

HIGHLIGHTS

CARMEL REFORMED CHURCH

"Can't Wait For Sunday"

May, 2022

Carmel Church,

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Have you looked around lately? I mean have you taken time to see the new and familiar faces worshipping with us. Have you taken note of the ways God is active and moving in our midst? We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses! What a great observation made by the author of Hebrews that I believe speaks an important message to our church today.

Take note, we are surrounded by men, women, children, husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters, who love Jesus. God is actively working in and through many here in NW Iowa. But the writer keenly wants you to pay attention to the great cloud of witnesses for a reason. You are not alone, and you are not called to walk this road alone. You are not asked to run towards Jesus by yourself or to face the trials of the world, alone. Yet that is exactly what the devil wants. He wants you to dwell on the disappointments of life, the discouragement and fear that is seen on every TV station or in countless social media posts. When we look to the world, we get encouraged to seek truth apart from God. We are lied to and deceived thinking that the pleasures of this world are what brings true joy and life, but that could not be further from the truth. The word of God says that we are to lay these things down at the cross and run towards Jesus. The word we use is Repentance. To repent means to stop looking, moving, and dwelling in sin and sprinting towards Jesus. But most of us in our individualized American culture think repentance is a solo event! The author of Hebrews says that repentance happens within a great cloud of witnesses, not alone. We repent together.

² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Besides walking with one another, what is the key to living a life of repentance and faith? Keeping your eyes fixed on Jesus! Jesus is the founder, source, and perfecter of our faith. We love him because he first loved us. We look to him because he came down to us. He humbled himself and took upon himself our sin and offers us his righteousness. He offers us true life through a relationship with Jesus, the risen Savior and Lord.

The problem is that we are prone to only see the struggle. We are prone to see the trial and tribulation. When we look around, we see a church that is in need of a senior pastor, a denomination that is splintering, families that are struggling, health failing, a nation that is divided and a world at war. But when we fix our eyes on Jesus, we see what he sees. Yes, Jesus sees the brokenness, but when we gaze upon

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Christ, we see how he is working amid trial. What are the ways God has been active in your life, in your community, in your nation, and in the world? Over the last year and a half, I have witnessed young people profess their faith, marriages strengthened, the gospel preached, and lives changed. The Lord is at work, but the enemy wants nothing more than for you to be distracted. Church of Carmel, no matter what the future holds, we know who holds the future. Look to Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith. God is at work in our midst; together, let us throw off the things that so easily entangle us and run towards Christ. You aren't meant to run this race alone for he has surrounded you with a great cloud of witnesses.

Fix your eyes on Jesus,

Pastor Steve

CARMEL VBS IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER **AND WE'RE GETTING WORRIED!!**



The VBS registrations are in and the excitement is building as the kids look forward to a great week of VBS, June 6-10. **BUT** we don't have enough teachers or helpers!! And we can't do it without YOU! Please consider volunteering your time for one of the following positions.

Teachers needed:

- 3 - Kindergarten teachers
- 1 - 1st grade teacher
- 2 - 2nd grade teachers
- 1 - 3rd grade teacher
- 1 - 4th grade AM teacher
- 1 - 5th grade teacher
- 2 - 6th grade teachers, 1 AM teacher

Helpers needed:

- 2 - Preschool helpers
- 2 - Kindergarten helpers
 - 1 M, W, F helper
- 1 - 3rd grade helper
- 1 - 5th grade helper
- 2 - 8th grade helpers (ceramics)

Volunteers can sign up by using the link: <https://vbspro.events/p/events/carmel> or contact any VBS Director below.

Some other needs for VBS are as follows:

- **Donations** of hamburger for the VBS picnic. Contact Glenda Van Meeteren or the church office if you are willing to donate.
- **Craft tent** is looking for donations of any of these containers: large and small Pringles cans with lids, and frosting containers with lids. Donations can be left in the container by the mailboxes.
- **People to Pray!** Your prayers are what help make a successful VBS. You don't have to sign up, just put VBS on your prayer list and especially pray for the needed volunteers to sign up. Start praying TODAY for VBS and all those involved. Especially the kids.

