

HIGHLIGHTS

CARMEL REFORMED CHURCH

“Can’t Wait For Sunday”

January, 2025

Another Year is Dawning

As the calendar changes from 2024 to 2025 I wanted to take a moment and reflect back and look forward. In my own life, this past year has been full of questions, discernment, and transition. As 2024 began, Karen and I made our first trip to North West Iowa, to a little town called Carmel. God had opened a door of conversation between us that we began to walk through. As we saw the ministry of our former church coming to its close and a time of transition there, we began a dialog with the search team of Carmel Reformed Church. By the first Sunday in January 2024, we knew that God was presenting us with the next possible church to serve in.

What a mixed bag of emotions that trip was. At that time, we had heard that our youngest daughter and her husband were expecting their first biological child. While that news always brings great joy, and it did, we also knew that if God was going to call us here, we would have to come to grips with the idea of leaving family behind, including this new arrival to the family. To say that our hearts were heavy would be an understatement. As I look out of my office window as I write this, the weather on that first weekend here in January looked much the same, gray, barren, bleak, cold, and at the time, unfamiliar. Why would we be coming here?

Our next trip here would be eight weeks later, and I would have the opportunity to preach to a congregation that was also wondering if this new relationship would come to fruition. The landscape here hadn’t really changed in those weeks between, but there were other things that were definitely different from our January visit. We had been having more conversations; tearful ones with family and friends back home, curious and inquisitive ones with leaders and member here at Carmel, and plenty of conversations with God who continued to direct our steps.

Through those conversations, God was giving us a clarity for the journey ahead, and a peace the would be constant through the process of discernment. To know that God was leading us and speaking to us so clearly gave us the confidence we needed to step forward in faith for all that He had in store for us.

And here we are, six months later! It has been amazing to see what God has already been doing among us all. And we are so humbled by the way we have been received here and the generosity that has and continues to be shown to us. To say thank you just doesn’t seem to cover our gratitude to you all. And with the same confidence that God provided in coming here, I have great confidence that He has us together for a reason.

I Look forward to how God will use any and all of us that would commit to listening to His voice and making a conscious decision to follow Him wherever He will lead, to do what He continues to call us to do, and be a vessel and a witness for Him in whatever setting He places us.

As the calendar changes from 2024 to 2025, and a year of change and uncertainty lies just around the corner for all of us, we will continue to trust in the One who does not change. We will commit ourselves to His Word that never fails, both the written Word and the Living Word. And we will encourage one another in our walk of faith. All for the good of God’s Kingdom and the Glory of His Name.

To God be the glory, great things He has done!

Pastor Ron

“Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all.” 1 Chronicles 29:11



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

January 12: Rachel Van Roekel, Lexy Van Ginkel, Rachel Wynia, Kierra Wolfswinkel.

January 19: Brynn Van Voorst,

Londa Boogerd, Aniya Robertson, Ava Sandbulte.

January 26: Kristi Van Voorst, Ruth De Jager, Alydia Sandbulte, Hannah Van Roekel.

February 2: Dancia DeMeester, Lynna De Wit, Kylee Sandbulte, Josie Bomgaars.

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.

January 5 - R-Mike Haverhals, Jared Terpstra.
C-Gene Sandbulte, Mimi Sandbulte, Lorna Vander Vliet, Mary Lou Verburg, Linda Altena.

January 12 - R- Jerry Renes, Doug Van Beek.
C- Doree Wolfswinkel, Amy Rozeboom, Glenda Van Meeteren, Allison Leusink, Sarah Nibbelink.

January 19 - R- Matt Smolders, Gene Sandbulte.
C- Frieda Bartels, Anita Van Ravenhorst, Rhonda Sandbulte, Helen Vande Vegte, Lin De Jong.

January 26 - R- Hans Smolders, Jack Soodsma.
C- Teresa Sandbulte, Carol Langstraat, Hazel Haverhals, Erica Robertson, Ronda Leusink.

February 2 - R- Dorene Vander Zwaag, Denny De Jong.
C- Colleen Bomgaars, Carmen Maassen, Fonda Post, Alice Remmerde, Cheryl Lange.

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.

