



# Weekly Announcements

## Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

**For the Week of December 4, 2022**

### ELCA WORLD HUNGER 2022 ADVENT BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

Advent study guides are available on the tables in the Narthex or Fellowship Hall. Use them in your “family”, whatever that may be! This year’s guide looks at the readings from Psalms for each of the four weeks of Advent. The guide is provided by the World Hunger division of the ELCA and introduces us to real world examples of how ELCA partners are addressing hunger in the World – near and far. It can help each of us during this season as we search for renewal and transformation, justice and peace, hope and comfort.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP TODAY

Sunday school (preschool-5<sup>th</sup> grade) will follow worship, running from 10:45 – 11:30 a.m. Please return to the Sanctuary for music at 10:45! Youth (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) will meet in the Youth Room downstairs.

### GOOD FRUITS UPDATE: CHANGE IN LOCATION

Good Fruits Bible study continues to meet on Tuesday afternoons at 2:30 p.m. Beginning November 29th, we will meet in the Fireside room at Mt. Carmel. The study for the coming month is an Advent study from the Gather Magazine. Questions? Contact Leona: onondave@yahoo.com or 612-859-7075.

### OLD VAN?

The Afghan refugee family we sponsor is looking for an old van. Have you got one to sell cheap or donate? Call the office or Dave Olson: 651-528-7459.

### FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Foundation awards educational scholarships to Mt. Carmel members each year. Applications are due Feb. 28. Pick up a hard copy in the Narthex or contact the office for an e-copy.

### BOOK BUS

The Book Bus is revving up in the Fellowship Hall. Also, the Fireside Room offers a comfortable space to select a library item. Both locations feature a variety of books and other items for all ages. A featured children’s book is *The Christmas Pageant* by Jacqueline Rogers. *Two From Galilee* by Marjorie Holmes is the featured adult book. Stop by either location on a Sunday morning, during church office hours or when you are in the building for another activity. Browse, select items, return them to the labeled container, and repeat. Enjoy!

### SINGERS WANTED!

We are looking for additional singers for services on Dec. 18 or for 4:00 pm service Dec. 24. All ages welcome. Rehearsals will be at 7:30 pm on Wednesdays Dec. 14 and 21. Please join us to enhance our holiday worship here at Mt. Carmel.

Contact Ruth Bills by phone at the church office or email at Ruthabills@gmail.com.

### STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES AND TIME & TALENT DUE

How will you give of your time, talent, and treasure this year? Pledge cards and time and talent sign up sheets are available in the Narthex. Please fill them out and place them in the plate or send them to the office as soon as you can. Thanks!



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/MountCarmelMpls

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

12/6 Elijah Carlson-Lee  
12/7 Janell Wampler  
12/7 Bob Bauer  
12/8 Dick Anderson

## THOSE WE ARE PRAYING FOR

- The family of Tom Belawski, who passed away Nov. 24.
- Marilyn, Janell Wampler's sister, whose wound is almost healed and she is staying in the health care center.
- To include your prayers on this list, contact the church office.

## HOMEBOUND AND LONG-TERM CARE

Ethel Antonson, Marlene Black, Lorraine Carlson, Annette Dahl, Gerry Johnson, and Dorothy Warhol

## PCYC GIFT SALE

We will support the Plymouth Christian Youth Center Gift Sale again this year. Please bring a new, unwrapped gift valued \$10-\$25 and place it in the box outside the office by Dec. 7. 600 children will get to shop for their families in this special gift store!

## GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD

Help a family break the cycle of poverty – for good! During Advent you can support a family by purchasing an animal – figuratively. Choose an ornament from the tree in the narthex. Pick up an envelope for this special offering and place it in the plate along with cash/check or send it to the office. The ornament is yours to keep! All gifts collected through December 20 will be forwarded to our partner ELCA Good Gifts.

## COIN COLLECTION

Have you been collecting loose change during the pandemic? If so, here is an opportunity to put it to good use. For the remaining weeks of Advent, the Green Bucket (it was repainted) will be set out next to the collection plate. Coins placed in the bucket will be

added to funds collected for the Global Barnyard which will purchase farm animals for persons living in poverty through ELCA Good Gifts.

## CHILDREN'S WORSHIP ACTIVITY BAGS

Activity bags are available in the Narthex. Feel free to pick one up any time during the worship service. The red bags are geared for preschoolers and the blue bags are geared for elementary school age kids. Please return bags to the box marked Bag Returns.

