



# TIDINGS

## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

During Holy Week, we will share the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship services with Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church. Both services will be held at GA (1509 NE 27th Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55418). Combined choirs will provide music of the season for these services. Both services will be broadcast via GA's Zoom account.

- Maundy Thursday: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83368931906?pwd=OG1BNFMvWWFqYVNzS3FSSGY5RXZ5QT09>
- Good Friday: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83391118740?pwd=dVBBSjIWMU9NVGRnWC8ya3ZvYTFzZz09>

Everyone is warmly invited to come together for this important time of Lenten reconciliation and Easter resurrection.

## CARAMELS FOR MT. CARMEL!



The youth have taken our budget deficit to heart and want to help. What sweeter way than a candy sale? Watch out for a homemade "carmel" fundraiser in April. All proceeds benefit the church and we'll ask the Mt. Carmel Foundation to match your donations 100%!

### HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**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

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### 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)



## 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](http://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](http://www.elca.org/About).



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

# PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

I moved down to New Orleans to start a bridge interim on February 1, 2020. As we all know, New Orleans is famous for their many Mardi Gras parades and celebrations. One of the things I learned is that they begin the parties in February, and they don't end until Fat Tuesday. Luckily, I was able to attend one parade before everything came to a screeching halt with the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

My colleagues in the Texas/Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod met on Zoom. Our conference consisted of all the churches in southern Louisiana. The number of Lutheran churches was small in comparison to Minneapolis. One of the joys of Zoom was that we were able to meet once a week, instead of monthly. Even though I never met anyone face to face, I got to know my colleagues quite well.

One of my dear colleagues, Bob Miller, shared a booklet with me, which he wrote after the church he was serving realized they needed to change, or die. This short booklet is a small part of the unfolding story of God's work in and through the people of First Lutheran Church in Lafayette, LA. We will be reading their journey for our council retreat on April 23. I thought I could share some of their experiences with you.

Miller's hopes for this booklet are to give people a deeper understanding of "why we do what we do, and why we don't do what we used to do." He hopes the congregation will respond by saying, "Oh...now I get it!"

His very first paragraph is about the mission of the church (global or local). It has always been the same: Jesus instructed his disciples to "Go and make disciples" not to "Come and make church members." He explains that since the Reformation, we've created systems and structures that focus on making faithful church members more so than making disciples.

There seems to be two different approaches to being and doing church. Vision becomes so important here. Some churches have a vision that is focused more inward than outward—preserving the institution. They are a dying breed in the 21st Century. They tend to meet the needs, wants and desires of those who belong to the church, first and foremost. They tend to worry, "Will we have enough money to pay salaries and be able to maintain our building and property?" All potential members are seen as a blessing to help pay the bills.

The other vision is outward focused and tends to meet the needs, wants and desires of those who don't belong to the church—a.k.a. the never-churched, de-churched and non-churched. They are willing to let go of anything that gets in the way of sharing the Good News of Jesus. They see themselves as blessed to be a blessing to others. They experience abundant life by serving others. The participants in these churches think differently. The church exists to be on the move with Jesus out in the world; to serve and not be served (or even get our way).

These congregations trust in their leaders to make good decisions based on the congregation's mission, vision and values. The average member is so busy doing ministry in real life, they don't have time to get too involved in running the church. They leave that up to the leaders.

Here are a couple of questions to ponder! What kind of a church is Mt. Carmel? Inward focused? Or, outward focused—moving towards thriving and away from surviving? What kind of a church does Mt. Carmel want to be?

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

# FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN FOOD PACKING

If you are registered to pack on Wednesday, April 6 or Friday, April 8, please arrive at FMSC Coon Rapids (401 93rd Ave. NW.) 10 minutes before your session. Please visit their website at [www.fmsc.org](http://www.fmsc.org) to review COVID protocols and other packing guidelines. If you aren't signed up and would like to join us, give Audrey Erickson a call at 763-226-8391 and we will try to add you to our group. (All packers must be registered, no walk-ins allowed.)

## COVID TASK FORCE UPDATE

As the rest of the world is resuming its pre-pandemic lives, so is Mt. Carmel.

Our mask requirement has been lifted and masks are now optional in the building, though as always, we recommend them for everyone, but especially for those who are at risk if they were to become infected.

Coffee fellowship after worship has also resumed, allowing us to reconnect with those who we weren't able to be close to for almost two years.

We continue to ask that you keep a distance from those from other households. Alternate rows will continue to be blocked off in the sanctuary and only six chairs will be at each table in Fellowship Hall.

Meetings and other events may be held in the building with masks optional, but we ask that everyone observe distancing as best they can.

