



# Weekly Announcements

## Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

**For Week of Feb. 26, 2023**

### FAREWELL PR. STEVE AND DIANE TODAY

Today we say goodbye to Pastor Steve and Diane Olson. Join us after church in Fellowship Hall to share your well wishes. Thank you, Pastor Steve and Diane! You will be missed.

### 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. Masks are optional.

### SOUP SUPPER AND CULVER'S LUNCH

There are two opportunities for worship and fellowship during Lent. A community meal will be served Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. followed by Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30 p.m. Please contact the office if your group would like to volunteer to serve the meal on Mar. 29!

New this year is an 11:30 a.m. lunchtime gathering at Culver's in St. Anthony. Order your food and join the group for prayer and discussion in the meeting room.

### THRIVENT MEMBERS – CHOICE DOLLARS

**March 31 is the deadline** to direct your Choice Dollars. Please, consider directing some or all of these to Mt. Carmel. You should have received an e-mail about this from Thrivent with a link to their website. These dollars are made by Thrivent and do not take the place of your pledged contributions. Thanks.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Feb. 28 – Ethel Antonson  
Mar. 3 – Adam Walz

### 2023 ONE FOR TWO FOUNDATION MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE

At the annual meeting we discussed our congregation's challenging budget shortfall. The Mt. Carmel Foundation has announced an opportunity to grow your donations. For every \$2.00 donated to the church as a Special Offering over and above your pledged giving for 2023, the Foundation will gift \$1.00. In other words if you give a \$10.00 donation, the Foundation will match half, or another \$5.00, which will grow your \$10.00 gift to \$15.00. A \$50.00 gift will be matched with \$25.00 to grow to \$75.00. Please designate any amount you'd like to give to this as "special offering" and we will track our progress towards the 6/30/23 benchmark of \$5000. We'll report to our success to the Foundation, and they will add their dollars! **Join on the fun to erase the deficit.**

### JOIN THE BELL CHOIR!

Do you enjoy listening to the Jubilate Bells ring during services and for special occasions? Are you able to read easy piano music? We are struggling to keep the bell choir from disintegrating and would love some new members. We usually play on the 1st Sunday of the month and practice on the two Wednesdays before at 6:30 pm in the church sanctuary. Interested? Contact Ruth Bills or the church office.



612-781-2796



office@mountcarmelmpls.org



www.mtcarmel.net



/MountCarmelMpls

## THOSE WE ARE PRAYING FOR

- Katy, Bob and Sandy Bauer's daughter, undergoing cancer treatment
- Steve Metzler, Janell Wampler's friend, undergoing cancer treatment for a brain tumor
- 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

## MUSIC AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**Bell Choir** – Wednesday rehearsal at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Contact Ruth Bills at [ruthabills@gmail.com](mailto:ruthabills@gmail.com)

**Sanctuary Choir** – Wednesday rehearsal at 7:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. Contact Ruth Bills at [ruthabills@gmail.com](mailto:ruthabills@gmail.com)

**Good Fruits Bible Study**—Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room and via Zoom. Contact Leona Olson at [onondave@yahoo.com](mailto:onondave@yahoo.com)

**Online Men's Bible Study**—Wednesdays at 6:45 a.m. via Zoom. Contact Ralph Matthes at [marinosdelimpls@gmail.com](mailto:marinosdelimpls@gmail.com)

**Anti-racism Book Study** —Meet every other Thursday, 6:30-8 p.m. in the Fireside Room and via Zoom. Contact Barb Hollister at 612-590-6469

## EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE - ELCA DISASTER RELIEF

Special offerings to ELCA Lutheran World Relief are being collected for those impacted by the earthquake in Turkey. Make checks payable to Mt. Carmel. Please write "Turkey" in the memo and place them in a pew envelope. We will send our gifts on to LWR.

## NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH?

Call the church office (612-781-2796) by noon Friday to let us know you want a ride.

## 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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# First Sunday in Lent

## February 26, 2023

Congregation parts are printed in **bold**.

