

November Advent Christmas 2024

# Good Tidings

Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church



2024 God's work Our hands Sunday

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Advent -Christmas



# AUTUMN HIGHLIGHTS



## Mt. Carmel Foundation church legacy partners' annual brunch

We gathered in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, October 27, immediately after worship to enjoy a tasty brunch catered by Marino's Deli. We shared information about the grants that legacy giving has already provided as well as how you can become a Legacy Partner in the future. This opportunity to share information about the gifts of legacy giving is appreciated, as is the generosity of generations of givers who have made the Foundation mission possible.

## St. Crispin's Day shoe and sock collection through Sunday, October 27

St. Crispin was the patron saint of cobblers, carriers, tanners, and leather workers who was martyred on October 25, 285 or 286 AD. We collected 100 pairs of shoes to benefit the "Free Store" at Central Lutheran Church in downtown Minneapolis.



## Undies galore

A huge thank you to our community for contributing 224 pairs of undies on Undie Sunday, October 13! Yay!! 116 adult pairs will go to the Central Lutheran Free Store. 108 kids' sizes will be given to Waite Park Elementary.

Not only will recipients have a warmer bottom (as suggested by our young people during the children's message), but there are several other benefits. Underwear is one of the most requested but least donated items for the homeless and those in need. Clean undies help in all the following ways: hygiene, health, comfort, self-confidence, dignity. 55% of children who do not have underwear wanted to skip school or refused to attend classes because they were embarrassed.\*

Amazing how something so small really can make such a big difference. Nice job, Mt. Carmelites!

\* Statistics from Undies for Everyone, 2022.





### New England aster blooms

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. (Eccl. 3:1)*

by Gardener Dave Olson

Just when many of us are focused on raking leaves and putting our gardens to rest for the season, we may be surprised to see the New England aster begin to bloom. It is also called the Michaelmas aster because it starts to bloom around St. Michael’s Day (Sept. 29) and continues to bloom until the frost ends the season. I planted a Michaelmas aster in our butterfly garden for late season interest and also to serve as a reminder to us seniors. God has a purpose for us in every season of our lives. This call to service in our retirement years may be a continuation of the use of the gifts we have used in our working days, but in some cases, God may be calling us to cultivate new talents for the advancement of the Kingdom of God in the world we encounter today. Like the Michaelmas aster it may be your moment to shine in some new way in your retirement years. Will you listen to God’s call and under the discerning guidance of the Spirit be open to service in some new way? Listen, God is calling!



**Remembering Jeanette Burmeister  
former childcare director & church member**



### Fall clean-up day – September 21

In intermittent rain, 18 volunteers contributed 54 hours of labor, cleaning indoors and out!

### Autumn property & maintenance support projects

Thanks to all our volunteers who have tended the gardens, divided hostas, trimmed shrubs, painted and spruced up our public spaces before the snow flies.

**God’s work. Our hands.**







September 8, 2024

### “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday

On Sunday, September 8, congregations of the ELCA join together for the ELCA’s annual day of service. Participating in service projects is one way to celebrate who we are as the ELCA — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. This day of service is an extension of the work we already do to make our community a better place.

This is the third time the Better Together team has worked to gather a joint team of Mt. Carmel and Gustavus Adolphus volunteers to pick up litter along a stretch of Johnson Street. (See the photo on the cover.)





# FAITH FORMATION

*Cradle to grave faith formation historically called MARTYRIA or WITNESS includes Bible & book studies + Adult forum + Sunday School/VBS + Youth forum + Confirmation + Lent 2025 + Evangelism + Becoming the Story We Tell*

## Sunday School

Mt Carmel offers Sunday School for ages 2 and up. All are welcome.



## Good Fruits bible study

The Bible study meets on every Tuesday at 2:30 pm at church in the fireside room or via Zoom. For more information or the Zoom link, contact Leona Olson.

## Online Men's bible study

Wednesdays at 6:45 am lectionary-based bible study. Contact Ralph Matthes at marinosdelimpls@gmail.com.

## Sunday youth forum

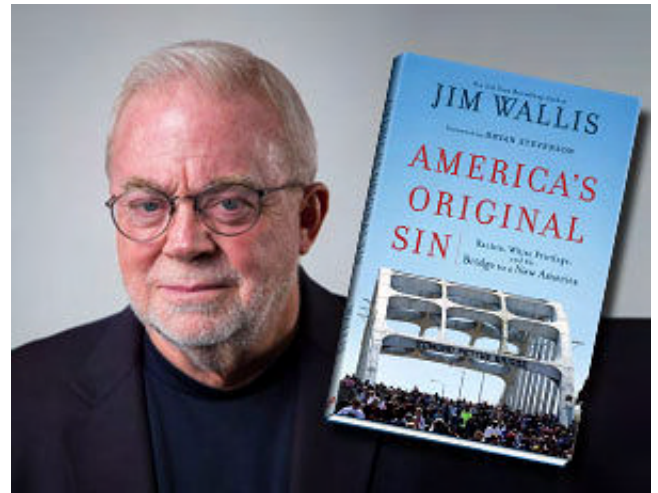
Youth forum this autumn will consist of an ever-rotating schedule of five types of events: 1) intergenerational forum with the adults, 2) service projects, 3) topical discussions with Karen Moeller or Pastor C, 4) bell ringing experiences, and 5) free fellowship hours. All confirmed youth are welcome to gather Sunday mornings after worship/fellowship in the youth room.

## Bible Milestone

Seven children received bibles presented by their parents at our Reformation Sunday bible milestone, helping families keep their baptismal promises to their children.

## Pre-Confirmation

We do not have a confirmation class in 2024-25 but our three pre-Confirmation students, Eddie, Maria and Marty will meet with Pastor C for some mini-milestones this year. Their next project will be during Advent. Last Spring they completed a read-through of Mark's gospel. Next will come a discussion about prayer or the sacraments. They will begin confirmation in Autumn 2025. Pastor C will spend his faith formation time this year between the adult forum, youth forum and new Childcare Chapel.



## Racial justice book study: new discussion begins October 24

All are welcome to join us as we begin a new book in our learning journey. Starting on Thursday, October 24, we will begin discussing *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege and the Bridge to a New America* by Jim Wallis. In this book, Wallis speaks to Christians, particularly white Christians, urging them to cross a new bridge to racial justice and healing. Wallis is an American theologian, writer, teacher and political activist. He is also the founder and editor of Sojourners magazine. We will meet in the Fireside Room at 6:30.

