

HIGHLIGHTS

CARMEL REFORMED CHURCH

“Can’t Wait For Sunday”

February 2026

February has arrived! The month that focuses on loving relationships – not simply romantic relationships (even though those relationships are highlighted most) – but relationships in general.

There are three Greek words for love that are used in the New Testament.

“Eros” love which focuses on romantic love, expressed through a physical relationship.

“Philo” love which identifies “brotherly” love; this love is expressed in many relationships that are not romantically involved, but expresses a deep appreciation for the other.

“Agape” love is a sacrificial love; the love that Jesus lived out in the world most deeply experienced in His sacrifice of Himself to be our Redeemer. It is a self-giving love. It is the seeking the best for the other, even sacrificially for the other’s sake.

Throughout the Old and New Testament love is spoken of and lived out. The love of God for the people of His creation. The love of Christ, whose love was perfect. It is through the Spirit that we experience love and are able to love, as love is a fruit of the Spirit.

The commandments of God, the example of Jesus are summed up well in the greatest two commandments, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength, this is the first and greatest commandment. And a second is like it. Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and the prophets hang on these two laws.”

There are so many ways that love is lived out and expressed. Recently I heard a message that touched upon several verses of Ephesians 4 that speak of practical ways of loving one another:

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love” (vs2).

“Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ” (vs15).

“Therefore, each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body” (vs.25).

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen” (vs. 29).

“Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you” (vs.31-32).

Love is a wonderful experience. Love is lived out in practical ways. As is written in the first epistle of Peter, “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins” (4:7-8).

As a congregation that is in transition, as different perspectives are held in how this came about and what it means to move ahead in ministry, let us “love one another” in word and deed.

-Pastor Gary



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

February 8: Brynn Van Voorst, Edan
Bomgaars, Karlee Leusink, Brody Van
Voorst

February 15: Aubrey Van Kekerix, Amber
Nettinga, Aniya Robertson, Hannah Van Roekel

February 22: Juliana Van Kekerix, Morgan
Hoekstra, Alydia Sandbulte, Tacey Van Kekerix

March 1: Londa Boogerd, Courtney Mesman, Ava
Van Roekel, Morgan Terpstra

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.

February 1-R- Jami Sandbulte, Aubrey Van
Kekerix

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

February 8-R- Dennis De Jong, Glenda Van
Meeteren

C- Glenda Van Meeteren, Clarice Van Maanen,
Carmen Maassen, Amy Rozeboom, Frieda Bartels

February 15-R- Chad Robertson, Jerry Renes
C- Erica Robertson, Colleen Bomgaars, Teresa
Sandbulte, Helen Vande Vegte, Jami Sandbulte

February 22-R- Mike Haverhals, Hans Smolders
C- Allison Leusink, Sarah Nibbelink, Cheryl
Lange, Fonda Post, Carol Langstraat

March 1-R- Gene Sandbulte, Jared Terpstra
C- Rachel Terpstra, Sherri Wolfswinkel, Anita Van
Ravenhorst, Cheryl Sandbulte, 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 at the
scheduled time, please try to
exchange with someone.
Special music schedule is for the
morning worship service.

Feb.	1 – Jerry Renes
Feb.	8 – Chad Robertson
Feb.	15 – Sean Robinson
Feb.	22 – Regan Ronning
Mar.	1 – Brian Rozeboom

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NEW ARRIVAL

We rejoice with Andrew and
Samantha Van Ginkel on the birth of
a son, Truett Wilder, who was born
on December 26, 2025.



We rejoice with Tanner and
Ruth De Jager on the birth of a
daughter, Maelie Renae, who was
born on January 20.

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PROFESSION OF FAITH

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

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THE LORD'S SUPPER

On February 15, we will celebrate the
Lord's Supper at our morning worship service.

TRANSFERS

The membership of Dale and Tonia Woudstra, along with their daughter, Hannah, has been transferred to First Reformed Church of Orange City, IA.