*For those communing at home, 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. Due to the recent storm we are including the invitation to Lent in this service.*

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INTRODUCTION TO SCOUT SUNDAY

### INVITATION TO LENT

**WL:** Friends in Christ, we begin this holy season of Lent by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with all of creation. But we live in ways that sometimes separate us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and we do not always enjoy the life our creator intended: As disciples of Jesus, we are called to resist whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, into the disciplines of Lent - which are self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love - strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament.

**C:** **Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.**

### CONFESSION OF SIN

**P:** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*A brief silence is kept.*

**P:** Most holy and merciful God,

**C:** **we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

P: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**C: Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

### Blessing the Ashes

**P:** Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*(For those in the church, you are invited to come forward to receive the sign of the cross in ashes upon your forehead. For those worshipping online, you are invited to mark the sign of the cross on your forehead and/or the foreheads of others in your household, saying these words)*

*“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”*

After imposition of ashes:

**WL:** Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

**C: that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

**WL:** By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

**C: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

**WL:** Almighty God have mercy on us; forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

**C: Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

### Praise and Thanks and Adoration

**ELW 783**

**1 Praise and thanks and adoration, Son of God, to you we give,  
for you chose to serve creation, died that sinners all might live.  
Dear Lord Jesus, guide my way; faithful let me day by day  
follow where your steps are leading, find adventure, joys exceeding!**

**2 Hold me ever in your keeping, comfort me in pain and strife;  
through my laughter and my weeping, lift me to a nobler life.  
Draw my fervent love to you; constant hope and faith renew  
in your birth, your life and passion, in your death and resurrection.**

## GREETING

WL: 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

WL: Let us pray. Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, 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

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So

when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

## SECOND READING

Romans 5:12-19

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia**

**ELW p. 142**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

## GOSPEL READING

Matthew 4:1-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 4th chapter.

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

P: Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." '

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." '

Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." '

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." '

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### MESSAGE

"The Core of Sin"

### HYMN OF THE DAY

**God, When Human Bonds Are Broken**

**ELW 603**

**1 God, when human bonds are broken and we lack the love or skill to restore the hope of healing, give us grace and make us still.**

**2 Through that stillness, with your Spirit come into our world of stress,**

**for the sake of Christ forgiving all the failures we confess.**

- 3 You in us are bruised and broken: hear us as we seek release from the pain of earlier living; set us free and grant us peace.**
- 4 Send us, God of new beginnings, humbly hopeful into life. Use us as a means of blessing: make us stronger, give us faith.**
- 5 Give us faith to be more faithful, give us hope to be more true, give us love to go on learning: God, encourage and renew!**

## APOSTLES CREED

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**L: Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.**

*A brief silence.*

**L: You alone are God. Sustain your church in times of wilderness. Give vision and wisdom to bishops, their staff, and all entrusted with the ministry of administration (*especially*). Counsel all who faithfully lead your people into the future. Merciful God,**

**C: receive our prayer.**

L: You create verdant gardens and expansive deserts. Tend to the needs of every living creature. Bless those who work in fields and orchards that the world is nourished by the fruits of their labor. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

L: You know our temptations. Sustain those who govern and legislate. Instill in them a sense of your justice and righteousness, that equity and peace would pervade all the regions and nations of the world. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

L: You are a hiding place for all in distress. Draw near to exiles, and accompany all refugees and immigrants, especially children who travel alone. In times of trouble, trauma, or illness, surround your people with your steadfast love,  
*especially* ..... Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

L: You offer abundance to all. Bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Care for those who tend to the needs of others, especially worship greeters, coffee hour hosts, and nursery attendants. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

L: You alone are God. We praise you for the faithful departed in every age. Unite our prayers with theirs, until our wilderness journey is complete, and we rest in you. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

L: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

PEACE

OFFERTORY

Sanctuary Choir

“I Want Jesus to Walk With Me”

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE

### Change My Heart O God

ELW 801

**Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.  
You are the potter; I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.  
Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.**

## OFFERING PRAYER

**P:** God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

**C: Amen.**

## MEAL

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### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**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: The table is ready. All are welcome.

