

HIGHLIGHTS

CARMEL REFORMED CHURCH

“Can’t Wait For Sunday”

February, 2023

MARKED BY LOVE

Through the centuries [people] have displayed many different symbols to show that they are Christians. They have worn crosses in the lapels of their coats, hung chains about their necks, even had special haircuts. Of course, there is nothing intrinsically wrong with any of this, if one feels it is [one’s] calling. But there is a much better sign, a universal mark that is to last through all the ages of the church until Jesus comes back.

...

Love—and the unity it attest to—is the mark Christ gave Christians to wear before the world. Only with this mark may the world know that Christians are indeed Christians and the Jesus was sent by the Father.

-Francis Schaeffer

AMAZING LOVE

If there is one subject more than another upon which I wish ever to speak, it is the love of Christ; but there is one which quite baffles me, and makes me go back from this platform utterly ashamed of my poor feeble words, and of the tongue which has uttered them, it is this subject. This love of Christ is the most amazing thing under heaven, if not in heaven itself.

-Charles Spurgeon

LENTEN SIGNALS

Why should we observe Lent? This 40-day season of repentance and reflection that begins on Ash Wednesday has three important purposes. Lent helps us STOP, LOOK, and LISTEN.

We observe Lent because it tells us to STOP and rest awhile— and to stop sinning. Lent tells us to LOOK inward for an honest self-examination, to look upward to see the cross of Jesus with healing and love, and to look forward to the hope of the Resurrection. And we observe Lent because it tells us to LISTEN— to the voice of God, the words of Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

SOP, LOOK, and LISTEN! These commands that are so crucial for travel safety are also important for our journey through Lent.



February 5: Amy McAlpine, Nikki Van Meeteren, Gaby Prins, Tyke Van Kekerix
February 12: Becky Ochsendorf, Rachel Van Roekel, Grace Van Roekel, Josie Bomgaars
February 19: Hannah Smolders,

Whitney Van Essen, Taya Gesink, Jennie Boogerd

February 26: Lexy Van Ginkel, Kelly Van Kekerix, Kaylen Wolfswinkel, Akenna Sandbulte

March 5: Kristi Segar, Kayti Beukelman, Kinlee Wolfswinkel, Gaby Prins

March 12: Londa Boogerd, Ruth De Jager, Faith Van Maanen, Aiden Madsen

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.

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.

February 19 - R-Verlyn Van Regenmorter, Gene Sandbulte ; **C-** Erica Robertson, Kaye Kuyper, Tereasa Sandbulte, Hazel Haverhals, Helen Vande Vegte.

February 26 - R-, Mitchell Banks, Doug Van Beek; **C-** Mary Lou Verburg, Carmen Maassen, Carol Langstraat, Anita Van Ravenhorst, Doree Wolfswinkel.

March 5 - R-Dan Buyert, Matt Smolders ; **C-** Cheryl Sandbulte, Amy Rozeboom, Ryan Oostra, Amy McAlpine, Misty Zwart.

March 12 - R-Mike Haverhals , Jack Soodsma; **C-** Sarah Nibbelink, Linda Altena, Allison Leusink, Shelly Sandbulte, Rachel Terpstra.

March 19 - R-Tony Rau, Jared Terpstra; **C-** Donna Renes, Sue Noteboom, Sherri Wolfswinkel, Glenda Van Meeteren, Cheryl Lange.

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.

- Feb. 5 - Matt Segar
- Feb. 12 - Matt Smolders
- Feb. 19 - Jack Soodsma
- Feb. 26 - Beth Te Grotenhuis
- Mar. 5 - Jared Terpstra
- Mar. 12 - Betty Valentine
- Mar. 19 - Wally Valentine
- Mar. 26 - Chris Van Essen

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THE LORD’S SUPPER

On February 26, 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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PROFESSION OF FAITH

At the January Elder’s Meeting it was their joy to receive Sawyer Rozeboom into the communicant family of Carmel Reformed Church through profession of faith. Sawyer is the son of Brian and Nicole Rozeboom. Sawyer is a senior at Western Christian High School. He plans to be involved in the family farm after high school. He enjoys 4-wheeling, welding, boating and spending time with friends.

