

HIGHLIGHTS

CARMEL REFORMED CHURCH

“Can’t Wait For Sunday”

February, 2025

A Letter of Encouragement

We live in a world that is filled with discouraging news. Every newscast has some report about violence, conflict, disagreement, or updates about ongoing wars. From every corner of the world, we hear about the struggles and challenges faced by humanity. In regions engulfed by war, families are torn apart and entire communities are displaced. Political unrest and corruption plague many nations, leading to widespread protests and calls for reform. Natural disasters wreak havoc on both developed and developing countries alike, leaving destruction and despair in their wake. The news relates to things local to our area, things around the country, and news that spans the globe. It includes people of all ages, from young people perpetrating violent acts or those that find themselves as victims of those crimes, to the elderly whose lives are interrupted by floods, fires, extreme cold, and health issues. But that is not all that is happening in our world.

The purpose and plan of God continues as it has since the dawn of time, and the Bible gives us lots of encouragement to refocus our hearts and minds. In fact, the book of Acts uses the word encouragement ten times. We first hear of Barnabas whose name means “son of encouragement.” As the Word of God spreads in the early church, people are regularly encouraged. In Acts 13:15 the people in Antioch were asking Paul for some word of encouragement. What Paul replied with is worth our attention today, and I would encourage you to read what he had to say in the rest of Acts 13.

Even when Paul became a victim of violence and was left for dead after being stoned, he, and the other disciples with him, continued to preach the Gospel and said to encourage them “to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.” Acts 14:22 As the Gospel message spread, new believers would join in the task of sharing the good news about Jesus, like Apollos who continued to grow in his understanding of the Scriptures and become an early apologist for the truth of Christ in his day. And many other stories of encouragement can be found in the New Testament.

The various stories throughout the Bible have always been there to strengthen and encourage us. Paul says in Romans 15:4 “...whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” I want to continue to encourage each of us to remain rooted and grounded in the Word of God so that we grow in its encouraging, hope giving power. And as Paul began his letter to the Romans, it is my hope and desire “that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine.” (Rom. 1:12)

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you(us) to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you(we) may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:5-6

Together in Christ, Pastor Ron



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

February 9: Morgan Hoekstra, Nikki Hulstein, Jennie Boogerd, Heidi Boogerd.

February 16: Alyssa Kuyper, Amy McAlpine, Addison Rozeboom, Rylee Bomgaars.

February 23: Jo Moget, Kristi Segar, Elyse Zwart, Faithe Van Maanen.

March 2: Sara Sandbulte, Rachel Van Roekel, Sadie Janisch, 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.

February 2 - R- Dorene Vander Zwaag, Denny De Jong.

C- Colleen Bomgaars, Carmen Maassen, Fonda Post, Alice Remmerde, Cheryl Lange.

February 9- R- Becky Ochsendorf, Chad Robertson.

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

February 16-R- Karen Boersema, Tony Rau.

C- Rachel Terpstra, Misty Zwart, Clarice Van Maanen, Sue Noteboom, Sandi Vonk.

February 23-R- Glenda Van Meeteren, Verlyn Van Regenmorter.

C- Cheryl Sandbulte, Linda Altena, Doree Wolfswinkel, Lorna Vander Vliet, Kaye Kuyper.

March 2-R- Hans Smolders, Matt Smolders.

C- Amy Rozeboom, Glenda Van Meeteren, Mary Lou Verborg, Anita Van Ravenhorst, Gene Sandbulte.

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.

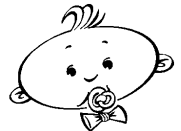
Special music schedule is for the morning worship service.

February	2 - Ross Hulstein
February	9 - Kyler Bomgaars
February	16 - Willard Hulstein
February	23 - Whitney Huysen
March	2 - Bob Janisch

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NEW ARRIVAL

Congratulations to Kayden & Karrigan Glade on the birth of a son, Kolyn Michael Glade, who was born on January 21.



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THE LORD'S SUPPER

On February 16, 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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TRANSFER



At the January elder's meeting they received the membership of Kayden Glade from Hope Lutheran Church of Sioux Center, IA; Kaylee Kruid from Maurice Reformed Church of Maurice, IA; and Larry and Brenda Van Dyke from Central Reformed Church of Sioux Center, IA.

