

# HIGHLIGHTS

## CARMEL REFORMED CHURCH

*“Can’t Wait For Sunday”*

**May, 2024**

*In 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, the Apostle Paul speaks of the body of Christ: the church. With Christ as head and we as 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 in the Newsletter, 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 Door Attendants and Ushers.*

### Door Attendants and Ushers Quick Facts:

Door Attendants: Dan DeMeester, Willard Hulstein, John Leusink, Kelly Rozeboom, Cal Sandbulte, Hans Smolders, Jack Soodsma, Wayne Te Grotenhuis, Doug Van Beek, Larry Wolfswinkel.

Ushers: Mitch Banks, Brad Beukelman, Dan Buyert, Luke Haan, Todd Kooi, Craig Laackmann, Adam Nibbelink, Eric Ochsendorf, Orlin Oostra, Trevor Pieper, Brady Punt, Sean Robinson, Brian Rozeboom, Marlin Sandbulte, Colten Smolders, Eric Van Meeteren, Jerry Wolfswinkel, John Vande Kamp.

Head Usher: Eugene Sandbulte

A helpful smile in every aisle isn’t just a good slogan for a grocery store; it happens to be the unspoken motto of Carmel’s door attendants and ushers, who take care to provide a warm and welcoming first impression for the many guests and visitors.

Door attendants live up to that as they courteously open doors and help people in and out of their cars or with walkers before the start of church services. That extra hand is especially appreciated by the church’s senior members.

From there, ushers do their part to continue the positive experience. That certainly matches up to the experience of longtime usher John Vande Kamp, who has been guiding people to their seats for about 20 years, give or take a few. Being friendly can make a real difference on how people perceive a church.

“Especially for people new to church, it gives them a chance for someone to say hi to them. From what I understand, the most important thing when people look for a church, they like to have a friendly church. I think a lot of that has to do with how they get greeted by the doorman and the ushers and on and on. That always helps,” Vande Kamp said.

For him, serving as an usher has always been an opportunity to have some friendly interaction with others and a chance to get to know people he might not otherwise get to. In the end, he feels more connected to the church having been an usher for so long.

Part of his work as an usher has been helping the new guys get comfortable in the role.

*(continued)*

“If we have some new people coming in, I’ll go talk with them and say, ‘Hi, welcome aboard.’ Then I just make sure if they have any questions, they know they can ask me if they need to know anything. Most of it is just a matter of putting people in the seats,” Vande Kamp said. “I always try to tell them to sit people as far to the front as you can because you’re going to need that room in the back at the end because no one wants to sit in the front.”

It’s that kind of thing that led Adam Nibbelink to describe Vande Kamp as a bit of a mentor in the role. When he started in 2011, though, it was because of his father, Terry, who was serving as an usher at that time.

“I had seen my dad usher and I watched ushers growing up. I thought maybe I’m a bit young to do that, but my dad, he said, ‘They could use a little youth in the ushering program anyways,’ Well, then, sure, we’ll give it a try. I did and I thoroughly enjoy it,” Nibbelink said.

Like Vande Kamp, it’s being a part of the friendly morning interactions that has been one of the main perks of the job that he enjoys. Being inviting just helps set the tone for the rest of the service.

“The whole purpose of having ushers is to welcome people and invite them in and say everyone’s welcome here—come on in and let’s worship together,” Nibbelink said. “I think we in Carmel do a good job of being welcoming and inviting.”

He encourage young men to consider joining.

“I know when I started, the older gentlemen in the church were excited that there were young guys getting involved. I feel that way, too. I’d love to keep some younger guys wearing smiles and greeting people, too,” Nibbelink said.

While it can be a challenge to keep track of family members and preferred seating arrangements in this growing congregation, some Sundays simply shuffling people around to fit everyone is enough of a challenge on its own. Holidays, profession of faiths, and baptisms are events that can draw in higher-than-normal numbers, making the job a bit trickier.

“Those are the days when every usher gets put to the test,” Nibbelink said. “You find out what you’re made of on those days because there’s hardly any seats and you pull chairs out of the chapel or music room to give everybody a seat. I feel with Pastor Ron on his way, we’re going to have those day coming up, too.”