For this first discussion please read the Preface, Introduction, and Chapters One and Two. As always, it is not necessary to have completed the reading to join the conversation. Please contact Barb Hollister with any questions.



### Adult faith formation calendar

- 10/20 Biblical sources of the liturgy (MEA)
- 10/27 Foundation legacy brunch (Reformation)
- 11/4 What’s a funeral supposed to do? (All Saints’) followed by funeral planning workshop (afternoon cemetery visits by request)
- 11/10 Generosity forum with Pastor C
- 11/17 Stewardship team forum
- 11/24 Introduction to the Year of Luke (pledge Sun.)
- 12/1 Multi-generational Advent preparation
- 12/8 Election of 2025 congregation council
- 12/15 \_\_\_\_\_  
(3:30 Better Together Christmas caroling)
- 12/22 Christmas coffee fellowship after SS program
- 12/29 Christmas break coffee fellowship?
- 1/5/25 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1/12 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1/19 Budget hearing forum
- 1/26 Congregation annual meeting

### Wednesday evening suppers

Grab supper with friends before choir, bells or youth group, or after picking up the childcare kids. This simple meal is free and open to the community. Wednesdays, 5:30 – 6:30, in the fellowship hall. We look forward to connecting with you. Especially invited and expected are youth families, singles, choir and bell members and childcare families.

#### Schedule for November & December activities

We’ll visit a cemetery to create tombstone etchings; and work on creating an outdoor nativity scene for our churchyard.

**NOTE: No supper** Wednesday, November 27, during Thanksgiving week; December 25, or January 1.

If you’d like to sign up to cook, serve or clean-up, contact Stephenie Labandz or Nancy Nordeen. We organize ourselves with a simple spreadsheet for a no-stress, no-fuss event. Join us anytime! All are welcome!

### Wednesday evening table grace



*Come, Lord Jesus,  
be our guest,  
and let these gifts to us be blest.  
  
Blest be God who is our bread.  
May all the world  
be clothed and fed. Amen.*

#### Neighbors in the news

### Grandfather of Minnesota Senior Softball Congratulations Dick Anderson!



Dick Anderson, elected to the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame; seen above pitching from his bio on the organization web page. Known as the “Grandfather of Minnesota Senior Softball,” Dick was also featured in the Northeaster paper. (image: National Senior Softball Hall of Fame)





# ADMINISTRATION LEADERSHIP IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH

*OIKOS is the foundation of the word economics or HOUSEHOLD. This ministry cluster tends the household of faith, or parish administration. Congregation council (Pastor C) + Volunteers, Admin & Communication (Madeline) + Budget + Property (Pastor C & Steve) + MCCC (Brenda & Board) + Casa (Pastora Yolanda)*

## President “Karen’s Korner”

*Oh, what a night!*



A successful “Church Basement” dinner of hot dish and bars plus a few games of Bingo was enjoyed by many on October 9. Thanks to everyone who helped with setting up, providing food and prizes, and cleaning up. It was loads of fun, and I had a ball being the caller

even with the small amount of “heckling” that took place!

I recently had the opportunity to take my dream vacation to Ireland. It was a magical time, and I know I’ll return, but it was also good to get home and see my Mt. Carmel friends on my first Sunday back. And to make this Sunday even sweeter was having Greta Kutzer and Freda Benedict (representing our youth) come forward to present a matching challenge of \$2,000 to the congregation for the elevator repair. I heard from several members how much this moved them to see our youth take on this project knowing how important the elevator is to many and...that challenge has been met, with the youth adding an additional \$500! Take time in person to thank them for their generous gift.

Mt. Carmel will be celebrating its centennial year in 2026! A committee has been formed and will start meeting to plan for this special event. While that is still

a full year away, we want to make this a memorable occasion.

These next months include special holidays, programs, and educational opportunities. Please check the Sunday announcements and weekly Tidings for information on these. As I said in the last Good Tidings, Pastor C. has brought a renewed energy to Mt. Carmel, but it is up to us, every member, to carry this energy forward. Let’s keep it going...I want to celebrate 100 years!

To God be the glory,  
Karen Moeller, council president

## Special Congregation Meeting – Dec 8

A special Congregation Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 8 in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the worship service. This is to elect new Council members for a three (3) year term beginning January 2025.

## Congregation council highlights

Notes from the September 10, 2024 meeting:

- Myrna Flatland/Little Kitchen Food Shelf are seeking 5-6 Mt Carmel volunteers for one Saturday per month from 9:30-Noon. Please contact Myrna with your interest in this opportunity!
- Elevator repair: The contract has been signed, the parts have been ordered, and the elevator car has been partially lifted. The Council continues to review and discuss funding options: Foundation request, member request, grants and or a possible loan
- An attorney has reviewed Mt Carmel’s Constitution in relationship to the Foundation and has made several recommendations. Based on his notes, the Council approved a new Continuing Resolution (C14.02.A24). Please let Lory Dubbels know if you’d like more information on this resolution.



## Mt Carmel financials:

### Treasurer update YTD: Sept. 30, 2024

Our congregation faithfully passed an unbalanced (deficit) budget for 2024 of -\$32,112. Mt Carmel has made up close to \$10,000 towards closing the gap, but the end of year is quickly coming and we have approximately \$20,000 yet to raise.

#### Income/ to expense

September Actual	\$7,368.84
January Budget	(\$2,675.89)
YTD Actual	(\$15,868.32)
YTD Budget	(\$24,083.97)

Congratulations to the Mt Carmel congregation on raising the funds estimated for the elevator repair. Gratitude to all who generously gave to this seemingly insurmountable financial challenge. This was truly amazing.

As we move towards the end of year challenge of erasing our deficit—and now planning a new budget for 2025—please prayerfully consider continuing on this path of generosity so we can erase the deficit and end the year on a positive note. You can mail in your donation, drop off at church mailbox, church office or Sunday offering.

God’s blessings to you for your continued generosity.  
Diane Davis Langer, church treasurer

### 2025 Budget team

Our budget preparation team is now meeting to form the 2025 proposed church budget. If your team or cluster are planning new initiatives or reductions, please contact Pastor C now. We will prepare a budget that more closely reflects our current structure and ministry clusters for the annual meeting.

January 19, 2025 – budget hearing forum

January 26, 2025 – annual congregational meeting

### Budget deficit remains

Our fourth quarter of giving is critical to meeting our approved budget. We depend on your help to end this year of ministry strong as we move into our 100<sup>th</sup> year of serving and praying in Northeast Minneapolis. For 2024 we approved a budget in faith that we would meet our ministry needs. Even so, it was not a “growth” budget but a “maintenance” budget just to maintain our current ministries.

