



Beloveds of God,



I have been trying to write a letter to you all but could not find the words to say.

Since the recent events in Charlottesville, my grief, fear, and anger have been hard to reconcile with my hope and faith in the risen and living God. I have struggled to put into words how completely God's love and grace poured out in our lives call us to repent of and resist white supremacy. I have struggled to confess to God my own complicity and the complicity of our congregation, community, synod, and whole church and to receive God's forgiveness. I can do it cognitively but I have struggled to let the confession OR forgiveness really penetrate my heart. I was afraid. I am afraid. The magnitude of the communal sin of racism is overwhelming and I struggled to know where to start and what to say. So it was with a grateful heart that I received Bishop Erwin's pastoral letter on racism in America. He eloquently and faithfully articulates what I have struggled and fumbled to write. His letter was balm to my hurting soul even as it was a firm call to repentance and action. I commend his letter to you and I welcome an opportunity to join together in prayer as he suggests. Certainly I invite you to pray on your own but I also offer as opportunities for communal prayer:

**Wednesday, September 5 at 5:30pm in the sanctuary or**

**Thursday, September 6 at 11:30am in the sanctuary**

We will pray and chant together, confess and repent together, and receive God's grace together during those times.

Please find Bishop Erwin's letter below.

I look forward to praying together with you as a step to working together with you to resist racism in the church and the world.

Peace,  
Pastor Valerie

Dear siblings in Christ, grace and peace to you in Jesus' name!

Just over a week ago now, the screens of our television sets and our internet news feeds were filled with images of angry, torch-carrying demonstrators in Charlottesville, Virginia, where a gathering of white nationalists, Klan members, and neo-Nazis were challenged by demonstrators of many kinds, including many representatives of our church, our full communion partners, and other churches and faith communities.

The bishops of two of our synods (and one bishop-elect) were also present, and engaged both in counter-demonstration and some structured dialogue with those on the other side. Those of you who monitor my Facebook and Twitter feeds (and those of the synod) know that we were also watching these events closely and reacting strongly to what we saw.

For many white Americans, the events in Charlottesville came as a shock. But for Americans of color-and for anyone who has a heart for the true American story-these were not new: only the most recent victims of racism-inspired violence in our country. The scenes in Charlottesville were disturbing, but most of all because they could have been anywhere in the United States.

White nationalism and the racism at its heart are not a new phenomenon in the United States. They have accompanied our nation from its birth, through its rise to continental dominance, and into its world leadership in the 20th century. Ideas of white supremacy in visible in our governing documents. White supremacy is part of the

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**Sunday Worship at Mt. Carmel**

9:30 AM—Combined Service

Starting Sept. 17:

8:45 AM—Traditional Service

11:00 AM—Contemporary Service

Holy Communion is offered at all Sunday worship services.

Child care available on Sundays 8:45 am-12:15 pm.

underpinning of the national myth of European-Americans populating an empty land and making it prosperous through hard work and trust in God. It ignores the violent destruction of the native peoples except as examples of a natural obstacle to be overcome. It cloaks the national dependence on African slave labor in the language of economic necessity, when in fact it represents a deep and tragic moral flaw in the nation's character and history.

The self-criticism and remorse that such a tragic history should call forth from contemporary Americans is clearly not shared by all and is rejected by some. Claiming the superiority of white, European-American culture, alt-right protesters use images evoking the rise of Nazism and other fascist symbols, and chant slogans dismissive of people of color, non-Christians, and LGBTQ+ people. And, of course, the white protesters were almost all male. There is an undercurrent of sexism here, too.

Those white nationalist protests in Virginia and elsewhere have now torn the veil from the face of hate; they have brought to the forefront again our nation's legacy of violence born of racism. They have revealed to us the depths to which some are willing to go to drive wedges between us; and they have revealed to us that even the nation's highest officials are unwilling to confront the racism that is part of the weave of the American social tapestry.

It is impossible to overstate the pain that this series of events has caused many of us, especially our friends and neighbors of color. But this is about all of us, whatever our race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender or sexuality. This is about the deliberate attempts to create division among people in our society to further political ends, and to sacrifice the well-being of those who are "different" to a false narrative of America dominated by white, male, straight, English-speaking people. White nationalism is a denial of diversity and a devaluing of "otherness" among our neighbors. It is racism, and it is sin: denying the image of God put into in every human being by their Creator.