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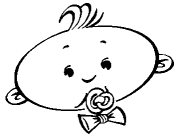
BAPTISM

On January 22, we celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism with several Carmel families.

Easton Brooks Van Ginkel, son of Nate and Lexy Van Ginkel. Easton was born on November 3, 2022.

Brock John Bomgaars, son of Thomas and Edan Bomgaars. Brock was born on November 16, 2022.

NEW ARRIVAL



We rejoice with Colton and Courtney Mesman on the birth of a daughter, Oaklynn Dell Mesman, on January 18. She weighed 7 lbs. 14 oz. and was

21 inches long.

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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 \$2034.08.

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TRANSFER

The membership of Brianna Vander Zwaag and baptized children, Tayden and Lane, has been transferred to the Living Water Community Church in Sheldon, Iowa.

The membership of Rebecca (Kleyer) Mara has been transferred to the First Reformed Church of Maurice, Iowa.

May God bless them in their new church homes.

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ADDRESS CHANGES

Jo Overman has moved to Crown Point in Sioux Center. Her room number is Birch 915.

Jo Overman
1440 7th Ave SE
RM: Birch 915
Sioux Center, IA 51250

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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.

UPDATE THE DIRECTORY



Church Directory

It's time to update our Carmel Church phone directory. This year we ask for your cooperation in making sure all the information is correct and up to date. Maybe you've moved in the last year, or your phone number is different, or you no longer have a land line phone. Please inform us of these changes. You will find a sheet in your mailbox that you need to fill out. Please turn in your information and save us a phone call. When you have it filled out, you may put the sheet in the box on the Coffee Station. Please do so by March 1. Everyone's cooperation would be very much appreciated!!

If you are a regular attender at Carmel Church but not yet a member and would like to be included in our directory as a "friend of our church", please pick up a sheet from the Coffee Station and fill it out. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

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The Jr. RCYF will be hosting a Soup Supper on Wednesday, February 15. They will be serving soups, sandwiches, and pies/desserts from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. A freewill donation will be accepted and will go towards funding the Middle School Retreat, as well as other Jr. RCYF activities.. A "To Go" option will also be available for those who are not comfortable staying to eat.

They would appreciate donations of soup, (recipes provided) pies, or 9 x 13 desserts. Please sign up at the Coffee Station. Anyone having a roaster we can use would also be appreciated.

Invite your family and friends to attend the Soup Supper on February 15.



Deacons Corner — February

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.



WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDIES

Women’s Life will be offering two Bible Studies. “*Take Courage*”, a study of Haggai will be on Monday mornings at 9:00 am. This 7 week study (January 23– March 6) will help you stay motivated despite opposition and courageously invest your life in God’s purposes, trustin Him for results. Contact Misty Zwart to reserve a book.

“*The Women of Easter*” is a 3 session monthly study on January 25, February 22, and March 29 at 7:00 pm. This study requires no book and has no homework—simply join us to learn more about the women who played a part in the Easter Story. Come to one, two or all three—your choice!

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PIGS-IN-THE-BLANKET

The last batch of pig-in-the-blanket were made on December 1, so the freezer in Moses Room (next to the kitchen) is fully stocked.

The pigs are \$15.00 a dozen. Please do not take the pigs from the freezer if they are not paid for. Sign the sheet and place your money in the box on the counter.

