



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

Phone: (414) 771-1270 • Fax: (414) 771-1616

E-mail: office@mountcarmelchurch.org • Website: www.mountcarmelchurch.org

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

Tidings Monthly Newsletter - January 2012

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

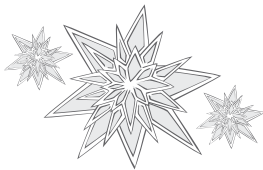
Sunday Morning at 8:30 & 10:45

*Holy Communion offered
at both services each week*

Education Hour 9:40-10:30

- Sunday School
- Adult Forum
- Adult Choir

- *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.

FROM PASTOR PAM LANGE

The wise men set out and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. (Matthew 2:9-10)

"They were overwhelmed with joy." Of course they were! They'd been wandering for a very long time. Being led and following faithfully to an uncertain destination within a time frame as yet undefined for them. Still they journeyed and when they had finally landed, they were indeed overwhelmed with joy to find themselves in the presence of the Christ Child, in the place where Jesus dwells.

On the church calendar this moment of arrival, celebrated annually on January 6th, is marked as the Epiphany of Our Lord. The 'appearing/seeing/revealing' of our Lord Jesus in the world and in our lives. For those on such a journey, this day is truly one of homecoming. Finally, the destination is made known to them. At last, they are able to rejoice as they find themselves standing in the very place to which God had been bringing them all along.

For me, having arrived here on the scene at Mount Carmel just one month ago, my own heart resonates with those of these weary wanderers. After two years and two temporary pastoral assignments since my seminary graduation, I rejoice to have entered into the place to which I believe God has been leading me - strengthened by the adventure of it all, but happy to be home. I give thanks to all of you for your warm and enthusiastic welcome. I ask for your patience as I make my way in this new place and am so thankful to those who have already pointed the way for me (quite literally) as I navigate our building - some days more successfully than others! I am especially grateful to all who've helped to prepare my new home. While the house is no longer officially Grace Place, it does remain a place of grace for me. To Pastor Johnson and the entire staff, through your kindness, support, good humor and the joyfulness of your spirits, the Light of Christ appears and shines brightly.

To each of you in this season of new beginnings, may all of your own journeys be blessed by moments of epiphany...moments of coming home to the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ. And may you also be *overwhelmed with joy* in his presence.

~Pastor Pam

COMMUNITY LIFE

✦ 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.



*No ham & rolls sale in January.
The sale will be offered on Sunday, February 5th.*

SHARE Food Buying Co-Op**Sunday, January 8th, 9:30-11 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

Prayer Shawl Ministry**Wednesday, January 11th, 6:30 p.m., Stage Lounge****Sunday, January 15th, 9:40 a.m., Stage Lounge****Blessing of Prayer Shawls: Sunday, January 29th, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.**

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.

Lutheran World Relief Quilters**Mondays, January 9th & 23rd, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Fellowship Hall**

The ladies resume making quilts for Lutheran World Relief this month and invite you to join them! Many hands are always needed and appreciated, so please consider coming on the second and/or fourth Monday. If you can't work with the women on Mondays, please remember them with contributions of cloth, sheets, drapes, tablecloths, etc. It is your generous contributions that allow them to continue their important work for others.

Women's Book Group**Monday, January 16th, 7 p.m., Shirley Napgezek's home (10338 W. Hillside Ave., Wauwatosa)**

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 Sunday bulletin, newsletter & website for updates. Here's what we'll be reading in the months ahead:

January 16th at Shirley Napgezek's home:

"Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption" by Laura Hillenbrand
"The inspiring true story of a man who lived through a series of catastrophes almost too incredible to be believed. In evocative, immediate descriptions, Hillenbrand unfurls the story of Louie Zamperini--a juvenile delinquent-turned-Olympic runner-turned-Army hero. During a routine search mission over the Pacific, Louie's plane crashed into the ocean, and what happened to him over the next three years of his life is a story that will keep you glued to the pages, eagerly awaiting the next turn in the story and fearing it at the same time." -Juliet Disparte

February 20th at Sue Hamann's home:

"The Emancipator's Wife: A Novel of Mary Todd Lincoln" by Barbara Hambly

Journeying Through Grief**Sunday, January 15th, 9:30a.m., Chapel
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.

