



September 2020

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Some years back I traveled with my mother to the place of her earliest years, a farm in the part of Wisconsin made famous in Aldo Leopold's classic early work on conservation and ecology, *A Sand County Almanac*. The farmhouse and barn of my mother's childhood are no longer there; where a family homestead once stood, there are now only trees, the oldest planted long ago by her parents. Although there was a sense of loss and human finitude in the derelict farm, as the trees swayed in the wind, they were a sign of ongoing life and hope, a testimony to her parent's love and a silent witness to their awareness of time not measured merely in days or years. I was reminded of a poem by poet-farmer Wendell Berry, entitled "Planting Trees." He begins by speaking of the "ghost" of the old primeval forest cut down by his ancestors as he now plants seedlings:

*I become the familiar of that ghost
and its ally, carrying in a bucket
twenty trees smaller than weeds,
and I plant them along the way
of the departure of the ancient host.
I return to the ground its original music.
It will rise out of the horizon
of the grass, and over the heads
of the weeds, and it will rise over
the horizon of men's heads. As I age
in the world it will rise and spread,
and be for this place horizon
and orison, the voice of its winds.
I have made myself a dream to dream
of its rising, that has gentled my nights.
Let me desire and wish well the life
these trees may live when I
no longer rise in the mornings
to be pleased by the green of them
shining, and their shadows on the ground,
and the sound of the wind in them.*

With the approach of autumn and the month of September we are entering what is coming to be called the "season of Creation." Behind this seasonal emphasis observed by a number of denominations is fall as the harvest season of thanksgiving and the timing of the feast day of St. Francis in early October. But this focus is especially on our calling to be caretakers of creation.

In this place where the natural world is so beautiful, in this fire season we are also aware of the fragility of this beauty and wonder. And increasingly we are called to face the impact of global warming caused by human beings as a threat to God's world. What Berry calls elsewhere "the resurrection of the wild" is a testament to time measured not by human standards but lived out in light of the eternal.

To "wish well the life" of what comes after us is a worthy prayer as remember our calling to be good stewards of creation and to preserve its beauty and bounty for those who come long after us.

Peace,
Pastor Richard

Meetings in September

Meetings are held online via Zoom. Please visit our website at mtcarmelslo.org for links to the meetings. Visitors welcome!

Executive Team

Tuesday, Sep 8 at 6pm

Church Council

Thursday, Sep 17 at 6pm

**RSVP for in-person
worship on Wednesdays
at 7:00PM:**

[CLICK THIS LINK](#)

Or call the church office

**Sunday Worship
at Mt. Carmel
Sunday Worship Service**

9:30am

Join us online!

See page 2 for links to our worship services. All are welcome!

WORSHIP ONLINE

Join us on ZOOM for
worship and bible studies

Our worship options have changed with the Shelter at Home order. Please use the links listed here to join any of our worship services and Bible studies. We look forward to seeing you!

[How to join a ZOOM meeting - Instructions](#)

- [Link to SUNDAY morning Zoom worship](#)

Sundays at 9:30 AM

For telephone: +1 669 900 6833 (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 892 1868 1679

- [Link to WEDNESDAY Evening Zoom Service](#)

Wednesdays at 7:00 PM

For telephone: +1 669 900 9128 (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 867 5095 6162

- [Mt. Carmel YouTube channel](#)

WHAT TO EXPECT AT OUR SUNDAY MORNING ONLINE WORSHIP

To enhance our time together and our online worship experience, we will include an extended time before and after worship for conversation with microphones unmuted. During worship microphones should be muted except for the Sharing the Peace and Lord's Prayer.

9:00-9:25: Bring Your Own Coffee (BYOC)
Fellowship (unmuted)

9:25: Announcements (microphones muted)

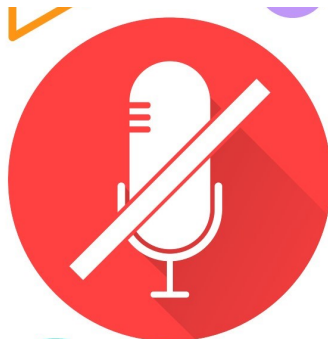
9:30: Worship

10:30 Post Service (PS) Fellowship (unmuted)

10:45: Adult Forum

Please remain muted during the worship service so that everyone may enjoy the experience.

Thank you!



