

# HIGHLIGHTS

## CARMEL REFORMED CHURCH

*“Can’t Wait For Sunday”*

**October 2025**

### **Are You Prepared?**

On September 10 Charlie Kirk was murdered. The headlines and social media since then have been filled with all kinds of statements and discussions about the evil committed on that day.

His death has caused many to consider if they would have the kind of faith that they saw and heard in Kirk’s life. You may not agree with every aspect of what he believed and promoted, but he was certainly convicted by what he believed and was always willing to share not only his political and social ideas, but also what was most important to him, his faith. When debating the social ideas of our day, you could find the basis for many of his arguments rooted in the truth of Scripture. His beliefs would ultimately cost him his life.

My goal here is not to make more of his life than we should. My purpose is to have us wrestle with the question of whether or not WE are prepared to die for what WE believe. In Peter’s first letter in the New Testament he writes:

“Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup> having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.” (1 Peter 3:13–17 ESV)

It seems almost absurd to start with the question that he did, “Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good...” given the fact that even in Peter’s day there were many people that were dying for their faith, and we see that continuing in our day all over the world. Our call as followers of Christ is to reflect the purpose and character of God in every part of our lives, even if it means losing our life for Him. Peter calls us to “always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you”. As we grow in our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, we are always meant to be maturing in our understanding of the faith that we profess and be prepared to share it as part of carrying out the Great Commission.

Let the headlines of our day spur us on to fulfilling our joyful calling to make Jesus known in our day, our homes, our workplace, and our neighborhoods. Are you prepared to do that whatever the cost?



**October 5:** Nikki Hulstein, Lynna De Wit, Josie Bomgaars, Ava Van Roekel

**October 12:** Ruth De Jager, Morgan Hoekstra, Marcus Van Voorst, Addy Van Voorst

**October 19:** Amy McAlpine, Jo Moget, Rylee Bomgaars, Kinlee

Wolfswinkel

**October 26:** Jami Sandbulte, Kristi Segar, Ava Sandbulte, Jennie Boogerd

**November 2:** Hannah Smolders, Rachel Van Roekel, Elyse Zwart, Kinlee Wolfswinkel

PLEASE find a substitute or trade with someone, 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.

**October 5-R**-Jerry Renes, Chad Robertson  
**C**-Cheryl Lange, Fonda Post, Carol Langstraat, Sherri Wolfswinkel, Mimi Sandbulte

**October 12-R**-Jami Sandbulte, Aubrey Van Kekerix

**C**-Cheryl Sandbulte, Rhonda Sandbulte, Jami Sandbulte, Alice Remmerde, Lin De Jong

**October 19-R**-Becky Ochsendorf, Mike Haverhals

**C**-Doree Wolfswinkel, Hazel Haverhals, Amy McAlpine, Lorna Vander Vliet, Linda Altena

**October 26-R**-Glenda Van Meeteren, Gene Sandbulte

**C**-Donna Renes, Gene Sandbulte, Rachel Van Roekel, Glenda Van Meeteren, Ronda Leusink

**November 2-R**-Doug Van Beek, Hans Smolders

**C**-Sandi Vonk, Anita Van Ravenhorst, Rachel Terpstra, Amy Rozeboom, Teresa 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.

Oct.	5 - Jerry Noteboom
Oct.	12 - Kelsi Noteboom
Oct.	19 - Eric Ochsendorf
Oct.	26 - Colyn Oostenink
Nov.	2 - Brad Oostra

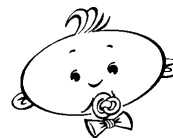
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## THE LORD'S SUPPER

October 5 is World Communion Sunday and we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. Any shut-ins or those in the Nursing Homes who would like to partake in Communion, please contact an elder.

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## NEW ARRIVAL



Congratulations to Neil and Amanda Ranschau on the birth of a son, Rogan Dale, who was born on Saturday, September 20. Rogan was 8 lbs 11 oz and 20.5 inches long.

\* \* \* \* \*

## BAPTISMS

On September 14, we celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism with Graham Douglas DeMeester, son of Daniel IV & Danica DeMeester and Amara Ann Vande Vegte, daughter of Austin & Ashley Vande Vegte.

On September 28, we celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism with Everett, Silas, Sloane, and Willa, children of Seth & Courtney Sandbulte.





Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs.  
Dillan Baartman (Caitlynn Fedders)  
who were united in marriage at Carmel  
on September 13.

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

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## **TRANSFER**

The membership of Kaylee Kruid has been trans-  
ferred to the Church of Christ of Sioux Falls, SD.

May God bless her in her new church home.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **NOMINATION BALLOTS**

Nomination ballots for Elders and Deacons are in  
your mailbox. All communicant members of Carmel  
are eligible to nominate. Please prayerfully consider  
this matter and return your completed ballot to the box  
on the Coffee Station by October 12.