## Elevator update



*New elevator jack and casing ready for installation*



The elevator parts have arrived and our repair company has been on site removing the failed hydraulic elevator lift jack and installing the new one. These are all custom-made parts. We hope to have the elevator back in operation in November. Thanks for your generosity in funding this sudden capital repair.



*Vacuum pumper “digging” out the elevator pit.*

## Life passages & milestones

*Whether we live, or whether we die, we are the Lord’s*

**Died:** Gerry Johnson (9/26)

**Bible Milestone (10/27):** Clyde Fisher, Jack Fischer, Eloise Kocak, Astrid Ruser, Elsa Ruser, Abigail Wirth



## Supporting Volunteers



In my first few months at Mt. Carmel, I've been primarily focused on learning the administrative side of my position, but my role also includes volunteer coordinating. As a congregation with a small staff, Mt. Carmel relies on members of the congregation

contributing their knowledge, time, and skills. When you receive your stewardship mailing this month, you will notice a new "time and talent" survey in the same envelope. Please take a moment to review the ways you serve at Mt. Carmel and either renew your same commitments for 2025 or consider changing your focus. You may be ready to grow in your service by trying something new. Perhaps you've outgrown or become bored with projects you've supported for years. However you sense God calling you, there is an option for you.



**Our sign received a new coat of paint to go with our new inserts.**



# WINTER BETTER TOGETHER

## Christmas caroling is better together – Sunday, December 15

We'll join with our GA friends in some neighborhood Christmas caroling on Sunday afternoon, December 15. Afterward we'll gather back at church for treats, warm drinks and fellowship.



## Our Homeless Neighbor brunch and speaker – February 22

We're planning a way for our congregations to learn more about our unhoused neighbors. We're still in the early stages of planning this event, but we hope to bring in a speaker from a local organization as well as incorporate some kind of collection/packing event. Stay tuned for many more details in the coming months.

If you have ideas about ways that our two congregations could be doing ministry together, we invite you to reach out to one of our Better Together team members. We'd love to hear from you.

## Who is my neighbor?

When asked, "Who is my neighbor?," Jesus responded by telling the parable of the Good Samaritan, pointing out that our neighbor is the person whose need you see and are able to meet (Luke 10:26-37).

Our neighbor is the person God places in our path. Whether you know them, like them, look like them, or not, they're your neighbor.







# BEARING THE GOOD FRUIT OF THE GOSPEL

*Care of neighbor, traditionally called DIACONIA or SERVICE, includes relief projects + Third Sunday projects + Stewardship + Acts of Mercy + Feed My Starving Children + Hunger and homeless ministries + Roadside cleanup + Refugee support + Church directed mission (local assistance) + Benevolence support + Salty Carmel serving teams + Birthday offering; monthly emphasis*

## Bearing Good Fruit

### 2024-25 service project calendar

- Sept – Oct Sock-tober fest shoes, socks & undies
- Nov Thanksgiving food “baskets”
- Dec – Jan Peace House Community winter needs

## Volunteers of all kinds are needed

### Selling/donating surplus equipment

Do you love finding new homes for extra stuff? Volunteer to post and sell/donate surplus church equipment and tidy up the place at the same time. Contact Steve Panning.

### Coffee servers

A hearty thanks to all who continue to volunteer for our Sunday morning coffee fellowship. We are always in need of servers and if you have never done it, give it a try! Karen Moeller is willing to help you get the coffee going and there are always cookies in the freezer if you choose not to bring treats from home. The sign-up sheet is located by the serving windows in the Fellowship Hall. And there is a plus to doing it...you get to greet everyone going through the line!

### MCCC board secretary

Our childcare board needs a board secretary. Inquire with Brenda W. or Christine Pudney.

### Tech desk volunteers

Sign up by contacting the office.



## Thanksgiving food “baskets”

For many years, Mt Carmel has been providing meals for those in need at the holidays—be it a neighbor, day care family, Mt Carmel member, or anyone else who needs some help. So once again we are asking for your monetary support to continue providing these meals. We depend solely on you, our congregation, to raise these funds.

We are always looking for additional families (or individuals) we can support, so if you know of someone in need, please let the office, Barb Hollister, or Kathy Halverson know. Thanksgiving is November 28 this year, so we have about 4 weeks to raise the needed funds. We hope we can once again depend on your generosity. We continue to learn, live and share God’s word. Thank you.

## 50 years of ELCA World Hunger

This year the ELCA celebrates 50 years of **ELCA World Hunger**. In commemoration of this milestone, projects focused on alleviating hunger and poverty are encouraged. Let’s make this a season of service and expand our volunteer opportunities, advocacy efforts, or food drives. Hunger ministries are among Mt Carmel’s top proprieties for serving together.



# Stewardship season

as the harvest is gathered home,  
and we surround Thanksgiving tables;  
as the year comes to a close  
and the earth goes to sleep  
for the long winter  
we find ourselves

with **GLAD**  
and **GENEROUS**  
hearts

Greetings and blessings to Mt Carmel members and friends,

As we look forward to 2025, the Stewardship team would first like to sincerely thank you for your continuing commitment and generosity to Mt Carmel. Your prayers, your time and effort, and your financial support have enabled our church to serve the congregation and the northeast community for nearly 100 years.

With Pastor Christopherson’s diligent leadership, we have worked to learn, live, and share God’s word in 2024. Through our worship services, Sunday School, youth activities, Bible study groups, Group of Joy, Befrienders, funeral volunteers, and more, we learn of God’s love and work to support each other. Through our support of our Child Care, Casa de Oracion, Meals on Wheels, Little Kitchen Food Shelf, Every Meal, Lutheran Social Services, Peace House, Feed My Starving Children, the ELCA Minneapolis Area Synod and churchwide ministries, and other organizations, we are able to support our community and share God’s love beyond the walls of our building.



*You will be enriched in every way  
to be generous in every way,  
which through us will produce  
thanksgiving to God.*

*For the ministry of this service is not only  
supplying the needs of the saints  
but is also overflowing in many  
thanksgivings to God.*

*–2 Corinthians 9:11-12*

The generosity, leadership, and engagement you have modeled are shaping the future of our congregation. This became obvious when our elevator required major repairs. Our youth gave selflessly and encouraged us to do the same. Because of their generosity, along with that of the foundation, and the many special gifts from members, we have overcome this large financial challenge. We hope to have our elevator back in service in November so that our building again matches our message that all are welcome.

