

HIGHLIGHTS

CARMEL REFORMED CHURCH

"Can't Wait For Sunday"

March, 2024

PRESSED

Gethsemane, the name of the place where Jesus prayed before his betrayal, is an Aramaic word for "olive press." During Bible times, olives were pressed three times to remove all the valuable oil. Before being arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus felt the full pressing weight of our sins on his shoulders. Surrounded by olive trees, praying fervently while sweating drops of blood, the perfect Son of God asked his heavenly Father three times to remove the cup of suffering.

Instead of removing that trial, God used it to redeem and save humankind. Likewise, God uses our hardships to refine and strengthen our faith.

In *The Rock, the Road and the Rabbi*, TV host Kathie Lee Gifford and Messianic Rabbi Jason Sobel speculate that if Peter, along with James and John, hadn't fallen asleep in Gethsemane, he may have had the strength to not deny Jesus later that night.

"All of us must be vigilant to watch and pray so that we don't succumb to the temptation to deny the Lord when we go through the olive presses of life and feel like we are being crushed by our situation and circumstances," the authors write. "We must remember that it is the crushing that brings out the true inner value and worth of the olive."

BE THE DONKEY

Corrie ten Boom, a devout Christian who helped shelter hundreds of Jewish people from Nazis during World War II, was asked how she stayed humble despite her fame.

"When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey, and everyone was waving palm branches and throwing garments onto the road and singing praises, do you think that for one moment it ever entered the head of that donkey that any of that was for him?" she replied. "If I can be the donkey on which Jesus Christ rides in his glory, I give him all the praise and all the honor."

Jesus told his followers they'd need to carry (or "take up") their cross. But how well do you carry our Savior? How do you bring him into a world that desperately needs the good news of the gospel?



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

March 10: Alyssa Kuyper, Nikki Hulstein, Addison Rozeboom, Faithe Van Maanen.

March 17: Amy McAlpine, Ashley Laackmann, Elyse Zwart,

Kinlee Wolfswinkel.

March 24: Kristi Segar, Lexy Van Ginkel, Attyson Prins, Gabby Prins.

March 31: Sara Sandbulte, Hannah Smolders, Slayden Sandbulte, Akenna Sandbulte.

April 7: Lexy Van Ginkel, Whitney Van Essen, Ava Sandbulte, Morgan Terpstra.

PLEASE find a substitute or trade with someone, 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.

March 3 - R-Gene Sandbulte, Chad Robertson.
C-Lin De Jong, Amy McAlpine, Gene Sandbulte, Hannah Smolders, Cheryl Lange.

March 10 - R-Dan Buyert, Matt Smolders.
C- Carol Langstraat, Allison Leusink, Sarah Nibbelink, Sue Noteboom, Erica Robertson.

March 17 - R-Jared Terpstra, Glenda Van Meeteren.

C- Clarice Van Maanen, Mimi Sandbulte, Glenda Van Meeteren, Rachel Terpstra, Rhonda Sandbulte.

March 24 - R-Doug Van Beek, Denny De Jong.
C- Teresa Sandbulte, Linda Altena, Misty Zwart, Carmen Maassen, Hazel Haverhals.

March 31 - R- Mike Haverhals, Becky Ochsendorf.

C- Frieda Bartels, Sherri Wolfswinkel, Ronda Leusink, Rachel Van Roekel, Sandi Vonk.

April 7-R- Tony Rau, Matt Smolders.

C- Colleen Bomgaars, Helen Vande Vegte, Doree Wolfswinkel, Lin De Jong, 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.

Mar. 3 - Mitchell Banks

Mar. 10 - Frieda Bartels

Mar. 17 - Brad Beukelman

Mar. 24 - Nursery & Cherub Choir

Mar. 31 - David Bohl

Apr. 7 - Colleen Bomgaars

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PROFESSION OF FAITH

At the February Elder's Meeting it was their joy to receive Addisyn Huizenga and Thijs Doelman into the communicant family of Carmel Reformed Church through profession of faith.

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YOUTH SUNDAY

Sunday, March 10 will be Youth Sunday. The Sr. RCYF will lead the morning service and the Jr. RCYF will lead the evening service. The morning special offering will be for Sr. RCYF and the evening offering for Jr. RCYF.

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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 \$3,026.16



TRANSFER



The membership of Colyn Oostenink has been received from Hope CRC in Hull, IA. Colyn is married to Jayden Oostenink. They make their home in Orange City, IA.

