

HIGHLIGHTS

CARMEL REFORMED CHURCH

"Can't Wait For Sunday"

November 2025



As we begin the month of November, our focus is quickly drawn to one of the big holidays of each year, Thanksgiving. Our thoughts often go to images of a fall cornucopia of beautiful fruits and vegetables, ears of corn and colorful fall leaves carefully arranged to give the picture of abundant goodness. We think of the perfectly braised turkey ready to be carved surrounded by all the trimmings, something to suit everyone's likings. There will be bowls of mashed potatoes with plenty of gravy, stuffing, corn, applesauce, green beans, glazed carrots and sweet potatoes too. And don't forget to add your favorite pie to the list to make sure you are adequately stuffed by the end of the day!

And while we are certainly thankful for the "good things" of life, as Christians we are called to "give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Really though? How can we possibly give thanks during a cancer journey, or ongoing pain that can't be figured out? Can you give thanks after you've had an accident that required surgery and that means ongoing loss of regular activity and possibly painful therapy to get back on track? How does one give thanks when there are family troubles, financial issues, when we see our youthful vitality ebbing away, or when we see all the conflict of society?

The Bible calls us to be thankful not because those things are happening, but because there is always something else happening through all of it: God is at work in us! The reason to be thankful always is because God's purpose and plans always prevail over what we see happening in our circumstances. God's eternal plan is one where all things will be made right again. And the trials that we go through are there to help strengthen our faith and trust in him.

When God says that "for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose" it includes both his wonderful times of blessing as well as the trials he leads us through to draw strength from him and be a witness of his faithfulness to us. When we remember what God has said and recall what God has done, we will be able to give thanks always. Take time in this month to give thanks, for everything God has done and is doing for you.



November 2: Hannah Smolders, Rachel Van Roekel, Elyse Zwart, Kinlee Wolfswinkel
November 9: Brynn Van Voorst, Edan Bomgaars, Addison Rozeboom, Faith Van Maanen
November 16: Kristi Van Voorst, Londa Boogerd, Heidi Boogerd,

Akenna Sandbulte

November 23: Ruth De Jager, Lynna De Wit, Sadie Janisch, Ruthie Vanden Brink

November 30: Nikki Hulstein, Morgan Hoekstra, Gaby Prins, Slayden Sandbulte

December 7: Amy McAlpine, Jo Moget, Karlee Leusink, Brody Van Voorst

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.

November 2-R-Doug Van Beek, Hans Smolders
C-Sandi Vonk, Anita Van Ravenhorst, Rachel Terpstra, Amy Rozeboom, Teresa Sandbulte

November 9-R- Jack Soodsma, Verlyn Van Regenmorter

C-Misty Zwart, Frieda Bartels, Helen Vande Vegte, Carol Langstraat, Rhonda Sandbulte

November 16-R-Dorene Vander Zwaag, Denny De Jong

C-Kaye Kuyper, Erica Robertson, Allison Leusink, Sherri Wolfswinkel, Alice Remmerde

November 23-R-Karen Boersema, Jerry Renes

C-Clarice Van Maanen, Colleen Bomgaars, Sarah Nibbelink, Mimi Sandbulte, Lin De Jong

November 30-R-Jared Terpstra, Chad Robertson

C-Carmen Maassen, Cherly Lange, Fonda Post, Cheryl Sandbulte, Ronda Leusink

December 7-R-Gene Sandbulte, Mike Haverhals

C-Gene Sandbulte, Hazel Haverhals, Lorna Vander Vliet, Jami Sandbulte, Donna Renes

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.

Nov.	2 - Brad Oostra
Nov.	9 - Orlin Oostra
Nov.	16 - Ryan Oostra
Nov.	23 - Cherub & Nursery Choirs
Nov.	30 - Trevor Pieper
Dec.	7 - Darwin Post

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Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Shawn De Wit (ReAnna Wolfswinkel) who were united in marriage at Carmel on October 4.



May God bless them with a long and happy married life.

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TRANSFER

At the elders meeting, they received the membership of Clara Smith from Faith Reformed Church of Rock Valley, IA.



