



# THE WELCOME PLACE Mount Carmel Lutheran Church

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA  
8424 West Center Street • Milwaukee, WI 53222-4798  
The Reverend Richard W. Johnson • The Reverend Pamela A. Lange

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Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-Noon; 1-5 p.m.

## Tidings Monthly Newsletter - December 2011

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Morning at 8:30 & 10:45

*Holy Communion offered  
at both services each week*

Education Hour 9:40-10:30

- Sunday School
- Adult Forum

- Nursery care available during worship and the education hour
- Coffee fellowship between services



### MISSION STATEMENT

Mount Carmel  
is a Welcome Place  
that proclaims the Good News  
of God in Christ,  
through word and deed,  
to serve all people.



### VISION STATEMENT

God's Work—Our Hands  
Believing Christ calls us to  
**SERVE**,  
we act with **LOVE**,  
inspire **HOPE**,  
**VALUE** others  
and **CARE** for the world.

### MONTHLY MUSINGS FROM PASTOR JOHNSON

One of the greatest gifts God has given us that we tend to overlook in our everyday life is the measurement of time. Think of a world where we would not measure time. Like one of our confirmation students recently said, *"It would be chaotic!"* One of the very first things that God creates is the measurement of time – days, weeks, the lunar cycle, and years. From the very beginning of the book of Genesis, creation is experienced through days and a week. Measurement of time gives us the capacity to both **reflect** as well as **anticipate**. Each day, week, month, and of course, year, we have the opportunity to **reflect** on the blessings of the past and **anticipate** the next measurement of time. **Reflection and anticipation are subtle, yet wonderful gifts of our creator God.**

Recently in Prayer Group, one of those present offered a prayer of thanksgiving for all the wonderful pastors that have graced Mount Carmel during the time she has been a member. Her comment made me **reflect** on the wonderful benefits I have received from the former pastors who have served Mount Carmel.

I am indebted to the strong commitment, compassion, and theology that have been shared by my predecessors. I thank God for all of our former pastors, but particularly I am grateful today for Pastor Ken Carlson and Pastor Rachel Young Binter—for all the gifts that they have bestowed upon this congregation during their long and fruitful tenures as pastors to Mount Carmel. I am also grateful for Pastor Maren Hooper—for her quiet, faithful presence that she so graciously offered to us as our interim associate pastor over the past year. During a time of sadness at the relatively sudden departure of Pastor Rachel, Pastor Maren afforded in her ministry a time of quiet healing of our grief.

As Advent begins, a new year dawns. I am **reflective** of the good gifts that have been so richly blessed upon Mount Carmel in our past. I also **anticipate** a wonderful future at Mount Carmel. I think it is more than coincidence that on the last Sunday of the church year (November 20th), we took a bold and exciting action where God is embracing us for a wonderful future! On that Sunday we called Pastor Pamela Lange as the new associate pastor of Mount Carmel. In her brief reflection on that morning, one could feel the humility, thoughtfulness, and passion that she will bring to Mount Carmel. The Spirit is "alive" at Mount Carmel as people with joy and hope look to a future with Pastor Pam serving among us.

**Reflection and anticipation** are important gifts that we should generously embrace in our spiritual life together. I am thankful for our past and am very excited for our future.

Happy New Church Year!  
May you have a blessed Advent and Christmas Season!  
*Pastor Johnson*



## HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE & SPECIAL EVENTS

### Reformation Toy Store Collection

**Sunday, December 4th, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.**

Please consider donating a new, unwrapped toy/s for the great kids at Reformation. Here are just a few suggestions: art & drawing kits; baby dolls (all ethnicities); fingernail polish kits; cologne & perfume sets; board games (Connect 4, Monopoly, Uno); basketballs; "Bay Blades"; children's slippers; necklace & earring sets; purses; sports team caps; remote control vehicles; watches. Monetary donations toward the purchase of gifts / gift cards (Wal-Mart, K-Mart, Target) for older youth will also be accepted. Please place cash or a check (payable to Mount Carmel Church; designate *Toy Store*) in a white pew envelope and into the offering plate. Wrapping paper and tape are always appreciated, too! *Please, no stuffed animals.*



These toys are greatly needed by Reformation Lutheran Church to help central city minority families provide gifts to their children who would otherwise receive little or nothing.

