

HIGHLIGHTS

CARMEL REFORMED CHURCH

“Can’t Wait For Sunday”

December, 2021

Carmel Church Family,

During the Christmas season, we have a lot of great traditions. Some of them include; family gatherings, giving and receiving of gifts, days of decoration, and celebrating the birth of Jesus in worship. Can you remember your favorite traditions? I remember rushing downstairs on Christmas morning to find my dad making hot chocolate and toast for breakfast before getting to open our presents. After lunch we went to my grandparent’s house in Sibley for a large family gathering that included food, presents, bingo for the kids, and a Hearts tournament for the adults. (Fun fact: everyone cheered against my dad to win the Hearts tournament!)

Over the years our family Christmas traditions have changed. The most difficult of those changes has been the empty seats of loved ones we have lost throughout the years. I am reminded that for many families, Christmas can also be a time of grieving.

As I reflect on Christmas in light of both joy and grief, I am thankful for the season of Advent. Advent simply means a time of expectation and waiting for the coming of Jesus. The Advent season is officially the four Sundays leading up to Christmas when the church remembers and celebrates the first coming of Jesus and miracle of the Incarnation (Jesus becoming human.) But the beauty of the Advent season is the reminder of Jesus’ second coming. We, the church are continually in a season of waiting on the promise of Jesus that he will come again. Hear these words of encouragement:

“Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord, himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.” 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

During the Christmas season, if you are wrestling with both grief and joy, remember these words, ‘We do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.’ We have hope because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and his promised return. The resurrection promises that we who are in Christ Jesus will experience a physical resurrection, with new bodies. We will live with Jesus and our loved ones who are in Christ forever. The Advent season is about the hope we have in Christ and our expectation for

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His second coming. What great joy and hope we have knowing that death does not have the final say. Jesus truly is the reason for the season. The Advent season is a reminder that we have hope, joy, and peace because of Jesus.

As you celebrate the Christmas season don't be afraid to talk about those who have gone before you in Christ Jesus. Tell stories with your family, share memories, and give thanks to God not only that he came 2000 years ago, but that he promised he will come again.

My prayer is for you to be filled with joy and hope this Christmas season that only comes from a relationship with the risen Savior, Jesus Christ, and His promise to come again!

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Steve



Puzzle!

Unscramble the Christmas-themed words below, writing each extra letter on the blank to the right. Then place those extra letters in the correct spots below to discover what we receive at Christmas.



1. TGLBEHHEME _____
 2. NEAGLO _____
 3. NRMEDAG _____
 4. ODEKSNY _____
 5. AMGYR _____
 6. OHESJIP _____
 7. EFJUSS _____
 8. ITEENMSW _____
 9. SPHHDSREEO _____
 10. EMCFAL _____
 11. TLSRA _____
 12. CSSNUEO _____
 13. HEVSPE _____
 14. ENIN _____
- ,
- | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | | |

Answers: Bethlehem (G), angel (O), manger (L), donkey (S), Mary (G), Joseph (I), Jesus (F), wise men (T), shepherds (O), camel (F), star (L), census (O), sheep (V), inn (E); God's gift of love

Puzzle!

Use the code to complete Isaiah's prophecy about Jesus, our Savior.



CODE:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q

10	23	13	17	14	6	18	21	21
11	14	12	10	21	21	14	13	
6	24	23	13	14	1	15	4	21
12	24	4	23	2	14	21	24	1
22	18	16	17	3	8	16	24	13
14	5	14	1	21	10	2	3	18
15	10	3	17	14	1	25	1	18
24	15	25	14	10	12	14		

I S A I A H 9 : 6 , N I V

Answer: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6, NIV



December 5: Londa Boogerd, Ruth De Jager, Heidi Boogerd, Jenny Boogerd.

December 12: Brooke Byker, Danica DeMeester, Nancy Boogerd, Sadie Janisch.

December 19: Lynna De Wit, Nikki Hulstein, Alydia Sandbulte, Lane Van Kekerix.

December 26: Jackie Huizenga, Alyssa Kuyper, Brynn Van Voorst, Brody Van Voorst.

