



TIDINGS

September 2022



Happy Campers!

Scholarships from the Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church Foundation allowed 11 kids to enjoy a trip to Camp Wapo! Eddie Nordeen's impression of his first weekend SEEDS camp for grades 1-3, "The food was great!"

CELEBRATION SUNDAY: SEPT. 11

We did it! Our goal of raising \$25,000 has been achieved which in turn will be matched by the Mt. Carmel Foundation. Way to go Mt. Carmel! Let's celebrate this generous giving in both worship and fellowship on Sunday, Sept. 11. Worship will be at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary and who knows, there may even be a little hand clapping and shoulder movement in the service! The church council will be serving special treats following worship in Fellowship Hall.

This same Sunday is also Rally Sunday for our Sunday School families as well as ALL members of Mt. Carmel. This is a "rally call" for each of us to regroup and renew as we move forward starting our fall season. Sunday School classes and Youth Group will begin on Sept. 18 and other opportunities for members will be forthcoming. Please carefully read all announcements and hop on board as we move forward to "Learn, Live, and Share God's Word."

EVENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There is a collaborative effort underway to host a morning event at Mt. Carmel on Saturday, Oct. 8. All women of Mt. Carmel and Gustavus Adolphus are invited. It will be a fun event featuring a speaker and brunch.

Would you consider helping with this event? There are multiple opportunities to assist including set up, clean up and hospitality. And ladies, please check with your partners as we are hoping to recruit a few men to serve the meal. If you have questions or can help, please contact Barb Hollister at 612-590-6469 or bjhollister@comcast.net.

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IMPORTANT DATES

We've got fun plans for the fall. We want YOU to join us!

- **Sept. 11**—Rally Sunday and "We Gather" Matching Fund Celebration
- **Sept. 18**—Sunday School and Youth Group following worship
- **Oct. 1**—Confirmation
- **Oct. 8**—Better Together with GA, Circle of Friends Brunch. Guest Speaker: Janet Letnes Martin
- **Oct. 16**—Young Family Fellowship
- **Halloween Event**—Trunk or Treat with GA



612-781-2796



office@mountcarmelmpls.org



www.mtcarmel.net



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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.

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Office hours

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

Interim Pastor

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Tidings

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Mt. Carmel Child Care

Brenda Wetzel, ext. 107
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**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

As we move into the fall together, there are many reasons to look forward, rather than backwards. The call committee has been put in place. Bishop Ann Svennungsen spent a couple hours with us, both in worship and with many of you downstairs for coffee and a heartfelt conversation. She lifted up the fact that the Ministry Site Profile was well written. She then asked for 20 things that you love about this community of faith. It was so good to hear the love for the faithful people of Mt. Carmel, and the partnership with God in faithful ministry. Finally, she ended with a time to allow for questions and concerns.

The topic of "change" was raised. Is Mt. Carmel ready to make changes, as some say you are? Great question! A hopeful conversation happened as a result of this question. It may be helpful to understand a little bit about why change may be so difficult.

Change is emotional. Some may not even be able to describe what they are feeling, but the emotion is more powerful at the time than the excitement the change may bring. Even though we assume fear, confusion or anger are common emotions when it comes to change. There is one emotion that causes resistance to change: A sense of loss!

It's not usually a good feeling. Loss of power, loss of comfort, loss of control, loss of information, loss of familiarity, loss of tradition, loss of stability. These are real emotions. And we need someone to at least acknowledge our sense of loss. It's when our emotions are discounted or ignored, the resistance becomes more intense.

Let's acknowledge that change is inevitable to the future of the church. Let's also allow for some emotions and grief when change happens! Remember, God is always with you, no matter where your journey takes you.

*You are in my prayers, please keep me in yours.
Pastor Christine*

UPDATE FROM PR. CHRISTINE

A huge thank you for celebrating the 25th anniversary of my ordination with me. Thank you for the delicious cake and for the cards and gifts I received. I felt your love and care on this special day in my life ministry.