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THE LORD'S SUPPER

On Sunday, November 16, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper at our morning worship service. Any shut-ins or those in the nursing home who would like Communion served to them, please contact an elder.

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THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Our Thanksgiving worship service will be held on **Wednesday evening, November 26, at 6:30 pm.** Pastor Ron will lead us in our service of praise and thanksgiving. Watch the bulletin for a list of causes you may consider for your Thanksgiving offering.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our annual Congregational Meeting will be held Monday, November 17, at 7:00 p.m. We will be electing two elders and two deacons to serve three year terms on the Consistory. The yearly financial report will also be presented.

The Jr. RCYF will offer free babysitting services that evening. Infants-3 years old will be cared for in the nursery. Children 4+ meet in the Sr. RCYF room for games and movies.

The Jr. RCYF will also have an ice cream social after the Congregational Meeting. They will be serving bowls of ice cream and your favorite toppings for a freewill donation to Jr. RCYF.

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Wednesday, November 26, 6:30 p.m.—Thanksgiving Eve Service. No Wednesday Night Activities or Adult Bible Study.

Sunday, December 21, 6:00 p.m.—Sunday School Christmas Program.

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

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PIGS-IN-THE-BLANKET



Help make pigs

We will be making pigs-in-the-blanket on Thursday, October 30 and Thursday, November 6 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at Carmel. We will need some willing volunteers to help make the pigs. Saturday, November 1 and Saturday, November 8 we need some willing volunteers to help package the pigs.

The freezer in the Moses Room will be stocked with pigs-in-the-blanket by Sunday, November 2 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.

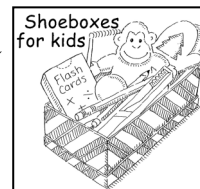


The Sunday School mission project this year is Inspiration Hills. Inspiration Hills has been around for over 50 years, and it started with the vision and mission of offering a camp experience to the youth. There are eight weeks of summer camp in addition to year-round program events, retreat spaces, buildings, campgrounds, and hosting groups of all different sizes. Inspiration Hills focuses its ministry to glorify God in the work of providing a space for people to know and grow in Christ. Doing this requires Biblical truth, stewardship of funds and donations, prayerful support, and a whole lot of fun! The second Sunday of each month the S. S. offering goes to the mission project. The offering amount to date is \$830.75.

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OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

For 19 years Carmel has been collecting boxes for OCC. Won't you fill a box this year and bring smiles to the faces of kids — especially those who have never gotten a gift in their life. And even better yet is to be able to share with them the good news of Jesus. At the distribution center each shoebox has a greatest gift Gospel Booklet placed in it. When you donate \$10 with each box you are helping send the gospel to the ends of the earth without leaving home!!



Take an ordinary **regular size** shoe box (**no oversized boxes, please as they do not fit in the packing crates**) fill it with toys and other presents, and you have an extraordinary gift for a child in need of joy and hope.

Need ideas of what to put in the box?? Pick up a sheet from the table in the Fellowship Hall that has lots of ideas of what to pack in the box. (Also included is a list of items **not** to include.

Also on the table are sheets entitled "Let's Be Friends" and "All About Me" that your child or grandchild can fill out about themselves and include in the box.

Brochures on how to pack a shoe box gift are on the table in the Fellowship Hall. **Carefully read and follow the instructions.**

Filled boxes can be brought to the table in the Fellowship Hall any time through November 16. **Remember to include a \$10 donation per box** to cover shipping and other project costs (such as providing the Gospel Booklets for each box). If you use the Follow Your Box feature online, you can also discover the destination of your shoebox!

Let's see how many boxes we can fill this year and help spread the gospel around the world.

KATELYN'S FUND

Katelyn's Fund Annual Auction will take place on Friday, November 7, at New Life Reformed Church in Sioux Center! Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Join us for complimentary meal at 5:30 p.m. and stay for the auction, which begins at 6:30 p.m. We've got a great lineup of items, including electronics, home goods, vacation stays, autographed NFL merch, and more!

