

August 2, 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 Hymns: #122 *"Majesty"*
 #123 *"All Hail King Jesus"*
 #124 *"All Hail The Power of Jesus' Name"*

*Invocation

Preparatory for the Lord's Supper

Congregational Prayer

Hymn: #100 *"The Lord's My Shepherd"*
(Offerings for the General Fund & Transportation Fund)
(Please pass the Guest Registers during this time)

Scripture: Psalm 23

Message: **"In the Presence of Your Enemies"**

Prayer

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

*Song: *"Goodness of God"*

*Benediction

*Parting Song: *"Goodness of God"*

Postlude: *Jamie Van Voorst*

*(*please stand if you are able)*

EVENING WORSHIP (6:30)

Prelude: *Jamie Van Voorst*

Welcome

Call to Worship

Worship Hymns: #429 *"The Light of the World is Jesus"*
 #360 *"Wonderful Grace of Jesus"*

Invocation

The Belgic Confession

Congregational Prayer

*Hymn: #388 *"Since I Have Been Redeemed"*

Scripture: John 9:1-12, 12-34

Message: **"A Blind Man Sees"**

*Hymn: #348 *"He Touched Me"*

*Benediction

Postlude: *Jamie Van Voorst*

*(*please stand if you are able)*

*Many churches have designated this first Sunday in August as
Friendship Day. Jesus called his followers "friends". Since we, too,
are friends of Christ, we are also to be friends of one another. So
welcome, friends. Let us enter into the joy of our Master. Please join
us for refreshments after the morning worship service.*

A warm welcome to Pastor Gary Hegstad as he leads our morning
worship service and Pastor Harlan De Jong as he leads our evening
worship service.

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., Rachel V.R., Marcus V.V., Ruthie V.B.

Door Attendant: Cal. **Ushers:** Monty P. (M), Loren P. (NE), Brian R. (SW). **Refreshments:** Jared T., Jerry R. **Audio:** Warren. **Video:** Enrique. **Power Point:** Janice. **After Service Greeters:** Dennis & Leon (M), Hans (NE), Phil (SW).

NEXT SUNDAY, August 9

Nursery Attendants: Jami Sandbulte, Ruth De Jager, Ava Sandbulte, Slayden Sandbulte. **Door Attendant:** Jack Soodsma. **Ushers:** Marlin Sandbulte (M), Cole Steendam (NE), Seth Sandbulte (SW).

Refreshments: Mike Haverhals, Verlyn Van Regenmorter. **Cookies:** Frieda Bartels, Erica Robertson, Colleen Bomgaars, Teresa Sandbulte, Jami Sandbulte. **Children's Message:** Laurie Buyert. **Special Music:** Japanese Handbell Choir. **Special Offering:** Missionary Support.

UPHOLD IN PRAYER

Samuel McAlpine and Addison Van Voorst will be attending camps at Inspiration Hills August 3-7.

Missionary Brian Bruxvoorst is back home in Alaska following his recent surgery.

Sue Dorhout is recovering from shoulder repair surgery.

Ken Altena is recovering from a scope test in his lungs.

Lorna Vander Vliet is recovering from knee replacement surgery.

Ashley Vande Vegte is recovering from surgery.

Ron Dieck has congestive heart failure.

Sue Noteboom for continued healing and nerves regeneration.

Carmel Reformed Church as we look for a Pastor.

Praying for our local congregations: This week please be in prayer for God's blessing for the Peace Lutheran Congregation.

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.

Birthday this week

We celebrate the following birthday this week.

May God bless you in the years ahead.

Annette Sneller – 91st birthday, Wednesday, August 5

Anniversaries this week

We celebrate the following wedding anniversaries this week.

May God bless your marriage in the years ahead.

Mike & Hazel Haverhals – 52nd anniversary, Sunday, August 2
Harold & Lorna Vander Vliet – 64th anniversary,
Thursday, August 6

Pastor Gary will be in the office Wednesday, August 5 from 12:00-3:00 p.m. and Thursday, August 6 from 12:00-3:00 p.m. Please contact him if you would like to set up a meeting outside of office hours.

All Carmel members and regular attendees who will be attending college, graduate school, trade school, or taking online classes this fall, please get your college information to the church office. Please turn in your information (school attending, address and birthdate) even if you live at home or the information is the same as last year. A sheet to fill out can be found on the Coffee Station. You can email your information to the church office at carmelch@mtcnet.net. Please do so by August 23.

If you are a new member or regular attender of Carmel Church and wish to have your children participate in our educational programs, please contact the church office. The Education Programs include Sunday School (Preschool-12th grade), Wednesday Night Activities (Kindergarten-12th grade), GEMS or Cadets (2nd-8th grade), and JR/SR RCYF.

