be served individually by the coffee hosts. Please do not touch utensils, platters or food being served to others.

Now that we've resumed in-person worship and will be restarting fellowship, we want to remind you that if you are at risk and don't feel comfortable with attending in person, we encourage you to stay home and watch the worship livestream.

While the building wasn't closed for those three weeks in January, we encouraged groups to meet virtually. With the risk of infection dropping, groups may meet in the church building if they wish, as long as everyone follows the mask and distancing requirements. And if your group has any members who are not comfortable attending in person, please make sure they may attend via Zoom or another virtual option.

We need to be clear that while things are looking better again in terms of the virus and the recommended or required precautions, everyone should continue to be careful. It is still very possible to become infected with the virus even if you are vaccinated and boosted, and you can infect others when you don't even know you're infected. So if you feel ill at any time, or show any of the symptoms associated with a cold or COVID, please stay home, get tested and isolate if you are positive. For guidelines on when to quarantine if you test positive, check out the CDC's website at <https://bit.ly/2ZcFMey>.

Again, thank you all for your cooperation during this pandemic. We look forward to resuming fellowship.

Paul Lathrop

WITH SYMPATHY

The Svensk family on the death of Glenn.

The Zadworny family on the death of Bernadette.

Ken Bogie and family on the death of his mother, Genora (age 104).

Pr. Dodd Lamberton and family on the death of his mother, Dorothy.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

There will be a new member information class on Sunday, March 13, following worship. We will meet in the Fireside Room at 10:30 a.m. If you are interested in joining the community of faith at Mt. Carmel, please contact Nancy Nordeen in the church office at 612-781-2796.

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.

STAYING UP-TO-DATE

Stay up to date with Mt. Carmel and our community through our website. Visit www.mountcarmelmpls.org/about/news to download weekly announcements, view past worship services and find information on special events and learning opportunities. Make sure to subscribe to The Candle email list as well.

If you find it difficult to access our information online, contact the office to be added to our weekly postal mailing list. Each week you will receive the weekly announcements and the text of the previous Sunday's sermon.

To subscribe to The Candle or have your name added to our postal mailing list, please contact the office at 612-781-2796 or office@mountcarmelmpls.org.

TREASURER REPORT

February 1, 2022

Mt. Carmel is facing a challenging year. At the annual meeting, the congregation faithfully passed a deficit budget of (\$62,709).

We have been blessed with exciting opportunities as an avenue to recover. The Mt. Carmel Foundation has pledged up to \$25,000 in matching funds for all special gifts above a member's pledged giving and any monies raised in church fundraising events. In addition, the Mt. Carmel Foundation pledged \$15,710 for specified areas of the budget.

We have challenges, but have been blessed with answers, and a potential for a positive year end. Join in the excitement to help reach the \$25,000 goal for matching funds.

January

Actual Contributions/ Income
\$ 26,007.89

Budgeted Contributions/ Income
\$18,934.81

Actual Expense
\$ 24,443.00

Budgeted Expense
\$24,160.03

Actual Income/Expense: \$1,564.89

Budgeted Income/Expense: (\$5,225.42)

Please prayerfully consider increasing your giving and planned pledging with a special gift to be matched with Foundation funds. We pray pledges and giving proceeds continue on a healthy trend.

Diane Davis Langer, Mt. Carmel Church Treasurer

FOUNDATION UPDATE

Introducing the 2022 Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church in Minneapolis Foundation board members. Serving are Diane Davis Langer, president; Justin Sawyer, vice president; Mary Catherine, secretary; Matthew Nordeen, treasurer; Susan Feist, Dan Gillett, Ralph Matthes, Roger Peterson and Kevin Zeigler.

The mission of the foundation is to receive gifts, invest them prudently and distribute interests from the income for religious, benevolent, charitable and educational activities not generally budgeted by the Mt. Carmel church council. In special situations, money may also be distributed from the capital fund.

