

# HIGHLIGHTS

CARMEL REFORMED CHURCH

*“Can’t Wait For Sunday”*

January, 2023

## WRITING OUR LIFE—WITH GOD’S HELP

A journalist once said you can measure the quality of a piece of writing by the quality of what has been cut. No matter how beautiful or interesting a phrase or sentence is, the piece may be stronger without it.

Rabbi Evan Moffic applies this wisdom to life in general. Too often we refuse to let something — a habit, a memory, a process — go, even when it no longer serves us. Thinking of our life as a book, we can cut out, edit or rearrange some pages or sentences to reflect our new learnings and growth.

This is not always easy, but we don’t have to do it alone. “God is our ‘editor-in-chief,’” says Moffic, “and we are part of God’s story. [While] God ... gives us free will to decide what to write on the pages of our lives, ... God is always there for conversation and consultation. And God left us a great guide-book called the Bible. Its lessons make our writing shine with truth and beauty.” With God’s guidance, what will you “write” in the new year?

## LEAVE THE LIGHT ON

“We’ll leave the light on for you,” a motel chain once promised. In other words, they were expecting you and looking forward to your stay.

During the time of the high priest Eli, “the lamp of God had not yet gone out” (1 Samuel 3:3). Eli oversaw the tabernacle, so some people say this refers to an actual lamp. But the passage could have a deeper meaning. Although Eli had turned a blind eye to his sons’ sins and neglected his duties, God knew that Eli could still be a divine instrument. God knew not to turn off Eli’s light. God was expecting Eli to still shine brightly for him, and eventually Eli figured out that Samuel, his young charge, was hearing God’s voice.

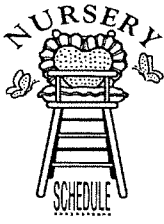
So if your light seems dim or even burned out, be assured that your pilot light remains on! God has left the light on not just *for* you but also *in* you.

—Julie Lee

## FRESH STARTS

I suppose when we wake on January 1 the world will look the same. But there is a reminder of the Resurrection at the start of each new year, each new decade. That’s why I also like sunrises, Mondays and new seasons. God seems to be saying, “With me you can always start afresh.”

—Ada Lum



**January 1:** Kayti Beukelman, Londa Boogerd, Gabriel Lerma, Marcus Van Voorst.

**January 8:** Brooke Byker, Ruth De Jager, Tacey Van Kekerix, Makai Gesink

**January 15:** Danica Demeester,

Lynna De Wit, Morgan Terpstra, Karlee Leusink

**January 22:** Nikki Hulstein, Alyssa Kuyper, Nora Boogerd, Hannah Van Roekel

**January 29:** Ashley Laackmann, Kiley Landman, Sarah Booger, Aiden Madsen

**February 5:** Amy McAlpine, Nikki Van Meeteren, Gaby Prins, Tyke Van Kekerix

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.

**January 1 - R-**Verlyn Van Regenmorter, Matt Smolders; **C-**Teresa Sandbulte, Hazel Haverhals, Helen Vande Vegte, Mary Lou Verburg, Carmen Maassen.

**January 8 - R-**Mike Haverhals, Mitchell Banks; **C-**Carol Langstraat, Anita Van Ravenhorst, Doree Wolfswinkel, Cheryl Sandbulte, Amy Rozeboom.

**January 15 - R-**Dan Buyert, Gene Sandbulte; **C-**Ryan Oostra, Amy McAlpine, Misty Zwart, Sarah Nibbelink, Linda Altena.

**January 22 - R-**Doug Van Beek, Jack Soodsma; **C-**Allison Leusink, Shelly Sandbulte, Rachel Terpstra, Clarice Van Maanen, Donna Renes.

**January 29 - R-**John Leusink, Becky Ochsendorf; **C-**Sue Noteboom, Sherri Wolfswinkel, Glenda Van Meeteren, Cheryl Lange, Rachel Van Roekel.