I will have foot surgery on Sept. 9. I have worked with the Executive Team and with Pr. Craig Pederson in the synod office to cover preaching and emergencies. If everything goes as planned, I should be back in the office on Oct. 3.

Pastor Dave Olson will be on call during this time. He can be reached at 651-528-7459. You may also contact Barb Hollister, congregational president, at 612-590-6469.

CHILD CARE CENTER



Pictured: Betty Senjem, June Sydloski, Nora Hector, Alma Gahagan, Adrian Fox, Gavin Severson

The end of summer is always a bittersweet time at Mt. Carmel Child Care Center, when we say goodbye to our graduating families and are so lucky to welcome new friends in. We did something a little different this year for our graduates. We were excited to have our picnic back this year. We gathered at Central Park Pavilion in Saint Anthony and had a small ceremony at the event. We want to wish all the best to our friends in the photo. They will be missed!

*Have a wonderful start to fall!
Brenda Wetzel, Director*

ALL ARE WELCOME TO USE THE MT. CARMEL LIBRARY

The autumn season will soon be here and while the colorful leaves swirl outdoors, come indoors to Mt. Carmel's library. It is a cozy place where you can select items for your reading enjoyment, nourishing your mind and spirit. There are a variety of religious and spiritual books for all ages. Some books are classic reads and others are gems from the current day. There are also a variety of other resources.

Where: The books and other items are located on the shelves in the Fireside Room and the sections are marked adult, youth and children. There are additional children's books on the cart located in the upper-level hallway.

When: Drop by the library any time you are in the building for the Sunday worship service, a meeting, Scouting activities, and the Mt. Carmel Childcare Center. Or stop by during the weekly office hours to browse.

Check Out System: Select items and when finished, drop them into the marked containers located in the Fireside Room and by the book cart in the upper-level hallway.

If there is a meeting or other activity occurring in the Fireside Room, please do not interrupt it and come back at a time when this room is open. Check with the Mt. Carmel office for the Fireside Room availability.

If you have questions about the library, contact Myrna Flatland, m-flat@umn.edu.

DINNER AND A MOVIE

Hey youth! Join us for Dinner and a Movie. Thursday, Sept. 15 at 6 p.m. Contact Jenni Lathrop if you have any questions.

DEATHS

Ruth Emerson—died Aug. 6

Karen Bake—died Aug 21

WITH SYMPATHY

The Emerson Family on the death of Ruth Emerson.

The Baker Family on the death of Karen Baker.

GIFTS RECEIVED

TO THE FOUNDATION

Given in memory of Ruth Emerson: Bill and Kay McReavy

TO THE YOUNG FAMILY PROGRAMMING FUND

Given in memory of Virginia Schaal, Carol Kwiecien, and Ruth Emerson: Lory Dubbels, Lynette Dubbels

CONFIRMATION

6th-8th Grade

Confirmation will begin on Saturday, Oct. 1 for all 6th-8th graders. We will partner with Gustavus for our monthly classroom sessions. The first session will be at Mt. Carmel and alternate buildings each month. Families with eligible youth will receive an email by early September, but if you don't see it or would like your child to participate, please contact the office.

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.

SUPPORT THE PEACE HOUSE COMMUNITY

The needs of economically marginalized women and men—many in homeless situations—becomes more intense as summer draws to a close.

The Peace House Community (PHC) is a non-profit that opened its doors in 1985. Located at 1815 Portland Ave., PHC is a day facility that hosts more than 150 community members on some days, nourishing bodies and souls.

Prior to COVID, a busy day was when 50 community members showed up for lunch, now hosting less than a hundred is a slow day. The community has grown and the need for this safe place to survive is dire. They need our help!

Current hygiene and grooming items that are needed (new and unopened items):

- Socks (men's and women's)
- Underpants (men's and women's, sizes medium to extra-large)
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Bar soap, body wash
- Wash cloths
- Tampons and sanitary pads
- Deodorant (men's and women's)
- Razors (men's and women's) and shaving cream
- Individual packs of Kleenex
- Body lotion, cocoa butter
- Chapstick
- Hairbrushes
- First aid kits, Band-Aids
- Nail clippers

Circle of Friends will kick off the mission to help our PHC friends at the Better Together Brunch. Please bring two items on the list to the brunch at Mt Carmel on Oct. 8.