CHILDREN AND TEEN'S MINISTRY

Join Ingrid on YouTube for children's sermons. Click the link or copy to your browser to watch online.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9Ny-io7V6ObxabcEmoDazBg>

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we delivered "blessing bags" to the children of mt Carmel on August 24. They contained a water bottle, notebooks, crayons, post it notes, hand sanitizer, and a back to school prayer.

We continue to provide resources to families with lessons, videos, and emails. We are hoping to do socially distant activities this fall, but will work with the church council and follow the CDC guidelines for gatherings.



## ADULT FORUM

Sundays following worship

Our September Adult Forums will continue the series on Luther's Small Catechisms with The Lord's Prayer, Baptism, and Communion.

## Bible Study

Fridays at 10:00 AM

[Link to FRIDAY morning Bible study](#)

For telephone: +1 669 900 6833 (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 552 129 433

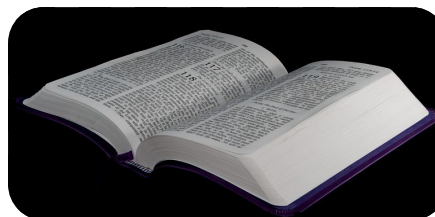
## Men's Bible Study

Saturdays at 8:30 AM

[Link to SATURDAY morning Bible study](#)

For telephone: +1 669 900 6833 (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 936 479 529



## REOPENING TASK FORCE REPORT TO CONGREGATION

September 2020

*The Reopening Task Force members: Patti Frey, Sharon Haupt, Pastor Richard Rollefson, Katie Moersdorf*

The task force continues meeting weekly. As of August 25, the State of California still allows outdoor worship gatherings.

- ◆ We've implemented in-person worship on Wednesday evenings and have worshipped twice in this fashion while continuing to broadcast over *Zoom*. The air quality on 8/19 was so poor that the outdoor setting of the service was cancelled. We have recommended that the Worship Team evaluate the effectiveness and appeal of this service.
- ◆ The team has completed a recommendation for resuming in-person communion at church and a recommendation on holding memorial services. The Council and the Worship Team were provided those documents on August 20 and by the time you read this report we hope those recommendations will have been approved.
- ◆ We've developed another on-line survey for gathering more feedback about days and times for offering in-person, free-standing communion services at church, as well as the possibility of holding those services in members' neighborhoods. We also want to build on congregants' desires for more *Zoom* community-building activities (this is not within the responsibility of the Task Force, but combining the two topics is efficient). As of August 25, the proposed survey questions have been distributed to council members and team leaders for their input and approval. (As before, a hard copy of the survey will be sent to those members who do not receive electronic communications.)
- ◆ We will be developing recommended procedures for possible neighborhood communion services and the delivery of communion to homebound / high-risk individuals. We hope to have those recommendations to the Worship Team and Council by the second week in September.
- ◆ Please remember that if you have business at church, you must follow the masking and distancing rules. Signage has been posted. High-touch areas should be wiped with sanitizer wipes after use. We will be placing instructions, sanitizing wipes and gloves to remind people to wipe down high-touch areas.

Dear friends in Christ, hold fast. We are still church, even if our ministry is being challenged by our circumstances. Stay in touch with one another. Julian of Norwich wrote "all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well."

Peace be with you,  
Patti Frey

**Face Covering  
Required\***



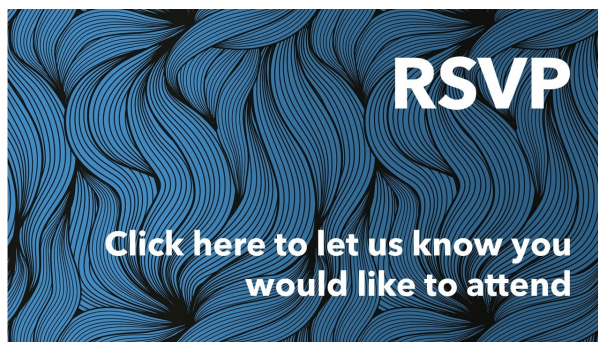
**Prior Entry**

\*Per California Department of Public Health Guidance

## WHY SHOULD I RSVP TO ATTEND CHURCH?

Remember the good-old-days (was that only six months ago?) when we could do things like meet someone for coffee, eat indoors at a restaurant, go to church, and shop without waiting in line to enter the store? Unfortunately, those days may not return as soon as we'd like, but the Reopening Task Force is working to create a safe environment when we are able to resume indoor worship services. When you RSVP to attend a service, the information is used to ensure appropriate seating for individuals and families before you arrive.