**February 5 - R-**Hans Smolders, Chad Robertson; **C-**Sandi Vonk, Hannah Smolders, Lin De Jong, Rhonda Sandbulte, Fonda Post.

**February 12 - R-**Denny De Jong, Randi Sayles; **C-**Ronda Leusink, Colleen Bomgaars, Frieda Bartels, Lorna Vander Vliet, Mimi Sandbulte.

If this schedule does not work for you, please switch with someone.



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.

- Jan. 1 - Vince Sandbulte
- Jan. 8 - Rob Sayles
- Jan. 15 - Paul Schelling
- Jan. 22 - Ron Schmith
- Jan. 29 - Matt Segar
- Feb. 5 - Hans Smolders
- Feb. 12 - Matt Smolders
- Feb. 19 - Jack Soodsma
- Feb. 26 - Beth Te Grotenhuis

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### INSTALLATION

On Sunday, January 8, at our morning worship service we will install the newly elected elders and deacons for Carmel Church. Dan Fedders will be installed as elder and Shawn Sandbulte will be installed and ordained as elder. Mike Bomgaars will be installed and ordained as deacon. On Sunday, January 15, we will install and ordain Ross Hulstein as deacon. Please keep our entire consistory in your prayers as they lead our congregation.

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### NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS



Since there are now two persons filling the positions of office administrator and bookkeeper (Nikki Van Meeteren and Stephanie Schelling), beginning January 3, office hours will be 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

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### RETIREMENT DINNER

On January 15, there will be a catered dinner for the retired Office Administrator, Jane De Boer, for her 34 years of service at Camel Reformed Church. Sign up at the Coffee Station by January 8 if you plan to attend.

Please help us celebrate her retirement with a love gift. You can place your gift in the box on the Coffee Station till January 8.

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

On January 8, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper at our morning worship service. Those who would like communion served to them or a shut-in can contact an elder or call the church office or have a family member request it.

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## NEW OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

The consistory has hired Nikki Van Meeteren to fill the position of Office Administrator. She will officially start January 3 following a time of training. Please give her a warm welcome as she begins her new position with Carmel Church.

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## WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES RESUME

After taking a break for the holidays, all Wonderful Wednesday activities will resume on January 4. ABC (Answers Bible Curriculum) for Kindergarten thru 12th grade will meet every Wednesday through March 15. Make these activities a part of your children's Christian Education. Hope to see you all on Wednesday. If we don't teach our kids to follow Christ, someone will teach them not to.

There are also opportunities for the adults. Prayer meeting meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Men's Prayer Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday morning at 7:30 a.m. Everyone is encouraged to participate in these opportunities as well. *"Prayer does not change God, but it changes him who prays."* - Kierkegaard

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## JFA LEARNING TRIPS

**Attention – Justice for All** is having a meeting with information about Service & Learning Trips at the Justice for All ministry center on Tuesday January 10, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at 1335 Valley Drive Rock Valley. There will be light refreshments available. Questions please contact Nick at Justice for All 712-476-2804. Consider going on a trip this year to work alongside others.

## UPDATE THE ONLINE DIRECTORY

It's been well over a year since we updated our online directory for our 125th anniversary celebration. In that time there have been many changes to the directory. Many babies were born, couples got married, new families joined, and kids are growing up. So it's time to update the pictures in the online directory.

If you need to update your picture or need to add your picture, please do so soon, so our new members can put a face with a name and get to know who is who in our congregation.

If you are a new member, you will be receiving information soon on how to get your picture in the online directory.

If you need assistance in updating your photo, please contact the church office.

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## PIGS-IN-THE-BLANKET

The last batch of pigs-in-the blanket were made on December 1, so the freezer in the Moses Room (next to the kitchen) is fully stocked with those yummy pigs; which will no doubt be flying off the shelves.

