



Weekly Announcements

Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

For the Week of December 11, 2022

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 Ruthbills@gmail.com.

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

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.

BAND CONCERT

Come and hear your holiday favorites with the Northeast Community Band under the direction of Tim Martin on Thursday, December 15th at 7 pm. The concert will take place at Northeast Middle School auditorium (2955 Hayes St NE). Enter a raffle for \$5 to win a handmade maple music stand. All proceeds go to the Ralph Sowden Memorial Scholarship Fund to help an Edison student finance their music career after high school. Treats provided after the concert!

FELLOWSHIP DECEMBER

- ONLINE Good Fruits Bible Study—Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room and online. (Contact Leona Olson, onondave@yahoo.com)
- ONLINE Men’s Bible Study—Wednesdays at 6:45 a.m. online. (Contact Ralph Matthes, marinosdelimpls@gmail.com)
- Racial Justice Book Study Group—Meets every other Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in Fireside Room and online. Next meeting: Dec. 15 (Contact Barb Hollister, bjhollister@comcast.net)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

12/17 Brian Doolittle



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www.mtcarmel.net



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THOSE WE ARE PRAYING FOR

- Thanksgiving for Elody, first grandchild of Karen and Ralph Matthes, born Dec. 6!
- The family of Sabra, friend of Stephenie Labandz, who passed away unexpectedly last week
- Barry, Dave Olson's brother, recovering from covid and awaiting reschedule for gall bladder surgery.
- The family of Tom Belawski, who passed away Nov. 24.
- Marilyn, Janell Wampler's sister, whose wound is almost healed and 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

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.

PCYC GIFT SALE

We delivered 90 gift to the Capri Theatre for the Plymouth Christian Youth Center gift sale. Thank you to all who donated!

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 or scan the QR code for online giving opportunities.



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



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GATHERING

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

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

ELW 249 verses 1, 2, 4, 5

**1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!**

- 2** Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.
- 4** Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more;
oh, let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.
- 5** All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

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 the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; 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

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35: 1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

L: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

PSALM

Psalm: 146:5-10

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,
who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith for ever;
who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the strangers;

he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**The Lord will reign for ever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord!**

SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

L: Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

He Came Down

ELW 253 verse 2

**3 He came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
hallelujah forevermore.**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 11:2-11

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already

through healing and restoration.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 11th chapter.

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

P: When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE "When Life Turns Hard"

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lost in the Night

ELW 243 verses 1, 3, 4

**1 Lost in the night do the people yet languish,
longing for morning the darkness to vanquish,
plaintively sighing with hearts full of anguish.
Will not day come soon? Will not day come soon?**

3 Sorrowing wand'ers, in darkness yet dwelling,

dawned has the day of a radiance excelling,
death's deepest shadows forever dispelling.
Christ is coming soon! Christ is coming soon!

4 Light o'er the land of the needy is beaming;
rivers of life through its deserts are streaming,
bringing all peoples a Savior redeeming.
Come and save us soon! Come and save us soon!

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: Gracious God, we rejoice in the gifts of your Spirit. Equip the global church to magnify your love and peace in every land. We pray for the work of the Lutheran World Federation and ELCA Global Mission. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Abundant God, we rejoice in your creation. Revive lands we have squandered and depleted. Make gardens flourish in cities and neighborhoods. Cleanse polluted air and water so living things may breathe, drink, and praise you. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Righteous God, we rejoice in your justice. End racism and oppression. Deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted. Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict. Help us pray for our enemies. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Healing God, we rejoice in your compassion. Comfort any in distress because of worry, illness, or loss *especially*..... Strengthen and protect health care workers, rescue teams, crisis counselors, and all who risk themselves to keep others safe. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Abiding God, we rejoice in your company. Give us calm and patient hearts as we gather with family and friends. Keep us mindful of those for whom this season is not happy. Console the grieving and surround them with loving support. God, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: Faithful God, we rejoice with Mary, Mother of our Lord, and with all the saints, that your mercy endures for all generations. Look with favor on those who have died and lead us to joyfully sing of your everlasting promises. 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

“Come, Emmanuel”

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

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

ELW 244

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.**
- 2 The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.**
- 3 The saints, who here in patience their cross and suff'rings bore,
shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.**

**4 Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!**

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
Altar Guild Janell Partyka
Liturgist Dave Olson
Lector Sinead Carolan
Soundboard TechPatrick Lathrop and Myrna Flatland
Usher..... Doug and Linda Jones
Mini-Bus Driver Rich Feist
Coffee FellowshipLabandz Family

Altar flowers are given by Doug and Linda Jones in celebration of their 48th wedding anniversary.

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

On Jordan's Bank - Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite

He Came Down - Text: Cameroon traditional

Lost in the Night - Text: Nordic hymn; tr. Olav Lee, 1859-1943, alt. Text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers - Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907