We're all looking forward to seeing each other again soon. Please help make the return to church easier by clicking the RSVP sign, or by calling the church office at 805-544-2133 to let us know you want to attend. It's easy and it's free. See you soon!





## MET Team Will Interview Members During September

All through the month of September, the MET Team will interview active members of Mt. Carmel to gather information to be provided to a future Call Committee. Input from members will be centered on God, Mt. Carmel and our community. Interviews will primarily be done by telephone or Zoom and should take 30 to 45 minutes. Each member will be asked 3 questions as follows:

### God Question

Tell me about a recent time you experienced God's presence in your personal life.

### Congregation Value Question

What do you treasure most about our life together at Mt. Carmel?

### Community Involvement Question

What opportunities is the Holy Spirit providing us to help us  
Share God's love with our neighbors?

Members will be contacted in September to schedule interviews. Your participation is strongly encouraged.

## Discussion of Synod Goals for Congregations Sunday, August 30—at the Adult Forum

Marshall Pihl and Council members will present Synod Goals from the Spring Assembly that will help define who we are as a congregation and where we could commit our focus. All Synod congregations are being urged to study and discuss these Synod goals and questions.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE DOCUMENT FROM THE SYNOD](#)

## Communion at Home

Sunday, September 6

Elements to gather:

Wine or juice

Crackers or bread

## Observing Communion at Home

Sunday, September 6

Beginning in September, we will share Communion on the first Sunday of each month during our online worship service. We ask that you gather your elements prior to the service—a cup with wine or juice, and a plate with crackers or bread. Pastor Richard will lead us through the Great Thanksgiving as though we are gathered in person.

Some may choose not to participate, and that's okay. As always, All Are Welcome at the Table.



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

|            |                       |
|------------|-----------------------|
| 09/01/2000 | Ken & MaryAnn Jakes   |
| 09/07/1963 | Dave & Sharon Lonsway |
| 09/19/1970 | John & Nancy Cook     |
| 09/22/2012 | Jen & Brian DeClark   |

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

|    |                 |    |                  |
|----|-----------------|----|------------------|
| 04 | Walt Bremer     | 19 | Jonny Uder       |
| 05 | Brayden DeClark | 20 | Kate McAbee      |
| 08 | Caitlin Cook    | 24 | Wyatt Lund       |
| 08 | Glen Priddy     | 30 | Brooklyn Mansell |
| 09 | Marshall Pihl   |    |                  |
| 10 | Steve Bennett   |    |                  |
| 12 | John Perreault  |    |                  |
| 14 | Sid Bennett     |    |                  |
| 14 | Tony Bloodworth |    |                  |
| 17 | Allie Schultze  |    |                  |
| 19 | Betty Johnson   |    |                  |
| 19 | Chris Nicol     |    |                  |

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 the October Summit is September 20**



### Prayer Requests

*Jeannie Ledford; Dorothy McCoid & Family;  
Alan Estes, Jr.*

### PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY:

**September 6**—Cheryl, Elisa & Erin Garnsey; Bob & Carol Grosse; Sue Haas-Clark

**September 13**—Sven, Kathryn & Finn Hammer/Winfrey; Steven & Cindy Harding; Carol Harvey

**September 20**—Sharon Haupt; Susan Hay; Carlyn, John & Lily Hinds

**September 27**—Jean Hohenstein; Monica, Ariana & Caleb Holman; Sheryl, Tony, Lauren & Fiona Huffaker



## The People's Kitchen

of San Luis Obispo

**Mt. Carmel serves lunch at the Prado Center on the first Friday of each month.**

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.

### Schedule for September 4:

#### Hot Dish (serves 12+)

Nancy Cook  
Dianne Drazz  
Betty Johnson  
Judy Kirkhart  
Annette Martin  
Laurie Musiel  
Nancy Priddy  
Janis Sexton

#### Salad (serves 12+)

Ingrid Frokjer  
J. Remington  
Ruth Rollefson

#### 2 Large Cans of Fruit

Maureen Dresp  
Cheryl Garnsey

#### 3 Gallons Whole Milk

Ro Cannon-Miller

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

### HUNGER HEROES

In a meeting with Nancy Priddy and others, I agreed to take responsibility for the SLO Food Bank outreach. An Adult Forum in February was focused on developing strategies for how we could best serve the Food Bank. There were several good ideas about how we could meet that challenge. I created a plan of action using these ideas, and shared with the congregation in the March Summit newsletter.