If you would like a specific subject on the agenda  
at our Annual Congregational Meeting in November,  
please submit your request to a Consistory Member  
before November 10. Only items placed on the agenda  
are eligible for action by the congregation.

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## **REFORMATION SUNDAY**

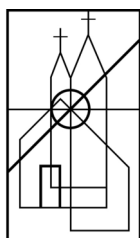
You are invited to our annual  
Combined Reformation Service on Sun-  
day, October 26, 6:30 pm at Carmel Re-  
formed Church. Our brothers and sisters in  
Christ at Middleburg look forward to wor-  
shipping together and enjoying a fellow-  
ship time following the service. Pastor Ron  
will bring the message. Invite your family  
and friends!

Carmel and Middleburg youth groups  
will also have a combined meeting that  
evening. Watch the bulletin for more details.

Please join us as we spend time in praise and wor-  
ship with our brothers and sisters in Christ at Middle-  
burg.

*As brothers and sisters in Christ, let us "worship the  
Father in the Spirit and in truth"*

*John 4:23, NIV*



**Combined  
Worship**

## **PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH**

October is Pastor Appreciation Month— a time to  
recognize and encourage those who faithfully shep-  
herd our churches. But if you've ever asked a pastor  
how to show your gratitude, the answer probably is-  
n't a plaque or applause. More often than not, it's  
simple: "Pray for me."

Even the Apostle Paul didn't ask for much per-  
sonally, except for the prayers of fellow believers. In  
his letter to the Romans, he wrote: "Now I urge you,  
brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by  
the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in  
your prayers to God for me, that I may be rescued  
from those who are disobedient in Judea, and that  
my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to  
the saints; so that I may come to you in joy by the  
will of God and relax in your company" (Romans  
15:30-32, NASB).

This October-and every month-encourage Pastor  
Ron by offering your prayers, support, and kind  
words. Ministry can be demanding, but knowing the  
church is lifting them up makes all the differences.

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## **WORDS OF HOPE**

On Sunday evening, October 19, Jon Opgenorth,  
president of Words of Hope, will be with us at our  
evening service. Words of Hope is one of Carmel's  
Mission Projects. Plan to attend this service and hear  
an update of the work of Words of Hope. Show your  
support with your attendance and be blessed by how  
God is using your gifts to further His kingdom.

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**Sunday, October 26, 6:30 p.m.**—Reformation Sun-  
day combined with Middleburg at Carmel Reformed  
Church.

**Wednesday, November 26, 6:30 p.m.**— Thanks-  
giving 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

## DIAMONDS MINISTRY

On behalf of Diamonds, we want to thank Carmel Church for your continued love, support, and countless prayers. The girls and leaders can truly feel the power of prayer covering this ministry!

As we step into a new year of Diamonds, we're excited to share both what God has already been doing and what's ahead.

What God has done so far

- Each week, 10-15 young women attend Diamonds on a regular basis.
- Many new faces have come through our doors—leaving with new Bibles and new friends!
- At Christmas, we celebrated with a potluck, packed 13 Operation Child boxes, and ended the evening with worship and small groups.
- Small groups continue to be at the heart of Diamonds, giving us space to share, pray, and encourage one another.

### **Who is Diamonds for?**

Diamonds is a ministry for young women ages 18+ who are seeking a Christ-centered community. Together we grow deeper through Bible study, worship, fellowship, gathers, and service projects. While only a few of our girls attend Carmel, Diamonds is open to all women, whether part of Carmel or not.

We also welcome older adult women who feel called to walk alongside us, offering wisdom, prayer, and support for the next generation.

### **How can you help?**

We're so grateful for the church family's support, and we do have some needs:

General needs:

- Financial support—donations help us host events, provide free Bible studies, and give resources for the girls to keep growing in God's Word.

Scan the QR code for more information!



## PIGS-IN-THE-BLANKET



Help make pigs

It's time to make those delicious pigs-in-the-blanket that are a favorite of so many. Watch your bulletins for more details and plan to help with this fundraiser.

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## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

It's that time of year again to start thinking about packing a shoe box for 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.)

Don't have a shoe box? No problem. Pick up a red and green GO box (preprinted decorative Gospel Opportunity boxes) from the table in the Fellowship Hall. We have 125 boxes on hand and we would love to see them all filled!!

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.**

*The supplies will be out in the Fellowship Hall soon.* 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.



## CARMEL GEMS

# WALK ON WATER

STEPPING OUT TO TRUST  
OUR FAITHFUL GOD

**Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025**



Step Out in Faith!

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Carmel Church



**Thunder Road**

**Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025**

We are going to **Thunder Road** for lunch and fun! We will be leaving Carmel Church at 9:15 am and will bring the girls home around 4 - 4:30pm.

