

HIGHLIGHTS

CARMEL REFORMED CHURCH

"Can't Wait For Sunday"

February, 2024

BODY BUILDING

In 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, the Apostle Paul speaks of the body of Christ: the church. With Christ as head and we as the body, we are called to work together as one unit, depending on each other to use our gifts to build each other up. Through a series of articles, we have been going through a "body building" season so that we may all consider the many different parts, praying for them, thanking and encouraging those involved and asking how God can use each of us and our gifts here in Carmel. The next article in this ongoing series focuses on the Music Program.

Music Program Quick Facts

Teachers: Barb Punt, Deb Dibbet, Brooke Byker, Kiley Landman

Favorite Songs:

Punt: At the moment, one of her favorites is "Good God Almighty".

Byker: The kids sing "Fear Not", nice and loud, and also sing "How Great Thou Art" nicely.

About 65 kids from preschool to grade six participate.

Throughout the pages of the Bible, Scripture testifies regularly to the power of song and music as a way to honor and worship God, calling on the faithful to join in. At Carmel Reformed Church, this begins at a young age thanks to those involved in the Sunday School music program.

Carmel's music director, Jamie Van Voorst, knows the difference music can make in a child's life and spiritual development. Her own love for music was ingrained in her though her grandmother, who loved to sing, and she found support from her parents and church's music pastor.

"Music has always been close to my heart. When you look throughout the Bible, music whether it's singing or even dancing or the harp or lyre or tambourines or trumpets, there is so much music that is laced throughout the Bible that I think music is close to God's heart, too," Van Voorst said.

She encourages people to pay attention whenever children sing, since it's in those times you can see the Holy Spirit at work through them as they shout the songs and go through all the accompanying actions.

Brooke Byker has gotten an up-close look at that as a Sunday School music teacher for children from preschool to first grade. It's a role she took on three years ago, in part because her own kids would be a part of it and partly because it was a good way to contribute her teaching skills from her work at Stepping Stones Pre-school.

Working alongside Kiley Landman, she's seen how the music and songs can help teach children the basics of faith while giving them a bit of freedom.

"Sometimes this music space is a good area for them to get their wiggles out after a church service and hear different songs and hymns, music that can share the Gospel in different ways and maybe make it simpler for kids," Byker said.

To encourage them to get out their wiggles in a way that wasn't distracting, she and Landman decided to remove the metal chairs from the music room, since kids were prone to swinging their feet and making noise when using them. Instead, they put down lines on the floor for them to stand along.

"They don't bother each other as much because there's one less thing to distract them," she said.

There is also times when they pick out songs for the kids that mimic the themes of the pastor's sermon. When the singing is done, they can talk about what the words mean and why it's important.

"Recently Pastor Rog was talking to the kids about how we want to bear good fruit. Kiley and I made eyes across the sanctuary at each other because we had a song about that. We sang that song, 'Good Fruit', in Sunday School. It's a way to tie those kids into what we are learning," Byker said.

There's also room for children to participate in song at the level with which they are comfortable. For some, that might mean singing softly or not performing the song's actions. Not everyone worships the same way even as adults, after all.

"You do kind of have to meet the kids where they are at," Byker said. "The last thing you would want to do is harp on them and discourage them because not everyone praises God the same way."

Barb Punt has been part of the Sunday School music program for about 29 years, working with kids grades two through six. She's remained a part of the program so long because of the impact the children have had on her.

"When the kids really get into a song and really sing, there is a lot of enjoyment that goes into that," she said. "When you find that right song, it's like, 'Oh, yes!' Just watching them sing praises, there is nothing like it."

She likewise has seen children commit to memory and heart some important parts of faith through some of the songs.

"Every kid in our church can list the fruits of the Spirit in order because of the song they learned. This past year, we did the Lord's Prayer song," Punt said. "Years ago, we did John 3:16 in a song, and everybody who was that age can sing that song."

Through the years, she's seen the technology used in the music program change considerably several times. When she started, they would use cassette tapes.

"We'd have to rewind them and find the start of the songs we wanted," Punt remembered. "We would have all the words on pegboards because we didn't have PowerPoint."

The introduction of CDs made for a much more convenient way to go through the song selections. But there was still the need to keep track of many CDs and get them swapped out in a timely manner for performances. Using digital files has resolved that issue now.

"Now, you just attach the music file to the PowerPoint, and it's all there," Punt said.

So, how can Carmel support the Sunday School music program?

Byker recommended giving the children the praise they deserve for their work, especially after performing for the congregation during a service.

"The kids are the ones who are singing, so remember to tell them they are doing a good job and were so brave in front of church," she said. "Keep the focus on the kids,"

One way to support the music teachers is to pass along any children's songs that might be fun to include.

In addition to the children who work hard to learn the many songs and actions, let's not forget to thank those people who give their time to teach those kids and provide one of the most exuberant forms of worship. Give thanks to teachers who serve today, as well as the many who have served in the past, as it is through their dedication that the rafters of our church continue to reverberate with the happy praises of our church's youngest members.



February 4: Sara Sandbulte, Hannah Smolders, Aniya Robertson, Slayden Sandbulte.