Moving forward, our congregation council will soon be planning the 2025 budget. Our stewardship team is working to encourage each of us to renew and expand our support for Mt Carmel. Please prayerfully consider reflecting God’s generosity and love for us by sharing the unique gifts that you and your household have received from God. You will soon receive a mailing with more information and a pledge form. Adult forum discussions on generosity and stewardship are planned for November 10 & 17. Pledges will be received and blessed on faith commitment Sunday, November 24.

As we begin our budgeting process we will focus on financial pledging. However, it is also crucial that we remain open to opportunities for volunteer participation. Our time and our talents are essential to our ongoing success in our life together. As always, keeping Mt Carmel in your prayers is helpful and appreciated. Thank you in advance for your support.

2024 Stewardship team





**“We are an offering...”**

*Luther says three conversions are necessary: the heart, the mind and finally our wallets/purse. The money we place in the offering plate is actually a symbol for our whole lives.*

**Ideabook for Special Giving**



Considering a special gift for Mt Carmel? There are many ways that people can give gifts to Mt Carmel. A gift may be given as a memorial for another, or in honor of a special event or person. Gifts are given for birthdays, anniversaries, life passages and thanksgivings. Special gifts are welcome at any time. As you make your gift you may want to direct the gift to a particular area of ministry. Our **Ideabook** includes special giving ideas in our ministry areas at a variety of gift levels. For more information about giving opportunities please visit with Pastor C or contact the church office. Thank you for considering a special gift for our congregation.

**Memorials received**

**In memory of Dick Jacobson:** Lory Dubbels, Lynette Dubbels

**Memorials received to the Mt Carmel Foundation**

**In memory of Joyce Hegstrom:** Marlys Hegstrom

**In memory of Jeanette Burmeister:** Diane Langer

**In memory of Pastor Cruys:** Steve Ristuben & JoAlice Boatright

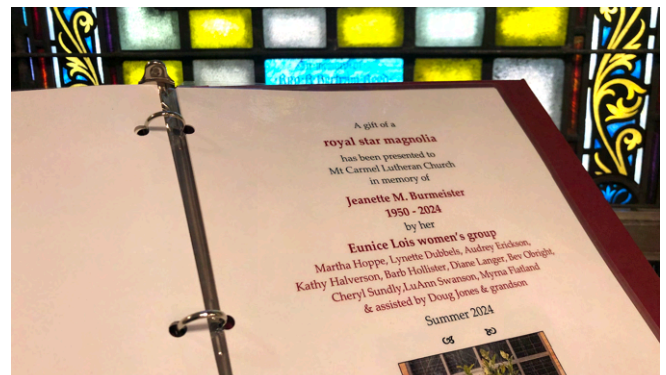
**In memory of Dave Johnson:** Diane Langer, Steve Ristuben & JoAlice Boatright, Dave Johnson Estate

**In memory of Marian & Werner Hegstrom:** Marlys Hegstrom

**In memory of Marlene Black:** Richard & Gloria Anderson, Scott & Terri Black, Rich & Susan Feist, Myrna Flatland, Marlys Hegstrom, Dick & Margot Jacobson, Doug & Linda Jones, Eric Jorgenson, Karen Moeller, Dave & Leona Olson, Steve Ristuben & JoAlice Boatright, Rick & Cheryl Sundly, LuAnn Swanson, Brian & Jodi Wirth

**In memory of Dick Jacobson:** Bonnie Anderson, Richard & Gloria Anderson, Scott & Teri Black, Fred Chinquist, Rich & Susan Feist, Myrna Flatland, Gander Family, Charles Grider, John & Mary Hedberg, Marlys Hegstrom, Leonard Jacobson, Doug & Linda Jones, David Lading, Marilyn Lading, Diane Langer, Adrienne Larson, Ralph & Karen Matthes, Marion McGinnis, Dean & Kathy Moland, Richard Morris, Janice Norris, Dave & Leona Olson, Carol Panning, Steve Ristuben & JoAlice Boatright, Sharon Schofield, Rick & Cheryl Sundly, LuAnn Swanson, Sally White, Brian & Jodi Wirth

*I have tried to keep things in my hands and have lost them all, but what I have given into God's hands I still possess.*  
 –Martin Luther



**Memorial book of remembrance**

There is a new book in the narthex in which we record designated special/memorial gifts. Each page includes a dedication and a photo of the gift that was purchased from our “Ideabook for Special Giving.” Gradually we’ll add items previously memorialized with brass plaques.





## ...or to look back?

The church I was a member of in high school was at 2001 Elmwood Avenue. They had fun with that calling themselves:

St Mark's Lutheran Church  
2001 A Grace Odessey



I served a church which filled the 300 block. They could have any address beginning with three. In the spirit of Trinity they picked 333.

Now I'm 1701 St. Anthony Parkway. You might recognize NCC-1701 as the call letters of the starship Enterprise. Our childcare could be MCC-1701 but that's kind of a stretch, don't you think? Maybe we should claim Mt Carmel NCC-1701 *...to boldly go where no church as gone before....* to boldly go into God's preferred future for us. Think the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary planners will be convinced?

## With glad and generous hearts



Stewardship, in its simplest form, is the practice of generosity. It is essential to the daily expression of our faith. As a church that is energized by lively engagement in our faith and life, we know that our personal and household stewardship is crucial in responding to

God's abundant grace.

Each of us has a unique story, and we are part of a larger story that makes up Mt Carmel, and even the ELCA. In the *Road to Emmaus* story, [Luke 24:13-35](#), it is at the household table where Christ is revealed and recognized, where hearts are warmed for greater sharing and generosity. Recognizing God's story in our

own story shapes our lives, identity and choices. When we join with other individuals and households in making daily decisions rooted in the stories of our loving and benevolent God, the result is our increased capacity to give generously and boldly participate in what God is up to in the world.

As a congregation we can witness, be a voice that teaches some very different ideas about time, talent and treasure, than the voices that surround our members and friends. The practice of generosity takes the support of an entire faith community, conversation between individuals in all generations and a focus on households.

Living generously begins with the involvement of children and continues through every age and stage of life. The risk of an annual emphasis is that after one sermon about money, we all get to resume our familiar patterns. My goal is to support you week in and week out in equipping your household to become faith-filled, lifelong stewards.

