

THE SUMMIT

LCM - Line Dancing, Chili and Mission Saturday, February 25, 5:30-8:30pm at Mt. Carmel

Come enjoy chili, line dancing led by the students, and learn about the mission of Lutheran Campus Ministry!

It is that time again - time to have a hootin' hollerin' good time! Invite your friends and family to sample chili from a variety of award-winning Mt. Carmel chefs, then enjoy line dancing led by LCM students on Saturday, February 25, from 5:30 - 8:30pm. Tickets will be on sale on the church patio after both worship services on February 5, 12, and 19. Ticket prices are: \$5 student, \$10 individual, \$20 family.

Proceeds will support programs of Lutheran Campus Ministry, which include Tuesday night dinners, monthly Road Kill Grill BBQs, Bible study and worship, student retreats, and other special activities and events.

Your ticket includes chili, cornbread, chips and salsa, dessert, drinks and a fun hour of line dancing. Rolls of quarters will be available for purchase at the event to vote for the People's Choice Award for the best chili. Child care will be provided by Miss Karen!

So dig out your secret family chili recipes and prepare to enter the contest to be known as the "Best Chili Chef at Mt. Carmel - 2012." Last year's winners were:

- Judges' favorite chili - Dave Parkinson
- Best vegetarian chili - Sherri Parkinson
- Spiciest chili - Dave Parkinson
- Best chili by a chef under age 16 - Dante Nelson
- People's Choice Award - The crowd "voted" with quarters, naming Sherri Parkinson as the winner.

Note: The judging system is being changed to downplay the value of spiciness this year. (Be forewarned, Dave!)

Sign up to enter your chili (bring enough to feed 12 - 15) at the ticket table on February 5, 12, and 19 or e-mail PamellaJW@aol.com to enter. We also need people to bring corn muffins and miscellaneous supplies.

Inside this issue:

Pastor Marj's Letter	2
Our Church Family	3
Children & Teens	5
February Calendar	7
Volunteer Schedule	8
Educational Opportunities	9
Volunteer Opportunities	10
Lutheran Campus Ministry	11

Sunday Worship at Mt. Carmel

8:45 am	Traditional Service
10:00 am	Adult Forum
10:00 am	Sunday School, Confirmation, Youth Breakfast
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.

"The Holy is encased in the pragmatic."

-- Martha Grace Reese in *Unbinding the Gospel*

Our calling to "Gather, Grow and Go for God!" is holy. So far, in our "Discovering our Path" process, we have affirmed what we value about the way we live out this sacred mission. We value being a welcoming place full of children, teens, college students, singles, families, and seniors — all glorifying God, growing in faith, caring for one another, and reaching out in service to the world. This is holy work.

The next step is to put together a staffing and organizational structure that will support our mission. Of course, we can all think of a million things we would like staff to do, all of which would enhance our mission. However, we don't have the millions of dollars this would inevitably cost. Our task is to build a staff and organizational structure that supports our mission and meets our budget...and does one more thing: maintains our facility.

This holy work requires pragmatic support from a variety of places, a key one being our physical campus. The Facilities Team is charged with maintaining our campus in a way that enables us to continue to live out our mission. Recently Council received a report from the chair of the team noting several urgent concerns, notably: the open sewer outside the High School House, the leaking roof on our 1739 Fredericks St. property, a sanctuary furnace with a failing panel, and a failing fire alarm system. Beyond these urgent repairs is a long list of items which need to be done "soon." I suspect that if we had cost estimates on all the maintenance and improvements needed to this campus, it would come to about \$250,000.

Your council is working on sets of solutions which will address all of our concerns: staffing, structure, budget, and maintenance. In areas of staffing and structure, we need your input. Council will continue to work with your ideas and create budget options to be presented to you at our annual meeting on June 10. On March 11, Council will present options for maintenance of our facility. A couple of these ideas will require a vote of the congregation. We will need you to make a choice. Please make a commitment to be there.

Our holy mission thrives when we dedicate ourselves to the pragmatic work it requires.