*May God bless you as you are a blessing to others in this season of giving thanks and welcoming the Christ Child into our hearts and homes!* For more info, contact Carol Nemes or Diane Roznowski.

### Deck the Halls Party

**Sunday, December 4th, 12:00-3:00 p.m.**

We need lots of elves on Sunday, December 4th from 12-3:00 p.m. to get Mount Carmel *spruced* up for the holiday season. Help put up the decorations all around the building—families are welcome! Please sign-up in the Narthex. Lunch will be provided.

### Sunday School Christmas Program

**Sunday, December 11th, 10:45 a.m.**

*The Stars Tell the Story* is the title of the Christmas pageant our Sunday school students will be presenting during the 10:45 a.m. worship service on December 11th. All church members, friends and neighbors are invited to come and see the birth of Jesus presented through drama and song by our very talented young people!

Reminder to Sunday school parents: please have your student/s at church to rehearse for the program by 9:00 on Saturday morning, December 10th. It will conclude promptly at 10:30 a.m.

Note: Regular worship format at the 8:30 service.

### Service of Advent Lessons and Carols

**Sunday, December 18th, 10:00 a.m.**

*Followed by a continental brunch in Fellowship Hall*

**NOTE: ONE SERVICE ONLY TODAY**

This service will feature scripture lessons, lovely carols, and special music by the choirs to prepare us for the coming of Christ's birth and embrace the mystery of God in our lives. A continental brunch will take place after worship in Fellowship Hall.

### Blue Christmas / Longest Night Service

**Wednesday, December 21st, 6:30 p.m.**

*Followed by a reception in the Narthex*

Christmas is only a few weeks away! Does that statement make you cringe or feel anxious? The reason many of us react that way is the fact that we get pulled into the commercialism that can be associated with the holidays. Those of us who are going through a difficult transition in our lives such as the death of a loved one, job change, physical limitations or anxiety; however, may find it difficult at best. We often feel like we are "just going through the motions" and trying to live up to others' expectations.



So how do we Christians celebrate the joy that comes from Jesus' birth, yet honor our true feelings at the same time? The Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service will allow us to do just that. Taking place on December 21st—the longest night of the year, also known as the *Winter Solstice*—those of us experiencing a difficult transition can have a safe, comforting, and peaceful time to reflect not on the darkest night alone, but the increasing LIGHT that shines through our darkness. Mark your calendars for this contemplative service in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, December 21st at 6:30 which will be followed by a reception in the Narthex.



### Christmas Eve Worship Services

**Saturday, December 24th**

**4:30 p.m. Family Service**

**9:30 p.m. Music for the Holy Night**  
*(featuring a string ensemble from the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra)*

**10:00 p.m. Candlelight Service**  
with Holy Communion

### Christmas Day Worship Service

**Sunday, December 25th**

**10:00 a.m. Festive Worship with Holy Communion**

### New Year's Eve

**Saturday, December 31st**

**4:30-5:30 p.m. Private Meditation with Holy Communion**

Before the parties and dinners begin, come to church on New Year's Eve anytime between 4:30-5:30 p.m. This is your time—a time to do what you need to do to let God care for you. There will be a bulletin to guide your meditation, or you may simply pray your own prayers. When you are ready, you can come forward to light a candle and receive Holy Communion. Come and remember that in all the changes we face in life with the passing of time, there is always One who is eternally holding us, loving us, and teaching us the sacredness of our lives.

### New Year's Day

**Sunday, January 1st, 2012**

**10:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion**

**NOTE: ONE SERVICE ONLY TODAY**

## COMMUNITY LIFE

Men's Ministry

The guys are taking a break until after the first of the new year. Watch for info in the worship bulletin announcements and next month's *Tidings* newsletter about getting back together in January.

Adult Forum Schedule**Sunday Mornings 9:40-10:30, Fellowship Hall**

Adult Forum provides an opportunity for learning and discussion, to relate faith to contemporary issues, and to grow in understanding of the church and world. Grab a cup of coffee and a treat, then join others for these forums:

**December**

4th TBA

13th No Forum (SHARE)

20th No Forum (Lessons &amp; Carols Brunch)

25th No Forum—Merry Christmas!

Hot Ham & Rolls Sale**1st Sunday of the month: December 4th**

Purchase one pound of Bunzel's hot, sliced ham and six butter crust rolls for only \$6. If you would like to pre-order, use one of the pink envelopes located on the signup table in the Narthex. Or stop by and pick one up in the church kitchen between services. (Extra ham & rolls will be available to purchase on a first-come, first-served basis.) Thank you for supporting Youth Ministry!