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SAVE THE DATE

All volunteers involved in our education programs are invited to an Appreciation Supper on Wednesday, March 20, 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This includes Sunday School teachers, officers, music leaders, Wednesday Night Activities teachers, helpers, and Bible Study leaders, GEMS and Cadet Counselors, Jr. and Sr. RCYF Sponsors, and VBS Directors, along with your spouse or quest. Child-care will be provided.

A great meal and fun evening has been planned for these individuals and we hope you can come and enjoy this time as we show our appreciation to our education volunteers!

Please sign up at the Coffee Station in the Fellowship Hall or let the church office know if you will be attending. Also note if you need childcare. Please do so by **March 13.**

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PASTORAL CANDIDATE

The pastoral candidate, Pastor Ron Boersema, will be preaching at Carmel on Sunday morning, March 3. Please join us for worship and a chance to personally meet Pastor Ron.

On March 10, after the morning worship service there will be a congregational meeting seeking the congregation's recommendation to extend a call to Pastor Ron Boersema.

SR. RCYF TACO SUPPER AND AUCTION FUNDRAISER



SUPPER

The Sr. RCYF will have a Taco Supper and Auction Fundraiser on Wednesday, March 27, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

They will have a Taco supper for freewill donation. They will also have a silent auction of items donated by Sr. RCYF members.

These auction items will be on display in the Fellowship Hall beginning March 17. You can check out the items and make your silent bids on your favorite items.

The silent auction will end on March 27. So come on out and enjoy some tacos and bid on the auction items.

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CARMEL VBS

An Epic Cruise From Genesis to Revelation!

Every day, our kids are bombarded with questions: Did God really create everything? Why do bad things happen? Was Noah's ark real? Why



do I need to be saved? Can I trust the Bible? Amid sloths, butterflies, river dolphins, and dart frogs, children sail along on a fun jungle cruise, stopping at seven ports of call. These ports are the 7 C's of History: Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion,

Christ, Cross, and Consummation. Kids discover how these events shape our world, and they will learn to reconnect the Bible to their everyday life. Prepare to swing into fun as we head out on The Great Jungle Journey!

Carmel VBS is June 3-7.

Registration for Carmel members and regular attender's children and grandchildren Preschool-8th grade will open March 10. Registration for the public will open April 1.

Preschool registration will not be available to the public.



Deacons Corner — March

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.

INSPIRATION HILLS

Digging Deeper Bible Study is your opportunity to study the Word of God more in depth than ever before! Whether you're opening the Bible for the first time or are a seasoned theologian, this workshop will help you learn the tools necessary for studying God's Word accurately and in a fulfilling way. Digging Deeper will take place from 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 16 at Inspiration Hills. There is no registration deadline. Registration cost is \$25. To register for this event or learn more, visit

inspirationhills.org/deep

Art of Marriage Retreat weekend includes guided video lessons from Familylife's Art of Marriage curriculum as well as discussion time with other couples and activities that will strengthen your bond as a couple.

The event will take place from 5:30 p.m. on Friday, April 12 to 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 14 at Inspiration Hills. The deadline for registration is March 29. The cost of registration is \$50 per couple. To register for this event or learn more, visit inspirationhills.org/marriage

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.



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.



MARCH

- 2 - Mrs. Sara Den Herder
The Ron Dieck's
- 3 - Baylor Sayles
Mrs. Carol Langstraat
The Nate Maassen's
- 4 - Rachel Wynia
Mrs. Dennica Rozeboom
- 6 - Peter Vonk
Mason Vander Lugt
- 7 - Blake Niemeyer
Aiden Madsen
Karrigan Glade
The Glenn Lange's
- 8 - Mrs. Abby Madsen
- 9 - Cole Rozeboom
- 11 - Mrs. Cheryl Hulstein
Mrs. Nikki Van Meeteren
Rebecca Hooyer
Jared Terpstra
- 12 - Jaxson Rozeboom
- 13 - Izabella Klein
Mrs. Jackie Huizenga
Randy Vande Vegte
Harlan Van Maanen
- 14 - Mrs. Janice Luevano
- 15 - Nyiah Gesink
- 16 - Elliott Landman
Kevin Sandbulte
Mrs. Fonda Post
- 18 - Landry Van Kekerix

