



# December 2019

## The Light Shines in the Darkness

We'll soon begin the four weeks of the Advent season in preparation for our celebration of Christmas. The symbolism of Advent highlights the interplay of light and darkness in the winter season, in human history and in our personal lives.

Even as the nights of December grow longer, the promise of the season is that we are drawing near to the dawning of the light. Following the longest night of the year the winter solstice marks the slow return of the sun as the ordered rhythms of the seasons move toward spring.

But the interplay of darkness and light is not simply a meteorological occurrence; it is a symbol of the unfolding of God's promises to all humankind. Speaking to a people living through great difficulty and despair, the prophet Isaiah proclaimed that even though "darkness covers the earth and thick darkness the peoples," God promises that "on those living in deep darkness a Light has dawned."

So it is for us in our own time. We live in what often seems to be a dark time filled with foreboding, violence and war. But the Advent message is one of light, peace and hope: "the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." It is the promise of God's advent in the birth of Jesus, the revelation of God's unfailing light and never-ending love.

Peace,  
Pastor Richard

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### ADVENT

See page 2

### Advent Evening Prayer

Wednesdays at 7:00pm  
December 4, 11 & 18

### Children's Christmas

Program  
Sunday, December 15  
during worship

### Pancake Palooza

Monday, December 9  
10:00pm—Midnight

### Swedish Meatball Fest

Friday, December 13  
12:00 noon

### Sunday Worship at Mt. Carmel

Sunday Worship Service

9:30am

Holy Communion is offered at all  
Sunday worship services.

Join us for coffee on the patio immediately following the service.

## ADVENT 2019 at Mt. Carmel

### ***Sunday Worship Services*** ***9:30 am***

- 12/1 1st Sunday of Advent: **HOPE**  
 12/8 2nd Sunday of Advent: **PEACE**  
 12/15 3rd Sunday of Advent: **JOY**  
 12/22 4th Sunday of Advent: **LOVE**

### **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES** ***Tuesday, December 24***

- 5:00 pm—Family Service  
 7:00 pm—Traditional Service

### **ADVENT EVENING PRAYER** ***Wednesdays, December 4, 11 & 18*** ***7:00 pm***

In the midst of the busyness of the season around us you are invited to join for a time of quiet in our "Waiting and the Word," series of midweek meditative evening prayer services. Each week will focus on an Advent theme in a contemplative setting.

The December 18th service will be a Longest Night / Blue Christmas service specifically for those who are grieving during this Christmas season.

### **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** ***Sunday, December 15***

The children join the worship service with a fun-for-all program. Refreshments will follow and will include the special fruit cake we created on December 1st at our 'Stir Up' worship service.



### **POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS** ***Order by December 15***

Help decorate our church during Christmas with a lovely poinsettia plant. Each plant is \$8.00 and may be dedicated in honor or in memory of whomever you wish. Contact Rebecca Keisler at 805-543-4259, or at rebjohn50@hotmail.com to place your order.

### **SWEDISH MEATBALL FEST** ***Friday, December 13*** ***12:00 noon in Quist Hall***

Join the festivities in Quist Hall with a Swedish Meatball Fest. Meatballs, appetizers and drinks will be provided. Bring your appetite, a friend, and something to go with Swedish meatballs, such as bread/rolls, veggie dish, potatoes, salad, dessert, you really can't go wrong. There may even be some Christmas carol singing.

Also, bring a canned good, or some non-perishable item for the food basket, so we can help others celebrate the season.

RSVP to Nancy Priddy, 805-459-9249.

### **ELCA GOOD GIFTS** ***Alternative Giving Opportunities***

ELCA Good Gifts catalogs are available in the narthex for this Christmas season. Your gifts, given in the names of friends or loved ones through the Good Gifts program, can make a real difference in the lives of people around the world. Pick up a catalog today.





**BROWN BAG LUNCH**  
**Friday, December 13**  
**12:00 noon**

**Annual Swedish Meatball Fest**

Mark your calendars to join the festivities in Quist Hall when we will again celebrate the season with a Swedish Meatball Fest. Meatballs, appetizers and drinks will be provided. All you need to bring is your appetite, a friend, and something to go with Swedish meatballs. What might that be; bread/rolls, veggie dish, potatoes are always good, salad, dessert, you really can't go wrong. Hey, a relish plate is always good, too.

Also, bring a canned good, or some non-perishable item for the food basket, so we can help others celebrate the season.

