



TIDINGS

DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

Lessons and Carols

Dec. 18, 9:30 a.m., service of lessons and carols

Christmas Eve

Dec. 24, 4 p.m. service at Mt. Carmel

Christmas Day

Dec. 25, 9:30 a.m., joint service at Gustavus Adolphus

New Year's Day

Jan. 1, 9:30 a.m., joint service at Mt. Carmel

JOIN CASA FOR CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Te invitamos a nuestro servicio de Navidad el 18 de Diciembre a las 12:00pm estaremos compartiendo almuerzo después del servicio.

Te esperamos con tu familia y amigos para compartir de las bendiciones que Dios tiene para nosotros.

Para mas información comuníquese al 612-554-7240

Casa de Oración a las Naciones,
Pastora Yolanda Perez

We invite you to our Christmas service on Dec. 18 at noon. We will be sharing lunch after the service.

We look forward to seeing you with your family and friends to share the blessings that God has for us.

For more information contact
612-554-7240

Casa de Oración a las Naciones,
Pastor Yolanda Perez

END OF THE YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

The fiscal year ends Dec. 31. Cash and checks received by the church office on or before that date will be recorded on your 2022 Mt. Carmel giving statement. We will post checks received in the mail after Dec. 31 only if the check is dated Dec. 31st or before and the envelope carrying the check is postmarked Dec. 31 or before. All financial gifts and offerings received after Dec. 31 will be posted to the 2023 first quarter statement.

DINNER AND A MOVIE

Hey youth! Join us for Dinner and a Movie. Thursday, Dec. 29 (week change) at 6 p.m. for our traditional viewing of Disney's Moana. Friends are welcome, but we need to have RSVPs for food! Contact Jenni Lathrop if you have any questions.

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CHURCH ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

It is time for committee chairs and group leaders to begin thinking about your annual report article. Articles are due to the church office by Friday, Jan. 13, although earlier is better. We will be assembling the annual report and following week and making it available to church members. Please contact the office with any questions.



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.

Bridge Interim Pastor

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pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org

Office Administrator

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Tidings

Jenni Lathrop
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Mt. Carmel Child Care

Brenda Wetzel, ext. 107
612-781-2798
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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.

FROM THE PASTOR

A tale of two babies

Elizabeth was too old and Mary was a virgin. What on earth was God thinking? These two being pregnant made no earthly sense, and yet apparently God's ways are not our ways. Elizabeth and Mary were living proof of that, even if old Zachariah had been struck mute for his lack of belief and Joseph was seriously considering divorce (See Luke chapter 1 and Matthew chapter 1).

Things were definitely not going according to plan, and yet in the middle of all that, Mary and Elizabeth were filled with joy. Even though their whole world had been turned upside down, they knew that in all things God works for the good. They rejoiced not knowing what the future would hold, but knowing God holds the future, and us, in the palm of his hand.

Of course, we know the end of Elizabeth and Mary's story. They had their babies—boys—and those boys grew into young men, one a prophet and the other our savior. Both died savage deaths and yet even in that God was at work. When it comes to God, death never has and never will have the last word. For there is nothing in all creation that can separate us from God's love.

Even when our world seems all messed up, God is right there in the middle of the mess with us, working in all things for good, for our good. So, no matter how upside down your life may seem, don't give up. Instead, like Mary and Elizabeth, choose to live in joy. Live in anticipation of seeing how God will bring good out of chaos,

That is the secret of Christian joy. Instead of focusing on what has been or even is today, Christian joy looks to the future with hope, and that hope will not disappoint us. That is why today and every day we can say, "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve worship will be at 4 p.m. featuring a carol and lesson service with communion.

For **Christmas day**, Gustavus Adolphus has invited us to a joint worship service on their campus, with Pastor Steve as the preacher. Their worship time is also 9:30 a.m.

On New Year's Day, we are returning the favor by inviting G.A. members to Mt. Carmel for the New Year's Day service at 9:30 a.m.

