



Weekly Announcements

Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

For the Week of December 18, 2022

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.

TIDINGS ARTICLES DUE

What have we been up to this Advent season? What are you looking forward to in the new year? Please submit your newsletter items by 10:00 p.m. on Tuesday.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Dec. 24, 4:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve worship
Dec. 25, 9:30 a.m. – Joint worship at Gustavus Adolphus. Pastor Steve Olson presiding.
Jan. 1, 9:30 a.m. – Joint Worship at Mt. Carmel

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.

THOSE WE ARE PRAYING FOR

- The family of Sabra, friend of Stephenie Labandz, who passed away unexpectedly
- 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

Our barnyard is growing! So far, your generous donations will provide families with 4 goats, 6 chicks, 3 pigs, 3 roosters and 5 colonies of honeybees! We also received gifts that will purchase school supplies and meals at a soup kitchen. Thank you all for your support.

NOISY OFFERING TODAY

All coins dropped in the green bucket will be added to out contribution to ECLA Good Gifts Global Barnyard.

PCYC GIFT SALE

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dec. 22 – Dylan Evans, Greta Kutzer
Dec. 23 – Gloria Anderson, Henrik Nordeen
Dec. 25 – Carroll Rignell
Dec. 30 – Diane Langer



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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. (Contact Barb Hollister, bjhollister@comcast.net)

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 mountcarmelimpls.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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STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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PRAYER CHAIN

To lift up a prayer concern for the prayer chain, please contact Leona Olson at 612-859-7075.



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Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18th, 2022

Congregation parts are printed in **bold**.

Please make sure you have the following items on hand and ready for communion:
Bread on a small plate. You may put a cloth or napkin on top if you like.
Wine or grape juice (or some other beverage) and small glasses to drink from.

PRELUDE Carol Singing (Congregation choice)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH – Ruser Family

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

ELW 240 verses 1-3

- 1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.**
- 2 Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.**
- 3 Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.**
- 4 Light four candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining!**

F: We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: **Amen.**

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

Blessed Be the God of Israel

ELW 250

**1 Blessed be the God of Israel who comes to set us free
and raises up new hope for us: a Branch from David's tree.
So have the prophets long declared that with a mighty arm
God would turn back our enemies and all who wish us harm.**

- 2 With promised mercy will God still the covenant recall,
the oath once sworn to Abraham, from foes to save us all;
that we might worship without fear and offer lives of praise,
in holiness and righteousness to serve God all our days.**
- 3 My child, as prophet of the Lord you will prepare the way,
to tell God's people they are saved from sin's eternal sway.
Then shall God's mercy from on high shine forth and never cease
to drive away the gloom of death and lead us into peace.**

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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 7: 10-16

Isaiah Gives Ahaz the Sign of Immanuel

L: Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a

son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

SECOND READING

Romans 1: 1-7

L: Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

He Came Down

ELW 253 verse 4

**4 He came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
hallelujah forevermore.**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 1:18-25

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 1st chapter.

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

P: Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be

with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE "Risky Business"

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

ELW 257 verses 1-3, 8

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**2 O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.**

Refrain

**3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain***

8 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,

that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

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 our shepherd, let your Spirit move with power throughout the church. Give discernment and wisdom to our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. Take away our fear, so that we serve and love, confident that you are guiding us. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God our source, awaken us to the beauty of the earth and the marvelous variety of life. Unite humankind in repairing and caring for your creation. Protect creatures and habitats in peril due to rising seas and warming temperatures. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God our vision, raise up leaders in every nation who dream of freedom and justice for all people. We pray for the work of international organizations that promote peace and human rights, especially Amnesty International (*others may be named*). God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God our helper, come to the aid of all who cry out to you. Shelter migrants, refugees, and those fleeing war and famine. Bring relief to individuals and families experiencing hunger, homelessness, or impoverishment. Comfort any who are isolated or lonely. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God our Emmanuel, you are with us in our life together. We give you thanks for gathering us in worship and fellowship, and we remember those who cannot be present. Watch over those who travel. Heal the sick and speed their recovery *especially*..... God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: God our hope, you bring life out of death, and you promise to be our God forever. Shine upon the faithful who now rest in the fulfillment of your promise and bring us also into your blessed reign of peace. 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 with Guests

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

What Child Is This

ELW 296 verses 1 & 3

**1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

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

People Look East

ELW 248

- 1** People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

- 2** Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flow'r may flourish.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

- 3** Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Star, is on the way.

- 4** Angels announce with shouts of mirth

him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

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
Guest Singers Michael, Greta, and Nora Kohout
Altar Guild Janell Partyka
Liturgist Dave Olson
Lector Al Erickson
Soundboard Tech Paul Lathrop and Myrna Flatland
Usher..... Doug and Linda Jones
Mini-Bus Driver Dave Larson
Coffee Fellowship Karen Moeller and Barb Hollister

Thank you to the family of Ruth Bills for singing with us today.
Altar flowers are given by the Wirth family: Happy birthday, Jesus!

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