RSVP to Nancy Priddy, 805-459-9249, so we know how many meatballs to have. A warning – there may be some Christmas carol singing...

**Seasons Greetings**

**IT'S THE HOLIDAYS, SO THAT  
 MEANS IT'S TIME FOR:**

**OPEN HOUSE AT THE  
 PRIDDY'S**

**Saturday, December 14**

**2 - 6 "ish"**

**938 Skyline Drive  
 San Luis Obispo**

**Come dance around the Christmas tree, drink a cup  
 of glogg, and eat a meatball or two**

**RSVP - Glen and Nancy Priddy**

**[npriddy@charter.net](mailto:npriddy@charter.net), [gpriddy@charter.net](mailto:gpriddy@charter.net)  
 (805)-459-9249, 805-550-3399**



**Mt. Carmel**  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Parents' Day Out**

**Sunday, December 8th**

**12-4pm**



**We'll have a pizza lunch, build gingerbread  
 houses, arts & crafts, and a holiday movie!**

**No cost, just join the fun! It is our way of  
 helping our community.**

**Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church**

**1701 Fredericks Street, SLO**

**RSVP to Ingrid Frokjer at  
[ingrid.frokjer@gmail.com](mailto:ingrid.frokjer@gmail.com), or to MaryAnn in  
 the church office 805.544.2133**

**ADULT FORUM**

**Sundays 11:00AM**

**Quist Hall**

The Gospel of Matthew is the topic for the Adult Forums in December. Pastor Richard Rollefson will lead this Advent series introducing the Gospel of Matthew, the source of our gospel worship lessons in the new church year.

**CONTACT UPDATE**

Pastor Richard has a new email address.

Please contact him at:

**[rgrollefson@gmail.com](mailto:rgrollefson@gmail.com)**



DATE	ACOLYTES	COFFEE SERVERS	COMMUNION ASSTS	GREETERS	LECTORS
	COORDINATOR	COORDINATOR	COORDINATOR	COORDINATOR	COORDINATOR
	John Keisler	Carol Harvey	None	None	Wayne Lippold
<b>12/1</b>	Adrian Schultze	Vicky Tway	Janis Sexton; Karen Petersen; Diane Mansell	Janis Sexton	Carlyn & Lily Hinds
<b>12/8</b>	Andrew Moersdorf	Jess & Pat Bathke	Maureen Dresp; Betty Johnson; Jenice Twomey	Betty Johnson	Jenice Twomey
<b>12/15</b>	Brooklyn Mansell	Carol Harvey	Nancy Priddy; Sandy Rowland; Cyndi Rollefson	Ro Cannon-Miller	Jess Bathke
<b>12/22</b>	Allie Schultze	Jack & Roberta Moen	John & Nancy Cook; Mike Dresp; Lisanne Martinelli	Pat Forrest	John Cook
<b>12/29</b>	Adrian Schultze	Ro Cannon-Miller		Sandy Rowland & Margaret O'Neill	Monica Holman

\*Reminder:

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

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES!

Please contact MaryAnn in the church office (805-544-2133) as soon as possible if you're able to be an usher, greeter, communion server, etc. at the 5:00 and/or 7:00 service.

### FRIDAY MORNING OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

December 6	Dorothy McCoid
December 13	Carol Winger
December 20	Maureen Dresp
December 27	Pat Forrest
January 3	Dorothy McCoid

### FLOWER SPONSORS

December 1	Carol Harvey
December 8	Patti & Marc Frey
December 15	Glen & Nancy Priddy
December 22	Ed & Maureen Dresp
December 29	John & Rebecca Keisler

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

Two bouquets for \$55.00.  
Thank you, Jeanie Schultz, Altar Guild

### MOUNT CARMEL COUNCIL MEMBERS

<b>President</b>	Marshall Pihl
<b>Vice President</b>	Patti Frey
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sherri Parkinson
<b>Secretary</b>	John Merrill
<b>Members at Large</b>	Jenice Twomey
	Carol Harvey
	Jan Uder
	Matthew Schultze
	Wayne Lippold

