

HIGHLIGHTS

CARMEL REFORMED CHURCH

“Can’t Wait For Sunday”

October 2026

The process of discernment has begun! The church profile is now posted on the web. People are directed to the Rukes Group and consultant Sam Hamstra if they are interested to know more about the Lead Pastor role of Carmel Reformed Church. Some names of potential candidates have been given to Sam.

It is an exciting time of anticipation, but also a time of being patient. When we profess to believe that God calls pastors for certain reasons, and in His time, we must be patient and trust in God’s timing for the discernment process to be completed. Your next Lead Pastor is quite probably someone else’s pastor right now, completing his call where he is at. Our patience demonstrates our respect for that pastor to be faithful to God in completing that call.

As we patiently wait for this discernment process to play out, we continue to seek to be faithful in the calling that Carmel Church has been given. The consistory has considered the results of the Vital Church assessment and has begun to implement ministry that reflects the responses of that assessment. You have now been given a one-page summary of the assessment, and an email has been delivered to you to link to the actual reports. The consistory wants to remind you to feel free to ask Pastor Gary or one of the consistory members any question you might have pertaining to the results of the assessment. While we are looking at implementing ministry based on the assessment now, a more complete analysis of the assessment will wait until your next Lead Pastor joins you.

Our marriage mentor program has begun the training sessions for the mentors. Keep this emerging ministry in your prayers that it may prove fruitful in marriages of our congregation and even possibly in marriages of our regional communities. We are grateful for the couples who have been able to accept their invitation to this ministry.

As October is now here, our annual process of discerning God’s leading for oncoming elders and deacons has begun. Pray for those who will be asked to be nominees. Look ahead and pray throughout this month up to the congregational meeting for clarity and understanding of who God will be calling to join the consistory in January.

So much is in process already in ministry, and more ministry will be emerging as the year continues. Praise God for how He is working in and through the congregation of Carmel Reformed Church!

Pastor Gary



October 4: Nikki Hulstein, Rachel Van Roekel, Charlee Punt, Ruthie Vanden Brink

October 11: Amy McAlpine, Ruth De Jager, Marcus Van Voorst, Slayden Sandbulte

October 18: Jami Sandbulte, Edan Bomgaars, Ava Sandbulte, Brody Van Voorst

October 25: Amy Davelaar, Amber Nettinga, Akenna Sandbulte, Hannah Van Roekel

November 1: Hannah Smolders, Courtney Mesman, Sadie Janisch, Tacey Van Kekerix

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.

October 4-R- Mike Haverhals, Becky Ochsendorf
C- Allison Leusink, Sarah Nibbelink, Cheryl Lange, Fonda Post, Sherri Wolfswinkel

October 11-R- Jami Sandbulte, Aubrey Van Kekerix

C- Mimi Sandbulte, Anita Van Ravenhorst, Cheryl Sandbulte, Rhonda Sandbulte, Gene Sandbulte

October 18-R- Jerry Noteboom, Verlyn Van Regenmorter

C- Alice Remmerde, Lin De Jong, Ronda Leusink, Hazel Haverhals, Donna Renes

October 25-R- Denny De Jong, Chad Robertson
C- Rachel Van Roekel, Sandi Vonk, Gabi Noble, Doree Wolfswinkel, Amy McAlpine

November 1-R- Jerry Renes, Gene Sandbulte

C- Lorna Vander Vliet, Rachel Terpstra, Misty Zwart, Kaye Kuyper, Clarice Van Maanen

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.

October	4 – Wilbur Van Grootheest
October	11 – Barry Van Kekerix
October	18 – Brayton Van Kekerix
October	25 – Kendrick Van Kekerix
November	1 – Scott Van Kekerix

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BAPTISM

On September 20, we celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism with Ava Romero.

On September 27, we celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism with Luke Michael Douma, son of Tanner and Trinity Douma.



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PROFESSION OF FAITH

At the August elder's meeting, it was their joy to receive Kody Noble into the communicant family of Carmel Reformed Church through Profession of Faith.

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TRANSFER

The membership of Chad and Jaci Wynia, has been transferred to the Faith Christian Reformed Church of Sioux Center, IA.

The membership of Karen Stiltz, and baptized children Emelia, Logan, and Asher have been transferred to First Reformed Church of Rock Rapids, IA.

May God bless them in their new church homes.


 Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Jamison Te
 Slaa (Sofia Sandbulte) who were
 united in marriage at Carmel on
 September 19.
 May God bless them with a
 long and happy married life.

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THE LORD'S SUPPER

October 4 is World Communion Sunday and we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. Any shut-ins or those in the nursing homes who would like to partake in communion, please contact an elder.

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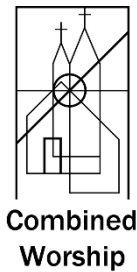
NOMINATION BALLOTS

Nomination ballots for Elders and Deacons are in your mailbox. All communicant members of Carmel are eligible to nominate. Please prayerfully consider this matter and return your completed ballot to box on the Coffee Station by October 4.