Your support helps us continue our mission of speaking boldly for the fatherless. With generous partners like you, we've been able to support countless families in their adoption journeys and continue our work in Haiti. We'd love for you to be part of this mission again.

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UNHURRED CHRISTMAS

Alliance of Reformed Churches has introduced a resource designed for both individuals and churches for the Advent season, *Unhurried Christmas*. We invite you to join with people from across our family of churches on a Advent journey as we explore what it means to rest, wait, anticipate, and hope in the coming of our Savior. We are grateful to Pastor Cameron Beidler of Vriesland Reformed Church, who has generously shared this material with the Alliance of Reformed Churches. We hope this resource, in whatever way you may choose to use it, will be meaningful during this year's Advent season.

We invite you to join us for an *Unhurried Christmas* daily devotional from December 1-25. Devotionals will be delivered to your email each day and offer you an opportunity to slow down, spend time in the Word, and draw near to Christ in the midst of a hurried season.

To sign up please go to <https://arc21.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1054881>

INSPIRATION HILLS NEWS

Campfire Coffee Club

Join us for Campfire Coffee Club, held the first Thursday of every month at 9:00 am! It's a relaxed time to enjoy coffee, community, and fellowship while learning more about what's happening at camp. Come connect with others, meet our staff, hear updates, or even take a tour of the grounds. We'd love to share life and camp with you!

Camp Connection: High School Youth Group Retreat

Our Camp Connection retreat is a youth group retreat hosted by the Inspiration Hills staff, November 7-9. Bring out your youth group to experience connection within your youth groups, with other youth groups and of course, connection with the Lord. The weekend will be filled with activities, teaching, worship, bonding, fires, s'mores, and the list goes on.

Youth Leaders visit www.inspirationhills.org/hsretreat to get your students registered! If you have questions, call Lucas at 712-986-5193

Annual Banquet

Inspiration Hills' Annual Fundraiser Banquet is Thursday, November 13.

This year, Inspiration Hills is hosting a banquet at the main lodge! You are invited to an evening of fellowship, celebration, and Kingdom impact. Together, we will enjoy a delicious meal, hear ministry updates, and participate in a special testimony panel where individuals will share how God transformed their lives through Inspiration Hills.

This powerful evening will conclude with a time of giving, as we look ahead to the continued work God is doing through this ministry.



You can purchase tickets through inspirationhills.org or scanning the QR code. Tickets are \$50 per individual or \$350 for a table of 8.

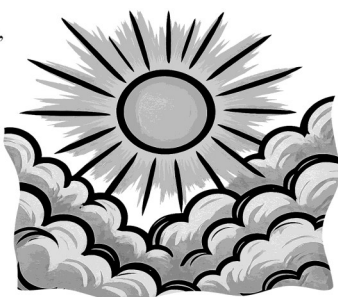
Art of Parenting Retreat

Inspiration Hills invites singles and couples to join us for a weekend retreat focused on Christ-centered parenting, November 14-15. Together we'll explore practical tools and biblical wisdom to help raise children who know and love the Lord. The cost is \$25.00 per couple, \$50 per couples for overnight guest.

Bible Quiz

James 1:17 reminds us about the source of every blessing. According to this verse, how is God described?

- A. The one who changes like shifting shadows
- B. The giver of wisdom to the faithful
- C. The Father of heavenly lights who does not change
- D. The one who rewards those who are generous



Answer: C (See James 1:17)



Deacons Corner — NOVEMBER

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.

Online Giving – Supporting the ministry at Carmel Church is easier than ever with our secure online giving option. Whether you're traveling, working, or watching from home, you can give anytime—anywhere. Simply visit carmelchurch.org and click the "Give" button. You can make a one-time gift or set up recurring donations in just a few steps. We're still passing the offering plate on Sundays, so you're welcome to give in person if you prefer. Thank you for your continued faithfulness and generosity!

