

HIGHLIGHTS

CARMEL REFORMED CHURCH

“Can’t Wait For Sunday”

April 2026

Happy Easter!

That is our familiar greeting on Easter morning. But there is so much more that we are celebrating, and there is so much more than happiness that we are experiencing with the occasion of Easter.

The resurrection of the Christ! Jesus who died for us, arose from the grave, from death itself, and arose to life and eternal life that could not be taken from Him. Even the grave could not contain Him.

It is easy to talk about how Jesus died to pay the cost, to provide justice for our sinful actions/thoughts/intents, a justice that we could not satisfy on our own. To take that to heart, to grasp what it means that Jesus died for us, that He arose from the grave, for us, that He ascended unto heaven – to open the way to the Father – for us. To go beyond the talk of what Jesus did and understand and embrace all that it means.

Easter is the celebrative response in understanding Jesus’ sacrificial death, and the new life it brings to each of us who receive Jesus as the Christ, our Savior and Lord. Easter is the lived in reality that we have been saved from the condemning guilt of our sin, from a life that cannot be redeemed in any other fashion. Easter is expressed through the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through us that we rejoice in Jesus our Savior.

This life is not the whole of life. The sin of this world, and of our human nature, does not have the final say as to who we are, or our future now nor for eternity. As Jesus arose from the dead, through Jesus our lives have been raised up out of the limits of this humanity, to live in the grace and power of God now, and in His very presence in that eternal life that is ahead of us.

April 9 will be the seventh anniversary of my dad’s “going to heaven.” My mom’s “going to heaven” was three years ago. While they passed away in these fleshy bodies, they live on, now for eternity, in the new bodies that they have received and they are experiencing the joy of Easter every day in a way that we can only imagine. As people who believe in Jesus our Savior, the Christ, the Anointed of God, death has lost its sting, and the resurrection of Jesus impacts our own lives even now. “Christ the Lord is Risen Today – He Lives – Because He Lives!”

Thank you, Lord Jesus!

Happy and Blessed Easter, and Eternity!
Pastor Gary



April 5: Hannah Smolders, Edan Bomgaars, Sadie Janisch, Slayden Sandbulte

April 12: Brynn Van Voorst, Amber Nettinga, Gaby Prins, Brody Van Voorst

April 19: Aubrey Van Kekerix, Morgan Hoekstra, Karlee Leusink, Hannah Van Roekel

April 26: Juliana Van Kekerix, Courtney Mesman, Aniya Robertson, Tacey Van Kekerix

May 3: Londa Boogerd, Kassidy Robinson, Alydia Sandbulte, 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.

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

April 12-R- Verlyn Van Regenmorter, Becky Ochsendorf

C- Teresa Sandbulte, Jami Sandbulte, Helen Vande Vegte, Cheryl Lange, Gabi Noble

April 19-R- Jami Sandbulte, Aubrey Van Kekerix
C-Fonda Post, Sherri Wolfswinkel, Mimi Sandbulte, Anita Van Ravenhorst, Cheryl Sandbulte

April 26-R- Chad Robertson, Glenda Van Meeteren

C- Gene Sandbulte, Rhonda Sandbulte, Glenda Van Meeteren, Alice Remmerde, Lin De Jong

May 3-R- Dennis De Jong, Hans Smolders
C- Ronda Leusink, Hazel Haverhals, Donna Renes, Rachel Van Roekel, Doree Wolfswinkel

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.

Apr.	5 – Worship Team
Apr.	12 – Alan Sandbulte
Apr.	19 – Gary Sandbulte
Apr.	26 – Harv Sandbulte
May	3 – Cherub & Nursery Choir

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BAPTISMS



On March 22, we celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism with Maelie Renae De Jager, daughter of Tanner and Ruth De Jager and Truett Wilder Van Ginkel, son of Andrew and Samantha Van Ginkel.

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PROFESSION OF FAITH

At the Elders' meeting, it was their joy to receive Cole Steendam into the communicant family of Carmel Reformed Church through profession of faith.

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TRANSFER

At the elder's meeting, they received the membership of Braden Keller from Tolstoy Methodist Church of Tolstoy, SD.

Please welcome him into the Carmel Church family.





Our annual Prayer Day for Crops and Industry service will be held Wednesday, April 1, at 7:00 p.m. Join us for this special service as we gather to ask God's blessing on our crops and industry for the coming year. Pastor Gary Hegstad will share some thoughts at this service of worship and prayer. Carmel members will participate in a season of prayer. An offering will be received for the Christian Care Fund. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend this special service.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE AT THE BANQUET

Carmel will be serving the evening meal at The Banquet in Sioux Falls on Thursday, April 2. Needed are 25 people to help serve the meal. You must be at The Banquet by 5:15 p.m.



This is a great opportunity to share the love of Christ with those who need a helping hand. Kids must be 12 years or older to serve at The Banquet.

