



# TIDINGS

February 2023

## WE GATHER TOGETHER: "SUPER BOWL SUNDAY" FEB. 12

Feb. 12 is Super Bowl Sunday so what better way to celebrate (without the Vikings) than bringing back our "We Gather Together" events. Join us in worship that Sunday wearing your favorite football jersey, sweatshirt or t-shirt. We will meet in Fellowship Hall following the service for walking tacos and other Super Bowl treats! This will be a great opportunity to "kick-off" (pun intended) our first "We Gather Together" event for the year. Hope you can join us!

## MT. CARMEL FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Calling all students or life-long learners—any age or educational interest—who are interested in applying for a post-secondary scholarship through the Mt. Carmel Foundation.

Whether you are interested in a certificate program, a technical program, college degree or a class to advance at work, consider applying for the financial support this program provides. Applications may be found in the narthex or you can contact the Mt. Carmel office to request a copy of the application form. For those of you who 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. Please note: applicants must be a member of Mt. Carmel. You may contact Mary at 612-226-1722 or cathe012@umn.edu with any questions.

## ASH WEDNESDAY IS FEB. 22

It's time. It is time to bring in your palms from behind the pictures and over the doors in your homes. Each Palm Sunday we give everyone palm branches to put up, over a door, or behind a picture, or a mirror, as a reminder that Jesus is the Lord. Then in the month before Lent, we bring them back to church and on Fat Tuesday, they are burned in preparation for Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is the day when we begin a season of self-examination and confession with the sign of the cross made on our foreheads.

So please remember to bring your palm branches back to church. We will make the ashes on Fat Tuesday, Feb. 28. Gustavus Adolphus will be invited to join us for our Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30 p.m.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Pastor . . . . .	2
Child Care Center . . . . .	3
Worship & Music . . . . .	3
Dinner and a Movie . . . . .	4
Wapo Registration . . . . .	5
Council Notes. . . . .	5
Forget-Me-Not . . . . .	5
February Social Hour . . . . .	6
Make a difference: . . . . .	6
Support PHC . . . . .	7

### 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](http://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 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

Steve Olson, ext. 103  
pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org

### Office Administrator

Nancy Nordeen, ext. 101  
office@mountcarmelmpls.org

### Director of Music

Ruth Bills, ext. 120  
ruthabills@gmail.com

### Maintenance Engineer

Steve Panning, ext. 104  
building@mountcarmelmpls.org

### Tidings

Jenni Lathrop  
jenni@jennilathrop.com

### Mt. Carmel Child Care

Brenda Wetzel, ext. 107  
612-781-2798  
childcare@mountcarmelmpls.org

[www.mtcarmel.net](http://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](http://www.elca.org/About).



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

# FROM THE PASTOR

## UNDER THE SIGN OF THE CROSS:

Throughout our lives we travel with a hidden cross. It is the cross traced upon our forehead, with the waters of baptism. The water evaporates quickly but the cross remains, for in the waters of baptism we are “sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross forever.”

So we travel through life under the sign of an invisible cross, but one day a year that cross becomes visible again. Traced with the ashes of last year's palm, the sign of the cross is retraced as we are reminded that in life, and in death, the cross remains. Although we are dust and to dust we shall return, we are now and always shall be sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

The sign of the cross then, is a powerful reminder of who we are and whose we are. In fact it is so powerful that Martin Luther suggested that we hold onto making the sign of the cross as part of our daily life. In section 7 of the small catechism on morning and evening prayer, Luther wrote “In the morning, when you rise, make the sign of the cross and say, ‘In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.’” Likewise, Luther instructed that evening prayers at bedtime, begin the same way. Make the sign of the cross and say, “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen” (page 353 of the Book of Concord).

That is something I was not taught in confirmation, nor was it emphasized in seminary. So I guess it is no wonder many who were raised as Lutherans know so little about the importance of the cross in our daily lives and at worship. Nevertheless, Martin Luther intended that it be part of our daily routine, and that is why I am so grateful that it is coming back into our life, not just in strong Roman Catholic towns like Albany, Minn., but across our whole church.

