

May 24, 2026

*Carmel's mission is to further Christ's Kingdom
through loving God and loving others.*

MORNING WORSHIP (9:30)

Prelude: *Jamie Van Voorst*

Welcome

Call to Worship

*Christian Greeting

*Worship Songs: *"Only A Holy God"*
"Ancient of Days"

*Invocation

Children's Message: *Jami Sandbulte*

Ministry in Music: *Harv Sandbulte*

Congregational Prayer

Hymn: #455 *"Take My Life and Let It Be"*
(Offerings for the General Fund & Missionary Support)
(Please pass the Guest Registers during this time)

Scripture: Proverbs 6:9-11, 13:4, 26:15-16, 22:13,
21:25-26, 24:30-34

Message: **"Sloths, Sluggards, and Something Better"**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

*Song: *"Goodness of God"*

*Benediction

*Parting Hymn: #759 *"America The Beautiful"*

Postlude: *Jamie Van Voorst*

*(*please stand if you are able)*

NO EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

We encourage you to participate in the Community Worship Service held at Central Reformed Church at 7:00 p.m. with Pastor Cliff Hoekstra officiating.

God himself is with us! Let us now adore him! We welcome every worshiper today. May the Holy Spirit fill your hearts to praise the Lord. Praise to the Father! Praise to the Son! Praise to the Holy Spirit! God, three in One. Please join us for refreshments after the morning worship service.

A warm welcome to Justin Bailey as he leads our morning worship service.

Thank you to *Harv Sandbulte* for his ministry in music this morning.

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at our morning worship service.

Guest Register: During the offering this morning, please sign and pass the "Guest" Register down the row. Once it reaches the end and members and guests have signed, please pass it back to the center.

TODAY

10:45 a.m. – **Men's Group**
Please meet in the Chapel.

Nursery Attendants: Amy M., Jo M., Marcus V.V., Faithe V.M.

Door Attendant: Regan. **Ushers:** Owen S. (M), Seth S. (NE), Vince S. (SW). **Refreshments:** Becky O., Jerry R. **Audio:** Riley. **Video:** Laura. **Power Point:** Jami. **After Service Greeters:** Henry & Hans (M), Phil (NE), Brian (SW).

THIS WEEK

Monday, May 25

Church Office Closed for the Memorial Day Holiday

Tuesday, May 26

6:00 p.m. – **Diamonds Ministry**

Wednesday, May 27

9:00 a.m. – **VBS Craft Prep Day**

Volunteers needed to help get crafts ready for VBS!

Saturday, May 30

9:00 a.m. – **VBS Tent Set Up**

Volunteers are needed to help set up for VBS!

NEXT SUNDAY, May 31

VBS Kickoff during the evening worship service

Nursery Attendants: Jami Sandbulte, Rachel Van Roekel, Ava Sandbulte, Ruthie Vanden Birnk. **Door Attendant:** Kelly Rozeboom.

Ushers: Marlin Van Voorst (M), Josh Vanden Top (NE), Brad Beukelman (SW). **Refreshments:** Denny De Jong, Chad Robertson.

Cookies: Frieda Bartels, Colleen Bomgaars, Teresa Sandbulte, Cheryl Lange, Helen Vande Vegte. **Children's Message:** Jared Terpstra.

Special Music: Owen Sandbulte. **Special Offering:** Property Fund.

UPHOLD IN PRAYER

Dorene Hulshof is in hospice care at Crown Pointe.

Stan Prins is recovering from hip replacement surgery.

Bob Den Herder is recovering from hip surgery.

Janet Renes is recovering from hip replacement surgery.

Ramona Vander Weide recovering from valve replacement surgery.

Henry J. Wolfswinkel is recovering from hip replacement surgery.

Zane White is recovering from brain surgery.

Ashley Vande Vegte is anticipating another surgery this summer and will continue immunotherapy through the fall.

Sue Noteboom for continued healing and nerves regeneration.

Carmel Reformed Church as we look for a Pastor.

Middleburg Free Grace Church as they look for a Pastor.

Praying for our local congregations: This week please be in prayer for God's blessing for the Covenant Christian Reformed Congregation and Pastor Jason Kok.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please help us to help you: When you have an illness, accident, upcoming surgery, birth or death in the family, or other needs, please notify one of the elders or the church office.

The white cross decorated with poppies displayed today is a reminder of Memorial Day, a day set aside to pay tribute to those who died in military service to our country. Ever since the first World War, the poppy has served as the memorial flower for the American War dead and a symbol of hope for all the veterans of military service. So, as you celebrate this holiday, please take time to remember and appreciate their sacrifice.

Congratulations to *Trevor and Jayden Pieper* on the birth of a daughter, *Beverly Elizabeth*, born on Tuesday, May 19.

“Thank you for the cards, the calls, the prayers and treats, the kind words, and all the prayers following surgery. Thank you everyone!”

-Mary Ann Zinnel

The Consistory has decided not to increase the size of the consistory currently. Thank you to everyone who provided input and feedback throughout the discussion process. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact one of the elders.

Pastor Gary will be in the office Wednesday & Thursday, May 27 & 28 from 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Please contact him if you would like to meet outside of these hours.

Teachers, please ensure your Sunday School rooms are cleaned out by TODAY!