Now that the elections are over

The elections are in the rearview mirror, although if the truth be told, the election cycle never ends. In fact, it seems that even before the election signs are down, some politicians are already more concerned about winning the next election than making a difference today. That has got to stop and the only way it will stop is if we send them a message. If they want our vote next time, then they better start making a difference today. If they want our vote next time, then they better start learning how to work together today. Whatever our party, that is the word we have to get to the people we voted for in 2018. Whether or not they won, they need to know that next time we are not going to vote for the politics of polarization. They need to know we are going to watch and see who can figure out how to work across the aisle and get things done. These are the people who will get our votes.

Jesus said, a house divided cannot stand against itself (Matthew 12:25); so let's get this house—our house—back together again. Start today by writing a letter to both those in office and those hoping to be in office next

Little Christmas

When does your Christmas tree come down? In my home growing up it was New Year's Day. In my friend's home though, it stayed up until Jan. 6. That was weird and what was even more weird was that all through Christmas vacation their presents still lay wrapped under the tree. When we were back in school talking about what we got for Christmas, they had to sit grumpily asking, "Why do we have to wait?"

The answer was they had been raised in an Orthodox Christian faith; and in that church the focus of Christmas is not on Christmas gifts but on Christ. That doesn't mean they don't give gifts but rather that they exchange them on Jan. 6, the day we remember the coming of the wise men with their gifts.

Now, I am not sure why my friends called Jan. 6 "Little Christmas," but I do like the way their traditions kept the spirit of Christmas alive for the full 12 days of Christmas. What are some ways your family might keep the spirit of Christmas alive for all of Christmas? In a time when Christmas decorations have already gone up before Halloween and when for so many, Christ is not really the important part of Christmas, how will you let the world and your family know that Jesus is the reason for the season?

Signs and Wonders

We always think of the wise men from the East as part of the Christmas celebration. There they are with the angels and shepherds and all the other characters. Yet, if you read the story closely, it seems the wise men never saw Jesus in the manger. By the time they showed up, the shepherds and angels were nowhere to be found and Jesus had moved into the house. So the truth is we don't really know when they arrived. All we know is that they had been observing the star of Bethlehem for going on two years. They had observed a star knowing it was a sign of great things, a newborn king, a king who was going to rock the world, so they came to worship him.

They came, the first of all gentiles, to worship the king of kings and Lord of Lords, and guided by a star and God's ancient word they found him. In this season of Epiphany we will hear many stories of how God in flesh was revealed to the nations, and in each of those stories we will learn "Wise men still seek him."

Pr. Steve Olson

CONFIRMATION

Saturday, Jan. 14, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. for all 6th-8th graders. January's classes will be at Gustavus (please note the switch to the second Saturday for this month only. Lunch is provided.

DEATHS

Marion Harris

WITH SYMPATHY

The family of Marion Harris

GIFTS RECEIVED

UNDESIGNATED MEMORIALS

In memory of Ruth Emerson:
Bruce Emerson and Linda Jonasen

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 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.

CHILD CARE CENTER



Toddlers enjoying our felt Christmas tree.

We have officially embraced the holiday season at Mt. Carmel Child Care and the children have had fun decorating the center. We are very excited to be able to have our holiday meal and program back in person on Thursday, Dec. 15! Thank you to all who ordered bread; our sale was a great success. We have ordered several area rugs for the classrooms as our flooring will be replaced over the Thanksgiving holiday.

*Have a wonderful holiday
Brenda Wetzel, Director*

COFFEE THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who stepped forward and signed up to serve coffee for fellowship time. We are covered through the second Sunday in January! Remember if you have never used the coffee maker, either Barb Hollister or Karen Moeller will gladly show you how it works. And trust me...if they can do it, so can you! You can bring treats from home but know there will always be cookies in the freezer for you to use as well. The sign-up sheet is by the serving area so continue to check and see when there are openings. Thanks, again, to all.

PCYC SALE: DONATIONS NEEDED

Help North Minneapolis children experience the joy of gift giving! Mt. Carmel is collecting donations of Christmas gifts through Dec. 7 for the Plymouth Christian Youth Center (PCYC) Gift Sale. Volunteers will transform the center into a gift store where 600 children will shop for their loved ones. There is a need for NEW items, valued \$10-\$25 for every age group. Donated items will be sorted by adults (men and women), teens (girls and boys), children (ages 3-12), infants and generic. Remove or black out all price tags. Place donations in the box near the church office. Pick up a helpful gift shopping list in the narthex or find it online at pcyc-mpls.org/support/giftsale/. Thank you!

IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

The IRA Charitable Rollover gives individuals who are 70 ½ or older the opportunity to make “qualified charitable distributions” and not include the IRA distribution as part of their income. It can help people make direct gifts to ministry and save taxes. Could this help you? If you have questions on transferring assets from an IRA, please talk with your accountant.

MT. CARMEL FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

This is a call for all who may be interested in applying for a post-secondary scholarship provided through the Mt. Carmel Foundation. Applications may be found in the narthex; you can also contact the Mt. Carmel office to request a copy of the application form. For those of you who may have applied in the past, the application has been revised. All applications must be complete and received by Tuesday, Feb. 28, to be considered. If you know of someone who may be interested in applying, please pass this information along to them. Applicants must be a member of Mt. Carmel. If you have any questions, contact Mary at 612-226-1722 or cathe012@umn.edu.

GROUP OF JOY CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Thursday, Dec. 15, 11:30 a.m.

The Mt. Carmel Group of JOY will hold their Christmas luncheon on Thursday, Dec. 15 at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will begin with a devotion, enjoy a delicious lunch, and have some type of program that follows. Rest assured the "Twelve Days of Christmas" will return so start practicing Steve! We will also collect mittens and hats for Waite Park School as so many kids either lose theirs or don't have them to begin with. We have missed a couple of years so I'm sure they will be appreciated. If you would like to attend, please let Karen Moeller know by Sunday, Dec. 11. "Christmas attire" is suggested!

TREASURER REPORT: OCT. 31, 2022

We are nearing the end of year and time to close the gap on our faithfully-passed deficit budget of (\$62,709.00). We have remained on a steadfast path month after month towards meeting this challenge and erasing the deficit. Expenses were on an increase this last month, as was our giving. Thank you, Mt. Carmel. Special gifts raised were \$25,996.86, in addition to your 2022 pledges, and the Mt. Carmel Foundation support. This has been an amazing year of giving and we are close to meeting our challenge.

October

Actual Contributions/ Income	Budgeted Contributions/ Income
\$ 22,717.05	\$18,934.49

Actual Expense	Budgeted Expense
\$ 28,043.99	\$24,160.27

Actual Income/Expense: (\$5,326.94)

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

YTD UPDATE:

Actual Income/Expense \$14,020.24

Budgeted Income/Expense: (\$52,257.44)

We pray pledges and giving proceeds continue to end the year erasing the deficit and we continue on the path towards finding answers and blessings for challenges to come in the coming year.

Diane Davis Langer, Mt. Carmel Church Treasurer

CHILDREN'S CHOIR OPPORTUNITY AT CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Central Lutheran Church in downtown Minneapolis extends an invitation to children in second to eighth grade to join Choristers (their children's choir). Central offers a free, high-quality music education rooted in the Lutheran tradition. Participants learn the fundamentals of choral singing and music reading, while developing teamwork skills to last a lifetime. Prior experience and church membership are not required to join; only the desire to show up and sing! Choristers sing 1-2 times per month at the 10:30 a.m. service at Central, both on their own and with the adult choir. Rehearsals are Wednesday nights 5:30-6:30 p.m., with dinner and social time afterward. For more information, please visit our website at centralmpls.org/choristers/ or email Isaac Drewes, associate director for worship and music at isdrewes@centralmpls.org.

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 FOUNDATION BRUNCH

Thank you to all who attended the Mt. Carmel Church Foundation Legacy Brunch on Sunday, Oct. 30. It was exciting to have the opportunity to serve our annual brunch once again in person, the first since 2019. We experienced a full house in Fellowship Hall as we enjoyed the traditional Mt. Carmel Rolls and a tasty brunch catered by Marinos Deli. A special thanks to our 2022 campers who shared their experiences and assisted with serving, to our scholarship recipient—Dylan Evans—for his gracious letter and to all Foundation members for their contributions. Special thanks to Rich Feist and Steve Panning for their assistance.

