

HIGHLIGHTS

CARMEL REFORMED CHURCH

“Can’t Wait For Sunday”

October, 2024

ARE WE READY TO DEFEND THE FAITH?

“Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our god into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.” (Jude 3-4, ESV)

In one of the last books of the Bible, Jude makes a plea for Christians to “contend for the faith”. What he is describing in Jude 3-4 is referred to today as Apologetics. If you’re anything like me, you probably thought at some point that the term apologetics had something to do with apologizing. And while they sound similar, apologetics is not apologizing for what you believe and how it may offend someone. Simply put, Christian apologetics is giving a reason or defense for the Christian faith.

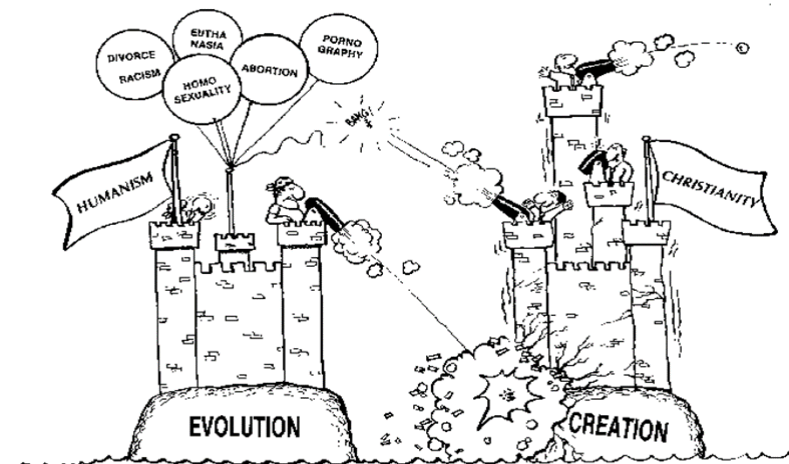
Tim Barnett in an article about apologetics writes: “Apologetics is not optional. *Every* follower of Christ is instructed to be an apologist. Let me give you a few verses to back this up. Probably the most often cited passage comes from the apostle Peter. He writes, “*In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.*” (1 Peter 3:15)

My hope and goal for us here at Carmel is that we not only grow in our knowledge of what we believe, but also that we can get more comfortable and confident in how to share our faith and be able to stand against those that will attack our faith. I hope to make available in the near future classes or materials that will help us in that effort.

Stay tuned!

Pastor Ron

Psalm 11:3 says: “If the foundations are destroyed what can the righteous do?”





October 6: Rachel Van Roekel, Brynn Van Voorst, Ruthie Vanden Brink, Morgan Terpstra.

October 13: Londa Booger, Kristi Van Voorst, Karlee Leusink, Brody Van Voorst.

October 20: Ruth De Jager,

Lynna De Wit, Marcus Van Voorst, Rachel Wynia.

October 27: Morgan Hoekstra, Nikki Hulstein, Kierra Wolfswinkel, Aniya Robertson.

November 3: Alyssa Kuyper, Amy McAlpine, Ava Sandbulte, Alydia Sandbulte.

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!**

* * * * *

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE

R - serve on Sunday morning; C - each bring 5 dozen cookies.

October 6 - R-Tony Rau, Jack Soodsma.

C-Frieda Bartels, Colleen Bomgaars, Lin De Jong, Sue Dorhout, Hazel Haverhals.

October 13 - R-Dorene Vander Zwaag, Dan Buyert.

C-Kaye Kuyper, Cheryl Lange, Carol Langstraat, Allison Leusink, Ronda Leusink.

October 20 - R- Karen Boersema, Denny De Jong.

C-Carmen Maassen, Alice Remmerde, Cheryl Sandbulte, Teresa Sandbulte, Rachel Van Roekel.

October 27 - R-Glenda Van Meeteren, Mike Haverhals.

C-Doree Wolfswinkel, Sarah Nibbelink, Erica Robertson, Rhonda Sandbulte, Helen Vande Vegte.

November 3 - R-Becky Ochsendorf, Chad Robertson.

C-Sherri Wolfswinkel, Amy McAlpine, Donna Renes, Mimi Sandbulte, Rachel Terpstra.

If this schedule does not work with you please switch with someone.



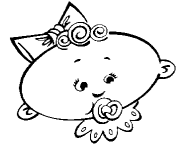
Call the church office by noon on Monday, to let us know who your special music will be. If you are unable to have special music the scheduled time, please try to exchange with someone. Special music schedule is for the morning worship service.