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7



TEC

Register for a high school experience of a lifetime! Tri-State Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) is accepting applications for the upcoming weekend at the First Presbyterian Church in Sibley, 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 November 21-23. If you would like to learn more about TEC or register, please visit www.TriStateTEC.org or email TriStateTEC@gmail.com. The cost is \$50 and includes a t-shirt and other special gifts.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Gracious God,
Thank you for every good gift -
For the food before us,
The people around us,
And the love that surrounds us.
Help us to pause, reflect, and rejoice
In Your constant goodness and grace.
May our hearts overflow with gratitude,
Not just today, but every day.
Amen.

ALASKAN EXPERIENCE

As there is reflect on the experience, realization that nothing could have truly prepared us for what Alaska had in store. My expectations, shaped by stories and photos, fell short of the reality that unfolded before me. When asked to describe the Alaska trip, many in our group used words like *majestic*, *amazing* and *unexplainable*—and I couldn't agree more. It's a place where even the most breathtaking photographs fail to capture the essence of what you're seeing.

The work we did in Alaska was not always easy, but the payoff was more than worth it. Witnessing the expressions on the faces of both staff and students when the job was complete was truly rewarding. Their excitement and anticipation for what's to come in the newly transformed spaces was unmistakable. It was inspiring to see how physical labor, paired with purpose, could create such meaningful change. Alaska itself was breathtaking, but the real beauty was in the people, the mission, and the shared sense of accomplishment.

Another aspect of the trip that deeply impacted us was learning how we support Cody and Tricia in their ministry. They serve as full-time missionaries at the Alaska Bible Institute, and like the rest of the staff, they are not salaried. Their financial support comes entirely from churches and individuals who believe in the mission—churches like Carmel Church, which Tricia actively reaches out to for partnership.

Currently, Cody and Tricia are not fully funded and need more to get there. To help bridge the gap, Cody works a part-time job in addition to his ministry responsibilities. This reality highlights the dedication and sacrifice involved in their calling, and it gave us a deeper appreciation for the importance of consistent and generous support from the broader faith community.

Alaska Bible Institute (ABI) operates as a tuition-free, non-accredited Christian educational institution. This model is intentionally designed to make biblical education accessible to a wide range of students without the financial burden typically associated with higher education.

Because ABI does not charge tuition, it does not pursue accreditation. Accreditation would require the institute to implement tuition fees, which would in turn necessitate salaried compensation for staff members. As a result, individuals such as Cody and Tricia serve in unpaid roles, likely supported through personal fundraising or external sponsorship.

Students at ABI are responsible only for housing costs, and the campus can accommodate up to 45 residents. The program typically spans 2 to 3 years, and the student body is diverse, ranging in age from 18 to 50. Despite the lack of accreditation, ABI has not encountered challenges with students transferring to other institutions.

This approach reflects ABI's commitment to ministry-focused education, prioritizing spiritual formation and community over formal academic credentials.

The ABI program deeply impacted many of the students through its strong emphasis on faith. Students are not only educated but also discipled and prepared for missionary work. Tanner, a former student, now serves with his family in a nearby village, living out his calling. Cody and Tricia, who mentor current students, shared a powerful testimony of trusting God during financial hardship—receiving unexpected support from Carmel Church just when they needed it most. Their story, and their gratitude for the Carmel Church family's support, highlights how faith and community are central to the mission of ABI.

In closing, it's one thing to hear Cody and Tricia share their story at Carmel Church and to listen to those who have supported their journey recount their experiences. Their words paint a vivid picture of the work being done at ABI, and the impact it's having. But there's something profoundly different about stepping into that story yourself—seeing the mission in action, feeling the heartbeat of the community, and being part of something greater. If you've ever felt a tug to go deeper, to serve, or simply to witness what God is doing in Alaska, consider this your invitation. The door is open.



