

# HIGHLIGHTS

CARMEL REFORMED CHURCH

*"Can't Wait For Sunday"*

December, 2022

## AT HOME IN OUR HEARTS

"All hearts come home for Christmas," according to popular sentiment. But what if your heart (and/or home) is hurting or troubled? Does this season have room for people who are struggling? Does the holiday still have meaning?

Yes, God's word tells us. In fact, that's why God sent Jesus, the Word, from his heavenly home to make "his dwelling among us" (John 1:14, NIV). As fully human, Jesus experienced loneliness and betrayal, loss and physical pain. He was rejected by loved ones, angered by corruption, and abandoned to die. But as fully God, Jesus provides answers, healing and hope. Through his resurrection (which first required an earthly birth), Jesus offers salvation to all who believe in him.

As we await the heavenly home that God's Son is now preparing, we can welcome him and his comforting promises, even into our hurting hearts.

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## FROM TRASHED TO TREASURED

In December 2017, Jimmy Amisial, a Texas State student home in Haiti on break, noticed a crowd peering into a trash can. A 4-month-old infant lay inside, but no one moved. So Amisial scooped up the baby and took him home to his mom. They washed and clothed him, gave him milk and sought medical care.

After investigators failed to locate parents, a judge asked if Amisial would serve as legal guardian. Sensing "this had happened for a reason," he "took a leap of faith." Now Amisial is raising funds to adopt Emilio. "I'm glad I got the opportunity to transform his life from being abandoned in the trash to being a wonderful treasure," he says.

Likewise, God did not leave humankind trapped amid the trash of sin and evil, destruction and death. Instead, God came to us as Jesus, scooped us into his loving arms and claimed us as his own. Like Emilio, we've been transformed and are treasured.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



**December 4:** Nikki Van Meeteren, Becky Ochsendorf, Heidi Boogerd, Lane Van Kekerix.

**December 11:** Kristi Segar, Hannah Smolders, Kinlee Wolfswinkel, Elyse Zwart.

**December 18:** Whitney Van Essen, Lexy Van Ginkel, Brody Van Voorst, Sadie Janisch.

**December 25:** Kelly Van Kekerix, Rachel Van Roekel, Nancy Boogerd, Alydia Sandbulte.

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

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 4-R-**Denny De Jong, Randi Sayles; **C-**Rachel Terpstra, Clarice Van Maanen, Donna Renes, Sue Noteboom, Sherri Wolfswinkel.

**December 11 - R-**Jerry Renes, Tony Rau; **C-**Glenda Van Meeteren, Cheryl Lange, Rachel Van Roekel, Sandi Vonk, Hannah Smolders.

**December 18 - R-**Hans Smolders, Jared Terpstra; **C-**Lin De Jong, Rhonda Sandbulte, Fonda Post, Ronda Leusink, Colleen Bomgaars.

**December 25 - R-**John Leusink, Becky Ochsendorf; **C-**Frieda Bartels, Mimi Sandbulte, Erica Robertson, Eug. Sandbulte, Kaye Kuiper.

**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 Soodsmma; **C-**Allison Leusink, Shelly Sandbulte, Rachel Terpstra, Clarice Van Maanen, Donna Renes.

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.

- Dec. 4 - Shawn Sandbulte
- Dec. 11 - Steve Sandbulte
- Dec. 18 - Praise Team
- Dec. 25 - Praise Team
- Jan. 1 - Vince Sandbulte
- Jan. 8 - Rob Sayles
- Jan. 15 - Paul Schelling
- Jan. 22 - Ron Schmith
- Jan. 29 - Matt Segar

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### NEW ARRIVALS



On November 3, Nate and Lexy Van Ginkel welcomed their 3rd son into their family. His name is Easton Brooks. He weighed 8 lbs. and was 21.5 inches long. Easton has 2 big brothers to welcome him to the family. Waylon who is 3, and Lawson who is 20 months old.

On November 16, Tommy and Edan Bomgaars welcomed their first child, Brock John, into their family. Brock weighed 8 lbs. and was 21.5 inches long. Carmel Church grandparents are Tim and Julie Bomgaars. CC great-grandmother is Colleen Bomgaars.



On November 28, Austin and Ashley Vande Vegte welcomed a son Archer Henry, into their family. He weighed 7 lbs. 13 oz. and was 21 inches long. Archer has a big sister, Aria, who is 4½, to welcome him to the family.

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### CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Do you enjoy singing Christmas Carols?? If your answer is yes, then plan to come to church early on Sunday morning, December 18. The praise team will be leading us in singing all our favorite Christmas carols before the worship service from 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. Come and make a joyful noise!!