### Lamb of God

ELW p. 146

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

## RECEIVING THE MEAL

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

*For those communing online, take the bread. This is the body of Christ, broken for you. Now take the cup. This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.*

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Let us pray: Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING

L: Dear Christian Friends: A church family is constantly changing. It is right and important that we recognize these times of passage – of endings and beginnings. Today we share the time of farewell with Pastor Steve, whose term as our interim pastor is coming to an end.

Pastor Steve, during this time of transition, you have proclaimed God's Word, baptized new members into the Church of Jesus Christ, announced God's forgiveness to us, and presided at our celebration of the Lord's Supper. With the Gospel you have comforted us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of our loved ones. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you have been important to our life together in the Church of Jesus Christ and in our service to this community.

You have served our congregation faithfully and now you are leaving our midst. As members of this congregation, we wish to honor your ministry among us and bid you farewell and Godspeed in your new endeavors, bringing closure to your ministry here.

P: *I thank the members and friends of Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church for the love, the kindness, and the support shown to me and Diane during my ministry among you. I ask for your understanding and forgiveness for mistakes I have made and for expectations I have not met. I am grateful for the ways my ministry has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.*

C: **We receive your thankfulness, and we offer you our forgiveness. We express our gratitude for all accomplishments and for your time among us. Forgive us for our shortcomings – for ways we have sinned against you. Your influence in our lives will not leave us, even though you depart from us as our interim pastor.**

P: *I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to our forgiving God and to the Christ we are called to serve.*

L: Do you, members and friends of Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, now release Pastor Steve from the duties as interim minister? Do you offer encouragement and support for his ministry as it unfolds in a new place?

C: **We do, with God's help.**

L: Do you, Pastor Steve, release Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church from turning to you and depending on you? Do you offer your encouragement and support for the continued ministry here?

P: *I do, with God's help.*

L: We will hold you in our prayers as you continue your ministry in another place, and we wish you God's blessing.

Let us pray.

All: **God, whose everlasting love for us all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The time we were together here in your name saw our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we hold close these cherished memories, but now move in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod  
✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

C: **Amen.**

L: Go now, Pastor Steve, surrounded by our love and led by the promises of God,  
the presence of Jesus Christ, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C: **Amen.**

**God Be with You Till We Meet Again**

**ELW 536**

**1 God be with you till we meet again;  
by good counsels guide, uphold you,  
with a shepherd's care enfold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.**

***Refrain***

**Till we meet, (till we meet,  
till we meet, (till we meet again,  
till we meet at Jesus' feet; (till we meet,  
till we meet, (till we meet,  
till we meet, (till we meet again.)  
God be with you till we meet again.**

**SENDING HYMN**

**Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer**

**ELW 618**

**1 Guide me ever, great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but you are mighty;  
hold me with your pow'rful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore,  
feed me now and evermore.**

**2 Open now the crystal fountain  
where the healing waters flow;  
let the fire and cloudy pillar**

**lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,  
shield me with your mighty arm,  
shield me with your mighty arm.**

**3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs and praises, songs and praises,  
I will raise forevermore,  
I will raise forevermore.**

**DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Serve in love.

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  
Scout Sunday Coordinator..... Jim Evans  
Altar Guild ..... Janell Partyka  
Worship Liturgist.....Allison Gurney  
Communion Servers ..... Dylan Evans and Janell Partyka  
Sending Liturgist..... Sinéad Carolan  
Lector .....Jill Davis  
Soundboard Tech .....Dave Larson and Erik Ruser

Usher..... Scouts overseen by Justin Fischer and Steve Ristuben  
Mini-bus ..... Rick Labandz  
Coffee Fellowship..... Gurney Family

*Altar flowers are given by Mt. Carmel in thanksgiving for our time with Pastor Steve and Diane Olson  
and by LuAnn Swanson in memory of her husband Jim.*

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**God, When Human Bonds Are Broken** - Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
**Change My Heart O God** - Text and music © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing (ASCAP), admin. Music Services  
**Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer** – Text: William Williams, 1717-1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722-1796, alt.  
**God Be with You Till We Meet Again** - Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828-1904, alt.  
**Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer** - Text: William Williams, 1717-1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722-1796, alt.