## THE FIVE T'S OF FAITHFUL STEWARDS

I will faithfully tend all that the Lord has entrusted to me:

**...Treasure** – the treasure I receive as the work of my hands and my mind, using the gifts God has given me. Our society uses money as a symbol of the value of human labor; thus my treasure becomes representative of my life.

**...Time** – I will be generous with my time, my most valuable resource, giving of my time to serve and bless others, that all might have abundant life. I will work with the church to reduce activities that don't give blessing.

**...Talent** – God has uniquely blessed me with skills and aptitudes that only I can share and that can use faithfully in service and blessing those around me.

**...Trash** (sustainable living) – Living responsibly and lightly upon the earth is the work of a steward with dominion over God's creation. I will seek to recycle, reduce waste and reuse the abundance of creation that the earth may be healed and future generations will prosper.

**...Tissue** (organ donation) – the blessings of medical science have allowed us to be generous with our bodies. Organ and tissue donation is a gift of renewed life and hope for those with chronic conditions or to further our research into the miracle of life.





### Five faith practices – living our baptism

We are living in unprecedented times—post-pandemic, political uncertainty and unresolved racism. There is much that we cannot control, but we can control our choices of behavior. Let us intentionally choose healthy patterns to offset the anxiety of these times.

Healthy choices include faith practices from the Church’s rich depth of resources. The rite of Affirmation of Baptism (see below) provides five faith practices to integrate into our daily life. Receive each as a gift from God.

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: *(click each for more)*

- **live** among God’s faithful people;
- **hear** the word of God and share in the Lord’s Supper;
- **proclaim** the good news of God in Christ through word and deed;
- **serve** all people following the example of Jesus; &
- **strive** for justice and peace in all the earth?”

C: **We do and ask God to help and guide us.**  
 (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, pg. 236)

### LIVING LUTHERAN

Learn the stories of other Lutheran stewards like you:  
**ELCA on-line magazine** – click on the logo



### Peace House Community needs Mt Carmel’s support

Winter months can be harsh times for our friends at Peace House Community and increase the needs of economically marginalized women and men. Peace House Community (PHC) opened its doors in 1985, and 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 the need for this safe place to survive is dire. They need our help!

As we come into winter, Peace House is in dire need of:

- Heavy socks (men’s & women’s)
- Underpants (men’s & women’s, sizes M to XL)
- Hand and foot warmers
- Gloves & hats

These items are always in need (new & unopened):

- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Bar soap, body wash and washcloths
- Tampons and sanitary pads
- Deodorant (men’s & women’s)
- Razors (men’s & women’s) and shaving cream
- Individual packs of Kleenex
- Body lotion, cocoa butter, chap-stick
- Hairbrushes, first aid kits, band-aids, nail clippers

These items will be collected during December and January. A Peace House donations box can be found outside the church office. We can do great things together. Contact Diane Langer for more info.





# WORSHIP

LITURGIA or LITURGY means the people’s work of WORSHIP & PRAYER. This ministry cluster is led by the W&M team and includes music & art + sacristy/altar guild + prayer ministry + sacraments + life passages

## November clocks change for All Saints

Remember to reset your clocks for the autumn time change on Sunday, November 3.



## Preparing for All Saint’s Sunday, Nov. 3

November is a time when the earth seems to go dormant, the days get darker, the harvest is safely stored for winter, and our minds turn to the end times. Following up on October’s legacy brunch, comes the observance of Halloween (All Hallows Eve) and All Saints. All Saints Sunday is a day to remember those who have formed us in faith and have been gathered into the life of Christ.

### Morning worship

During morning worship join in acts of remembering those you love who have died. Plan to light a candle in memory of them during the prelude before worship begins or during communion. The names of those from our Mt Carmel family who have died since our last All Saints Sunday will be remembered and read out during the singing of “For All the Saints.”

The families of those on our 2024 All Saints list who have been recently bereaved will specially invited to attend to worship on All Saints Sunday.

Record the names you plan to remember in our book of remembrance placed in our narthex. Sign up for cemetery visits by contacting the church office or checking the clipboard at the hospitality table in the narthex

### Adult Forum

Pastor C will make a brief presentation on the question, “What’s a Christian funeral supposed to do?”

For those who would like more, he’ll continue after a break with a funeral planning workshop.

### Cemetery visits

Sunday afternoon Pastor C is available to make cemetery visits along with Mt Carmel members for prayer together in celebration of All Saints. Contact the church office to join with other members and Pastor at the local (nearby) cemetery where your loved ones are buried. Visit times will be announced Nov 3. (Hillside, Sunset, Crystal Lake, Lakewood, St. Mary’s, etc.).



## Thanksgiving table grace resources

Pick up prayer resources for use in the home at your Thanksgiving table. Available in the narthex or by request from the church office in November.

## November is a liturgical season?

### The shape of the liturgy for November

As we move into November the days get shorter, we hurry to gather in the harvest, and a sense of urgency creeps into our worship life. If we listen closely to the scriptures we hear talk of the last days and final things:

*the banquet of the Lord, a new heaven and a new earth, the promise of a blessing from the God of salvation, the raising of Lazarus, the lifting up*



*of the lowly, the once for all sacrifice of Christ, the deliverance of God's people at the end, God lifts up those bowed down, the widow's generosity, , God will deliver God's people, my body shall rest in hope, the way to God is open through Christ's death, the end of all things, the end and the coming of the Son to rule over all, the Lord upon his throne established from all time, the kingdom of Christ...*

Finally leading us to the Christ who has promised to come again, celebrated Advent 1: *prayer that God would come with power and compassion, awaiting our salvation, the sudden coming of the Son of Man...* and the church year comes full circle.

The November harvest becomes a symbol for us of the Lord's harvest. We spend November considering God's generosity to us and our stewardship of God's bounty, observing All Saints, remembering the dead, preparing for the end, and celebrating Christ as sovereign and the first fruits harvested of the new creation, the firstborn from the dead. God declares to us: You are redeemed. Live as redeemed people! You are loved. Live as beloved people! The Day of the Lord has already dawned with the radiant face of the risen Christ, and as baptized people, it is in that Day which you are to live!

Our November liturgy will seek to capture a sense of the mystical union between the saints on earth and the saints in heaven and the promised fulfillment of all things.

And so ends the 2024<sup>th</sup> year of grace. We begin another church year with expectant wondering and waiting as we contemplate the incarnation of Christ. We end the church year wondering in the glorious love and grace of Christ. We rest in hope because we know that endings with God are really beginnings. The cycle of life continues, birth to death, death to birth. The hymns that sing of the reign of Christ foreshadow the hymns of Advent. We end the church year in gladness, joy, and hope. We look forward to the time when we shall all be one, gathered up in the goodness of God.