October	6- Dan Fedders
October	13- Scott Fischer
October	20- Leon Franken
October	27 - Tyler Franken
November	3 - Tim Gesink

* * * * *

NEW ARRIVALS

We rejoice with Brayton and Juliana Van Kekerix on the birth of a daughter, Emersyn Jo Van Kekerix, who was born on August 29. Emersyn weighed 7 lbs. and 13 oz.



* * * * *

THE LORD'S SUPPER

October 6 is World Communion Sunday and we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. Any shut-ins or those in the Nursing Homes who would like to partake in Communion, please contact an elder or the church office.

* * * * *



Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. John Berroth (Heather Brunsting) who were united in marriage on September 7 at Carmel Reformed Church. May God bless them with a long and happy married life.

* * * * *

REFRESHMENTS

Are you looking for a way to serve in Carmel Church?? We are looking for a few more people who would be willing to serve refreshments on Sunday morning. Contact the church office at 712 -722-2733 or email carmelch@mtcnet.net if you are willing to serve.

NOMINATION BALLOTS

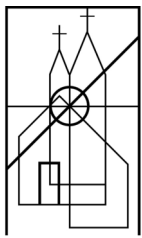
Nomination ballots for Elders and Deacons are in your mailbox. All communicant members of Carmel are eligible to nominate. Please prayerfully consider this matter and return your completed ballot to the box on the Coffee Station by October 13.

The voting process remains the same as it has been in the past. The consistory thanks you all for your input on the proposal, and when its revisited, we will better inform the congregation, bring the congregation alongside to vote on the proposal, and begin the process earlier in the year.

If you would like a specific subject on the agenda at our Annual Congregational Meeting in November, please submit your request to a Consistory Member before November 13. Only items placed on the agenda are eligible for action by the congregation.

* * * * *

REFORMATION SUNDAY



Combined Worship

You are invited to our annual Combined Reformation Service on Sunday, October 27, 6:30 pm at Middleburg Free Grace Reformed Church. Our brothers and sisters in Christ at Middleburg look forward to worshipping together and enjoying a fellowship time following the service. Pastor Ron will bring the message. Invite your family and friends!

Carmel and Middleburg youth groups will also have a combined meeting that evening. Watch the bulletin for more details.

Please join us as we spend time in praise and worship with our brothers and sisters in Christ at Middleburg.

As brothers and sisters in Christ, let us "worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth"

John 4:23, NIV



BIBLE QUIZ



When Jesus asks a Samaritan woman for a drink, at which site related to the ancient Israelites is he resting?

- A. the edge of the Jordan River
- B. Beside the Red Sea
- C. Jacob's well
- D. The Pool of Bethesda

Answer: C (see John 4:6)



Help make pigs

PIGS-IN-THE-BLANKET

It's time to make those delicious pigs-in-the-blanket that are a favorite of so many. Watch your bulletins for more details and plan to help with this fundraiser.

* * * * *

22:6 SWEET CORN

The 22:6 Group still has lots of sweet corn available for purchase. \$10/quart bag. The freezers in the Moses room are full. Mark down your name and how many bags you took. Please pay when you pick it up, make checks payable to Carmel Reformed Church 22:6 Group.

* * * * *

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH



October is Pastor Appreciation Month, an observance that some clergy don't publicize. It's an ideal time to thank pastors for their dedication to God's people and the ministry. A written note, a card or even a free meal is a nice gesture of appreciation. But if you were to ask pastors what they'd like or what they need, most would probably reply, "Pray for me."

That's what the apostle Paul requested throughout his letters. To the church at Rome, he urged, "Join me in earnest prayer to God on my behalf, that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my ministry to Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company" (Romans 15:30-32, NRSV).

As you appreciate and encourage Pastor Ron, remember him in your prayers!

Deacons Corner — OCTOBER



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.

WINTER WARM-UP

Thank you for all the donations so far. Winter Warm Up is super excited for all that we have given. If you have not had the chance to donate you still have time. We will stop taking donations on Friday, October 11 so we can get them sorted. Please note that you can still donate with donations of cash as well as via the QR code below.

Winter Warm Up has announced their annual distribution for Saturday, October 26. We will be setting up on Friday, October 25 at Kinsey Elementary.

We may be looking for some volunteers to do both the distribution and the setting up. If you are wanted to help with either day please let Jennifer Prins know or you can sign up at the Coffee Station.

INSPIRATION HILLS

The Middle School Retreat, happening October 11-13, is so much fun! It's a great chance to come hang out at Inspiration Hills for all your favorite activities, plus some new activities special for the Autumn season! Most importantly, this weekend is meant to draw kids closer in their relationship with the Lord and grow in friendships with other kids in their local Christian Community. To learn more or register, visit inspirationhills.org/msretreat.