The membership of Brian Frangenberg with baptized children Carissa, Dylan, and Ethan was transferred to Archer Reformed Church of Archer, IA.

The membership of Lanae Kroeze was transferred to First Christian Reformed Church of Orange City, IA.

May God bless them in their new church homes.



VBS

Howdy, partners! Dust off your boots—it's time to get your tickets to Wonder Junction.

As we look around, we see many things to wonder at—landscapes, creatures, inventions. None of these compares to the grandest wonder of all—our Savior Jesus Christ! At VBS, kids will learn about who Jesus is as we dig into questions such as:

- *What amazing things happened surrounding Jesus' birth?*
- *What was Jesus like as a child and teen?*
- *What wonders occurred during Jesus' ministry years?*
- *How were Jesus' death and resurrection like no other?*
- *What should we be doing as we wait for Jesus' return?*



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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 \$2,712.33.

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GALENTINE'S

Women's Life is excited to celebrate Y.O.U. again this year!

- ♥ Thursday, February, 13 at 7:00 p.m.
- ♥ Grab your best Gal Pal and head to the Grain House in Hull for this fun event!
- ♥ Bring along one \$10.00 gift card to your favorite place to share! (retail store, movie theater, coffee shop, food truck, etc.)
- ♥ Come for a fun night out with the gals to laugh, have some yummy drinks and play a fun game!

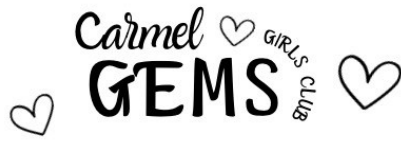


Important Dates:

- Carmel VBS: June 2-6
- Registration for Carmel members and regular attendee's children and grandchildren: March 9 & 16
- Registration for the public: April 14

Preschool registration will not be available to the public






Carmel GEMS would like to Thank You for supporting our fundraiser and the Thanksgiving offering! We are so blessed to be able to encourage and love the young ladies who walk through the doors on GEMS nights!

Please have your GEMS take their GEMS bags to every meeting. Have their Bible, and a pen/pencil!

Our next meeting is **February 3, 2025.**

Live out the Word!

February 17- NO GEMS - Presidents Day

Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says!
 **James 1:22**



Reminder- GEMS Sunday March 30, 2025

Do you have a love for GEMS and would like to get involved? Please talk to Kris VV.

CHANGED BY GOD'S WORD FROM THE INSIDE OUT.



Diamonds Post High Women's Ministry has moved to **Sunday evenings**. The young women are excited to start the week off in God's word. The Bible study we are doing is , *In My Feels by Mac Bridges & Kenz Durham*. How to feel God when I'm not feeling it. We meet in the back corner Sunday School room- You are welcome to check the room out or join our Bible Study/Worship nights.

What is Diamonds?

If you are a woman who is 17-28, we want to encourage you to unto join the sisterhood of women called Diamonds. Diamonds was created for post-high school women- single, engaged, married or single moms. *Carmel young women* you are invited! Young women need a community of encouragers and together strive to live a life with Jesus Christ by our side.

A typical night-

6:15 pm-6:30 pm worship time
 6:30 pm-7:30 pm group/bible study

Our next meeting is January 26, 2025

6:15 pm - 7:30 pm

Day 3 & group time
 Read Matt 26:69-75 and Matthew 28

February 9, 2025 6:15 pm -7:30 pm

Lonely - listen to podcast- when I am feeling lonely.
 Focus: day 1 & 2

February 23, 2025 6:15 pm - 7:30 pm

Read Genesis 16. Focus: day 3 & group time

Any questions? Check our facebook page for updates and information!

Contact Brynn Van Voorst or the church office.



Scan to follow our schedule!