Emily Meendering - 712-441-0931

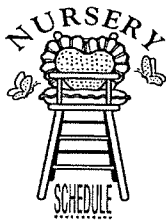
Stephanie Schelling - 712-541-5021

Becky Ochsendorf - 712-441-5168

Jolene Horstman - 712-441-6280

Jennifer Prins - 712-449-5141

Taylor Wolfswinkel - 712-441-3392



May 8: Amanda Borchers, Brooke Byker, Railee White, Brynn Van Voorst.

May 15: Ruth De Jager, Danica DeMeester, Sadie Janisch, Josie Bomgaars.

May 22: Lynna De Wit, Jackie Huizenga, Alydia Sandbulte, Tyke Van Kekerix.

May 29: Nikki Hulstein, Alyssa Kuyper, Makai Gesink, Taya Gesink.

June 5: Ashley Laackmann, Kiley Landman, Grace Van Roekel, Hannah Van Roekel.

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.

May 1 - R-Denny De Jong, Mike Haverhals; C-Sherri Wolfswinkel, Glenda Van Meeteren, Cheryl Lange, Rachel Van Roekel, Sandi Vonk, Hannah Smolders.

May 8 - R-Jerry Renes, Hans Smolders; C-Lin De Jong, Rhonda Sandbulte, Fonda Post, Ronda Leusink, Colleen Bomgaars.

May 15 - R-Dale Woudstra, Marlin Van Voorst, C-Frieda Bartels, Lorna Vander Vliet, Mimi Sandbulte, Alice Remmerde, Jo Te Grotenhuis.

May 22 - R-John Leusink, Verlyn Van Regenmorter; C-Erica Robertson, Eug. Sandbulte, Kaye Kuyper, Teresa Sandbulte, Hazel Haverhals.

May 29 - R-Doug Van Beek, Denny De Jong; C-Helen Vande Vegte, Mary Lou Verburg, Carmen Maassen, Carol Langstraat, Anita Van Ravenhorst.

June 5 - R-Mike Haverhals, Dale Woudstra; C-Doree Wolfswinkel, Cheryl Sandbulte, Amy Rozeboom, Ryan Oostra, Amy McAlpine.

Do you enjoy that cookie and cup of coffee after the worship service?? Well we are in need of a few more people who would be willing to serve refreshments. Please step up and volunteer your time so we can continue to provide refreshments on Sunday mornings. 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.

Special music schedule is for the morning worship service.

- May 8 - Lenore Prins
- May 15 - Monty Prins
- May 22 - Stan Prins
- May 29 - Brady Punt
- June 5 - Loren Punt
- June 12 - Tony Rau
- June 19 - Herb Remmerde
- June 26 - Brian Renes

Beginning in May we will no longer have ministry in music as part of our evening worship service. We will however still have ministry in music during our morning service. As in the past families of Carmel Church will be listed to find ministry in music on a particular Sunday. Due to the number of families in our church, you will only need to find someone for ministry in music every couple of years. We go through our membership list alphabetically, so please take note of the special music list in the newsletter each month, to see if you are on the list. If you are having difficulty in finding someone to do ministry in music, the church office has a list of Carmel members who are willing to do ministry in music. Please make every effort to find someone for ministry in music when it is your turn.

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The new phone directory is finally here and is in your mailbox. Please note that the mailboxes have been rearranged to accommodate the membership changes for the last year. Check to make sure the box is yours before removing the contents. Your box is above your name.

If there are any errors in the directory, please let the church office know so we can keep the information up to date. If your information changes throughout the year, please let the church office know.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

At the elders meeting on April 11, Tara Horstman was present to make profession of her faith. Tara is a Senior at Sioux Center Community High School and participated in volleyball, basketball and track. She plans to attend Dordt University in the fall and major in Special Education. Tara is the daughter of John and Jolene Horstman. She will be publicly received at a later date.

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BAPTISMS

On April 24, we celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism with two Carmel families.

Briggs Steven Hoekstra, son of Chad and Morgan Hoekstra. Briggs was born on February 16.

Lucas Rex Homandberg, son of Millie and Luke Leloux and Matt Homandberg. Lucas was born on August 18, 2018.

