

Beloveds of God,



What do you think is Jesus' hardest commandment? I know, ranking commandments is dicey business and

probably not something we want to take too far, but as we have traveled the way to the cross this Holy Week I have been struck by the absolutely INSANE amount of love that God poured into the world between his triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his death on the cross—let alone his entire ministry.

As we have journeyed to Christ's death I have heard the constant refrain in my prayers: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. As I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13:34) I think that might be the hardest commandment for me—to love as Christ loved us.

To love as Christ loved, just between his entry into Jerusalem and his death on the cross, would mean:

- being served by someone at great cost to them (Mark 14:3)
- defending that person when others accuse her (Mark 14:4-9)
- hosting, serving, and sharing a meal with those you know will betray and abandon you (Mark 14:17-21, 26-31)
- giving your body and blood for them (Mark 14:22-25)
- washing their feet (John 13:1-11)
- praying with and for them (Mark 14:32-42)
- accepting the false accusations of those you worshiped with day after day (Mark 14:43-59)
- telling the truth about the situation without insisting on your way (Mark 14:6-7, 18, 27, 35-36, 48-49, Mark 15:2)

being beaten by and for your accusers (Mark 15:16-20)

being crucified for those who, when offered the chance to grant mercy, instead chant "CRUCIFY!" (Mark 15:6-15, 21-37)

WOW! Right? Looking at this list it is clear that it is ridiculous to command us to love as Christ loved us, really. We simply cannot do it. We struggle to do any one thing on this list, occasionally—let alone loving this way all the time. Our current conflict and the ways it is manifesting among us mercifully shows us how utterly we fail to live into God's love for our neighbors. This is true for every one of us.

That is why God does not stop at this commandment. Jesus does not say this and sashay off into the sunset. If we could love as God loves us we would not need the crucifixion at all, we would just need a few really good stories about how God loves us or clear and detailed instructions about the mechanics of Godly love. Christ COULD sashay off while we, equipped with those, could set about perfecting the art of Godly love alongside Jesus (who we would certainly not have killed if we could love as God loved instead of feeling threatened by God's love). But we all know that is not how the story goes.

Christ is crucified, because we cannot love as God loves. This commandment is not a joke, but also God knows it is a goal we cannot reach on our own. So God does not leave us on our own. Instead the Word becomes flesh and dwells among us and when we can no longer tolerate God embodied among us and we kill Christ, God resurrects him and sends us the Holy Spirit. And make no mistake, God does not do this to enable us to keep the command to love as God loves. God does not die and rise again to be present in the world with us in order to make us good, better, or best versions of ourselves. God dies and rises again to be present in the world with us because that is how God loves—ridiculously, insanely, irrationally, and limitlessly.

Our lives are awash in God's love. It is the air we breathe. It is the bread we eat and the wine we drink. We cannot love like that. But we can open ourselves to be vessels for others to receive

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Sunday Worship at Mt. Carmel

- 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.

that love. We can choose every day to be people of the resurrection knowing that we will certainly fail and that when we do our lives will still be awash in God's love. May we know this and believe it. May we live this so that others know and believe it. Amen.

Peace,
Pastor Valerie

BUDGET REPORT



February Financial Report

The current general cash reserve at 2/28/18 (which do not include Temporarily Restricted Funds or Memorial and Trust Funds) was \$167k. 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 2/28/18 are \$176k. This is 60% of the budgeted offerings and we are 67% through the year. The total general fund revenue through 2/28/18 is \$248k.

We are 67% through the year. Our total general fund expense is at 52% of the full year budget. The largest expense line of Personnel is under budget at 52% of the full year budget - this is mostly due to the continuing unfilled CAT Director position. Facilities is also a large budget item that is under budget at 49% of the full year budget. This is mostly due to a large project (parking lot resurface) that is not yet expensed. Net general fund income for the period ended 2/28/18 is \$22k.

The next **Council Meeting** will be held on **April 19th** at 6pm.

Stephen Ministry:

The next meeting will be Friday, April 6 at 11am. Lectio Divina

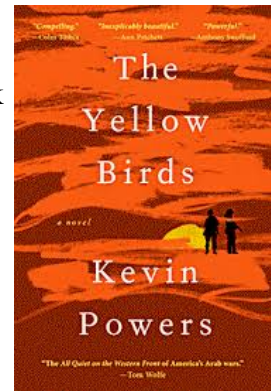
“Christ In Our Home” Devotion books for the spring quarter beginning April 1 are available in the Narthex in both standard and large print editions. If you know of people who cannot make it in to church or other friends who would like one of the devotion books, please help yourself.



Easter Activities

Please join us between services at 10am on April 1 for our annual Easter Potluck Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt!

