



Hello Beloveds of God,

As I write this newsletter article I am thinking of Elizabeth, Mary's cousin because the little one in my womb is, if not leaping, at least tossing and turning! Perhaps like the soon-to-be-born John the Baptist in that story, and all of us now, our little unborn one is waiting with hopeful and active anticipation of the coming of Emmanuel. I like to think so, at least.

Pastor Dan, Cora, and I are doing much to prepare for his birth, of course, even as we prepare to celebrate the birth of God's Word among us, incarnate. And we are so very grateful to all of you for the ways you are loving, supporting, and helping us prepare! We appreciate your prayers and well wishes so much and we cannot wait for the baby shower this weekend and generous gifts of food when Baby Boy arrives!

Baby Boy is due, officially, on January 4, 2018 but as you all know, he may come any time between now and about January 18, 2018 so I wanted to make sure you are all in the loop about the plans for pastoral coverage during my maternity leave and Pastor Dan's paternity leave.

Pastor John Rollefson has agreed to preach and preside during our absence.

For all pastoral care visit requests please contact Alex Bell in the MCLC office. Several pastors and lay people have agreed to take visits and Alex will be able to pass needs on to the appropriate people to ensure that

those who would like visits receive them.

In the place of Pastor Dan's and my article for Vistas, those members who have most recently joined MCLC will be writing brief articles to share about scripture that has been/is important to them and why.

Members of council will be attending committee meetings in my stead.

Alex Bell will lead staff meetings.

The worship and music team is already planning services for the upcoming seasons so those will be set by the time Baby Boy arrives.

If you have any pastoral needs not addressed by this list, please contact Alex Bell in the office and she will make sure your needs are shared with the best person to meet them!

Thank you again, for your help in preparing for our beloved son's birth. We will miss you while we are away, even as we are grateful for the time to recover and learn to be a family of 4. You will certainly be in our prayers and we give thanks that we will be in yours!

Peace,
Pastor Valerie

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Sunday Worship at Mt. Carmel

*Dec 10 — 10:00 AM
Single service/Christmas Program

*Dec 24 — 10:00 AM
single service
Christmas Eve Services:
5:00 PM, 7:30 PM, 11:00 PM

*Dec 31 — 10:00 AM
Single service @ SLO UMC

8:45 AM—Traditional Service
11:00 AM—Contemporary Service

Holy Communion is offered at all Sunday worship services.

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

Coming Attractions! The church entry doors will be re-keyed some time after the first of the year. Why is this necessary? As the council reviewed operational systems, a discrepancy between the number of keys and the list of people with keys was discovered. Therefore we will be re-keying the entry doors, however, not until the policy and process has been revised and approved to assure keys are available to those who need keys and a list of those with key can be maintained. Stay tuned. Watch for updates.

Important Dates/Changes/Info:

Dec 3: Adult Forum held in Bible Room. Baby Shower! @12:30

Dec 7: 11am Stephen Ministry Meeting; "Distinctively Christian Care giving."

Dec 9: Coffee with Council from 2-4pm; everyone is welcome!

Dec 10: 10am combined service/Christmas program; no Sunday School.

Dec 14: Church Council Meeting at 6pm.

Dec 17: Adult Forum; CAT Team/Council present information session to congregation about planned review of CAT Team; in Sunday School room; no Sunday School.



October Financial Report

The current general cash reserve at 10/31/17 (which do not include Temporarily Restricted Funds or Memorial and Trust Funds) was \$166k. This is 43% of the operating budget; comfortably exceeding a good guideline for cash reserves of at least 30% of the operating budget.

Offerings through 10/31/17 are \$97k. This meets our planned monthly budget of \$24k per month and exceeds our prior year giving through 10/31 by \$3k. The total revenue through 10/31/17 is \$128k.

We are 33% through the year. Our total expense is at 25% of the full year budget. The largest expense line of Personnel is under budget at 24% of the full year budget - this is mostly due to the continuing unfilled CAT Director position. The Council and a task force formed for this purpose are working on this important issue. Facilities is also a large budget item that is under budget at 25% of the full year budget. This is mostly due to large projects (parking lot resurface and back lot) that have not yet started.

Opening Doors of Interfaith Understanding

The next meeting will be **December 11, 2017, 7:30 p.m.** We will meet for the first time at **Nativity of Our Lady Parish, 221 Daly Avenue, San Luis Obispo.**

Rabbi Linda Bertenthal will lead a discussion of *Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity* by **Abraham Joshua Heschel**. She will focus on the following essays: "To Be a Jew: What is it?"; "No Time for Neutrality"; "The Reasons for My Involvement in the Peace Movement"; "No Religion is an Island."

