

Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. Genesis 1:11

Do you like growing things? Maybe a vegetable garden, a hobby farm, or even a professional farmer? I recently was able to take a few days off and go help my brother with some spring planting on the family farm. He likes having some extra hands around this time of year.

Farming has changed a lot over the past hundred years. Mechanization and technology have replaced many of the labor intensive jobs. Tractors can now steer automatically using GPS guidance systems. Hybrid and modified seeds have increased yields, making them more disease resistant, or emphasizing certain traits that the market is looking for. Precision using computer mapping also helps the farmers to manage the inputs (fertilizers) to maximize yields. It can be big business!

Even with all the change, all that work, it still comes down to a simple, mysterious, miraculous seed and God's hand of providence to bring the harvest.

Perhaps you, like me, try to work hard, fret over every detail, and think if I just do one more thing, I can make things happen, try to force something grow. While it is true I might be able to improve upon the conditions, like a farmer adding fertilizer or irrigating, in the end, it is still up to God to make things grow.

I'm reminded of that often, especially when prayers are answered, even unasked prayers. Recently we've experienced God's providence in several areas – like Leif's Raiders renovating the Youth Chapel, something we never dreamed would happen! Or the Walk-in Freezer – now nearing completion, fully funded through gifts and grants. Yes, these things took some work on our part, but it is still God who deserves the credit.

That's farming! God has called each of us into the garden, like we saw in the Garden of Eden, to tend and care for the garden. In other words, to work! God places the things we need all around us, along with opportunities to work, play, and celebrate the life we have been given. There are hardships, challenges, but also successes, growth, and harvest. How has God been calling you to tend His garden this summer?

Pastor Dan Baker

May 2016
Mount Carmel
Calendar of Events

- 1** Worship Starts at Mount Carmel
- 2-6** Spring Volunteer Week
- 8** Mother's Day
- 13-15** Spring Wellness Retreat
- 20-22** Cabin Rental
- 25-28** Cabin Rental
- 28-29** Woodbury Mandarin Church Retreat
- 28-29** Cabin Rental
- 30** Memorial Day



May 2016 Prayer Highlights:

Summer Camp Registrations – We're seeing a strong number of registrations for the summer, ahead of last year, up about 13%. Pray we continue to fill up and can have a strong summer financially, as well as reaching as many people as possible with the Good News of the Gospel.

Summer Staff – Continue to pray for each one, that God's blessing and anointing be over them throughout the summer: **Guys**: Kaj Bjorge, Johs Bjorge, David Blackstad, Lukas Blazej (Slovakian), Cole Kindem, Nik Meyer, John Stone, Steve Wagner, Samuel White, Aaron Van Mannen, David Stone, Tim Knorek (Czech), Ben Sides; **Girls**: Anna Bjorge, Kierra Blackstad, Annika Detweiler, Martina Cervokova (Slovakian), Emma Gjesdahl, Elizabeth Hermodson-Olsen, Beth Jobst, Caitlyn Swenson, Kelly Vind, Lydia Detweiler; Summer Volunteers: Lyle & Pam Hovland, James & Judy Steffen.

New Kitchen Manager Hired – We're excited to be welcoming a new cook to head up the kitchen this summer. Her name is Rebecca Stapleton, and she comes to us having served as a cook in another Bible camp for a few years, bringing with her some great experience and energy! Pray for her as she joins us this month and begins to plan for the summer.

Volunteers – Pray for our wonderful volunteers coming May 2-6 as they help open up the winterized cabins, prepare the grounds, and take care of some needed maintenance projects. Pray the weather is great and the opportunities for fellowship, faith, and fun abound. Join us if you can.

Walk-In Freezer – Our prayers have been answered! Two different grant proposals came through, one for \$5000 from the Wedum Foundation, and another for \$6000, from First Lutheran, Fargo, were awarded last month. We also received a few additional gifts that will ensure we can complete it just in time for this summer. Praise the Lord!