DATE	USHERS	SOUND BOARD	POWER POINT	ALTAR GUILD	CHILDREN'S CHURCH
	COORDINATOR	COORDINATOR	COORDINATOR	COORDINATOR	COORDINATOR
	Jess Bathke	Marshall Pihl	Marshall Pihl	Jeanie Schultz	Ingrid Frokjer
<b>12/1</b>	Steve & JoAnn Bennett Jess & Pat Bathke John Sexton	Marshall Pihl	Carol Grosse	Vicky Tway	Ingrid Frokjer
<b>12/8</b>	Bob & Carol Grosse; Jeanie Schultz; Linda Schultze	John Perreault	Matthew Moersdorf	Mollie Smith	Sandy Rowland
<b>12/15</b>	Dorothy McCoid; Mike & Val Lund	Marshall Pihl	Linda Schultze	Dorothy McCoid	Val Lund
<b>12/22</b>	Warren Quist; John Merrill; Andy Frokjer; Carol & Donley Winger	John Perreault	Dave Parkinson	Pat Forrest	Diane Mansell
<b>12/29</b>	Warren Quist; John Merrill; Andy Frokjer; Carol & Donley Winger	Marshall Pihl	Dave Parkinson	Vicky Tway	Ingrid Frokjer
<p style="text-align: center;">*Reminder:</p> <p>If you are unable to serve, please notify your coordinator and the church office of your substitute as soon as possible.</p>					



**The People's Kitchen**  
of San Luis Obispo

**Mt. Carmel serves again on December 6th at 11:45 AM at Prado Day Center.**

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

*Please find your own substitutes if you cannot provide this month.*

Email Jan Uder at [j.uder@yahoo.com](mailto:j.uder@yahoo.com) if you have any questions about The People's Kitchen program or would like to volunteer.

**Please have your clearly marked items at church by 11:00am,(heated and ready to go)**

**Our volunteers on December 6:**

**Hot Dish (serves 12+)** Steve & JoAnn Bennett  
Kevin & Wende Dong  
Eggert  
Sherri Parkinson  
Mollie & Norm Smith  
Marilyn Brown  
Karen Almas

**Salad (serves 12+)** Carol Harvey  
Wayne Lippold  
Rebecca Keisler

**2 Large Cans of Fruit** Rebecca Christensen  
Ro Cannon-Miller

**2 Gallons Whole Milk** Bob & Carol Grosse

**Looking ahead to January 3:**

**Hot Dish (serves 12+)** Dianne Drazie  
Maureen Dresp  
Julie Martin  
Karen Petersen  
Nancy Priddy  
Carol Winger

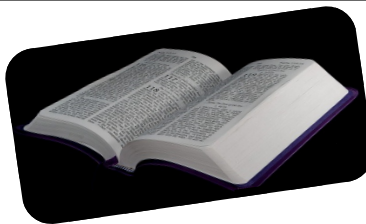
**Salad (serves 12+)** Jennifer Remington  
Judie Kirkhart  
Cheryl Garnsey

**2 Large Cans of Fruit** Laurie Musial  
Betty Johnson

**2 Gallons Whole Milk** Nancy Cook

**BIBLE STUDY****Friday Mornings at 10:00**

Four Cats Café  
1531 Monterey  
San Luis Obispo

**Men's Breakfast & Bible Study**

Saturday Mornings at 8:00

Mt. Carmel in the Brick Area

**AUDIT COMMITTEE  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

By constitution, we are required to have an audit committee to perform annual audits of Mt Carmel's finances. The Synod has guidelines for the audit process. If you are able to serve in this important capacity, please speak to a council member.

**CHRISTMAS ANGEL  
TREE PROJECT IS  
UNDERWAY**

Sunday, Nov 17 to  
Sunday, Dec 15

Thank you to everyone taking part in the Christmas Angel Project! 40 children at Iglesia luterana Santa Cruz will receive your gifts in time for Christmas.

Although all of the cards have been claimed, you may still participate by sending a donation directly to Iglesia luterana Santa Cruz at the following address by December 8th.

Christmas Angel Tree project  
Iglesia luterana Santa Cruz  
624 Camino Collegio  
Santa Maria, CA. 93454

**EXCHANGE STUDENT HOST FAMILY NEEDED**

Good Morning, my name is Kathy Brown and I am a Regional Coordinator for EF High School Exchange. We are a foreign exchange company whom bring high school age students over to America to study abroad for 10 months, while they attend our local high schools. I am currently looking for a loving home to host Hanne from Norway, whom is a Lutheran and attends church weekly in her home country. She also sings in the church choir. Her hobbies are singing, hiking and handball. I am contacting our local Lutheran churches to see if perhaps they know of a Lutheran family whom may have an interest in hosting. Hanne arrives next August, 2020 and will return home June, 2021. She would attend the local high school in which the host family resides. Please feel free to contact me at (805)748-8984 with any questions, also feel free to pass along my information to any interested family. Thank you so much for your time and hope to hear from you. Best, Kathy Brown-Regional Coordinator-EF High School Exchange

Have something you want to celebrate or commemorate?