✦ Prayer Group**Tuesday Mornings, 9:15-10:00, Stage Lounge**

*Anyone* is welcome to attend the weekly Prayer Group, whether you are a member of Mount Carmel or not. Those present begin by praying for people on the Mount Carmel prayer list. The group then continues to pray either out loud or silently the prayers within their hearts. The gathering closes with the Lord's Prayer. Come when you can, and consider staying for the weekly Bible study with Pastor Johnson that takes place immediately afterward from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study**10:00-11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall**

Join other adults on Tuesday mornings as they are led by our very insightful Pastor Johnson on a journey of faith. Come once and you'll desire to come back every week! Bring a friend, neighbor, or a family member.

Journeying Through Grief**Sunday, December 18th, 8:45 a.m., Chapel**

(Note time change due to one worship service on this date)

**Kathy Czarniak, Facilitator**

Entering the red doors on 84th Street (below the *Welcome Place* sign) you will find the Chapel through the first set of doors on your left. Adult members and non-members who have experienced the death of a loved one are invited to attend. This is an ongoing group where you are safe to share your story or to sit quietly and listen. It is a welcoming environment where you will be supported no matter where you are in your journey toward healing.

SHARE Food Buying Co-Op**Sunday, December 11th****10:00-11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall**

Purchase fresh produce, frozen meats, as well as canned and dry goods for about half of supermarket prices! This is not a fund raiser and ANYONE can buy food at the Market, so be sure to tell your neighbors and friends. Or, consider purchasing non-perishable food to donate to Reformation Church's food pantry. (There will be baskets at the checkout area.)

If you buy groceries and like to save money, then SHARE is for YOU! Cash, credit cards or QUEST cards (*sorry, no checks*) will be accepted for payment. If you can help out and volunteer that morning, or distribute flyers in the neighborhood the week before, please sign up in the Narthex or contact Diane Roznowski, 414-258-8893 or [diane.roznowski@gmail.com](mailto:diane.roznowski@gmail.com)

From the Church Office

**The Church Office will be closed:  
Monday, December 26th and  
Monday, January 2nd.**

**2012 calendars** are available on the counter in the Narthex and near the Stage Lounge. Our sincere thanks to **Bob & Mary Schmidt** (Mount Carmel members) of **Schmidt & Bartelt Funeral and Cremation Services** for providing them once again this year.

**The 2012 altar flowers chart** is posted on the wall in the Narthex. Cost is \$17.50 per arrangement. A reminder letter will be sent to you prior to the Sunday you've signed up for. Juice cans are always needed as containers; you may leave them in the *Giving Place* area or Church Office.



"The season of Advent is like springtime in nature, when everything is renewed and so fresh and healthy. Advent is also meant to do this to us—to refresh us and make us healthy to be able to receive Christ in whatever form he may come to us."

-Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, 1910-1997, Roman Catholic nun

## COMMUNITY LIFE

- continued -

### Sisters in the Spirit

The activities and events listed below are geared toward women of ALL ages...non-members are always welcome. You are invited to participate whenever the Spirit moves you! Watch for additional opportunities to develop your faith, serve others in the community, cultivate friendships and enjoy Christian fellowship in the months ahead. Please contact Pastor Pam if you would like more info or have questions, 414-771-1270, ext. 12. We hope to see you at any of the following:

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

**Sunday, December 11th, 9:30 a.m., Stage Lounge**  
Old and new members are welcome as participants continue their knitting. Blessed prayer shawls are a great source of strength and gift of support when given to members and non-members in need. If you know of someone that could benefit from receiving a shawl, you can access one anytime the church is open from the cabinet with the sliding glass doors in Fellowship Hall. There are also prayer shawls available in a small, wooden shelving unit in the Narthex (near the Chapel). If you don't knit or crochet but would like to support this ministry, donations of yarn are always welcomed; please call Kathy Czarniak 414-771-127, ext. 26 to get information on what is needed.