There will be a box clearly marked for Peace House donations outside the church office so all can be part of this mission to help this community. Learn more about PHC at peacehousecommunity.org.

For more information, contact Diane Langer at 612-718-4229 or ddl2@aol.com.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE MT. CARMEL FOUNDATION

You are awesome Mt. Carmel! The Matching Fund Challenge has been met in only 8 months' time. The Mt. Carmel Foundation is grateful to the Mt. Carmel congregation for the amazing generosity that has occurred, and we are excited to announce that you have given us the opportunity to match the entire \$25,000 in the matching fund challenge.

The unity of the congregation in this quest has been exciting. Congratulations! The generosity of generations of givers has made the Foundation Mission possible. Watch for announcement of the annual Legacy Brunch in early November to learn more and celebrate your success.

Diane Davis Langer, Mt. Carmel Foundation President

COVID-19 TASK FORCE UPDATE

Most of us have probably returned to some level of “normal” life by now, perhaps only masking in indoor surroundings, or even forgoing the masks entirely. And while it may be easy to slip back into that lifestyle, there are some important things for all of us to pay attention to as we move forward in this new phase of life with the COVID-19 virus.

As we’re heading into the fall, there are some key concerns that the CDC and other public health experts have: First, the fall and winter have historically been times of greater infection in the community. With kids returning to school and people spending more time indoors, coupled with the lack of new news stories about the virus and the current prevalence of the BA-5 strain, it may not take much to spike back to higher infection levels.

Second, the infection data is likely being underreported: with many people testing at home, positive results are frequently not reported. This has huge implications for large metropolitan areas like ours: many more people than the numbers reflect could be infected with the virus, meaning that you may not be as safe from infection as the data is suggesting.

Third, we’re entering what is widely predicted to be a very active flu season. And since there is overlap when it comes to symptoms, being aware of your health and testing or isolating if you have COVID or flu symptoms will help protect your family, friends and community.

Finally, note that the CDC recently updated their guidance to understand your risk and protect yourself and others from COVID infection. The complete press release is at www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/p0811-covid-guidance.html, but the key takeaways are these:

- If you’ve been exposed to COVID-19, wear a high-quality mask for 10 days and get tested on day 5.
- Isolate if you test positive, or if you have symptoms and suspect you are infected, but haven’t tested yet.
- Isolate for five days and stay home if you test positive. And use a mask when around your family in your home.
- You can end isolation after five days if you are fever free for 24 hours without the use of medication and other symptoms are improving. Continue wearing a mask through day 10.
- If your symptoms return after you end isolation, begin isolation again at day 0.

So please make sure that you are fully vaccinated—2 to 3 shots for most people, 3 to 4 for those over age 50. Take appropriate cautions for the situations you find yourself in. And understand the virus: the more we learn about the BA-5 variant, the more we know that it’s the most transmissible yet, and can even re-infect those who’ve had it within a month of the first infection. COVID’s health impacts in our lives are likely far from over, so please continue to protect yourself and others.

While I don’t foresee any more restrictions for the church over the coming months, please understand that if restrictions are recommended by public health agencies, we will follow them in order to ensure the safety of everyone worshipping in or using the church building.

Paul Lathrop, COVID Task Force

BETTER TOGETHER BRUNCH

Oct. 8

Mt. Carmel’s women’s group, Circle of Friends, will host a brunch and speaker in Fellowship Hall at Mt. Carmel on Saturday, Oct. 8. Doors open at 9:30, with the brunch to begin at 10 a.m. We welcome our friends from Gustavus to join us.

Whether you identify as a “Lutheran Church Basement Lady” or not, you’re invited to a Saturday morning brunch and chance to hear from Janet Letnes Martin, author of many books on Lutheranism, some of which inspired the popular stage series, “Church Basement Ladies.” There is no admission fee.