I contracted the virus in March, and by the time I recovered we were holding worship services online and observing social distancing. I began to strategize on how we at Mt. Carmel could help the Food Bank under the current circumstances. I donated \$500 as a way to give back for my recovering from the virus. However, that was so little compared to how many people were striving to put food on their table. I came up with a plan to help the Food Bank without anyone having to leave quarantine. The plan was to get two people to challenge Mt. Carmel to contribute to the Food Bank, with the challengers committing \$1,000 for every \$1000 donated. Patti Frey set up the donor page on the Food Bank website, and we were good to go. We advertised this opportunity in the June Summit newsletter and in the Vistas.

It was incredible how fast this took off. Mt. Carmel has contributed \$4,000 and the challengers have matched that commitment. The challengers have promised another \$1,000, as well. When that challenge is met we will have sponsored 70,000 meals for the families of SLO County. The Lord said that to whom much is given, much is expected. You have responded to that admonition many times over.

Depending on the situation when we reach that goal, I am prepared to go back to the challengers to determine how they want to proceed. Highest kudos to the people of MCLC, for helping the neediest in this pandemic.

Lastly, I would like to share a tune with you entitled Hunger Heroes, loosely based on the tune for "Are you Sleeping Brother John".

*Hunger Heroes, Hunger Heroes,  
Yes we are, Yes we are,  
Hunger Heroes, Yes we are,  
God is great, We are blessed,  
And we give back as Hunger Heroes.*

Marilyn Brown, Food Bank Coordinator



## Meals That Connect SLO County

**Meals That Connect** has an ongoing need for volunteer drivers, regular and on-call, to deliver meals to seniors homes in the San Luis Obispo area.

Training will be provided on the job. A current Driver's License & proof of insurance, along with a background check is required. Security Awareness Training and Elder Abuse education will be provided.

If you are interested in volunteering with Meals That Connect please contact San Luis Obispo Site Manager, Janine Lloyd at 805-543-0469.



The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's national day of service program, "God's Work, Our Hands," is scheduled for Sunday, September 13. You may remember that last year we assembled hygiene kits for our homeless neighbors in San Luis Obispo. Although this year we may not be able to physically gather together in a service project, we are still hoping to find an appropriate activity that serves those in need. Some ideas include a sponsoring a letter writing campaign to benefit Bread for the World, or the Lutheran Hunger Appeal, or a "Drive-in food Drive" to gather staples such as rice, beans and pasta for our sister congregation Iglesia Luterana de Santa Cruz

in Santa Maria. If you have an idea for a project please let us know by contacting the church office by phone at 805-544-2133, or email at [info@mtcarmelslo.org](mailto:info@mtcarmelslo.org). Watch for more information in upcoming VISTA's.

## Blood Drive Monday, September 28 2pm-6pm in Quist Hall

Space is limited, so sign up early to reserve you spot! All donors will be tested for Covid-19 antibodies.

[Click here to schedule your appointment.](#)

**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

### 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>MaryAnn Jakes</i>          | Parish Administrator         |
| <i>Ingrid Frokjer</i>         | Director of                  |
|                               | Children and Teen Ministries |
| <i>Deanna Schultze</i>        | Nursery Caregiver            |

### Mount Carmel Church Council

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| President        | Marshall Pihl    |
| Vice President   | Patti Frey       |
| Secretary        | Carol Harvey     |
| Treasurer        | Sherri Parkinson |
| Members-At-Large |                  |
| Erik Brun        | Jen DeClark      |
| Chuck Kilstrom   | Wayne Lippold    |
| Jan Uder         |                  |



# How To Be An Anti-Racist Book Discussion



**When:** Discussions begin Thursday, August 27 at 6:30pm

**Where:** via Zoom video conference (see link below)

**Who:** Everyone

Books are available from retailers in hard cover, paperback, e-book, and audiobook formats. Shop online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or [Bookshop.org](https://www.Bookshop.org) to order your copy today!

*Mt. Carmel*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1701 Fredericks St.  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

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

#### OUR MISSION

*Celebrating God's grace through  
worship, learning and service.*

#### CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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

God's work. Our hands.