January 2: Ashley Laackmann, Amy McAlpine, Kinlee Wolfswinkel, Akenna Sandbulte.

PLEASE find a substitute or trade with some one, if you are unable to be in the nursery.

Please substitute an adult for an adult!

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REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE

R - serve on Sunday morning; C - each bring 5 dozen cookies.

December 5 - R-Jerry Renes, Hans Smolders; **C-**Cheryl Sandbulte, Amy Rozeboom, Ryan Oostra, Amy McAlpine, Misty Zwart.

December 12 - R-Tom Zwart, Dale Woudstra; **C-**Gabi Luevano, Tonia Woudstra, Sarah Nibelink, Shelly Sandbulte, Rachel Terpstra.

December 19 - R-Marlin Van Voorst, John Leusink; **C-**Clarice Van Maanen, Donna Renes, Sue Noteboom, Sherri Wolfswinkel, Glenda Van Meeteren.

December 26 - R-Verlyn Van Regenmorter, Doug Van Beek; **C-**Cheryl Lange, Rachel Van Roekel, Sandi Vonk, Nora Bohl, Hannah Smolders.

January 2 - R-Denny De Jong, Mike Haverhals; **C-**Lin De Jong, Rhonda Sandbulte, Fonda Post, Ronda Leusink, Colleen Bomgaars.

January 9 - R-Jerry Renes, Hans Smolders; **C-**Frieda Bartels, Mimi Sandbulte, Jo Te Grotenhuis, Erica Robertson, Eug. Sandbulte.

We are looking for a few more people who would be willing to serve refreshments. Contact the church office if you can help us out.



Call the church office by noon on Monday, to let us know who your special music will be. If you are unable to have special music the scheduled time, please try to exchange with someone.

Top name is AM; bottom is PM:

- Dec. 5 - Brian Klarenbeek
John Kleyer
- Dec. 12 - Alex Koedam
Terry Koedam
- Dec. 19 - Praise Team
Christmas Program
- Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Service
Music Committee
- Dec. 26 - Scott Kuyper
- Jan. 2 - Marvin Kruid
Herb Kuyper
- Jan. 9 - Craig Laackmann
Nate Landman
- Jan. 16 - Glenn Lange
Carol Langstraat
- Jan. 23 - John Leusink
Jordan Leusink
- Jan. 30 - Josh Leusink
Enrique Luevano
- Feb. 6 - Nathan Maassen
Tony Madsen

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Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Kendrick Van Kekerix (Aubrey Sandbulte) who were united in marriage in Carmel Church, on November 27. The newlyweds will be making their home near Carmel. Aubrey is employed at the Hull Vet Clinic and Kendrick will be working on his family's farm.

Aubrey is the daughter of Shawn and Jami Sandbulte. Kendrick is the son of Scott and Erika Van Kekerix.

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"All the Christmas presents in the world are worth nothing without the presence of Christ."
—David Jeremiah

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
PRACTICE**

Practice for the Christmas Program for the TinyTots class through the 6th grade will be held on Sunday, December 12, during the Sunday School hour; Wednesday, December 15, from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary; and our final practice will be Sunday, December 19, during the Sunday School hour. We hope everyone who is participating in the program will make every effort to attend these practice times. Parents: if you know your children will not be participating in the program, please call Janice Luevano or Hannah Smolders and let them know. Also any students who would like to participate in the prelude music for the program, please let Janice or Hannah know as well.

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PIGS-IN-THE-BLANKET

The freezer in the Moses Room (next to the kitchen) has been stocked with the last batch of pigs-in-the-blanket and those yummy pigs will no doubt be flying off the shelves. So don't miss out on getting your "pigs" for the holidays. The pigs are \$15.00 a dozen. Please do not take pigs from the freezer if they are not paid for. Sign the sheet and place your money in the box on the counter.

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The Sunday School mission project this year is Royal Family Kids Camp. During a recent Children's Message at our morning worship service we got to see just what Royal Family Kids Camp is all about. At that time we were challenged to raise enough money to send 8 kids to the Royal Family Kids Camp. So we now have a goal of \$4,000.00. To date we have raised \$1,286.00. With 6 months to go we have to raise approximately \$450 each month to reach our goal. The second Sunday of each month the S. S. offering goes toward our mission project. Won't you help us reach our goal so that we can send 8 kids to Royal Family Kids Camp!