NOVEMBER

- 1 - Clara Smith
Mrs. Linda Valentine
- 2 - Addalee Madsen
Elyse Zwart
- 3 - Easton Van Ginkel
Hannah Van Roekel
The Greg De Wit's
- 5 - Mitch Nettinga
Mrs. Ev De Jong
- 6 - Henry Nibbelink
Waylon Van Ginkel
- 7 - Warren Vonk
Eddie Vander Weide
The John Kleyer's
The Orlin Oostra's
- 8 - Eric Van Roekel
Ron Boersema
The Dawson Vonk's
- 9 - Ken Verburg
- 10 - The Dave Bohl's
- 12 - Mrs. Tami Ronning
- 13 - Mrs. Kristi Segar
- 15 - Danny DeMeester
Kinlee Wolfswinkel
Mark Sandbulte
- 16 - Brock Bomgaars
Brianna Fedders
Mrs. Jolene Horstman
- 18 - Sage Bomgaars
- 19 - Mrs. Nikki Bomgaars
Scott Kuyper

- Russ Vande Vegte
The Brady Hoogendoorn's
- 20 - Aniya Robertson
- 22 - Jaxon Klein
- 23 - Kierra Wolfswinkel
The Chad Robertson's
- 24 - Mrs. Lori Kleyer
Mrs. Vicki Fischer
- 25 - Derek Vande Zandschulp
The Barry Van Kekerix's
- 26 - Ella Zwart
Ross Hulstein
The Enrique Luevano's
- 27 - The Kendrick Van Kekerix's
- 28 - Archer Vande Vegte
James Hooyer
Jill Sandbulte
Mrs. Twila Renes
Loren Hooyer
- 29 - Harper Van Meeteren
- 30 - Mrs. Lindsey Vonk
Steve Rozeboom
Mrs. Sue Sandbulte

A DAY TO HONOR OUR VETERANS



On November 11, 1918, the Germans and the Allied Nations, which included the United States, signed a document to initiate an armistice (cessation of hostilities), thus ending World War I. A year later, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation designating November 11 as Armistice Day. It was to be a day of reflection—a day to remember those who died in the country's service and to offer Americans the opportunity "to show sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations".

Wanting to recognize more specifically America's veterans, Congress passed a bill changing the name of the day from Armistice Day to Veterans Day. The change was made in May 1954.

On this national holiday, churches around the nation hold service of prayers and praise. Followers of the Prince of Peace pray for peace among the nations of Earth and the day when "they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4, NRSV).



GIVE PRAISE

Solve this puzzle to read a Bible verse about praising God for all his blessings.

Directions: In each group, circle the word that doesn't belong. Then write the circled words on the lines below.

1 Give Take Grab	2 peanut praise pear	3 temple house LORD	4 proclaim past present	5 name boy lad	6 ruin destroy make
7 pine acorn known	8 train nations bus	9 done donut muffin	10 Sing Sleep Yawn	11 she him girl	12 sun praise moon
13 tell fast slow	14 red all blue	15 horrible dreadful wonderful	16 acts sisters aunts		

_____ to the _____, _____ his _____;
 1 2 3 4 5
 _____ among the _____ what he has _____.
 6 7 8 9
 _____ to _____, sing _____ to him; _____ of
 10 11 12 13
 _____ his _____.
 14 15 16

PSALM 105:1-2, NIV

Answer: Give, praise, Lord, proclaim, name, make, known, nations, done, sing, him, praise, tell, all, wonderful, acts

Thankful garland

Celebrate the season of gratitude by creating a colorful Thankful decoration.

What you need:

- Construction paper in a variety of fall colors
- Pencil, marker, or crayons
- Yarn, ribbon, or raffia
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Spray bottle filled with water
- Real leaves (Optional)
- Wooden or plastic beads, cereal with holes (Cheerios, Froot Loops, etc.), or any dried pasta with a hole (Optional)



What you do:

1. Draw or trace leaf shapes onto construction paper.
2. Lay the paper flat and spray with water until the paper is completely wet.
3. Crumple the wet paper into balls.
4. Open the paper and let the sheets dry flat.
5. When dry, cut out each leaf.
6. On each leaf, write the name of one person or thing you're thankful for.
7. Punch a hole in each leaf.
8. Lace the leaves, beads, cereal, and pasta onto the yarn, ribbon, or raffia.
9. Tie the ends and hang your garland.

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)