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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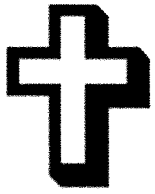
## 22:6 FROZEN SWEET CORN

22:6 Group has frozen sweet corn available in the Moses Room. If you would like to purchase some please sign the sheet on the counter and place your money in the box. Bags are \$8 a piece.

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The Sunday School mission project this year is Setting Anchors, a new local non-profit who support Foster families. Your mission offerings can help touch the lives of these children. The second Sunday of each month the S. S. offering goes to the mission project. The Sunday School's goal is to raise \$3,000.00. The offerings to date have amounted to \$1,785.48.



# Deacons Corner — January

**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.

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## Bible Quiz



How old was Abram when he followed God's call to leave Haran and travel to a new land?

- A. 25
- B. 50
- C. 75
- D. 100

Answer: C (See Genesis 12:4.)

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## INSPIRATION HILLS

Inspiration Hills is looking for help January 29 and February 3-5 for the Single Mom's Retreat. Support Staff helps serve on the prayer team, room preparations/cleaning, table leaders, and much more. Register to bless these women for a weekend of rejuvenation, empowerment, and joy through hearing the gospel and hanging out with the ladies! Support Staff training will be Sunday afternoon January 29. Register by January 20; to serve register at <https://www.inspirationhills.org/single-mothers-retreat/>

## INSPIRATION HILLS NEWS

Join Inspiration Hills and Atlas for a rejuvenating, empowering, and joy-filled weekend! Through speakers, salon and spa pampering, small group discussions, mentoring, connecting with other single moms, delicious food, the retreat seeks to refresh and equip participants to where they are at in their life. This is happening February 3-5. Dorm rooms are \$15, Shared private rooms are \$30 and single private rooms are \$50. Register by January 20. To register for this unforgettable retreat visit <https://www.inspirationhills.org/single-mothers-retreat/>

### **4th-6th Winter Retreat**

Join Inspiration Hills for an exciting weekend at their Winter Retreat on February 17 and 18. Many fun activities are planned: winter activities, camp games, chapel, worship, and much more! Reconnect with your friends from summer camp or come to camp for the first time. Scholarships available: If you would like to register for a scholarship, please apply and register before January 27. Visit our website to download the paper registration and the scholarship application. Early bird registration is until January 27 for \$75 otherwise regular registration is open January 28 thru February 3 for \$85. To register please visit <https://www.inspirationhills.org/winter-retreat-2022/>



## January

- |      |   |      |  |
|------|---|------|--|
| 1 -  | The Darwin Post's   | 14 - | Mrs. Millie Leloux<br>David Vander Zwaag (jr.)   |
| 2 -  | Charlee Punt<br>Keith Byker<br>Dale Woudstra<br>Alan Sandbulte<br>Marlin Dibbet               | 15 - | Brandie Vonk<br>Tim Van Donge<br>Leon Franken  |
| 3 -  | Mrs. Kelly Van Kekerix<br>Owen Sandbulte  | 16 - | Jax Anderson<br>Gene Vander Vliet  |
| 5 -  | Austin Rozeboom<br>Mrs. Karen Hulstein  | 17 - | Bryson Sandbulte   |
| 6 -  | James Vanden Brink<br>Dan Buyert<br>Mrs. Carrie Van Voorst                                    | 18 - | Kendrick Van Kekerix<br>Britney Vonk<br>Mrs. Lavonne Riphagen<br>Les Te Grotenhuis                   |
| 7 -  | Mrs. Barb Punt<br>The Stan Prins'   | 19 - | The Naté Van Ginkel's  |
| 8 -  | Dawson Van Beek<br>Pete De Jong   | 20 - | Colten Smolders<br>Dan Fedders<br>Glenn Rozeboom   |
| 9 -  | Akenna Sandbulte<br>Jeremy Meendering<br>Paityn Albert<br>Mrs. Vicki Vander Lugt              | 21 - | Nathan Maassen<br>Mrs. Colleen Bomgaars  |
| 10 - | Mrs. Morgan Hoekstra<br>Ian Vander Lugt<br>Pam Woelber<br>Mrs. Janae Rau<br>Mrs. Joanne Moget | 22 - | Jennifer Luevano<br>Mrs. Glenda Van Meeteren   |
| 11 - | Seaton Sandbulte  | 23 - | Paul Schelling   |
| 12 - | Howie Klarenbeek  | 24 - | Kolter De Jager<br>Tayden Even   |
| 13 - | Braylee Schelling<br>Mrs. Katie Franken<br>Jack Soodma  | 25 - | Tommy Bomgaars<br>Brady Punt<br>Henry Sandbulte<br>Mrs. Dianne Van Ravenswaay<br>The Ken Brunsting's |
|      |   | 26 - | The Kelly Zinnel's   |
|      |   | 27 - | Mrs. Paula Van Voorst  |
|      |   | 28 - | Mrs. Jazmine Koedam<br>Tyler Franken<br>Mrs. Joan Te Grotenhuis                                      |
|      |   | 29 - | Cozyn Rozeboom<br>The Dan Fedders'   |
|      |   | 30 - | Jace Van Meeteren  |