The membership of Jenna Moreau has been transferred to Immanuel Christian Reformed Church of Orange City, IA.

May God bless them in their new church homes.

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BERRY BLESSED GALENTINES

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

♥ Wednesday,
February 18

♥ 7:00 p.m.

♥ The Grain House in Hull



Drinks and dessert will be provided so grab your gals and come for a fun night out!

Bring along one \$10 gift card to your favorite place to share! (retail store, movie theater, coffee shop, food truck, etc.)

Sign up on the Women's Life Facebook page.



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 \$1,493.13.

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SUMMER CAMP

Get ready-Inspiration Hills Summer Camp 2026 registration opens on Monday, February 2 at 9:00 a.m.!



This year's theme is "Not of This World" taken from John 17:16 which says, "They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world."

Carmel Church pays for ½ of the registration fee for one CAMP, per student, per year.

Pick up a camp brochure by the mailboxes!

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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

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

The New Testament uses several Greek words to describe love. Which of the following best represents the **selfless, sacrificial love** that God shows to humanity?



A) Eros
B) Phileo
C) Agape
D) Storge

Answer: C (See John 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 13)



STEP OUT TO SERVE

What is it like to STEP OUT TO SERVE? This month Carmel GEMS is going to learn and practice what it is like to serve. It is not easy to STEP OUT ... STEP OUT and be willing to **WALK ON WATER**- and trust God and confidently say, "I am the Lord's Servant".

Girls, God wants us to serve HIM, an angel may not miraculously appear before us and give us a specific task, but God does ask each one of us to serve HIM in so many other ways in HIS WORD, the BIBLE.

Let's think of some ways we all can **STEP OUT TO SERVE** ... Maybe you can **STEP OUT TO SERVE** your parents by cleaning your room, by being **KIND TO OTHERS**, even when it is not easy, better yet **STEP OUT TO SERVE**, by telling others about **JESUS**!



February 4, 2026 Carmel GEMS planning a fun event at Crown Pointe. Fun, Food, and Fellowship with Carmel Residents and Family. We are excited to shine a spotlight on God and show the love Jesus Christ has for us all! We will meet at Crown Pointe @ 5:15 pm – and pick up @ 7:15 pm. More information will be available soon. Please pray that we stay healthy and that we are able to go!



*Let your shine before others,
That they may see your good deeds and
Glorify your Father in Heaven.
Matthew 5:16*



FUNDRAISER

The GEMS will be selling fresh prepared meals again this year made at the Lunch House in Rock Valley. Check your mailbox or ask one of the GEMS, they would love to help you make your meal time easy! **The options are:** Philly Steak Sliders, Ham Cheese Sliders, Loaded Potato Soup, Broccoli Cheese Soup, Roast Beef/Mashed Potatoes, Teriyaki Chicken/Fried Rice/Stir Fry Veggies, Tuscan Chicken Pasta, and Shredded Pork. Please have your orders in by February 11. Please put your order forms in the tray on the Coffee Station in the Fellowship Hall. The meals will be done the first couple of weeks of March! Any questions please reach out and ask!



February 18, 2026 STEP OUT TO TESTIFY-
Meet at Carmel Reformed Church 7:00-8:30 pm!

*He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God,
Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in HIM!
Psalm 40:3*



TEC

Tri-State Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) is accepting applications for the upcoming weekend at the First Reformed Church in Rock Rapids. 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 13-15. 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. Scholarships are available upon request.

DIAMONDS MINISTRY

We are incredibly grateful for the continued prayers, encouragement, and generosity shown toward **Diamonds** this past month. What began as a simple desire to create community has grown into a meaningful space where young women are being encouraged, challenged, and reminded of their worth in Christ.

This semester, we've seen honest conversations, deeper connections, and a growing desire to seek God together. One especially meaningful highlight was our **Adore Him** night. Thank you to everyone who came out to support Diamonds and be part of that evening. Your presence and support helped make it a truly impactful night. Together, we were able to slow down, reflect, and intentionally refocus our hearts on Jesus during the Christmas season. It was a beautiful reminder of the importance of fixing our attention on Him and making room for His presence.