Deacons Corner — FEBRUARY

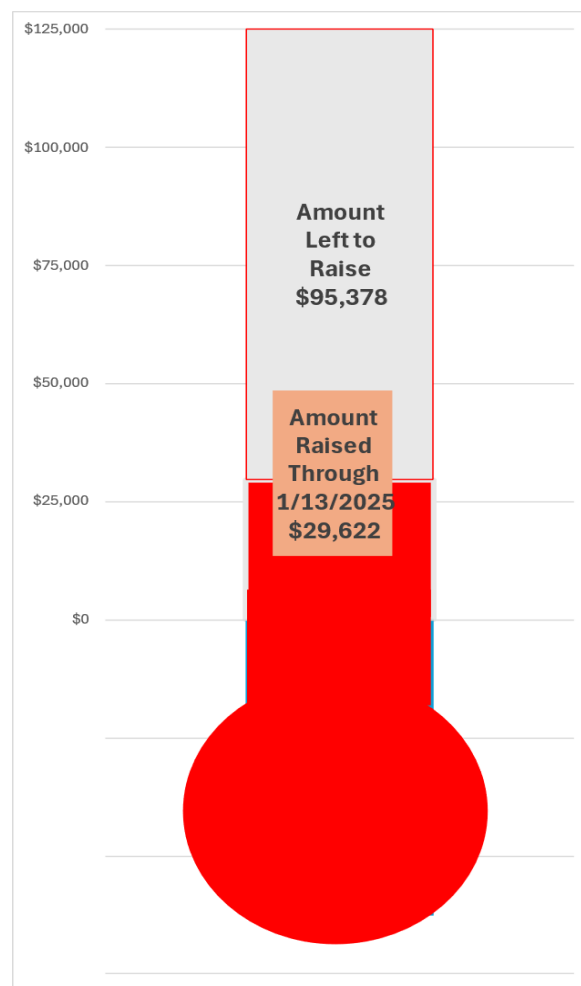


Outreach Fund – The Outreach Fund is available to assist Carmel Reformed Church members participation in mission projects/trip by providing financial assistance for registration and travel expenses. This does not include normally scheduled JR/SR youth group trips. The fund will reimburse ½ of travel 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, Adam Nibbelink 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.

Van Fundraising— At the December 2024 Consistory meeting a project was approved to replace the current 15 passenger van and to purchase an additional 15 passenger van. The current van is at a point where it needs to be replaced and as we assessed our needs it became evident that an additional van would be a great benefit to our church organizations, especially our youth groups. The total amount of this project will total \$125,000.00. If you desire to give to this project, please note “VAN PROJECT” in your check memo.



RESGEN MEN'S SUMMIT

New Life Church in Sioux Center is hosting a Livestream event for men on Saturday, February 1 from 8:00 am-1:00 pm with doors opening at 7:30 a.m.

Breakfast and snacks are included. The cost is \$30.00 for adults, \$15.00 for ages 17 to College.

To register please contact Johnathan at 712-301-2703 or email at ironsharpeningiron.ccc@gmail.com

RESGEN curates and hosts dynamic, engaging, and catalytic events that men can attend and invite others to join them. We create and provide resources that help men become more like Jesus and equip them to be the leaders, husbands, fathers, and friends that God created them to be. We encourage men to connect with one another and have Kingdom influence on others while on their faith journeys.

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TEC

Register for a high school experience of a life time! Tri-State Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) is accepting applications for the upcoming weekend at the New Life Church in Sioux Center, IA. TEC is an interdenominational three-day Christian retreat designed to help high schoolers learn more about their faith and their community. The next TEC is February 14-16, 2025. If you would like to learn more about TEC or register, please visit www.TriStateTEC.org or email TriState-TEC@gmail.com. The cost is \$50.00 and includes a t-shirt & other special gifts. Scholarships are available upon request.

Are you an adult but still want to be involved? We are also accepting applications for adults over 21 to join our team for the weekend and help these students experience Jesus! Visit TriStateTEC.org for more information.

INSPIRATION HILLS



Summer Camp Registration Opens on February 1! Camps fill up fast! Scan the QR code to find more information on the camps or visit their website:

www.inspirationhills.org

There are all types of camps to choose from: day camps, lodge camps, wilderness camps, sports camps, horse camps, and family camps.

Remember! Carmel church pays for 1/2 of the registration fee for one camp, per student, per year.



In celebration of 50 years of ministry at Inspiration Hills, this year's Summer Camp Theme will be based on Hebrews 13:8, Christ is the Same Yesterday, Today, and Forever. This theme is a reflection of God's faithfulness throughout the years at camp.