So, for you who were raised as Catholics, keep on doing what you are doing in making the sign of the cross, and for those of you, like myself, who did not grow up with this practice, give it a try. Use it to begin your table prayers, your morning prayers and your evening prayers. Also, anytime you see the symbol of a red cross in your hymn book on the screen remember, that is a reminder to make the sign of the cross. Once we get past the awkwardness of trying something unfamiliar to us, I think we will find a blessing in this practice as we remember who we are, and whose we are.

*Pastor Steve Olson*

# CHILD CARE CENTER

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Pictured are our wonderful toddlers with teacher Rani.

January is always a calmer time at MCCC, some of our friends are coming back from a long holiday break and others are getting into the swing of our schedules. We have spent our first part of winter learning about snow, ice, winter clothes and animal tracks. The preschoolers did a “winter clothes” fashion show which was a blast! February brings Black History and Valentines (with some fun activities and treats).

*Brenda Wetzel, Director*

# WORSHIP & MUSIC

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Here’s a WHOPPING BIG thank you to all who came forward to plan and participate in our Advent and Christmas seasons. In spite of rain, snow, wind and sub-zero temps you persevered to help celebrate the birth of our Lord in the best way possible.

To all Sanctuary choir members, Worship & Music Committee members, Jubilate Bell ringers, ushers, lectors, sound people, coffee servers, decorators and anyone else who helped in any way. Thank you so much!

Thanks also to guest singers Anna Mathis, Michael Kohout, Nora and Greta, Dan Kuch (trumpet), and Jenny Focht (flute) who kindly enhanced our worship.

Last but not least, thank you to Pr. Steve Olson who has stepped in at a difficult time to lead and motivate us.

Plans are already in the works for the coming of Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Lots to look forward to.

Stay tuned!

*Ruth Bills, Director of Music*

## CONFIRMATION

Saturday, March 4, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. for all 6th-8th graders. March classes will be at Gustavus Lunch is provided.

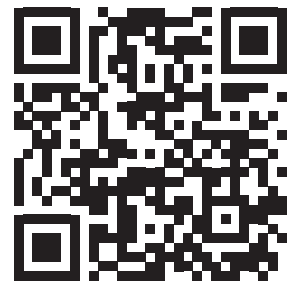
## GIFTS RECEIVED

### UNDESIGNATED MEMORIALS

**In memory of Tom Belawski:**  
Chris and Jill McMahan;  
Carol Panning; Dick & Margot Jacobson; Rick & Cheryl Sundly

### TO THE FOUNDATION

**In honor of Mt Carmel:**  
Donations through Amazon Smile



## WHERE CAN I FIND...?

One of the best ways to find up-to-date information is on the church website. Scan the QR code above to visit the site on your phone or tablet.

## 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.

# TREASURER REPORT: DEC. 31, 2023

The Mt. Carmel Congregation will carryover \$19,170.39 into 2023.

## December

**Actual Contributions/ Income**  
\$ 35,050.94

**Budgeted Contributions/ Income**  
\$18,934.49

**Actual Expense**  
\$ 27,590.94

**Budgeted Expense**  
\$24,160.27

**Actual Income/Expense: \$7,460.00**

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

## YTD

**Actual Income/Expense \$19,170.39**

**Budgeted Income/Expense: (62,709.00)**

As we move into another challenging year, please prayerfully consider increasing your giving and planned pledging. We pray pledges and giving proceeds continue on a healthy trend.

*Diane Davis Langer, Mt. Carmel Church Treasurer*

## DINNER AND A MOVIE

**Hey youth!** Join us for Dinner and a Movie. Thursday, Feb. 16 at 6 p.m. Friends are welcome, but we need to have RSVPs for food! Contact Jenni Lathrop if you have any questions.

## LENT SCHEDULE

- **Feb. 22: Ash Wednesday Service**, 6:30 p.m. at Mt. Carmel
- **Mid-Week Lenten Services** on March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29
  - 11:30 a.m.—Devotions and lunch in the meeting room at Culvers Restaurant (4004 Silver Lake Rd. St. Anthony)
  - 5:30-6:15 p.m.—Supper in Fellowship Hall
  - 6:30 p.m.—Holden Evening Prayer
  - 7:30 p.m.—Choir (and other groups that might want to gather)

## HOLY WEEK

(Locations to be determined)

- **April 2: Palm Sunday**, 9:30 a.m.  
**Youth Breakfast**, serving 8-9 a.m. and 10:30-11:30 a.m.
- **April 6: Maundy Thursday**, 6:30 p.m.
- **April 7: Good Friday**, 6:30 p.m.
- **April 9: Easter Sunday**, 9:30 a.m.

