

**March 30, 2025  
GEMS SUNDAY**

*Carmel's mission is to further Christ's Kingdom  
through loving God and loving others.*

**MORNING WORSHIP (9:30)**

Prelude: *Nora Bohl*

Welcome

Call to Worship

\*Christian Greeting

\*Worship Song: *"No Longer Slaves"*  
*"My Jesus"*

Invocation

GEMS Litany

Congregational Prayer

Offertory: *GEMS Video*  
(Offerings for the General Fund & Transportation Fund)  
(Please pass the Guest Registers during this time)

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Message: **"New for a Purpose"**

Closing Hymn: #455 *"Take My Life, And Let It Be  
Consecrated"* (v. 1-5)

\*Benediction

Parting Hymn: #455 *"Take My Life, And Let It Be  
Consecrated"* (v. 6)

Postlude: *Nora Bohl*

(\*please stand if you are able)

**EVENING WORSHIP (6:30)**

Prelude: *Nora Bohl*

Welcome

Call to Worship

\*Worship Hymns: #666 *"Sing With All the Saints In Glory"*  
#658 *"Sweet By-and-By"*

Invocation

Responsive Reading: *"The Heidelberg Catechism"*  
*Lord's Day #2*

Congregational Prayer

\*Hymn: #283 *"What A Day That Will Be"*

Scripture: John 14:1-14

Message: **"The Destiny That Awaits All Who Trust  
In Christ"**

Closing Hymn: #650 *"When We All Get To Heaven"*

\*Benediction

Postlude: *Nora Bohl*

(\*please stand if you are able)

*Like a loving father welcoming a prodigal child home and inviting the other to join the feast, God welcomes us all. Let us celebrate such amazing grace. Please join us for refreshments after the morning worship service.*

**Today is** the Sunday that we celebrate our GEMS program. We're thankful for all the girls, the counselors, and the blessing that they are to Carmel Church. May God continue to bless our GEMS and use them for His glory.

**This evening we welcome** Pastor Ross Hoekstra as he leads our evening worship service.

**Guest Register:** During the offering this morning, please sign and pass the “Guest” Register down the row. Once it reaches the end and members and guests have signed, please pass it back to the center.

## TODAY

10:45 a.m.—**Sunday School**

Preschool-1st grade meet in the music room.

2nd-6th grade meet in the sanctuary.

**Lesson:** “*The Suffering of Job*”

**Sunday School Guide Class** meet in the chapel.

6:30 p.m.—**Sr. RCYF**

**Nursery Attendants:** Morgan H., Alyssa K., Rachel W., Ava S.

**Door Attendant:** Larry. **Ushers:** Loren P. (M), Sean R. (NE), Brian R. (SW). **Audio:** Dan. **Video:** Laura. **Power Point:** Barb.

**After Service Greeters:** Brian & Dennis (M), Shawn (NE), Leon (SW).

## THIS WEEK

**Monday, March 31**

6:30 p.m.—**Cadet Pinewood Derby weigh in**

7:00 p.m.—**Cadet Pinewood Derby**

**Wednesday, April 2**

7:00 p.m.—**Prayer Day for Crops and Industry**

An offering for the Christian Care Fund will be received. **Usher:** Loren Punt.

**Saturday, April 5**

**Church Reserved**

## NEXT SUNDAY, April 6

**Nursery Attendants:** Amy McAlpine, Jo Moget, Aniya Robertson, Kierra Wolfswinkel. **Door Attendant:** Dan DeMeester.

**Ushers:** Avery Sandbulte (M); Marlin Sandbulte (NE); Owen Sandbulte (SW). **Refreshments:** Chad Robertson, Dorene Vander Zwaag. **Cookies:** Donna Renes, Doree Wolfswinkel,

Linda Altena, Lorna Vander Vliet, Sue Noteboom. **Special Music:** Alex Koedam. **Special Offering:** 22:6 Group.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### **Uphold in Prayer**

*Henry J. Wolfswinkel* is in the hospital.