COMMUNITY LIFE

- continued -

Everyone is invited to worship & celebrate as
The Reverend Pamela Ann Lange
 is installed as Associate Pastor
 of Mount Carmel Lutheran Church
 on Sunday, January 22, 2012
 during the 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.
 worship services.



Pastor Chuck Brummond,
 Director of Rostered Leadership
 for the Greater Milwaukee Synod,
 will be present to install Pastor Lange as well as
 preach and give a brief update on the Synod.
 A reception will take place between services in
 Fellowship Hall in honor of this special occasion.

Annual Financial Ministry Plan Meeting for 2012

Sunday, January 29th, 9:40 a.m., Fellowship Hall
 All members of Mount Carmel are requested to attend
 this important church meeting to review and take
 action on the 2012 financial (budget) ministry plan
 for Mount Carmel. Child care will be provided in the
 church nursery.

Theologian in Residence Program

Sunday, February 19th

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
 watch for further information soon.

Love Box ♥ Donations

The Senior Leaguers will be assembling care
 packages (Love Boxes) for Mount Carmel's
 college students this year and appreciate donations,
 such as hot cocoa, candy, gum, pencils, post it notes,
 microwave popcorn, granola bars, etc. Items should
 be individually wrapped and be able to fit in a video-
 sized tape box. Please place the items in the *Giving
 Place* or drop off in the Church Office by January
 29th. Note: Monetary donations are also accepted to
 help offset the cost of postage.

*Thank you—the students always appreciate
 the thoughtfulness of the congregation!*

STUDENT ADDRESSES NEEDED!

Parents of students: Please contact Dani Ovanin or the
 Church Office with your child's updated college address.
 The students look forward to receiving these packages and
 we don't want anyone to miss out. It will not be assumed
 that they are at the same address as last year. Thanks!

Silent Auction and Wine & Cheese Reception

April or May 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.



THE SEASON OF LENT

Begins Ash Wednesday, February 22nd

Mid-week Lenten Services & Soup Suppers:
 Wednesdays, February 29, March 7, 14, 21, 28

Holy Week

Psalm / Passion Sunday, April 1st
 Maundy Thursday, April 5th
 Good Friday, April 6th
 Easter Sunday, April 8th



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

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

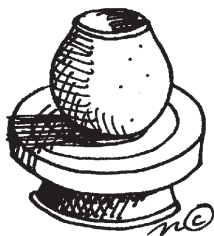
Who: Members and friends of Mount Carmel age 50 and better!

What: Cherie 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. Cherie 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. Cherie 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 Cherie 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 and fellowship
2:30 p.m. Presentation and decorating begins

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



*Sunshine, waves, the great outdoors, great food, fun, fellowship & leaving the driving to someone else... sounds like the perfect combination to me! All this and more can be yours this summer when we travel to Door County on our first overnight trip. There is only one drawback, you have to decide soon! PLEASE sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex or call Kathy Czarniak before **Sunday, January 29th** – if there is enough interest at that time, a deposit of \$75 will be required to hold your spot! (Checks made out to Mount Carmel Lutheran Church – Door County on the memo line.)*

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

Tentative schedule (subject to change):

Monday, June 11th

- Leave Milw. from Mount Carmel at 8 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), i.e. 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

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.*



SERVICE TO OTHERS

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

Saturday, 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 free hot 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 28th. For further information, please contact Dani Ovanin, 414-771-1270, ext. 17.



Serenity Inn Meal & Fellowship

Wednesdays in 2012: February 29th, May 30th, August 29th and October 31st

Thank you to everyone for your support of Serenity Inn in 2011, and especially in the month of December. I believe that we all have been touched in some way by the heartbreak and havoc that addictions to alcohol and drugs can cause in ourselves, our families, friends or others whom we work or associate with. Serenity Inn is a house of hope, new health and recovery for gentlemen who are seriously desirous of learning how to live a life of abstinence, responsibility and integrity. It is an opportunity for a new start in life.

If you would like to participate more actively in this ministry, our dates for service in 2012 are: February 29th, May 30th, August 29th and October 31st. We are to provide a simple, nutritious meal which includes a main dish, bread and butter, salad and dessert. We meet at church or drive from your home directly, arriving at Serenity Inn promptly at 6:00 p.m. and leaving promptly at 7:00 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to do some Twelve Step work! If you have any questions or would like to participate, please call me, Kathy Refsell, 262-251-5463. A sign-up sheet will also be provided in the Narthex sign-up area. God bless your compassion and caring!

