

# TIDINGS

June/July 2022



# CONGRATULATIONS CONFIRMANDS

Blessings to our new confirmands Eli Carlson-Lee (left) and Oliver Kutzer! Oliver and Eli worked with other confirmation students to create their own confirmation stoles highlighting important aspects of their faith lives.

# PENTECOST OUTDOOR WORSHIP AND LUNCH

### Sunday, June 5

Get your lawn chairs dusted off and join us for an outdoor worship service on Sunday, June 5 at 9:30 a.m. in the triangle park across from church. The council thought it would be the opportune time to worship outside, celebrating both Pentecost and the gift to be together as fellow believers in Christ. There will be a light lunch served after the service. As its Pentecost Sunday, we ask that, if possible, everyone wear something red. In the event of inclement weather, worship will be held inside. Pass the word to others who may not see this announcement, and we hope to fill the triangle!

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# 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.









# 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.



# PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

The ELCA Model for Accompaniment describes the way God walks with us, and the way our church therefore walks and works among Christian communities. *Together* we participate in God's reconciling mission.

Accompaniment is defined as *walking together in solidarity that practices interdependence and mutuality.* In this walk, gifts, resources and experiences are shared mutually to deepen and expand our work within God's mission. No congregation has all the gifts. We need each other. We have a lot to learn from each other.

This model was written for global mission partnerships, but it fits well with our partnerships with other ministries, and now, with Gustavus Adolphus (GA).

Through the lens of accompaniment, we see that relationships are at the core of God's mission. When a good relationship is nurtured first, companion church bodies can more freely discuss priorities and make decisions. "When we know one another, we can move forward together," said an African woman pastor during a recent ELCA Global Mission Formation Event.

Relationships aren't always easy. Relationships take attention and time: time to listen and get to know one another, time to share meals, time to affirm one another, time to forgive and time to speak difficult truths in love. Eleven members from GA and Mt. Carmel have been meeting weekly for the past six months. It has taken more time than we imagined to accompany one another through a discerning process.

I am inviting you to watch for more information about our developing partnership with Gustavus Adolphus Church, which will be coming soon! We are about relationship building, ministry sharing, fun and food, and continuing to discern where and how God is calling these two congregations in Northeast Minneapolis to partner in God's mission.

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

# **COFFEE SERVERS NEEDED**

# Sign-up in Fellowship Hall

Who doesn't like coffee and conversation after church on Sunday mornings? To keep this tradition going though, we need coffee servers. Making coffee is simple (tutorials available if needed) and bringing treats is optional as there will always be cookies in the freezer. However, if you want to share your special cookies or other goodies from home they need to be served individually on plates or napkins and not from a tray. All food for fellowship should be served individually to avoid any potential contamination issues.

There will be a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall with the Sundays listed. For more information or if you'd like a coffee making tutorial, please call Barb Hollister at 612-590-6469 or Karen Moeller at 612-619-3743. It is strongly recommended that masks be worn when serving. Thank you in advance for your help in making this fellowship opportunity happen.

# CHILD CARE CENTER

## Happy summer Mt. Carmel family!

I want to start off with a big thank you to our Childcare board and all of our wonderful volunteers for our plant sale this year. We were blessed with three gorgeous days and a wonderful turnout. Plants were in such demand that we ended up getting two additional orders from Pletscher's greenhouse and I am happy to say we sold almost everything over our muti-day sale. After the invoices are all paid, we should profit over \$3,000. Some of these funds will be used for Open Eye Theater (they are coming for the childcare children on Tuesday, June 21, as an in-house field trip). The rest will be used for special things around the center.

Thank you to everyone who bought, advertised, volunteered or just said hi, as the sale was a huge success.

> Have a wonderful start to our spring! Brenda Wetzel, Director

# TREASURER REPORT: MAY 1, 2022

The Mt. Carmel Congregation has continued to generously contribute to the matching fund challenge. As of May 15, special gifts towards matching funds provided by Mt Carmel Foundation has surpassed \$22,000. We have almost met our goal of \$25,000. Without receiving any of the Foundation Funds, yet our April income was over and above our budgeted income by \$12,513.

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

The Mt. Carmel congregation has responded amazingly and we are very close to meeting the challenge of erasing this deficit budget.

**Actual Contributions/Income Budgeted Contributions/Income** 

\$ 31,447,46 \$18.934.81

**Actual Expense Budgeted Expense** 

\$ 24,148,42 \$24,160,27

Actual Income/Expense: \$10,165.38 **Budgeted Income/Expense: (\$5,225.78)** 

#### YTD UPDATE

April Actual Income/Expense: \$7,299.04

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

Please prayerfully consider increasing your giving and planned pledging with a special gift to be matched with Foundation funds, as we close in on our goal. We pray pledges and giving continue on a healthy trend.