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## JUSTICE FOR ALL

Justice For All is planning a KENTUCKY BUS TOUR, focusing on our 4 major ministry partners: Grace Covenant Ministries, Annville, KY; Helping Hands, Hyden, KY; Appalachia Reach Out, Inez, KY; and Appalachian Mission of Hope, Berea, KY. The dates are April 12-18, 2023. Join us, learn, and see how God is using beautiful ministries to share HIS love and hope to those who live in very poor communities throughout Kentucky. We'll be exploring the rich history, culture and stories of the mountain 'hollers', coal, and horses! And God's amazing creation will also be on display! If you are interested or want more information, please contact Pat Vander Pol at JFA 712-476-2804 (patvp@jfa-nwiowa.org).

# JUST FOR KIDS



## TASTY CREATIONS

Make this yummy treat to remember what happened on each day of Creation.

### What you need:

- 6 large pretzel rods
- Candy melts (white, chocolate and blue)
- Green sprinkles
- White or star-shaped sprinkles
- Fish crackers
- Animal crackers
- Adult help



### What you do:

1. With help, melt the three colors of candy melts in separate dishes. Microwave for 30 seconds at a time, stirring until soft.
2. Decorate one pretzel for each day of Creation:
  - Dip half in white and half in chocolate to show light and darkness.
  - Dip half in white and half in blue to show separation of the atmosphere.
  - Dip half in chocolate, add green sprinkles and dip half in blue to show land, plants and water.
  - Dip in chocolate and add white or star sprinkles to show the stars.
  - Dip in blue and add fish crackers to show sea life.
  - Dip in chocolate and add animal crackers to show land animals.
3. Share the Creation story — and the snack — with a friend!

# PUZZLE



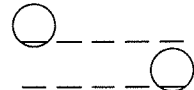
## Ordering the days

God spoke and created all that exists. He separated and ordered his creation. What did God say about all he made?

*Directions: Write the correct day of creation next to each clue. Then fill in the circled letters in order below to complete Genesis 1:31, NIV.*

### FIRST SECOND THIRD FOURTH FIFTH SIXTH

God made wild animals and livestock.



God said, "Let there be light."



God gathered the waters under the sky into one place.



God made a vault to separate the waters and called it "sky."



God created plants and trees.



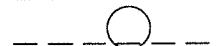
God separated the light from the darkness.



God made the water teem with living creatures.



God made the sun and moon.



God made birds fly above the earth.



God made stars.



God created mankind in his own image.



God   aw all tha   he   ad ma  e, an      t was ve  y g  od.

GENESIS 1:31, NIV

Answer: sixth, first, third, second, third, first, fifth, fourth, fifth, fourth, sixth; God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.