"Discovering Our Path"

Special Meeting of the Congregation:
Conversation on Staffing, Organizational Structure,
and Voting on Facility Maintenance Funding Options

5pm to 8pm Sunday, March 11
Dinner provided by Council
Childcare provided by Karen Weber

Mount Carmel Staff

Rev. Marj Funk-Pihl
Senior Pastor
Gretchen Wagner
Intern Pastor
Ingrid Frokjer
Director of Children and Teens Ministry
Paul Woodring
Director of Traditional Music
Dave Becker
Director of Contemporary Music
Heather Ross
Parish Administrator
Karen Weber
Nursery Coordinator
Sylvia Wilburn
Bookkeeper
Tony Bloodworth
Custodian

Church Office Hours

8:00—4:30 Tuesday - Friday

Phone 805-544-2133

Fax 544-5356

Email: info@mtcarmelslo.org

www.mtcarmelslo.org

Lutheran Campus Ministry

805-542-0260

Email: info@lcmslo.org

www.lcmslo.org

Our pastoral staff is here for you.

In time of crisis,
please contact the church.
After hours, call our pastoral
staff at home:

Pastor Marj, 782-9022

Intern Gretchen,

206-478-7144

We Remember in Prayer

Homebound or unable to get out often: Glenda Anderson; Russ & LaVanne Anderson; Artha Fellows; Julie Finley; Flo Krumhaus; Charlotte Lejonhud; Elsie Murtaugh; Constance Petersen; Althea Schmidt; Shirley Simmons; Harriet Tripke; Evelyn Whitehead.

For recovery: Treva Thornton; Nancy Blackburn; Danny Qualey; John Keisler; Jennifer Thoma; and Bill Hopper.

In sympathy: With Bob and Mary Christenson as they mourn the death of Mary's cousin Dale Peterson; with the family of John and Dottie Stechman as they mourn the death of their son John Jr.; with the McCoid family as they mourn the death of Dorothy's brother-in-law.

Cycle of Prayer: Lift Up the Members of Mt. Carmel

February 5: Artha Fellows; Terry and Gary Finegan; Julie Finley; Chris Fonner.

February 19: Annamarie Fuchs; Jeannie Fuess; Dale & Cheryl Garnsey, Elisa and Erin; Jimmy Gibbs.

February 12: Daniel and Megan Forrest; Pat Forrest; Marc & Patti Frey; Andy & Ingrid Frokjer, Anneke, Matthew, Katy, and Andrew.

February 26: Bryan & Beverly Gingg; Jim & Suzanne Gorter; Beegee Graham; Bob & Carol Grosse, Robert Jr.

February Anniversaries

- 2-09-85 Joel & Debbie Peterson
- 2-11-89 David Hensinger and Kim Shollenberger
- 2-19-78 William & Karen Almas
- 2-22-86 Ken & Vicky Tway

The Mission of Mt. Carmel

"As Christians committed to the belief that we are saved by grace through faith, the congregation of Mount Carmel exists to GATHER in worship and fellowship, to GROW in the knowledge and love of Christ, and to GO in service to a world in need."



- 1 Nancy Crotty
- 1 Deanna Schultze
- 3 Colby Schultz
- 4 Margaret L. Androwski
- 4 Clara Applegarth
- 7 Glenda Anderson
- 7 Bill Stansfield
- 9 Pam Wood
- 11 Don Eggen
- 12 Gary Finegan
- 13 Dorothy Adams
- 13 Desiree Dellinger
- 14 Matthew Babcock
- 14 Bill Bietsch
- 15 Jeanne Miller
- 15 Dave Becker (staff)
- 17 John Cook
- 18 Koen Schultz
- 19 Elissa Harding
- 19 Val Lund
- 20 Bob Grosse
- 23 Kathy Meyer
- 25 Steven Harding
- 27 Carrie Anderson
- 27 LaVanne Anderson
- 28 Stephen Quist
- 28 Laurie Strampe



Stewardship Notes

Stewardship is about giving to God. It is about turning control of our lives over to God. But when we hear the word stewardship, the first thing often thought of is "money." Some believe stewardship is a fancy word for "fundraising." However, stewardship is more than money; it is a way of life.

There is the matter of "stewardship of the earth" — taking care of the planet God gave us (Genesis 1:26; Psalm 8:6) — and the matter of "stewardship of our bodies" (Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

Or we might speak of the "stewardship of our families" (Proverbs 22:6; Exodus 20:12; Mark 7:9-13; 1 Timothy 5:8) — nurturing our marriages, raising happy and healthy children, caring for elderly parents.