This opportunity to share information about the gifts of legacy giving is appreciated as is the generosity of generations of givers that have made the Foundation mission possible.

Diane Davis Langer, Mt. Carmel Foundation President

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.

BUILDING CLEAN UP

When you walked into church recently you may have noticed that our church has a little sparkle to it. On Saturday, Oct. 29, a large group (22) of volunteers from Casa and Mt. Carmel spent the morning cleaning. We cleaned the narthex, the sanctuary, the balcony and the cry room, the upstairs and downstairs hallways and all the window ledges (do you know how many window ledges we have? We don't either but it's a lot), the choir room, room 104, the choir loft, the Fireside Room and parts of the kitchen. Even the windows in the hallway outside of the office and conference room got cleaned, inside and out.

Our partners from Casa included Pastor Yolanda Perez, Gloria Valdes, Esperanza Cullejas, Sharel Catalino, Lucia Zamora, Francisco Ortega, Magda Ortega and Anabel Balmoceda. This group cleaned the sanctuary and we are in awe of the work they did including pews, floors, walls, cushions, the altar and windows. It was fun to work side by side with the Casa team.

Joining us from Mt. Carmel were Pastor Steve and Diane Olson, Cheryl Sundly, LuAnn Swanson, Janell Partyka, Rich Feist, Steve Ristuben, Kathy Halverson, Sinéad Carolan and Patrick Kutzer, Karen Matthes and Myrna Flatland. This group split into teams and took sections of the church to clean. When they got done with one section, they asked for more.

A heartfelt THANK YOU to each of you for your enthusiasm and hard work. It was a morning of hard work, lots of laughs, good coffee and donut holes. We appreciate and thank everyone who joined us that morning.

Karen Moeller and Barb Hollister



GIVE TO PEACE HOUSE COMMUNITY

Thank you to all who brought donations to assist the Peace House Community (PHC) at the Better Together women’s network event with GA church in October.

Opportunity for giving in December to Peace House Community: As we have come into the cold of winter the needs of those at PHC that are economically marginalized—many in homeless situations—becomes more intense and escalates. These community members could use our help. This month the focus is on the need for winter wear in addition to the normal hygiene items always in short supply.

Please consider bringing one or two items from the following list to church during December. Look for the donation box in the narthex or outside church office. (New and unopened items appreciated.)

- Socks (men and women) – heavy warm
- Underpants (men and women, sizes medium to extra-large)
- Gloves and mittens
- Long johns (men and women)
- Scarves and hats
- Hand and feet warmers

The following hygiene items always in short supply:

- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Bar soap, body wash
- Wash cloths
- Tampons and sanitary pads
- Deodorant (men and women)
- Razors (men and women) and shaving cream
- Individual packs of tissues
- Body lotion, cocoa butter
- ChapStick
- Hair brushes

The Peace House Community mission is to nourish its members’ bodies and souls by providing a safe space for economically marginalized women and men. PHC enriches the lives of its members, volunteers and students by offering a place to belong for everyone who comes through its doors. These community members have been wounded by economic and social dislocation and PHC’s Vision is that they be healed through caring relationships in a supportive community. Learn more about PHC at peacehousecommunity.org.

We can do great things together. For more information about donating, contact Diane Langer at 612-718-4229 or ddl2@aol.com.

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.

12/07—Bob Bauer

12/08—Dick Anderson

12/23—Gloria Anderson

12/25—Carrol Rignell

HOLIDAY BAND CONCERT

The Northeast Community Band will present their holiday concert on Thursday, Dec 15 at 7 p.m. at Northeast Middle School auditorium (2955 Hayes St NE). Come and hear your holiday favorites, and enter a raffle for a handmade wooden music stand. The proceeds to go to the Ralph Sowden Memorial Scholarship fund for an Edison student to pursue music after high school. For further information, visit northeastcommunityband.com.



Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

1701 St. Anthony Parkway NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

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**NEXT TIDINGS
DEADLINE**
December 20

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



office@mountcarmelmpls.org



www.mtcarmel.net



/MountCarmelMpls