

# HIGHLIGHTS

CARMEL REFORMED CHURCH

*“Can’t Wait For Sunday”*

**December, 2024**

## THE FULLNESS ADVENT

In the midst of darkness, the season of Advent stands as a beacon of hope. In Isaiah 9:2, we read, 'The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.' The Light that Isaiah is referring to is the same Light that John mentions in his gospel, “In him was life, and the life was the light of men.” (John 1:4) Christ came bringing hope to a weary world trapped in darkness. As we await His arrival, we are reminded that every candle lit during Advent reflects the hope that He brings, igniting anticipation in our hearts for the joy of His coming.

Advent teaches us about peace, echoing the message of the angels at Christ's birth: 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased' (Luke 2:14). As we prepare our hearts, we are invited to experience and share this divine peace amidst chaos, demonstrating how Christ's coming transforms our relationships and communities through His peace.

Joy is a defining theme of Advent, captured in Philippians 4:4, 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!' This season invites us to reflect on the joy that comes from knowing Christ is coming to restore and redeem us. With the coming of Jesus Christ, we celebrate a joy that surpasses our circumstances, anchoring our hope in the fulfillment of God's promises.

Love is at the heart of Advent, as we anticipate the coming of Christ, who is the embodiment of God's love. In John 3:16, we read, 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.' Advent encourages us to reflect on how we can extend love to others, mirroring the sacrificial love that God demonstrates in sending His Son for our salvation.

The Advent season is not just a countdown to Christmas; it is a profound preparation of our hearts to encounter the focus of all Scripture: Jesus Christ, Immanuel, God with us. In Revelation 3:20, Jesus says, 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock.' Advent invites us to open our hearts to receive hope, peace, joy, and love as we await His return. This waiting is active and transformative, preparing us to live out these gifts daily. Spend time this advent season dwelling on the hope, peace, joy, and love that Jesus brings to our lives.



**December 1:** Brynn Van Voorst, Kristi Van Voorst, Addison Rozeboom, Rylee Bomgaars.

**December 8:** Ruth De Jager, Danica DeMeester, Elyse Zwart, Faithe Van Maanen.

**December 15:** Lynna De Wit,

Morgan Hoekstra, Gabby Prins, Kinlee Wolfswinkel.

**December 22:** Nikki Hulstein, Alyssa Kuyper, Ruthie Vanden Brink, Akenna Sandbulte.

**December 29:** Amy McAlpine, Jo Moget, Karlee Leusink, Brody Van Voorst.

**January 5:** Kristi Segar, Sara Sandbulte, Marcus Van Voorst, Slayden 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!**

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### REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE

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

**December 1 - R-**Jack Soodsma, Dan Buyert.

**C-** Allison Leusink, Rhonda Sandbulte, Erica Robertson, Kaye Kuyper, Lin De Jong.

**December 8 - R-**Dorene Vander Zwaag, Mike Haverhals.

**C-**Helen Vande Vegte, Carol Langstraat, Colleen Bomgaars, Cheryl Sandbulte, Rachel Van Roekel.

**December 15 - R-** Denny De Jong, Tony Rau.

**C-** Ronda Leusink, Hazel Haverhals, Carmen Maassen, Sarah Nibbelink, Sherri Wolfswinkel.

**December 22 - R-** Karen Boersema, Becky Ochsendorf.

**C-**Cheryl Lange, Alice Remmerde, Amy McAlpine, Misty Zwart, Sue Noteboom.

**December 29 - R-**Glenda Van Meeteren, Chad Robertson.

**C-**Donna Renes, Clarice Van Maanen, Sandi Vonk, Fonda Post, Rachel Terpstra.

**January 5 - R-**Verlyn Van Regenmorter, Jared Terpstra.

**C-**Gene Sandbulte, Mimi Sandbulte, Lorna Vander Vliet, Mary Lou Verburg, Linda Altena.

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.

December	1 - Mike Haverhals
December	8 - Chad Hoekstra
December	15- Austin Hofman
December	22- Praise Team
December	29- Phil Hooyer
January	5- John Horstman

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### NEW ARRIVAL

Congratulations to Tommy & Edan Bomgaars on the birth of a daughter, Sage Claire Bomgaars, who was born on Monday, November 18. Sage weighed 7 lbs. and 10 oz and was 20.5 inches long.



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Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Dawson Vonk (Lindsey Van Otterloo) who were united in marriage on November 8, in Carmel Church. May God bless them with a long and happy married life.

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### BAPTISM

On November 17, we celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism with Emersyn Jo Van Kekerix, daughter of Brayton and Juliana Van Kekerix. Emersyn was born on August 29, 2024.



On November 17, we celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism with Natalynn Leigh Van Kekerix, daughter of Kendrick and Aubrey Van Kekerix. Natalynn was born on October 6, 2024.