With all of the progress we've made, though, we still ask that if you are experiencing symptoms of COVID, or of any cold or virus, please stay home. If you aren't comfortable in public without a mask, you are welcome to wear your mask in worship or stay home and watch worship on Facebook or YouTube. And if you aren't comfortable participating in a meeting in person, please work with the meeting organizer and the office to set up a Zoom meeting.

While the return to some pre-pandemic protocols are certainly encouraging—and we hope it continues—with the recently identified Omicron BA.2 variant, we all need to continue to be cautious and minimize the risk to ourselves and others to prevent another surge. To that end, the task force will continue to monitor infection rates and other data and will implement restrictions again if they are needed.

As always, we appreciate your understanding and cooperation as the church and our community navigate this pandemic. If you have any questions about Mt. Carmel's COVID response, please contact Paul Lathrop.

## THANK YOU!

Thanks to the Group of JOY, and especially Karen Moeller, for their thoughtful Valentines and Lenten Knapsack. I appreciate all the extra care they offer to our shut in members.

*Ethel Antonson*

## GIFTS RECEIVED

FOUNDATION  
MATCHING FUND

**In memory of Yvonne Berg:**  
Audrey Erickson

## 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.

## STAYING UP-TO-DATE

Stay up to date with Mt. Carmel and our community through our website. Visit [www.mountcarmelmpls.org/about/news](http://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](mailto:office@mountcarmelmpls.org).

## PRAYER CHAIN

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

## FMSC COIN BOXES

As you journey through these 40 days of Lent, please continue to fill the FMSC coin boxes that were a part of the Lenten Knapsack. Four options to submit your gift.

- Bring filled box to church.
- Count your filled container and donate as a check. Note on your check/envelop that the donation is for FMSC. (Refill and repeat!)
- Donate online at [mountcarmel.org](http://mountcarmel.org) and online at [mountcarmelmpls.org/share/give/](http://mountcarmelmpls.org/share/give/) and indicate your gift is for FMSC.
- Bring your box along to FMSC for one of our packing sessions.

Please contact Audrey Erickson at [ajajeric@gmail.com](mailto:ajajeric@gmail.com) or 763-226-8391 if you have any questions or would like another coin box.

## TREASURER REPORT

### March 1 2022

As of March 15, special gifts towards the matching funds provided by Mt Carmel Foundation has surpassed \$15,000. Without receiving any of the Foundation Funds yet; our February income was over and above our budgeted income by \$11,000.

The congregation faithfully passed a deficit budget of (\$62,709.00) at the annual meeting, and the Mt Carmel Foundation had pledged to double our income up to \$25,000 in matching funds for all special gifts above pledged amounts. This is in addition to the Foundation gift of \$15,710 for specified areas of the budget.

Mt Carmel is on a successful path towards meeting the challenge of erasing this deficit budget.

We still 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 and erasing the deficit.

### February

**Actual Contributions/Income**  
\$ 30,934.13

**Budgeted Contributions/ Income**  
\$18,934.81

**Actual Expense**  
\$ 20,768.75

**Budgeted Expense**  
\$24,160.03

**Actual Income/Expense: \$10,165.38**

**Budgeted Income/Expense: (\$5,225.78)**

### YTD

**Actual Income/Expense \$11,730.27**

**Budgeted Income/Expense: (10,461.20)**

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

*Diane Davis Langer, Mt. Carmel Church Treasurer*

# DINNER AND A MOVIE RETURNS!

With the okay from the COVID Task Force, the Youth Group is going to resume Dinner and a Movie. We meet the third Thursday each month at 6:30 p.m. so the next Dinner and a Movie will be Thursday, April 21. For now, we are limiting this event to just the Mt. Carmel youth.

# REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT UPDATE

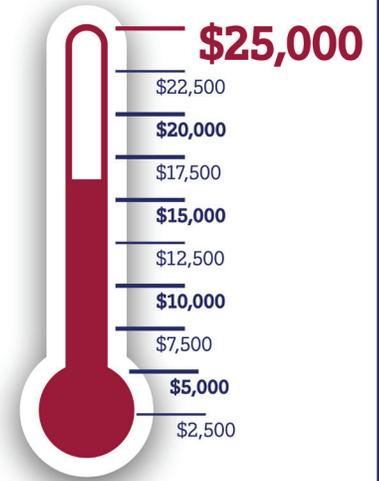
The Circle of Welcome volunteers were delighted to finally meet our new Afghan friends with in-person visits throughout March. The parents provide us with a warm welcome each time we show up at the door. The kids are friendly and curious and excited to see if we've found them shoes that fit or interesting books to read or a bicycle! We've had great luck when we reach out to the community through social media with requests for specific items. A great find came from Julie and Dave Larson. They donated a bike in excellent condition that the father can use to get to work. He is still looking for employment and we appreciate any leads you may have for us.

