

HIGHLIGHTS

CARMEL REFORMED CHURCH

“Can’t Wait For Sunday”

March 2026

When I was in college I began to listen to a nightly devotional on KVDB FM called “Nightsounds with Bill Pierce.” Later when we were in our second church in Aplington, IA we found the same nightly devotional once again, and enjoyed it many evenings. As years went by and we moved a few more times, we lost track of this nightly devotional – until just a few years ago our oldest son discovered it is available through an app now! Although Bill Pierce has passed away, his devotionals are still available to listen to.

To our surprise one night, we heard the devotional focus on one of Northwestern College’s former chaplains = Chaplain Jerry Sittser, who was our chaplain most of the years we were in college.

Bill Pierce entitled this specific devotional “Dealing with Injustice.” He spoke of how Sittser had lived through the tragedy of losing his mother, wife and daughter all in one car accident. They were hit head on by a drunk driver. When brought to trial the drunk driver was found not guilty on the basis of a legal technicality. The injustice of it all.

The devotional continued with the explanation that Sittser wrote in his book how this injustice was getting the best of him. Then a colleague approached Sittser reminding him that God is sovereign all the time, or God is not sovereign any of the time. Reflecting on his colleague’s statement, Sittser eventually was able to overcome the frustration of injustice as he chose to trust God.

As I listened to the Bill Pierce share this story I started to think about that truth. God is either sovereign all the time, or He is not sovereign at any time.

When we feel like we have experienced injustice it can be a challenge to understand why God has allowed us to go through that experience. We may struggle with the realities that come with injustice – it just isn’t fair – we will grumble.

There have been plenty of times in my life that I reasoned to myself that I have experienced injustice. You can likely name some yourself. How do we respond? What do we believe in regard to God’s presence in the midst of our experienced injustices? Do we still believe that God is sovereign, that all is still under His control?

As we confess that God is in control at all times, He is sovereign, then we have to come to terms that God has allowed, for whatever reason, to have us go through that injustice. God works for our good in our lives. God works through even the injustices we experience – so our profession of what we believe about God confronts us: we must be willing to trust God even during the times when we experience injustice. Sigh.

As we come to terms with God’s sovereignty in all circumstances of our lives, let us trust God to get us past those injustices so that we may approach life – not with a chip on our shoulder – but with confidence towards the future because God is leading us all the way!

Blessings, Pastor Gary



March 1: Londa Boogerd, Kassidy Robinson, Ava Van Roekel, Morgan Terpstra

March 8: Kristi Van Voorst, Lexy Van Ginkel, Charlee Punt, Addison Van Voorst

March 15: Nikki Hulstein, Morgan Hoekstra, Marcus Van Voorst, Kinlee Wolfswinkel

March 22: Amy McAlpine, Jo Moget, Ava Sandbulte, Faithe Van Maanen

March 29: Jami Sandbulte, Rachel Van Roekel, Akenna Sandbulte, Ruthie Vanden Brink

April 5: Hannah Smolders, Edan Bomgaars, Sadie Janisch, 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.

March 1-R– Gene Sandbulte, Jared Terpstra
C- Rachel Terpstra, Sherri Wolfswinkel, Anita Van Ravenhorst, Cheryl Sandbulte, Gene Sandbulte

March 8-R– Jack Soodsma, Verlyn Van Regenmorter
C–Mimi Sandbulte, Rhonda Sandbulte, Alice Remmerde, Hazel Haverhals, Donna Renes

March 15-R– Becky Ochsendorf, Dennis De Jong
C– Lin De Jong, Ronda Leusink, Rachel Van Roekel, Doree Wolfswinkel, Amy McAlpine

March 22-R– Jami Sandbulte, Aubrey Van Kekerix
C– Lorna Vander Vliet, Linda Altena, Sandi Vonk, Kaye Kuyper, Fonda Post

March 29-R– Glenda Van Meeteren, Hans Smolders
C– Misty Zwart, Erica Robertson, Allison Leusink, Sarah Nibbelink, Glenda Van Meeteren

April 5-R– Jerry Renes, Mike Haverhals
C– Clarice Van Maanen, Carmen Maassen, Amy Rozeboom, Frieda Bartels, Colleen Bomgaars

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.

Mar.	1 – Brian Rozeboom
Mar.	8 – Kelly Rozeboom
Mar.	15 – Steve Rozeboom
Mar.	22 – Jerry Rus
Mar.	29 – Cherub & Nursery Choir
Apr.	5 – Worship Team

UPDATE THE DIRECTORY

It's time to update our Carmel Church phone directory. This year we ask for your cooperation in making sure all the information is correct and up to date. Maybe you've moved in the last year, or your phone number is different, or you no longer have a land line phone. Please inform us of these changes.