In January 2022, the Foundation approved the following grants: \$15,710 to be used for specified elements in the 2022 budget, and up to \$25,000 in matching funds from the capital fund. Any special gifts above pledged and monies raised through fundraising will be distributed to the church every time the raised funds reach \$5,000. We are excited and hopeful to see all of this grant utilized. Please consider a special gift to Mt. Carmel to be matched. Denote "special gift" on your check or envelope.

The generosity of generations of givers has made the Foundation mission possible.

Diane Davis Langer



Circle of Welcome volunteers were happy to do the heavy lifting.



Mt. Carmel Youth hard at work building furniture.

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT UPDATE

The Circle of Welcome volunteers have partnered with Lutheran Social Services in a program that matches a volunteer group to a newly resettled refugee family. We have a family and they have a new home! At the beginning of February, we moved furniture, household items and food into a five-bedroom apartment for their nine-person family. We will have a chance to meet them in a couple weeks. A huge thanks goes out to the many volunteers who moved couches, cleaned cabinets, made up beds, built furniture and got the place ready! We are also grateful to all those who continue to support the resettlement fund: NE Kiwanis, NE Lions, NE Bank, Scout Pack 132, Mt. Carmel members and neighbors.

PACKING FOOD AT FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

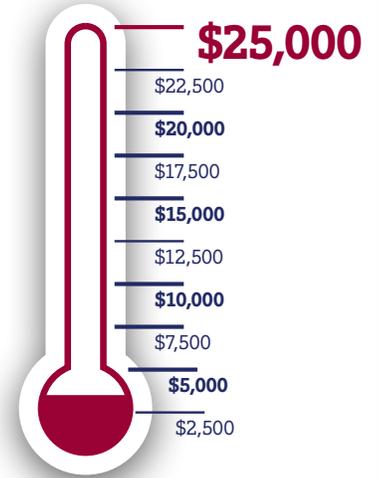
A stop on our Journey into Lent

We have scheduled two packing sessions at the Coon Rapids Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) site during Lent.

- Wednesday, April 6, 2-3:45 p.m.—12 spots reserved
- Friday, April 8, 4:30-6:15 p.m.—20 spots reserved

Details will be published in the April Tidings. If you will be a part of one of these sessions, please let Audrey Erickson know ASAP at ajajeric@gmail.com or call/text 763-226-8391. Hopefully we can fill our spots and ask for more! If you need more info on FMSC, feel free to call Audrey or check out their website at www.fmsc.org.

Remember to start filling the coin boxes that will be a part of the Lenten Knapsack so that we can provide financial gifts as well as the gift of our time to this outreach. The Coon Rapids FMSC is located at 401 93rd Ave NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433.



MATCHING GIFTS

Your special gift to be matched by the Mt. Carmel Foundation

Consider giving a special gift above your 2022 pledge to Mt. Carmel this year. All designated gifts or special fundraising activities will be matched up to \$25,000 by the Mt. Carmel Foundation.

Thank you to all who have contributed so far. **We've raised \$3525 to date.** Please help us to reach our first \$5000 benchmark!

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

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.

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.

Ever wonder who's behind the scenes at Mt. Carmel helping to make our worship and community "sing?" Or wonder about other things happening in the church that might not make it into the announcements? Our Communications Team met recently and has decided to put a few tidbits in the Tidings each month to make known some "News from the Pews"!



We begin with what we just might take for granted every single Sunday along with special services throughout the year. Our **Altar Guild** volunteers make sure the altar is prepared with communion elements. They maintain, clean and change the altar paraments for each season of the church year; they see that the flowers are placed on the altar and that the candles have oil and wicks ready for lighting; and they straighten the hymnals and envelopes in the pews as well as the pew cushions. We would especially like to thank **Janell Partyka** for heading up the Altar Guild and for the many hours she has dedicated to these tasks prior to and especially during the pandemic. During special seasons like Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, she coordinates all the decorating and special projects such as our recent Advent wreaths. While the pandemic has caused many changes in our worship, the above tasks of the Altar Guild have remained steady.

