

Dear Intercessors,

March 2016

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” Psalm 46: 1

Hundreds of songs and hymns have been inspired by this Psalm. The words touch a deep nerve and help express our great human need for God. Here are a few hymns that might be familiar:

A Mighty Fortress is Our God; Crown Him with Many Crowns; How Firm a Foundation; Be Still and Know that I am God; O God, our Help in Ages Past; Shall We Gather at the River; Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing; and, When Peace, Like a River, Attendeth my Way.

One of my seminary teachers said: “The pastor preachers the Word to the congregation, and the congregation sings it back.” How true! I’m always amazed how the Hymn of the Day, following a sermon I’ve given, so often compliments the Bible reading and brings the message even closer to home. That’s why hymns and psalms are so important in the life of the church.

This Psalm speaks a word of promise to people facing hardships, whose worlds are falling apart around them, who are carrying a heaven burden. We need to know there is someone greater than us, looking out for us, when we hear stories of war and mass shootings, cancer and disease, death, corruption, divorce, or violence.

In an election year, especially now during these key primary dates, I really think we need some intense, focused prayer. The candidates are vying for their party’s spot, and, as we all know, it is getting ugly. There is a lot of frustration out there – can our government really fix it?

It is in times like these, that we need to be praying for our leaders, that God would raise up godly leaders with wisdom, who will be champions for peace, who will fight for what is good and right, and who have a heart for the least among us. Leaders that will be more like Jesus.

We also need safe places where we can gather to hear a word of hope, where we can find strength. Mount Carmel has been just that, a place of refuge, for so many, in a troubled world. Pray that Mount Carmel will continue to be a place of refuge and strength for all who come here.

Pastor Dan Baker

March 2016

Mount Carmel

Calendar of Events

4-6 Calvary Lutheran Retreat

5-6 St. Mary’s Marriage Prep Course

11-13 Christ the King Family Camp

12 Mount Carmel Board of Trustees Meeting

20 Palm Sunday

27 Easter Sunday



March 2016 Prayer Highlights:

Summer Family Camps – Weeks are filling up fast now – summer is coming! It is exciting to see people making plans to come, including a lot of new families and individuals. Please pray that God will continue to inspire people to come, and to invite others to come and share in experiencing Jesus at Mount Carmel. Let's fill up the camp this year to overflowing...

Spring Women's Retreat – We're excited to have Diane Odermann and Patricia Baglien coming back this spring to lead our women's retreat. Pray for inspiration and direction as they walk through some of the wonderful women we find in the Bible.

Leif's Raiders – The group of volunteers from Sheboygan Falls, WI is considering coming back to do some more work this spring, perhaps in early June. We are looking at a few possible projects – repairing the beach sauna, shingle the summer staff housing (the "U"), renovate the summer staff bathroom, and some finishing touches on the renovated Youth Chapel. Pray that as we make plans, that God would open the door to accomplish great things again through these wonderful volunteers.

Board of Trustees Meeting – The board will be getting updates on the Shine campaign, budgets, Line of Credit, and mortgage refinancing. They will be reviewing a draft of the Endowment Fund policy, housing, pricing, and mortgage refinancing. Pray for the board as we take care of normal business and continue to prayerfully look to the future and God's calling for this ministry.

Saving Money – We want to be good stewards of the resources that you're entrusted with. With that in mind, we've challenged the staff to find ways to be more efficient and save us some money, in staffing as well as in other areas like printing and marketing. You may notice a few changes in our mailings, including more efforts to move toward emailing more of our communication pieces like: the Intercessor's Letter, Messenger Newsletter, Proclaimer's Voice Newsletter, Proclaimer's Annual Report, Thank You letters for donations, and the end of the year Giving Statements. How much could this save? Thousands of dollars. Pray this transition goes well and actually improves how we communicate with our supporters.

Summer Staff – Keep them in your prayers as they make plans for the summer, that their hearts and minds and bodies would be ready to serve the Lord at camp this summer.

March 2016

Mount Carmel

General Prayers

1. **Summer Family Camps** – Pray that God will continue to inspire people to come, and to invite others to come and share in the experience of Jesus at Mount Carmel.
2. **Spring Women's Retreat** – Pray for inspiration and direction as they walk through some of the wonderful women we find in the Bible.
3. **Leif's Raiders** – Pray that we make plans, that God would open doors to accomplish great things again through these wonderful volunteers.
4. **Board of Trustees Meeting** – Pray for the board as we take care of normal business and continue to prayerfully look to the future and God's calling for this ministry.
5. **Saving Money** – Pray this transition goes well and actually improves how we communicate with supporters.
6. **Summer Staff** – Pray that their hearts and minds and bodies would be ready to serve the Lord at camp this summer.

Intercessory Update

March 2016

Dear Friends of Mount Carmel and Fellow-Prayer Warriors,

Greetings: As we move through the 40 weekdays of Lent, Ash Wednesday through Easter, we spiritually remind ourselves that our focus is on Jesus and His work for us. Lent is variously practiced in Christian churches by fasting and penitence. Rather than dropping a habit or a practice of our lifestyle to daily remind ourselves of our commitment to Christ and His Church, I like to add something as a reminder that I set my mind to honor the work and person of Jesus my Lord.

Many years ago, I received a crucifix cross for Lent made of horseshoe nails as a minder to me an to my mind that Jesus is my Lord. I wear that rugged cross during Lent—Ash Wednesday through Good Friday. In the Apostle Paul’s Letter to the Romans, (12:2) he wrote, “. . . Be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove (three things), what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Mount Carmel has had a white cross on the lawn that can be seen from a distance and from any boat that passes close along the lakeshore. That symbol is a constant reminder to all of us. So also is the cross of flowers embedded in the mound of flowers in the summer that Mount Carmel focus’ on Jesus Only, our motto since the beginning in 1938. That is our history, our legacy, our heritage.

You are encouraged and challenged to take on a new growth experience with someone as you pray for the needs and continued direction of Mount Carmel. And do consider inviting someone to Mount Carmel to enrich that person’s life.

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