

HIGHLIGHTS

CARMEL REFORMED CHURCH

“Can’t Wait For Sunday”

April, 2024

THE JOY OF JESUS

The joy that Jesus offers his disciples is his own joy, which flows from his intimate communion with the One who sent him. It is a joy that does not separate happy days from sad days, successful moments from moments of failure, experiences of honor from experiences of dishonor, passion from resurrection.

This joy is a divine gift that does not leave us during times of illness, poverty, oppression or persecution. It is present even when the world laughs or tortures, robs or maims, fights or kills. It is truly ecstatic, always moving us away from the house of fear into the house of love, and always proclaiming that death no longer has the final say, though its noise remains loud and its devastation visible. The joy of Jesus lifts up life to be celebrated.

-Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Lifesigns*

WHEN IT RAINS

The skeleton flower, a perennial native to Japan, has delicate petals that change from opaque white to almost transparent when wet. After it rains, only the flower’s intricate, skeleton-like veins are visible.

When the rains come (and they will!) in our lives, the same can be said. Amid difficulty and struggle, our true selves often become more transparent. During a parenting challenge, criticism might emerge. Or while we tackle a tough work project, impatience might rear its ugly head.

Hosea 6:3 (NLT) proclaims: “Oh, that we might know the Lord! Let us press on to know him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring.” The rains will come. Whether you’re experiencing light rain or a downpour, ponder what the water reveals. Then ask God how you can be more open to his work in that area.

-Janna Firestone



April 7: Jo Moget, Whitney Van Essen, Ava Sandbulte, Morgan Terpstra.

April 14: Lexy Van Ginkel, Brynn Van Voorst, Josie Bomgaars, Ruthie Vanden Brink.

April 21: Rachel Van Roekel, Kristi Van Voorst, Brody Van

Voorst, Marcus Van Voorst.

April 28: Ruth De Jager, Londa Boogerd, Karlee Leusink, Rachel Wynia.

May 5: Lynna De Wit, Morgan Hoekstra, Aniya Robertson, Kierra Wolfswinkel.

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.

April 7 - R-Jack Soodsma, Matt Smolders.

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

April 14 - R-Glenda Van Meeteren, Hans Smolders.

C-Kaye Kuyper, Hannah Smolders, Anita Van Ravenhorst, Mary Lou Verburg, Cheryl Lange.

April 21 - R-Verlyn Van Regenmorter, Randi Sayles.

C-Fonda Post, Amy Rozeboom, Cheryl Sandbulte, Mimi Sandbulte, Rhonda Sandbulte.

April 28 - R-Dan Buyert, Denny De Jong.

C-Carol Langstraat, Rachel Terpstra, Clarice Van Maanen, Teresa Sandbulte, Sue Noteboom.

May 5 - R-Doug Van Beek, Jared Terpstra.

C-Allison Leusink, Sarah Nibbelink, Erica Robertson, Glenda Van Meeteren, Lorna Vander Vliet.

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.

- Apr. 7 - GEMS
- Apr. 14 - David Bohl
- Apr. 21 - Colleen Bomgaars
- Apr. 28 - Mike Bomgaars
- May 5 - Tom Bomgaars

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PROFESSION OF FAITH

At the March 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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BAPTISM

On March 17, we celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism with Waylon Nicolaas Doelman. Waylon was born August 24, 2023. He is the son of Thijs and Kaylen Doelman.

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NEW ARRIVALS



Congratulations to Luke and Kortney Haan on the birth of their daughter, Kenna Grace Haan, who was born on February 2.

Congratulations to Matt and Hannah Smolders on the adoption of their daughter, Naomi Nicole Lynn, who was born on January 26.

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SENIOR APPRECIATION SUPPER

Your invitation to the Senior Legacy Appreciation Supper sponsored by the Sr. RCYF, is in your mailbox. They are planning a great meal as an appreciation to you for all of your support throughout the years. Please RSVP to the church office **by Monday, April 15.**



Prayer Day for Crops & Industry

Our annual Prayer Day for Crops and Industry service will be held Wednesday, April 3, at 7:00 p.m. Join us for this special service as we gather to ask

God's blessing on our crops and industry for the coming year. Stacy Jasper will share some thoughts at this service of worship and prayer.

Carmel members will participate in a season of prayer. An offering will be received for the Christian Care Fund. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend this special service.

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MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT



The Middle School Retreat is a fun weekend for Jr. High students and their adult leaders. It will be held at Hidden Acres Christian Center in Dayton, IA. The MSR begins the evening of Friday, April 12. The retreat runs through Sunday morning, April 14.

