

Dear Intercessors,

April 2016

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 1 Timothy 2: 1-2

It's that season again – elections! I mean, Easter! He is risen! He is risen, indeed! The election primaries and caucuses have definitely kept our attention this year, waiting to see who will rise to the top. We've hardly gotten started and it already feels like we've been bombarded by ads and election news stories for months. We're seeing strong opinions and some of the sharp divisions we face as a nation coming to the forefront.

This year's candidates are also a bit more colorful, making it all the more interesting, even disconcerting at times. The so called anti-establishment candidates – Trump and Sanders, have been able to resonate with a lot of people where the more traditional candidates have not been able to. It is quite shocking. There is change in the air.

We are also seeing a lot of change in and around the Christian church in America. Large, stalwart institutions, organizations, and denominations are dividing, shrinking, combining, or closing in ways that make us wonder what the church will look like in a few years. Something is happening.

Our culture has shifted. Things that once worked, don't work in the same way. It makes me a bit uneasy. In times like these we start looking for something solid, of substance, that's certain.

For the disciples that first Easter, everything was up in the air. They needed a miracle to cling to, and promise to look forward to, and hope that lasts eternal. It came in small pieces – brief appearances at just the right time. He came to grieving women, to a room filled with fearful men, on a beach where fishermen weren't catching anything. He came to the people where they were.

Jesus still comes to us today, surprising us as he did in those appearances. He comes through the embrace of a friend in the name of Jesus. He comes through the spoken and written Word, enlightening and calling us to repentance and forgiveness, lifting the burden of guilt of sin. Jesus comes today into the church divisions, terror attacks, and chaos through faithful people like you who are responding to His calling to be Jesus to the world, one person at a time.

In this season – whether it is Easter or elections, we can put Paul's words into action, and pray.

Pastor Dan Baker

April 2016
Mount Carmel
Calendar of Events

1-3 Quilting Retreat
Scrapbooking Retreat

6 Stroke Screening Clinic

7-10 Inspired Images (Lord of
Life) Maple Grove Re-
treat

15-17 Spring Wellness Retreat

29-1 Mount Carmel's Spring
Women's Retreat



April 2016 Prayer Highlights:

Camp Scholarships – Do you know a family that is struggling with grief, loss of employment, divorce, abuse, finances? Would a week at Mount Carmel help bring them healing and hope? Of course! Besides praying for them, could you invite them to come with you to camp? You could help provide some financial assistance (anonymously) – offer to pay for the kids? We also have some scholarship funds we make available through our annual golf tournament fundraiser (call registrar Shelli). Together we can really help and share in the joy of seeing the Gospel at work in people’s lives. Pray for healing and hope for the families coming this summer.

Spring Women’s Retreat – Pray for our leaders: Diane Odermann and Patricia Baglien. Pray that God will inspire them and empower them as they lead the retreat. Pray that the women coming will be blessed by the teaching and renewed in their own calling to love and serve the Lord.

Summer Staff – We’ve got a wonderful group of youth on fire to come and serve the Lord this summer at family camp. While they are working for us, it is more than that, it is an intentional time of faith development that we invest in them in the midst of their service. Pray that God will unite them as a staff this summer, centered on the Lord Jesus, and that God will use them to care for and minister to guests this summer in incredible ways. Pray for each one: **Guys**: Kaj Bjorge, Johs Bjorge, David Blackstad, Lukas Blazej (Slovakian), Cole Kindem, Nik Meyer, John Stone, Steve Wagner, Samuel White, Aaron Van Mannen; **Girls**: Anna Bjorge, Kierra Blackstad, Erin Brohmhal, Annika Detweiler, Martina Cervokova (Slovakian), Emma Gjesdahl, Elizabeth Hermodson-Olsen, Beth Jobst, Caitlyn Swenson, Kelly Vind

Kitchen Manager – We’re in the process of looking for a new Kitchen Manager to lead our food service this summer. This is a rewarding, but challenging position. We love our caramel rolls! We are looking at a few candidates and need your prayers to make sure the right person comes to bless our kitchen and feed us well this summer.

Volunteers – We’re looking forward to spring volunteer week (May 2-6) and are praying for a great group again this year. If you haven’t tried it, you should! It is as much a time of service as it is for fellowship and fun. Pray we have a great turnout like we did last year, including you!

Walk-In Freezer – Construction is at a standstill until we receive more funding. We’re waiting on a possible \$5000 grant this month, which will help pay for the construction we’ve done so far. We’ve looking at a few other sources of funding, but won’t continue until we have enough to complete it. Pray the funds will come in and we can have it running in time for summer.

April 2016

Mount Carmel

General Prayers

1. **Camp Scholarships** – Pray for healing and hope for the families coming this summer.
2. **Spring Women’s Retreat** – Pray for the leaders – that God will inspire them and empower them as they lead the retreat. Pray that the women coming will be blessed.
3. **Summer Staff** – Pray that the Lord will unite them as a staff this summer, centered on the Lord Jesus and that God will use them to care for and minister to guests this summer in incredible ways. Pray for each one of them as well.
4. **Kitchen Manager** – Pray that the right person comes to bless our kitchen and feed us well this summer.
4. **Volunteers** – Pray we have a great turnout like we did last year to help us prepare for summer.
5. **Walk-in Freezer** – Pray the funds will come in and we can have it up and running in time for summer.



Intercessory Update

April 2016

Dear Intercessors, Friends in Christ

“Whatever you do, work at it with all of your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men...It is the Lord Jesus Christ you are serving.” Col. 3: 24-25

We have now come four months into our new year, 2016, and pondering a bit, we can hardly believe how the time has slipped by so quickly. The Bible says in I Cor. 3: 22b, “He has given you the present and all of the future, all are yours and you belong to Christ and Christ is God’s.” So it is with life. Days come and days go by like a vapor or a fog which dissipates in mid-day.

However, let us take the time to **LIVE** to the fullest, and thank and praise God for a new day of life to work for Him, body, mind and spirit. Each new day, I try bring some joy to someone, to reach out to someone who is sad, troubled, or discouraged, and to rejoice with someone in their joy of a new baby, or a new job, maybe in a new house. Read Ps. 143:8

Also, let us **LOVE!** The Bible tells us to “Love one another as I have loved you,” I John 4:11. There are many ways to love, and to show love. You have your own way. I find joy and love in writing a short letter maybe to a shut-in, or to a grandchild, or to a teenager, or a telephone call to someone lonely and grieving, or talking with a neighbor who has a handicapped husband. I can share my faith and pray for each one.

To **LAUGH** and bring happiness to someone is so important to me. May be I can teach someone how to laugh with God in good and bad times, and to make them smile again. We all by a loving word or action can reach out and help someone every day in some small way.

Let us continue to pray, uphold and support Pastor Dan in his leadership, and Mt. Carmel as we move into the summer season. The Lord has led and guided by His Holy Spirit to fill summer staff, teachers and speakers. As Orval and I plan to attend Mt. Carmel this coming summer, we are excited and happy to see all the surprises God has planned for all of you as well. “Live a life filled with love for others,” Eph. 5: 2

I have an anonymous reading entitled, “Our House Rules” taken from a memorial service bulletin. I would like to think of it as God’s rules, and I share it with you to ponder.

Love God and love each other.

Be generous with hugs and warm wishes.

Be patient and tenderhearted.

Pray often.

Love with a thankful heart.

These words remind me (and us) of the Fruits of the Spirit, in Galatians 5:22.

God bless you and your families as you march forward lifting high the cross of Jesus.

Bernell Moren
Minneapolis, MN