The Gathering
Senior Respite Group
Tuesdays, February 12th & 26th
10am - 2pm

There is a sign-up sheet in the kitchen for providing meals and treats. Please help if you are able with this wonderful and rewarding ministry.

Dear Friends,

Karen Danielson and I were talking about the Sunday we met each other. She and Sherwin had recently moved here from the State of Virginia. They were looking for a Covenant Church in our area. They drove out to Karmel on a weekday, just to see where we were. They met Phyllis Anderson in the parking lot. Phyllis and her dog, Suzie, were taking a ride in their golf cart. When they told her why they were in the area, she told them about Karmel and invited them to join us on Sunday.

The first Sunday they attended Karmel, Nina and I were on vacation. So they got to hear Jason preach. The next Sunday, we were back. Karen says that Sherwin sensed God’s presence as he drove into the parking lot, and wondered what God had in store for them. Karen wondered the same.

I preached from Psalm 23:4, mentioning how God had been a source of comfort and strength to us when our son, Paul, was killed in a car accident in a suburb of Richmond, Virginia.

Sherwin grabbed Karen’s arm and exclaimed, “He’s the pastor we prayed for in Virginia!” After the service, they told me how a staff member of the church they attended in Virginia had heard about Paul’s death. He had told the senior pastor about it, saying, “We need to pray for the family.” And they did. Not just that Sunday. But every Sunday for a year.

We had no idea that this church was praying for us. We had no idea who they were. They had no idea who we were. All they knew was that a pastor, from the Midwest, had lost a son in a car accident and began to pray for us.

Sherwin and Karen told me this story after the service. I told them I needed to get Nina so they could tell her what they had just told me. We were blessed. We were amazed. Karen says she still remembers the look on our faces as they shared the story with us. I still remember that day.

What are the chances that a couple from the State of Virginia would hear about the death of our son and start praying for us? What are the chances that Sherwin and Karen would move from the State of Virginia to Princeton, Minnesota? What are the chances that they would decide to attend Karmel? What are the chances that, the day we met, they would hear me speak about our son and realize that we were the couple their church had prayed for for a year?

I don’t know. But I think it is amazing. It reminds us of God’s perfect knowledge of us. It reminds us that God continues to work in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform.

Now, fast forward four years. The week before Sherwin died, he told Karen that we would be leaving Karmel soon and that she needed to pray for us and for the church. How did he know that? I don’t know. But, when Karen got our letter, announcing our resignation, she remembered his words and shared them with us. Once again, we were amazed and affirmed.

God knows who we are. He knows where we are. He knows our plans. He knows our needs. And He is committed to our care. Let’s continue to trust in Him all of our days.

Pastor Gary
January 10th Board Meeting Highlights

It was suggested that the third week in February be set aside as Prayer Week, with meetings occurring on February 17th, 19th, and 21st.

Karmel will be participating in the Pregnancy Resource Center Baby Bottle Fundraiser this year; Crystal Kennedy will be coordinating that effort.

Thank you to all those who volunteered and assisted with the Simply Christmas event. We had around 250 people attend on December 23rd, and approximately 200 people attended the event on Christmas Eve. We had good feedback on the live feed that was provided in the church for those that wanted to stay warm or had difficulty climbing the stairs into the barn's loft. The videos that were posted on Karmel’s Facebook page had many views, as well. It was a great event! Additionally, we’d like to thank Carl and Phyllis Anderson for hosting Simply Christmas in their barn.

In lieu of the upcoming retirement of Pastor Gary and Nina, the board will be forming a Search Committee to fill the position of pastor. It was recommended that a budget be made to accommodate any expenses accrued related to the search; a motion was made to allow a budget of $3,000 for the Search Committee. The motion was seconded and approved by the board. The executive committee will be bringing recommendations to the members at the Annual Meeting on January 27th, as well as seeking input from the members on how the Search should be executed.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Marlton
2018 Board Secretary

AWANA

Wednesdays 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
February 20th - Crazy Hair Night!

Youth Group

Grades 6 -12 will meet at 6:30 also
~ February 6th - Family Meal 5:30 - 6:00 pm ~

GriefShare Program Restarting

This program features biblical, Christ-centered teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was viewed. Past participants have related how helpful the information and follow-up discussions were to them.

Many grieving people find they are only beginning the work of healing when friends or family have returned to their daily life routines. Too often people, including Christians, tend to stuff their grief instead of allowing it to do the God-given work for which it is intended. Don’t allow fear of what others may think to keep you from what could help you. Confidentiality is very much a part of this program.

Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. You will find encouragement, comfort and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member, or friend. No matter what the cause of your loved one’s death, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. You will learn how to recognize the symptoms of being stuck in grief and that you do not need to live in bondage to certain emotions. You will learn valuable information about facing your new normal in life and renewing your hope for the future.

GriefShare 13 week seminar/support group
Sponsored by Karmel Covenant Church
Mondays, Feb 4 – Apr 29, 9am – 11am

Further information or to register call:
Pastor Gary Tonn 763-389-3169 or Lois Anderson 763-389-3409
February—heart month! This month let’s focus on what we can do to keep our hearts as healthy as possible. I found a picture that simply shows things all of us can do for keeping our hearts physically healthy.