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
RESULTS**

At our Annual Congregational Meeting which was held on November 15, we elected four new consistory members. Jerry Noteboom and Mark Van Voorst were elected to the office of elder and will be replacing outgoing elders Phil Hooyer and Alan Sandbulte. Ryan Oostra and Eric Van Roekel were elected to the office of deacon and will be replacing outgoing deacons Chad Robertson and Henry Wolfswinkel.

If there is any scriptural reason why these men should not serve, please contact one of the elders. The newly elected consistory members will be installed and ordained on Sunday, January 9.

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SEARCH TEAM UPDATE

The search team met on November 10 and due to Thanksgiving will meet again on December 1st. We were encouraged to hear the elders report as it relates to the RCA, as now we have additional information to share with potential candidates. Please continue to pray for us as we seek His direction and guidance.

Carmel Search Team

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Sunday, December 19, 6:00 p.m.—Sunday School Christmas Program. (Note time)

Friday, December 24, 6:00 p.m.—Christmas Eve Service.

Sunday, December 26—Morning Worship as usual. No Sunday School or RCYF, and NO evening worship service.

Monday, December 27—Church office closed

Sunday, January 2—AM and PM Worship as usual. No Sunday School or RCYF.



The membership of Dave and Dorene Vander Zwaag and their children Hope and David was received from the Maurice Reformed Church.

The Vander Zwaag's make their home on an acreage near Carmel. Dave works at Sioux Bio part-time doing a variety of jobs there. He also takes care of their acreage as well as his parent's acreage. Dorene just had her 32nd work anniversary at Trans Ova Genetics. She works in the Client Service Department.

Dave and Dorene have three children. Their oldest daughter Angel lives in Orange City and works at Groschopp in Sioux Center. Their middle child Hope is a Senior at Sioux Center Community. She plays hockey and likes to hang out with her friends. She loves animals, likes to redecorate her room, attend youth group and she also works at Sioux Center Health in the dietary department. Their youngest child David is a sophomore at Sioux Center Community. He also plays hockey as well as soccer and football. He loves staying busy with sports and friends and will be getting a job when he turns 16. He is also involved in youth group.

As a family they enjoy camping, being outside and enjoying their acreage and their pets. They also enjoy getting together with family and friends when they can. Dave and Dorene enjoy being sports parents, traveling around and watching their children participate in sports and other activities.

Dave's mom was a Sandbulte so they have a lot of relatives in Carmel Church as well as friends. Dave is a first cousin to Gary and Steve Sandbulte, Jane De Boer and Trish Vande Zandschulp.

When asked what brought them to Carmel they said, "We started coming to Carmel last winter, and really enjoyed the fellowship, the friendly atmosphere and of course the worship services. We also appreciate the close distance of Carmel to our home! We feel like Carmel is a good fit for our family and have enjoyed our time here. We are looking forward to getting to know all of you, so please introduce yourselves to us!!"

NEWS FROM CARMEL GEMS

Merry Christmas from the Carmel GEMS! We are excited to celebrate the biggest gift to all of us, JESUS CHRIST!

Saturday, December 4, Carmel GEMS is going to Sioux Falls to Thunder Road! There will be Bowling, Laser Tag, Pizza, Bumper Cars and more fun! Have your sweet girl at Carmel by 9:45 a.m. and we will leave Carmel Church at 10:00 a.m.! Please let Kris Van Voorst know if you're going to attend! The counselors will bring the girl's home!

Monday, December 6 - 6:00 p.m. at Carmel Church we are going to have our Christmas Party! We are going to have a Christmas Sock Exchange - fill a pair of Christmas socks (here are some ideas, candy, lip gloss, finger nail polish, face mask, stickers). Do not spend over \$10.00 limit! If you are unable to participate, please let Kris know!

