

HIGHLIGHTS

CARMEL REFORMED CHURCH

“Can’t Wait For Sunday”

January 2026

Greetings and Happy New Year!

A new year with new beginnings – for you as a congregation, and for myself as a pastor. I have had the opportunity to get to know some of you, and I look forward to getting to know more of you!

I thought I would introduce myself a bit more fully to you. We live in Orange City. My wife Julie and I are 1982 graduates of Northwestern College – myself as a religion major and Julie as an elementary education major. Julie grew up in many communities in Iowa and graduated from Spirit Lake High School. I graduated from M-OC. We were married in June 1983.

Following graduation from Western Theo. Seminary in 1987 we served with Grandview Ref. Church Armour, SD, First Ref. Church, Aplington, IA, First Ref. Church, Sanborn, IA. Then I was on staff as the pastor of congregational care at Maurice Ref. Church for two years, before becoming pastor of Delaware Ref. Church, rural Lennox, SD for over nine years. I have been retired since July 31, 2025. We have enjoyed and appreciated each of the congregations. Julie has been both a stay-at-home mom, and a 20-year teacher, and tremendous ministry partner with me all of these years! When I am not with you in worship, I will be with Julie and several of our family members at First Ref. Church in Orange City.

Our family includes our daughter Bethany, her husband Tim Swart and their four children in Oostburg, WI; our son Grant, his wife Jen and their four children in Orange City; our daughter Emily, her husband Nate Fischer and their three boys in Orange City; and our son Greg, his wife Carly and their three children in Sioux Falls. Our grandchildren’s ages range from three months to twelve years old.

What will the year 2026 look like? We will journey together into the unknown of this year, but in the presence and in the Spirit of the One who is of all-time. I look forward to being on this journey of discovery with you!

Blessings!

Pastor Gary



January 4: Kristi Van Voorst, Londa Boogerd, Marcus Van Voorst, Addie Van Voorst

January 11: Nikki Hulstein, Lynna De Wit, Ava Sandbulte, Kinlee Wolfswinkel

January 18: Amy McAlpine, Morgan Hoekstra, Akenna Sandbulte, Faithe Van Maanen

January 25: Jami Sandbulte, Jo Moget, Sadie Janisch, Ruthie Vanden Brink

February 1: Hannah Smolders, Rachel Van Roekel, Gaby Prins, Slayden Sandbulte

PLEASE find a substitute or trade with someone, 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 4-R- Dorene Vander Zwaag, Hans Smolders

C- Helen Vande Vegte, Allison Leusink, Sarah Nibbelink, Cheryl Lange, Fonda Post

January 11-R- Jerry Renes, Jack Soodsma

C- Carol Langstraat, Sherri Wolfswinkel, Mimi Sandbulte, Anita Van Ravenhorst, Cheryl Sandbulte

January 18-R- Jared Terpstra, Verlyn Van Regenmorter

C- Gene Sandbulte, Rhonda Sandbulte, Alice Remmerde, Lin De Jong, Ronda Leusink

January 25-R- Becky Ochsendorf, Gene Sandbulte

C- Hazel Haverhals, Donna Renes, Rachel Van Roekel, Doree Wolfswinkel, Amy McAlpine

February 1-R- Jami Sandbulte, Aubrey Van Kekerix

C- Lorna Vander Vliet, Linda Altena, Sandi Vonk, Misty Zwart, Kaye Kuyper

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 at the scheduled time, please try to exchange with someone.

Special music schedule is for the morning worship service.

Jan.	4 - Brady Punt
Jan.	11 - Loren Punt
Jan.	18 - Amanda Ranschau
Jan.	25 - Brian Renes
Feb.	1 - Jerry Renes

NEW ARRIVAL

We rejoice with Luke and Kortney Haan on the birth of a son, Kash Allen, who was born on December 12.



PROFESSION OF FAITH

At the December elder's meeting, it was their joy to receive Alydia Sandbulte into the communicant family of Carmel Reformed Church through Profession of Faith.

OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The church office will be closed Thursday, January 1 and Friday, January 2. If you need assistants during these times, please call your elder.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

On January 11, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper at our morning worship service.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING RESULTS

At our Annual Congregational Meeting, which was held on December 15, we elected four new consistory members.

Phil Hooyer and Henry Sandbulte were elected to the office of Elder and will be replacing outgoing Elders Dan Fedders and Shawn Sandbulte.

Mitch Nettinga and Chris Van Essen were elected to the office of Deacon and will be replacing outgoing Deacons Mike Bomgaars and Ross Hulstein.

If there is any scriptural reason why these men should not serve, please contact one of the current Elders. Installation will be on Sunday, January 11.

* * * * *

INSTALLATION

On Sunday, January 11, at our morning worship service we will install and ordain the newly elected elders and deacons for Carmel Church. Phil Hooyer will be installed as elder. Henry Sandbulte will be ordained and installed as elder. Mitch Nettinga will be ordained and installed as deacon. Chris Van Essen will be ordained and installed as deacon. Please keep our entire consistory in your prayers as they lead our congregation.

* * * * *



The JR RCYF will be hosting a CHILI BASH on Wednesday, January 28! They will be serving three variations of delicious chili soup and homemade cinnamon rolls from 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. To-go meals will also be available. A freewill donation will be accepted and will go towards funding Power Connection, and the Middle School Retreat, as well as other JR RCYF activities. Invite your family and friends to attend the CHILI BASH on January 28. You won't want to miss it!



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 \$1,341.13.

* * * * *

SUMMER CAMP

Get ready-Inspiration Hills Summer Camp 2026 registration opens on Monday, February 2 at 9:00 a.m.! Mark your calendars now and be sure to sign up early! Spots fill fast every year! We can't wait to welcome campers back for another summer of fun, faith, and unforgettable memories at Inspiration Hills.



