

HIGHLIGHTS

CARMEL REFORMED CHURCH

“Can’t Wait For Sunday”

May 2026

Yeah! May flowers are sprouting up and even blooming!

But as I write this, it is still in the middle of April. Yes, our tulips are up and the buds are forming, but they are not yet blooming. But by the time you read this, they will have bloomed, and depending on the weather, they may be past their blooming glory.

My wife Julie planted the tulip bulbs last fall. The bulbs were buried under the soil all winter, there was snow over the ground for a few weeks this winter. Yet the potential of what the flower would become was still in the bulb itself. But as warm weather arrived, that bulb sprouted forth, grew into a plant, and a beautiful flower came forth – in its time. But all along, the bulb was waiting for the season of growth, prepared for when the warmth would come, waiting for the glorious blooming of the flower.

We began the year 2026 with anticipation of how God would work in the life of the congregation of Carmel Reformed Church. I preached a message of trusting God to lead us, anticipating the work of the Holy Spirit in and through us. We recognize that it is a year of transition from what has been to what will become in the life of Carmel Church. We entered the year with the encouragement of Scripture that as God was faithful to Abraham, leading him out of the known to the unknown, so God was leading us as a congregation.

Your consistory has been busy in these first four months of the year. The consistory has been able to carry forth the usual ministries of the congregation, it has celebrated with families on the occasion of baptisms, profession of faiths, weddings, and receiving new members into the life of the congregation. As a church we have witnessed the reality that some of the congregation, and others who were family of our members, have been received as believers in Christ, into the glorious presence of God Himself.

The consistory has also been addressing concerns expressed by some in regard to the dismissal of your former pastor. Your elders and deacons have sought to address questions about the past year. At the same time the consistory has sought in prayer, and through action to guide the congregation ahead in life and ministry as a church. By the time you read this the round table discussions will have occurred. By the time you read this you will have learned that the consistory has hired a consulting ministry to assess the identity of Carmel congregation. This assessment will assist us in understanding who we are as a congregation, how others perceive us as a congregation, and how our identity as a congregation will be intentionally recognized as we are led by God into the future He has called us to experience.

In the upcoming weeks, you will learn more about a study that Pastor Gary will offer to the congregation based on Max Lucads’s book *We Will Get Through This* which focuses on how God works through the unexpected that His people experience. We will be encouraged once again in the faithfulness and wisdom of God and His will for our life as a congregation of His Church.

July will be the starting point for a sermon series that focuses on who God is, who God calls us to be, what the life of Christ's Church looks like, and what it experiences.

Like the tulip bulb that laid under ground all winter, its potential was always within the bulb, in the timing of the spring, it came through the soil, grew and flowered, so the ministry that your consistory is implementing and leading. You haven't always been able to see the work that they have been accomplishing the past 6 plus months, but they have been busy, preparing for a more specific plan of leading the you as a congregation forward in this time of transition.

For everyone who is looking ahead wondering about the work of discerning the will of God in regard to the next Lead Pastor, the consistory has not ignored that work, but there has been need for preparatory work to be accomplished before that work can be launched. But in the May consistory meeting, we will be discussing the process involved in setting up a search team, defining the role asked of them, considering the form of assistance to provide them in that role. We have not ignored this responsibility – you will be hearing more about this aspect of moving ahead in the next couple of months, but preparatory work must be put in place before that process begins.

Pray for your consistory. Pray for the various ministries of Carmel Church. Pray for fruit in that ministry of touching hearts and souls, all to the glory of Christ our Savior.

Blessings,

Pastor Gary



May 3: Londa Boogerd, Kassidy Robinson, Alydia Sandbulte, Morgan Terpstra
May 10: Kristi Van Voorst, Lexy Van Ginkel, Ava Van Roekel, Addison Van Voorst



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.