We will also be taking an offering for Kingdom Kids in Haiti - Taunya (De Weerd from Sioux Center) is married to Gerry and minister to local children in the Simonette area through tutoring and mentoring, providing a daily meal, and through Bible teachings. Taunya & Gerry are going to be purchasing Bibles for those who they mentor - around 30 children 2nd-8th grade who do not own/or their family does not have a Bible!

Thank you to all those who support the Carmel GEMS through prayers and donations! You are blessing a group of some special girls!

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OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you to everyone who packed a shoe box for Operation Christmas Child. We collected **69 boxes** this year! These gifts of love may be the door God uses to open a child's heart to Jesus Christ.

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"God goes to those who have time to hear him — and so on this cloudless night he went to simple shepherds." —Max Lucado



Deacon's Corner – DECEMBER

Painting: The Painting project has been completed. Thank you for your patience as we completed this project.

Thank you for your continued support with your tithes and offerings for Carmel Church.

Outreach Fund – The Outreach Fund is available to assist Carmel Reformed Church members participation in mission projects/trip by providing financial assistance for registration and travel expenses. This does not include normally scheduled JR/SR youth group trips. The fund will reimburse ½ of travel and registration costs up to \$500.00 per individual per calendar year. Please contact the Outreach Fund deacon Monty Prins, or one of the other deacons for an application form.

Christian Care – The Christian Care Fund is available to assist with financial needs for those who are encountering difficult circumstances and are struggling to cover their basic financial needs. Please see the Christian Care Fund deacon, Marlin Sandbulte, if you are in need of assistance.

Join Us for a.....Focus on the Family Date Night Event

Who: All Couples ... young & old

What: Date Night with Pastor & Comedian Ted Cunningham (Focus on the Family)

Why: An evening of fun & laughter ... who doesn't need more of that in their relationship?

When: February 25, 2022 5:45 p.m.

Where: Carmel Reformed Church

Timeline: Check in: 5:45 p.m. Meal: 6:00 – 6:45p.m. *Dessert served during intermission
Speaker: 7:00 p.m.

Cost: \$50.00 per couple including meal *Financial assistance is available (contact Tom Zwart)

Meal: Catered Meal by Beyer Catering (includes Dessert)

Registration opened **November 7** online at: <https://focusonmarriedatenight.rsvpify.com>

Registration forms will also be available on the Coffee Station and can be turned in to Misty Zwart or Laurie Buyert or the church office.

Questions: Contact Tom & Misty Zwart or Dan & Laurie Buyert

SEATING IS LIMITED!

INSPIRATION HILLS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS FOOD FUNDRAISER

This Christmas, order some delicious bake goods or soups to support the Summer Camp Scholarship fund at Inspiration Hills! Order the goodies you would like for Christmas and pick it up before your celebrations happen. Orders are due December 6, and pickup is on December 10 or 11. Due to the kitchen project, we won't be able to serve a meal, but please join us for some refreshments when you pick up your order at the Main Lodge! **Check out the delicious choices and order online at: inspirationhills.org**. Order forms are also located on the Coffee Station in the Fellowship Hall.



December

- 2 - Harv Sandbulte
- 3 - Mrs. Brooke Byker
Mrs. Marcella Langstraat
- 4 - Emberlynn Franken
Bradley Oostra
- 5 - Mrs. Carmen Maassen
The Alex Koedam's
- 6 - Shanelle Soodsma
Brad Beukelman
Mrs. Sara Sandbulte (Rick)
Darwin Post
Lloyd De Jong
- 7 - Austin Vonk
The Steve Sandbulte's
The Virgil Houtkooper's
- 8 - Zach Woudstra
- 9 - Mrs. LaVonne Van Essen
- 10 - Bryce Meendering
Aubie Mulder
Mrs. Shari Kruid
- 11 - Kley Hulstein
- 12 - Levi Smolders
Mrs. Danica DeMeester
Mrs. Amy Rozeboom
Wilbur Van Grootheest
- 14 - Wyatt Leusink
Mrs. Donna Tea
- 16 - Rowan Borchers
- 17 - Rashaylee Soodsma
Matthew Smolders
Mrs. Jaci Wynia
Mrs. Mary Lou Verburg
- 18 - Taya Gesink
Treyton Sandbulte
- 19 - Garrison Borchers
Hope Vander Zwaag
Megan Punt
Eric Sandbulte
- 20 - Trev Koedam
Josh Leusink
Mrs. Misty Zwart
Mrs. Linda Prins
- 21 - Scott De Jong
- 22 - Lanae Van Meeteren
Mrs. Becky Ochsendorf
Mrs. Sara Sandbulte (Mark)
Mrs. Dave Vander Zwaag
- 23 - Mrs. Carol Van Voorst
Mrs. Carole Kleyer
- 24 - Craig Laackmann
Mrs. Rhonda Van Der Zwaag
- 25 - Mrs. Cammy Van't Hof
Stan Prins
- 27 - Coby Sandbulte
Reed Koedam
- 28 - Hezekiah Vanden Brink
Cole Bomgaars
Sadie Sandbulte
Mrs. Ashley Vande Vegte
- 29 - Karlee Leusink
- 30 - Dylan Moget
- 31 - Brayton Van Kekerix
Glenn Lange
Mike Haverhals