So, go ahead. When these friendly members of the church open the door for you or guide you to your favorite seat, feel free to have a quick chat, give a quick handshake and let them know the difference their positivity is making at Carmel Church. Let’s remember to pray for, thank, and encourage our door attendants and ushers. If this is a ministry you would like to be a part of, you can find Hospitality Elder Leon Franken and let him know you are willing to use your gifts to build the body of Christ up.



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

**May 12:** Alyssa Kuyper, Nikki Hulstein, Alydia Sandbulte, Ava Sandbulte.

**May 19:** Janice Luevano, Ashley

Laackmann, Kylee Sandbulte, Hannah Van Roekel.

**May 26:** Jo Moget, Amy McAlpine, Josie Bomgaars, Heidi Boogerd.

**June 2:** Sara Sandbulte, Kristi Segar, Slayden Sandbulte, Jennie Boogerd.

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.

**May 5:** R- Doug Van Beek, Jared Terpstra;

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

**May 12:** R- Jerry Renes, Becky Ochsendorf ;

C- Linda Altena, Frieda Bartels, Hazel Haverhals, Ronda Leusink, Carman Maassen.

**May 19:** R- Gene Sandbulte, Randi Sayles;

C- Amy McAlpine, Gene Sandbulte, Rachel Van Roekel, Sherri Wolfswinkel, Misty Zwart.

**May 26:** R- Verlyn Van Regenmorter, Mike Haverhals;

C- Colleen Bomgaars, Lin De Jong, Kaye Kuyper, Cheryl Lange, Fonda Post.

**June 2:** R- Hans Smolders, Matt Smolders;

C- Donna Renes, Amy Rozeboom, Cheryl Sandbulte, Hannah Smolders, Anita Van Ravenhorst.

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.

- May 5 - Nursery and Cherub Choir
- May 12 - Tom Bomgaars
- May 19 - Tim Bomgaars
- May 26 - Ken Brunsting
- June 2 - Dan Buyert

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### NEW ARRIVAL



We rejoice with Chris and Whitney Van Essen who welcomed a daughter, Baylor Kate Van Essen, into their family on Sunday, April 21.

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### PROFESSION OF FAITH

At the April elder's meeting it was their joy to receive Grace Van Roekel and Haley Rozeboom into the communicate family of Carmel Reformed Church.

Grace Van Roekel is the daughter of Eric and Rachel Van Roekel.

Haley Rozeboom is the wife of Dylan Rozeboom and they have a son, Knox.

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At the April elder's meeting they received the membership of Grant Boogerd along with his baptized children Christina, Joeb, Jonathan, Sarah, Dennie, Heidi, Jennie, Nancy, and Nora from First Reformed Church in Hull, IA.



The elders received the membership of Londa Boogerd from Netherland Reformed Church in Sioux Center, IA.

The elders received the membership of Haley Rozeboom from Living Water Community Church in Sheldon, IA.

The elders received the membership of Harvard and Annette Sneller from Centerpoint Church in Sioux Center, IA.

## BAPTISMS

On April 7, we celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism with Wyatt Jon Rozeboom, son of Cole and Dennica Rozeboom. Wyatt was born on October 9, 2023.



On April 21, we celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism with Henry Lee Nibbelink, son of Adam and Sarah Nibbelink. Henry was born on November 6, 2023.

On April 28, we celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism with Kenna Grace Haan, daughter of Luke and Kortney Haan. Kenna was born on February 2, 2024.

On April 28, we celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism with Knox Matthew Rozeboom, son of Dylan and Haley Rozeboom. Knox was born October 27, 2023.

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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.

We will be presenting Bibles to our graduating High School Seniors.

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

On Sunday, May 5, Carmel will participate in a combined service with Peace Lutheran Church and Lebanon CRC for the Neighborhood Prayer Service observing the National Day of Prayer.



The service will be held at Lebanon CRC and begins at 6:00 p.m. This is the 36th year that the three churches have observed this service together.

Members of all three churches will participate in the service through prayers and special music. A time of refreshments and fellowship will follow the service.

The theme for this year is “*Lift Up The Word— Light Up The World*” taken from 2 Samuel 22:29-31.

Everyone is encouraged to attend this special service with our brothers and sisters in Christ from Peace Lutheran and Lebanon CRC.

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## THE LORD’S SUPPER

On May 26th, 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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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

## CARMEL VBS IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

The VBS registrations are in and the excitement is building as the kids look forward to a great week of VBS, June 3-7. **BUT** we don't have enough teachers or helpers!! And we can't do it without YOU! Please consider volunteering your time for one of the following positions.