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On Thursday, May 5, Carmel will participate in a combined service with Peace Lutheran Church and Lebanon CRC for the National Day of Prayer Service. The service will be held at Lebanon CRC and begins at 7:00 p.m. This is the 34th year that the three churches have observed this service together.

Members of all three churches will participate in the service through prayers and special music. A time of refreshments and fellowship will follow the service.

The theme for this year is "Exalt the Lord, Who Has Established Us" taken from Colossians 2:6-7.

Everyone is encouraged to attend this special service with our brothers and sisters in Christ from Peace Lutheran and Lebanon CRC.

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"Pray without ceasing" 1 Thess. 5:17

BIBLE LEAGUE SPRING SALAD LUNCHEON

The Northwest Iowa Bible League's Spring Salad Luncheon will be held on May 2, at 12:00 noon, at Sanborn Christian Reformed Church. Pastor Phil Westra is going to talk about bees and gardening and how we can use our everyday work to spread the Gospel.

Please join us and carpool if possible. You are asked to bring one salad for every four persons. Important announcements and a short business meeting to update you about Bible League's activities will be part of the program.

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Summer Camps at Inspiration Hills are filling up fast. Pick up a brochure from the stand near the mailboxes or go to the website: www.inspirationhills.org and

check out all the different camps.

Remember Carmel Church pays for 1/2 of the registration fee for one camp, per student, per year. Call the church office if you have any questions. Also let the church office know which camp your child will be attending so we can list them in next month's *HIGHLIGHTS*.

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IN-CARNATION

The official flower of Mother's Day is the carnation, the favorite flower of the mom of the holiday's founder, Anna Jarvis. Over time, the custom arose of wearing a white carnation on Mother's Day if your mother has died and a red one if she's living.

In fact, many carnation colors have special meanings. Pink carries the richest Christian symbolism. According to legend, carnations first appeared on earth as Mary wept while watching Jesus carry his cross. Where her tears fell, there appeared pink carnations, symbolizing a mother's undying love.

According to one theory, the English word for carnation comes from *carnis*, Latin for flesh. From the same root comes *incarnation*, God's coming to earth in flesh. Thus, carnations remind us of our loving mothers as well as our loving Savior.



On Sunday, May 1, our High School graduates will be presented with a Bible from Carmel Church. Our Consistory members wrote notes of encouragement in the Bibles, along with sharing their favorite verses and presented the Bibles to our graduates.

Graduating from Western Christian High School on May 17 is:

Carson Vanden Brink - Carson plans to attend NCC for Computer Controls. He is the son of James and Nicole Vanden Brink.

Graduating from Rock Valley Community High School on May 18 are:

Jaxson Rozeboom - Jaxson is the son of Kelly and Gina Rozeboom.

Dawson Van Beek - Dawson plans to attend South Dakota State University for Aviation. He is the son of Doug and Kathy Van Beek.

Landyn Van Kekerix - Landyn plans to attend the University of Iowa for Business and also play football. His parents are Scott and Erika Van Kekerix.

Graduating from Sioux Center Community High School on May 22 are:

Ethan Hooyer - Ethan is the son of Phil and Judy Hooyer. He plans to study Civil Engineering and play football at Dordt University.

Tara Horstman - Tara plans to attend Dordt University and major in Special Education. Tara is the daughter of John and Jolene Horstman.

Hope Vander Zwaag - Hope is the daughter of Dave and Dorene Vander Zwaag. She plans to attend NCC in the fall.

Graduating from Boyden-Hull Community High School on May 22 are:

Kyler Bomgaars - Kyler plans to attend the University of Iowa in the fall. She is the daughter of Mike and Nikki Bomgaars and the granddaughter of Colleen Bomgaars.

Sarah Boogerd - Sarah is the daughter of Grant and Londa Boogerd. She plans to attend South Dakota State University for Entrepreneurship.

Brynn Van Voorst - Brynn plans to attend NCC for Nursing. She is the daughter of Mark and Kristi Van Voorst and the granddaughter of Carol Van Voorst and Ken and Linda Altena.