- Lucas Sandbulte
Anthony Rau
Rod Van Ravenswaay
- 19 - The Rodney Sandbulte's
- 20 - Mrs. Sue Dorhout
Kezden Hofman
The Ron Schmith's
- 21 - Grady Friedrichsen
Scott Fischer
Herb Remmerde
- 22 - Wilmer Rensink
Brian Klarenbeek, Sr.
Orlin Oostra
Mrs. Jo Dirksen
- 23 - Evan Van Meeteren
Charity Hooyer
Mrs. Janet Brunsting
Tate Van Essen
- 24 - Colyn Oostenink
Mrs. Shalee Hofman
The Hans Smolders'
Sawyer Rozeboom
Jamie Van Voorst
- 25 - Samuel McAlpine
- 26 - Mrs. Taylor Punt
- 27 - Mrs. Danita Nellore
- 28 - Sofia Sandbulte
Steve Sandbulte
- 30 - Jada Ochsendorf
- 31 - Everly Hulstein

THE BANQUET



Carmel Church is scheduled to serve at the Banquet in Sioux Falls on Thursday, March 28. There are two different times to sign up for The Banquet 2:00 p.m. to help set up or 5:00 p.m. to help serve. There is a sign up sheet on the Coffee Station in the Fellowship Hall to sign up.

Donations are also needed to purchase supplies and milk for the meal. A box for donations will also be on the Coffee Station. Please consider giving of your time or a donation.

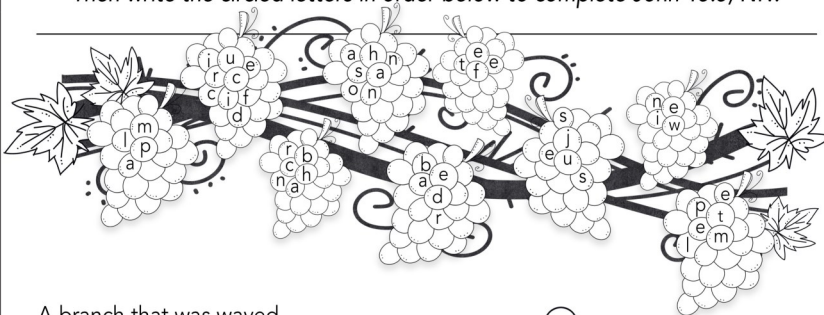
JUST FOR KIDS



A LASTING LESSON

Before dying on the cross, Jesus teaches the disciples an important lesson.

Directions: Use the clues to unscramble the letters in each grape cluster. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete John 15:5, NIV.

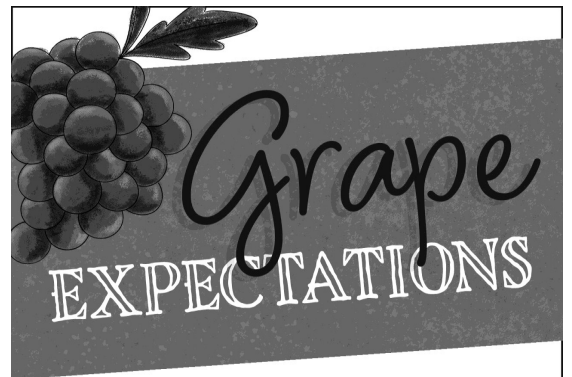


- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| A branch that was waved | — — — — ○ |
| How Jesus was put to death | — — — — — ○ — — — — — |
| A stick attached to the vine | — — — — — ○ — — — — — |
| People shouted this to Jesus | — — — — — ○ — — — — — |
| Jesus washed these | — — — — — ○ — — — — — |
| This was broken and eaten | — — — — — ○ — — — — — |
| The Messiah | — — — — — ○ — — — — — |
| A drink from grapes | — — — — — ○ — — — — — |
| Jesus drove the money changers from here | — — — — — ○ — — — — — |

"I am the vine; you are the branches.

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear _____ ;
apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5, NIV

Answer: palm, crucified, branch, hosanna, feet, bread, Jesus, wine, temple, much fruit



Try this chilly new take on a healthy snack.

What you need:

- 30 grapes, washed and dried
- ½ cup vanilla yogurt
- 4 graham crackers, crushed
- Toothpicks
- Parchment paper

What you do:

1. On a baking sheet lined with parchment paper, arrange grapes in a single layer. Freeze for two hours.
2. Insert a toothpick into each grape.
3. Dip each grape into the yogurt, coating half of it.
4. Roll each dipped grape in the crushed crackers. Place back on the parchment.
5. Freeze for two more hours. Enjoy!