MCLC Book Club is meeting at the home of Karen Petersen on **Sunday, Apr. 8, 6:00pm**. Our book selection this month is *The Yellow Birds*, by **Kevin Powers**. Additional books are available in the church office. Please sign-out a copy of the 'Book Club in a Box' if you take one.



Spring is Here!!!

The Flower Calendar is available in the narthex as you enter the church. It is arranged so that you can provide flowers for Sunday services and celebrate those special events like birthdays, anniversaries, retirements or in memory of loved ones .

The cost is \$54.00 for both vases or two members can share the cost and provide their remembrance for \$27.00 each. After church is finished you can take a lovely arrangement home.

This is a wonderful way to remember those special times.

Volunteer Opportunities!

We are in need of some fresh faces to fill Sunday volunteer positions. If you would like to commit to once a month or as a back-up, please email or call the office at **805-544-2133** or **info@mtcarmelslo.org**. Here are the duties that we need help with:

First Service Greeters

Second Service Greeters

Second Service Communion Assistants

We are also in need of more **coffee servers** for both early and late services. If you are interested, please contact **Carol Harvey: a.g.mom@earthlink.net** or **805-481-2418**.

Ushers are needed for both services. If you are interested, please contact

Jess Bathke at jnpbath@charter.net.

Opening Doors of Interfaith Understanding

The next meeting will be on Monday, April 9 at 7:30 PM at Nativity of Our Lady. Subject is “The abuse of the word of God”, led by Fr. Jim Nisbet, Dr. Rushdi Cader, and Rabbi Linda Bertenthal. Join in the discussion!



The Youth of Mt Carmel would like to thank those who helped put on the Spaghetti Dinner for Randy Warren and his cycling group, Triple XXX. A fun evening of food and fellowship was had by all. Thank you, Triple XXX, for your generous donation to our youth!

2018 TAKE A HIKE
for El Camino Pines



Take a Hike

Turn in Sponsor Sheet



Receive this Collectors Hat

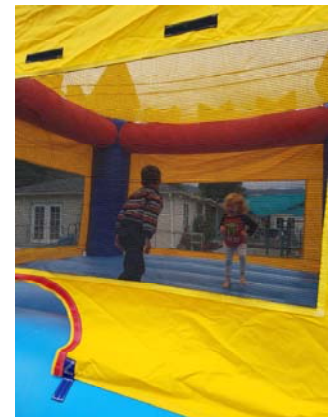
Help raise funds to send kids to camp!

Mark the Date & RSVP by April 16
Come join us for a short fun hike to help raise funds for providing camperships for less fortunate youth to attend camp. Simply ask friends and family to sponsor you to Take A Hike. Then come join those from other churches in your area for a great day of adventure and fellowship.

What: El Camino Pines Campership Hike
When: Saturday, April 21 at 10:30am
Where: Bob Jones 5 Mile Dog Friendly Trail
Refreshments provided along the way!
Meet: Bob Jones Trail Head off Ontario Rd just south of San Luis Obispo
Contact: Ken McCall at: 805-773-2764 or ken.mccall@thrivent.com
Ken will match \$1 for every participant for every mile hiked!

Thank you to everyone who helped organize and attend our first **St. Patrick's Day Party and Chili Cook-off**.

A wonderful time was had by all!





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
Apr 1	8:45		Sid & Beryl Bennet	Mike Dresp	Ro Cannon-Miller
				Lisanne Martinelli	
	11:00		Jeanie Schultz	Diane Mansell	Pat Forrest
Apr 8	8:45		Carol Harvey	Betty Johnson	JoAnn Bennett
				Mary Christenson	
	11:00		Jan Uder	John Cook	Sue Cummings
				Volunteer Needed	
Apr 15	8:45		Jack & Roberta Moen	Karen Petersen	Dave Wilcox
				Greg Zocher	
	11:00		Mike & Val Lund	Volunteer Needed	Pat Forrest
				Diane Mansell	
Apr 22	8:45		Steve & JoAnn Bennett	Maureen Dresp	Carolyn Baker
				Nancy Priddy	
	11:00		Vicky Tway	Volunteer Needed	Sue Cummings
				John Cook	
Apr 29			Jess & Pat Bathke	Claudia Coughran	Ro Cannon-Miller
				Lisanne Martinelli	
			Tony Huffaker & Holly Varni	Sophia Parsons	Erin Parsons
				Micah Parsons	

Friday Morning Office Volunteers

Pat Forrest	Dorothy McCoid	Carol Grosse	Mary Christenson	Carol Winger	Maureen Dresp
May-25	Apr-6	Apr-13	Apr-20	Mar-30	May-4
Jun-22	Jun-15	May-18	Jun-1	Apr-27	Jun-8
				May-11	