We don't always have the help of a professional interpreter when we visit. The teens help out with as much English as they can, and we use Google translate to send messages back and forth in their native Pashto. We learned that one family member was experiencing tremendous pain caused by a bad tooth. We needed help in a hurry! Larson Dental responded immediately when we reached out for advice about what to do about the infected tooth. Not only is the family member feeling much better after being treated, but we learned about an incredible resource in the Larson Dental Foundation. The Larson Dental Foundation holds special clinics throughout the year to treat patients without means to pay. The family is welcome to schedule any needed follow-up work if it cannot be covered through their government insurance.

Thank you to Larson Dental for being a compassionate community partner. And thank you to everyone for continuing to pray, spread the word and help as needed. We appreciate all of you!



The Mt. Carmel Quilters will present this beautiful gift as a welcome to the family



## 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 \$16,000 to date.**

## 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.

## 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.

April: Gerry Johnson

April 14: Robert Anderson

April 16: Bill McReavy

## 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 [mountcarmelimpls.org](http://mountcarmelimpls.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.

## NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Wayne Halverson, Mt. Carmel member for 22 years, began his journey with Therapy Dog when he and wife Kathy adopted Boudie, a Golden Retriever in January 2007. In 2009, Wayne took Boudie to an AKC Canine Good Citizen test where Boudie passed with a perfect score. The test evaluator suggested that Wayne and Boudie would make a great therapy dog team so they enrolled in therapy dog class. They joined North Star Therapy Animals and were set up to visit a Minneapolis long-term facility on a weekly basis.



In 2013, the University of Minnesota started PAWS, a program to improve the mental health of the students at the U. Statistics have shown that the number two cause of deaths for college students is suicide. Wayne says that many students who have interacted with Boudie call these visits the highlight of their week.



In 2015, the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport started a program called Animal Ambassadors. Wayne and Boudie would go to the secure part of the airport to help de-stress airport employees, flight crews and the flying public.

Boudie died in May 2017 and Eddi joined the Halverson family in August that year. Wayne and Eddi's services are being used at St. Kate's College, the Minnesota 911 Dispatch Center in Roseville, Chandler Place, Masonic Children's Hospital and the Mayo Clinic.

The work that Wayne, Boudie and now Eddi do has made a tremendous difference in the quality of life of the people they serve.

*Linda Jones*

## FOUNDATION MATCHING GRANT

The Mt. Carmel Foundation is grateful to the Mt. Carmel Congregation for the amazing generosity that has been occurring around the budget deficit.

The initial response to the Matching Fund Challenge has been impressive. As of March 16, there has been more than \$16,000 in special gifts received by the church.

This has allowed the Foundation to distribute three \$5,000 payments to the church totaling \$15,000. We look forward to matching another \$10,000 to meet the \$25,000 grant challenge.

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, Mt. Carmel Foundation President*

# SOFTBALL FEVER, START THE WARM-UPS!

## Opening day: April 26

The Mt. Carmelites softball team is celebrating 32 seasons!

- 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 emailed and in the May Tidings.
- Practice: Tuesday, April 19 (batting cage opportunity) and Sunday, April 24 at 1 p.m. at Waite Park on (33rd & Ulysses St NE), weather permitting. Give it a try!

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 more information. A sign up will also be posted outside the church office.

## COUNCIL UPDATE

Notes from the March 2022 Congregational Council meeting

- Confirmation Sunday will be May 15.
- Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be held at Gustavus Adolphus. There is also an opportunity to pack food for Feed My Starving Children on Maundy Thursday. Please see the Candle or Tidings for details in signing up.
- A Finance Team has been created by the council. Members will be Dave Larson, Lynette Dubbels and Bob Hollister.
- Your Time and Talent sheets have been collected and will be tallied. The results will be available at our next meeting and forwarded to each committee/staff.
- Mt Carmel's constitution has not been updated recently. A team has been formed to update both the constitution and bylaws.
- The council has been working on the findings from the 2021 audit.
- Discussions are in process to have a congregational gathering. More news to follow.
- We have had several outside groups ask about using our building. The staff and Property Committee will be working on a proposal to meet these requests.
- Lutheran Disaster Relief are collecting funds for the Eastern European Crisis. Bulletin inserts will be provided to the congregation in support of these efforts. Our communications team will also reach out to our neighborhood for their support.

## 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](mailto: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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### Address Service Requested

**NEXT TIDINGS  
DEADLINE**  
April 19, 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 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