A couple of fun, exciting new things are happening this year which you are going to want to take note of:

1. We are adding a NEW Summer Camp option called Intro to Wilder which will be a 3 day 2 night option similar to Discovery Camp, but at Wilderness instead!
2. We'll be hosting a 50 year anniversary celebration at the end of the Summer on August 8-10 featuring performances by Jason Gray! More updates on that event are still to come, but for now, mark your calendars!
3. Inspiration Hills has a goal to exceed 1300 Summer Campers again this year for the BEST SUMMER EVER!



February

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 - Dallas De Jong | Jerry Renes |
| 2 - Kenna Haan | Willard Hulstein |
| Michael Hooyer | 17 - Morgan Van Voorst |
| Ryan Oostra | 18 - Gabi Luevano |
| Addison Rozeboom | 19 - Rachel Renes |
| 3 - Alyssa Mulder | Mrs. Anita Van Ravenhorst |
| 4 - Mrs. Kaylen Doelman | Mrs. Vera Dieck |
| The Harold Van Essen's | 20 - Ashton Madsen |
| 5 - Brexton Niemeyer | 21 - Montana Robinson |
| Colter Niemeyer | Kole Wolfswinkel |
| Tekoah Vanden Brink | Caitlynn Fedders |
| Mrs. Pat Sandbulte | Larry Van Dyke |
| 7 - Covey Wynia | 22 - Ripken Van Ginkel |
| Mrs. Nicole Vanden Brink | Eric Luevano |
| The Pete De Jong's | Mrs. April Kooi |
| 9 - Ben Van Voorst | Ken Brunsting |
| The Chris Van Essen's | 23 - Mrs. Allison Leusink |
| 10 - Rowen Rozeboom | Mrs. Donna Renes |
| 11 - Stetson Byker | 24 - The Seth Huizenga's |
| 13 - Jacob Haverhals | 25 - Derick Niemeyer |
| Addison Terpstra | Mrs. Laurie Buyert |
| Mrs. Cheryl Sandbulte | 26 - Mrs. Jenna Moreau |
| 14 - Adam Nibbelink | The Kraig Hulstein's |
| Mrs. Kayti Beukelman | 27 - Reed Byker |
| Mrs. Londa Rus | 28 - Lawson Van Ginkel |
| The Larry Vander Weide's | 29 - Mitch Banks |
| 15 - Mrs. Whitney Huyser | |
| Mrs. Jenna Wright | |
| The Andrew Van Ginkel's | |
| 16 - Briggs Hoekstra | |
| Jerry Wolfswinkel | |

4-6TH GRADE WINTER RETREAT

The 4-6th Grade Winter Retreat is an exciting opportunity for campers to experience Inspiration Hills' unique winter activities! The event will include a chapel message, worship, and Bible studies along with all the fun winter games!

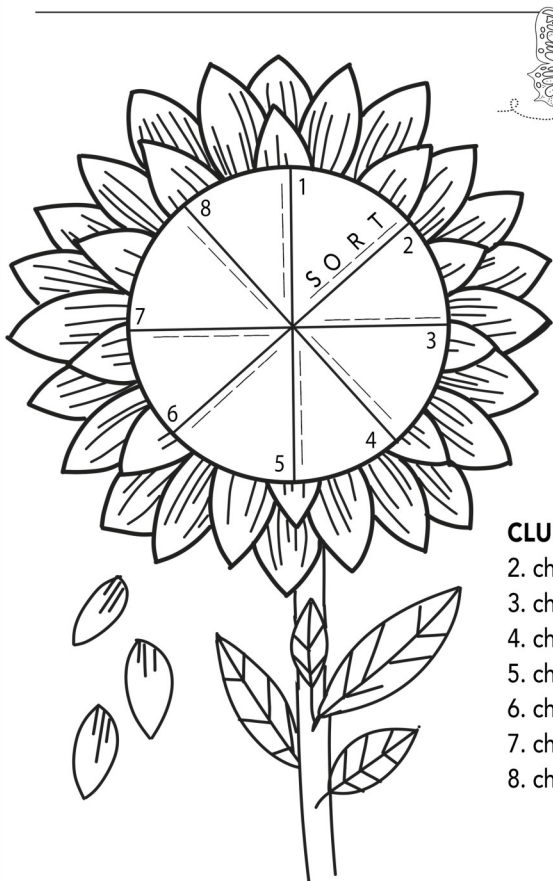
The event will take place from 7:00 p.m. Friday night, February 14 to 11:00 a.m. Sunday morning, February 16. The registration deadline is February 9! To register for this event or learn more, visit inspirationhills.org/4-6-retreat



THE LOVE CYCLE

In 1 John 4, God instructs us to love other people. Where does our love come from?

