



TIDINGS

November 2022



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

What is Christian stewardship? At this time each year, we may think that it is simply a campaign calling each one of us to discern what portion of God's financial blessings we will return to God and his ministry. While it is that, it is also so much more. Stewardship of God's blessings involves all of our being, our treasure but also our time and our talents. We are richly blessed and God calls us to use all our gifts to serve one another (1 Peter 4:10).

There is good reasoning behind church leadership, represented by the Stewardship Committee, to gather member financial giving pledge data at this time. Pledging information helps provide an estimate of revenue and enables our Congregational Council to construct an annual budget to be presented to the congregation. The

Stewardship Committee mailing is going out to all members the last week of October. If you have not received that letter by the time you receive this newsletter, please contact the church office. We ask each of you to prayerfully consider what portion of God's gifts you can return to him to continue God's ministry here at Mt. Carmel in 2023.

Beyond the need for this financial giving commitment, Mt. Carmel needs more members to participate in committees and worship assistant groups to carry on its ministry. From Congregational Council to committees to worship assistant groups including liturgists, lectors, ushers and more, God wants all of us to share in his ministry. Included in your mailing is a committees and activities sign-up form. Please also consider these needs and return this form along with your financial pledge form by Nov. 20, either by return mail or placing in the offering plate.

CALLING ALL QUILTERS

We are restarting the Quilting Group at Mt. Carmel and invite anyone interested in participating in quilting related activities to join us. We can use any level of experience. At this time, we don't have a set meeting time scheduled. Please contact Lynette Dubbels at 612-802-5343, Lory Dubbels at 612-770-3560 or Susan Feist at 612-205-3457 if you are interested or would like more information.

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BETTER TOGETHER

Men's breakfast at Gustavus Adolphus

All Mt. Carmel men are invited join GA men for breakfast and devotions on Saturday, Nov. 12 at 8 a.m. Come for the fellowship and some delicious food. No need to bring anything; it's very casual and mostly consists of drinking coffee and telling old stories.

Most people show up between 8 and 8:30, usually home by 10 a.m.



612-781-2796



office@mountcarmelmpls.org



www.mtcarmel.net



/MountCarmelMpls

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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612-781-2796
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Office hours

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

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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.

FROM PR. STEVE

ONE RETURNED TO GIVE GOD THANKS

Luke 17: 11-19

One of the greatest cures for anxiety is gratitude, the simple act of giving thanks. So why is it that so few do it?

In the story of the 10 lepers, all ten lepers were healed by Jesus, but only one returned to give God thanks, and he wasn't even one of God's chosen people. So again, why is it so few give thanks? This is the question Jesus asked and it still bears asking today.

By now most of us are making our plans for the feast of Thanksgiving, a time of giving thanks. In our family, this is a time of giving thanks, not just for our blessings, but also to those who have blessed us. First and foremost is God, for all that we have and all that we are comes from God. Yet how many stop to think about what that means?

The truth is we all tend to take blessings for granted, much to our harm. For when we do not count our blessings, we will count our sorrows instead. That is just the way we are wired, and we know where that leads. Our sense of entitlement and lack of gratitude is creating an ever-increasing sense of anxiety.

To counter this anxiety people engage in all sorts of self-destructive behavior, which carries a heavy cost for all of us, but God has given us another option.

We can continue to wallow in anxiety or we can choose to live in gratitude. Choosing to live in gratitude is not just a once-a-year holiday. Rather it is a daily lifestyle with rewards that are out of this world. Not only does it help reduce anxiety, but it also increases our sense of hope and joy.

So, do not let Thanksgiving be just a day. Make it a practice. Start each day by recalling at least five blessings and then thank God for them. Thank God for the people who bring them and then thank the people. In doing this, you yourself will become a blessing, and as you do, the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep you hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Pastor Steve

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.

CHILD CARE CENTER

We are excited for our annual fall butter braid fundraiser! Orders are open now and due with payment no later than Nov. 7. There are forms in the narthex as well as information just inside the main church entrance. These arrive just in time for Thanksgiving: pick up will be Tuesday, Nov. 22, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in the courtyard. We appreciate the continuing support from our Mt. Carmel community!

*Have a wonderful holiday season
Brenda Wetzel, Director*

To the right is a fun pic of one of our fall art projects teacher Rani is doing with our toddlers.