Taylor Vonk - Taylor is the son of Brandie Vonk. He is taking Basic Training with the National Guard and will continue working when he has completed that. He is also considering going to school for Diesel Tech.

Ella Zwart - Ella plans to attend Dordt University for Elementary Education. She is the daughter of Tom and Misty Zwart and the granddaughter of Carol Van Voorst.



Joanne Luevano - Jo is graduating from Western Iowa Tec Community College on May 12 with a Paralegal Certificate. She will be working for a law firm in Sioux Falls. She is the daughter of Enrique and Janice Luevano.

Zachary Woudstra - Zach is graduating from Western Iowa Tech Community College on May 12 with a Paramedic degree. He is looking for a paramedic job in Sioux City or Sioux Falls to gain experience before going back for additional paramedic certifications. He is the son of Dale and Tonia Woudstra.

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Whitney Anderson - Whitney will graduate from Sioux Dakota State University on May 7th with a degree in Business Economics. She will be looking for a job. Her parents are Chris and Kara Van Meeteren.

Christina Boogerd - Christina will graduate from South Dakota State University on May 7 with a major in Dairy Production and Dairy Manufacturing and a minor in Food Safety and Ag Business. She is the daughter of Grant and Londa Boogerd.

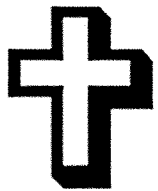
Karlee Albert - Karlee will graduate from South Dakota State University on May 21 with a degree in Animal Science. She is looking for a job. Karlee is the daughter of Paul Albert and the granddaughter of Rod and Carol Sandbulte.

Spencer Van Ravenswaay - Spencer will graduate from Dordt University on May 13 with a degree in Business Administration. He is beginning his career at Fareway. He is the son of Rod and Laura Van Ravenswaay.

Kortney Wolfswinkel - Kortney will graduate from Dordt University on May 13 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education with a Middle School endorsement. She will be teaching 6th, 7th and 8th grade Math at Orange City Christian School. Kortney is the daughter of Jerry and Sherry Wolfswinkel and the granddaughter of Henry and Betty Wolfswinkel.

Dexter Hooyer - Dexter will graduate from Iowa State University on May 14 with a degree in Aerospace Engineering. He will be working as a Flight Instructor at the Ames Airport. He is the son of Phil and Judy Hooyer.

Sadie Sandbulte - Sadie will graduate from Northwestern College with a Teaching Degree in Biology on May 14. She will be teaching at Sioux Center Community High School. She is the daughter of Harv and Trish Sandbulte and the granddaughter of Betty Sandbulte.



Deacons Corner — May

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.

Adoption Fund – For those considering an adoption please consider inquiring as to whether you will qualify for the Carmel Reformed Church Adoption Assistance Fund. This fund makes available up to \$1,500 to assist active Carmel Reformed Church members with adoption costs. See any deacon for details and a copy of the application form. All requests will require consistory approval.



“If you want your children to listen, try talking softly to someone else.”