**TRANSFER**



At the November elder's meeting they received the membership of Pastor Ron and Karen Boersema from Overisel Christian Reformed Church of Holland, MI and Juliana Van Keckerix from Immanuel Christian Reformed Church of Orange City, IA.

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**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING RESULTS**

At our Annual Congregational Meeting which was held on November 18, we elected four new consistory members. Brian Renes and Hans Smolders were elected to the office of elder and will be replacing outgoing elders Jerry Noteboom and Mark Van Voorst. Dan Buyert and Adam Nibbelink were elected to the office of deacon and will be replacing outgoing deacons Ryan Oostra and Eric Van Roekel.

If there is any scriptural reason why these men should not serve, please contact one of the elders. The newly elected consistory members will be ordained and installed on Sunday, January 12, 2025.

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Holiday Schedule

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

**Wednesday, December 25, 9:30 a.m.**—Christmas Day Service

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**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](mailto:carmelch@mtcnet.net) if you are willing to serve.

**PIGS-IN-THE-BLANKET**

The freezer in the Moses Room will be stocked with pigs-in-the-blanket and those yummy pigs will no doubt be flying off the shelves.

The pigs are \$15.00 a dozen. **\*\*Please do not take pigs from the freezer if they are not paid for.\*\***

Sign the sheet and place your money in the box on the counter.

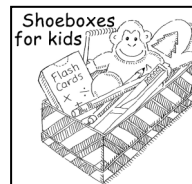
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**CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

Do you enjoy singing Christmas Carols?? If your answer is yes, then plan to come to church early on Sunday morning, December 22. The praise team will be leading us in singing all our favorite Christmas carols before the worship service from 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. Come and make a joyful noise!!

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**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**



Thank you everyone who packed a shoe box for Operation Christmas Child. We collected 84 this year! These gifts of love may be the door God uses to open a child's heart to Jesus Christ.

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**CARMEL GEMS**

Thank you to everyone who supported the Carmel GEMS fundraiser!

▲ We are planning and excited to celebrate Christmas on Monday, December 2, from 4:45 pm-8:00 pm. Please meet at Pizza Ranch in Sioux Center, after pizza we will make our way to the movie theatre. If you GEM is NOT able to attend or needs a ride to Pizza Ranch, please let Kris know ASAP! Pick up will be at the movie theatre in Centre Mall around 8:00 pm. Dress up and show off your inner holiday cheer-meister!

▲ Wednesday, December 4 the Counselors will be celebrating Christmas! Carmel GEMS are blessed with the best ladies guiding and encouraging our young ladies! We want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, and may we all soak the beautiful gift of Jesus Christ!!!

# Deacons Corner — DECEMBER



**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.



The Sunday School mission project this year is Love Inc. of Sioux County. Love Inc is an organization that helps churches help people. Sometimes life can give challenging seasons of life, which Love Inc. will help walk beside them. Sometimes that can look like helping with food, home essentials and personal hygiene products, transportation or blessing your neighbors during the holidays. Other times it looks like providing financial mentorship, facilitating a class, helping with a special ministry event. The second Sunday of each month the S. S. offering goes to the mission project. The offering amount to date is \$932.27.

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## 22:6 SWEET CORN

The 22:6 Group still has lots of sweet corn available for purchase. \$10/quart bag. The freezer in the back hallway is 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.

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## OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be closed on Wednesday, December 25 and Wednesday, January 1, 2025.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Sunday School students have been preparing and practicing for our annual Christmas Program to be held on Sunday evening, December 22 at 6:00 p.m. (note time). The program will showcase singing and skits. This is always a fun and exciting program for the kids and those in attendance. Be sure to write the date down now so you don't miss our wonderful celebration of Christ birth!

### Program Practice Time

Practice for the Christmas Program for the Preschool-6th grade will be held on Sunday, December 15, during the Sunday School hour; Wednesday, December 18, from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary; and our final practice will be Sunday, December 22, during the Sunday School hour. We hope everyone who is participating in the program will make every effort to attend these practice times.