DINNER AND A MOVIE

Hey youth! Join us for Dinner and a Movie. Thursday, Nov. 17 at 6 p.m. Friends are welcome, but we need to have RSVPs for food! Contact Jenni Lathrop if you have any questions.

BLESSING OF ADVENT WREATHS

Sunday, Nov. 27

One of the beloved rituals of Advent involves the use of the Advent wreath, a practice that dates back to 16th century Germany. The four candles, lit individually each Sunday of Advent, represent the light of Christ who will come into the world at Christmas. Advent invites us to spiritually prepare for the coming of the light—our Lord!

Covid managed to change many things in our lives and take away some events in which we normally partake. Last year we did not have an Advent event, but instead provided members with materials to take home and make their own Advent Wreath.** Unfortunately, no one saw our efforts!

The blessing of Advent Wreaths is a ritual practiced by many Christian churches. Please bring your wreath from last year, or perhaps a family wreath, with you to church on the Nov. 27. During the coffee hour, wreaths will be displayed and Karen Moeller will lead a short service of blessing for the wreaths.

** If you did not get materials for a wreath last year, we will have a few kits available on the 27.

Worship and Music Committee

BAPTISMS

Theodore Uhrich—Oct. 23

CONGRATS

The Uhrich Family on
Theodore's baptism

FAREWELL & GODSPEED

Pr. Christine and
Doug Wenzel

WELCOME

Pr. Steve and Diane Olson

GIFTS RECEIVED

TO THE COFFEE FUND
In memory of David Grider:
Chuck Grider

SPECIAL MUSIC
In memory of John Salvesson:
MaryJo Wigger, Carol
Panning

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.

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.

FROM PR. STEVE OLSON

Over the past year, Mt. Carmel has been working hard toward becoming a church of God's dreams for this time and place. I want to commend you for the work you have done with Pastor Christine. You have been a blessing to each other, and I pray when my work is done, we also will say the same of each other.

Our time among you will not be long, but I wanted to share a bit of who we are. My wife, Diane, was born in Montreal, Quebec, and I am a native of Minnesota. We met in university and were married the year Diane graduated. We have two boys, Peter and Brett, who are both married.



Together they have gifted us with five grandchildren ranging in age from a recent college grad down through 10th grade.

We started our ministry back in 1975 when I took a position as a youth pastor. In one form or another we have served the church ever since. As a pastor for the last 39 years, I have had the joy of planting a new church, redeveloping another church and serving as the senior pastor of three other churches. In retirement, at the request of our synods, Diane and I have been doing interim ministries.

The number one goal for an interim pastor is to maintain the pastoral ministry of a congregation, while fostering a sustainable and productive ministry for the Christian communities in which we serve. In addition, as a "bridge interim pastor" I will have a special focus on pastoral care as we recover from challenges of the pandemic.

My goal is to reach out to the entire congregation, in fairly short order, through phone calls and visits. The visits will focus first on the shut-ins and then when there is a present need for pastoral care and support. So when I call, I will be asking how you are doing and is there an immediate need for prayer or care. I will also be asking if there is anything you would like to be doing, or you would like us to be doing as a church together.

Here are a few ways you can help:

- **As your bridge interim pastor, I am on call 24/7.** So do not hesitate to call, text or email me. My cellphone number is 320-296-6294. My email address is steven.olson2004@gmail.com.
- **If you know of anyone who is sick, or in need of a pastoral care, call me.** I would rather hear about a person seven times than not be there for them in a time of need.
- **If you know of anyone who is having a hard time getting to worship for health, or any other reason, call me.** We want to reach out to them.
- **If you know of someone new moving into our community, call me.** I have a deep love for sharing the good news and helping people find a church home, be it here or in another church in our area.

My weekend, as the needs of the parish allow, will be Friday and Saturday, but you can still call me for emergencies.

TREASURER REPORT: SEPT. 30, 2022

As of Sept. 30, special gifts towards matching funds provided by Mt. Carmel Foundation reached \$25,996.86.

We have had a decline in our regular contributions for the last two months and are not meeting budgeted income. However, with the Foundation's matching funds contribution our September income was over budgeted income, and our expenses were under budget this month.

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. Our challenges remain, and we as a congregation have been blessed with answers.