Those who do not resist racism in our society are complicit in it. So how are we, as Christians and as a Lutheran church, to respond to this remarkable and painful turn of events? I believe we have both the obligation to speak out and act, and the resources we need to do so. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has made clear for many years its opposition to racism: in its social statement "Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture" from 1993, our church has made its opposition to all forms of racism—personal and systemic—clear, and has called on us to renounce the racism in our hearts, our congregations, and our society. I believe we are called to pray, to learn, and to act. None of these is optional, but as people of God, we always begin with God. God's love has a human face: the face of Jesus the Christ. Born a human, a Palestinian Jew, Jesus presents us a face as familiar as our neighbor and yet entirely unknown. Jesus was not white—he was what he needed to be to be with those among whom he lived, and for us he is what we

need, now, whoever we are. Jesus' face is our face, when we love and care for one another. Jesus' love crossed boundaries of race and nationality, too, and Christianity has never been limited to one race or language or ethnicity.

So out of our common faith in a single God and God's love revealed to all in Christ, we are encouraged to call on God for help and hope, we are engaged with one another in an effort to understand each others' stories, and we are empowered to act in Jesus' name to make ourselves, our congregations, and our communities better and freer of prejudice.

In the name of Jesus Christ, I call on our people and our congregations in this synod to:

*Pray for courage* to speak out against racism, even in those closest to you, and act to call all those around us to understand and account for the racism they harbor.

*Pray for clarity* to understand our own role in social injustice; pray for forgiveness for the wrongs we have committed as well as those from which we have simply benefited—and act to protect the vulnerable in our midst from harm. Pray for wisdom to be listeners and learners, especially to listen to those who have been victimized by racism and re-victimized by the failure of our nation to address its ancient injustices. Pray for insight into the ways prejudice stains everything we do, and strength to act to challenge it in ourselves and others.

Pray for strength to resist the forces of evil wherever they are found, for as long as we are able. None of this is new; none of it can be wiped away in a single generation, no matter how much we want it to. But we can act to resist it again and again, and we must be prepared to do so.

*Pray for each other*, that kindness and neighbor-love outweigh pain and suspicion—and put that kindness into action for each other, and for those we don't know personally.

*Pray for the church*, that the presence of Christ in our midst give us the strength and compassion to make the changes we need to make, to accept the imperfection of human striving, and to abide in the hope of justice in the reign into which God is leading us. We also act when we worship, when we built community, and when we show one another love.

I spent the last week, like many of you, in deep anger at the ignorance and spite I saw manifested in Charlottesville. I am still angry. But I am also hopeful.

Somehow, I feel that I see more clearly now than I have ever seen. Racism and prejudice have revealed themselves anew; public leadership has failed to renounce them fully. We are not in a post-racial America—we are just beginning to understand what it means to be diverse. We are in a new time, not just of civil rights laws, but of an actual change in our people toward a genuine appreciation for our remarkable, enriching American diversity—the diversity that we enjoy in Los Angeles and its metropolitan area.

Clearly there are still many for whom this diversity is threatening. But it is no longer optional. The myth of "white America" is dead, carried to its grave by the light of tiki torches, interred at the foot of a Confederate statue in Virginia. The clock does not turn back. Diversity is here-right here in our community-and we must meet it as befits Jesus' people, as disciples of the Christ.

I no longer believe that the struggle against racism is one that I can simply wait to see completed. It is no longer the challenge others need to meet. It is my struggle, too, both inside myself and in my life in society. And it is a struggle for our church.

May God help us as we push forward toward justice, equality, and a love that transcends difference and embraces us all.

With unwavering trust in God's love for all, I extend to each of you my blessing: may God grant you strength, boldness, courage, and peace!

+Guy  
August 19, 2017

**July Financial Report**

**Total general fund income for the month of July 2017 was \$37,037 which is 9% of the full-year budget and we are 8% through the year.**

**Total general fund expense for July 2017 was \$25,723 which is 6% of budget and we are 8% through the year. This is mostly due to Personnel and Facilities expenses being under budget.**

**The general fund net income for the month of July 2017 was \$11,314. The budget for the year is a net income of \$0.**

**Book group's next** meeting will take place September 10th @ 6:00pm at the home of Bob & Mary Christenson. We are reading Hillbilly Elegy, by JD Vance. Join us for stimulating conversation and yummy treats.