Reformation Lutheran Church

Mission of the Month Benevolence

January's Mission of the Month benevolence recipient is the **Nurture & Nourishment Food Pantry** at Reformation Lutheran Church. The pantry provides numerous families in Milwaukee's inner city with food items every day of the week, every day of the year. Every dollar, every can of soup, every box of Hamburger Helper makes a difference in the lives of many. Thanks in advance for your generous contributions.



Another way to support the food pantry is by donating non-perishable items such as *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.

Neighborhood Store

The Neighborhood Store will be having a January **White Sale** and we need your help! ***Donations** of sheets and towels (all in good condition, of course), are all welcome! Winter coats, hats, scarves, etc. are still needed for adults and children, too. 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 will get it 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 at diane.roznowski@gmail.com or Carol Nemes at nemesclan5@hotmail.com or sign-up in the Narthex.

Make a Difference Marketplace

Lower narthex, Open Sunday mornings between services It's your one-stop shopping place for fair trade products including Mount Meru coffee, LWR chocolate, green cleaning products, Mount Carmel water bottles and mugs, and other items that will help you 'make a difference' with your purchases. To volunteer to staff the *Market*, speak with Ron Eide, our remarkable Marketplace manager.



WE EXTEND OUR 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 the parsonage, 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:

...Those who made sure the church staff didn't starve to death during the holidays: **Van Cleave family; Gayle Casey; Ron & Mary Eide; Ellen, Joe, Finley & Walton Cates; Michelle & Don Wadewitz.**

...Everyone who showed up to help Deck the Halls in early December. As always, the *Welcome Place* looked fantastic for the Christmas season! A special note of thanks to **Mike Andrew** who built special wooden bases for the Christmas trees; **Diane Roznowski and Judy Doyle**, who spent A LOT of time wrapping well over a thousand lights on each tree; **Karen Heller** who purchased extra sets of lights; **Joel & Linda Richmond, Joyce Nordman and Sue Skony** who were responsible for some extra called for decorating in the Chancel area.



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

Erin Canon (17-year old daughter of Del & Pam) was named Distinguished Young Woman of Wauwatosa and will compete with other girls throughout the state in August '12 to become DYW of Wisconsin. If she wins on the state level, Erin will represent Wisconsin at the national competition. The DYW is the largest and oldest national scholarship program for high school girls. Its mission is to positively impact the lives of young women by providing a transformative experience that promotes and rewards scholarship, leadership and talent. Erin is carrying a 3.99 grade-point average at Wauwatosa East High School. She is a member of the National Honor Society and Key Club, and is very active in youth service projects here at Mount Carmel. Erin is a three-time qualifier in the Irish Dancing World Championships as a solo dancer. In the team competition, she earned three silver medals in the world championships as well. She has earned more than 50 trophies and medals from competitions around the world.

Hannah Fuhrman (daughter of Gregg & Sue) was recently named to the 2011-2012 Iowa Conference All-Academic Team for Women's Soccer. Hannah is a sophomore at Luther College, Iowa.

**** Please contact the Church Office if you have graduated from college or 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.**

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT IN THE NEW YEAR

In November, Pastor Johnson used excerpts of an article written by Bronnie Ware entitled, "Five Regrets of the Dying" in one of his sermons. He received a lot of positive feedback and requests for a copy of the article, so he happily shares it with us all:

For many years, Bronnie worked in palliative care. Her patients were those who had gone home to die. Some incredibly special times were shared. She was with them for the last three to twelve weeks of their lives. People grow a lot when they are faced with their own mortality. When questioned about any regrets they had or anything they would do differently, common themes surfaced again and again. Here are the most common five:

1. I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me.

This was the most common regret of all. When people realize that their life is almost over and look back clearly on it, it is easy to see how many dreams have gone unfulfilled. Most people had not honored even a half of their dreams and had to die knowing that it was due to choices they had made, or not made.

2. I wish I didn't work so hard.

This came from every male patient Bronnie worked with. They missed their children's youth and their partner's companionship. Women also spoke of this regret. All of the men deeply regretted spending so much of their lives on the treadmill of a work existence.