### **Teachers needed:**

- 2 - Kindergarten
- 3 - 1st grade teachers
- 4 - 2nd grade teachers
- 3 - 3rd grade teacher
- 1 - 4th grade teacher
- 1 - PM 5th grade teacher
- 1 - 6th grade teacher
- 1 - 7th grade teacher

### **Helpers needed:**

- 1 - AM Preschool Helper
- 4 - 2nd Grade Helpers
- 1 - 4th Grade Helpers
- 2 - 8th Grade Helpers
- Imagination Station Helpers

Volunteers can sign up by using the link:

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

Contacting any VBS Director below

Or scanning the QR code



### Some other needs for VBS are as follows:

- **Craft Supplies:** Old Jewelry Beads, Pony Beads, and Plastic Tablecloths
- **Donations** of hamburger for the VBS picnic. Contact Glenda Van Meeteren or the church office if you are willing to donate.
- **Volunteers** to bring snacks.
- **People to Pray!** Your prayers are what help make a successful VBS. You don't have to sign up, just put VBS on your prayer list and especially pray for the needed volunteers to sign up. Start praying TODAY for VBS and all those involved. Especially the kids.

Kortney Haan  
Amy Davelaar

Nicole Vanden Brink  
Jaimee Vonk

Kelsi Noteboom  
Aubrey Van Kekerix



On Sunday, May 5, our High School graduates will be presented with a Bible from Carmel Church. The RCYF sponsors wrote notes of encouragement in the Bibles, along with sharing their favorite verses and presented the Bibles to our graduates.



***Graduating from Western Christian High School on May 14 is:***

**Bryson Sandbulte:** Bryson is the son of Mark and Sara Sandbulte. He plans to attend Northwest Community College.

***Graduating from Sioux Center Community High School on May 19 are:***

**Samantha Gengler:** Samantha is the daughter of Tyler Gengler. She plans to attend the University of Iowa and is undecided on her major.

**Sophia Hietbrink:** Sophia is the daughter of Paul and Kyra Hietbrink. She plans to attend the University of Iowa for radiology.

**Bethany Huisman:** Bethany is the daughter of Michelle Huisman. She plans to attend Iowa State University for psychology.

**Meagan Mulder:** Meagan is the daughter of Jon and Rhonda Mulder. She plans to attend Southeast Tech to become a vet tech.

**Mya Romero:** Mya is the daughter of Ricardo and Katie Romero. She plans to attend the University of Iowa for pre-dentistry.

**Ethan Sandbulte:** Ethan is the son of Steve and Pat Sandbulte. He plans to attend Northwestern College for Secondary Education.

**Solomon Tea:** Solomon is the son of Jean (John) and Donna Tea. He plans to attend Northwestern College to study criminal justice and play football.

**Kierra Wolfswinkel:** Kierra is the daughter of Henry and Alicia Wolfswinkel. She plans to work full time in childcare.

**Hannah Woudstra:** Hannah is the daughter of Dale and Tonia Woudstra. She will be attending South Dakota State University for Biology/Animal Science.

**Rachel Wynia:** Rachel is the daughter of Chad and Jaci Wynia. She will be attending Western Iowa Tech for graphic design.

***Graduating from Boyden-Hull Community School on May 19 are:***

**Shanelle Soodsma:** Shanelle is the daughter of Jack and Anita Soodsma. She plans to attend Dordt University for Engineering and play softball.

**Jace Van Meeteren**—Jace is the son of Chris and Kara Van Meeteren. He plans to attend South Dakota State University for Business and Accounting.

**Nathan Van Otterloo**—Nathan is the son of Shelly Van Otterloo. He plans to work full time after graduating high school.

Help us honor Carmel's graduating Seniors. We have set up gift bags for each of the senior students who are connected to the Carmel Church family. We encourage you to fill these bags with cards, notes of encouragement or small gifts. The bags are set up near the sanctuary doors. The bags will then be delivered to the graduating seniors. Thank you for your support!



**Graduating from Dordt University on May 10 are:**

**Jayden Pieper:** Jayden will be graduating with a Masters of Education.

**Ashayla Soodsma:** Ashayla will be graduating with a Bachelors in Science and Engineering. She plans on working full time at ISG Inc. in Storm Lake as a Civil Engineer.