The signup sheet is on the Coffee Station. Also 5 or 6 people are needed to prepare the meal ahead of time. They will leave at 1:00 p.m. Donations are also needed to purchase supplies and milk for the meal. A box for donations will also be on the Coffee Station. Please consider giving of your time or a donation.

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HOLY WEEK SERVICES

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.



DIRECTORY



The new phone directory is in your mailboxes. Please note that the mailboxes will be rearranged to accommodate the membership changes for the last year. Check to make sure the box is yours before removing the contents. Your box is above your name. Please remember to update the online directory!

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MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

The Middle School Retreat is a fun weekend for JR High students and their adult leaders, and this year's theme is "Stronger Together". It will be held at Hidden Acres Christian Center in Dayton, IA. MSR begins the evening of Friday, April 17 and runs through Sunday morning, April 19.



Please keep these leaders and students in your prayers that they may have safe travels and an awesome weekend of worship, friends, games, and fun.

The following students are attending:

Kinlee Wolfswinkel, Faithe Van Maanen, Blake Niemeyer, Jude Vonk, Hezekiah Vanden Brink, Tyson Hulstein, Lucas Hilbrands, Tucker Hoekstra, Brody Rozeboom, Slayden Sandbulte, Brexton Hulstein, and Ashton Madsen.

The following leaders are attending:

Matt and Hannah Smolders, Tom and Misty Zwart, and Todd Noteboom.

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CHURCH POTLUCK



On Sunday, April 19, we will have a church potluck dinner! Each family is asked to bring a large hot dish and a large cold dish to share. Singles may bring either a hot dish or cold dish. Rolls, beverages and tableware will be provided. Hope you all can join us for some good fellowship and great food! There will be no Sunday School.

SENIOR APPRECIATION SUPPER

Join us for our Legacy Appreciation Supper hosted by the SR RCYF. Enjoy a delicious meal, dessert, and an engaging activity planned for the evening!

Date: April 22

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Please RSVP to the church office by **Wednesday, April 13th!**

We look forward to having you join us!

Look for your invitation in your mailboxes.

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EDUCATION APPRECIATION SUPPER



All volunteers involved in our education programs (S.S. teachers, substitute teachers, officers, music leaders, Wednesday LFC teachers, substitute teachers and Bible Study leaders, GEMS and Cadet Counselors, JR and SR RCYF Sponsors, and VBS Directors along with their spouse or guest) are invited to an Appreciation Supper on **WEDNESDAY, MAY 6 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Childcare will be provided.

A great meal and fun evening has been planned for these individuals and we hope you can come and enjoy this time as we show our appreciation to our education volunteers!!

Please sign up at the Coffee Station in the Fellowship Hall or contact the church office, if you will be attending. Please do so by **APRIL 29!**

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CADETS

We have two fun final meetings coming up! First, we'll join other churches for the Cadet-O-Rama on April 1 in Rock Valley. Weigh ins are at 6:30 with the race starting at 7. Then we'll wrap up the year with a Fun Night on April 15. It's been a joy to watch the boys grow, earn badges, and develop new skills this year!



SUNDAY SCHOOL CELEBRATION SUNDAY

On Sunday, May 3, we will be celebrating our Sunday School during the morning worship service. The morning will begin with a time of fellowship (coffee and cookies) in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. The worship service will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

During the service we will recognize our Sunday School teachers, receive an update on the Sunday School Mission Project, and hear from our students about the memory work they have learned this year. They will also be singing for our ministry in music.

Our Consistory members and SR RCYF sponsors will be presenting Bibles to our graduating High School Seniors.

There will also be a brief message given by Pastor Gary Hegstad.

Following the worship service the Carmel Women's Ministry will be serving taverns and desserts for a freewill donation.

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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 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.



Greetings! Or should we say “Dia duit!” (God be with you). VBS is 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*. **If you still need to register, please reach out to one of the directors. ALL registration is done online this year.** If we are at our capacity, you will need to call the church office to be put on the waiting list.

Our **volunteers** are what make this week a success! You do not want to miss the opportunity to walk alongside the kids and watch them grow in their faith. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up online using the following QR code or link:

Registration and Volunteer Sign Up:

<https://vbspro.events/p/2691ff>



Snack (Donation) Sign Up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DA5AF22A7FEC34-62538504-carmel>



We covet your prayers for all those involved in this week-long ministry. We pray that God will be glorified and many lives will be blessed through our 2026 VBS.

2026 Directors:

Kiley Landman, Steph Vande Vegte, Randi Sayles, Shalee Hofman, Allison Leusink, and Alicia Wolfswinkel



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. In 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 amount of offering to date is \$1,638.13.



Deacons Corner — APRIL

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



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 go 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 ½ of the registration fee for one CAMP, per student, per year.

Pick up a camp brochure by the mailboxes!



LETTER FROM CODY & TRICIA GROENEVELD

Dear Church,

Four years ago, God called our family to Homer, Alaska, to disciple students at the Alaska Bible Institute and to serve in Native Villages across the state. It has been a tremendous honor to share the gospel daily and build deep relationships rooted in our shared faith in Jesus. The connections we have made will last a lifetime.