You will find a sheet with the information from last year's directory on it. Please go through these sheets and make any necessary changes.

When you have it filled out, you may put the sheet in the box on the Coffee Station. Please do so by March 1. Everyone's cooperation would be very much appreciated!!

If you are a regular attender at Carmel Church but not yet a member and would like to be included in our directory as a "friend of our church", please pick up a sheet from the Coffee Station and fill it out. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

Please remember to update the online directory! Whether you have moved or your family has grown. Maybe you are a new member of Carmel. This is a great way to put names with faces.

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.

YOUTH SUNDAY



Get ready for a powerful and inspiring day in the life of our church!

Sunday, March 8 will be Youth Sunday, and our young people are taking the lead!

Our SR RCYF will be leading us in morning worship, sharing their gifts, talents, and passion for Christ. The morning offering will go toward supporting SR RCYF.

Our JR RCYF will lead the evening service, bringing their own special joy and enthusiasm. The evening offering will support the JR RCYF.

Come out and encourage our youth as they step forward in leadership and service! Let’s fill the sanctuary, lift our voices together, and show our young people how proud we are of them.

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SR RCYF TACO SUPPER AND SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER

Mark your calendars and bring your appetite!

Wednesday, March 25

5:00-7:00 pm

SR RCYF is hosting a delicious Taco Supper and Silent Auction Fundraiser – and you’re invited!



SUPPER

Enjoy a tasty taco meal offered for a freewill donation, with all proceeds going toward *Rocky Mountain High*. Come hungry and support our youth!

Browse a variety of special items donated by SR RCYF members. The auction items will be on display in the Fellowship Hall. Check out your favorites and place your silent bids throughout the evening! Bidding will close on March 25.



Deacons Corner — MARCH

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



CADET PINWOOD DERBY

Rev up your engines – it's race time!

Join us for our Annual Cadet Pinewood Derby and watch these handcrafted cars speed down the track. Don't blink or you might just miss the race!

Date: Wednesday, March 4

Weigh-In: 6:30 p.m.

Racing Begins: 7:00 p.m.

Family and friends are welcome to come cheer on our Cadets! It's always an exciting evening of creativity, friendly competition, and fast cars!

We can't wait to see you at the starting line!



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.



Carmel GEMS

“let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven”.

Matthew 5:16



February 4, 2026 the GEMS met at Crown Pointe! Our lesson was Stepping Out to Serve, the GEMS had the opportunity to serve some special family and friends. Sharing God’s truth with devotions, prayer, pizza and some dessert! Thank You to those who made brownies, cookies, almond bars, and cream puff dessert! Playing the Left & Right game, BINGO and the GEMS decorated doors with Valentines! The GEMS all made Valentines for those who attended the fun evening. The GEMS all had a wonderful evening and were all blessed immensely! Leon Wichers was the big BINGO winner! Carmel GEMS is excited to return and visit!

Thank you

Fund Raiser - Thank you to all who purchased meals! Our prayer is that this will make mealtime easier and help you have a good meal with your family or friends. The orders will be made fresh and soon as we know when your order is completed you will be contacted!

Thank you for supporting and loving Carmel GEMS!

March, here we are our last month of GEMS for the year. This year we had 30 GEMS, 12 of those who have joined Carmel GEMS come with their friends! This is a huge blessing to be able to share the good news with them all. I am so thankful for the Counselors, Jr Counselors, Craft and Kitchen Team who pour love and words of Jesus Christ into the GEMS!! If you would like to know more about GEMS and how to get involved please reach out!

Serving Him Together,
Kristi Van Voorst - Club Coordinator

Counselors:

2nd / 3rd- Grade Kara Donlin, Kelsi Noteboom, Becky Ocshendorf
4th / 5th- Grade Karen Boersma, Sara Sandbulte, Rachel Van Roekel
6th 7th 8th- Grade - Megan Punt

JR Counselors:

Karlee Leusink, Gaby Prins, Atty Prins

Craft Team:

Jenn Prins, Jenny Simpson

Kitchen Team:

Kara Van Meeteren, Whitney Huyser

Treasurer: Jolene Horstman



Wednesday, March 4, 2026

- STEP OUT TO TESTIFY



Wednesday, March 18, 2026

- End of GEMS year celebration!
- More information ASAP



GEMS SUNDAY March 22, 2026



- Wear your Walk on Water T-shirt
- Meet at church @ 9:10 am

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

- **Palm Sunday** – March 29 – Celebrate Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem as we lift our voices in praise and prepare our hearts for the journey to the cross and the empty tomb.
- **Good Friday**- April 3- A solemn time of reflection and prayer as we remember Christ’s sacrifice on the cross.
- **Easter Sunday**- April 5- Rejoice in the victory of the Resurrection! Worship with us as we celebrate the risen Lord.