May 17: Nikki Hulstein, Morgan Hoekstra, Charlee Punt, Kinlee Wolfswinkel

May 24: Amy McAlpine, Jo Moget, Marcus Van Voorst, Faithe Van Maanen

May 31: Jami Sandbulte, Rachel Van Roekel, Ava Sandbulte, Ruthie Vanden Brink

June 7: Amy Davelaar, Ruth De Jager, Akenna Sandbulte, Slayden Sandbulte

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| May | 3 – Cherub & Nursery Choir |
| May | 10 – Henry Sandbulte |
| May | 17 – Kevin Sandbulte |
| May | 24 – Marlin Sandbulte |
| May | 31 – Owen Sandbulte |
| June | 7 – Seth 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.

May 3-R- Verlyn Van Regenmorter, Hans Smolders

C- Ronda Leusink, Hazel Haverhals, Donna Renes, Rachel Van Roekel, Doree Wolfswinkel

May 10-R- Gene Sandbulte, Jack Soodsma
 C- Amy McAlpine, Lorna Vander Vliet, Linda Altena, Sandi Vonk, Rachel Terpstra

May 17-R- Jared Terpstra, Mike Haverhals
 C- Misty Zwart, Kaye Kuyper, Clarice Van Maanen, Erica Robertson, Allison Leusink

May 24-R- Becky Ochsendorf, Jerry Renes
 C-Carmen Maassen, Sarah Nibbelink, Amy Rozeboom, Cheryl Sandbulte, Fonda Post

May 31-R- Denny De Jong, Chad Robertson
 C- Frieda Bartels, Colleen Bomgaars, Teresa Sandbulte, Cheryl Lange, Helen Vande Vegte

June 7-R- Jami Sandbulte, Aubrey Van Kekerix
 C- Jami Sandbulte, Sherri Wolfswinkel, Gene Sandbulte, Lin De Jong, Mimi Sandbulte

NEW ARRIVAL

We rejoice with Riley Anderson and Christina Boogerd on the birth of a daughter, Elodie Mae Anderson, who was born on April 12.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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

LORD'S SUPPER

On May 24, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper at our morning worship service. Those who would like communion served to them or a shut-in can contact an elder or call the church office or have a family member request it.

If this schedule does not work with you please switch with someone.

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 Steve Breen.

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

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On Sunday, May 3, Carmel will participate in a combined service with Peace Lutheran Church and Lebanon CRC for the National Day of Prayer

Service. The service will be held at Peace Lutheran and begins at 6:00 p.m. This is the 38th year that the three churches have observed this service together.

Members of all three churches will participate in the service through prayers and special music. A time of refreshments and fellowship will follow the service.

The theme verse for this year is 1 Chronicles 16:24 "Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples!"

Everyone is encouraged to attend this special service with our brothers and sisters in Christ from Peace Lutheran and Lebanon CRC.

BLESS CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL
SENIORS

Gift bags for the seniors in Carmel SR RCYF will be in the Fellowship Hall until May 24. Help us fill these bags with gifts, cards, words of encouragement, and anything else to bless our high school seniors.

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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 \$1,766.70.

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MEN OF CARMEL

You're invited to gather for a time of honest conversations, encouragement, and sharpening one another as we consider the kingship of Christ and what it means for us to live as Christian men in today's world.

We'll talk about leadership in our homes, integrity in our work, courage in our communities, and the responsibility we carry as followers of Christ. This won't be about having all the answers-it's about seeking truth together and strengthening one another.

When: May 17 after morning worship

Where: Chapel

Who: any men post high school age

"Iron sharpens iron, and one person sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17



On Sunday, May 3, our High School graduates will be presented with a Bible from Carmel Church. Our Consistory members and SR RCYF sponsors wrote notes of encouragement in the Bibles, along with sharing their favorite verses and presenting the Bibles to our graduates.

Graduating from Sioux Center Community High School are:

Izabella Klein – Izabella is the daughter of Michael Klein and Alicia Huisman. She will be attending South Dakota State University.

Ben Haverhals – Ben is the son of Seth and Amanda Haverhals. He will be going to college for business and marketing.

Natalie Huisman – Natalie is the daughter of Michelle Huisman. She will be working after graduation.