In addition, Dr. Hisham Assal discuss the **meaning and significance of the Muslim New Year celebration.**

Begin the new church year beginning December 3 (Advent 1) with a copy of my *Postils, Year B*. Use it for you own personal weekly devotion or as a Christmas gift for family and friends (especially pastors!). (A few copies of Year C and A are also still available. Cost to you is only \$15 while supplies last or you can order from the publisher at full price.) Just ask for them between services.



MCLC Book Club

The Book Club will be taking a break in December and gather again after the first of the year. We'll be meeting at the home of Karen Petersen, **Sunday, January 14 at 6:00pm**. The book for January is **Life, Animated: A Story of Sidekicks, Heroes, and Autism, by Ron Suskind**. This is the Cuesta book of the year and numerous copies are available to check-out at the SLO Library. Join us for lively and thought-provoking conversation. Tasty treats too!

Holiday Swedish Meatball Extravaganza!!

Don't miss this annual event, Friday, Dec. 8, at noon. This is a great way to kickoff the Holiday festivities. Meatball and beverages will be provided. Bring whatever you think goes with meatballs, i.e side dishes, salads, desserts, whatever. Please be sure you RSVP, Nancy Priddy, 459-9249, npriddy@charter.net, so there will be enough meatballs. Ho, ho, ho!!

The Get on the Bus Holiday Bus will be coming to Mt. Carmel, **Saturday, Dec. 2**. This party will be complete with Santa, giving each child a homemade stocking filled with gifts. There will also be giant sugar cookies to decorate. Volunteers will be needed to; host families, play with children outside at basketball, chalk drawing, etc., and generally help out. Please contact Nancy Priddy, 459-9249, npriddy@charter.net to help.

Poinsettia Time: Christmas will be here before you know it. If you would like to donate a poinsettia for our Christmas Eve services, we will accept them at the church the week of December 17. We will provide a table in the Sunday School area space to hold them. Thank you and Merry Christmas, Altar Guild

To My Mt. Carmel Family, Thank you for all your many prayers, visits, cards, flowers, the beautiful quilt, and the yummy fruit basket. I'm still hobbling and can't drive, but improving every day. Love you all, Elsa Brody

New Members - Please welcome our new members

Bob & Wendy Meier-

Bob and Wendy moved from Los Angeles to Arroyo Grande a year ago after falling in love with the area while on vacation in 2013.

Bob is retired from a career in business and Wendy is a psychologist with an office in Nipomo. We love exploring the area and its wineries.



Rachel Mann-

Rachel Mann joins us from Christ Church Lutheran of Minneapolis, MN. She enjoys sacred, blues, and jazz music. She assists our worship as a cantor and soprano in the choir, and also sings in the San Luis Obispo Master Chorale. Previously, she studied and worked as a scientist in biotechnology. At present, she's tutoring biochemistry students, selling Mary Kay skin care products, writing fiction and essays, and creating WordPress websites. She is a proud auntie of three nieces and one nephew, and the dotting caretaker of one Siamese cat, Klaus.



Don and Sharon Lonsway-

Moved here from Rockford, IL in 2016. They have three grown children (two daughters living here in SLO) and 6 grandchildren. They moved here to be closer to family and enjoy our nearly perfect weather. Don and Sharon are lifelong Lutherans.



Phil, Jenice & Mark Twomey-

The Twomey family moved up to the Central Coast (Templeton) from Thousand Oaks, CA. We had visited the Central Coast many times on vacation, and enjoyed the less urban lifestyle this area provides. Phil is retired, glad to be out of the corporate world, and is currently pursuing a certificate program at UCI to get involved in something new. Jenice also retired after 30 years corporate work, and now keeps busy doing volunteer work in relation to events on the Central Coast. Mark is at Templeton High School and is a junior exploring college possibilities. We are glad to be part of the Mt. Carmel congregation having been long-time members at Ascension Lutheran in Thousand Oaks.



Holly Varni-

Holly is co-chair for the CAT committee.



Mt. Carmel Youth

- **Sundays, December 3, 17** – Regular breakfast time
- **Sundays, December 10, 24, 31** – NO BREAKFAST TIME
- **Saturday, December 16** – High School Christmas party (details TBD)
- **Sunday, December 17** – Parent/youth meeting for Houston after second service

Mt. Carmel youth will present "The ABC's of Christmas" program on Sunday, **December 10, 2017 at 10:00am.**

This will be the only service for the day.

A dress rehearsal will be held on Saturday December 9th at 10:00am in the church.