**Graduating from Northwestern College on May 11 is:**

**Brett Segar:** Brett will be graduating with a Major in Business Administration and a Minor in Entrepreneurship. He plans to work for the Business Development Team at Interstates and be an assistant soccer coach at the Sioux Center High School.



**BIBLE LEAGUE**  
**SPRING SALAD LUNCHEON**

The Northwest Iowa Bible League’s Spring Salad Luncheon will be held on Monday, May 6, at 11:30 a.m., at Ireton Christian Reformed Church (301 Maple Street Ireton, IA). Lindsay Millard of Joie Floral Design in Orange City will be sharing ideas for growing your flowers, plants and everything green. Information about recent Bible League developments will also be shared.

Please join us and carpool if possible. You are asked to bring one salad for every four persons. A freewill donation will be received to go directly to Bible League International. Every \$5 raised puts a Bible in the hands of someone thirsty for God’s Word!

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**IN-CARNATION**

The official flower of Mother's Day is the carnation, the favorite flower of the mom of the holiday's founder, Anna Jarvis. Over time, the custom arose of wearing a white carnation on Mother's Day if your mother has died and a red one if she's living.

In fact, many carnation colors have special meanings. Pink carries the richest Christian symbolism. According to legend, carnations first appeared on earth as Mary wept while watching Jesus carry his cross. Where her tears fell, there appeared pink carnations, symbolizing a mother’s undying love.

According to one theory, the English word for carnation comes from *carnis*, Latin for flesh. From the same root comes *incarnation*, God’s coming to earth in flesh. Thus, carnations remind us of our loving mothers as well as our loving Savior.

**RISEFEST 2024**

June 7-8  
Sheldon, IA

It’s more than music, it’s a mission. We are praying for a groundbreaking moment where people come experience hope in Jesus.

Early Bird Special is **10 tickets for \$48.50 each and individual tickets for \$53**. Kids 10 and under are free. Ticket prices increase June 1!

This year’s lineup includes: Skillet, Phil Wickham, Matthew West, We Are Messengers, Lecrae, and Ben Fuller. We’ll also have fun activities for the whole family, delicious food, engaging seminars, ministry outreach, and much more.

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**A PRAYER FOR ROOTS**

O God, we thirst for you as dry tree roots thirst for water in hot, dusty soil. Help us send spiritual roots down deep into the grace and knowledge of the One who is the same yesterday and today and forever, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who gives us stability when the earth shakes and the storms of life swirl about us.

Rooted and grounded in your love, and strengthened and comforted by your grace and your Spirit who gives us hope, may we be steadfast and immovable in the work Christ gives us to do; until he comes again. Amen.



## Deacons Corner — May

**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.

**Open Offering, June 30**– The open offering for June 30 will be going toward ALL KIDS CAN. This is a mission to make activities accessible to children of all ages through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and to provide consistent support and encouragement along the way in the Sioux Center, Iowa community. *Romans 11:6* “*But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace would no longer be grace.*” ALL KIDS CAN believes that all kids can and should have every opportunity to be involved regardless of obstacles such as finances, transportation, or lack of resources. Involved kids are healthy kids and those students who participate in extracurricular activities learn to compromise, cooperate, resolve conflicts, and work together as a team. While they learn new activities and skills, they gain self-confidence and social communication skills.

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### MOTHER– AND MORE

Though I’ve primarily known God as Father– along with metaphors such as rock, eagle, shepherd, potter—I also learned of Scripture passages portraying God as mother. For example (all NIV):

- “*For a long time I have kept silent. ... But now, like a woman in childbirth, I cry out, I gasp and pant*” (*Isaiah 42:14*).
- “*As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you*” (*Isaiah 66:13*)
- “*Like a bear robbed of her cubs, I will attack them*” (*Hosea 13:8*)
- *In others, God is pictured doing traditional “women’s work”: making clothes (Genesis 3:21), sweeping (Isaiah 14:23), preparing and hosting a meal (Proverbs 9:1-6), baking bread (Luke 13:21),*

One of my favorite images of God is tucked in Hosea. While many modern dads nurture their toddlers this way, the tender words surely call to mind a mama’s care: “*It was I who taught [Israel] to walk. ... To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them*” (*Hosea 11:3-4*). Most importantly, God– however known– is loving and good.