Eli Segar— Eli is the son of Matt and Kristi Segar. He plans to attend Northwest Community College.

Averi Huizenga – Averi is the daughter of Seth and Jackie Huizenga. She will be working after graduation.

Gabriella Oteri – Gabriella is the daughter of Santino and Natalie Oteri. She will be attending South Dakota State for pre-pharmacy.

Delanie Roland – Delanie is the daughter of Mitchell and Rebecca Banks and Will and Gretchen Roland. She will be attending South Dakota State for animal science.

Julie Sandbulte – Julie is the daughter of Gary and Shelly Sandbulte.

Riley Wolfswinkel – Riley is the son of Randy and LeAnn Wolfswinkel. He will be working on the family dairy farm.

Graduating from Boyden-Hull Community School is:

Jacquelyn Bergstrom – Jacquelyn is the daughter of Rod and Marci Bergstrom. She will be attending cosmetology school in Sioux Falls.

Graduating from University of Sioux Falls is:

Cheney Maassen – Cheney will be graduating with an Accounting Degree.

Graduating from Dordt University is:

Rashaylee Soodsma – Rashaylee will be graduating with a bachelor's degree in business.

Graduating from South Dakota State University is:

Sean Robinson – Sean will be graduating with a master's degree in Ruminant Nutrition.

Dawson Van Beek – Dawson will be graduating with a bachelor's degree in aviation.

Graduating from Northwest Iowa Community College is:

Bryson Sandbulte – Bryson will be graduating with a Business Management Degree.





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

Carmel VBS is **QUICKLY** approaching and we need **YOU!**

Carmel VBS registrations are in and we are so excited to enter Emerald Crossing - An Irish Adventure Through Psalm 23. To make this week successful, we need the help of many! **Please consider volunteering your time or donations for any of the following:**

Teachers and Helpers: Sign up using the following link or QR code or contact any director.



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

Donations: Hamburger for the VBS picnic. Contact Glenda Van Meeteren or the church office if you are willing to donate.

Craft Tent: The craft tent is looking for donations of disposal tablecloths (new or used), used gift cars (no monetary value left on them), colored napkins (plain, with no text/pictures on them), yogurt containers with lids, cardboard egg cartons, yarn. There will be a box by the mailboxes for donations.

Volunteers: To bring snacks. Please sign up using the link or QR card below or on paper at the coffee station.



[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DA5AF22A7FEC34-62538504-carmel#/#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DA5AF22A7FEC34-62538504-carmel#/)

People to Pray: Your prayers are what help make VBS successful. You don't have to sign up for this, but please consider adding VBS to your prayer list. Please specifically pray that we get the volunteers needed to sign up and for the kids that will be attending. You can start praying TODAY.

2026 VBS Directors: Kiley Landman, Steph Vande Vegte, Randi Sayles, Shalee Hofman, Allison Leusink, and Alicia Wolfswinkel



Deacons Corner — MAY

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 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.

SPRING SALAD LUNCHEON

Ladies! Make plans to attend Bible League’s Spring Salad Luncheon with your friends on Monday, May 4 at Trinity Reformed Church in Orange City (201 St. Paul Avenue SE). Please bring one salad for every four ladies in your group. The Luncheon begins at 11:30 am; featured speakers will represent the Legacy Thrift and Hands Around The World ministries. Updates from BLI will be given, and a freewill donation will be received. Join us for this FUN event!

INSPIRATION HILLS VOLUNTEER DAY

Join us Friday, May 1 from 1:00-5:30 pm and Saturday, May 2 from 8:00 am-4:00 pm for our Volunteer Work Day! Help us get camp ready for summer! From picking up sticks to splitting logs, there’s a job for everyone.