### Book Group

**Monday, December 19th, 7 p.m., Location TBA**

This group is open to any and all church women and friends, and you are not required to attend on a regular basis. Come when you are can, even if you haven't finished the book selection (or read it at all—we're not picky!). There is always a lively discussion and warm fellowship to enjoy. The group meets on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at church or a member's home; watch the bulletin, newsletter & website for updates. Here's what we'll be reading in the months ahead:

**December 19** *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*  
by Muriel Barbery

**January 16** *The Emancipator's Wife: A Novel of Mary Todd Lincoln* by Barbara Hambly

**February 20** *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption*  
by Laura Hillenbrand

### 14th Annual Sisters in the Spirit Retreat

**Friday, February 3rd-Sunday, February 5th, 2012**  
**Aurora University, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin**  
**Retreat leader: The Rev. Holly Whitcomb**

*"Staying Alive Spiritually: Making Room for God, Caring for Ourselves, Empowering One Another"* is the theme of the annual Mount Carmel Sisters in the Spirit retreat. In the midst of all the roles we play and the responsibilities we carry: How do we make room for God? How do we live in balance and care for ourselves? How do we encourage and inspire one another? Mount Carmel women & friends of all ages are invited to spend a weekend devoted to themselves—come learn how you can deepen your

- continues next column -

relationship with God as you make your life more purposeful and peaceful.

- The cost for the weekend is \$215 per person, which includes lodging and all meals.
- Sign-up in the Narthex on the table near the seating area, or contact Jenny in the Church Office by January 1st. A final count must be given to the university by January 4th.
- A deposit of \$65 to hold your spot is due to the Church Office by January 1st. The remaining amount is due January 23rd. Due to our financial responsibility to the university, refunds will only be given for emergency situations following that date.
- If you would like to come, but cannot manage the full amount of the retreat, financial assistance is available through contacting Pastor Pam Lange. We want everyone to be welcome to attend!

Refer to the November *Tidings* on the church website for more details or pick up a brochure near the sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex.

### Theologian in Residence Program

**Sunday, February 19, 2012**

We have invited Professor Barbara Rossing, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, to be our next guest for the Theologian in Residence program. Professor Rossing is a world renown biblical expert on the Book of Revelations and will be speaking to the issues of "Left Behind" and "End of the World" theologies that are popular now as 2012 approaches. She will be preaching, leading the Adult Forum, and speaking at a noon luncheon that day. Mark your calendars now and look for further information during the next month or two.



### Silent Auction and

### Wine & Cheese Reception

**March or April 2012**

Mount Carmel Senior Leaguers will be sponsoring a silent auction and wine & cheese reception in lieu

of the rummage sale in late March or April to raise funds for their trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans next July. We have 23 youth and four chaperones attending. The cost of the trip including meals is \$1000 per person. Mount Carmel youth cover the cost for their chaperones. We need your help! Do you have something you would like to donate for the auction...perhaps a weekend at your vacation home or time share?...a service or product from your business? If so, please contact Dani Ovanin, Youth Ministry Coordinator, ASAP to discuss this further 414-771-1270, ext. 17 or [dovanin@mountcarmelchurch.org](mailto:dovanin@mountcarmelchurch.org).

## LIFE TRANSITIONS MINISTRY

*To create spiritual, educational and social opportunities for senior congregational members and to inspire hope, and caring as they adapt to life-cycle transitions.*

**Kathy Czarniak, Coordinator**

(414) 771-1270, ext. 26 • [kczarniak@mountcarmelchurch.org](mailto:kczarniak@mountcarmelchurch.org)

*Copies of our Fall & Early Winter Events flyer were mailed, but if you need a copy or want to pick one up for a friend, you can get one in the Church Office or on the counter near the Stage Lounge or in the Narthex*

*Thank You!*

A huge "thank-you" to **Connie Daugherty**, card-maker extraordinaire, who facilitated the Life Transitions Ministry event in November. There was a fabulous group of more than 30 people who made Christmas cards (all from recycled products) for the patients at the Veterans Hospital. It was a festive, fun-filled day for those who attended, and a great service for our community!

*How do you fight the winter blues?*

*You plan for summer!!*

*Don't know what to give someone for Christmas?*

*Give them a trip to Door County!*

**Who:** Anyone who has an AARP card!

Yes, that is anyone 50 and older!