**"I am the Alpha and the Omega!" – Revelation 1:8**

## Prayers for a time of national election



God of all people, your ways are higher than any earthly ruler and your righteousness is truer than any worldly judge. Align our hearts with your justice, that in this upcoming election we would commit to making decisions based on the needs of the poor and oppressed in our midst and our stewardship of all that you have made. Open the minds of our leaders, that they too will show concern for the needy and compassion towards those in distress. Unite us all around the cross, pledging our utmost allegiance to the slaughtered lamb, your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Everlasting God, source of all liberty, before whom every earthly ruler must bow and bend the knee, we lay our nation before you as we prepare for an election. Breathe upon us your Spirit of wisdom and discernment. Grant all who seek public office the mind of Christ, who came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for the freedom of the oppressed. Hold before us those who face uncertain futures, or who have no voice in our political process. Uphold and safeguard poll workers and election officials in their work. Spare us from the crushing weight of cynicism. Give us grace to speak courageously, but with love, without which our words are noise, and we are nothing. Gather us together under the cross, where, in all our differences, we can stand as one people, redeemed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

O God, you crafted the universe as a divine tapestry in which the well-being of the entire cosmos is forever intertwined. In this election season, give us hearts and minds focused on nurturing all that you have made. Forgive us when we are unjust or accept unjust behavior in our leaders. Remind us of your call to not withdraw from the world, but to be in the world as your very own broken and beloved people. Ignite in us a passion for the welfare of those who are most vulnerable and empower us to lead with a love that reflects your love revealed in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.



## Advent begins

With Advent this year we begin the third year of our three-year lectionary (a table of bible readings for Sunday worship). This third year finds us reading primarily from Luke’s story of Jesus. Luke-Acts, a two-volume story of Jesus and the early church is a favorite. It is full of canticles (Biblical songs) and food stories and a Jesus who never meets a boundary he won’t tear down. In Advent we wait and watch for God’s coming! Come to the Adult Forum on November 24 to learn more.



## We Keep Advent

The slow sailing of the Earth around its star brings another winter. An old hymn sings our impatience:

*How long, dear Savior, O how long,  
shall this, thine hour delay?  
Fly swift around, ye wheels of time,  
and bring the promised day.*

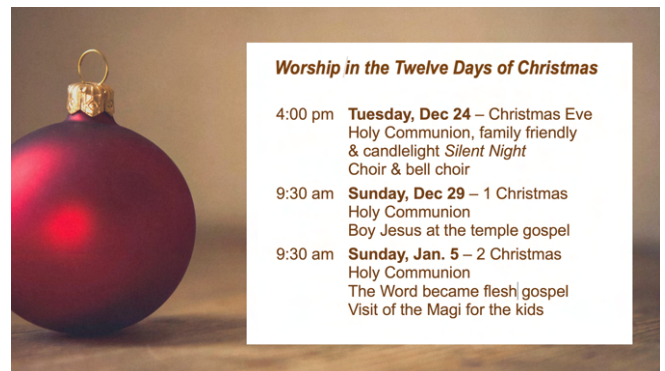
We wait for Christmas. Yet even more in these November days, the church looks forward to that promised day when Christ will return and time will end. But in all the anticipation and preparation, let’s not overlook the holy time of Advent.

The word advent is from a Latin word for “coming.” We remember Christ’s first coming at Bethlehem, we celebrate his coming in word and sacrament and neighbor, and we “wait in joyful hope” for Christ to return in glory.

During Advent we do what we can to make ready for Christ’s coming. **Most importantly we make room in our lives for the coming Christ and welcome God to prepare us for his coming.**

Of course, In preparation for Christmas also we invite others to feast with us, write cards to keep in touch, clean house, shop, attend rehearsals. And every so often we try to focus on why we’re doing it all: Perhaps, while we pray, we light the candles of the wreath or open the little doors on an Advent calendar, or we take a moment to appreciate the beauty of dawn, or we sit quietly in the darkness. The anticipation during Advent can be sweet. Our preparations can be emblems of the yearlong work we must do, in reflection of the season’s scriptures: to “beat swords into plowshares,” to clothe one another in “garments of justice of mercy,” to wait patiently for the Lord’s peaceable kingdom. In this kingdom, according to the prophet Isaiah, the wolf will be the guest of the lamb, the baby will play safely with a cobra, the ox will share its hay with the lion – and the lion will be completely contented with its vegetarian meal!

adapted from text by David Philippart, LTP, Chicago, © 2002; and Peter Mazar, LTP, Chicago © 2001; Used with permission.



## Chancel flowers

The floral arrangements in the chancel each week come from Pletschers’ Greenhouse, and historically, Mt Carmel members have sponsored the flowers at a level that matches the cost of those bouquets. Going forward, the cost of sponsoring chancel flowers will increase to \$42 to match the current cost. Please contact Madeline in the office if you have any questions.

We are open to alternative gifts of flowers or plants for worship if you wish. Flowers from your garden or other supplier must arrive “arranged/prepared” in their own vase by 9 am Sunday. If you desire this option notify Madeline 10 days in advance, or on the flower chart, so she can cancel the weekly standing order.







### New funeral pall for cremation

#### Clothed in Christ

The large white fabric that covers the closed coffin (urn) during the funeral liturgy is a funeral pall. It is a symbol of Holy Baptism, reminiscent of the white garment worn by at Baptism, a symbol of the robe of righteousness that covers the redeemed who stand before God (Revelation 7:9). We are welcomed in, adopted, and clothed in the robe of Christ. This white garment from Holy Baptism, the Christian’s initiation into the community of faith, reappears throughout one’s life: on baptism day, confirmation day, the Lord’s Day (Sunday), in the white albs of worship leaders, and finally on that final-journey-day when the Church commends the faithful dead into the arms of its Redeemer. In all cases, this white garment asserts the equality of all believers in the Gospel, regardless of social or economic status in the eyes of the world.



Thanks to our quilters we now have a hand-made, custom-designed funeral pall for perfectly sized for urns or caskets of cremated human remains.

### News from Music & Worship



We’re off and running with our active worship planning and music program. It’s so nice to have our gifted choir members back to enhance our Sunday worship services and other celebrations. The Jubilate Bells are back also, along with the Kids Choir. The kids are having fun with a new bell set, and they will be participating in various services and celebrations through out the year.