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

At our Annual Congregational Meeting which was held on November 21, we elected four new consistory members. Dan Fedders and Shawn Sandbulte were elected to the office of elder and will be replacing outgoing elders Dave Dibbet and Tim Gesink. Mike Bomgaars and Ross Hulstein were elected to the office of deacon and will be replacing outgoing deacons David McAlpine and Marlin Sandbulte.

If there is any scriptural reason why these men should not serve, please contact one of the elders.

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Sunday School has been preparing and practicing for some time for our annual Christmas Program to be held on Sunday evening, December 18 at 6:00 p.m. (note time). They will be presenting a Christmas Musical entitled "Sheep in Heavenly Peace". Here's a little preview of the musical:

*"It's a zoo out here! Bethlehem's homes and inns may be bursting at the seams with travelers for the census, but because of the animals they brought with them, the stable is simply out of control. Camels, donkeys and goats up to the rafters! Even the normally-sleepy hillsides are now teeming with an abundance of sheep, and Bethlehem's top temp agency must call on their most eager but often-inert family of workers, the Wooltons to step up and answer the call (temporary "staffing" takes on a whole new meaning!). What they expect to be an unglamorous assignment will soon put them face to face with the angel Gabriel, a sky-full of the Heavenly Host, and ultimately the Good Shepherd himself - Jesus!"*

You don't want to miss this story that our Tiny Tots - 6th graders are eager to share with you. Plan to attend the Christmas Program or watch it on live-stream. You'll be glad you did.

### Program Practice Times

The practice times for Tiny Tots-6th grade for the program will be Sunday, December 11 and 18 during the Sunday School hour and on Wednesday, December 14, 6:30 p.m. Please make every effort to have your children attend.

## 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.

If you are looking to have those yummy pigs at your holiday gatherings don't wait too long to pick some up. We will not be making them again till next fall.

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## MID-SIOUX OPPORTUNITY FOOD DRIVE

During the month of December Carmel Church will be hosting a food and hygiene drive for Mid-Sioux Opportunity. We will be collecting non-perishable food items, canned or boxed, as well as hygiene items. NO expired items please. Some items that are particularly needed at this time are: cereal and breakfast food, canned fruit, peanut butter, pasta, shampoo, toothpaste, Kleenex, paper towels, and cleaners.

Items may be brought to church during the month of December. A table will be set up in the Fellowship Hall where you can place your items.

You can be a blessing to those less fortunate with your donations.

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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 for this mission project to affirm and support foster families in the task of caring for foster children in their homes. The offerings to date have amounted to \$1,298.46. They are almost halfway to their goal with 6 months to go.

## BAPTISM

On November 27, we celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism for Klay William Davelaar, son of Matt and Amy Davelaar. Klay was born on June 6, 2022.

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**Sunday, December 18, 6:00 p.m.**—Sunday School Christmas Program. (Note time)  
**Sunday, December 25**—Christmas Day morning worship service. No Sunday School, RCYF or evening worship service.  
**Sunday, January 1**—Morning worship service as usual. No Sunday School, RCYF or evening service.

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## 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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**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 in a different community.



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you to all those who packed a shoebox for Operation Christmas Children. Carmel Church delivered 114 boxes this year. That's 45 more boxes than last year. Special thanks to the Jr. RCYF youth group for all the boxes they packed. These gifts of love may be the door God uses to open a child's heart to Jesus Christ.

# Puzzle!

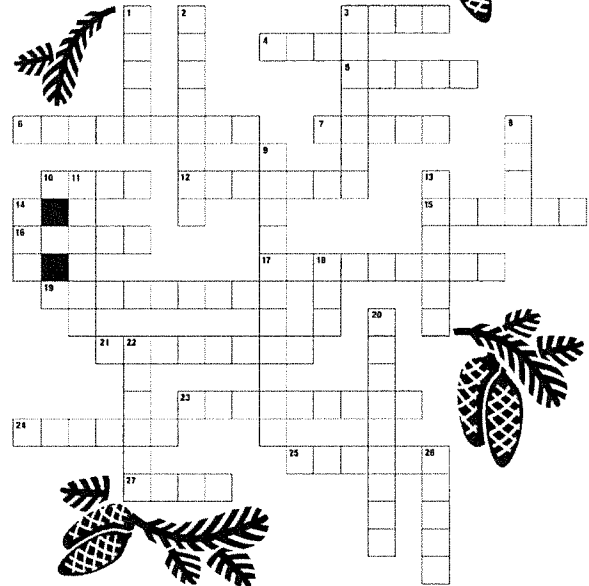
Take a break from Christmas preparations to complete this seasonal crossword.