**What:** The first overnight road trip offered by Life Transitions Ministry to Door County

**When:** Monday, June 11-Tuesday, June 12, 2012



**Tentative schedule (subject to change):**

**Monday, June 11th**

- Leave Milwaukee from Mount Carmel at 8:00 a.m. via coach bus
- Lunch at White Gull Inn (Fish Creek)
- Free time for shopping, hiking, reading, etc.
- 4:00 p.m. check-in at the Landmark Resort (Egg Harbor)
- Dinner at the Landmark
- Possible option after dinner (for an additional fee): Peninsula Players Theatre

**Tuesday, June 12th**

- Breakfast at the Landmark
- 11:00 a.m. check-out time of resort
- Trolley ride to tour peninsula
- Lunch at Pastor Ken & Naomi Carlson's home (Fish Creek)
- Leave for home early afternoon arriving back before dinnertime

**RSVP:** Interested? Sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex or call Kathy Czarniak. A \$50 deposit is requested by January 8, 2012 and will be applied to your final payment. If you are unable to submit the payment at that time, please don't let that deter you from signing up! (Check payable to Mount Carmel Lutheran Church; Door County on memo line.)

**Cost:** \$240 per person for single occupancy.  
\$190 per person for double occupancy.  
Price includes lodging, four meals, tax, gratuities, transportation via coach bus, and trolley ride.  
Theatre tickets \$32 - \$36 extra for those who want to attend (schedule out in spring 2012.)

- Rooms at the Landmark Resort have a water view, one queen-size bed, and are located in the Flagship and Harbor buildings.
- Amenities include: Wi-Fi, pool, whirlpool, steam room, fitness center, game room, pub and grill.
- Catered dinner/breakfast in group's conference room.
- Conference room has refrigerator/kitchen where food/beverages may be stored.

**Who:** Members and friends of Mount Carmel age 50 & better!

**What:** Cheri Grimm, a Mount Carmel member and Wauwatosa potter, will be with us. She has a BFA in Art Education from UWM and has been teaching adult clay throwing classes for over ten years at a community studio named Murray Hill Pottery Works. Cheri also sells her pottery at area fairs and galleries. Through the studio, she became involved in the Milwaukee Empty Bowls Project which hosts an annual fundraiser to help fight hunger in Milwaukee. She works at the event and also collects bowls from area schools. Cheri will tell of her journey that began by asking friends and neighbors to help decorate some of the 800 bowls that are thrown by the Murray Hill members at the annual event. Join us after second service for an opportunity to decorate bowls for next year's event. Glazes, brushes and fired bowls will be provided, and Cheri will teach you some simple ways to decorate the bowls. No previous experience is needed to have fun using the creative side of your brain! This event is *free*, but those interested will have the opportunity to donate to the Empty Bowls Project which raised \$42,860 this year!



**When:** Sunday, January 29th

12:00 p.m. Catered lunch & fellowship

2:30 p.m. Presentation/decorating begins

**RSVP:** No later than January 25th by signing up on the sheet in the Narthex or by calling Kathy Czarniak.

## SERVICE TO OTHERS

### December Mission of the Month

December's Mission of the Month benevolence recipient is **Serenity Inns**, a program for persons addicted to alcohol and drugs. It provides opportunity for addicted persons through a residential program located at N. 29th & W. Brown Streets in Milwaukee. In the five plus years of existence, hundreds of men have had a safe place to live, a guided program for recovery including employment, and nurture both during and after their participation. For more information about Serenity Inns, call 414-873-5474. Thanks in advance for your generous spirit of giving!

### Luther Manor "Love Lights"

Following the success of the 2010 Love Lights program, Friends of Luther Manor plan to make it an annual event. A donation of \$5 per light or \$100 for a "string" of lights provides the opportunity for individuals to give in memory or honor of loved ones. A specially designated tree lighting ceremony & reception will take place Thursday, December 15th at 4:30 p.m. in the Welcome Center. More information is available with sign-up cards that are located on the counter in the Narthex and near the Stage Lounge.

### Hillside Family Services

The Social Ministry Committee is sponsoring a winter clothing drive for inner city kids connected with Hillside Family Services for the next few months. This organization deals with public housing, medical care, and day care for over 400 low income families the Milwaukee. The clothing Mount Carmel collects for them is always greatly appreciated and oftentimes the only items they receive from outside sources. Items needed are winter coats, hats, mittens, and scarves for kids of all ages and sizes. All clothing should be in good condition and clean. Collection boxes are in the Narthex (coat rack area) and near the Church Office.