January	5-	John Horstman
January	12 -	Virgil Houtkooper
January	19 -	Seth Huizenga
January	26 -	Kraig Hulstein
February	2-	Ross Hulstein

* * * * *

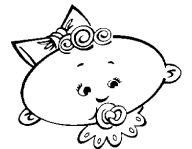
PROFESSION OF FAITH

At the December Elder's meeting, it was their joy to receive Marcus Van Voorst into the communicant family of Carmel Church through profession of faith.

* * * * *

BAPTISM

On December 8, we celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism with Ainsley Lee Oostenink, daughter of Colyn and Jayden Oostenink. Ainsley was born on October 7, 2024.



On December 8, we celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism with Naomi Nicole Lynn Smolders, daughter of Matt and Hannah Smolders. Natalynn was born on January 26, 2024.

* * * * *

THE LORD'S SUPPER

On January 12, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper at our morning worship service. Communion will also be served in the Chapel after the evening service for those who are unable to be at the morning service.

TRANSFER



At the December elder's meeting they received the membership of Morgan Van Voorst from Crofton Congregational Church of Crofton, NE.

The membership of Ken, Rhonda, and Kaitlyn Van Der Zwaag, has been transferred to the First Reformed Church in Hull, IA.

The membership of Colten Smolders has been transferred to the Archer Reformed Church of Archer, IA.

The membership of John Vande Kamp has been transferred to Trinity Church of Pella, IA.

The membership of Bradyn Van Voorst has been transferred to Calvary Protestant Reformed Church of Hull, IA.

May God bless them in their new church homes.

* * * * *

INSTALLATION

On Sunday, January 12, at our morning worship service we will install and ordain the newly elected elders and deacons for Carmel Church. Brian Renes will be installed as elder. Hans Smolders will be ordained and installed as elder. Dan Buyert will be ordained and installed as deacon. Adam Nibbelink will be ordained and installed as deacon. Please keep our entire consistory in your prayers as they lead our congregation.

* * * * *



The church office will be closed at 12:00 p.m on Tuesday, December 31 and will be closed on Wednesday, January 1, 2025. Have a Happy New Year!

Pastor Ron and Karen will be gone on vacation from December 30-January 6. Pastor Ron will be back in the office on Tuesday, January 7. If you need any assistance during this time please contact an elder.

Pastor Ron will be gone to a conference on January 30 thru February 2. He will be back in the office on Tuesday, February 4.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY
ACTIVITIES RESUME

After taking a break for the holidays, all Wonderful Wednesday activities will resume on January 8. ABC (Answers Bible Curriculum) for Kindergarten thru 12th grade will meet every Wednesday through March 5.

Make these activities a part of your children's Christian Education. Hope to see you all on Wednesday nights! If we don't teach our kids to follow Christ, someone will teach them not to.

There are also opportunities for the adults. Prayer meeting meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in these opportunities as well.

* * * * *



The Jr. RCYF will be hosting their annual "Soup Supper", this year's version a Chili Bash, on Wednesday, January 29. They will be serving Chili Soup and Cinnamon Rolls from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. A freewill donation will be accepted and will go towards funding the Middle School Retreat, as well as other Jr. RCYF activities.

Invite your family and friends to attend the Chili Bash on January 29.

* * * * *

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 \$1,838.27.

Deacons Corner — JANUARY



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.



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.

* * * * *

HOPE HAVEN'S DUELING DUO'S

Come enjoy a Dueling Piano Show on Thursday, January 9 at The District in Sioux Falls featuring Andy and Ryno! This is the perfect event to enjoy some great music requested by the audience, spend a night with your friends, and support Hope Haven! Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the show begins at 8:00 p.m. Purchase tickets at: hopehaven.org/events

* * * * *

LOVE INC

If you have a heart for helping others, we have opportunities for you to give of your time and talents! The main needs are childcare volunteers and Faith & Finances mentors. Training is offered. Please call the Love INC office (712-476-5990) to find out more about ways to serve your community! Our next class session begins January 28, 2025.