Recently, Alaska Village Missions and Alaska Bible Institute made the difficult decision to part ways with our family due to differing perspectives. This transition brings both sadness as we leave a ministry we dearly love, and excitement as we trust God's plan for our next steps. Though this change is significant, we have seen God's faithfulness and provision throughout, and we are confident in His continued care for our family.

As we look ahead, we are preparing to move back to Michigan. Cody will continue work as a robotic welding engineer, and I (Tricia) will be home with James, Eli, and Eleanor, homeschooling and caring for our family. We will be attending our sending church, Harvest in Spring Lake, MI, and receiving support and counseling as we transition from the mission field.

We don't yet know all that God has in store, but we are open to His leading. Global Outreach International remains a partner with us if God calls us to return to the missionary field in the future. For now, we are focusing on creating stability for our family, so our answer is not "no," but "not yet."

If you support us financially through automatic payments, please log in to Global Outreach International and end your payments at this time. We are financially secure for our move and have savings to return to the Lower 48. If you are interested in supporting other missionaries, we would be happy to recommend wonderful families who are continuing the work.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your prayers, friendship, and partnership in the gospel. Together, we have seen incredible fruit: four students baptized who have committed their lives to Christ, over thirty students making their faith their own, Native villages transformed by the gospel, new youth groups started in remote Alaska, and students continuing in ministry and missions around the world.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or text Cody Groeneveld at 907-299-1654.

Your Missionaries in Alaska
Cody and Tricia Groeneveld
James, Eli, and baby Eleanor



APRIL

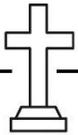
1	-	Mark Swets	23	-	Rodney Moget
2	-	Aliza Madsen Decker Hulstein Mrs. Kim Niemeyer	24	-	Tulsa Robinson Leah Nibbelink Mrs. Karen Stiltz
3	-	Aria Vande Vegte Mrs. Joanne Hanson	25	-	Marlin Sandbulte
4	-	Sloane De Wit Tim Bomgaars Mrs. Lin De Jong	26	-	Sarah Hooyer
6	-	Mrs. Brenda Janisch	27	-	Collyns Mesman Karsten Niemeyer Mrs. Lexy Van Ginkel Chad Wynia
7	-	Silas Sandbulte Johnny Boogerd Mrs. Mary Ann Zinnel Milt Van Ravenswaay	28	-	The Josh Vanden Top's Verlyn Van Regenmorter
8	-	The Matt Davelaar's The Chris Van Meeteren's	29	-	Paul McAlpine Jan De Jong Mrs. Alice Remmerde The Isaac Hanson's
9	-	Vada Byker	30	-	Ron Schmith
11	-	Kovey Hofman Tacey Van Kekerix Lane Maassen Beau Van Voorst Shirley Van Voorst			
12	-	Nancy Boogerd Nora Boogerd			
13	-	The Jerry Rus'			
14	-	Quinlynn Klein Jerry Rus			
15	-	Jim Vande Zandschulp			
16	-	Terry Van Regenmorter			
17	-	Hennlie Rozeboom The Colton Mesman's			
18	-	Chad Robertson			
20	-	Koston Van Essen The Vince Sandbulte's			
21	-	Baylor Van Essen Matthew Bomgaars Mrs. Kiley Landman The Sean Robinson's			
22	-	The Gary Sandbulte's			



FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection helps us live with gratitude every day.

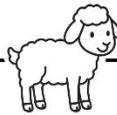
Use the picture and number code to fill in the blanks for Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV



- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. Jesus | 5. cross |
| 2. weary | 6. endured |
| 3. endured | 7. scorning |
| 4. opposition | 8. shame |



- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| 1. Jesus | 5. perfecter |
| 2. lose | 6. him |
| 3. pioneer | 7. faith |
| 4. sinners | 8. hand |



- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. eyes | 5. right |
| 2. us | 6. grow |
| 3. joy | 7. God |
| 4. heart | 8. throne |

"... fixing our  1 on  1, the  3 and  5 of  7. For the  3 set before  6 he  3 the  5,  7 its  8, and sat down at the  5  8 of the  8 of  7. Consider  6 who  6 such  4 from  4, so that you will not  6 and  2  2  4."

Hebrews 12:2-3 NIV



The butterfly reminds us of new life and the Resurrection. After three days, Jesus rose from the dead and brings us the hope of new beginnings. This simple craft helps children celebrate that joyful truth.

What you need:

- Light-colored construction paper
- Card stock
- Glue
- Paint
- Paintbrush
- Paper towel or baby wipe



What you do:

- Cut out a butterfly body from the construction paper.
- Glue the butterfly body onto the card stock.
- Use a paintbrush to coat the palm of one hand with paint.
- Press your painted hand beside the butterfly body to create a wing.
- Repeat with your other hand to make the second wing.
- Clean your hands with a paper towel or baby wipe.
- Optional: Add Luke 24:5-6 (NIV) around the butterfly or on its body:

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"

Answers: "... fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."