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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.

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL



ROOSTER – The rooster reminds us of Peter’s threefold denial of Jesus on the night of his trial (Matthew 26:34, NIV). Because of this, it often symbolizes human weakness and faithlessness-especially when faith is tested. Yet, the rooster also calls to mind watchfulness. Its early-morning crowing echoes Jesus’ words about being alert for his return: “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back – whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn” (Mark 13:35, NIV).

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JUSTICE FOR ALL

Justice For All invites you to attend the Get To Know JFA Event on March 28 at the Terrace View Event Center in Sioux Center from 5:30-8:00 p.m.

JFA Ministry programs (Service & Learning, Sharing & Caring, and Transitional Housing) will be presented and then get ready for some fun!

JFA has invited Christian comedian and illusionist Joshua Jordan back again for a great time of laughs and magic! Entertainment for all ages! The catered meal will feature flavors and dishes inspired by the cultures and communities of our ministry partners.

Reservations can be made by calling 712-476-2804 or emailing joeldw@jfa-nwiowa.org (\$75/ticket or \$500 for a table of 8) Kids are welcome to join us as celebrate JFA Ministry and enjoy a fun evening!

LIFELIGHT

We are bringing two powerful, free festivals to South Dakota, each with one mission: creating spaces where people can experience hope, community, and life-changing moments.

LifeLight Hills Alive July 18-19, 2026 Memorial Park, Rapid City, SD

Hills Alive returns to the Black Hills for two days of unforgettable live music, inspiring messages, family fun, and moments that reach far beyond the weekend. It's a gathering that brings generations together and leaves a lasting impact on our city and region.

LifeLight Festival September 6, 2026 Nelson Park, Sioux Falls, SD

One full day at Nelson Park filled with music, community, and opportunities to encounter Christ in a powerful way.

INSPIRATION HILLS NEWS

Summer Camp

Get ready-Inspiration Hills Summer Camp 2026 registration is open and the camps fill up fast!



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 1/2 of the registration fee for one CAMP, per student, per year.

Pick up a camp brochure by the mailboxes!

Digging Deeper: Bible Study Workshop

Digging Deeper is a one-day workshop designed to help participants grow in their understanding of Scripture. Whether new to Bible study or seasoned, attendees will learn practical tools for understanding, interpreting, and applying God's Word in a Christ-centered community. Space is limited!

Saturday, March 14 at Inspiration Hills

\$25 (includes materials, meal, and snacks)

Register at <https://www.inspirationhills.org/deep>

Art of Marriage Retreat

This intentional weekend retreat uses Family Life's *Art of Marriage* curriculum to help couples reconnect, strengthen their relationship, and grow together in Christ.

March 27-29

\$50 per couple (lodging, meals, materials, activities)

\$25 per couple (commuter rate)

Register at <https://www.inspirationhills.org/marriage>

Puzzle!

HOW'S THE WEATHER?
Use the code below to fill in these forecasts in places where Jesus traveled:

CODE:

A = ☺	D = ☁	H = ❄	M = ☆	P = ◆	T = ■	W = ☂
B = ●	E = +	I = *	N = ↑	R = ●	U = □	Y = 🌬
C = ☼	G = ⚡	L = ★	O = ↓	S = ○	V = ☒	Z = 🌧