GOD'S CONSTANT NEW WORK

From the beginning of time, God's pattern has been to continually do new things and make things new. Though we can celebrate this every day, the New Year's season is especially fitting to pause and recognize God's work of renewal. Consider the following scriptures (all NIV) and how God is making them real in your own life right now.

- [God] has granted us new life to rebuild...and repair... (Ezra 9:9)
- If [a tree] is cut down, it will sprout again, and its new shoots will not fail. (Job 14:7)
- He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. (Psalm 40:3)
- See, I am doing a new thing!...I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. (Isaiah 43:19)
- You will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow. (Isaiah 62:2)
- [God's] compassions...are new every morning. (Lamentations 3:22-23)
- I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you. (Ezekiel 36:26)
- [Jesus] took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." (Luke 22:20)
- Just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:4)



January

- 1 - The Darwin Post's
- 2 - Charlee Punt
Keith Byker
Dale Woudstra
Alan Sandbulte
Marlin Dibbet
- 3 - Mrs. Kelly Van Kekerix
Owen Sandbulte
- 5 - Austin Rozeboom
Mrs. Karen Hulstein
- 6 - James Vanden Brink
Dan Buyert
Loren Van Regenmorter
- 7 - Mrs. Barb Punt
The Stan Prins'
- 8 - Dawson Van Beek
Mrs. Tricia Hoogendoorn
Pete De Jong
- 9 - Akenna Sandbulte
Jeremy Meendering
Paityn Albert
Mrs. Vicki Vander Lugt
- 10 - Mrs. Morgan Hoekstra
Ian Vander Lugt
Pam Woelber
Mrs. Janae Rau
Mrs. Joanne Moget
- 11 - Seaton Sandbulte
- 12 - Carter De Jong
Howie Klarenbeek
- 13 - Mrs. Katie Franken
Jack Soodsma
- 14 - David Vander Zwaag (jr.)
- 15 - Brandie Vonk
Tim Van Donge
Leon Franken
The Wilmer Rensink's
- 16 - Jax Anderson
Gene Vander Vliet
- 17 - Bryson Sandbulte
- 18 - Oaklynn Mesman
Kendrick Van Kekerix
Britney Vonk
Mrs. Lavonne Riphagen
- 19 - The Nate Van Ginkel's
- 20 - Dan Fedders
Glenn Rozeboom
- 21 - Nathan Maassen
Mrs. Colleen Bomgaars
- 22 - Chloe Donlin
Jennifer Luevano
Mrs. Glenda Van Meeteren
Harvard Sneller
- 24 - Kolter De Jager
- 25 - Tommy Bomgaars
Brady Punt
Henry Sandbulte
Mrs. Dianne Van Ravenswaay
The Ken Brunsting's
- 26 - Naomi Smolders
The Kelly Zinnel's
- 27 - Mrs. Paula Van Voorst
- 28 - Mrs. Jazmine Koedam
Tyler Franken
Mrs. Joan Te Grotenhuis
- 29 - Jace Hulstein
Cozyn Rozeboom
Todd Kooi
The Dan Fedders'
- 30 - Jace Van Meeteren

INSPIRATION HILLS

The Single Mother's Retreat is jointly hosted by Inspiration Hills and ATLAS. For years, this retreat has been an empowering, rejuvenating, encouraging, and deeply moving weekend for single mothers. The weekend includes speakers, worship, breakout discussion sessions, and prayer. It will also include times for breakout sessions with relaxing or engaging activities like pampering and art.