February 11: Lexy Van Ginkel, Whitney Van Essen, Alydia Sandbulte, Ava Sandbulte.

February 18: Kayti Beukelman, Kristi Segar, Kylee Sandbulte,

Hannah Van Roekel.

February 25: Ruth De Jager, Londa Boogerd, Josie Bomgaars, Heidi Boogerd.

March 3: Lynna De Wit, Dancia DeMeester, Jennie Boogerd, Rylee Bomgaars.

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 4 - R-Denny De Jong, Becky Ochsendorf.

C-Anita Van Ravenhorst, Rachel Van Roekel, Helen Vande Vegte, Lorna Vander Vliet, Mary Lou Verburg.

February 11 - R-Mike Haverhals, Tony Rau.

C-Sandi Vonk, Doree Wolfswinkel, Sherri Wolfswinkel, Misty Zwart, Frieda Bartels.

February 18 - R-Jack Soodsma, Verlyn Van Regenmorter.

C-Linda Altena, Hazel Haverhals, Ronda Leusink, Fonda Post, Amy Rozeboom.

February 25 - R-Chad Robertson, Randi Sayles.

C-Colleen Bomgaars, Kaye Kuyper, Carmen Maassen, Donna Renes, Cheryl Sandbulte.

March 3 - R-Gene Sandbulte, Jerry Renes.

C-Lin De Jong, Amy McAlpine, Gene Sandbulte, Hannah Smolders, 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. 4 - Kelly Zinnel

Feb. 11 - Tom Zwart

Feb. 18 - Ken Altena

Feb. 25 - Cherub Choir

Mar. 3 - Jake Anderson

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THE LORD'S SUPPER

On February 18, 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 Gaby Prins into the communicant family of Carmel Reformed Church through profession of faith. Gaby is the daughter of Monty and Jennifer Prins.

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TRANSFER

The membership of Kayla Granstra has been transferred to First Christian Reformed Church in Sheldon, IA.

May God bless her in her new church home.

Bob and Suzanne Den Herder have been received into the Carmel membership. We welcome them into the Carmel family.



The Sunday School mission project this year is the Sack Pack Program. This is a local program aimed to decrease childhood hunger by providing supplemental food for children to take home on weekends. 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 help decrease childhood hunger in our own community. The offerings to date have amounted to \$2,377.30

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Galentines

Women's Life is excited to celebrate Y.O.U. again this year!

Grab your best Gal Pal and head to the Grain House in Hull for this event!

Bring along one \$10 gift card to your favorite place to share! (retail store, coffee shop, movie theater, food truck, etc.)

Come for a fun night out with the gals to laugh, have some yummy drinks and play a fun game!

Contact Kristi Gesink or the church office to sign up.

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UPDATE THE 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.



Church Directory

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 3. Everyone's cooperation would be very much appreciated!!

GEMS



CARMEL GEMS is excited to kick off the New Year! We celebrated Christmas at church at the beginning of December! Nachos, nativity escape room, craft, bingo, and we took an offering to bless a family in Carmel. Hearing the giggles, friendships and the connections with their Counselor is a blessing!!



The GEMS all have a **PRAYER FRIENDS**, who encourages and prays for them everyday! A beautiful blessing!



February 5, 2024 we will meet and continue to study Esther and her bravery-God is Trustworthy and the 7th/8th GEMS will study from Mourning to Celebration.



GEMS will start a new **FUNDRAISER**—we will be selling meals prepared by The Lunch House from Rock Valley.

February 11 after the morning service we will have samples of a couple of items! Check your church mailbox soon for all the details. Here is what is on the menu!

Each 9x13 pan offers 4-6 servings.

Each meal is prepared fresh and may be frozen!

Soup—Broccoli Cheese, Chicken & Rice, Brisket Stew

Sliders—Ham & Cheese, Philly

Pasta—Lasagna, Tuscan Chicken

Meals—CBSA Chicken, Garlic Parm Potatoes, KC Wings, Baby Bakers, Green Beans, Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy



Any questions please contact Kris Van Voorst or Rachel Van Roekel, we will be able to connect you to a GEMS member!



February 18, 2024—Order Forms are DUE! (yes it is a Sunday!)



February 19, 2024—NO GEMS- President's Day

Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.
Isaiah 40:31



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 James Vanden Brink, 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, Ryan Oostra and Elder, Dan Fedders 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.

TEC

Register for a high school experience of a life time! Tri-State Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) is accepting applications for the upcoming weekend at Maurice Reformed Church in Maurice, Iowa. TEC is an interdenominational three-day Christian retreat designed to help high schoolers learn more about their faith and build Christian community. TEC is February 16-18, 2024. If you would like to learn more about TEC or register, please visit www.tristateTEC.org or email TriStateTEC@gmail.com. The cost is \$50 and includes a t-shirt & other special gifts.

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SUMMER CAMP



It's not too early to start thinking about Summer Camp at Inspiration Hills. Registration opens February 1, and some camps fill up fast. Pick up a brochure from the stand by the mailboxes or go to the website: www.inspirationhills.org and check out all the different camps. There are all types of camps to choose from: day camps, lodge camps, wilderness camps, sports camps, saddle up camp and family 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.