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Need a Christmas gift or grab bag gift for the holidays? We've got some Carmel Church memorabilia available. There are anniversary coffee mugs and water bottles. Carmel Church caps and there are some of the white Carmel Church mugs available as well. There is also one Carmel Cookbook left. If you'd like any of these items, for a gift or for yourself, stop at the church office.

HELP INSPIRATION HILLS COMPLETE THEIR FUNDING GOAL

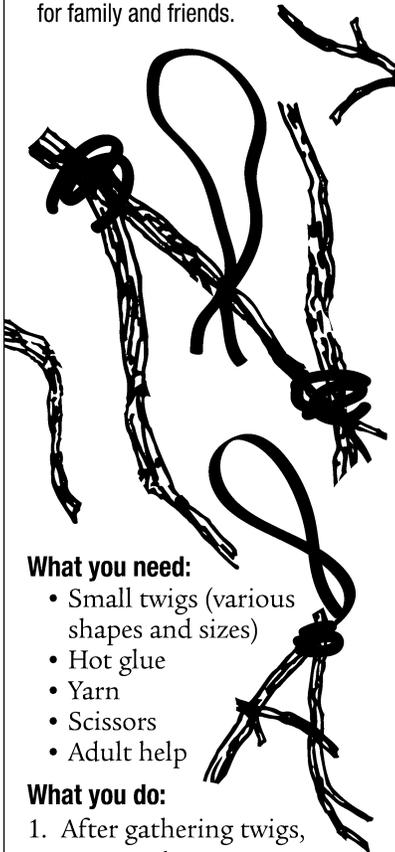
Inspiration Hills must replace their Fire Suppression system for their kitchen and need to raise \$75,000 by December 20 to complete their funding goal. They have raised \$35,000, but additional funds are needed. Can you donate to the their kitchen to help complete this project?

JUST FOR KIDS



SIMPLE SYMBOLS

Create personalized initial ornaments for family and friends.



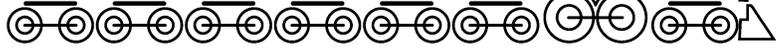
What you need:

- Small twigs (various shapes and sizes)
- Hot glue
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Adult help

What you do:

1. After gathering twigs, arrange them to create uppercase letter shapes. Cross, bend and break twigs, as needed.
2. Glue "letters" together at the intersections.
3. Cut an arm-length of yarn and wind it around twigs to add color to each letter.
4. Create a loop of yarn and tie it to the top of the ornament for hanging.

PUZZLE



F M K N L A D E G S C E J A T S

H → → → U

What's in a name?

An angel told Joseph what to name Mary's baby. Solve the puzzle to discover the name's meaning.

Directions: Begin at the circled H below and follow the arrows. Circle every other letter, and then place them in order to complete Matthew 1:21.

"S_e w_ll _ _ve b ir_ _
to _ s_n, and _ _u a_e to
gi_e _i_ the _ _me J_ _us,
b_c_u_ _ he _ill s_e his
_ _op_e f_o_ t_ _ir s_n_."

MATTHEW 1:21, NIV

A I N G F I P (H) S C I B E J H A

Answer: "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21, NIV