With heart attacks still the number 1 cause of death for adults in the United States, I encourage everyone to live as healthy a lifestyle as possible; get enough exercise and enough sleep; eat a healthy, well-balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains; no smoking; regular check up with your physician, and keep stress as low as possible. Setting aside time to be with Jesus each day can help keep us focused on what is important in life and help keep stress limited. We can be thankful for the blessings we do have; thankfulness can lead to having a joyful heart. 1 Samuel 12:24 “Be sure to fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things He has done for you.”

Proverbs 17:22 “A joyful heart is good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones.”

Happy Valentine’s day to everyone!

Reminder - There are reports of flu and influenza so remember to have everyone in your family do good handwashing.

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Cambridge Christian Women’s Connection
Monday, February 11, 11:00 am
“Living Happily Ever After”
Bonnie Lutz Good, Ashby, MN

Special Feature
“Live, Laugh, Love”
A skit put on by board members

Special Music
Jenni Thynge

Common Ground:
A United Methodist Community
404 North Cypress, Cambridge, MN 55008
Tickets: $14.00 (includes lunch - pay at door)
 RSVP appreciated by noon February 8th to Trudy Hervey 763-228-3805

Princeton-Milaca Christian Women
Tuesday, February 12, 10:00 am
“Living Happily Ever After”
Bonnie Lutz Good, Ashby, MN

Special Feature
Tuppenware - Ethel Hakes

Special Music
Dale Clifton, Milaca

Milaca Methodist Fellowship Hall
310 3rd Avenue NW, Milaca
Tickets: $7.00 (includes brunch)
Reservations or Cancellations call Alice @ 320-294-5713
Free Babysitting (you hire CWC will pay)
Prayer Connection/Bible Study
At the Evangelical Free Church, Milaca, MN
Tuesday, February 5, at 9:15 am

February Women Ministries Event

Mary Poppins

We have 20 tickets available for the play “Mary Poppins”
on Sunday February 10th for the 2pm show.
This play is at the Richard G Hardy Performing Arts Center in Cambridge.
If you or your family members would like to attend this play with us, please contact Glenda Haverinen (763-389-5799).
Tickets are $9 each.

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Women Ministries

Barrel Ministry

This month we’re collecting items for New Pathways. Their program serves homeless adults with children by giving them a safe place to stay, meals, and access to case management and skills training services. They need 9V batteries, AA batteries, paper bowls (not Styrofoam), paper towels, toilet paper and new kids coloring or activity books.

We are also taking donations of Box Tops for Education, Pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House, Eye glasses for the Cango, and empty medication bottles. There is a four drawer collection area in the kitchen by the refrigerator.

Food donations can also be dropped off in the hallway by the Sunday School office.

BUDGET REPORT

Year to date budget needed $10,635.90
Year to date (Actual Giving) $10,321.00
Year to date (Behind budget) $314.90

Building Loan Balance $108,787.17

Thank you for your faithful giving!

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Karmel Family Get-Away 2019
will be
The weekend of July 12-14.

Mark your calendars!!
February 2019 Schedules

Greeters
3 - Nick & Kristen Alderink
10 - Phil & Janell Olson
17 - Mike & Jill Bratvold
24 - Katie Ekstedt & Adell Hofer

Nursery
3 - Kristy Danielson/Audrey Hovis
10 - Kristen Alderink/Lili Mariton
17 - Deb Wilkinson/Elizabeth Kulkey
24 - Jill Bratvold/Kami Senlycki

Early Childhood
3 - Mike & Jill Bratvold/Sam Haverinen
10 - Sharlene Ross/Seth Olson
17 - Kristy Danielson/Andrew Filzen
24 - Danyon & Heidi Sommers/Will Hovis

Children’s Church
3 - Jackie Hovis/Eлизabeth Kulkey
10 - Stacy Mosher/Jared Olson
17 - Julie Olson/Kyle Mosher
24 - Jody Max/Sam Haverinen

Refreshment Schedule
3 - Hovis Girls
10 - Teresa Schoenwald
17 - Lois Anderson & Katie Ekstedt
24 - ?

Snow Shoveling
Jan 28 - Feb 3 Mike Spicer
February 4-10 Mike Stewart
February 11-17 Ryan Thompson
February 18-24 Dave Wilkinson
Feb 25-March 3 Nick Alderink

Birthdays
4 Clark Anderson
7 Adam Carda
9 Luianne Brown
9 Randy Sieckert
11 Lily Thompson
11 Max Thompson
12 Jared Koppendrayer
12 Kellen Lenzen
13 Eric Torkelson
14 Jake Anderson
14 Zach Anderson
15 Michael Spicer
16 Joey Meline
16 Chris Stewart
16 Dick Williams
18 Cathy Slater
19 Jon Mariton
20 Darlene Swanson
21 Glenn Swanson
22 Micki Nelson
22 Joan Radeke
23 Dan Schoenwald
24 Jahnah Barnhouse
25 Amelia Alderink
25 Theresa Krebs
25 Bob Putz
25 Ellen Barthel

Anniversaries
3 Randy & Crystal Sieckert
5 Larry & RaNae Anderson
22 Jack & Sherrie Witte
23 Mark & Stacy Mosher
27 Dale & Kathy Benson
27 Dwight & Shirley Tonn