Date	Time	Lector(s)	Assisting Minister	Soundboard	Powerpoint
		COORDINATOR:	COORDINATOR:	COORDINATOR:	COORDINATOR:
		Wayne Lippold	Greg Zocher	Marshall Pihl	Marshall Pihl
			461-3128		
		wayne@pacific-arch.com	gzocher@slocity.org		
Apr 1	8:45		Dale Johnson	John Perreault	TBD
	11:00			Marshall Pihl	Carol Grosse
Apr 8	8:45		Rachel Mann	John Perreault	Dale Johnson
	11:00			Marshall Pihl	Matthew Babcock
Apr 15	8:45		Rebecca Christensen	John Perreault	TBD
	11:00			Marshall Pihl	Linda Schultze
Apr 22	8:45		Greg Zocher	John Perreault	Ben Varni
	11:00			Marshall Pihl	TBD
Apr 29	8:45		Dale Johnson	John Perreault	Dale Johnson
	11:00			Marshall Pihl	TBD

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

Altar Guild	
April 1	Altar Guild
April 8	Mollie Smith
April 15	Dorothy McCoid
April 22	Pat Forrest
April 29	Maureen Dresp
Next Altar Guild meeting: June 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 **April 6** at Noon at Prado Day Center.

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

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	WHAT TO BRING	HOW MUCH TO BRING	DATE
Hemmersbach	Margot	CANNED FRUIT	2 LRG CANS SMART & FINAL	4/6/2018
McCoid	Dorothy	CANNED FRUIT	2 LRG CANS SMART & FINAL	4/6/2018
Bennett	Sid & Beryl	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	4/6/2018
Kirkhart	Judie	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	4/6/2018
Eggert	Jeanne	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	4/6/2018
Petersen	Karen	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	4/6/2018
Almas	Karen	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	4/6/2018
Smith	Mollie	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	4/6/2018
Gingg	Beverly	MILK	2 GALLONS WHOLE	4/6/2018
Grosse	Carol	MILK	2 GALLONS WHOLE	4/6/2018
Haas-Clark	Sue	SALAD	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	4/6/2018
Harvey	Carol	SALAD	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	4/6/2018
Keisler	Rebecca	SALAD	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	4/6/2018
Lippold	Marci	SALAD	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	4/6/2018
Dresp	Maureen	CANNED FRUIT	2 LRG CANS SMART & FINAL	5/4/2018
Frokjer	Ingrid	CANNED FRUIT	2 LRG CANS SMART & FINAL	5/4/2018
Draze	Dianne	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	5/4/2018
Johnson	Betty	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	5/4/2018
Dong	Wende & Kevin	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	5/4/2018
Martin	Annette	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	5/4/2018
Musial	Laurie	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	5/4/2018
Krueger	Laura	HOT DISH	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	5/4/2018
Coughran	Claudia	MILK	2 GALLONS WHOLE	5/4/2018
Cook	Nancy	MILK	2 GALLONS WHOLE	5/4/2018
Garnsey	Cheryl	SALAD	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	5/4/2018
Remington	Jennifer	SALAD	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	5/4/2018
Priddy	Nancy	SALAD	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	5/4/2018
Winger	Carol	SALAD	HEARTY 12 SERVINGS	5/4/2018



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)



- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| 3 Carolyn Baker | 27 Diane Mansell |
| 3 Annaliese Lippold | 27 Janis Sexton |
| 4 Catherine Kessler-Amling | |
| 7 Roberta Moen | |
| 8 Ken Tway | |
| 10 Carolyn Voss | |
| 12 Karen Petersen | |
| 13 Paul Woodring (staff) | |
| 14 Cora Carlson | |
| 15 James Davison | |
| 17 Kyle Peterson | |
| 20 David Quist | |
| 20 Jaime Schultz | |
| 21 Karen Bockelman | |
| 22 Susan Applegarth | |
| 25 Greg Zocher | |



- 4-19-97 Cheryl & Dale Garnsey
 4-21-62 Donley & Carol Winger
 4-27-85 Doug & Pam Wood

**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:

April 1: Don Allen, Marilyn Allison & Missi Bullock (Sutner & Landon), Dennis Amling & Catherine Kessler Amling

April 8: Jill Anderson & Steve Jobst, Glenda Anderson, Russ Anderson

April 15: Russell Anderson, Bill & Karen Almas, Susan Applegarth

April 22: Bob & Connie Babcock, Shannon & Heather Babcock (Matthew), Kathy Bailey

April 29: Carolyn Baker, Jess & Pat Bathke, Sid & Beryl Bennett

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

1701 Fredericks St.
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

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

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 May "Summit" is April 25th