Keep these leaders and students in your prayers that they may have safe travels and an awesome weekend of worship, friends, games, and fun.

The following students are attending: Jacob Haverhals, Alli Huizenga, Quinlynn Klein, Karlee Leusink, Eric Luevano, Weston Maassen, Aiden Madsen, Gaby Prins, Akenna Sandbulte, Hannah Van Roekel, Brody Van Voorst, Tekoah Vanden Brink, Kole Wolfswinkel, Gabriel Lerma, Bryce Meendering, Attyson Prins, Morgan Terpstra, Tacey Van Kekerix, Peter Vonk, Coby Sandbulte, and Natalie Heasty.

The following leaders are attending: Tom and Edan Bomgaars, Dan and Danica DeMeester, and Matt and Hannah Smolders.



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 \$3,334.16

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SUNDAY SCHOOL CELEBRATION SUNDAY

On Sunday, May 5, we will be celebrating our Sunday School during the morning worship service. The morning will begin with a time of fellowship (coffee and cookies) in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. The worship service will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

During the service we will recognize our Sunday School teachers, receive an update on the Sunday School Mission Project, and hear from our students on the memory work they have learned this year. They will also be singing for our ministry in music.

Our Consistory members will be presenting Bibles to our graduating High School Seniors.

There will also be a brief message given by Pastor Doug Van Aartsen.

Following the worship service the Sr. RCYF will have a BBQ fundraiser. They will be grilling hamburgers, brat burgers and hot dogs. So everyone is invited to stay and enjoy some food and fellowship. A freewill donation would be appreciated for the BBQ.

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DIRECTORY



The new phone directory will be in your mailboxes. Please note that the mailboxes will be rearranged to accommodate the membership changes for the last year. Check to make sure the box is yours before removing the contents. Your box is above your name.



Deacons Corner — April

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.

CARMEL VBS

An Epic Cruise From Genesis to Revelation!



Prepare to swing into fun as we head out on **The Great Jungle Journey!** 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? At this VBS, kids will explore the biblical answers to these questions as they set off on an epic adventure from Genesis to Revelation.

Amid sloths, butterflies, river dolphins, and dart frogs, your children will sail along on a fun jungle cruise, stopping at seven ports of call.

These ports are the 7 C's of History: Creation, Corruptions, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, and Consummation. Kids will discover how these events shape our world, and they will learn to reconnect the Bible to their everyday life.

Registration for Carmel families and regular attenders (along with grandchildren) was March 10-March 31. Preschool is only available to Carmel members/regular attendees. If you missed registration please reach out to one of the directors.

Our volunteers are what makes this week such a success! You do not want to miss out on this opportunity! Volunteers are encouraged to sign up online by using the link:

<https://vbspro.events/p/events/carmelvbs2024>

Or using this QR code:



Registration for the community will open April 1, at 9:00 a.m. If we are at our capacity, you will need to call the church office to be put on the waiting list.

We covet your prayers for all those involved in this week-long ministry. We pray that God will be glorified and many lives will be blessed through our 2024 VBS.

Kortney Haan
Amy Davelaar

Nicole Vanden Brink
Jaimee Vonk

Kelsi Noteboom
Aubrey Van Kekerix



Carmel GEMS

This year we studied Queen Esther, not only did she RISE UP, she knew her Lord and Savior, and with God's help, she rescued God's people, and the big lesson is we all need to be rescued and be a Rescuer! I need to be rescued; you need to be rescued.

God sent His only Son to be our Rescuer!

Thank You to everyone who supported Carmel GEMS through our yearly fundraiser! Our prayer is this will help your mealtime become easier and bless your family!

Thank You to all of the prayers throughout the year!! Carmel is blessed with dedicated Counselors, Craft, Kitchen and Prayer Friends who love each and everyone of the girls that walk through the door! Seeing the connection between the Counselor and GEMS is such a gift from God!

Important Dates:

GEMS Sunday on April 7, 2024

April 10, 2024 - 7:00 pm - yes this is a **Wednesday Night** GEMS Mom's and Prayer Friends to a fun evening, celebrating the Sisterhood that God created!

Serving HIM together,
Kris Van Voorst - Club Coordinator



ONLINE DIRECTORY



Did you know we have an online directory? We'd love to get it updated with current photos and contact information before Pastor Ron and Karen Boersema arrive! Please sign up if you haven't already and please update your information if you already have an account.

You can download the app to your phone to make it easier. There are instructions in your church mailbox.

To sign up for an account please go to instantdirectory.com and find the member login.