We might even speak of "stewardship of the gospel" (1 Corinthians 4:1, 9:16:17) — preserving the life-giving message of what God has done through Jesus Christ and sharing that message with the world.

In truth, stewardship may involve lots of things. Properly speaking, stewardship is about all of life, about giving ourselves to God and using all that God has given us in grateful and appropriate ways.

Excerpts from *Giving to God*

Thank You

To the Members and Friends of Mt. Carmel,

Thank you very much for the financial contributions you made during 2011 in support of the ministry and mission of Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church. Your financial gifts allowed our church to "keep the lights on," pay our pastors and staff, and reach out to the community. We finished the calendar year with the general fund a little bit in the black thanks to some generous financial contributions during December.

— Carol Grosse
Financial Secretary

Help Prevent Child Abuse

At the 2010 Southwest California Synod Assembly, the resolution "Protecting Congregations and their Communities from Child Sexual Abuse" was brought before the voting members. These voting members overwhelmingly approved the resolution, which called for congregations in the Southwest California Synod to rededicate themselves to safeguard God's children from sexual abuse; provide a process for congregations and agencies to train pastors, lay staff, teachers, and volunteers in identifying and preventing child sexual abuse; and bring the light of the Gospel to bear in our world.

There are two parts to the training:

Part 1 will provide an understanding of the dynamics of sexual abuse, including what to do if you have concerns about a person's behavior or if you suspect that someone has been molested, and how to recognize signs that a person may have been abused. This is excellent training for any adult concerned about the safety of children and youth.

Part 2 offers concrete steps you can take to help prevent sexual abuse in church and school settings. This training is designed for clergy, lay staff, and volunteers with youth who are responsible for planning, implementing, or supervising congregational ministries, activities and programs.

Upcoming training in the Southwest California Synod will occur on **February 11 from 9am to 12pm** at Mt. Carmel. The cost for materials is \$5. All Mt. Carmel volunteers who work with children and youth are strongly encouraged to attend.

Looking Ahead!

February 12: Valentine’s Brunch for the Sunday School Volunteers
10am

February 12: Children and Teens Ministry Team Meeting 12:15pm

February 19: Crux Climbing Gym for Sr. High 12:15pm

February 26: Service Project Day for Confirmation and Sr. High
12:15pm



The kids enjoy the icy “ravine hike” during Family WinterFest at El Camino Pines in January.

At our Epiphany Party, the Sunday School children wrote what they would bring to the baby Jesus if they had traveled with the Wise Men. Here are some of their cute, thoughtful responses...

- Love and a crown
- Money and a blanket
- A homemade blanket and stuffy (stuffed animal)
- Gold
- A honey bear doll and the whole world
- A whole dollar
- A warm and soft blanket
- Food and water
- Fuzzy socks to keep his feet warm
- A bunny
- A binky
- Pearls, diamonds, and a towel
- Happiness
- Clothes

Confirmation

February 5: Confirmation 10am;
Breakfast: Parkinson Family

February 12: Confirmation 10am;
Breakfast: Miller Family

February 19: Confirmation 10am;
Breakfast: Lyle Family

February 26: Confirmation 10am;
Breakfast: Kinsey Family

**Service Project Day
12:15-3pm**



High School Youth

February 5: Breakfast Time 10am

February 12: Breakfast Time 10am
(come entertain the kids for the Valentine’s Brunch)

February 19: Breakfast Time 10am
**Crux Climbing Gym
12:15pm (meet at the church for a pizza lunch)
Cost: \$22.00 for training and climbing**

February 26: Breakfast Time 10am
**Service Project Day
12:15-3pm**

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday worship will be held at 7pm on **Wednesday, February 22, at 7pm** at Mt. Carmel. Our friends at SLOUMC will join us.

Please join us for Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes. Child care is provided.

News from the Financial Secretary

Changes in Offering Envelopes
Pick up 2012 offering envelopes on the ushers' counter in the narthex. See posted notice and list for more information and envelope numbers. All offering envelopes must contain envelope number, name, and amount of offering for accurate credit.

Simply Giving Program
The Simply Giving Program allows you to have church contributions automatically deducted from a checking or savings account and deposited directly into Mt. Carmel's account. Please see the bulletin board in the narthex for more information and application forms.