A hearty thank you is extended to Janell and to all who have helped and will hopefully continue to help when the pandemic no longer limits our worship capacity.

Did you know?

Our oldest member is **Virginia Schaal** who turned 100 years old on March 1 and our newest member is **Clyde Harold Fischer** who was baptized on Jan. 16. God's richest blessings to both of these members.

To our members

Got an idea for future News from the Pews? Perhaps it's someone who volunteers, an upcoming event or a special award. You can contact any one of the Communication Team members (Barb Hollister, Linda Jones, Karen Matthes, Karen Moeller, Nancy Nordeen and Leona Olson) with your ideas.

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.

SOFTBALL FEVER, START THE WARM-UPS!

The Mt. Carmelites softball team is celebrating 32 year!

- Wanted: Mt. Carmelite co-ed softball players, 18 to 107. Previous experience is not required.
- When: All games played on Tuesday evenings. First game is Tuesday, April 26, time and place to be determined
- Where: New Brighton. Fields and game times will be shared in future communications.

Come join in the fun and fellowship! We would love you to join the fun as players or fans.

Call Diane Langer at 612-718-4229 or email her at ddl2@aol.com to sign up for for more information. A sign up will also be posted outside the church office.

COUNCIL UPDATE

Notes from the February 2022 Congregational Council meeting

- Several changes have been made to council: Al Erickson has come forward to fill the vacant council seat. His term will be for three years. Allison Gurney has submitted her resignation from council. If you have an interest in filling Allison's term, please contact Lory Dubbels.
- Council discussed the matching funds available from the Foundation. For clarification, fundraising monies and special gifts earmarked for matching funds will be matched by the Foundation. Pledge commitments will not be matched.
- We are finding out more about a member's idea for a fundraising idea.
- Reminder to return your Time & Talent sheets as soon as possible. The sheets will be tabulated and released to the committee chairs for follow-up.
- Installation of boards (council, Foundation, and child care) will take place during the worship service on Sunday, March 6.
- The council retreat will be on Saturday, April 23. Time and place to be determined.
- The Afghan Refugee Team reported that Mt Carmel has been assigned a nine-person family. The parents are joined by their six daughters and one son. Lutheran Social Services has provided a five-bedroom apartment in southeast Minneapolis.
- The Worship and Music Committee is planning for Lent. The Group of JOY will provide each Mt. Carmel family with a Lenten bag filled with items to help them on their 40-day Lenten journey. The bags will be available for pick up on Sunday, Feb. 27 or delivered to your home if requested.
- The Property Committee and Steve Panning have been updating the lighting in the sanctuary, front entry way and other high traffic areas. Automatic light switches are being installed in all the bathrooms.
- Watch for new columns in the Tidings and Candle highlighting members of the congregation.

MT. CARMEL COUNCIL

Barb Hollister, President

Karen Matthes, Vice
President

Lory Dubbels, Secretary

Diane Langer, Treasurer

Al Erickson

Doug Jones

Dave Larson

Patrick Lathrop

Karen Moeller

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Weekly Sunday

Announcements: Sunday mornings. Due by 5 p.m. the Wednesday prior.

The Candle weekly email:

Sent Wednesday mornings. Due by 10 a.m. the Tuesday prior.

The Tidings Monthly

newsletter: Mailed the last Wednesday of the month. Due by 10 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month (Please email all Tidings submissions to jenni@jennilathrop.com).

Please contact the office with your submissions or with any questions.



Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

1701 St. Anthony Parkway NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

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**NEXT TIDINGS
DEADLINE**
March 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.—Worship in person or
online on Facebook or YouTube.

10:30 a.m.—Coffee Fellowship

10:45 a.m.—Faith Formation

Mini-bus Transportation

Call 612-781-2796 to be added to
Sunday's list.

Mt. Carmel Child Care

Brenda Wetzel, Director
612-781-2798



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