We are also deeply thankful for the financial support that continues to make Diamonds possible. Your generosity allows us to provide gatherings, resources, and events like Adore Him as we continue to grow and look ahead with expectancy to what God is building. Every gift- big or small- plays a vital role in creating spaces where young women can encounter truth, community, and hope.

Thank you to our church family for investing in the next generation through prayer, presence, and generosity. Please continue to pray over the girls and leaders involved that Diamonds would remain a place of light, growth, and encouragement.

With gratitude

Diamonds Leadership Team

VBS



Greetings! Or should we say “Dia duit!” (God be with you). We are excited to present Emerald Crossing – An Irish Adventure Through Psalm 23.

In a world filled with worry and confusion, kids need to know there is a God who cares for them. At Emerald Crossing VBS, they'll journey through Ireland's landscapes, exploring the powerful words of Psalm 23. They'll discover the life of the shepherd-king David and will learn how to cross from worry to peace, from fear to faith, and from uncertainty to a firm foundation in God's Word through a relationship with the Good Shepherd. At VBS, kids will learn how to transition from:

- *Lost to Found*
- *Wrong Path to Right Path*
- *Fearful to Peaceful*
- *Grumbling to Grateful*
- *Shaky to Sure*

Important Dates:

- Carmel VBS: June 1-5
- Registration for Carmel members and regular attendee's children and grandchildren: March 1 & 8
- Registration for the public: March 25

Preschool registration will not be available to the public

NEW This Year:

- **Every** volunteer **must** register online! Even if you've volunteered in the same location every year! We need this to accurately order supplies, T-shirts, and plan activities. Thank you!
- **All** registration will be done online. We will have computers available to help sign up, if needed.



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 \$750.00 per individual per calendar year. Please contact the Outreach Fund deacon Chris Van Essen 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, Dennis De Jong 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



ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH

ONE STORY HIS VICTORY, OUR HOPE
July 25-29, 2026 Rocky Mountain High

The theme One Story asserts that the four Gospels, despite their varied perspectives, present a single, unified narrative centered on Jesus. This singular story is the central thread that runs throughout the entire Bible, connecting and giving meaning to all of our individual lives. Much like the cross-references that link biblical passages, our personal stories are intricately woven into and find their ultimate purpose within God's overarching narrative. Rooted in the victory of the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:12-15), this profound truth offers strength and meaning, assuring us of God's ultimate triumph and compelling us to live with the hopeful certainty that we know the end of the story.

Parents of SR RCYF students there will be a parent meeting following the morning worship service on February 1 for Rocky Mountain High. Please plan to attend!

DUELING PIANO

Hope Haven's "Keys of Love" Dueling Piano Fundraiser is Friday, February 13 at 7:00 p.m. at The District, in Sioux Falls.

Join us for a fun night of music and entertainment with Dueling Duo, Andy & Ryno!

All proceeds support Hope Haven International Ministries in providing wheelchairs to those in need around the world.

Tickets are available at hopehaven.org/events



February

		21	-	Montana Robinson
				Kole Wolfswinkel
2	-			Mrs. Caitlynn Baartman
				Larry Van Dyke
		22	-	Ripken Van Ginkel
4	-			Eric Luevano
				Mrs. April Kooi
5	-			Ken Brunsting
		23	-	Mrs. Allison Leusink
				Mrs. Donna Renes
		24	-	The Seth Huizenga's
7	-	25	-	Derick Niemeyer
				Mrs. Laurie Buyert
		26	-	The Kraig Hulstein's
9	-	27	-	Reed Byker
				Calissa Keller
10	-	28	-	Lawson Van Ginkel
11	-	29	-	Mitch Banks
13	-			
				Jacob Haverhals
				Addison Terpstra
				Mrs. Cheryl Sandbulte
14	-			Adam Nibbelink
				Mrs. Kayti Beukelman
				Mrs. Londa Rus
				The Larry Vander Weide's
15	-			Mrs. Whitney Huyser
				The Andrew Van Ginkel's
16	-			Briggs Hoekstra
				Jerry Wolfswinkel
				Jerry Renes
				Willard Hulstein
17	-			Sloane Sandbulte
				Mrs. Morgan Van Voorst
18	-			Mrs. Gabi Noble
19	-			Mrs. Anita Van Ravenhorst
				Mrs. Vera Dieck
20	-			Ashton Madsen