**Attention Women!**

Haven't signed up for the Women's Retreat yet? It will be held this year, on **Oct. 6 – 8, at La Casa de Maria in Montecito**. Our speaker will be Colleen Windham-Hughes, Assistant Professor of Religion at CLU and her topic will be "Our Daily Bread".

We will explore how to live our faith, day by day, with attention to what is needful in each day. Total cost of the weekend is **\$250**, which includes lodging meals and the program. Come sign up on the patio, after church. Space is limited so don't wait!

Questions, or you want to help make this happen? **Nancy Priddy – 459-9249**

**"Water, Water Everywhere and not a Drop to Drink"**

Be sure to join us on **Friday, September 15**, at noon, when the **Brown Bag Lunch Group** will explore ways other countries are resolving the water crisis. "Even if one disagrees about there being a climate change, it's generally accepted that the world is having a drinkable water crisis."

Our speaker for the day, Sharlot Sunshine, has been living in Israel for almost 12 years. She will be presenting Israel's successful use of technology to meet its own crisis, including advanced technologies of reclamation, efficient irrigation and desalinization.

Sharlot comes to us, after a presentation at Congregation Beth David, as "must see" program, says Rabbi Linda Bertenthal.

Please bring your brown bag lunch, a friend and questions and join us.

**RSVP or questions – Nancy Priddy – 459-9249**

**Men's Advance, October 20-22** at El Camino Pines Retreat Center. The theme for this year is "The Invisible Man". How can congregations attract and encourage men to become bold and daring followers of Jesus Christ? Attend the full three days for \$140 or Saturday only for \$60. Fees include lodging, all meals, socials and program. For information and registration: [www.mens-advance.org](http://www.mens-advance.org) or contact **John Keisler at rebjohn50@hotmail.com / 543-4259**.

**Communal Prayer Opportunities:**

Wednesday, September 5 at 5:30pm in the sanctuary or

Thursday, September 6 at 11:30am in the sanctuary



September 17: 4pm  
Youth Bonfire at Port San Luis (grades 6-12 & families)

September 17: Rally Sunday

September 24: First day of Sunday School

**Rally Sunday:** Join us Sunday Sept. 17th at 10AM for an introduction to the new Sunday School year and curriculum. Sign up students for Sunday School, meet the teachers, bounce house, and yummy treats!





# SEPTEMBER

## Volunteer Schedule

Date	Time	Acolytes	Coffee Servers	Communion Assistants	Greeters
		Greeter/C.A.	COORDINATOR:	COORDINATOR:	COORDINATOR:
		COORDINATOR:	Carol Harvey	Parish Administrator	Parish Administrator
		Parish Administrator	481-2418	544-2133	544-2133
		544-2133		info@MtCarmelSLO.org	info@MtCarmelSLO.org
Sept 3	9:30		Bob & Mary Christenson	Diane Mansell	JoAnn Bennett
			Carlyn & Lily Hinds	Mary Christenson	
				Lisane Martinelli	
Sept 10	9:30		Steve & JoAnn Bennett	Mike Dresp	Sue Cummings
			Sally Reck	Nancy Priddy	
				Greg Zocher	
Sept 17	8:45		Carol Harvey	Carlyn Hinds	Carolyn Baker
				Lily Hinds	
	11:00		Vicky Tway	Anneke Moersdorf	Diane Mansell
				Sheryl Huffaker	
Sept 24	8:45		Pat & Jess Bathke	Maureen Dresp	Ro Cannon-Miller
				Karen Petersen	
	11:00		Jeanie Schultz	Sandy Rowland	Pat Forrest
				Sherri Parkinson	
			Makenna Parkinson		

### Ushers (coordinator: Jess Bathke - 927-9460 or jnpbath@charter.net)

	1st Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday
9:30	Carlyn Hinds Bob & Carol Grosse Sue Cummings	John & Janis Sexton Jeanie Schultz Linda Schultze		
Substitute ushers for 11am service: John & Janis Sexton & Diane Mansell				
Substitute ushers for 8:45am service: John & Rebecca Keisler, Dean & Kathy Meyer, & Karen Almas				