MAY

| | | | | | |
|----|---|---|----|---|---|
| 1 | - | Brixen De Jager Paxton Sayles Adriana Sandbulte Mrs. Kara Van Meeteren Mrs. Lorraine Post The Owen Sandbulte's | 18 | - | Graham DeMeester Mrs. Lois De Jong |
| 2 | - | ReAnna De Wit Leon Wichers | 19 | - | John Hoogendoorn The Brady Punt's The Scott Fischer's |
| 3 | - | Tim Maassen Mrs. LeaAnn Van Regenmorter The Harlan Van Maanen's | 21 | - | Matt Zinnel The Tyler Franken's |
| 4 | - | Linda Altena | 22 | - | Paisley Davelaar Todd Noteboom Mrs. Julie Bomgaars |
| 5 | - | Liam Kuyper Asher Van Voorst Mrs. Juliana Van Keckerix The Shawn Sandbulte's | 24 | - | Willa Sandbulte Austin Sandbulte Mrs. Nancy Smolders The Mark Van Voorst's |
| 6 | - | Micah Ochsendorf Makai Gesink Marvin Kruid | 25 | - | Mrs. Kara Donlin Wally Valentine Mrs. Hannah Smolders Mrs. Nikki Hulstein Terry Koedam The Jerry Wolfswinkel's |
| 7 | - | Mrs. Ronda Leusink The Keaton Van Voorst's | 26 | - | Isabelle Van Roekel Maci Segar |
| 8 | - | Fletcher Koedam | 27 | - | The Larry Wolfswinkel's |
| 9 | - | Mrs. Betty Valentine | 28 | - | Gaby Prins Eric Ochsendorf Mrs. Doree Wolfswinkel |
| 11 | - | Brian Vande Zandschulp The Matt Smolder's | 29 | - | Jude Vonk Mrs. Heidi Vanden Top Zach Moget The Kody Noble's The Josh Leusink's |
| 12 | - | Sadie Janisch Mrs. Carol Sandbulte The Kelly Rozeboom's | 30 | - | |
| 14 | - | Colton Mesman Robert Den Herder | 31 | - | |
| 15 | - | Randy Vander Weide The Henry Sandbulte's | | | |
| 16 | - | Caden Hulstein The Austin Lammer's | | | |
| 17 | - | Mrs. Jayden Pieper David McAlpine Dave Bohl | | | |



A LEGACY OF FAITH

You're blessed when you have a mother, a grandmother or any relative or friend who passes down a strong faith to you. In the Bible, Timothy learned about faith from his mother and grandmother.

Complete the verse below by filling in the blanks with the correct vowels.

VOWELS: 1 = a 2 = e 3 = i 4 = o 5 = u

" 3 1 m r 2 m 3 nd 2 d 4 f

y 4 5 r s 3 nc 2 r 2 f 1 3 th, wh 3 ch

f 3 rst l 3 v 2 d 3 n y 4 5 r gr 1 nd m 4 th 2 r

L 4 3 s 1 nd 3 n y 4 5 r m 4 th 2 r

2 5 n 3 c 2 1 nd, 3 1 m p 2 rs 5 1 d 2 d,

n 4 w l 3 v 2 s 3 n y 4 5 1 ls 4 ."

2 Timothy 1:5, NIV

Answer: "I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."

GROWING IN GOD'S word



Try this craft as a reminder that we need to continue to grow in God's Word.

What you need:

- Small terra cotta pot and plate
- Acrylic paints (various colors)
- Paper plate
- Potting soil (enough to fill the pot)
- Small inside plant or packet of seeds
- Newspaper or paper
- Paintbrush
- Cup of water
- Permanent black marker



What you do:

1. Spread some newspaper out on a table for your working area.
2. Squeeze the paint colors that you wish to use onto your paper plate.
3. Paint designs on the pot and plate.
4. When the pot is dry, take the black marker and on the top part of the pot write: Growing in God's Word.
5. Pour a small amount of potting soil into the bottom of the pot. With adults help, place your plant into the pot and surround your plant with the rest of the soil. If planting seeds, follow the packet instructions.
6. Water your plant so the soil is moist. Check your plant everyday and keep the soil moist.
7. Enjoy watching your plant grow, and remember that you too, need care as you grow in God's Word.

2 Peter 3:18 NIV

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.