September

Actual Contributions/Income
\$21,242.24

Budgeted Contributions/Income
\$18,934.49

Actual Expense
\$20,974.58

Budgeted Expense
\$24,160.27

September Actual Income/Expense: \$267.66
Budgeted Income/Expense: (\$5,225.78)

YTD Update

Actual Income/Expense \$19,347.18

Budgeted Income/Expense: (\$47,031.66)

We pray pledges and giving proceeds continue on a healthy trend, and we can see the deficit erased.

Diane Davis Langer, Mt. Carmel Church Treasurer

CHECK OUT THE CHURCH LIBRARY

The Fireside Room offers a comfortable space to select a book for your reading enjoyment. Did you know there are books by local author Janet Letnes Martin? She recently spoke at the Circle of Friends brunch and is Mt. Carmel member Trina Benedict's mother. It is amazing to see the selection of books in our library. There is a kid's corner, youth and adult fiction, nonfiction on topics like faith life, and life changes such as grief. Check out the entire shelf with various translations of the Bible and a number of commentaries. Also, there are books by famous writers such as C.S Lewis and Janet Okes. Titles include "Half the Sky" and "The Great Awakening."



Find time to browse and select a book to take home and read at your pace. Return is easy, drop it in the labeled container. If you have questions regarding the library contact Myrna Flatland at m-flat@umn.edu.

WHERE CAN I FIND...?

During this unusual time, our communications team is working hard to keep you updated and connected.

Website

One of the best ways to find information is on the church website at www.mtcarmel.net.

Find worship videos and documents, congregational mailings and other information on the NEWS page. Visit the news page directly at mountcarmelmpls.org/news.

Facebook

Worship is live on Sunday mornings through Facebook live. Also find our daily devotions and event information. You do not need to have a Facebook account to view our videos and posts, simply visit www.facebook.com/MountCarmelMpls on any computer or mobile device.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

CONFIRMATION

Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. for all 6th-8th graders. December's classes will be at Mt. Carmel. Lunch is provided.

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.

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

Stay updated on our community life. Join our email list to receive The Candle once a week, special announcements and important church communications.

To subscribe, email office@mountcarmelmpls.org or visit the church website at www.mtcarmel.net.



Left, brunch speaker Janet Letnes Martin. Right: Brunch attendees

News this past month was a Better Together women's brunch, held Oct. 8. Women from Mt. Carmel and Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church were treated to a brunch and speaker. We were entertained by author and speaker Janet Letnes Martin, mom to member Katrina Benedict following a delicious catered brunch. Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the event a success, especially the men who served brunch and helped clean up so our Mt. Carmel women could all enjoy socializing during the meal and program.



Up next, Mt. Carmel women have been invited to participate in a Better Together Craft-In. The women from Gustavus have invited us to join in their four-day Craft-In on Wednesday to Saturday, Nov. 2-5. Participants take over Gustavus' Fellowship Hall for four days, bringing the craft or hobby of your choice. The church will be open at 9:30 a.m. and stay open as long as participants want. Leave your equipment and project, go home to sleep and come back. Come and go as you need; join them every day or just a day or so. If you plan to participate or have questions, please text, email or call Mary Larson at 612-781-4104 or larson1953@msn.com.



YOUNG FAMILIES EVENT

Mt. Carmel Church and Childcare families got together for some soup, fellowship and a service project in October. We collected book donations and made cheerful bookmarks to share with our neighbors through the Little Free Libraries in the Waite Park area. Thank you to the cooks and kitchen help who fed us so well! Save the date and join us for our next event on Jan. 15.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for your prayers, get-well cards and flowers during my summer-into-fall of recovery from my July 14 foot surgery. I think I have finally reached the end-stage of healing, and pray that when I have been cleared by my surgeon in November to put full weight on my right foot/leg I will be able to do so comfortably. Thank you also to those who brought meals for Steve and me. They were very tasty and much appreciated!

Jo Alice and Steve

FORGET-ME-NOT

Birthday greetings to those listed below who reach or surpass the 80th milestone this month. May God bless you on your special day and in the year to come.

11/19—Mary Gursky

11/21—Dave Johnson

11/27—Carol Panning

11/29—Annette Dahl

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**
November 15

Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

Bridge Interim Pastor

Steve Olson

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



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