## REMEMBERING TO GIVE

Please continue to support our congregation with your faithful financial contributions to Mt. Carmel as you are able. There are several ways to give:

- Mail your check to the church or drop off in the secure mailbox.
- Online by credit card or bank account. Visit [mountcarmelmpls.org/give](http://mountcarmelmpls.org/give) or scan the QR code for online giving opportunities.



Your generous support for Mt. Carmel and our ministry is truly appreciated.



## MT CARMEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

C: **Blessed be God's name forever.**

C: **Amen.**

P: Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God of new beginnings,

C: **we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.**

**We have strayed from your paths.**

**We prepare for war instead of peace.**

**We dishonor one another and your creation.**

**Purify us with your refining fire**

**and set us again on your way of love,**

**that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,**

**and welcome your coming among us.**

**Amen.**

P: People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on ✝ Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

C: **Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

**Hark the Glad Sound**

ELW 239

**1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
the Savior promised long;  
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
and ev'ry voice a song.**

**2 He comes the pris'ners to release,**

in Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.

**3** He comes the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.

**4** Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim,  
and heav'n's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name.

## GREETING

**L:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**L:** Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

## WORD

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### FIRST READING

Isaiah 1: 1-10

*Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful*

*coexistence.*

L: A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.  
On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations  
shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

## SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-13

*God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.*

L: For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

‘Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name’;

and again he says,

‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people’;

and again,

‘Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him’;

and again Isaiah says,

‘The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;

in him the Gentiles shall hope.’

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**He Came Down**

**ELW 253 verse 2**

**2 He came down that we may have light;**

**he came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
hallelujah forevermore.**

## GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:1-12

*Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.*

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight." '

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE "Not Perfect, But . . ."

## HYMN OF THE DAY

**Comfort, Comfort Now My People**

**ELW 256 verses 1-3**

- 1 "Comfort, comfort now my people;  
tell of peace!" So says our God.  
Comfort those who sit in darkness  
mourning under sorrow's load.  
To God's people now proclaim  
that God's pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their war is over;  
God will reign in peace forever.
  
- 2 For the herald's voice is crying  
in the desert far and near,  
calling us to true repentance,  
since the reign of God is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way.  
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior;  
hills, bow down in humble favor.
  
- 3 Straight shall be what long was crooked,  
and the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
as befits God's holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
now on earth is shed abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the token  
that God's word is never broken.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*A brief silence.*

L: God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians. Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation. We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones *especially*..... God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

L: You embrace all who have died trusting in your promises, and we give thanks for their faithful witness. Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

PEACE

OFFERTORY

Sanctuary Choir "Each Winter as the Year Grows Older" Flute: Jenny Focht

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

**Create in Me a Clean Heart**

**ELW 188**

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray. Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

MEAL

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

**C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

### Lamb of God

ELW p. 135

**C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
Grant us peace.**

## RECEIVING THE MEAL

*For those doing the consecrating at home, AT THIS TIME you can now do the distribution words:*

P: This is the body of Christ, broken for you.  
This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Let us pray: Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy,

bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

#### FINAL BLESSING

P: God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✝ bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

#### SENDING HYMN

**Prepare the Royal Highway**

**ELW 264 verses 1, 3, 4**

**1 Prepare the royal highway;  
the King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley  
a level road appear!  
Then greet the King of glory,  
foretold in sacred story:**

#### *Refrain*

**Hosanna to the Lord,  
for he fulfills God's word!**

**3 Then fling the gates wide open  
to greet your promised king!  
Your king, yet ev'ry nation  
its tribute too may bring.  
All lands will bow before him;  
their voices join your singing: *Refrain***

**4 His is no earthly kingdom;  
it comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom  
and justice, truth, and love.**

**So let your praise be sounding  
for kindness so abounding: *Refrain***

**DISMISSAL**

**L:** Go in peace. Christ is near.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

You are invited to remain and enjoy the postlude.

**Serving in Worship Today**

Presiding..... Rev. Steve Olson  
Music Director ..... Ruth Bills  
Special Music..... Jenny Focht  
Altar Guild ..... Janell Partyka  
Liturgist ..... Audrey Erickson  
Lector ..... Rich Feist  
Soundboard Tech .....Patrick Lathrop and Paul Lathrop  
Usher..... Doug and Linda Jones  
Mini-Bus Driver ..... Doug Jacobsen  
Coffee Fellowship ..... Rich and Sue Feist

Altar flowers are given by Diane Langer in memory of Doug Davis.

**Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah** - Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress

**Hark, the Glad Sound!** -Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

**He Came Down** - Text: Cameroon traditional

**Comfort, Comfort Now My People** -Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

**Prepare the Royal Highway** - Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress