



October 2020

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Singing Lament

A statement from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America announcing a new hymnal, All Creation Sings, connected its release with the upcoming commemoration of St. Francis and the "Season of Creation:" "Scripture invites us, creatures of God, to join the whole creation in singing . . . to 'Sing a new song . . . all the earth.' Our songs join the trees of the wood, the thundering seas, and the joyful fields."

While many of the songs in All Creation Sings center on our praise for the wonders and beauty of the natural world, in light of climate change and environmental distress, there is also a recognition that creation also cries out in lament (Romans 8:22-23). The announcement highlighted Jeannette Lindholm's hymn entitled "Before the Waters Nourished Earth."

*Before the waters nourished earth or night imagined morning,
a Love conceived the universe and reveled in its forming.
This Love remained as time revealed the loss of Eden's glory
and, grieving, holds in memory each tragic human story.*

As the article notes, Lindholm originally wrote this text for a memorial service of a friend who had died by suicide. At this friend's funeral, Psalm 23 was read and Lindholm chose the tune ST.COLUMBA to pair with her new hymn in the hope it would call to mind "The King of Love, My Shepherd Is" and the verdant pastures and still waters of Psalm 23. But as this hymn's origin and its words convey, "as creatures, we grieve for ourselves and those we love, especially when death comes too soon. And these words of lament are also needed in the face of the groaning of a creation in distress. When waters dry up, pastures flood and fires decimate forests our delight in creation turns to horror as we witness the catastrophic effects of climate change. In the midst of so much sadness and loss—in the face of the pandemic, political divisions and environmental destruction—the danger is that our sorrow can overwhelm us and lead us to despair.

*Despair, so deep it bears no name, or sorrows paralyzing
cannot revoke Love's faithful claim to dwell within our dying.*

Yet as Lindholm seeks to convey, even in death, even in lament, God's love is present:

*The Love that called creation good all goodness still is bringing.
This Love turns death again to life and silence into singing.*

As the article concludes:

The final stanza of this hymn expresses hope amid another grief: our inability to join creation's song as a full body of singers, gathered in community, delighting one another's presence. As promised in Revelation, at the end all creatures will gather in song. Our songs of lament tell the truth of the despair and destruction within and without. We need to voice such lament to God in prayer and song. Yet we pray that as God promised, Holy Love dwelling within and among us will do a new thing. That new songs will spring forth. May it be so.

Peace,
Pastor Richard

Meetings in October

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

Executive Team

Tuesday, Oct 6 at 6pm

Church Council

Thursday, Oct 15 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: 849 4786 1947

- [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!



Readings and Psalm

October 4 (18th Sunday after Pentecost)

Lector: John Cook

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

The Song of the vineyard

Psalm 80:7-15

Second Reading: Philippians: 3:4b-14

Nothing Surpasses the value of knowing Christ

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:33-46

The parable of the vineyard owner's son

October 11 (19th Sunday after Pentecost)

Lector: Monica Holman

First Reading: Isaiah 25:1-9

The feast of victory

Psalm 23

Second Reading: Philippians: 4:1-9

Rejoice in the Lord always

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:1-14

The parable of the unwelcome guest at the wedding feast

October 18 (20th Sunday after Pentecost)

Lector: Bob Grosse

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

An earthly ruler as the instrument of God's will

Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Thanksgiving for the church at Thessalonica

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:15-22

A teaching of giving to the emperor and to God

October 25 (Reformation Sunday)

Lector: Chuck Kilstrom

First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

Holiness revealed in acts of justice

Psalm 1

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

The apostle's tender care for the Thessalonians

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:34-46

Two great commandments: love for God and neighbor



ADULT FORUM

Sundays following worship

October Schedule

A God's Eye View of Government and Our Part in It

The ELCA Church Council has drafted a new Social Statement "Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy" and is asking all congregations to read and discuss it before the November elections. It will be the subject of our Adult Forums for the first three Sundays in October. Since we are in a Zoom setting, it will be important to read the statement before the Adult Forums—just like doing on-line classes in schools these days. Click on the links below to view and/or download the schedule and the reading material.