### DOWN

1. song
2. keeper of sheep
3. Anointed One
8. a gift of the magi
9. red plants
11. coming
13. Jesus
14. 12th month (abbrev.)
18. B&B
20. a form of holly
22. heavenly messengers
26. he ordered the slaughter of the innocents

### ACROSS

3. wise men
4. author of the most famous Christmas account
5. red-suited gift-giver
6. of Ephraim
7. presents
10. Gabriel came to her
12. has a red nose
15. "Messiah" composer
16. northern little helpers
17. patron saint of children
19. made flesh
21. home for Mary
23. tree decorations
24. crib
25. he was a carpenter
27. a nova



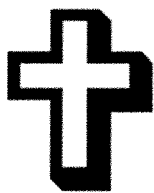
Answer DOWN 1. carol, 2. shepherd, 3. Messiah, 8. gold, 9. poinsettias, 11. Advent, 13. Christ, 14. dec, 18. inn, 20. mistletoe, 22. angels, 26. Herod; ACROSS 3. magi, 4. Luke, 5. Santa, 6. Bethlehem, 7. gifts, 10. Mary, 12. Rudolph, 15. Handel, 16. elves, 17. Saint Nick, 19. incarnation, 21. Nazareth, 23. ornaments, 24. manger, 25. Joseph, 27. star



**BIRTHDAYS  
&  
ANNIVERSARIES**

**DECEMBER**

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

**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.



# Story stones



Share the good news of Jesus' birth in a creative way.



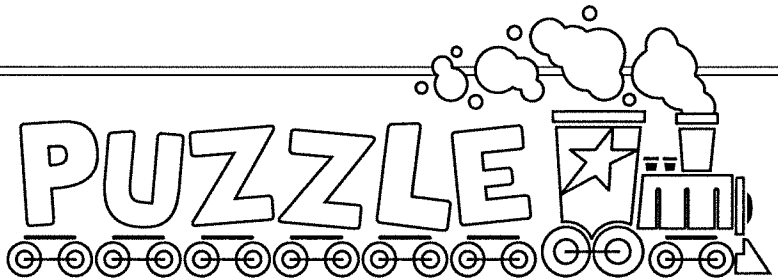
### What you need:

- Newspaper
- Bible
- Smooth, clean stones
- Pencil
- Oil paint pens
- Adult help



### What you do:

1. In a well-ventilated area, cover a work surface with newspaper.
2. Read Luke 2:1-20 and choose key people and places to draw.
3. In pencil, sketch one drawing on each stone.
4. Follow directions on paint pens to fill drawings with color. Let dry.
5. Hide stones for younger siblings to find, set out a new stone each day or order them in a row and tell the Nativity story.



## Seeking the story

Angels joyfully announced a special arrival in Bethlehem at Christmas.

Directions: Find the words listed below. Then unscramble the intersecting letters to complete Luke 2:11, NIV.



### WORD BANK

- Shepherds
- Child
- Nazareth
- Census
- Baby
- David
- Mary
- Travel
- Town
- Register
- Born
- Night

T	B	W	Y	A	Z	K	E	S	H	N	G	D	J	K
Q	O	Y	A	P	R	A	L	B	F	P	I	C	Q	L
N	R	W	X	B	E	Y	R	M	B	D	M	O	E	E
S	N	O	N	W	G	A	I	B	A	C	D	O	T	D
R	G	X	J	F	I	W	M	V	B	R	R	C	E	O
P	S	C	E	N	S	U	S	H	Y	U	Y	F	P	N
O	T	P	I	G	T	Q	C	N	T	G	M	U	S	T
O	A	N	D	B	E	C	H	I	L	D	N	Z	F	A
A	T	B	A	U	R	W	H	G	F	V	A	B	U	M
T	R	A	V	E	L	J	C	H	V	O	Z	G	N	H
F	B	Q	I	W	D	X	P	T	E	N	A	O	L	Q
Z	C	R	D	Q	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	V
R	U	V	Y	K	N	I	R	T	K	G	E	Y	I	R
K	V	A	Z	X	L	S	H	Y	T	P	T	J	S	K
L	L	E	S	M	J	Z	L	Q	R	U	H	V	W	X

"Today in the town of David a \_\_\_\_\_  
has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

LUKE 2:11, NIV