*Dale Woudstra* is on a mission trip with Engineering Ministries International in Skopje, North Macedonia from March 22-April 5.

*Harvard Sneller* is recovering from a fall which resulted in several broken bones.

*Verlyn Van Regenmorter* is recovering from surgery.

*Scott Fischer* is recovering from knee replacement surgery.

Please keep Middleburg Free Grace Church in your prayers as they are looking for a pastor.

*Kyle Van Ginkel* serving in the army.

**Praying for our local congregations:** This week please be in prayer for God’s blessing for the Free Grace Reformed Congregation.

**Please help us to help you:** When you have an illness, accident, upcoming surgery, birth or death in the family, or other needs, please notify one of the elders or the church office.

Our sympathy to the family of *Lyle Diekevers* who passed away Friday, March 21. May God grant peace and comfort Linda Diekevers and family.

Our sympathy to the family of *Arnold Hulshof* who passed away Tuesday, March 25. May God grant peace and comfort to Dorene Hulshof and family.

“Thank you for the cards and prayers during my hip surgery and during recovery.”

-Bob Den Herder

“As a family we would like to thank our Carmel church family for all the love and support over the last few months. We would like to thank everyone for the cards, texts, visits, and prayers. We also want to thank everyone who donated their time to make and bring meals to us to make our transition back to home easier! We appreciated it more than you know, we are truly blessed to be a part of the family of God and Carmel Reformed Church.”

-Chris, Whitney, Koston, Tate and Baylor Van Essen

“We would like to say thank you for your attendance at our Taco/Ice Cream Supper and Silent Auction Fundraiser. Your support is so important for our upcoming mission trip and other functions throughout the year. We are truly grateful for your generosity and commitment to our youth group. Thank you again for being such a great congregation!”

-Sr RCYF

There will be a parent meeting for Jr. RCYF in the Moses Room following the morning worship service on April 6.

Hard copies of the April *HIGHLIGHTS* are on the Coffee Station.

We will be rearranging the mailboxes soon to keep them in alphabetical order. Please make every effort to empty your mailbox. It would be very much appreciated.

Please be thinking and praying about how you can help support VBS. We need **MANY** volunteers to make this happen.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED To Serve at the Banquet**

Carmel will be serving at **The Banquet** in Sioux Falls, on Thursday, April 17. Volunteers are needed to help serve the meal.

**Sign up at the Coffee Station.** Monetary donations are also needed for the meal and milk. You may put your donation in the box near the sign up sheet. The Church Van will be going to Sioux Falls for those who don't wish to drive.

## ***You're Invited!***

Join us for our Legacy Appreciation Supper hosted by the Sr. RCYF. Enjoy a delicious meal, dessert, and an engaging activity planned for the evening!

**Date:** Wednesday, April 23, 2025

**Time:** 6:30 pm

**Please RSVP to the church office by Monday, April 15th!**

We look forward to having you join us!

*Look for your invitation in your mailbox*

### **EDUCATION APPRECIATION SUPPER**



All volunteers involved in our education programs (S.S. teachers, substitute teachers, officers, music leaders, Wednesday LFC teachers, substitute teachers and Bible Study leaders, GEMS and Cadet Counselors, Jr. and Sr. RCYF Sponsors, and VBS Directors along with their spouse or guest) are invited to an Appreciation Supper on **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Childcare will be provided.

A great meal and fun evening has been planned for these individuals and we hope you can come and enjoy this time as we show our appreciation to our education volunteers!!

Please sign up at the Coffee Station in the Fellowship Hall or contact the church office, if you will be attending. Please do so by **APRIL 23!**

## Carmel VBS

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

SAVE THE DATE!

Carmel VBS will be June 2-6. We can't wait to see you!



Throughout the week, kids will learn about Jesus' birth, childhood, ministry, death and resurrection, and coming return. Kids will be challenged to grow their knowledge and discover the joy that comes with praising Jesus!