[Link to Reading & Discussion Schedule](#)

[Link to Government & Civic Engagement Document](#)

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

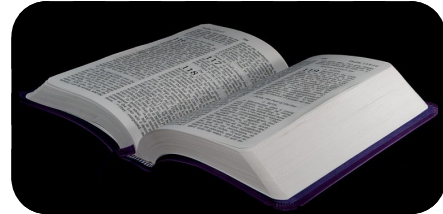
Men's Bible Study

Saturdays at 8:30 AM

[Link to SATURDAY morning Bible study](#)

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

Meeting ID: 936 479 529



Special thanks each week to our musicians and singers each week:

Paul Woodring / Dave Becker / Joan Pedersen
Sue Haas-Clark / Patti Frey / Richard Rollefson

Church Office Hours

9:00am—3:00pm Monday-Friday
Phone 805-544-2133

Email: info@mtcarmelslo.org 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

Rev. Richard Rollefson
Paul Woodring
Dave Becker

Tony Bloodworth
MaryAnn Jakes
Ingrid Frokjer

Deanna Schultze

Interim Pastor
Organist
Director of
Contemporary Music
Custodian
Parish Administrator
Director of
Children and Teen Ministries
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 | |

LISTENING TO GOD: PRAYER AT NIGHT'S APPROACHING

WEDNESDAYS AT 7:00PM

Pastor Richard Rollefson leads this quiet service each Wednesday evening at 7:00pm on Zoom. Click the link on page 2 to join the meeting, or join by phone and enter the meeting ID and passcode.

For telephone: +1 669 900 9128 (San Jose)
Meeting ID: 867 5095 6162

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-io7V6ObxbcEmoDazBg>

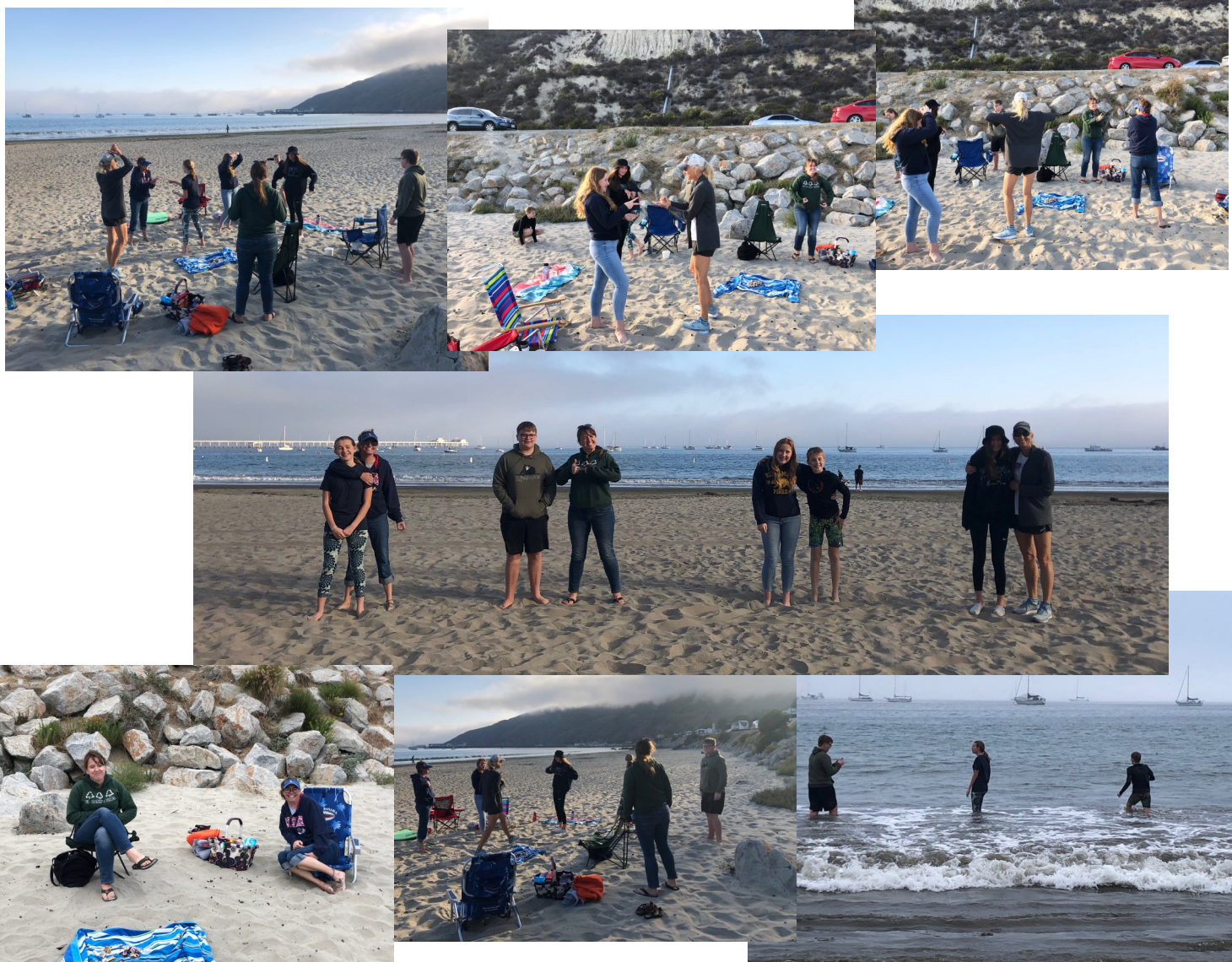
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Sunday, October 25, is Youth Sunday! More details will be available in the coming weeks.