Leif's Raiders Returning – We've been blessed by this volunteer group from Sheboygan Falls, WI the past year as they began renovations the old Youth Chapel by the beach. First they put a new roof, windows, and bathroom on last spring. Then they returned in the fall to put siding on, paint and finished off the interior, and put roofs over the entry points. Now they are planning on returning again this June to do some additional finishing work on the Youth Chapel and making some repairs on HoSauna (replacing the firebox and benches in the sauna by the beach). Pray for them as they make preparations, raise money, and come to bless us again this year.

May 2016

Mount Carmel

General Prayers

1. ***Summer Camp Registrations*** – Pray we continue to fill up and have a strong summer financially, as well as reach people with the Good News of the Gospel.
2. ***Summer Staff*** – Continue to pray for each of the summer staff – that God's blessing and anointing be over them.
3. ***Kitchen Manager*** – Pray for Rebecca as she joins us this month and begins to plan for the summer.
4. ***Volunteers*** – Pray for our wonderful volunteers coming May 2-6 as they help open up the cabins, prepare the grounds and take care of needed projects. Pray for great weather and opportunities for fellowship, faith and fun!
5. ***Walk-in Freezer*** – Our prayers have been answered! Praise the Lord.
6. ***Leif's Raiders Returning*** – Pray for them as they make preparation, raise money and come to bless us again this year.



Intercessory Update

May 2016

Dear Prayer Intercessors,

I would like to share the May 1st Daily Text verses and prayerfully reflect some thoughts.

“I will give them a heart to know that I am the Lord.” Jeremiah 24:7

“Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead.” 2 Timothy 2:8

Did you know that the word **“heart”** is found in the Bible 833 times? (no – I did not count them but Google must have!) God must really want us to know how important the heart is to us! We know that the heart as an organ of the body sustains life by pumping life-giving blood to every cell. However, the heart is also important in other ways. Webster defines it as “being the whole personality”: “emotional or moral versus intellectual in nature”; and “it is one’s innermost being.” So what makes the heart different than the mind? Paul in his letter to the Romans 10:9 says to keep the two together. “If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved.” My rational head accepts Jesus as Lord and my emotional heart believes that he is **my** Lord. Jesus alone reaches our heads and hearts – our intellects and our emotions – with his life-changing grace. Thank you, Lord, for giving us hearts to believe and know you!

May is upon us and what a wonderful time of year it is as trees are budding out, grass is getting green, birds are returning and new life is all around us. Mt. Carmel is also transitioning out of the winter retreat mode and coming alive with the beginning of a new summer season. The volunteers will be cleaning and making many things new during the first week. Summer worship begins on May 1st and we are looking forward to that! The summer staff will soon be arriving with youthful enthusiasm!

Fellow prayer intercessors, we have the charge given us to fervently pray for this important ministry! What a responsibility, but it is also a privilege to bring Mount Carmel Ministries into God’s presence every day through our prayers. Let us pray for families and individuals as they are making their summer plans that their hearts may be opened to spending time at Mt. Carmel. May we pray for all the speakers that their messages would challenge all to be open to the voice of the Shepherd and to follow Him. Pray for each of the staff that they too may open their hearts to the message of Christ’s love and grace. We pray that they may leave at the end of summer with their faith strengthened. May the permanent staff too, be blessed and encouraged with renewed energy as they witness life-changing experiences among the guests and staff.

Thank you, Lord God, for giving me Christ and a new heart to know him. Keep me close to the voice of your word. Draw me to your word, as a moth is drawn to light. I often flit around seeking value in acclaim, power, and security. Forgive my foolish flights. Focus my new heart toward you alone. Amen. (Daily Text prayer).

Mt. Carmel Benediction

*Whoever you are,
Wherever you in God’s wide world,
Whatever happens to you of good or ill,
Always **remember** that....
JESUS IS LORD!*

Lu Vitalis
Battle Lake, MN