Offering Statements for Income Tax purposes went out at the beginning of January. If you did not receive a statement or have questions, please contact me.

— Carol Grosse
Financial Secretary
543-5691
cgrosse@charter.net

News from the Social Concerns Team

Your Social Concerns Team would like to introduce its new column. In this space, we hope to inform you monthly about ELCA advocacy and to offer you opportunities for individual response to specific societal needs. We encourage you to read the information and to respond as you feel led.

HIV - AIDS

Help make this "World AIDS Day" the beginning of the end of AIDS. Tell Congress that the United States must support Sec. Clinton's vision for an AIDS-FREE generation by MAINTAINING FUNDING for PEPFAR, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, USAID HIV and AIDS programs through the Global Fund.

Funding for these programs will likely be targeted for deep cuts during the negotiations for fiscal year 2012.

Contact your elected representatives:

State:

Senator Sam Blakeslee - www.senate.ca.gov
Repr. Katcho Achadjian - www.legislature.ca.gov

Federal:

Senator Barbara Boxer - www.boxer.senate.gov/en/contact
Senator Dianne Feinstein - www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/e-mail-me
Repr. Lois Capps - www.capps.house.gov

For more information, refer to the ELCA's advocacy page:
<http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Justice/Advocacy.aspx>

or visit the website of California's Lutheran Office of Public Policy:
<http://www.lutheranpublicpolicyca.org/index.shtml>



February 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 10a (SS) Quilting Group 11a (OM) Staff Meeting	2 7p (C) Prayer Group 7p (S) Choir Practice	3 8a Friday Morning Garden Club 9a Lutheran Chicks 10:30a (M) Bible Study 11a People's Kitchen LCM Life and Faith Retreat @ ECP	4 8a (K,B) Men's Breakfast and Bible Study
5 *RSS LCM Life and Faith Retreat @ ECP	6 OFFICE CLOSED PASTORS OFF MONDAYS	7 5:30p (OM) Exec. Team 6:30p (S) Praise Team 7p LCM Tuesday Nights 7:30p (Y) NA	8 11a (OM) Staff Meeting 7p (C) LCM Team Meeting	9 7p (L) Stephen Ministry Supervision 7p (S) Choir Practice	10 8a Friday Morning Garden Club 9a Lutheran Chicks 10:30a (M) Bible Study	11 8a (K,B) Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 9a (L) Evangelism Team 9a (M) Safeguarding Training
12 8:45 Trad. Worship 10a (B, SS) Valentine's Brunch for SS Teachers 10a Adult Forum 11a Cont. Worship 12p (SS) CAT Team Meeting 6p (O) Book Group	13 OFFICE CLOSED PASTORS OFF MONDAYS	14 6:30p (S) Praise Team 7p LCM Tuesday Nights 7:30p (Y) NA	15 11a (OM) Staff Meeting 7p (M) Church Council NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 7p (S) Choir Practice	17 8a Friday Morning Garden Club 9a Lutheran Chicks 10:30a (M) Bible Study 12p (M) Brown Bag Lunch Group	18 8a (K,B) Men's Breakfast and Bible Study
19 *RSS 12p LCM BBQ 12:15p Crux Climbing Gym for Sr. High Youth	20 OFFICE CLOSED PASTORS OFF MONDAYS	21 1p (O) Personnel Team 6:30p (S) Praise Team 7p (L) Adult Ed. 7p LCM Tuesday Nights 7:30p (Y) NA	22 11a (OM) Staff Meeting 5:30p (OM) Financial Management	23 12p (M) Access for All 7p (S) Choir Practice	24 8a Friday Morning Garden Club 9a Lutheran Chicks 10:30a (M) Bible Study	25 8a (K,B) Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 5:30p (ALL) LCM Chili Cook-Off
26 *RSS 12:15p Youth Service Project Day	27 OFFICE CLOSED PASTORS OFF MONDAYS	28 2p (SS) RAMS 6:30p (S) Praise Team 7p LCM Tuesday Nights 7:30p (Y) NA Picture Week (through 3/3)	29 11a (OM) Staff Meeting	*Regular Sunday Schedule (RSS) 8:45 Traditional Worship 10:00 Adult Forum 10:00 Sunday School, Confirmation, Youth Breakfast 11:00 Contemporary Worship		B-Brick Area C-LCM Space CO-CAT Office SS-Sunday School Area J-Junior High House K-Kitchen L-Library M-Multi-Purpose N-Nursery OM-Office Meeting Room S-Sanctuary Y- Sr. High Youth House