	1st Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday
8:45	Jess & Pat Bathke	Norm & Mollie Smith	Glen Priddy	Warren Quist
	Steve & JoAnn Bennett		Burke Jr. & Kathy Towle	John Merrill Jack & Roberta Moen
11:00	Sue Cummings	Bob & Carol Grosse	Alan Estes	Carol & Donley Winger
	Carlyn Hinds	Jeanie Schultz	Mike & Val Lund	Pat Forrest
	Bob Babcock	Linda Schultze	Dorothy McCoid	Andy Frokjer

### Friday Morning Office Volunteers

Pat Forrest	Dorothy McCoid	Carol Grosse	Mary Christenson	Carol Winger	Maureen Dresp
8-Sep	15-Sep	22-Sep	29-Sep	6-Oct	1-Sep
20-Oct	27-Oct	3-Nov	10-Nov	17-Nov	13-Oct
1-Dec	8-Dec	29-Dec	22-Dec	15-Dec	24-Nov



Date	Time	Lector(s)	Assisting Minister	Soundboard	Powerpoint
		COORDINATOR: Parish Administrator 544-2133 info@MtCarmelSLO.org	COORDINATOR: Greg Zocher 461-3128 gzocher@slocity.org	COORDINATOR: Marshall Pihl	COORDINATOR: Marshall Pihl
Sept 3	9:30	Greg Zocher		Marshall Pihl	Carol Grosse
Sept 10	9:30	Mike Dresp		John Perreault	TBD
Sept 17	8:45	Lily Hinds		John Perreault	TBD
	11:00	Shannon Babcock		Marshall Pihl	Linda Schultz
Sept 24	8:45	Wayne Lippold		John Perreault	TBD
	11:00	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>		Marshall Pihl	Dave Parkinson

Altar Guild	
September 3	Maureen Dresp
September 10	Mollie Smith
September 17	Vicky Tway
September 24	Pat Forrest
Next Altar Guild meeting: September 14 @ 2pm	

\*Reminder:  
If you are unable to serve, please notify your coordinator and the church office of your substitute as soon as possible.

*Thanks*



*for your*  
**Generosity**





## The People's Kitchen of San Luis Obispo

Mt. Carmel serves again on **October 6** at Noon at Prado Day Center.

**Volunteers:** Thank you, and be sure to check the schedule below for what is needed.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	WHAT TO BRING	HOW MUCH TO BRING	DATE
Dresp	Maureen	CANNED FRUIT	2 LRG CANS SMART & FINAL	9/1/2017
Gamsey	Cheryl	CANNED FRUIT	2 LRG CANS SMART & FINAL	9/1/2017
Draze	Dianne	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	9/1/2017
Johnson	Betty	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	9/1/2017
Kirkhart	Judie	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	9/1/2017
Martin	Annette	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	9/1/2017
Musial	Laurie	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	9/1/2017
Senter	Jean	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	9/1/2017
Coughran	Claudia	MILK	2 GALLONS WHOLE	9/1/2017
Cook	Nancy	MILK	2 GALLONS WHOLE	9/1/2017
Frokjer	Ingrid	SALAD	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	9/1/2017
Remmington	Jennifer	SALAD	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	9/1/2017
Priddy	Nancy	SALAD	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	9/1/2017
Winger	Carol	SALAD	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	9/1/2017
Muller	Tina	CANNED FRUIT	2 LRG CANS SMART & FINAL	10/6/2017
Bobell	David	CANNED FRUIT	2 LRG CANS SMART & FINAL	10/6/2017
Droege	Esther	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	10/6/2017
Twomey	Jenice & Phil	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	10/6/2017
Forrest	Pat	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	10/6/2017
Rollefson	Ruth	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	10/6/2017
Senter	Jean & Jack	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	10/6/2017
Sexton	Janis	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	10/6/2017
Keisler	John	MILK	2 GALLONS WHOLE	10/6/2017
Martin	Julie	MILK	2 GALLONS WHOLE	10/6/2017
Columbo	Karen	SALAD	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	10/6/2017
Meyer	Kathy	SALAD	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	10/6/2017
Bremer	Judy & Walt	SALAD	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	10/6/2017
Uder	Jan	SALAD	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	10/6/2017