Directions: Starting at #1 and going clockwise, solve each clue to create a new four-letter word. Then write the eighth word in both blanks below to complete 1 John 4:19, NIV.

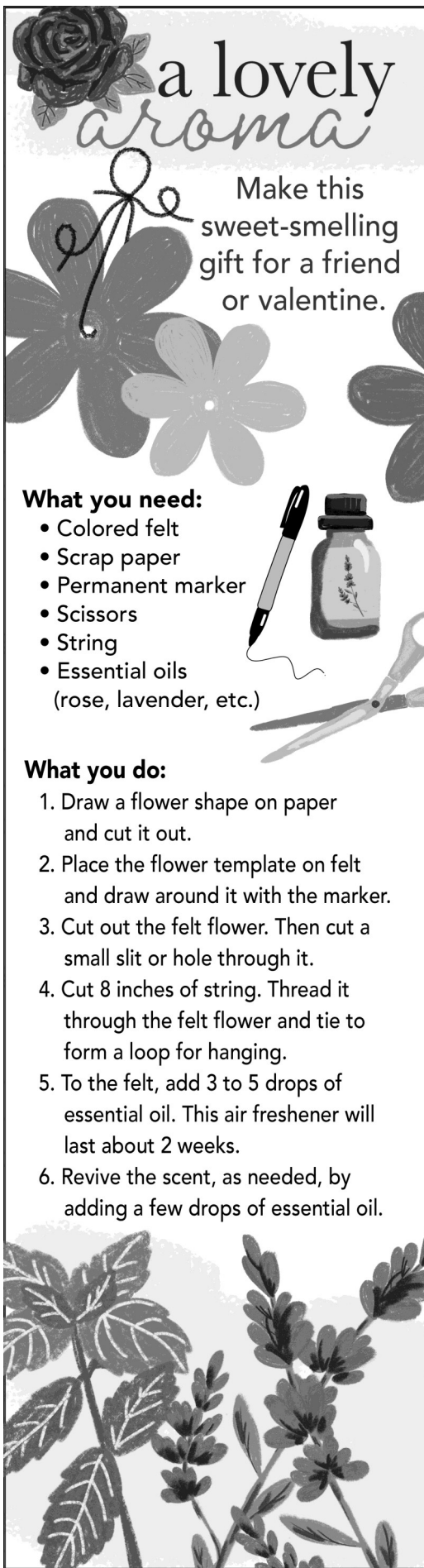


We _____
because [God] first
_____ d us.

1 John 4:19, NIV

CLUES

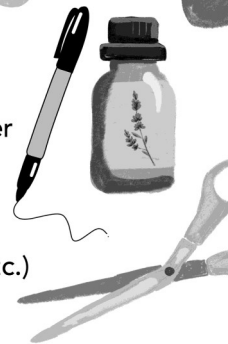
2. change 1 letter: a tent to play in
3. change 2 letters: a crease in paper
4. change 1 letter: a precious metal
5. change 2 letters: a beautiful dress
6. change 1 letter: opposite of up
7. change 2 letters: a type of bird
8. change 1 letter: God is this
(see 1 John 4:16).



Make this sweet-smelling gift for a friend or valentine.

What you need:

- Colored felt
- Scrap paper
- Permanent marker
- Scissors
- String
- Essential oils
(rose, lavender, etc.)



What you do:

1. Draw a flower shape on paper and cut it out.
2. Place the flower template on felt and draw around it with the marker.
3. Cut out the felt flower. Then cut a small slit or hole through it.
4. Cut 8 inches of string. Thread it through the felt flower and tie to form a loop for hanging.
5. To the felt, add 3 to 5 drops of essential oil. This air freshener will last about 2 weeks.
6. Revive the scent, as needed, by adding a few drops of essential oil.