Although there is no charge, we do need you sign up by Friday, Sept. 30. Sign up by email to Leona Olson at onondave@yahoo.com or Linea Farr at lfarr1947@gmail.com. You can also call or text Leona at 612-859-7075 to register or with questions about the event.

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)

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.



The Butterfly Garden's chrysanthemums were in their zenith in August. These purple/pink fusion blooms are a harbinger to the autumn season. Praise God for their beauty and all the earth! Photo by Janell B. Wampler

TREASURER REPORT: JULY 31, 2022

Congratulations to the Mt. Carmel Congregation! You have surpassed the \$25,000 Foundation special gifts matching funds challenge. As of July 31, special gifts towards matching funds provided by Mt. Carmel Foundation reached \$25,516.66.

Additionally, without receiving any of the Foundation funds yet, our July actual unified giving income was over and above our budgeted income by \$5,126.39.

The congregation faithfully passed a deficit budget of (\$62,709.00) at the annual meeting, and with the Mt. Carmel Foundation's support has remained on a steadfast path month after month 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.

July

Actual Contributions/ Income
\$ 27,393.80

Budgeted Contributions/ Income
\$18,934.81

Actual Expense
\$ 23,283.01

Budgeted Expense
\$24,160.27

July

Actual Income/Expense: \$4,110.79

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

YTD UPDATE

Actual Income/Expense: \$19,679.60

Budgeted Income/Expense: (\$36,580.10)

We pray pledges and giving proceeds continue on a healthy trend.

Diane Davis Langer, Mt. Carmel Church Treasurer

BETTER TOGETHER UPDATE

Our combined church committee continues to meet regularly to discuss what's next in our endeavor to make Gustavus Adolphus and Mt. Carmel a community of shared ministry. We need your help in making sure the progress made in shared events continues. For instance, Nick Tangen at GA has extended invitations to both churches to join in the Bible and Brew group each month. Leona Olson at Mt. Carmel extends invitation to a weekly Bible study for women and also helped coordinate the invitation for a women's brunch happening in October.

Is there a group or event that you are a participant in, that may be something we could share fellowship and ministry between our congregations? It's time to make that happen.

If you would like to extend an invitation to your congregation's special event or project, please send GA promotion material to phil@gachurchmpls.org and Mt. Carmel promotions to office@mountcarmelmpls.org

It takes all of us to make us Better Together.

Leona Olson

AUGUST COUNCIL MEETING

- Call committee has been formed. The members are: Sinéad Carolan, Steve Ristuben, Karen Matthes, Karen Moeller, Andy Benedict and Liam Temple. Their first meeting was mid-August. We look forward to hearing from them.
- The Foundation matching funds threshold of \$25,000 has been met! The council will host an event to acknowledge the completion of this goal. Thank you!
- Better Together (a Mt. Carmel and Gustavus initiative): The Aug. 18 worship service was held outside at GA with Pastor Christine presiding.
- Mt. Carmel's Circle of Friends will host an event at Mt. Carmel on Oct. 8 with Janet Letnes Martin (Trina Benedict's mother) as guest speaker. Watch for more information.
- Diane Langer has sold 24 chairs via Facebook Marketplace. Congrats Diane! If you're interested in purchasing a small and/or medium size child's chair, please contact Diane for details. (These chairs were used initially for Sunday School and we have too many in inventory.)
- Young Family Fellowship: Approximately 40 people, including some childcare families, attended an event in July. Another gathering is planned for October. If you have an interest or would like more information, please contact Barb Hollister or Nancy Nordeen.
- Mt. Carmel's constitution, bylaws and continuing resolutions are being updated. The constitution was last updated in 2010 and the bylaws in 2003. Both documents were updated to conform with the ELCA's model. Also, several updates were made to the continuing resolutions. All documents will be forwarded to the Minneapolis Area Synod for review and ultimately voted upon by the congregation during a specially called meeting TBD.

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 blesses you on your special day and in the year to come.

Sept. 22: Bev Lerold

Sept. 26: Bev Obright

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

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

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Minneapolis, MN 55418

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**NEXT TIDINGS
DEADLINE
September 20**

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



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.



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