CAMP CONNECTION is an opportunity for local Youth Groups to cross denominational lines and come together in unity for a weekend retreat here at Inspiration Hills on November 1-3. We will coordinate the itinerary, activities, and meals for the weekend. All you have to do sign up your Youth Group and we'll take of the rest! To learn more or register visit inspirationhills.org/hsretreat.

Reminder there is still plenty of time to donate
Gently used/ New coats up to size XL Adult
Blankets
Waterproof gloves
Make sure that all items are washed up.S
If you want, you may also donate using PayPal QR code.





OCTOBER

- 1 - Rowan DeMeester
- 2 - Kade Van Voorst
- 3 - Mrs. Alicia Wolfswinkel
Mrs. Kay Koedam
Glenn Vander Lugt
Bob Ver Mulm
- 4 - Kelly Zinnel
- 5 - Daniel DeMeester
The Bob Janisch's
- 6 - Ashayla Soodsma
Rodney Sandbulte
Arnold Hulshof
- 7 - Kyler Bomgaars
Mrs. Rachel Terpstra
Pete Vonk
The Glenn Rozeboom's
- 8 - Everlee Nibbelink
Mrs. Marcia Vander Weide
The Ross Hulstein's
- 9 - Wyatt Rozeboom
Rylee Bomgaars
Mrs. Betty Wolfswinkel
- 10 - Bowen Punt
- 11 - Chloe Wynia
- 12 - Ben Haverhals
Lane Van Kekerix
Mrs. Amy Davelaar
Mrs. Erica Robertson
The Austin Vande Vegte's
- 13 - Spencer Van Ravenswaay
Mrs. Kristi Van Voorst
- 14 - Mrs. Lynna De Wit
Mrs. Erika Van Kekerix
Brian Renes
- 15 - The James Vanden Brink
Brock Anderson
Chris Van Meeteren
Dave Dibbet
Ron Dieck
- 16 - Gene Sandbulte
Mrs. Dorene Hulshof
- 17 - Chad Hoekstra
The Henry A. Wolfswinkel's
- 18 - Mrs. Ramona Vander Weide
- 20 - Mrs. Rachel Van Roekel
- 21 - Tyke Van Kekerix
Bryce Robertson
Colin Robertson
- 22 - Kinsley Wynia
- 23 - Zeke Smolders
Hans Smolders
Mrs. Deb Vander Weide
- 24 - Mrs. Jayden Oostenink
Mrs. Stephanie Vande Vegte
Harold Van Essen
The Herb Remmerde's
- 25 - Anna Haverhals
The Jerry Renes'
- 26 - Grace Van Roekel
The Brian Rozeboom's
- 27 - Knox Rozeboom
- 28 - Kavri Van Kekerix
Mrs. Kristi Oostra
Wayne Te Grotenhuis
The Anthony Rau's
- 29 - Jack McAlpine
Alli Huizenga
- 30 - Thijs Doelman



Holiday Schedule

Sunday, October 27, 6:30 p.m.—Reformation Sunday combined with Middleburg at Middleburg.

Wednesday, November 27, 7:00 p.m.— Thanksgiving Eve Service.

Sunday, December 22, 6:00 p.m.—Sunday School Christmas Program.

Monday, December 25—Christmas Day Service



SAVED BY GRACE

Leaders of the early church discussed whether newly converted Gentiles must keep the Law of Moses. How did Peter answer?

Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the blanks below to complete Acts 15:11, NIV.

NO~~/~~WEGBEKLIBEVG~~/~~EIT~~/~~IYS
 TUHRCOUJGHRTHOEGPRAH
 CEIOFXOUKRLHORCDJSESP
 USGTHWATYWEOARBESPAVLED
 RJUCSTQASHTHB~~/~~EYFAROE



_____!

_____." Acts 15:11, NIV



Make this craft as a helpful reminder of Jesus' free gift of grace.



What you need:

- Small cardboard box
- Small stones
- Tape
- Wrapping paper and bow
- Permanent marker

What you do:

1. Fill the box with small stones to weigh it down. Tape the box securely closed.
2. Wrap the box and add a bow on top.
3. With marker, write a capital letter on each side of the box and the bottom to spell GRACE.
4. Use this as a decoration or paperweight, or give as a gift.
5. Explain GRACE to someone.
 For help, use Ephesians 2:8-9 and the acrostic **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**.