* * * * *

4TH-6TH GRADE WINTER RETREAT

The 4th-6th Grade Winter Retreat is February 13-15 and is an exciting opportunity for campers to experience Inspiration Hills' unique winter activities! This event will include a chapel message, worship, and Bible studies, along with all the fun winter games! Registration is open now! Register online at inspirationhills.org/4-6retreat



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, 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



SCRIPTURE KEYS TO A JOYFUL NEW YEAR

Hold fast to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)
Assemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)
Pray earnestly every day (1 Thessalonians 5:17,18)
Pray for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)
Yield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

Neglect not your talents and opportunities
(Galatians 6:10)
Examine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)
Work diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Yield your members to righteousness
(Romans 6:11, 16)
Exercise yourself in godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)
Aim at sinless perfection (Hebrews 6:1)
Redeem the time (Ephesians 5:15, 16)

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL



SHIP- The Christian church has long been symbolized by a ship. While the Old Testament tells of Noah's ark preserving righteous people during the flood, the New Testament recounts Jesus calming the storm that battered the disciples' fishing boat. St. Ambrose described the church as a ship with the cross as its mast, and others have compared salvation to being drawn out of the sea of death into the safety of the church (ship). Indeed, many large churches are constructed to represent a big boat, with the main worship space called the nave-Latin for ship.

-Gus Nichols



January

			22	-	Mrs. Colleen Bomgaars
					Chloe Donlin
					Jennifer Luevano
1	-	The Darwin Post's			Mrs. Glenda Van Meeteren
2	-	Charlee Punt			Harvard Sneller
		Keith Byker	23	-	Kayden Glade
		Dale Woudstra	24	-	Kolter De Jager
		Alan Sandbulte	25	-	Tommy Bomgaars
		Marlin Dibbet			Brady Punt
3	-	Mrs. Kelly Van Kekerix			Henry Sandbulte
		Owen Sandbulte			Mrs. Dianne Van Ravenswaay
5	-	Austin Rozeboom			The Ken Brunsting's
		Mrs. Karen Hulstein	26	-	Naomi Smolders
6	-	James Vanden Brink			The Kelly Zinnel's
		Dan Buyert	27	-	Mrs. Paula Van Voorst
		Loren Van Regenmorter	28	-	Mrs. Jazmine Koedam
7	-	Mrs. Barb Punt			Tyler Franken
		The Stan Prins'			Mrs. Joan Te Grotenhuis
8	-	Dawson Van Beek	29	-	Jace Hulstein
		Mrs. Tricia Hoogendoorn			Cozyn Rozeboom
9	-	Akenna Sandbulte			Todd Kooi
		Jeremy Meendering			The Dan Fedders'
		Mrs. Vicki Vander Lugt	30	-	Jace Van Meeteren
10	-	Mrs. Morgan Hoekstra			
		Ian Vander Lugt			
		Mrs. Janae Rau			
		Mrs. Joanne Moget			
12	-	Holly Dibbet			
13	-	Mrs. Katie Franken			
		Jack Soodsma			
14	-	David Vander Zwaag (jr.)			
15	-	Tim Van Donge			
		Leon Franken			
		The Wilmer Rensink's			
17	-	Bryson Sandbulte			
18	-	Oaklynn Mesman			
		Kendrick Van Kekerix			
		Mrs. Lavonne Riphagen			
19	-	The Nate Van Ginkel's			
20	-	Dan Fedders			
		Glenn Rozeboom			
21	-	Kolyn Glade			
		Nathan Maassen			



TRANSLATE GOD'S WORD

The Bible we use is translated into English from other languages.
"Translate" the verse below using the code.

CODE	E=△	L=□	R=+
A=■	G=●	M=↗	S=■
B=X	H=◀	N=⏏	SH=☄
D=◀◀	I=▲	O=⊗	T=♪
	K=	P=□	TH=♥

Y
◀ ◀◀ ◀◀◀ ◀◀◀◀

W F
⊗ ⏏ ◀◀ ◀◀◀ ◀◀◀◀

W
◀ ◀◀ ◀◀◀ ◀◀◀◀ ◀◀◀◀◀ ◀◀◀◀◀◀ ◀◀◀◀◀◀◀

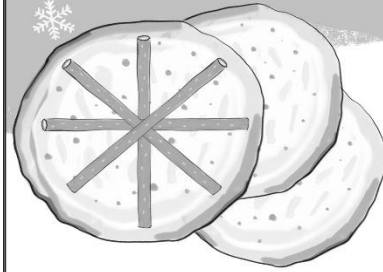
W
⊗ ⏏ ◀◀ ◀◀◀ ◀◀◀◀ ◀◀◀◀◀ ◀◀◀◀◀◀

U
⏏ ◀◀ ◀◀◀ ◀◀◀◀ ◀◀◀◀◀ ◀◀◀◀◀◀ ◀◀◀◀◀◀◀ ◀◀◀◀◀◀◀◀

Proverbs 3:13

Answer: Happy is the one who finds wisdom and the one who gets understanding.

Snowflake SNACK CAKES



Celebrate the beauty of winter with these fun snowflake-inspired treats!

What you need:

- Graham cracker squares or sugar cookies
- White frosting or marshmallow fluff
- Pretzel sticks (snowflake arms)
- Shredded coconut or white sprinkles
- Mini marshmallows or candy pearls



What you do:

1. Frost each cracker or cookie.
2. Arrange pretzel sticks in a crisscross for the snowflake base.
3. Sprinkle with coconut or sprinkles for snow.
4. Add marshmallows or candy pearls to the ends for detail.



Lesson tie-in:

Remind kids that God made each of us unique—just like no two snowflakes are alike!
(Psalm 139:14, KJV)