We invite all interested elementary age youth to join us in this year's program.

We need volunteers to bring cookies to share with the congregation for the **Cookie Reception** after the performance. If you would like to help, please talk to Carol Harvey, 805-481-2418.

Youth Winter Retreats

It's almost winter retreat season at El Camino Pines! Lutheran Retreat, Camps and Conferences is offering retreats for all ages and families this winter with the theme of "Engage" based on Titus 3:12. For all youth winter retreats, the group will leave Mt. Carmel on a Friday afternoon to head to El Camino Pines and return Sunday afternoon. The cost is \$175 per youth or child (scholarships are always available). RSVP and registration cost is due by January 7. More information will be sent to families in December.

Mt. Carmel kids are invited to register through Monica Holman for their age group retreats:

Middle School (grades 6-8): February 23-25

High School (grades 9-12): February 2-4

Questions? Visit www.lrcchome.com/programs/winter_retreats.php or ask Monica at mjholman@calpoly.edu.

Family WinterFest – January 13-15, 2018

Get away for the weekend with a family trip to El Camino Pines Family Winterfest! Come with your whole family, or come alone to hang out with other Mt. Carmel families and meet some new friends! Children will have their own activities led by the El Camino Pines staff. Enjoy a weekend of family, fun and fellowship!

The retreat begins Saturday January 13, 2018 with registration at 2pm. The retreat ends on Monday, January 15, after worship and an early lunch. Registration is done online and is now open! Go to http://www.lrcchome.com/programs/family_winterfest.php to register your family. If you have any questions, please email Monica at mjholman@calpoly.edu.



Date	Time	Acolytes	Coffee Servers	Communion Assistants	Greeters
		Greeter/C.A.	COORDINATOR:	COORDINATOR:	COORDINATOR:
		COORDINATOR:	Carol Harvey	Parish Administrator	Parish Administrator
		Parish Administrator	481-2418	544-2133	544-2133
		544-2133		info@MtCarmelSLO.org	info@MtCarmelSLO.org
Dec 3	8:45		Ro Cannon-Miller	Nancy Priddy	Carolyn Baker
				Lisanne Martinelli	
	11:00		Mike & Val Lund	Diane Mansell	Pat Forrest
				Sherri Parkinson	
Dec 10	10:00		Carol Harvey	Mike Dresp	Ro Cannon-Miller
				Sheryl Huffaker	
				Karen Petersen	
Dec 17	8:45		Steve & JoAnn Bennett	Maureen Dresp	Carolyn Baker
				Mary Christenson	
	11:00		Carlyn & Lily Hinds	Anneke Moersdorf	Pat Forrest
				Sherri Parkinson	
Dec 24	10:00		Jack & Roberta Moen	Mary Christenson	Mary Christenson
			Sally Reck	Maureen Dresp	
				Carlyn Hinds	
	5:00				
	7:30			Rebecca Christensen	Dale Johnson
				Sherri Parkinson	Betty Johnson
				Dale Johnson	
				Betty Johnson	
				Makenna Parkinson	
	11:00			Nancy Priddy	
				Lisanne Martinelli	

*Sunday, Dec 31: No Volunteers, 10am service to be held at SLO UMC

Friday Morning Office Volunteers					
Pat Forrest	Dorothy McCoid	Carol Grosse	Mary Christenson	Carol Winger	Maureen Dresp
1-Dec	8-Dec	29-Dec	22-Dec	15-Dec	

Date	Time	Lector(s)	Assisting Minister	Soundboard	Powerpoint
		COORDINATOR:	COORDINATOR:	COORDINATOR:	COORDINATOR:
		Parish Administrator	Greg Zocher	Marshall Pihl	Marshall Pihl
		544-2133	461-3128		
		info@MtCarmelSLO.org	gzocher@slocity.org		
Dec 3	8:45	Kathy Gremel	Rebecca Christensen	John Perreault	Lily Hinds
	11:00	Shannon Babcock		Marshall Pihl	Carol Grosse
Dec 10	10:00	Jess Bathke		Marshall Pihl	Matthew Babcock
Dec 17	8:45	Mike Dresp	Greg Zocher	John Perreault	Lily Hinds
	11:00	Jack Senter		Marshall Pihl	Linda Schultz
Dec 24	10:00	Wayne Lippold		John Perreault	TBD
	5:00			Marshall Pihl	Dave Parkinson
	7:30	Jess Bathke	Rebecca Christensen		
	11:00	Shannon Babcock	Rebecca Christensen		

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

Children's Church				
Diane Mansell	Jennifer Remington	Val Lund	Kathy Gremel	Deanna Schultze
			Dec. 3	

Altar Guild	
December 3	Pat Forrest
December 10	Mollie Smith
December 17	Maureen Dresp
December 24	Pat Forrest, Dorothy McCoid
December 31	Pat Forrest
Next Altar Guild meeting: December 14 @ 2pm	

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





The People's Kitchen of San Luis Obispo

Mt. Carmel serves again on **January 5** at Noon at Prado Day Center.