-Heidi Hyland Mann





## MAY

- 1 - Brixen De Jager  
Paxton Sayles  
Adriana Sandbulte  
Mrs. Lorraine Post  
Mrs. Kara Van Meeteren  
The Owen Sandbulte's
- 2 - Brian Klarenbeek, Jr.  
Leon Wichers
- 3 - Mrs. LeaAnn Van Regenmorter  
The Harlan Van Maanen's
- 4 - Mrs. Linda Altena
- 5 - Liam Kuyper  
Asher Van Voorst  
The Shawn Sandbulte's
- 6 - Micah Ochsendorf  
Makai Gesink  
Marvin Kruid
- 7 - Mrs. Ronda Leusink  
The Keaton Van Voorst's
- 8 - Fletcher Koedam
- 9 - Amber Van Regenmorter  
Mrs. Betty Valentine
- 11 - Brian Vande Zandschulp  
The Matt Smolder's
- 12 - Sadie Janisch  
Mrs. Carol Sandbulte  
The Kelly Rozeboom's
- 13 - Kylee Sandbulte
- 14 - Colton Mesman  
Robert Den Herder
- 15 - Randy Vander Weide  
The Luke Leloux's  
The Henry Sandbulte's
- 17 - Mrs. Jayden Pieper  
David McAlpine  
Dave Bohl
- 18 - Mrs. Lois De Jong
- 19 - The Scott Fischer's
- 21 - Matt Zinnel  
The Tyler Franken's
- 22 - Paisley Davelaar  
Mrs. Julie Bomgaars
- 24 - Austin Sandbulte
- 25 - Mrs. Nancy Smolders  
The Kamden Glade's  
The Mark Van Voorst's
- 26 - Mrs. Kara Donlin  
John Vande Kamp  
Wally Valentine
- 27 - Mrs. Hannah Smolders  
Mrs. Amanda Borchers  
Mrs. Nikki Hulstein  
Terry Koedam  
The Jerry Wolfswinkel's
- 28 - Isabelle Van Roekel  
Maci Segar
- 29 - The Larry Wolfswinkel's
- 30 - Eric Ochsendorf  
Mrs. Doree Wolfswinkel
- 31 - Gabyrella Prins  
Jude Vonk  
Caleb Nibbelink  
Mrs. Heidi Vanden Top  
Zach Moget  
The Josh Leusink's



# PUZZLE

## UNFADING BEAUTY

Peter says beauty shouldn't come from outward adornment.  
How does a godly woman adorn herself on the inside?

**Directions:** From each list, write the word that doesn't belong.  
Then insert the circled letters in order below to complete 1 Peter 3:4, NIV.

- |                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| flower, stem, bee, leaf          | —○— |
| pink, red, yellow, blue          | —○— |
| mother, sister, brother, aunt    | —○— |
| purple, dress, skirt, blouse     | —○— |
| necklace, ring, bracelet, braid  | —○— |
| diamond, emerald, heart, ruby    | —○— |
| orange, cherry, potato, kiwi     | —○— |
| my, our, she, your               | —○— |
| faith, family, love, hope        | —○— |
| sunny, rainy, snowy, temperature | —○— |
| cookie, cake, pie, sandwich      | —○— |
| silver, white, gold, bronze      | —○— |

"Rather, it should be that of your inner self,  
the unfading beauty of a g \_ \_ \_ \_  
and qu \_ \_ \_ \_ p \_ \_ \_ \_ , which is  
of great worth in God's sight." 1 Peter 3:4, NIV

Answers: bee, pink, brother, braid, heart, bracelet, purple, sister, rainy, snowy, temperature, family, love, hope, white, gentle, quiet, spirit

# a fun Flower Frog

A flower frog sits atop a vase to help arrange flowers and hold stems in place. This personalized frog will become a favorite!

**What you need:**

- Air-dry clay
- Roller
- Vase (or jar)
- Plastic knife
- Straw
- Acrylic paint and brushes



**What you do:**

1. Roll out a portion of clay to about ½-inch thickness.
2. Cut out a circle that's slightly larger than the vase opening. (This will allow the finished frog to sit securely on top.)
3. To make holes for stems, use a straw to punch out circle shapes. If you make more than one frog, try arranging the holes in different patterns.
4. Let dry completely. Then personalize your work with acrylic paint.
5. When dry, place the frog atop the vase. Arrange flowers and greenery to make a Mother's Day bouquet.