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DIAMONDS MINISTRY PRAISE AND WORSHIP NIGHT

Created with a Purpose—A night of worship!
April 17 @ 7:00-9:00 p.m. @ Carmel Reformed Church!

You are invited to join Diamonds for ***Created with a Purpose—A night of worship!*** Are you tired? Are you too busy to find time in the presence of God? Do you feel like you're bound by darkness? Do you not understand what your purpose is? Come as you are (young, old, man, or woman. **All are welcome!**) on April 17 at Carmel Reformed Church from 7-9 p.m. for a night of worship, fellowship, and a message from Rob Rozeboom. During our time together, we will be challenged to pick a path. Are you going to choose a path of darkness or the path of light?

We hope and pray you can make it out to help support Diamonds Ministry! Following the service there will be a prayer chapel open to anyone who feels they need prayer or someone to talk to! As well as an ice cream social in the fellowship hall!

The freewill donation will be going to help support Diamonds to continue to thrive. Through your help we are able to provide Bible studies, Bibles, and also able to go out into the community to serve. It is our hope to be able to go on a mission trip this summer, through your support and by God's grace we will be able to go and serve the Lord wherever He is calling us!

We hope to see you there!

WHO IS DIAMONDS?

Diamonds Ministry is a post high school women's ministry created to give women a community of girls to help grow in Christ together. At Diamonds, our mission is to first find Diamonds.

When you come to Diamonds, we pray you feel loved and welcomed from the moment you step through the doors. Next, we pray for God to gradually wipe away the dirt around your heart. Then, throughout Diamonds, we pray that God can help shape you into a disciple of Christ. Lastly, once you decide to leave Diamonds, we pray that you are set in God's hands and feel equipped to make disciples of all nations!

At Diamonds, we believe everyone is created with a purpose: Made to Shine! John 1:5 is our theme verse: *The Light Shines in the Darkness, and the Darkness HAS NOT overcome the Light.*

We pray that throughout Diamonds, you can learn your true purpose in Christ. Like Diamonds, we are first found by God covered in dirt and shame. But, then God wipes up clean by His Spirit and we are made into a new creation. In order for a Diamond to shine, the sun needs to shine through the diamond. Just like us, we need the Son of God to shine through us to be a true reflection of Jesus.

Currently we have around 25+ girls from all different walks of life. Women who come knowing God, who are confused, who are angry, or maybe don't understand who God is. Diamonds is meant to be a community full of love and the gospel. Our nights consist of worship, testimony, and small group time. We just (by God's grace) were able to finish our study called "*Greater Than*". We were challenged by the question: **Have you decided Jesus is worth it all?**

We now are embarking through the book of Matthew through the study called "*Simple Kingdom*". We are excited to see what God will do in the next year as we just hit our one year anniversary! We sit in anticipation as God continues to use us and stretch us.

Thank you for your continued support as we strive to make Jesus known in our ministry. We ask for prayers as we continue to embark down this path God has called us too!

<3 Diamonds



APRIL

- 1 - Mark Swets
- 2 - Aliza Madsen
Decker Hulstein
Mrs. Kim Niemeyer
- 3 - Aria Vande Vegte
Mrs. Joanne Hanson
- 4 - Sloane De Wit
Tim Bomgaars
Mrs. Lin De Jong
- 6 - Mrs. Brenda Janisch
- 7 - Mrs. Mary Ann Zinnel
Milt Van Ravenswaay
- 8 - The Matt Davelaar's
The Chris Van Meeteren's
- 9 - Vada Byker
The Steven Wynia's
- 10 - Melissa Wynia
Bill Plantage
- 11 - Kovey Hofman
Tacey Van Kekerix
Lane Maassen
Beau Van Voorst
Shirley Van Voorst
- 13 - Lane Klarenbeek
The Jerry Rus'
- 14 - Cambri Hulstein
Quinlynn Klein
Jerry Rus
- 15 - Jim Vande Zandschulp
- 16 - Terry Van Regenmorter
The Micah Albert's
- 17 - Hennlie Rozeboom
Wyatt Zomer
The Colton Mesman's
- 18 - Hannah Woudstra
Chloe De Jong
Chad Robertson
- 19 - Dylan Frangenberg
- 20 - Koston Van Essen
Mrs. Sarah Fedders
The Vince Sandbulte's
- 21 - Matthew Bomgaars
Mrs. Kiley Landman
The Sean Robinson's
- 22 - The Gary Sandbulte's
- 23 - Rodney Moget
- 24 - Tulsa Robinson
Leah Nibbelink
Mrs. Karen Stiltz
- 25 - Marlin Sandbulte
- 26 - Sarah Hooyer
Rick Sandbulte
- 27 - Karsten Niemeyer
Mrs. Lexy Van Ginkel
Chad Wynia
The Josh Vanden Top's
- 28 - Verlyn Van Regenmorter
The Blake Zomer's
- 29 - Paul McAlpine
Jan De Jong
Mrs. Alice Remmerde
The Isaac Hanson's
- 30 - Ron Schmith



SHRED BAG FUNDRAISER

Carmel Reformed Church is planning a new fundraiser and provide participants with a safe way to dispose of unneeded documents.