Diane Davis Langer, Mt. Carmel Church Treasurer

## **BAPTISMS**

Abigail Wirth

# WITH **SYMPATHY**

The Kirkham family on the death of Leona Kirkham

The Kallestad family on the death of Robert Kallestad

## **CONGRATS**

Confirmands Elijah Carlson-Lee and Oliver Kutzer

# FAREWELL & GODSPEED

Scott and Christine Lisy

Heather and Ryan Cogswell

# WELCOME

New Members—Linda Brozek. Jim and Nancy Felicetta, Adam and Jessica Walz

## **GIFTS RECEIVED**

TO THE YOUTH FUND In honor and in memory of mothers: Charles Grider

TO THE FOUNDATION Happy Father's Day! In memory of my Father, Werner Hegstrom: Marlys

Hegstrom

In memory of Glenn Wirth:

Diane Langer

# MT. CARMELITES CELEBRATES FANS

Fan Appreciation Night is Tuesday, June 14. Enjoy Mt. Carmel camaraderie with peanuts, Cracker Jacks and more.

#### **Upcoming games**

- May 31, 7 p.m. —Mt Carmelites vs. Adagios
- June 7, 8 p.m.—Mt Carmelites vs. Eagles
- June 14, 7 p.m.—Mt
   Carmelites vs. McDonalds
- June 21—BYE
- June 28, 7 p.m.—Mt Carmelites vs. Swingers
- July 5—No Games, Happy 4th of July
- July 12, 19, 26 and Aug. 2— Make ups and play-offs

All games will be played on Tuesday evenings at Lions Park Softball Field at Long Lake Regional Park in New Brighton (1500 Old Highway 8, New Brighton, MN 55112). Contact Diane Langer for more information or to play at 612-718-4229 or ddl2@aol.com.

# DINNER AND A MOVIE

Hey youth! Join us for Dinner and a Movie. Thursday, June 16 at 6 p.m. For now, we are limiting this event to just the Mt. Carmel youth. Contact Jenni Lathrop if you have any questions.



Volunteer Leona Olson was treated to a feast during an Eid celebration.

# REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT UPDATE

The beginning of May marked the end of the holy month of Ramadan and we found many reasons to celebrate the season with our friends from Afghanistan. In honor of Eid, the Circle of Welcome presented the family with a handmade quilt from the Mt. Carmel Quilters and a Target gift card donated by a church member. They were very touched by the beautiful quilt and excited to spend their gift card on summer clothes for the kids.

The family continues to acclimate to life in Minnesota. The father applied for a driver's permit after passing the written exam in April. He hopes to get his license and dreams of owning a car one day soon. With help from volunteers who assisted with online job applications and transportation to an interview, the father was able to find employment at a hotel near his home. The kids are making friends and doing well in school. The teens were invited to speak on a student panel at the school district's Afghan Family Night.

The community continues to share in our work. We especially want to thank volunteers from the Edison High School baseball team for helping to move two nice dressers donated to the family by Bridge Realty. A toolbox and tools provided by a group of neighbors came in handy for repairing other furniture in the apartment.

The family is excitedly anticipating the birth of a new child in July. Would you like to contribute to a baby gift? Please donate diapers or designate a monetary gift to the resettlement fund so we can purchase a gift card.

We are grateful to all of you for your support for this family and for the joy it brings to share our abundant life with them.

Nancy Nordeen

# COVID TASK FORCE UPDATE

There was a lot of attention given recently to marking the one million deaths this nation has suffered as a result of COVID-19. And some of that attention may seem misplaced, especially as so many people are seeming to get back to some semblance of normal.

But in light of recent infections among the congregation and with all of the metro area now falling under the medium risk category as measured by the CDC due to our current infection levels, we all must continue to take appropriate precautions to protect ourselves and others from this virus. If you're eligible to be vaccinated and/or boosted, please do so as soon as possible. Wear a mask indoors. And stay home and isolate if you believe you're infected. The COVID Task Force recently changed our guidance to strongly recommend wearing masks when in the building as well.

In its latest data, the state reported nearly 4,600 positive cases in a week and keep in mind those are tested by a lab or clinic and do not include those who have tested positive with a rapid test—but the metro wastewater reporting shows a daily viral load nearly one-third of what it was at the peak this past January.

The current strain of the virus is very easy to catch and transmit and needs to be taken seriously, despite the fact that deaths and hospitalization are low. And if you believe you are not vulnerable or at risk, keep in mind that 50% of all reported cases in the state have been in people between the ages of 15 and 44.

We know that there is a lot of information and misinformation about the virus out there. But there are plenty of reliable, trusted resources to turn to for data and guidance. These include the CDC (cdc.gov), Minnesota Department of Health COVID Situation Update (https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/ situation.html) and the Metro Plant Wastewater Monitor (https://metrotransitmn. shinyapps.io/metc-wastewater-covid-monitor/). Also, you can order free COVID test kits from the federal government at covidtests.gov. That site also includes information about what to do if you test positive, and a link to find vaccination sites near you.

We thank you for taking precautions to protect yourself and others at Mt. Carmel, and we ask you to continue to do so until the pandemic is over.

Paul Lathrop

# 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.

# **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.



# BUTTERFLY GARDEN

This unusual bloom in the butterfly garden is a Fritillaria which is a bulb plant in the lily family.

# **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.

June 14: Marion Harris

June: 22: Russ Ingebretson

July 9: Marlene Brown, Jane

Hagstrom

July 16: Barb Thorsen

July 21: Tom Belawski



# Address Service Requested

NEXT TIDINGS
DEADLINE
July 19

# 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

#### Mini-bus Transportation

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

#### Mt. Carmel Child Care

Brenda Wetzel, Director 612-781-2798



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.