Bless Carmel High School Senior! Gift bags for the seniors in Carmel SR RCYF will be in the Narthex. Help us fill these bags with gifts, cards, words of encouragement, and anything else to bless our high school seniors!

Congratulations to our high school graduates! We are proud of you for your accomplishments, and we wish you God’s richest blessings. Our graduates are *Jacquelyn Bergstrom, Izabella Klein, Julie Sandbulte, Eli Segar, Riley Wolfswinkel, Averi Huizenga, Ben Haverhals, Natalie Huisman, Gabriella Oteri, and Delanie Roland.*

Articles for the June newsletter are due TODAY!

Volunteers are needed to assist during Sunday worship services (AM & PM) with sound, power point, and video upstairs. Anyone interested in this ministry is encouraged to contact the church office.

The coatsacks have been put away for the season! Any items left behind are at the main coatsack. Please take some time to look through these items. Any items remaining by May 31 will be donated.

Carmel Women’s Ministry is looking for sour cream containers, cool whip containers, or plastic ice cream containers. If you have any to donate, please put them in the Moses Room.

Cadets have some Take & Bake Pizzas available for purchase in the Kitchen Freezer. They are \$12/pizza, please put your money in the box by the stove.

A pancake breakfast will be held at the Hull American Reformed Church on Memorial Day, May 25, serving from 7:00-10:00 a.m.

Hope Haven is sponsoring its 28th Annual Hope Haven Fishing Benefit on Friday, June 5, starting at 7:00 a.m. at Big Spirit, Spirit Lake, IA. Registration fee is \$60.00 per angler and children under 16 are free. The entry fee includes an entry gift, eligibility for weigh-in prize categories, and a pork loin meal. Proceeds will benefit individuals with disabilities, supported by Hope Haven. Registrations are due Thursday, June 4. For more information and to register, visit hopehaven.org/events or call Scott Koedam at 712-476-2820.

<p>GENERAL FUND GIVING: Offering: \$10,114.39 Fiscal YTD General Fund offering: \$177,370.90</p>

VBS Kickoff — Sunday evening, May 31

Join us for the official 2026 Carmel VBS Kickoff event! The evening will include training for our volunteers, a worship service to introduce our theme for the week and pray over the kids/volunteers and conclude with a Sneak Peek for the parents and students to see their rooms and meet their teachers.

6:00 p.m.—Teacher/Helpers Training

6:30 p.m.—VBS Kickoff Service (Parents/Kids, Volunteers, Church members)

7:30 p.m.—Sneak Peek (Parents/Kids meet teachers and see rooms)



VBS

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

Save the date! Carmel VBS will be June 1-5. We can’t wait to see you!

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:

To sign up to bless our workers with snacks/treats throughout the day, please use the following QR code or link:



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DA5AF22A7EC34-62538505-carmel#/>

Craft Tent: The craft tent is looking for donations of disposal tablecloths (new or used), used gift cards (no monetary value left on them), colored napkins (PLAIN or with fun designs, NO birthday/holiday designs), and yarn. There will be a box by the mailboxes for donations.

We covet your prayers for all those involved in this ministry.

An Assessment of the Life and Ministry of Carmel Ref. Church

A focused assessment is an evaluation of the ministry of a local church. A trained team from Vital Church Ministries is working with us to thoroughly analyze and identify important issues that may help or hinder the life of the church. The team provides the church with an insightful, and reasonably objective look at the issues through the process.

The assessment is implemented through an online survey (**paper surveys** will be available for those who prefer not to do it online – talk to Nikki Van Meeteren or Pastor Gary for a paper copy) that will be conducted from **May 29 – June 14** and will measure data in the following categories: Attendance and Tenure Patterns, Ministry Potential, Quality of Fellowship, Church Leadership, and Biblical Beliefs. There will be **70 multiple choice questions, and three open-ended** questions. It is **important to finish the survey** for its information to be used in the survey results. It will take **30-45 minutes** to complete. A final written report will be delivered to the consistory 4-5 weeks later. A **link for the online survey** will be sent via email in **the middle of next week**. The **paper copy surveys** need to be returned to the **church office by June 7!**

What are the Goals?

1. To provide an objective assessment that reflects the church's current ministry.
2. To provide a map to help the church move forward. This will provide the basis for new visions, plans, and goals to guide the church into the future.
3. To see what God is doing and point His people in that direction.
4. To hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to the church.

Other Benefits of an Assessment

Encouragement – Church leaders, staff, and the cong. **feel like they have been heard.**

Inspiration – An assessment usually results in a renewed vision for what the church should be trying to achieve. Over time, churches tend to shift toward an inward focus.

Guidance – A assessment offers recommendations about how to deal with problems within the church, as well as how to capitalize on strengths.

Information – The information gleaned from the review provides church leaders with an accurate understanding of the church's views on many topics.

Conflict Resolution – Often an assessment identifies the relational discord that's a significant part of congregational life. Dealing with the discord becomes manageable and realistic when it's put in the light for all to see.

The **ultimate goal** of the assessment is to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to the church (Rev. 2-3). John received Jesus' assessment of the seven churches and wrote it down for us all to read in the opening chapters of the book of Revelation. Paul regularly assessed the churches he'd worked with and offered them concrete advice. That advice we now have is in the form of his letters.