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

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	WHAT TO BRING	HOW MUCH TO BRING	DATE
Hemmersbach	Margot	CANNED FRUIT	2 LRG CANS SMART & FINAL	12/1/2017
McCoid	Dorothy	CANNED FRUIT	2 LRG CANS SMART & FINAL	12/1/2017
Bennett	Steve & Jann	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	12/1/2017
Dong	Wende & Kevin	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	12/1/2017
Eggert	Jeanne	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	12/1/2017
King	Maggie	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	12/1/2017
Parkinson	Sherri	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	12/1/2017
Smith	Mollie	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	12/1/2017
Gingg	Bryan & Beverly	MILK	2 GALLONS WHOLE	12/1/2017
Grosse	Carol	MILK	2 GALLONS WHOLE	12/1/2017
Haas-Clark	Sue	SALAD	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	12/1/2017
Harvey	Carol	SALAD	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	12/1/2017
Keisler	Rebecca	SALAD	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	12/1/2017
Lippold	Marci	SALAD	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	12/1/2017
Johnson	Betty	CANNED FRUIT	2 LRG CANS SMART & FINAL	1/5/2018
Musial	Laurie	CANNED FRUIT	2 LRG CANS SMART & FINAL	1/5/2018
Draze	Dianne	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	1/5/2018
Dresp	Maureen	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	1/5/2018
Martin	Annette	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	1/5/2018
Petersen	Karen	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	1/5/2018
Priddy	Nancy	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	1/5/2018
Winger	Carol	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	1/5/2018
Coughran	Claudia	MILK	2 GALLONS WHOLE	1/5/2018
Cook	Nancy	MILK	2 GALLONS WHOLE	1/5/2018
Frokjer	Ingrid	SALAD	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	1/5/2018
Garnsey	Cheryl	SALAD	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	1/5/2018
Kerkhart	Judie	SALAD	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	1/5/2018
		SALAD	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	1/5/2018



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



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Steve Kinsey	18 Darrel Voss
4 Michael Dresp	25 Esther Droege
4 Joel Peterson	25 Paula Jaster
5 Bob Christenson	26 Jackie Kinsey
5 Cheryl Garnsey	26 Riley Pihl
5 Sharon Haupt	28 Shannon Babcock
7 Dante Nelson	28 Casey Lund
7 Norm Smith	28 Treva Thornton
8 Judy Bremer	29 Connie Babcock
8 Shirley Simmons	30 Mary Christenson
14 Marta Reck	30 Lauren Huffaker
15 Jean Hohenstein	30 Jack Senter
17 Vern Brody	31 Linda Lex
17 Holly Lyle	
17 Dean Meyer	
18 Ayanna Miller	



12-16-72	Sue & Greig Cummings
12-28-60	Ed & Maureen Dresp
12-29-79	Dennis & Catherine Kessler-Amling

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

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

I Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY:

December 3: Karen Petersen, Joel & Debbie Peterson (Kyle & Elyse), Marshall Pihl

December 10: Cynthia Polk, James & Gail Porter, Jamie Potts

December 17: Glen & Nancy Priddy, David Quist, Steve & Cynthia Quist

December 24: Warren & Betty Ann Quist, Pat Ramsey, Ryan & Martha Reck (Keilani & Andre)

December 31: Sally Reck, Walt & Helen Rehm, Wendy Reis (Emily)

Mount Carmel Staff

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

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

Phone 805-544-2133 Fax 544-5356

Email: info@mtcarmelslo.org www.mtcarmelslo.org

To reach Pastor Valerie:

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

To reach Pastor Dan:

805-776-3707 or pastor.dcarlson@gmail.com

Lutheran Campus Ministry

Email: info@lcmslo.org www.lcmslo.org

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

Mt. Carmel

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

Phone: 805-544-2133
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Gather, Grow, Go



www.mtcarmelslo.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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

God's work. Our hands.



CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!

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

lutheran campus ministry

MT. CARMEL LUTHERAN CHURCH † SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA

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



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

Each bouquet is \$27.50 or \$55.00

Contact: Jeanie Schultz, Altar Guild
or the MCLC Office

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

Deadline for January "Summit" is December 25th