—Ann Landers



MAY

- 1 - Brixen De Jager
Paxton Sayles
Adriana Sandbulte
Mrs. Lorraine Post
Mrs. Kara Van Meeteren
The Owen Sandbulte's
- 2 - Brian Klarenbeek, Jr.
Leon Wichers
- 3 - Mrs. LeaAnn Van Regenmorter
The Harlan Van Maanen's
- 4 - Blake Joffer
- 5 - Cambry Schelling
Liam Kuyper
Asher Van Voorst
The Shawn Sandbulte's
- 6 - Micah Ochsendorf
Makai Gesink
- 7 - Mrs. Ronda Leusink
The Keaton Van Voorst's
- 8 - Fletcher Koedam
- 9 - Kace Schelling
Amber Van Regenmorter
Casey Trieber
Mrs. Betty Valentine
- 11 - Brian Vande Zandschulp
Jason Joffer
The Matt Smolder's
- 12 - Sadie Janisch
Mrs. Carol Sandbulte
The Hayden Kerkaert's
The Kelly Rozeboom's
- 13 - Kylee Sandbulte
Mrs. Betty Sandbulte
- 14 - Colton Mesman
- 15 - Randy Vander Weide
The Luke Leloux's
The Henry Sandbulte's
- 16 - Garet Friedrichsen
Marvin Kruid
- 17 - Mrs. Jayden Pieper
David McAlpine
Dave Bohl
- 18 - Mrs. Lois De Jong
- 19 - The Scott Fischer's
- 21 - Gabe Joffer
Matt Zinnel
The Tyler Franken's
- 22 - Paisley Davelaar
Brianna Vander Zwaag
Mrs. Julie Bomgaars
- 24 - Austin Sandbulte
- 25 - Mrs. Nancy Smolders
The Kamden Glade's
The Mark Van Voorst's
- 26 - John Vande Kamp
Wally Valentine
- 27 - Mrs. Hannah Smolders
Mrs. Amanda Borchers
Mrs. Nikki Hulstein
Terry Koedam
The Jerry Wolfswinkel's
- 28 - Isabelle Van Roekel
Maci Segar
- 29 - The Larry Wolfswinkel's
- 30 - Gabyrella Prins
Eric Ochsendorf
Mrs. Doree Wolfswinkel
- 31 - Jude Vonk
Caleb Nibbelink
Mrs. Heidi Vanden Top
Zach Moget
The Josh Leusink's

VOLUNTEER WORK DAY AT INSPIRATION HILLS

Volunteer work day at Inspiration Hills is Saturday, May 21, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Bring your church group, youth group, classmates, friends or family, and spend the day outside preparing Inspiration Hills for Summer Camp! Contact their office by email at ihills@inspirationhills.org or call 712-986-5193 to sign up today or find out what materials or resources we will be needing. Lunch provided.



Egg-cellent bouquet

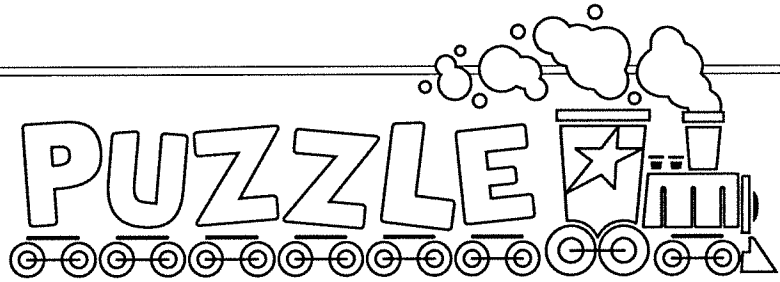
Transform an egg carton into a Mother's Day keepsake.

What you need:

- Clean cardboard egg carton
- Scissors
- Acrylic paint and paintbrush
- Flat cardboard
- Photo, drawing or note
- Small pom-poms
- Hot glue
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Bend, stretch and cut the carton cups to make 3-D flower shapes. Also cut leaf shapes from the carton top.
2. Paint the flowers and leaves. Let dry.
3. Cut the flat cardboard to a size and shape you desire. Leave a border at least 2 inches larger than your photo, drawing or note.
4. With hot glue, attach the photo, drawing or note to the cardboard.
5. Arrange and glue flowers and leaves around the border. Attach pom-poms for more color and texture.
6. Present the gift to your mom or a special woman in your life.



A VALUABLE *command*

God instructs children how to relate to their parents.

Directions: Arrange the words in alphabetical order. Then insert the circled letters in order to complete Exodus 20:12, NIV.



son	mother	father
daughter	honor	home
respect	family	obey
	love	

1. _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ ○
2. ○ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ○
3. _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _
4. ○ _ _ _ _ _
5. _ _ _ _ ○ _ _
6. ○ _ _ _ _ _
7. _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _
8. ○ _ _ _ _ _
9. ○ _ _ _ _ _
10. _ _ _ _ ○

_ _ on_ your _ _ ather and _ _ our mo_ h_ r,
so t_ at y_ u may _ _ i_ e l_ ng in t_ e land
the L_ RD _ _ ou_ God i_ givi_ g you.

EXODUS 20:12, NIV

Answer: 1. daughter, 2. family, 3. father, 4. home, 5. honor, 6. love, 7. mother, 8. obey, 9. respect, 10. son; Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.