INSPIRATION HILLS NEWS

Join Inspiration Hills and Atlas for a rejuvenating, empowering, and joy-filled weekend for single mothers! 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 2-4. 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 16-18. 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. To register please visit <https://www.inspirationhills.org/winter-retreat-2022/>

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22:6 Frozen Sweet Corn

There is plenty of frozen sweet corn left in the Moses Room. Please pay for your sweet corn when you pick it up. 1 bag is \$10/bag; 10 bags are \$8/bag; 20 bags are \$7/bag; 25+ bags are \$6/bag.



February

- 1 - Dallas De Jong
- 2 - Michael Hooyer
Ryan Oostra
Addison Rozeboom
- 3 - Alyssa Mulder
- 4 - Mrs. Kaylen Doelman
Claire Tea
The Harold Van Essen's
- 5 - Brexton Niemeyer
Colter Niemeyer
Tekoah Vanden Brink
Mrs. Pat Sandbulte
- 7 - Covey Wynia
Mrs. Nicole Vanden Brink
The Pete De Jong's
- 8 - Keziah Tea
- 9 - Ben Van Voorst
The Chris Van Essen's
- 10 - Rowen Rozeboom
- 11 - Stetson Byker
- 13 - Jacob Haverhals
Addison Terpstra
Mrs. Cheryl Sandbulte
- 14 - Adam Nibbelink
Mrs. Kayti Beukelman
Mrs. Londa Rus
The Larry Vander Weide's
- 15 - Mrs. Whitney Huyser

- Mrs. Jenna Wright
The Andrew Van Ginkel's
- 16 - Jerry Wolfswinkel
Jerry Renes
Willard Hulstein
Briggs Hoekstra
- 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 - Ripken Van Ginkel
Eric Luevano
Mrs. April Kooi
Ken Brunsting
- 23 - Mrs. Allison Leusink
Mrs. Donna Renes
- 24 - The Seth Huizenga's
- 25 - Derick Niemeyer
Mrs. Laurie Buyert
- 26 - Jenna Wolfswinkel
Bradyn Van Voorst
The Kraig Hulstein's
- 27 - Reed Byker
- 28 - Lawson Van Ginkel
- 29 - Mitch Banks

SAVE THE DATE



Plans are underway for VBS 2024! Join us June 3-7 for a great week of VBS. Please begin praying now that many lives would be changed and that we have a safe and fun week. Start planning how you can help with this year's VBS. It takes many volunteers to make a successful VBS. Watch your March newsletter for information on registration sign-up!



Kortney Haan

Kelsi Noteboom

Nicole Vanden Brink

Amy Davelaar

Jamie Vonk

JUST FOR KIDS



Puzzle!

After solving the equations, write the words on the correct numbered lines below. Complete Ephesians 1:3 (NIV) to discover how God shows his great love for us.

$14 - 7 =$ ___ Father
 $10 + 9 =$ ___ heavenly
 $9 + 9 =$ ___ the
 $12 + 12 =$ ___ blessing
 $2 - 1 =$ ___ Praise
 $7 + 7 =$ ___ has
 $11 + 11 =$ ___ every
 $13 + 13 =$ ___ Christ
 $8 + 8 =$ ___ us
 $10 + 10 =$ ___ realms
 $8 + 9 =$ ___ in
 $5 + 5 =$ ___ Lord
 $10 + 11 =$ ___ with

$10 + 15 =$ ___ in
 $10 - 5 =$ ___ God
 $6 - 3 =$ ___ to
 $12 - 6 =$ ___ and
 $6 + 6 =$ ___ Christ
 $18 - 9 =$ ___ our
 $22 - 11 =$ ___ Jesus
 $1 + 1 =$ ___ be
 $7 + 6 =$ ___ who
 $2 + 2 =$ ___ the
 $10 + 5 =$ ___ blessed
 $4 + 4 =$ ___ of
 $10 + 13 =$ ___ spiritual

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Ephesians 1:3, NIV

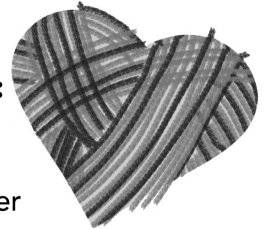
Answer: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Ephesians 1:3, NIV

HEART strings

Make this heartfelt craft as a decoration or gift.

What you need:

- Yarn
- Scissors
- Parchment paper
- Baking sheet
- Heart-shaped cookie cutters
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup cornstarch
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup water
- Adult help



What you do:

1. Cut yarn into 12-inch pieces.
2. Place cookie cutters atop a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
3. Combine cornstarch and water in a saucepan. Heat mixture over medium heat, stirring until thick and smooth. Remove from heat and cool to form a "glue."
4. Dip each piece of yarn into the mixture to coat completely. Squeeze off any excess.
5. Place yarn in the cookie cutters, allowing pieces to cross and loop within the heart. Add more until the cookie cutter is filled and the yarn looks like a heart.
6. Remove cookie cutters and bake the sheet for two hours at 150°F , or until hearts are dry and hard.