Ingrid continues to send weekly emails to the Sunday school families with resources for Sunday school and children's church. This email includes a YouTube link to a children's sermon from Ingrid, some resources from our local Bible camps, and a lesson connected to the gospel reading.

We delivered Blessing Bags to the Sunday school families to celebrate the beginning of school. We will be mailing magnets to members of Mt. Carmel with the names and birthdays of our children. We are asking Mt. Carmel members to pray for the child on their magnet, especially on their birthday. Look for those in the mail in the next few weeks. We are also planning a fall event for the children of Mt. Carmel and the community. More details to come! Thank you for keeping the children and families of Mt. Carmel in your prayers.

The kids in our High School Group held their annual Kickoff Bonfire on September 20. We played games, shared highs and lows from the summer, and planned for the coming months. Thanks to Monica for planning such a fun evening.



## FROM THE REOPENING TASK FORCE...

**Report to Congregation  
October 2020**

The task force continues meeting weekly. San Luis Obispo county has advanced to Tier 2 of reopening restrictions. This permits indoor worship services with caps on attendance. Outdoor worship has already been permitted, and youth groups and day camps were allowed in September.

Recommended procedures for administering in-person outdoor communion at church, providing communion to shut-ins and holding outdoor memorial/funeral services are all finalized and sent to the appropriate ministry teams for approval.

A procedure for holding outdoor Sunday worship services is in development and will be going to the Worship Team for preliminary review in early October.

Preliminary procedures for holding indoor Sunday worship services and funeral services will be developed and sent to the Worship Team by the end of October.

**CAT activities:**

- \* An extensive procedure for a variety of potential activities has been developed and sent to CAT. The Task Force is waiting for feedback.
- \* CAT held a September beach activity that met restrictions.
- \* CAT is interested in offering a Halloween activity. The task force will have a recommendation about this the first week in October.
- \* Confirmation service as a CAT activity is being discussed.

On 9/22, the Jewish Student Center next door to Mount Carmel asked permission from council to hold hour-long, evening Yom Kippur services in the upper parking lot on 9/27 & 9/28. The task force supplied the COVID restrictions that would need to be complied with for council to approve the request.