E-mail the details/pictures to the church office - [info@mtcarmelslo.org](mailto:info@mtcarmelslo.org) - for publication in this newsletter and our weekly "Vistas" announcements!

**Deadline for January Summit is December 20**

**Mount Carmel Staff**

<i>Rev. Richard Rollefson</i>	Interim Pastor
<i>Paul Woodring</i>	Organist
<i>Dave Becker</i>	Director of
	Contemporary Music
<i>Tony Bloodworth</i>	Custodian
<i>Mary Ann Jakes</i>	Parish Administrator

**Church Office Hours 9:00am—3:00pm Monday-Friday**  
**Phone 805-544-2133**

**Email: [info@mtcarmelslo.org](mailto:info@mtcarmelslo.org) [www.mtcarmelslo.org](http://www.mtcarmelslo.org)**

**Our pastoral staff is here for you.**

In time of crisis, please contact the church office or  
Pastor Richard Rollefson 858-349-8862



Campus Ministry at Mount Carmel Lutheran Church

## PANCAKE PALOOZA

Monday, December 9 from 10pm to midnight



Take a break from studying bring your friends, and enjoy  
FREE (really? FREE? Yes, FREE!) PANCAKES!!!  
ALL students are welcome.

Mount Carmel Lutheran Church  
1701 Fredericks St.  
(corner of Grand Ave. and Hwy 101-S on-ramp)  
805-544-2133  
<https://lcmso.org/>

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

02 Steve Kinsey	26 Riley Pihl
04 Mike Dresp	28 Casey Lund
04 Joel Peterson	28 Treva Thornton
05 Cheryl Garnsey	28 Jenice Twomey
05 Sharon Haupt	30 Mary Christenson
07 Norm Smith	30 Lauren Huffaker
08 Judy Bremer	31 Linda Lex
14 Martha Reck	
15 Jean Hohenstein	
17 Holly Lyle	
17 Dean Meyer	
18 Darrel Voss	
25 Paula Jaster	
26 Jackie Kinsey	

happy  
birthday

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

12/16/1972	Sue & Grieg Cummings
12/28/1955	Dennis & Marilyn Brown
12/28/1960	Ed & Maureen Dresp
12/29/1979	Dennis & Catherine Kessler-Amling



**When:** January 26, 2020

**What:** Dave Becker Jazz and "Sax Spectacular" will perform live at Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church.

You don't want to miss the second in our concert series to benefit music programs in our local schools. All proceeds will be donated to music programs. Stay tuned for more info.

## PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY:

**December 1**—Kevin, Wende, & Olivia Dong; Michael & Dianne Draz; Ed & Marueen Dresp

**December 8**—Mike, Marina & Belen Dresp; Sally Eggen; Alan, Ruben & Adam Estes/Garcia

**December 15**—Pat Forrest; Patti & Marc Frey; Andy & Ingrid Frokjer, Anneke, Matthew, Katie & Andrew Moersdorf

**December 22**—Cheryl, Elisa & Erin Garnsey; Bob & Carol Grosse; Sue Haas-Clark

**December 1**—Sven, Kathryn & Finn Hammer/Winfrey; Steven Harding; Carol Harvey



Discussion:

"The Screw Tape Letters" by C.S. Lewis,  
led by Fr. Jim Nisbet and Rev. Luanne Griguoli  
Muhammad's birthday  
led by Dr. Hisham Assal

DECEMBER

9

FAITH

WELCOME

## OPENING DOORS OF INTERFAITH UNDERSTANDING

First Presbyterian Church SLO

7:30 pm

981 Marsh Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

*Mt. Carmel*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1701 Fredericks St.  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

Phone: 805-544-2133  
Email: [info@mtcarmelslo.org](mailto:info@mtcarmelslo.org)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### CHECK OUT FACEBOOK!

For updates from  
Mt. Carmel, go to  
[www.facebook.com/  
mtcarmelslo](http://www.facebook.com/mtcarmelslo)



**Southwest California Synod/Mt. Carmel  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.