One of our goals for this year is to be more creative with using different groups together at services and inviting the congregation to participate more actively. Another goal is to bring in new people to participating groups. Our future worship depends on it. Interested? Contact Ruth B for details, or check in with the office. Happy Autumn!

#### Looking forward:

- Nov. 3 All Saints Sunday – a time to remember loved ones who are no longer with us.
- Nov. 24 Pie Sunday coffee fellowship
- Dec. 1 Advent Family activity
- Dec. 22 Kids Christmas at 9:30 worship service
- Dec. 24 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Candelight Service

#### New this year!

**Dramatic reading team:** We are gathering a “cast of players” to prepare dramatic readings of the lectionary scriptures as appropriate. Contact Pastor C.

Other important worship ministries include assisting ministers, readers, seasonal environment & art, altar guild/sacristy and technical desk help (audio, visual). We have opportunities for all ages and talents, so do consider joining us in the creation of meaningful, faith-filled worship experience and fellowship at Mt Carmel.



**Don’t need any more stuff?**  
**ELCA Good Gifts for Christmas.**





# ABUNDANT LIFE

*I came that they may have life and may have it abundantly. --John 10:9*

*Traditionally called KOINONIA or FELLOWSHIP this cluster tends to our relationships with one another, with other generations, with our bodies and with the creation: Sunday coffee fellowship + all-congregation events + JOY group+ Youth group + Life passages + Pastoral care + BeFrienders + MCW + Bus ministry*

## Mt Carmel Foundation education scholarship applications

The **Mt Carmel Lutheran Church in Minneapolis Foundation** has a long history of awarding post-secondary education scholarships to Mt Carmel Church members. Church members who are seeking to advance their education in 2025 by attending a university or technical college, seeking skilled trade certification, etc. should consider applying for a scholarship. Completed applications for scholarships will be accepted beginning December 1, 2024, and ending March 2, 2025. Please direct any questions regarding the scholarships to Dan Gillett. Contact the church office for an application and instructions.

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary team

An anniversary team is forming to begin planning for Mt Carmel's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Our first worship service was held Sunday, Dec. 6, 1925 (Advent 2) when seven families gathered at the Larsen home (3134 Ulysses St.); nine attended Sunday school that day. Later, on March 28, 1926 (Palm Sunday), the congregation was chartered with 45 members.



## Group of JOY Christmas Luncheon – Tuesday, December 17

The JOY Group Christmas Luncheon will be held on **Tuesday, December 17 at 12:00 noon** in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a Marino's Deli catered luncheon followed by a festive program. Please let Karen Moeller know if you will be attending no later than December 10. We will also be collecting mittens/glove/hats for Waite Park School. Please bring them with you the day of the event. There will be a \$5 donation to help defray the cost of the meal. If you have any questions or to sign up, please contact Karen. Hope to see you there!

## Weekly free fitness class

The Wednesday morning community fitness class meets weekly at 10 am for an hour of chair yoga with teacher Ginny Snow. Class is free and all are welcome. Contact the office for more information or to register.

## Friends of Mt Carmel

Across the country and beyond there are many people who have a soft spot in their heart for Mt Carmel Lutheran Church – people who feel a connection both to the history and the ongoing mission of this congregation. If you're one of them, we invite you to join our network of Friends of Mt Carmel. Email [pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org](mailto:pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org) for more information or to join.

## Parkway walks with Pastor C

Pastor C would welcome company on neighborhood walks on occasional Wednesday mornings around 9 am. Meet at church. Contact the office for details or propose a date and time.

## Christmas Porch Pots

Join us on Saturday, November 16, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to make Christmas porch pots as a fundraiser for "Toys for Tots" and the church's general fund to reduce our deficit. Please email Trina to save a spot.





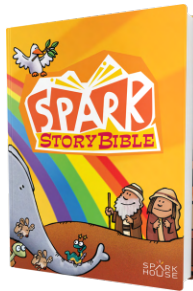
### Sunday School welcomes childcare families

Mt Carmel Sunday School welcomes childcare families to attend. Contact the church office for details. Sundays at 11 am. All are welcome.

### New this year!

#### Childcare Chapel enrichment

Beginning this autumn childcare families have been enrolling in a childcare chapel enrichment program similar to our soccer and music enrichments. This brief weekly (Tuesday) chapel time between lunch and rest-time is led by our three church program staff members, Pastor Christopherson, Madeline Severtson and our musician Ruth Bills. We meet for about 20 minutes in our church sanctuary for a Bible story, a song and a prayer. The goal is to learn Bible stories and fun songs from the church's tradition. Guests are always welcome to come and sing along.



### From our director



We have had a great fall at Mt Carmel Child Care. We can share:

- We've been enjoying playing outdoors in the beautiful fall weather.
- We are enjoying our music, soccer and chapel enrichment programs.
- We were able to report to our parents that we have received the MN DHS maltreatment investigation report following the arrest and charges against a previous teacher. The report concluded that Mt Carmel Childcare was not found at fault for the former staff person's actions. Please reach out to me if you would like more information and I will follow up with you.
- We are looking forward to some Halloween fun next week!

Brenda Wetzel, director

### Wed. suppers welcome childcare families


Mt Carmel Wednesday suppers are timed to welcome childcare families picking up their children. All are welcome.

### Mt Carmel Childcare annual bread sale

Pick up an order form in the narthex or church office

Orders are due Friday, November 8.





# Halloween

## at Gustavus Adolphus

**Thursday, Oct 31**

4:30 pm Spooktacular organ concert

5-6 pm Trunk or Treat

Come for the music stay for the cotton candy, smoke machine, and fun!

27<sup>th</sup> & Johnson Street





# PARTNERS

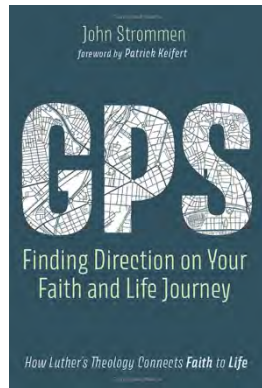
*SYNOD means “walking together. Some ministries we can do better together than individually. This ministry cluster includes PARTNERSHIPS with GA + CASA + MCCC + our partner ministries in Northeast, Minneapolis, the ELCA & beyond + joint serving opportunities + roadside cleanup + youth group + back-office synergies + fellowship meals + Trunk or Treat + Quilt & Craft week*



**Congrats to Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran celebrating their 110th anniversary!**

## Previous Mt Carmel pastor publishes book

John Strommen, Mt Carmel pastor from 2016 to 2020, taught a class that about 20 Mt Carmelites participated in which is now a published book entitled, “GPS: Finding Direction on Your Faith and Life Journey—How Luther’s Theology Connects Faith to Life.” He thanks the people of Mt Carmel in the



acknowledgements in the book for playing a key role helping the whole project advance into book form. The book may be of interest to those who participated, and a fair number beyond that. [AMAZON link](#)



## Announcing synod youth choir

When young people are connected to one another and to their faith, they have a deeper sense of self, compassion, and justice. To help young people thrive through making music together we are launching a Synod Youth Choir. The youth choir is intended to support the already incredible faith formation happening within congregations and will be more “pop-up” in practice.