3. I wish I'd had the courage to express my feelings.

Many people suppressed their feelings in order to keep peace with others. As a result, they settled for a mediocre existence and never became who they were truly capable of becoming. Many developed illnesses relating to the bitterness and resentment they carried as a result.

4. I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends.

Often they would not truly realize the full benefits of old friends until their dying weeks and it was not always possible to track them down. Many had become so caught up in their own lives that they had let golden friendships slip by over the years. There were many deep regrets about not giving friendships the time and effort that they deserved. Everyone misses their friends when they are dying.

5. I wish that I had let myself be happier.

This is a surprisingly common one. Many did not realize until the end that happiness is a choice. They had stayed stuck in old patterns and habits. The so-called 'comfort' of familiarity overflowed into their emotions, as well as their physical lives. Fear of change had them pretending to others and to their selves, that they were content. When deep within, they longed to laugh properly and have stillness in their life again.

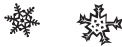
Bronnie concludes: "When you are on your deathbed, what others think of you is a long way from your mind. How wonderful to be able to let go and smile again, long before you are dying. Life is a choice. It is YOUR life. Choose consciously, choose wisely, choose honestly. Choose happiness."



FROM THE MAILBOX

January 5, 2012 will mark the one year anniversary of my stem cell transplant—my new birthday. God has been good. I continue to feel well, being able to participate in many different activities. Pete and I will be forever grateful to all the people at Mount Carmel who supported us with prayers, meals, cards, visits, companionship and moral support, as well as the numerous talks that have helped us throughout the year. I like to say that “every day is a gift, and a really great gift when the sun is shining. God is good.” Our family at Mount Carmel is wonderful. Thank you.

-Sue and Peter Michelson



Thank you for your donation of \$618 to Sojourner Family Peace Center. With this gift, we are able to better fulfill our mission to create peaceful community in which domestic respect and a life free from violence is the right of every woman, man and child. The recent rise of poverty, unemployment, home loss and homelessness in Milwaukee is contributing to a steady increase in reports of domestic violence in our community. A person is killed in a domestic violence incident on average once a week in Wisconsin, and in Milwaukee County alone, twenty-one people lost their lives in domestic violence-related incidences in 2010. Your thoughtful contribution will allow us to provide comfort, encouragement and support to those experiencing domestic violence. For all those that your gift will help, we thank you.

-Angela Mancuso, Executive Director

-Jessica Cook and Jenifer Tate, Board of Directors



Pastor Johnson,

I don't know where to begin to thank you and the folks at Mount Carmel. You've been so incredibly generous. We certainly appreciate your monthly support of our ministry. Thanks! And the gift cards—thanks! I'm particularly grateful for the way that Mount Carmel has taken hold of the Neighborhood Store. It's becoming quite a place—largely because of your folks. Diane Roznowski has been a gift! Thanks for all the donations and volunteers. Mount Carmel's support of our ministry couldn't happen without strong pastoral leadership. PJ, thanks for being such a good friend of this ministry. I'm very thankful for you!

-Pastor Steve Wohlfeil, Reformation Lutheran Church



PJ,

This is the second installment of my thank you. Thank you to you, the Boy Scouts of Troop #142, Access Information Management (Dick DesChane), and all the guys for bringing the items to the Neighborhood Store on October 22. The Store is becoming a real gathering place for our neighbors. Thanks for helping make it a warm, welcoming beautiful space!

-Pastor Steve, Reformation Lutheran Church



Dear Friends of Mount Carmel,

May the Lord bless all of you fine ladies for the wonderful desserts that you provided for The Banquet in October. Thank you and God bless you!

-Patricia A. Evans, Reformation Peer



Dear Pastor Johnson,

On behalf of the members of Capitol Drive Lutheran Church, the Council, and the Parish Exploration Team, we would like to express our appreciation to you, Mount Carmel's Exploration Team and Church Council for the recent partnership exploration dialogue between our two congregations. We appreciate the opportunity that you and the Mount Carmel Exploration Team gave us to learn more about your congregation's people and ministries. We learned a great deal, and appreciate the time and effort your exploration team gave to this process knowing the many challenges that your congregation was dealing with at that time.

While the decision has been made to not explore partnership any further at this time, please know that we at Capitol Drive Lutheran Church are open to exploring partnership further in the future.

We pray God's blessings on your congregation and ministries in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Brian Luttamus, Leader

Parish Exploration Team

Capitol Drive Lutheran Church