Mt. Hermon ○ ↑ ↓ ☂ Jericho ❄ ↓ ■

Jerusalem ☆ * ★ ☁

Dead Sea Area ■ ● ↓ ◆ * ☼ ☺ ★ ❄ + ☺ ■

Sea of Galilee * □ ○ ■ 🌬 ☂ * ↑ ☁ ○

Mediterranean Coast ● ● + + 🌬 🌬

Answers: snow, hot, mild, tropical heat, gusty winds, breezy



MARCH

2	-	Courtney Sandbulte The Ron Dieck's	20	-	Kezden Hofman Cody Hoogendoorn
3	-	Baylor Sayles Mrs. Carol Langstraat The Nate Maassen's	21	-	Mrs. Sue Dorhout The Ron Schmith's Grady Friedrichsen
4	-	Rachel Wynia Mrs. Dennica Rozeboom	22	-	Scott Fischer Herb Remmerde
6	-	Peter Vonk Mason Vander Lugt	23	-	Orlin Oostra Wilmer Rensink
7	-	Blake Niemeyer Aiden Madsen Mrs. Karrigan Glade Paul Maassen The Glenn Lange's	24	-	Tate Van Essen Mrs. Janet Brunsting Sawyer Rozeboom Colyn Oostenink
8	-	Mrs. Abby Madsen			Mrs. Shalee Hofman
9	-	Cole Rozeboom			Mrs. Jamie Van Voorst
11	-	Mrs. Nikki Van Meeteren Jared Terpstra Mrs. Cheryl Hulstein The Harvard Sneller's	25	-	Perry Van Gorp The Hans Smolders' Samuel McAlpine Mrs. Ashley Hulstein
12	-	Jaxson Rozeboom	26	-	The Don Dourhout's Mrs. Taylor Punt
13	-	Izabella Klein Mrs. Jackie Huizenga Randy Vande Vegte Harlan Van Maanen	28	-	Sofia Sandbulte Steve Sandbulte
14	-	Mrs. Janice Luevano	30	-	Jada Ochsendorf
15	-	Mrs. Nyiah Lammers			
16	-	Elliott Landman Kevin Sandbulte Mrs. Fonda Post			
18	-	Landry Van Kekerix Lucas Sandbulte Anthony Rau Rod Van Ravenswaay			
19	-	The Rodney Sandbulte's			



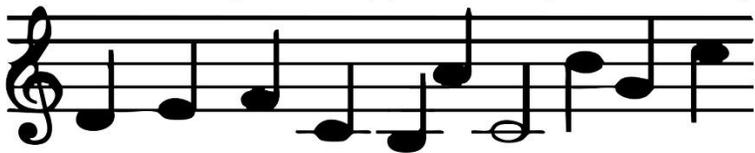
MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

It's time to tune up your Bible brain!

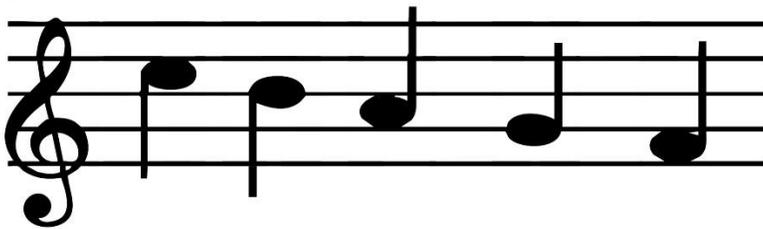
Decode the notes to discover a verse that sings with joy.

Using the musical note code, write the words of Psalm 100:2 (NIV) in the correct order below.

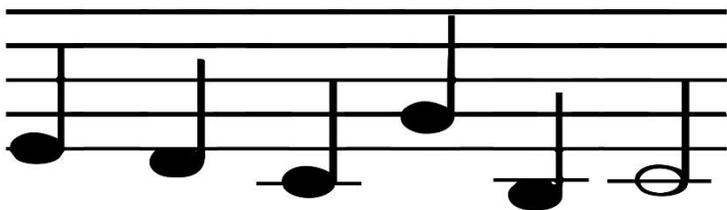
CODE: before come gladness him joyful LORD songs the with Worship



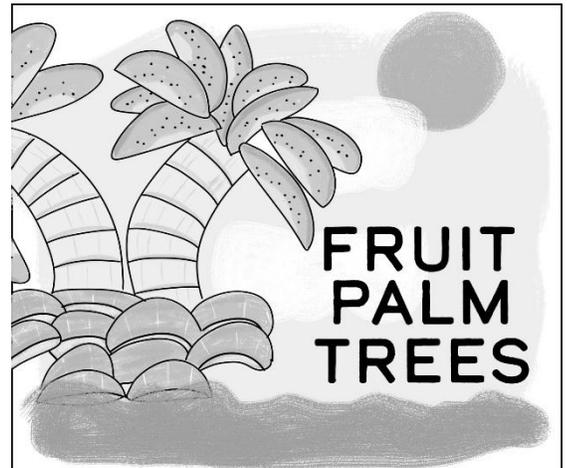
_____ the _____ ;



_____ .



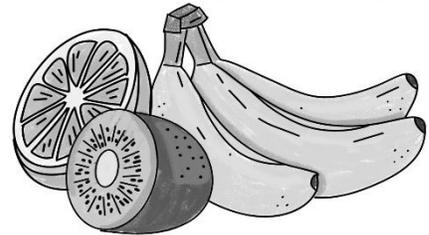
Answer: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.



These cheerful "palm trees" make a bright reminder of the celebration that greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem.

What you need:

- Bananas (for the tree trunks)
- Kiwis or green grapes (for the palm leaves)
- Mandarin oranges (for the ground)



What you do:

1. Slice bananas in half lengthwise and place vertically on a plate.
2. Arrange kiwi slices or grapes at the top to form palm fronds.
3. Add oranges at the base.
4. Serve immediately or chill until ready to serve.

Scripture Tie-In:

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"
—Matthew 21:9 (NIV)