### The Gathering Community Meal Program

**Saturdays: December 31st & January 28th**  
**11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall**

Mount Carmel youth and adults continue to partner with the Gathering and the Hunger Task Force on a pilot project at Mount Carmel to serve a monthly hot, free meal. The event is open to the public, but targeted to low income residents in our community in particular. The food is supplied through the Gathering and Hunger Task Force and is prepared in our kitchen by volunteers and served between 11:30 and 12:30. The Gathering asks that we supply dessert and milk. If you would like to help, please drop off a dessert and or a gallon of milk in the church kitchen anytime before Saturday morning the 31st or 28th of next month. For further information, please contact Dani Ovanin, 414-771-1270, ext. 17.

### Reformation Lutheran Church



December is the month that Mount Carmel Sunday school students decorate the two Mitten Trees, one in the Fellowship Hall and the other in the Narthex. **NEW** scarves, gloves, mittens and hats are welcome and can be hung on either tree. **\*PLEASE, donate only waterproof mittens or gloves** so the kids stay dry and warm in the snow. Our young friends at Reformation Lutheran Church will really appreciate your generosity and will stay warm and toasty this winter season!!

### Neighborhood Store

The Neighborhood Store is now in full Christmas mode! There are two ways you can help:

**Donations of nice Christmas decorations**, trees, wreaths, and lights as well as gift items (all in good condition, of course), are all welcome! Donations can be left in the *Giving Place* next to the front doors on 84th Street on Sunday Mornings, or you can bring them to church anytime the building is open—we'll get everything to the right place!



**Volunteers are needed** on Mondays from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. or Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. to assist with sorting donations, taking down empty hangers, straightening the store, and replenishing the racks with new clothing and merchandise. More hands would allow us to make a bigger impact. If you're interested in becoming involved with this meaningful ministry, contact Diane Roznowski [diane.roznowski@gmail.com](mailto:diane.roznowski@gmail.com) or Carol Nemes ([nemesclan5@hotmail.com](mailto:nemesclan5@hotmail.com)) or sign-up in the Narthex.

### Nurture and Nourishment Food Pantry

Let's keep the pantry shelves at Reformation well-stocked! Items most needed are: *canned corn, canned fruit, canned green beans, cereal, Hamburger Helper-type boxed meals, mac & cheese boxed, instant mashed potatoes, oatmeal (inc. instant single-serve), pancake mix (complete), pasta in a can (ravioli, spaghetti, beefaroni), rice, soups (especially chunky-style), spaghetti noodles, spaghetti sauce, bar soap (family size)*. These items can be brought to church anytime it's open and left in the *Giving Place* cabinet. Sunday school kids are invited to bring donations forward to the altar during the offering on the second Sunday of each month.



Each day, each year, God begins anew ... planting within us the seed, the promise, God's own self.

May our journey give birth each day to the Love which will heal and transform our world.

May the promise and blessings of Christmas be yours.

*Pastor Richard Johnson • Pastor Pam Lange*

*Vicki Andrew, Christian Education Coordinator • Dani Ovanin, Youth Ministry Coordinator*

*Kathy Czarniak, Life Transitions Ministry Coordinator*

*Sue Skony, Congregational Life Hospitality Coordinator • Diane Roznowski, SHARE Coordinator*

*Paul Kasten, Director of Liturgy & Music / Organist / Handbell Choir Director*

*Wendy Traeger, Adult Choral Director*

*Darlene Siebert, Praise & Glory Singers Choir Director • Will Ulrich, Children's Choir Director*

*Jenny Kerley, Administrative Secretary • Mala Johnson, Office Assistant / Bookkeeper*

*Harold Beidinger, Custodian*

*Nursery Attendants: Erin Canon • Maggie Fuhrman • Madalyn Joannes • Wenie Lado • Leah Mott*

## NOTES OF APPRECIATION & CONGRATULATIONS

We are extremely grateful to the many kind, benevolent souls who assist with various projects (inside and out) around the church building and Grace Place, help with office tasks, and oversee some of our special ministries on a continual basis with their gracious gifts of time, talents, and resources. We especially thank:

...**Gene & Joan Runnells, Boy Scout Troop #142 and John & Pat Brandstaetter**, for raking about five hundred billion (at least) leaves & cleaning up the church and Grace Place grounds.

...**Diane Roznowski, Heidi Butler, Paula Emmons, Joel Richmond, Woody Jarvis**, and numerous **Men's Ministry guys**, for clearing out a ton of stuff in Grace Place and cleaning up the inside.