# CAMP WAPO REGISTRATION OPEN

Thanks to the generous support of the Mt. Carmel Church in Minneapolis Foundation, our kids will receive full scholarships to attend Camp Wapo this summer. We have guaranteed spots reserved until Feb. 15. Please sign up soon. This link will take you directly to our registration page: <http://lwlbc.com/mtcarmel-mps>. Contact the office if you have questions.

## Summer Camp Dates:

- Roots Camp for kids finishing grades 10-12: Aug. 6-11
- Wapo Youth Camp for kids finishing grades 4-9: Aug. 13-18

This year there are two family camp choices, July 7-9 and Aug. 11-13. A handful of members attended family camp in 2019 and it was a lot of fun! (Note that no scholarship support has been requested for family camp.)

# JANUARY COUNCIL NOTES

- Pastor Steve will be collecting unused medical supplies and used mobility devices to donate to Global Health Ministries.
- Al Erickson for the Stewardship Committee reported additional pledges received with the total now estimated at \$187,700. He encourages everyone to return their pledge cards as soon as possible. This information is used for the 2023 budget.
- A draft of the 2023 budget was presented. It currently reflects a deficit of approximately \$49,000. Treasurer Diane Langer will be presenting the budget to the congregation on Jan. 22 after the service. Discussion will follow her presentation. The congregation will vote on the budget during the annual meeting on Jan. 29.
- The council discussed moving forward with a redevelopment/revitalization plan. A presentation to the congregation will be made on Sunday, Jan. 15 during the coffee time.
- Karen Matthes, Nominating Committee, brought two names forward for the open council positions: Kathy Halvorson and Patrick Kutzer. Their names will be presented at the annual meeting on Jan. 29.
- The Jan. 29 annual meeting will be held in person right after the service. A Zoom link will be available for any out-of-town members. Please contact the office for the Zoom information.
- A big THANK YOU to our outgoing council members: Barb Hollister, Patrick Lathrop and Karen Matthes.

## 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.

Feb. 6: Ruth Bills

Feb. 10: Ron Handberg

Feb. 12: Chuck Grider

Feb. 17: Dick Jacobson

Feb. 19: John Hedberg

Feb. 22: Dorothy Warhol

Feb. 28: Ethel Antonson

## SMALL GROUP MEETINGS

### Good Fruits Bible Study—

Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m. at Silverwood Park. (Contact Leona Olson at [onondave@yahoo.com](mailto:onondave@yahoo.com))

### Online Men's Bible Study—

Wednesdays at 6:45 a.m. (Contact Ralph Matthes at [marinosdelimpls@gmail.com](mailto:marinosdelimpls@gmail.com))

### Anti-Racism Book Club—

Every other Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room (Contact Barb Hollister at 612-590-6469 or [bjhollister@comcast.net](mailto:bjhollister@comcast.net))

## **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.

## **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](mailto:office@mountcarmelmpls.org) or visit the church website at [www.mtcarmel.net](http://www.mtcarmel.net).

## **FEB. 5 SOCIAL HOUR**

### **Grandma's Yellow Plate**

When it comes to estates, it is usually pretty clear as to where the money goes. A will or probate gives us the direction we need. Yet when it comes to things, it is not quite so easy. Things are not easily divided, and more importantly things tend to have sentimental attachments. So how do we make it easier for our families to deal with our stuff after we our gone. The kickoff for this discussion will be a short video called "Grandma's Yellow Plate." Join us in Fellowship Hall after worship. Come prepared to be amused and challenged.

## **MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES**

### **WE'RE BACK (and not just for supper)**

Bit-by-bit we are getting back toward things we have enjoyed in the past. One of those things is Lenten services and worship. This year, we will be serving supper from 5:30–6:15 p.m. Worship will begin at 6:30 p.m. and we will have time for choir and other small groups after worship. Watch for more details.