It is easy to let outdated or confidential documents pile up around the house, from old checks to tax returns. How many times do you wind up burning those documents or simply hoarding them?

Carmel is partnering with Brommer Sanitation in its shred bag program, which provides a safe means of destroying those unneeded documents.

You can purchase a \$20 bag at the church office or by contacting Elder Dan Fedders and the bag will be put in your church mailbox.

A bag is capable of holding up to 30 pounds of paper. The items in the bag must be free of most large metal clips, paper clips, or binders.

Seal the bag and either bring the bag to Brommer Sanitation or drop it off at Carmel for an upcoming shred day at the church on April 24.

The money raised will be used for a variety of building projects at Carmel.

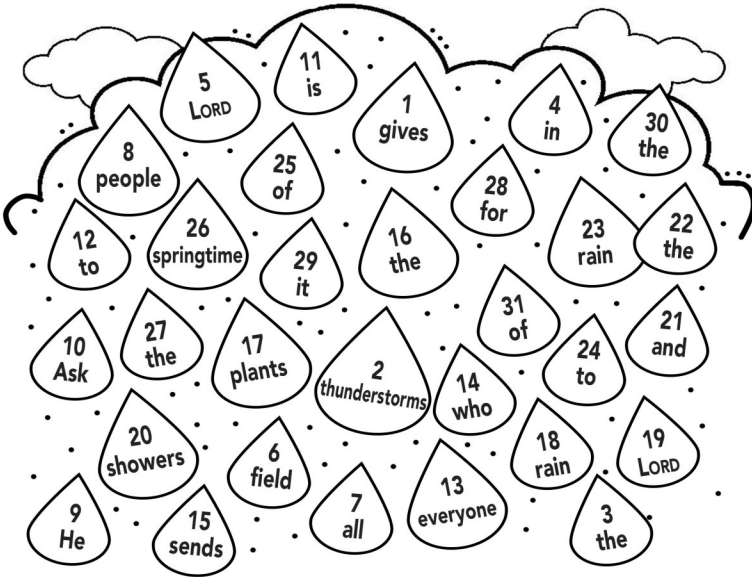
Additional questions about the program can be directed to Elder Dan Fedders at 712-540-7105.

JUST FOR KIDS



Puzzle!

Complete a Bible verse about spring by writing the word from each raindrop on the correct numbered line below.



_____ 10 _____ 16 _____ 5 _____ 28 _____ 18

_____ 4 _____ 22 _____ 26 _____ ;

_____ 29 _____ 11 _____ 3 _____ 19 _____ 14 _____ 15

_____ 27 _____ 2

_____ 9 _____ 1 _____ 20 _____ 31 _____ 23

_____ 12 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ 21 _____ 17 _____ 25

_____ 30 _____ 6 _____ 24 _____ 13

Zechariah 10:1, NIV

Answer: Ask the LORD for rain in the springtime; it is the LORD who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone. Zechariah 10:1, NIV

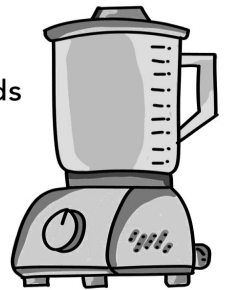
SOMETHING OLD,

Something New

Use scrap paper to fuel new growth and make a gift that keeps on giving.

What you need:

- Scrap paper
- Water
- Herb or flower seeds
- Blender
- Strainer
- Cookie sheet
- Towel
- Adult help



What you do:

1. Tear the scrap paper into strips and place in a bowl. Cover the paper with water and let it soak overnight.
2. Pour the mixture into a blender and blend about 10 seconds.
3. Strain and squeeze the paper pulp to remove excess water. Place in a bowl.
4. Sprinkle seeds over the pulp and mix to incorporate them into the pulp.
5. Shape the pulp into a flat layer on the cookie sheet. Use a towel to soak up excess water. Allow the paper to dry completely.
6. Tear paper into shapes or fold into a card. You can plant the paper directly into soil. Water it and then watch your plants grow!