**Mt. Carmel volunteers provide a hot meal for People's Kitchen on the first Friday of each month.** If you would like to provide a hot dish, salad, milk or canned fruit with 12 hearty servings three times in the next year (and you're not already a volunteer) please contact Laura Krueger at [laurasalazar67@gmail.com](mailto:laurasalazar67@gmail.com) or [805-458-6012](tel:805-458-6012)



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 David Priddy	14 Bill Thoma
8 Glen Priddy	16 Joel Almas
9 Marshall Pihl	17 Allie Schultze
10 Steve Bennett	19 Betty Johnson
12 John Perreault	20 Bob Babcock
13 Jack Hald	30 Brooklynn Mansell
14 Sid Bennett	
14 Tony Bloodworth (staff)	

We always thank  
**GOD** for all of you  
 and continually  
 mention you in  
 our prayers.

I Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

### PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY:

September 3: Bob & Carol Harvey, Sharon Haupt, Susan Hay

September 10: Carlyn Hinds, Monica Holman, Sheryl & Tony Huffaker

September 17: Bev Humphry, Ed & Paula Jaster, Barbara Jauregui

September 24: Russ & Kay Jensen, Dale & Betty Johnson, Katie Kahle



9- 02-1956 Jack & Jean Senter
9- 03-2008 Greg Zocher & Ray Ramirez
9-19-1970 John & Nancy Cook

### Mount Carmel Staff

Valerie Carlson	<i>Pastor</i>
Dan Carlson	<i>Pastor</i>
Cora Carlson	<i>Cora</i>
Vacant	<i>Director of Children &amp; Teens Ministry</i>
Paul Woodring	<i>Organist</i>
Vacant	<i>Choir Director</i>
Dave Becker	<i>Director of Contemporary Music</i>
Tony Bloodworth	<i>Custodian</i>
Alex Bell	<i>Parish Administrator</i>

### Church Office Hours are 8:30am–3:00pm (Monday-Friday)

Phone 805-544-2133 Fax 544-5356

Email: [info@mtcarmelslo.org](mailto:info@mtcarmelslo.org) [www.mtcarmelslo.org](http://www.mtcarmelslo.org)

#### To reach Pastor Valerie:

805-776-3377 or [pastor.valerie.carlson@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.valerie.carlson@gmail.com)  
 Office Hours: Tues. (11am-1pm) & Thurs. (12:30pm-3pm)

#### To reach Pastor Dan:

805-776-3707 or [pastor.dcarlson@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.dcarlson@gmail.com)

#### Lutheran Campus Ministry

Email: [info@lcmslo.org](mailto:info@lcmslo.org) [www.lcmslo.org](http://www.lcmslo.org)

Our pastoral staff is here for you.  
 In times of crisis, please contact the church.

*\* Please let us know if we missed your birthday or anniversary*

# Mt. Carmel

LUTHERAN CHURCH

1701 Fredericks St.  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

Phone: 805-544-2133  
Fax: 805-544-5356  
Email: [info@mtcarmelslo.org](mailto:info@mtcarmelslo.org)

Gather, Grow, Go



[www.mtcarmelslo.org](http://www.mtcarmelslo.org)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Southwest California Synod/Mt. Carmel  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



**CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!**

For updates from Mt. Carmel, go to  
<http://www.facebook.com/mtcarmelslo>

*lutheran campus ministry*

MT. CARMEL LUTHERAN CHURCH † SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA

For updates from Lutheran Campus Ministries, go to  
<http://www.facebook.com/lcmslo>



**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE  
A SPECIAL EVENT OR SPECIAL SOMEONE,  
CONSIDER SPONSORING  
FLOWERS FOR OUR CHANCEL.**

Each bouquet is \$27.50 or \$55.00

Contact: Jeanie Schultz, Altar Guild  
or the MCLC Office

Have something you want to share, celebrate or commemorate?  
E-mail the details/pictures to the church office  
([info@mtcarmelslo.org](mailto:info@mtcarmelslo.org)) for publication in this newsletter and/or our  
weekly "Vistas" e-mail!

**Deadline for October "Summit" is September 25th**

