



Weekly Announcements

Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

For Week of March 19, 2023

WELCOME PASTOR CHRISTOPHERSON

Pastor Christopherson (Pastor C) began his ministry with us this past week and today is his first Sunday service. This is an exciting time for Mt. Carmel. You are encouraged to join us for a "Meet and Greet" fellowship time after the service. Let's give Pastor Christopherson a warm Mt. Carmel welcome!

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.

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.

FOUNDATION MATCHING GIFT – 1 FOR 2!

All special offerings over and above your pledged giving for 2023 will be matched 50% by the Mt. Carmel Foundation. For example, your \$2.00 gift will be matched with \$1.00 to grow to \$3.00! Please designate any amount you'd like to give to this as "1 for 2 match" and we will track our progress towards the 6/30/23 benchmark of \$5000. We'll report our success to the Foundation, and they will add their dollars! **Join in the fun to erase the deficit.**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mar. 21 – Sue Feist

Mar. 25 – Cheryl Moroz

3RD SUNDAY OFFERING – EASTER FOOD BASKETS

Do you know someone that we can help this Easter through our Food Basket outreach program? Please let the church office, Kathy Halverson or Barb Hollister know. We will once again be doing Cub gift cards so families can choose the foods that work best for their families. We would like to support up to **18 families**. Thank you in advance for supporting this very important ministry.



SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP TODAY

Sunday school (preschool-5th grade) and youth group will follow worship, running from 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.

CARE NOTES

Are you or a loved one struggling with a diagnosis of cancer or dementia? Are you having difficulties as a caregiver? Have you recently lost a job? These are a few of the topics addressed by Care Notes. They are being provided by our Befriender Ministry. Browse the pamphlets on the shelves beneath the flower sign up sheet in the narthex, and take one or more for yourself or a loved one. If you would like to speak to someone more in depth about one of these subjects, call the church office or Pr. Dave Olson at 651-528-7459.

JOIN THE BELL CHOIR!

The bell choir 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.



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www.mtcarmel.net



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THOSE WE ARE PRAYING FOR

- Lorraine Carlson, grieving the sudden loss of her brother-in-law to a heart attack, followed by his son's death two days later from cancer
- Judy Ann, Jessica Walz's mother, for strength and peace as she addresses heart issues
- Jessica Walz, for strength as she provides primary care for her mother
- The family of Rudy Roy, who passed away on March 8
- Katy, Bob and Sandy Bauer's daughter, healing after successful 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

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.

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.



STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 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

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

God Whose Almighty Word

ELW 673 verses 1-3

- 1 God, whose almighty word chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight: hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.
- 2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight; health to the troubled mind,
sight where illusions blind; oh, now to humankind
let there be light.
- 3 Spirit of truth and love, life-giving, holy dove,
speed forth your flight; move on the water's face
bearing the lamp of grace, and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.

WELCOME OF OUR PASTOR

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

- 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.**
- L: Let us pray. Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

WORD

CHILDREN'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SONG

"His Banner Over Me is Love"

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16: 1-13

L: ¹The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." ⁷But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5: 8-14

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—
⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find

out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

L: Word of God, Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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 9:1-41

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 9th chapter.

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

P: ¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the

Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to

them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lead Me, Guide Me

ELW 768

Refrain:

**Lead me, guide me, along the way; for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee, Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

**1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r
to help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness thy face to see.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. [Refrain]**

**2 Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,
be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting allmy trust in thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. [Refrain]**

**3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,
I am blind without.... thy sight to see.
Lord, just always let me thy servant be.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. [Refrain]**

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: Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made. Teach us to perceive the beauty of the breadth of your creation, from the grandest mountain range to the smallest springtime bud. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials. Encourage them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask. Feed us with hunger for justice. Equip the feeding ministries of this congregation and community *especially*..... Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people. We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us. Merciful God,

C: 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

“Breath On Me Breath of God”

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: God, the giver of love, ✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND 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. D Foy Christopherson
Music Director Ruth Bills
Altar Guild Janell Partyka
Liturgist Audrey Erickson
Lector Linda Obright
Soundboard TechJulie Larson and Erik Ruser
Usher Fred Chinquist and Steve Ristuben
Mini-busAl Erickson
Coffee Fellowship..... Carol Panning and Connie Wegner

*Altar flowers are given by the Mt. Carmel Church Council
in celebration of our new settled pastor.
Welcome Pastor C!*

God Whose Almighty Word - Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825, alt.
Lead Me, Guide Me - Text and music: 1953 Doris Akers, admin. Unichappell Music, Inc.
Change My Heart O God - Text and music © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing (ASCAP), admin. Music Services
Christ the Life of All the Living - Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605-1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