Date	Time	Acolytes Greeter / C.A.	Coffee Servers	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Lectors
Feb. 5	8:45		Bob & Carol Harvey	Claudia Coughran Nancy Priddy	Larry & Beth Peterson	Jess Bathke
	11:00	Sarah Kinsey Sarah Pihl	Mike & Val Lund	John Cook	Dorothy McCoid	Victoria Edington
Feb. 12	8:45		Jess & Pat Bathke	Betty Johnson Karen Petersen	Warren & Betty Ann Quist	Betty Ann Quist
	11:00	Ayanna Miller Fiona Huffaker	Nancy Crotty	Sheryl Huffaker	Russ & Kay Jensen	Kaitlyn Kennett
Feb. 19	8:45		Sid & Beryl Bennett	Greg Zocher Beth Peterson	Bob & Mary Christenson	Greg Zocher
	11:00	Stephen Parkinson Annaliese Lippold	Jeanie Schultz	Sherri Parkinson	Len & Diane Mansell	John Cook
Feb. 26	8:45		Ken & Jeanne Miller	Maureen Dresp Michael Dresp	Betty Johnson	Chris Fonner
	11:00	Cooper Lyle Emily Reis	Jan Uder	Nancy Cook	Pat Forrest	Katie DeLaurentis
Mar. 4	8:45		Warren & Betty Ann Quist	TBA	Ro Cannon-Miller	Neal Mandich
	11:00	Sarah Kinsey Sarah Pihl	Vicky Tway	TBA	Dorothy McCoid	Nancy Cook
Mar. 11	8:45		Vern & Elsa Brody	TBA	Warren & Betty Ann Quist	Sid Bennett
	11:00	Ayanna Miller Fiona Huffaker	Mike & Val Lund	TBA	Russ & Kay Jensen	Bob Grosse
Mar. 18	8:45		Bob & Carol Harvey	TBA	Larry & Beth Peterson	Jack Sullivan
	11:00	Stephen Parkinson Annaliese Lippold	Nancy Crotty	TBA	Len & Diane Mansell	Jack Senter
Mar. 25	8:45		Jess & Pat Bathke	TBA	Bob & Mary Christenson	Monica Holman
	11:00	Cooper Lyle Emily Reis	Jeanie Schultz	TBA	Pat Forrest	Gerda Culwell
Apr. 1	8:45		Sid & Beryl Bennett	TBA	TBA	Betty Johnson
	11:00	Sarah Kinsey Sarah Pihl	Jan Uder	TBA	TBA	Diane Mansell

Altar Guild	
Feb. 5	K. Meyer
Feb. 12	V. Tway
Feb. 19	D. McCoid
Feb. 26	B. Peterson
Mar. 4	J. Schultz
Mar. 11	V. Tway
Mar. 18	D. McCoid
Mar. 25	P. Forrest
Apr. 1	TBA

	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday
Usher List				
8:45	Jess & Pat Bathke Steve & JoAnn Bennett	Ed Dresp David Kilbert Dorothy Meyer Bob Dwight	Russ Anderson Glen Priddy Larry Peterson Robert Harvey	Warren Quist Vern Brody Jack & Roberta Moen
11:00	Len & Diane Mansell Dean & Kathy Meyer	Bob & Carol Grosse Jeanie Schultz Linda Schultze	Mike & Val Lund Dorothy McCoid	Donley & Carol Winger Pat Forrest Andy Frokjer
Children's Church				
8:45	Cynthia Polk	Cynthia Polk	Cheryl Garnsey	Cynthia Polk
11:00	Jackie Kinsey	Suzanne Gorter	Erin Malone	Ingrid Frokjer

Friday Morning Office Volunteers							
Feb. 3	Feb. 10	Feb. 17	Feb. 24	Mar. 2	Mar. 9	Mar. 16	Mar. 23
Lutheran Chicks	P. Forrest	D. Mc Coid	M. Dresp	M. Christenson	P. Forrest	C. Grosse	C. Winger

Lenten Study: "Seven Wonders of the Word"

Mt. Carmel members will have the opportunity to use a Book of Faith book during Lent for individual devotions and as a part of congregational worship and discussion. The book, *Seven Wonders of the Word*, written by Pastor Kathryn A. Kleinhans, will be available early in February. The price is \$10.00.