Our **volunteers** are what make this week a success! You do not want to miss the opportunity to walk alongside the kids and watch them grow in their faith. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up online using the following QR code or link:



<https://vbspro.events/p/carmelvbs2025>

To sign up to bless our workers with snacks/treats throughout the day, please use the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DA5AF22A7FEC34-54838615-carmel>

We covet your prayers for all those involved in this week-long ministry. We pray that God will be glorified and many lives will be blessed through our 2025 VBS.

## OFFICE REMODEL

We are excited to announce that the office remodel has started! This project is anticipated to take 6-8 weeks to complete. During this time that staff will be set up in the library.

Adult Sunday School will meet in the chapel during this time.

Thank you for your support on this project, and patience with any inconveniences during this time!

*Carmel Mother-Daughter*

*Banquet*

*Wednesday, May 7, 2025  
~ Fellowship Hall*

*Punch ~ 6:00 p.m.  
Meal ~ 6:30 p.m.*

**Speaker: Jessica Remme**

### TICKETS:

*13 years - Adult (\$20)*

*6 - 12 years (\$15)*

*0 - 5 years (free)*

RSVP BY CONTACTING THE  
CHURCH OFFICE OR PUT-  
TING YOUR RSVP CARD IN  
THE BOX ON THE COFFEE  
STATION

Deadline to purchase tickets is

**April 20!**

**ALASKA BIBLE INSTITUTE**  
*Mission Trip*

Carmel Mission Trip to Alaska Bible Institute:

**Where:** Alaska Bible Institute Campus located in Homer, Alaska

**When:** August 1-9

**Who:** Teenagers to Adults

**Cost:** \$1,000-\$1,200 (Depending on flights)

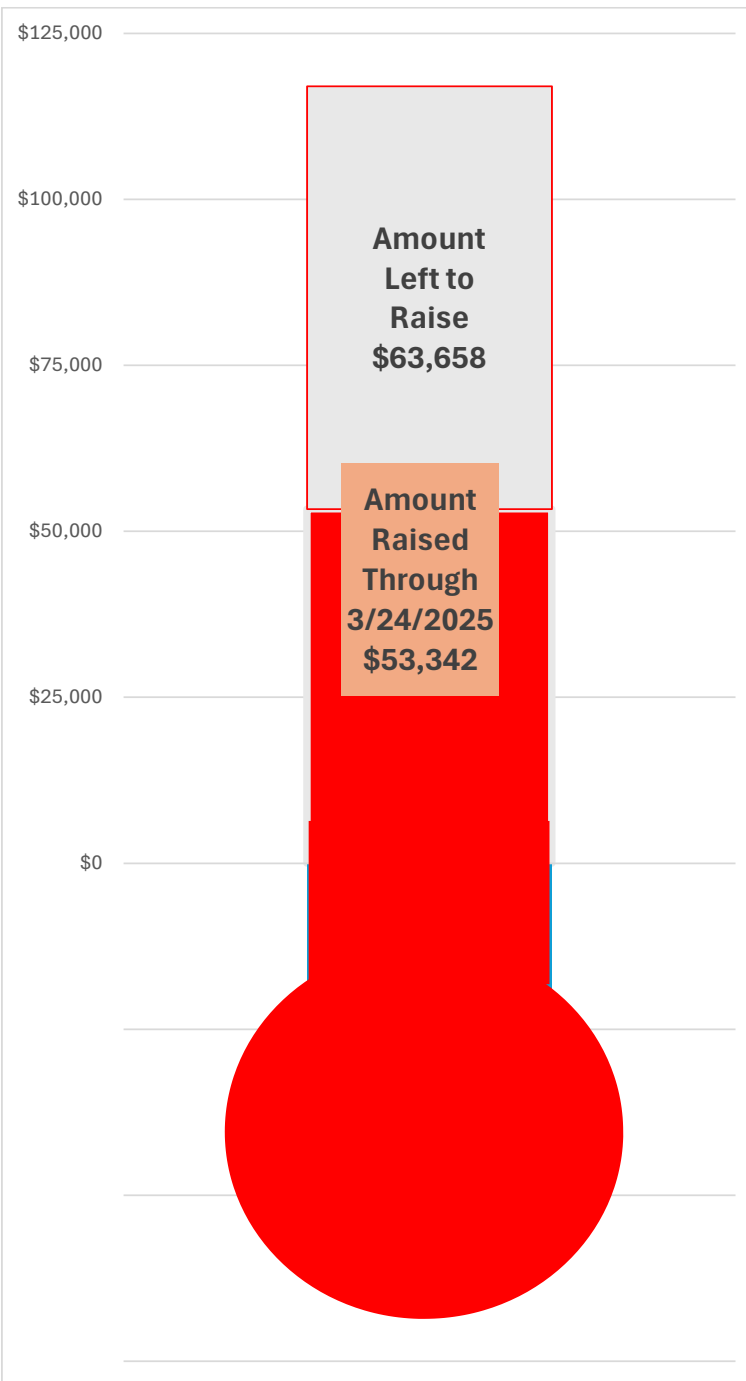
**Work:** Projects on campus (Skilled labor but also have a job for everyone)