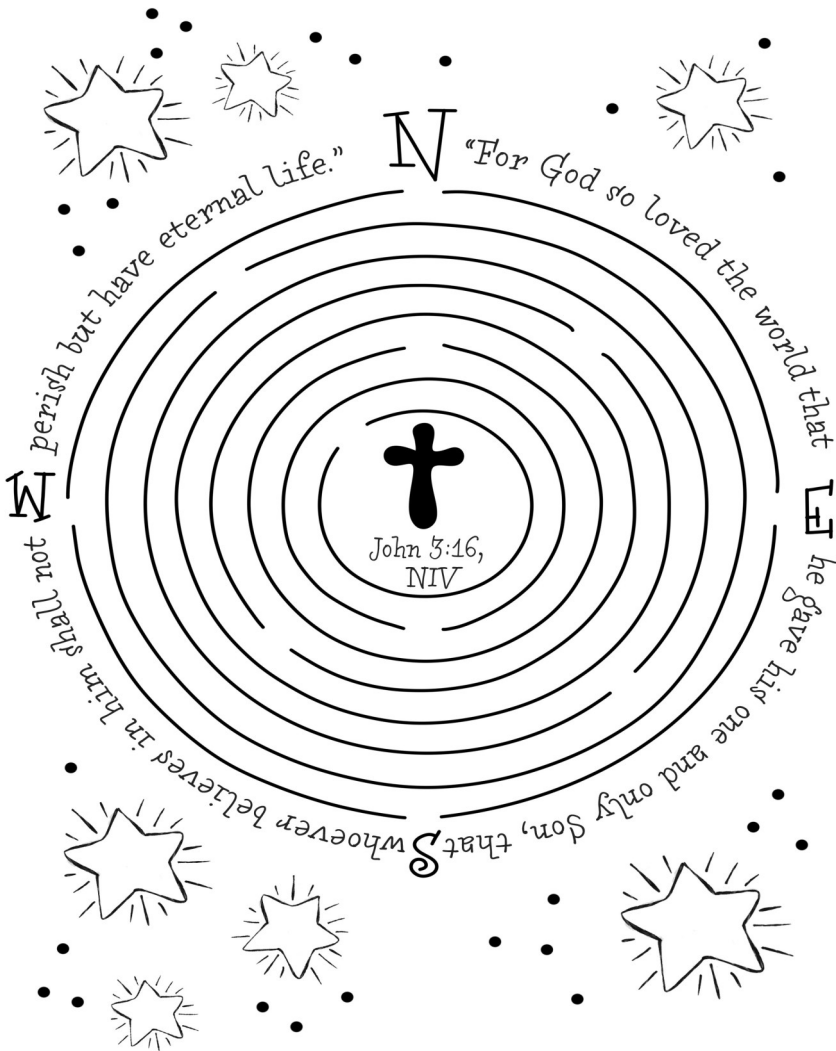
The event will take place from 7:00 p.m. Friday night to 1:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon. The cost varies from \$15-\$50 per person. The deadline to register for The Single Mother's Retreat is Friday, January 17.

To register for this event or learn more, visit inspirationhills.org/smretreat



Puzzle!

Complete the maze to help people from all directions hear the good news. Then, starting at the N (north) and going clockwise, read John 3:16, NIV.

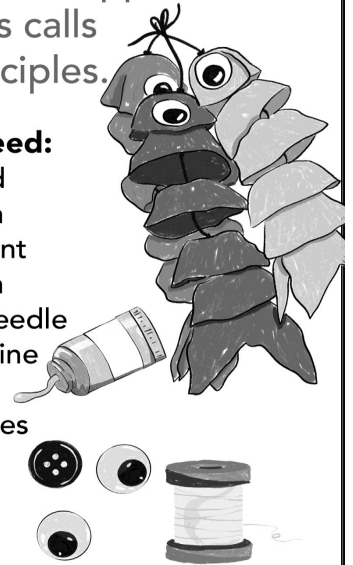


A HUGE CATCH

Make a catch of fish to show what happens when Jesus calls his first disciples.

What you need:

- Cardboard egg carton
- Acrylic paint
- Paintbrush
- Darning needle
- Fishing twine
- Scissors
- Googly eyes or buttons
- Glue



What you do:

1. From the egg carton, cut out the 12 cups. From the lid, cut out two fish tails.
2. On a protected surface, turn the cups upside down. Paint the outside of each cup and both sides of the tails. Let dry.
3. Thread the needle with an arm's length of twine. Tie a knot at the end.
4. Thread the needle through the end of the tail. Tie another knot an inch from the tail.
5. Thread the needle through one upside-down cup. Pull the twine through until the cup rests on the knot.
6. Continue tying knots an inch above each cup and threading on another cup until you've strung six cups. Tie a knot above the last cup and leave a long string to hang the fish. (You can make two fish with each egg carton.)
7. Add googly eyes or buttons to the last cup to make a face.