The book will be used for individual devotion, for LCM Bible study, for Sunday Adult Forums and as the basis for Pastor Marj's sermons throughout Lent.

The book contains daily devotions, scripture readings and prayers based upon seven familiar and not-so-familiar passages from the Bible ranging from the creation story in Genesis 1 to St Paul's charge to the Christians in Rome from Romans 10. The format of the book is similar to Book of Faith devotional books we used during the past two Lenten seasons.

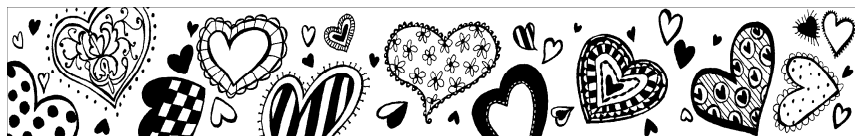
Kathryn Kleinhans is Professor of Religion at Wartburg College and an expert in the theology of Martin Luther. Her daily devotions often contain quotations from Luther giving his reflections on the Bible passages and her pastoral passion is to make Lutheran theological insights relevant for Christians today.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22, and continues into Holy Week in April.

March Forum on Wills and Bequests

Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, March 11, at 10am**, when a special forum will be presented by Gregory Shepherd, Regional Gift Planner with the ELCA Foundation. Mr. Shepherd will challenge and advise us how to include Mt. Carmel and its ministries in a permanent gift of stewardship through our wills and other bequests such as life insurance, investment decisions, trusts, etc.

— John Rollefson, Trust Committee



MCLC Book Group

Our next book is *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout. We will be meeting on **Sunday, February 12, at 6pm** at Karen Petersen's home. Copies of the book are available to borrow. Look for the big black box in the church office and sign out if you take a copy.

Olive Kitteridge covers 13 connected short stories about a woman named Olive and her immediate family and friends in the town of Crosby in coastal Maine. It is also known as *On the Coast of Maine*. It won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2009, and was a finalist for the 2008 National Book Critics Circle Award.

New readers always welcome. Please join us for discussion, fellowship, and Valentine's treats!

Adult Forum: Embarking on Mark

The Gospel of Mark is the focus of our Sunday lessons for the next year. It is also a fast-paced and energetic account of the ministry, witness, and death of Jesus Christ. Starting on January 29, I will start a five-week study of Mark that will focus on it as story. Please join us at 10am as we discover and experience the themes and message of Mark.

— Intern Gretchen

Help Wanted

The Altar Guild is seeking one or two families to take on the task of decorating Mt. Carmel's Christmas tree in December and removing and re-boxing the ornaments in January.

Our custodian, Tony Bloodworth, will take out and assemble the tree, leaving the fun task of decorating for you and your family!

At the end of the Christmas season, all you'll need to do is to remove the ornaments and re-box them for storage until next year.

Please consider volunteering for this wonderful opportunity. Imagine how much you and your family will love looking at our beautiful Christmas tree during the holiday season and thinking, "Hey, we did that!"

To sign up, please call Jeanie Schultz (543-2647) or call/email the church office.

Consider Joining the Mt. Carmel Counters

We need two or three more pairs of people to count the offering one month during the year. It's not a big commitment and would take only 4 to 8 hours per year of your time. Training will be provided to new counters. Contact Carol Grosse at 543-5691 or cgrosse@charter.net if you can help out.

People's Kitchen Volunteers

February 3, 2012

Canned Fruit or Vegetable:
Jan Uder, Patrick Vaughan

Hot Dish: Esther Droege, Kathy Meyer, Cat Nickell, Betty Ann Quist, Randy & Marsha Scott, Jean & Jack Senter

Milk: Gerda Culwell, Julie Martin

Salad: Sue Cummings, Suzanne Gorter, Monica Holman, Ruth Rollefson, Pearl Thoma

Contacts: Sue Cummings, 543-8972 or Dianne Draze, 544-3598.



Thanks to Janis Sexton for responding to our request for more People's Kitchen volunteers! We still need at least one more, so if you can help, please call!

Help Fill the Cart!