...**Ruth Lippert**, for treating the Church Office staff to a delicious, homemade treat.

...**Rosemary Link, Betty Henrich, Barb Brown, Caryl & Bob Braatz**, who assist with office projects.

...**the many others whose names are not mentioned, but graciously and generously provide their time, talents and resources in many ways to continue and strengthen the ministries of Mount Carmel—thanks so very much!**

### *From Dani Ovanin, Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Heartfelt thanks to **church members & friends** who donated a total of \$460 that was used to purchase Pick 'n Save gift cards for Reformation families in time for Thanksgiving. And, thanks to **members and friends in**

**the Mount Carmel neighborhood** who donated food items that filled about 20 grocery bags which were also given to families at Reformation for turkey day.



A note of appreciation to **Louis Nemes, Sue Skony and Julie Seidlitz** who assisted with preparing a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner for the 26 guests that attended the November Gathering meal hosted at Mount Carmel. The number of guests continues to increase each month and we are glad for the opportunity to provide this outreach ministry to others in our community.

An abundance of gratefulness to **everyone** who donated pies for the Thanksgiving Eve pie social and to **everyone** who ate the pies and gave a freewill donation. A total of \$310 was collected which will be used to purchase Christmas gifts for some of the homeless students who attend 81st Street School in Milwaukee.

### *From Vicki Andrew, Christian Education Coordinator*

A hearty thanks to **Bruce Efflandt** for his time and effort in pulling off another successful Advent intergenerational event. Once again, Bruce supplied all the evergreens, candles and other floral decorations used in making the beautiful Advent wreaths for the "Let Your Light Joyfully Shine!" event. *Bruce, you really SHINE!!* Thank you also to **Will Ulrich** for putting us in the "Christmas Spirit" by leading us in singing some favorite Advent and Christmas carols.

Special thanks to all my Sunday school Christmas pageant helpers: **Kathy Crawford** (set decorating), **Paula Emmons** (sewing costumes & star creations), **Gail Landskron** (program & rehearsal) and **Phil LeClaire**

(rehearsal & performance assistance). This is a cherished annual Mount Carmel event and wouldn't be possible without all the dedicated volunteers.

### *From Diane Roznowski, SHARE Coordinator*

Many thanks to the **volunteers** who provided time and muscle power for the November SHARE Mobile Market. We served 32 customers and sold \$359 worth of food. This continues to be a great opportunity to serve our neighborhood and meet people's needs for healthy, affordable food. We also collected four large bags of food & diapers for the food pantries at Tosa Cares and Reformation Lutheran Church. Thanks to all of YOU, it couldn't happen without your help & support.



Congratulations to the following Mount Carmel members on their recent accomplishments—your church family is very proud of you!

**Jenna Johnson** (daughter of PJ & Annette Johnson) will graduate on December 18th from Marquette University with a master's degree in speech and language pathology. Jenna will be working as a speech pathologist in the Milwaukee Public Schools beginning in January.

**Cody King** (son of Lisa & Richard), a senior at Sussex Hamilton, was named as a First Team All Conference Guard in the Greater Metro Conference 2011 Football Honors.

**John LeClaire** (son of Phil & Barb), a junior at Brookfield East, was named Second Team All Conference Middle Linebacker in the Greater Metro Conference 2011 Football Honors.

**Jim Oppermann** (husband of Mary Sue) was named a "2011 CFO of the Year" by *The Business Journal Serving Greater Milwaukee* in its October 7, 2011 publication. Jim is the Senior Vice President for Finance and Management at Alverno College. According to a statement by Alverno President Mary Meehan: "Under Oppermann's leadership, Alverno has increased student enrollment and market share, contained costs and maintained a balanced budget; grown the endowment; and supported the development of new programs including graduate degrees. He has also increased the size of the Milwaukee college's technology infrastructure and developed a health care consortium among the private colleges and universities that has resulted in single-digit increases in health costs compared with double-digit increases among nonparticipating institutions. Jim is highly respected by his colleagues as he is an exemplary model of the college's mission and values."

**Zachary Ovanin** (son of Jim & Dani) will graduate in mid-December from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a bachelor's degree in computer science.

**\*\* Please contact the Church Office if you will be graduating from college or have received a special award or recognition so that we can celebrate with you; this pertains to church members of ALL ages, whether you are a student or not.**