Next Sunday, plan to arrive early and enjoy a special prelude by the Japanese Handbell Choir beginning at 9:00 a.m., just before the morning worship service. The choir will also bless us with a special music selection during the service. We hope you'll join us for this wonderful morning of worship and music!

Hard copies of the August *HIGHLIGHTS* are on the Coffee Station. Articles for the September newsletter are due Sunday, August 23.

Host families are needed to host Japan students in your home Wednesday, August 5-Sunday, August 9. Please contact Janet Renes at 712-722-0327 for more information.

We need 4th grade, 5th grade, and 11-12th grade Sunday School teachers; and Wednesday Night Activities teachers for Kindergarten, 4-6th grade, 9-10 grade, 11-12th grade. If you feel called to be involved, please contact Education Elder Henry Sandbulte.

Diamonds Ministry kickoff will be Tuesday, August 18 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. Our theme for the evening comes from Psalm 34:8 *"Taste and see that the Lord is good"*. We'll spend the evening decorating and tasting charcuterie boards, followed by a fire and worship. Please bring a lawn chair and RSVP to Brynn Van Voorst.

The Search Committee requests prayers for the following:

- Pray for Sam Hamstra's visit August 7–10. Sam is with the Rukes Group, which is assisting us in our search for a pastor.
- Pray for the development of our Pastor Profile for the Rukes Group website during the coming month.
- Pray for wisdom, unity, and God's guidance as we continue the pastoral search process.

Next Search Committee Meeting: August

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." – Proverbs 3:5

"The consistory has received the report from Vital Church Ministries with the results of our spring survey. The consistory has shared this report with the search team and Pastor Sam Hamstra who is working with the search team. The consistory will review this report in the next couple of months and will in time report to you the findings of the survey. Again, thank you to all who participated in the survey."

-The Consistory

GENERAL FUND GIVING: Offering: \$5,158.10

Fiscal YTD General Fund offering: \$240,427.59

“Teeing Up For Tomorrow”

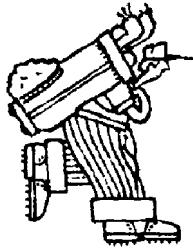
4 Person Best Ball Golf Tournament

Join us for an evening of fun and fellowship with the 4th Annual Golf Outing.

When: August 12

Where: Rock Valley Golf Course

**Time: Check in @ 5:00 p.m.
Start golfing at 5:30 p.m.**



Cost: \$300.00 per team (pay when you sign up your team)

***This includes a meal of BBQ pulled pork and brisket, chips, and pork & beans**

Cart Rental: \$20.00 per cart (payable at the event)

When you sign up please let the church office know if you will need a cart or if you have your own cart to bring!

There will be \$5.00 mulligan tickets available to purchase at the event!

****All proceeds go towards the Building Fund****

Sign Up: Sign up at the Coffee Station or sign up at the church office at 712-722-2733 during office hours.

As we are beginning a new responsive reading series in our evening service, we invite you to read the following introduction to the Belgic Confession.

An Introduction to The Belgic Confession

The oldest of the doctrinal standards of the Alliance of Reformed Church, popularly known as the Belgic Confession. The confession's chief author was Guido de Brès, a preacher of the Reformed churches of the Netherlands, who died a martyr to the faith in the year 1567. During the sixteenth century the churches in this country were exposed to terrible persecution by the Roman Catholic government. To protest against this cruel oppression, and to prove to the persecutors that the adherents of the Reformed faith were not rebels, as was laid to their charge, but law-abiding citizens who professed the true Christian doctrine according to the Holy Scriptures, de Brès prepared this confession in the year 1561.

In the following year a copy was sent to King Philip II, together with an address in which the petitioners declared that they were ready to obey the government in all lawful things, but that they would “offer their backs to stripes, their tongues to knives, their mouths to gags, and their whole bodies to the fire,” rather than deny the truth expressed in this confession. Although the immediate purpose of securing freedom from persecution was not attained, and de Brès himself fell as one of the many thousands who sealed their faith with their lives, his work has endured and will continue to endure.

In its composition the author availed himself to some extent of a confession of the Reformed churches in France, written chiefly by John Calvin, published two years earlier. The work of de Brès, however, is not a mere revision of Calvin's work, but an independent composition. In 1566 the text of this confession was revised at a synod held at Antwerp. In the Netherlands it was at once gladly received by the churches, and it was adopted by national synods held during the last three decades of the sixteenth century. The text, not the contents, was revised again at the Synod of Dort in 1618-19 and adopted as one of the doctrinal standards to which all office bearers in the Reformed churches were required to subscribe. The confession is recognized as one of the best official summaries of Reformed doctrine.