September survey results. 22 responses were received.

- \* Stand alone, outdoor Communion services at church: 77% of respondents expressed interest in such a service being held on Sunday mornings.
- \* About 1/3 of those respondents also expressed an interest in a Wednesday morning communion service.
- \* The Worship Team will need to decide how to best implement the congregation's feedback. Some suggestions include:

- \* Modify the current 1st Sunday of the month communion service to be both in-person and live-streamed, with portions of the service modified so that it is shorter. In-person activities, even outside, are advised to be shortened to lessen interactions with others.
- \* Keep the 1st Sunday morning communion service live-streamed "as is". Add another Sunday morning monthly communion service that would be in-person as well as live-streamed, with portions of the service modified so that it is shorter.
- \* Hold a stand-alone in-person communion service on Wednesday mornings.
- \* Stand alone, outdoor Communion services in neighborhoods not feasible.

Suggestions received about CAT have been forwarded to them.

**Potential on-line activities:**

- \* Some interest expressed for an a) meditation/relaxation group and for a b) social group.
- \* Strong interest expressed for a midweek, evening Bible study group.
- \* Results sent to pertinent ministry team leaders and liaisons.

We understand that most churches in our conference are not worshipping in-person. Some people are unable or are afraid to attend in person, while for others, live-streaming may enable them to choose the convenience of staying home over the effort involved in attending in-person worship. The task force will continue its work so that our congregation is well-prepared as in-person activities resume.

In gratitude for God's many blessings,

Patti Frey

**Face Covering  
Required\***



**Prior to Entry**

\*Per California Department of Public Health Guidance





### **Blessing of the Animals** **Saturday, October 3 at 11:00am** **Mt. Carmel Patio**

You—and your pet(s)—are invited to an outdoor “Blessing of the Animals” worship at Mt. Carmel. In commemoration of the Feast Day of St. Francis, patron saint of animals and environmental concern, we will gather under the canopy in front of the church for a simple service of blessing as we maintain physical distancing. If you cannot attend with your pet, you are invited to bring a picture. You can also join us while remaining in your car in the parking lot or online with Zoom.

[Link to Blessing of the Animals service](#)

Meeting ID: 811 3938 6768  
 Passcode: 420707

Dial by your location  
 +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)  
 +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

## **Communion at Home**

**Sunday, October 4**

**Elements to gather:**

**Wine or juice**

**Crackers or bread**

### **Observing Communion at Home**

**Sunday, October 4**

We 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

10/06/2006 Sven Hammer & Kathryn Winfrey  
 10/10/1970 Mike & Val Lund  
 10/11/1973 Walt & Helen Rehm  
 10/17/1987 John & Rebecca Keisler

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

01 Dianne Drazie  
 03 Kelsey Engel  
 04 Barbara Jauregui  
 05 Monica Holman  
 06 Marc Frey  
 08 Dave Parkinson  
 08 Mike Lund  
 10 Daniel Schultze  
 10 Jack Moen  
 13 John Rollefson  
 20 Susan Bouvette  
 20 JoAnn Bennett  
 24 Bill Almas

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 November Summit is October 20**



### Prayer Requests

Sid Bennett—*Recovering from a fall*  
 Langston Hay—*Friend of Pat Forrest's family*

### PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY:

**October 4**—Bev Humphry; Ken & MaryAnn Jakes; Barbara Jauregui  
**October 11**—Russ & Kay Jensen; Steven & Jill Jobst; Dale & Betty Johnson  
**October 18**—John & Rebecca Keisler; Jackie, Steve, Sarah & Jenni Kinsey; Jerry & Judie Kirkhart  
**October 25**—Laura & Dave Krueger; Jeannie Ledford; Suzanne & Dante Leedale



## 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 October 2: Hot Dish (serves 12+)

Pat Forrest  
Dave Lonsway  
Rebecca Keisler  
Janis Sexton  
Kathy Towle  
Jan Uder  
Carol Winger