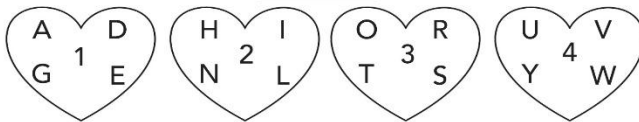


Puzzle!

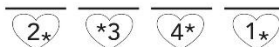
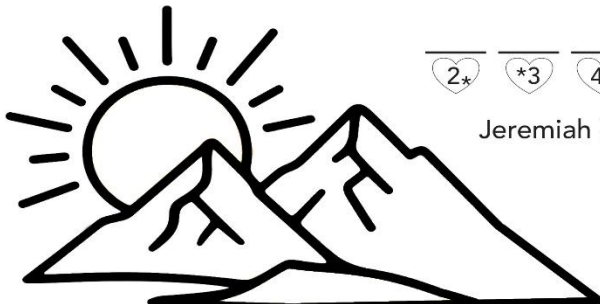
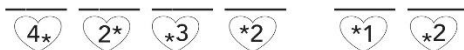
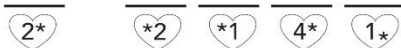
We see hearts everywhere and love sharing cards and greetings with friends and family.

Use the code to discover a special message from God — perfect for any day, any month.

CODE:

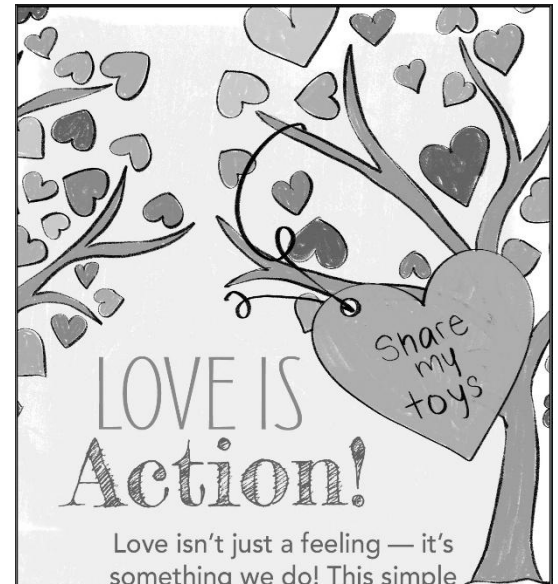


"



Jeremiah 31:3

Answer: "I have loved you with an everlasting love."

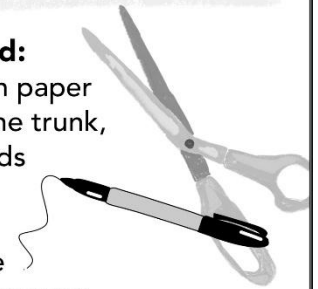


LOVE IS Action!

Love isn't just a feeling — it's something we do! This simple activity reminds us that acts of love, big or small, can grow and bless others.

What you need:

- Construction paper (brown for the trunk, pinks and reds for hearts)
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Markers or crayons



What you do:

1. Cut a large tree trunk and branches out of brown paper and glue it onto a sheet of paper or poster board.
2. Use colorful paper to cut several hearts — these will be your "leaves."
3. On each heart, write loving actions like "share my toys," "pray for others," or "help clean up."
4. Glue the hearts onto the branches to create a full, love-filled tree.
5. Hang it somewhere visible as a reminder to put love into action every day!

