



Weekly Announcements

Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

For Week of Mar. 5, 2023

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP TODAY

Sunday school (preschool-5th 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.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP ACTIVITY BAGS

Activity bags are available during the worship service. They are in the Narthex on the table next to the cross wall hanging. 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. Questions? Contact Janell Wampler: janell.wampler@gmail.com , 612.978.0564.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mar. 5 – Chad Haller
Mar. 10 – Zoe Labandz

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.

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.**

ALTAR FLOWER SIGN UP

If you would like to place flowers on the altar in honor of or in memory of a loved one, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex by the elevator. The cost of one bouquet is \$27. You may pick up the flowers following the service.



612-781-2796



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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.

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

Sanctuary Choir – Wednesday rehearsal at 7:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. Contact Ruth Bills at 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

Online Men's Bible Study—Wednesdays at 6:45 a.m. via Zoom. Contact Ralph Matthes at 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.

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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Second Sunday in Lent

March 3, 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.

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: **we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life.**

Amen.

P: Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, ✝ forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Wash, O God Our Sons and Daughters

ELW 445

- 1 Wash O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow.
Number them among your people; bless as Christ blessed long ago.
Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light.
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.**
- 2 We who bring them long for nurture; by your milk may we be fed.
Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us, guide our footsteps; free from sin and all its snares,
one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.**
- 3 Oh, how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit-born.
By your grace, our lives we offer, recreate us, God transform.**

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. O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world 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

FIRST READING

Genesis 12: 1-4a

L: Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

SECOND READING

Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Return to the Lord

ELW p. 142

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

GOSPEL READING

John 3:1-17

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

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

P: Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ, the Life of All the Living

ELW 339

- 1 Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Christ, yourself for me once giving to the darkest depths of woe:
through your suff'ring, death, and merit life eternal I inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you.**
- 2 You have suffered great affliction and have borne it patiently,
even death by crucifixion, fully to atone for me;
for you chose to be tormented that my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you.**
- 3 Then, for all that bought my pardon, for the sorrows deep and sore,
for the anguish in the garden, I will thank you evermore;
thank you for the groaning, sighing, for the bleeding and the dying,
for that last triumphant cry, praise you evermore on high.**

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: O God, you so love your church. Raise up leaders who care for your people. Bless lay theologians, seminary and college professors, and all who are called to the ministry of teaching, that they form and inspire us for the work of the gospel. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: O God, you so love your creation. Breathe new life into our planetary home. Guide the work of researchers, scientists, and activists who love your earth and who inspire us to care for the natural world. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: O God, you so love the world. Uphold leaders who resist tyranny and oppression. Strengthen organizations that promote peace and harmony. Direct their work to alleviate human suffering and to address its root causes. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: O God, you so love your people. Draw near to all who live with mental illness, depression, or addiction, and accompany them in healing and recovery. Hear the cries of those who look to you in their distress, *especially*
Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: O God, you so love your children. Bless the young in our midst, and delight us with their joy, wonder, and curiosity. Revive our ministries with children and youth and equip us all for faithful discipleship. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: O God, you so love your saints. As our ancestors in the faith have been a blessing to us, so inspire us by their example of holy living to be a blessing to those who come after us. 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

“What Wondrous Love”

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

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: Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

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.**

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.**

SENDING HYMN

Lift High the Cross

ELW 660 verses 1, 3, 4

Refrain

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

**1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain***

**3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain***

**4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain***

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. Dave Olson
Music Director Ruth Bills
Altar Guild Janell Partyka
Liturgist Al Erickson
Lector Roger Peterson
Soundboard Tech Myrna Flatland and Patrick Lathrop
Usher..... Justin Fischer and Steve Ristuben
Mini-bus Andy Benedict
Coffee Fellowship..... Benedict Family

Altar flowers are given by the Labandz Family ~ Happy birthday to Zoe!

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