Participating congregations and youth will gather once a month between January and June. The choir is designed for any and all young people ages 5-18. Contact Ruth Bills if you or your child are interested in joining.

## LOOK FOR THESE WINTER EVENTS – details coming soon

Christmas caroling with Gustavus Adolphus  
Annual meeting  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary plans

## GOOD TIDINGS NEXT ISSUE (LENT/EASTER):

Lenten theme and plans  
Easter is late in 2025  
Ash Wednesday – March 5, 2025  
Easter Sunday - April 20, 2025  
**Submissions due: January 20, 2025.** Please send to [communications@mountcarmelmpls.org](mailto:communications@mountcarmelmpls.org).

## GOOD TIDINGS (EASTER/SUMMER):

**Submissions due: April 28, 2025.** Please send to [communications@mountcarmelmpls.org](mailto:communications@mountcarmelmpls.org).

**Thursday, Nov. 28  
Thanksgiving Day**  
*God cares for all our needs*

In the narthex: Pick up a Thanksgiving table grace for your home



## November – December 2024 Worship at Mt Carmel

*God comes among us and gathers us in Christ*



**Sunday, November 3**  
**All Saints' Sunday**

*The raising of Lazarus*

Holy Communion  
9:30 am  
with remembrance of those  
who have died in Christ  
*Sanctuary Choir*  
*Jubilate Bells*

Afternoon cemetery visits  
Readings:  
Isaiah 25:6-9  
Psalm 24  
Revelation 21:1-6a  
John 11:32-44

**Sunday, November 10**  
**A widow's generosity**

Holy Communion  
9:30 am  
*Sanctuary Choir*  
*Stewardship emphasis*

Readings:  
1 Kings 17:8-16  
Psalm 146  
Hebrews 9:24-28  
Mark 12:38-44

**Sunday, November 17**  
**The end and the coming of the Son**

Holy Communion  
9:30 am  
*Sanctuary Choir*  
*Stewardship emphasis*

Readings:  
Daniel 12:1-3  
Psalm 16  
Hebrews 10:11-25  
Mark 13:1-8

**Sunday, November 24**  
**Christ the King**

*The Kingdom of Christ*

Holy Communion  
9:30 am  
Blessing of 2025 faith  
promises/commitments  
Holy Baptism festival  
*Sanctuary Choir*  
Blessing of entrepreneurs  
and retail workers

Readings:  
Daniel 7:9-14  
Psalm 93  
Revelation 1:4b-8  
John 18:33-37

**Sunday, December 1**  
**Advent 1**

*Watch for the coming of the Son of Man*

Holy Communion  
9:30 am  
*Sanctuary Choir*

Year of Luke begins

Readings:  
Jeremiah 33:14-16  
Psalm 25:1-10  
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13  
Luke 21:25-36



**Sunday, December 8**  
**2 Advent**

*Prepare the way of the Lord*

Holy Communion  
8:30 am  
*Sanctuary Choir*  
Prayer & anointing for  
healing

Gospel:  
Luke 21:25-36

**Sunday, December 15**  
**3 Advent**

*One more powerful is coming*

Holy Communion  
9:30 am  
*Sanctuary Choir*

Gospel:  
Luke 3:1-6

Afternoon caroling with GA  
i(Better Together event)

**Sunday, December 22**  
**4 Advent**

*Blessed are you among women*

Holy Communion  
9:30 am  
*Sanctuary Choir*  
Children's Christmas  
program as sermon

Gospel:  
Luke 3:7-18

**Tuesday, Dec. 24**  
**Christmas Eve**

*God is with us*

Candlelight  
Holy Communion  
4:00 pm  
*Sanctuary choir*  
*Jubilate bells*

Gospel:  
Luke 2:1-20

**Sunday, December 28**  
**1 Christmas**

*The boy Jesus increased in favor with all*  
Holy Communion  
9:30 am

Gospel:  
Luke 2:41-52



## Tornados, hurricanes or whatever comes next – your ELCA is there. Give today.



**HURRICANE HELENE**

Your gift to Lutheran World Relief will deliver urgently needed support and care to neighbors affected by Hurricane Helene.

[lwr.org/helene-relief](http://lwr.org/helene-relief)

Thank you for sharing God's love with your neighbors when and where they need it most.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

## or [elca.org/lutherandisasterresponse](http://elca.org/lutherandisasterresponse) 100% given directly to disaster aid

Lutheran Disaster Response works with its partners to provide immediate relief, such as water, food, clothing, gift cards, tarps and other needs. Since many hurricanes also require a long-term response, Lutheran Disaster Response provides support on the long road to recovery with disaster case management, construction management, attention to unmet needs, and emotional and spiritual care.

### What you can do:

**Pray** for the safety of communities impacted by hurricanes, including people in their paths and any emergency services personnel who are responding.

**Give** – Donations to “Hurricane Response” will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by hurricanes, until the response is complete.

## Crisis in Palestine and Israel – how you can help

**Pray** - Please pray for people in Gaza, Israel and the West Bank who have been impacted by the conflict.

**Advocate** - contact your elected representatives to urge an immediate cease fire, ask for assurance that human rights are observed before sending more U.S. arms to Israel and support the release of all hostages here through the ELCA advocacy ministry.

**Give** - Your gifts for “Middle East Crisis” will support Lutheran ministries in Palestine, including Bright Stars of Bethlehem to provide long-lasting support to those whose lives have been impacted by disasters in the region.



### Mt Carmel Lutheran Church

1701 St Anthony Parkway NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418

*Learning to live and love like Jesus*

## 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

[mountcarmelmpls.org](http://mountcarmelmpls.org)

The mission of Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church and its members is to learn, live and share God's Word.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

We are an ELCA congregation. All are welcome. Learn more about the ELCA at [www.elca.org/About](http://www.elca.org/About).