INSIRATION 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/>



February

- 1 - Dallas De Jong
- 2 - Michael Hooyer
Ryan Oostra
Addison Rozeboom
- 3 - Alyssa Mulder
- 4 - Kaylen Wolfswinkel
Claire Tea
The Harold Van Essen's
- 5 - Brexton Niemeyer
Colter Niemeyer
Tekoah Vanden Brink
Mrs. Pat Sandbulte
- 7 - Covey Wynia
Blake Zomer
Mrs. Nicole Vanden Brink
The Pete De Jong's
- 8 - Keziah Tea
- 9 - Mrs. Cassandra Soodsma
Ben Van Voorst
The Chris Van Essen's
- 13 - Jacob Haverhals
Addison Terpstra
Mrs. Cheryl Sandbulte
- 14 - Adam Nibbelink
Mrs. Kayti Beukelman
Mrs. Londa Rus
The Larry Vander Weide's
- 15 - Whitney Anderson
- 16 - Mrs. Jenna Wright
The Andrew Van Ginkel's
Jerry Wolfswinkel
Jerry Renes
Willard Hulstein
Briggs Hoekstra
- 17 - Jaren Pierce
- 18 - Gabi Luevano
- 19 - Rachel Renes
Mrs. Anita Van Ravenhorst
Mrs. Vera Dieck
Ezra LeLoux
- 20 - Ashton Madsen
- 21 - Montana Robinson
Kole Wolfswinkel
Caitlynn Fedders
- 22 - Eric Luevano
Mrs. April Kooi
Ken Brunsting
- 23 - Mrs. Allison Leusink
Mrs. Donna Renes
- 24 - Mrs. McKayla Kerkaert
The Seth Huizenga's
- 25 - Derick Niemeyer
Mrs. Laurie Buyert
The Les Te Grotenhuis'
- 26 - Jenna Wolfswinkel
Bradyn Van Voorst
- 27 - Reed Byker
- 28 - Lawson Van Ginkel
- 29 - Mitch Banks

INSPIRATION HILLS SUMMER CAMP

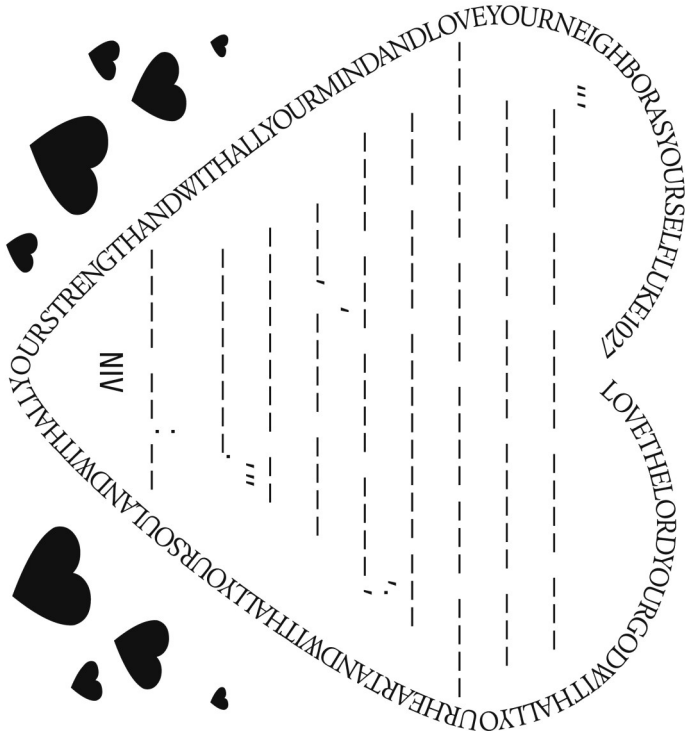
Our theme for the 2023 camp season will be “**Living Water**” from John 7:37-38. “On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirst, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” Join us this summer as we explore what it means for Jesus to be our source of Living Water through our various camp options: High school camp, Family camp, Wilderness camp, Day camp, Lodge camp, Saddle Up, etc.! Registration for summer camps open February 1, to register go to <https://www.inspirationhills.org/summer-camp/>. Carmel Church pays for half of one camp registration per child.

JUST FOR KIDS



Puzzle!

Draw lines to separate the words in the heart outline. Then, starting with "Love," write the words in order inside the heart to complete the two greatest commandments.



Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Luke 10:27, NIV

Children of the LIGHT

This craft celebrates that now we are light in the Lord (see Ephesians 5:8).

What you need:

- A gallon zip-top plastic bag
- Permanent markers (dark colors)
- Black construction paper
- White cardstock
- Scissors

What you do:

1. Draw a self-portrait on the outside of the bag. Add details.
2. Insert the black paper and set the bag flat on a table. It should be tough to see your picture now.
3. On the white cardstock, draw a picture of a flashlight with a long beam of light coming out. Color the flashlight but leave the beam white.
4. Cut out the flashlight and light beam. Place them in the bag, over the black paper. When the white beam covers the black background under your picture, you can see your self-portrait clearly.