We will also be picking out some items for Operation Christmas Child.

Sign up before October 8, 2025!  
text Kristi

**Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2025**



Step Out to Trust!!

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

We will be putting OCC boxes together!

Carmel Church

When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, **"Silence! Be still!"** Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. Mark 4:39



## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

We are excited to launch a brand-new Women's Bible Study this fall, and we'd love for you to join us. Two session times are available for your convenience:

- Monday mornings at 9:00 a.m., starting September 29
- Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., starting October 1

We will be diving into *"You Belong: Because God Is Who He Says He Is"* by Candance Payne. This is a powerful and encouraging book and video series that reminds us of our identity in Christ and the unshakable truth of God's promises.

# Puzzle!

**Who made the following statements in the Bible?**

- "Am I my brother's keeper?"  
**Samuel, John, Cain, Andrew**
- "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you."  
**Peter, James, John, Paul**
- "What is truth?"  
**Herod, Pilate, Simon Magus, Cornelius**
- "Choose you this day whom you will serve ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD!"  
**Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Joshua**
- "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."  
**Nathaniel, John, Peter, Paul**
- "In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?"  
**Herod Agrippa, Pilate, Caiaphas, Annas**
- "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go."  
**Rebekah, Rachel, Ruth, Rahab**
- "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."  
**Paul, Peter, James, Barnabas**

# Deacons Corner — OCTOBER



**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](http://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*



## JUSTICE FOR ALL

JFA is having their Annual Meeting and Auction Thursday, October 9 at the South building of their ministry campus in Rock Valley. Every year there is an opportunity to hear about the highlights of the past fiscal year, trips and financial report along with a catered meal. After a short meeting, there will be an auction with items donated to help provide support for JFA. From home made items, gifts cards, meat bundles and more, will be up for bidding. Join us to hear a ministry update and stay for the entertainment of Zomer Auctioneering. If you'd like to donate an item contact Joel De Wit-joeldw@jfa-nwiowa.org or 712.739.0055, don't forget to mark your calendars! Meal starts at 5:00 p.m. with the Auction to follow at 6:45 p.m.

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## INSPIRATION HILLS

Mark your calendars for the Middle School Fall Retreat, October 10-12, for 6th-8th graders! This exciting weekend will dive into the theme "*Who Are You?*" as we unpack Ephesians 2:10 and discover more about our identity in Christ. Packed with worship, teaching, games, and time with friends, it's a weekend you won't want to miss. Register at [inspirationhills.org](http://inspirationhills.org).

## 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](http://www.TriStateTEC.org) or email [TriStateTEC@gmail.com](mailto:TriStateTEC@gmail.com). The cost is \$50 and includes a t-shirt and other special gifts. Scholarships are available upon request.

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Bethel CRC in Sioux Center is interested in launching a free Divorce Care Support Group this fall for people who are divorced, going through a divorce or separated. We would like to gauge interest before setting an official start date. This is 14 weeks with videos, sharing and support on topics like deep hurt, living single, family & friends, surviving the holidays and more. Child watch will be provided. For more information and to share if you might be interested in this group, contact Holly Case by calling, 760-715-1796; leave a message.



## OCTOBER

- |                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 - Rowan DeMeester         | Brian Renes                   |
| 2 - Kade Van Voorst         | The James Vanden Brink's      |
| 3 - Mrs. Alicia Wolfswinkel | 15 - Chris Van Meeteren       |
| Mrs. Kay Koedam             | Dave Dibbet                   |
| Glenn Vander Lugt           | Ron Dieck                     |
| Bob Ver Mulm                | 16 - Gene Sandbulte           |
| 4 - Kelly Zinnel            | Mrs. Dorene Hulshof           |
| The Tim Maassen's           | 17 - Chad Hoekstra            |
| 5 - Daniel DeMeester        | The Henry A. Wolfswinkel's    |
| The Bob Janisch's           | 18 - Mrs. Ramona Vander Weide |
| 6 - Natalynn Van Kekerix    | 20 - Mrs. Rachel Van Roekel   |
| Ashayla Soodsma             | 21 - Tyke Van Kekerix         |
| 7 - Ainsley Oostenink       | Bryce Robertson               |
| Kyler Bomgaars              | Colin Robertson               |
| Mrs. Rachel Terpstra        | 23 - Zeke Smolders            |
| Pete Vonk                   | Hans Smolders                 |
| The Glenn Rozeboom's        | Mrs. Deb Vander Weide         |
| 8 - Everlee Nibbelink       | 24 - Mrs. Jayden Oostenink    |
| Mrs. Marcia Vander Weide    | Mrs. Stephanie Vande Vegte    |
| The Ross Hulstein's         | Harold Van Essen              |
| 9 - Wyatt Rozeboom          | The Herb Remmerde's           |
| Rylee Bomgaars              | 25 - Anna Haverhals           |
| Mrs. Betty Wolfswinkel      | The Jerry Renes'              |
| 10 - Bowen Punt             | 26 - Grace Van Roekel         |
| 11 - Chloe Wynia            | The Brian Rozeboom's          |
| 12 - Ben Haverhals          | 27 - Knox Rozeboom            |
| Gavyn Dibbet                | 28 - Kavri Van Kekerix        |
| Lane Van Kekerix            | Mrs. Kristi Oostra            |
| Mrs. Amy Davelaar           | Wayne Te Grotenhuis           |
| Mrs. Erica Robertson        | The Anthony Rau's             |
| The Austin Vande Vegte's    | 29 - Jack McAlpine            |
| 13 - Spencer Van Ravenswaay | Alli Huizenga                 |
| Mrs. Kristi Van Voorst      | 30 - Thijs Doelman            |
| 14 - Mrs. Lynna De Wit      |                               |
| Mrs. Erika Van Kekerix      |                               |

## SAFARI ADVENTURE

The NW Iowa Bible League is having a Safari Adventure at Green Oaks Museum and Educational Center located 3 miles south of Fairview, SD (29043 486 Ave.) on Saturday, October 4. The Museum is filled with 140+ taxidermized animals in natural habitats, the result of global hunting trips by the Anden Van Beek family. Join us to tour the museum (9:00-10:00 AM) followed by refreshments, Q&A, and a Bible League presentation about global travels. There is a suggested donation of \$15/person for admittance, cash/check; a freewill offering will also be taken for Bible League. Children are welcomed! Please contact BLI Ambassador Katie Haan at 712-722-0714 if you would like to a ride to the Museum.





## JESUS TRAVELED TO MANY PLACES

Jesus traveled to many regions, cities, towns and villages to preach the Good News. In the puzzle below, find and circle the names of some of the places. Can you find the names on the list?

Words can go left to right, up, down or diagonal—so look carefully in all directions!

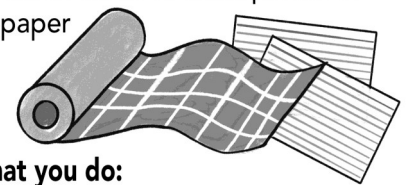
BETHANY	EPHRAIM	MOUNT OF OLIVES
BETHLEHEM	GALILEE	NAZARETH
BETHSAIDA	JERICO	PEREA
CAESAREA PHILIPPI	JERUSALEM	SAMARIA
CANA	JORDAN RIVER	SIDON
CAPERNAUM	JUDEA	TYRE
DECAPOLIS	MAGDALA	WILDERNESS
EGYPT		

B	M	L	E	T	C	U	S	G	O	T	O	B	T	H	E
E	J	O	R	D	A	N	R	I	V	E	R	E	M	N	S
T	U	E	U	E	N	A	R	B	Y	V	I	T	A	L	S
H	D	L	R	N	A	Z	A	R	E	T	H	H	G	A	E
S	E	G	E	I	T	S	S	S	G	Y	O	L	D	I	N
A	A	C	J	A	C	O	N	I	Y	R	P	E	A	R	R
I	D	E	E	A	C	H	F	D	P	E	H	H	L	T	E
D	E	H	R	E	R	E	O	O	T	A	L	E	A	S	D
A	C	O	U	T	H	P	A	N	L	T	I	M	S	W	L
C	A	E	S	A	R	E	A	P	H	I	L	I	P	P	I
H	P	P	A	A	Y	R	I	H	A	V	V	E	C	O	W
M	O	H	L	E	M	E	S	O	H	E	T	E	R	A	V
E	L	R	E	L	E	A	D	T	H	R	O	U	S	G	H
O	I	A	M	U	T	G	R	A	B	E	T	H	A	N	Y
L	S	I	I	L	G	A	L	I	L	E	E	E	E	F	R
O	M	M	C	A	P	E	R	N	A	U	M	M	A	R	K

Create a simple and meaningful prayer box your family can use to share requests and pray together all week long.

### What you need:

- Shoebox with lid
- Wrapping paper or decorative paper
- Scissors & tape
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers and other craft material (optional)
- Pens or pencils
- Index cards or small pieces of paper



### What you do:

1. Wrap the shoebox like a gift, wrapping the lid separately so it can be opened.
2. As a family, decorate the box with drawings, favorite Bible verses, photos, or stickers.
3. Place the box somewhere central, like the kitchen or living room.
4. Keep index cards and pens nearby. When someone has a prayer request, they can write or draw it and drop it in.
5. Throughout the week, take turns praying over the requests as a family, or have a parent lead prayer time.

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

—Colossians 4:2, NIV