**Signup:** Contact Nate Van Ginkel (712-470-5790) or signup sheet in Fellowship Hall.

**Deadline:** May 25, 2025

**GENERAL FUND GIVING:** Offering : \$2,215.00  
Fiscal YTD General Fund offering: \$102,787.87  
Property Fund Offering: \$8,020.00  
Fiscal YTD Property Fund: \$92,095.25

# VAN PROJECT UPDATE



## GEMS LITANY

**Leader:** In a world where we are being pressured to conform at every turn, from culture to social media, God calls us to live differently in Romans 12:2.

**GEMS:** *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will* (Romans 12:2).

**ALL:** Renew our hearts and minds, God. Transform us from the inside out and help us to live for You.

**GEMS:** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God* (John 1:1).

**Leader:** Lord, thank You for sending Jesus, the Word, to show us what You are like. You are with us, omnipotent, righteous, and directing us. You are the foundation of our faith and the source of all Truth. Help us to trust Your Word, the Bible, as the standard for Truth.

**ALL:** God, we cannot live transformed on our own. Please equip us by Your Spirit to live differently than the world. Help us to know Your good, pleasing, and perfect will.

**GEMS:** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!* (2 Corinthians 5:17)

**Leader:** Lord, because of what Jesus has done on the cross and in His resurrection, we can be forgiven for our sins and have a right relationship with You. When we trust You as Lord and Savior, You make us new. Transform us from the inside out, and may we shine Your love and Truth in the world.

**GEMS:** *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work* (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

**Leader:** Lord, equip us to live as Your people, boldly sharing the Truth of scripture with others. Help us to remember Your Word is the most powerful tool.

**ALL:** God, please help us to live out the Truth of scripture and to walk in obedience to You.

**GEMS:** *Then you will know truth, and the truth will set you free* (John 8:32).

**Leader:** Father, Your Word set us free from the lies of the world. May we always stand firm on scripture as the ultimate standard of Truth.

**ALL:** Transform us from the inside out through Your Word and renew our minds.

**GEMS:** *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says* (James 1:22).

**Leader:** Lord, help us not only to hear Your Word but to live it out daily in our actions and choices.

**GEMS:** *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age* (Matthew 28:19-20).

**Leader:** You call each of us to show Your love and to tell the good news of Jesus Christ so that others may come to know Him. We need Your help to carry out this mission. Strengthen us, Lord, so we can show and tell the gospel message that transform lives. Make us bold messengers of the hope that we have in You.

**ALL:** We commit to living as Your transformed people, shining your light in the world.

**GEMS:** *And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God* (Micah 6:8).

**Leader:** Together, and with Your help and guidance, Lord, we embrace Your call to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with You.

**ALL:** Transform us from the inside out, Lord. Continue changing us from the inside out so that we look more and more like You in all we think, say, and do. We pray this in Your name and for Your glory, amen.