In this New Year, are you looking for a concrete way to be God's hands and feet in the local area? Your Social Concerns Ministry Team is committed to helping restore the larders at the food bank of Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz in Santa Maria. Pr. Pat has told us that they are very low on food after the holidays, and that many of their families are currently out of work.

Here's how you can help: Each week in February we will suggest a high-need type of food for you to bring and place into the shopping cart in the church foyer. When you go grocery shopping, won't you consider adding a few extra items to donate?



February 5: flour (5 lb. bags) and canola oil

February 12: canned goods (soups, fruits, vegetables)

February 19: breakfast cereals (oatmeal and dry cereals)

February 26: canned meat (chicken) and noodles

Wouldn't it be something if we could fill the shopping cart each week and deliver the much-needed food to those in need? May we always look for ways to reveal Christ to others!

From Intern Gretchen

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Sunday readings for the beginning of the year are great. They are especially meaningful if you are asking questions about life and faith and how they come together. Questions like: "I want my life to have purpose; what does that mean?" ... "I need to find a job; what do I want to do?" ... "What does God want me to do with the rest of my life?"

In the first chapter of Mark, we hear the account of Jesus' baptism and call. Yes, Jesus was called. He was called when as he was baptized, the heaven was torn, and the Holy Spirit descended. From that point, his life was different from what it was before. He was no longer the carpenter's son from Nazareth, or he was no longer *just* the carpenter's son from Nazareth.

In 1 Samuel we hear the call of Samuel and the call of Eli. Both of them were called into the service of God but in very different ways. Eli would be a mentor and Samuel a prophet. In the book of Jonah, Jonah is called by God to go to Nineveh to "preach" to the people and to turn them back to God. He didn't want to go and tried not to, but God persisted, and eventually Jonah accepted.

Calls, vocations, jobs, life, and free will were all part of these ancestors' experiences. All of them are different, but they are the same in that God persisted and provided what all of them needed to answer God's call. The psalmists who penned Psalm 139 and 23 knew this, too. They believed in their hearts that God knew them as no other ever would. They believed that God would not lead them into harm but had only the best intentions for them and if they trusted in that, then all would be well. All would be righteous – right with God and thus right with them.

Trust in God. Love like Jesus. Move with the Holy Spirit. When the questions of life and faith become too large to hold alone, come and talk with Pastor Marj and myself. Just like Jesus, Jonah, Samuel, and Eli, you are not alone.

Peace,
Intern Gretchen

Upcoming Events

Chili Cook-Off:



The 3rd Annual Chili Cook-Off and Line Dancing Extravaganza will be **Saturday, February 25, from 5:30-8:30pm**. Bring out your favorite chili recipe and enter it for competition. Tickets will be on sale on the church patio after both worship services on February 5, 12, and 19. Ticket prices are only \$5 for students, \$10 for individuals, and \$20 family. For more information, see page 1 of this newsletter.



Tuesday Nights:

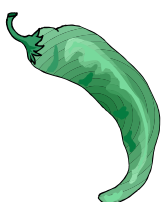
Dinner @ 7:00pm, Conversation @ 8:00pm and Worship @ 9:30pm.



Sunday Worship Opportunities:

8:45am - Traditional service with Paul Woodring and the Sacred Arts Choir

11:00am - Contemporary service with Dave Becker and the band



Mt. Carmel

LUTHERAN CHURCH

1701 Fredericks St.
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

Phone: 805-544-2133
Fax: 805-544-5356
Email: info@mtcarmelslo.org

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

God's work. Our hands.

The Rev. Mark Hanson, Presiding Bishop
The Rev. Dean Nelson, Bishop, Southwest California Synod

WE WANT YOU IN OUR NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY!



Mt. Carmel has seen many changes over the years and we want to be able to put names and faces together. Directories are very helpful for new members in getting to know the congregation.

Please help by signing up to have your picture taken for the new directory. Sign-ups will begin on **Sunday, January 29**, on the patio after each service and will continue through Sunday, February 19. Photographs will be taken at church, starting Tuesday, February 28 through Saturday, March 3. There is no charge for directory pictures, but there will be an opportunity to purchase copies for your family and friends.

We also need volunteers to help with sign-ups after each service, and also to act as hosts while the photographs are being taken. If you can help, please contact Nancy Priddy, 544-6410. We want everyone in the directory, so please be sure and sign up.