  
**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**  
**DECEMBER**

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|---|---|
| <p>2 - Harv Sandbulte<br/>         3 - Mrs. Brooke Byker<br/>         Mrs. Nicole Rozeboom<br/>         Mrs. Marcella Langstraat<br/>         4 - Emberlynn Franken<br/>         Brad Oostra<br/>         5 - Mrs. Carmen Maassen<br/>         The Alex Koedam's<br/>         6 - Kyzer De Jager<br/>         Shanelle Soodsma<br/>         Brad Beukelman<br/>         Mrs. Sara Sandbulte (Rick)<br/>         Darwin Post<br/>         Lloyd De Jong<br/>         7 - The Steve Sandbulte's<br/>         The Virgil Houtkooper's<br/>         8 - Zach Woudstra<br/>         9 - Christina Boogerd<br/>         Mrs. LaVonne Van Essen<br/>         10 - Bryce Meendering<br/>         Mrs. Aubie Meyer<br/>         Mrs. Shari Kruid<br/>         11 - Kley Hulstein<br/>         12 - Levi Smolders<br/>         Mrs. Danica DeMeester<br/>         Mrs. Amy Rozeboom<br/>         Wilbur Van Grootheest<br/>         14 - Wyatt Leusink<br/>         Mrs. Suzanne Den Herder</p> | <p>17 - Attleigh Franken<br/>         Rashaylee Soodsma<br/>         Matt Smolders<br/>         Mrs. Jaci Wynia<br/>         Mrs. Mary Lou Verburg<br/>         18 - Taya Gesink<br/>         Treyton Sandbulte<br/>         The Ken Altena's<br/>         19 - Hope Vander Zwaag<br/>         Megan Punt<br/>         Eric Sandbulte<br/>         20 - Trev Koedam<br/>         Josh Leusink<br/>         Mrs. Misty Zwart<br/>         Mrs. Linda Prins<br/>         22 - Mrs. Lanae Kroeze<br/>         Mrs. Becky Ochsendorf<br/>         Mrs. Sara Sandbulte (Mark)<br/>         Mrs. Dorene Vander Zwaag<br/>         23 - Mrs. Carole Kleyer<br/>         24 - Emelia Stiltz<br/>         25 - Stan Prins<br/>         27 - Coby Sandbulte<br/>         Reed Koedam<br/>         28 - Hezekiah Vanden Brink<br/>         Cole Bomgaars<br/>         Sadie Sandbulte<br/>         Mrs. Ashley Vande Vegte<br/>         29 - Karlee Leusink<br/>         30 - Dylan Moget<br/>         31 - Brayton Van Kekerix<br/>         Glenn Lange<br/>         Mike Haverhals<br/>         The Brice Kroeze's</p> |
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**LOOK UPON LOVE**

Let us then meditate upon the Nativity just as we see it happening in our own babies. I would not have you contemplate the deity of Christ, the majesty of Christ, but rather his flesh. Look upon the baby Jesus. Divinity may terrify people. Inexpressible majesty will crush them. That is why God took on our human flesh and blood, that God should not terrify us but rather that with love and favor God would console and comfort us.

—Martin Luther





# CLUES ABOUT CHRISTMAS

The Old Testament contains many details about Jesus' birth.  
Can you uncover what Isaiah prophesied?

Directions: Use the code to write the letters and complete Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV.

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is 7 9 > 5 % , and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful 3 ^ ? % ) 5 # ^ ( ,

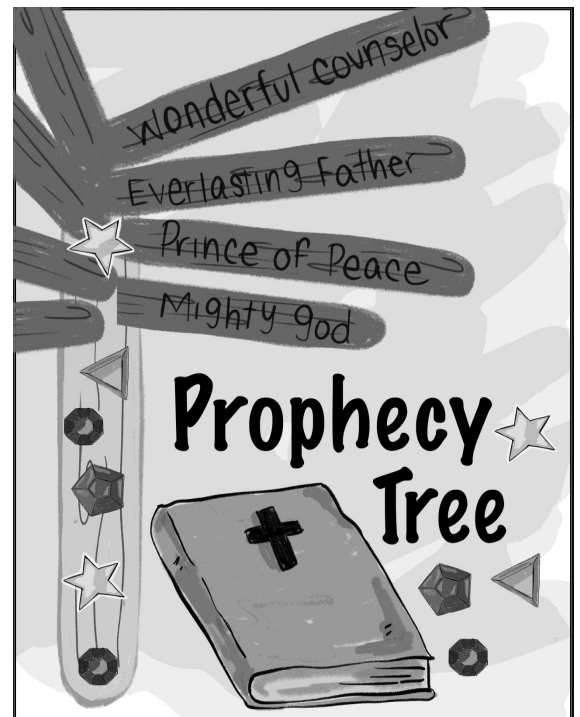
\$ 9 7 8 - ; God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the

greatness of his government and & 5 1 3 5 there will be no 5 % 4 .

He will reign on David's - 8 ( ^ % 5 and over his @ 9 % 7 4 ^ \$ ,

establishing and upholding it with ! ? ) - 9 3 5 and righteousness

from that time on and 6 ^ ( 5 > 5 ( . Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV



Make this Christmas craft to display special names for Jesus.

### What you need:

- Large wooden craft stick
- Small green wooden craft sticks
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Bible
- Permanent marker
- Craft glue
- Optional: star stickers or craft jewels

### What you do:

1. Place the large stick on a table vertically, like a tree trunk.
2. Cut the green sticks into pieces that measure 4", 3½", 3" and 2½".
3. On each green stick, write a name for Jesus from Isaiah 9:6 — Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Write small or ask an adult for help.)
4. Use a dot of glue to attach each green stick to the large stick, like tree branches.
5. Decorate your Christmas tree with stickers or jewels.