### Salad (serves 12+)

Karen Colombo  
Kathy Meyer  
Walt & Judy Bremer

### 2 Large Cans of Fruit

Wende Dong  
Jennifer Bobell

### 3 Gallons Whole Milk

Julie Martin

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

## HUNGER HEROES

Mt Carmel is within a few dollars of meeting their Food Bank goal of \$5,000, and the challengers has paid their match for a total of \$10,000 for a total of 70,000 meals. The Food Bank Board of Directors gave MCLC highest kudos for your generosity. However, the need for food has greatly increased and with no federal gov't assistance on the horizon, the need is not going to diminish in the foreseeable future.

I checked with the challengers and they are willing to go for another \$1,000, so the donation from the congregation has been increased to \$6,000 which will bring the total donation to \$12,000 and 84,000 meals. Thank you for all that you do.

Marilyn Brown,

Food Bank Coordinator



SLO  
**FOOD  
BANK**

## From the Reopening Task Force...



The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has published an article on hand sanitizers. The article provides general information about hand sanitizers and a link to a listing of unapproved hand sanitizers. The listing is searchable by manufacturer, distributor, or product name. You can find the article by its title, "Is Your Hand Sanitizer on FDA's List of Products You Should Not Use?" on the FDA website, or by clicking this link: [Is Your Hand Sanitizer on FDA's List of Products You Should Not Use?](#). The article was current as of September 3.



## Supporting Iglesia Santa Cruz....

Mt. Carmel will sponsor a Drive-Thru donation in October focusing on personal care items for men, women, and children. Full size, unscented items are best as they will go to families of all sizes.

Additionally, bags of Masa are also needed.

Please bring your donations to the church on Saturday, October 10, between 11am and 3pm.

### Instructions for making a safe, no-contact donation:

1. Place your donations in a bag or box, then set them on the back seat of your vehicle, or in the trunk.
2. Enter the main driveway on Fredericks Street.
3. Drive to the loading area near the patio.
4. We'll greet you with a smile (under our masks, of course) and a warm hello.
5. Volunteers will get the bag or box from your back seat.
6. Exit the parking area to Grand Ave

Volunteers to accept donations and to deliver to Santa Maria are welcome. Please contact MaryAnn in the church office at 805-544-2133.

Benefiting Iglesia Santa Cruz



### Suggested items include:

- ❖ Hair care
- ❖ Body care
- ❖ Feminine hygiene products
- ❖ Shaving cream & disposable razors
- ❖ Oral care
- ❖ Baby wipes & diapers
- ❖ Face masks & hand sanitizer
- ❖ Masa (*special request*)

*Full size, unscented items are best*

## DRIVE-THRU PERSONAL CARE ITEM DRIVE

AT MT. CARMEL



Thank you to everyone who participated in our 'God's Work, Our Hands' event on September 12. We held a drive-thru food drive benefiting Iglesia Santa Cruz. Your donations helped provide much needed basic food supplies for the members of our sister congregation in Santa Maria. Here are a few pictures after the event:



"God's work. Our hands." Sunday  
September 13, 2020





#VitalToLife



**ADVANCE  
APPOINTMENTS**  
are encouraged to help  
maintain social distancing.



All donors must bring  
and wear a **MASK** or  
**CLOTH-BASED FACE  
COVERING.**



We'll let you know if  
you have antibodies  
**TO HELP PATIENTS  
BATTLING COVID-19.**



**DONATE BLOOD**  
vitalant.org 877-25-VITAL

## MT CARMEL LUTHERAN CHURCH BLOOD DRIVE

**SATURDAY, OCT 17TH**  
**9 AM – 1 PM**

**IN QUIST HALL**  
**1701 FREDERICKS ST.**  
**SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401**

SIGN UP TODAY AT [BLOOD4LIFE.ORG](https://blood4life.org)  
OR CALL (805) 542-8500

vitalant.

*Please click the picture, or phone 805-542-8500, to schedule your appointment*

## 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.