### **New this year: Not everyone is a night owl**

Not everyone wants to tackle winter driving, and the challenge of finding a parking spot keeps some away. So for those who are looking for another Lenten option, we are adding a mid-day gathering at Culver's Restaurant in their separate meeting room. Culvers is located at 4004 Silver Lake Rd NE in St. Anthony. It has good parking and you can order what you want to eat for our time of prayer and fellowship. We will meet for the five Wednesdays of Lent at 11:30 a.m. The theme for our mid-day and evening services will be "Artisans of the Crucifixion."

## **MAKE A DIFFERENCE: TWO LENTEN PROJECTS**

### **Global Health Ministries—[www.ghm.org](http://www.ghm.org)**

Many of us have stuff we don't need anymore and no one wants it. A perfect example are mobility devices such as walkers, canes, wheelchairs, bathroom equipment and left-over medical supplies from home care. Here in the states no one wants our equipment or left-over supplies because insurance pays for new stuff. So it sits in a closet collecting dust. What a waste, especially when somebody else needs it. Global health ministries will gladly take all that stuff and get it where it can do some good. All you have to do is bring it to church and we bring it up to the shipping center in Fridley. If you need help getting it out of your home, call Pastor Steve.

### **Lutheran World Relief—[lwr.org](http://lwr.org)**

This Lent, we're putting God's love in action by making Lutheran World Relief personal care kits. Across the globe, families are suffering from compounding crises such as war, violence, natural disasters, disease and extreme weather. We want to announce to the world that Christ makes a new season possible: a season of hope. We're excited to engage in this project as a community during our Lenten journey this year. We will be collecting bar soap bars in original wrapping, light-weight bath towels (maximum 52" by 27"), toothbrushes in original wrapping, combs, and nail clippers. Watch your bulletin and Candle for more details.

# SUPPORT THE PEACE HOUSE COMMUNITY

Mt. Carmel's Circle of Friends continues to look to help our friends at Peace House Community. See how you can help!

The needs of economically marginalized women and men—many unhoused—becomes more intense as winter drags on.

The Peace House Community (PHC) is a marvelous non-profit that opened its doors in 1985. Located at 1815 Portland Ave., PHC is a day facility that hosts more than 150 community members on some days, nourishing bodies and souls.

Prior to COVID, a busy day was when 50 community members showed up for lunch. Now, hosting less than a hundred is a slow day. The community has grown and they need our help.

Currently, they are in need of heavy socks, handwarmers, gloves and hats as well as the items below. (New and unopened items appreciated)

- Socks (men's and women's), heavy and warm
- Underpants (men's and women's, sizes medium to extra-large)
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Bar soap, body wash
- Wash cloths
- Tampons and sanitary pads
- Deodorant (men's and women's)
- Razors (men's and women's) and shaving cream
- Individual packs of tissue
- Body lotion, cocoa butter
- Chapstick
- Hairbrushes
- First aid kits, Band-Aids
- Nail clippers

Circle of Friends will continue to collect these items through the month of February to help our PHC friends. There will be a box clearly marked for Peace House donations outside the church office. Learn more about PHC at [peacehousecommunity.org](http://peacehousecommunity.org).

We can do great things together. For more information, contact Diane Langer at 612-718-4229 or [ddl2@aol.com](mailto:ddl2@aol.com).

## 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

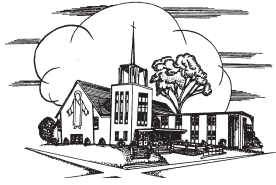
**newsletter:** Mailed the last Wednesday of the month. Due by 10 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month (Please email all Tidings submissions to [jenni@jennilathrop.com](mailto:jenni@jennilathrop.com)).

Please contact the office with your submissions or with any questions.

## MT. CARMEL ANNUAL REPORT

Looking for a full copy of the 2022 annual report? You can view online (or download) by scanning the QR code below with your phone's camera.





## Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

1701 St. Anthony Parkway NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418

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### Address Service Requested

**NEXT TIDINGS  
DEADLINE**  
February 21

## 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