If you would like a specific subject on the agenda at our Annual Congregational Meeting in November, please submit your request to a Consistory member before November 9. Only items placed on the agenda are eligible for action by the congregation.

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REFORMATION SUNDAY



**Combined
Worship**

more details.

You are invited to our annual combined Reformation Service on Sunday, October 25 with Middleburg Reformed Church. Our brothers and sisters in Christ at Middleburg look forward to worshipping together and enjoying a fellowship time following the service. Watch the bulletin for

As brothers and sisters in Christ, let us
"worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth"
John 4:23, NIV

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

October is Pastor Appreciation Month – a time to recognize and encourage those who faithfully shepherd our churches. But if you've ever asked a pastor how to show your gratitude, the answer probably isn't a plaque or applause. More often than not, it's simple: "Pray for me".

Even the Apostle Paul didn't ask for much personally, except for the prayers of fellow believers. In his letter to the Romans, he wrote: "Now I urge you, brothers, and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me, that I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints; so that I may come to you in joy by the will of God and relax in your company" (Romans 15:30-32, NASB).

This October-and every month- encourage Pastor Gary by offering your prayers, support, and kind words. Ministry can be demanding, but knowing the church is lifting them up makes all the difference.

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Holiday Schedule

Sunday, October 25, 6:30 p.m. – Reformation Sunday combined with Middleburg.

Wednesday, November 25, 6:30 p.m. – Thanksgiving Eve Service. No Wednesday Night Activities, GEMS, or Cadets.

Sunday, December 20, 6:00 p.m. – Sunday School Christmas Program.

Friday, December 25, 9:30 a.m. – Christmas Morning Service.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



It's that time of year again to start thinking about packing a shoe box for Operation Christmas Child. For 20 years Carmel has been collecting boxes for OCC.

Won't you fill a box this year and bring smiles to the faces of kids-especially those who have never gotten a gift in their life. And even better yet is to be able to share with them the good news of Jesus. At the distribution center each shoebox has a greatest gift Gospel Booklet placed in it. When you donate \$10 with each box you are helping send the gospel to the ends of the earth without leaving home!

Take an ordinary **regular size** shoe box or pick up a red and green GO box (**no oversized boxes**) fill it with toys and other presents, and you have an extraordinary gift for a child in need of joy and hope.

Need ideas of what to put in the box? Pick up a sheet from the table in the Fellowship Hall that has a lot of ideas of what to pack in the box. (Also included is a list of items **NOT** to include).

Carefully read and follow the instructions for packing boxes.

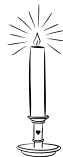
Filled boxes can be brought to the table in the Fellowship Hall any time through November 15. **Remember to include a \$10 donation per box** to cover shipping and help provide the Gospel Booklets for each box.

Let's spread the gospel to lots of children this year!

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WOMEN'S LIFE

Women's Life is having a *GATHER & GLOW* get together at the North Place Barn on Wednesday, October 7 starting at 6:30 p.m.



Join us for a cozy evening filled with good food, candle making, conversation, and connection.

The candles will be a 9 oz clear vessel and cost \$35 per person.

Sign up on their Facebook page.

SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Church Profile is now live, and the Rukes Group has begun receiving candidate recommendations and connecting with pastors they believe may be interested in serving at Carmel Church. Our hope is to begin first-round interviews next month.

As we move into this next stage of the search process, we invite you to join us in prayer:

- Pray for the Search Committee as we develop interview questions and seek wisdom and discernment. May we have eyes to see and ears to hear what the Lord is leading us toward.
- Pray for the candidates who are considering Carmel Church and seeking God's direction for their future.
- Pray that God will continue preparing our future pastor according to His perfect timing and plan.

Thank you for your continued prayers as we enter this new phase of the journey. As anticipation grows, may we all remain patient and trust God's guidance throughout the process.

If you would like to recommend a candidate, please reach out to Tim Gesink or any member of the Search Committee.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, October 14, at 7:00 p.m.



Deacons Corner — OCTOBER

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 need 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.

"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



JUSTICE FOR ALL

JFA is having their Annual Meeting and Auction Thursday, October 8 at Faith Reformed Church in Rock Valley. Every year there is an opportunity to hear about the highlights of the past year, trips and financial report along with a catered meal. After a short meeting, there will be an auction with items donated to help provide support for JFA.

Join us to hear a ministry update and stay for the entertainment!

5:00 p.m. – Annual Meeting
5:30 p.m. – Free Meal Served
6:45 p.m. – Live Auction Begins

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL



LAMP- In Bible times, lamps were small but essential sources of light, especially during the dark hours of night. Scripture often uses the image of a lamp to represent God's guidance, truth and wisdom. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and light to my path," reminding believers that God's Word directs each step of life. Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids also connects the lamp with wisdom and spiritual readiness (Matthew 25:1-13). In addition, the lamp is sometimes used to symbolize the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the gift of life itself. Because of these meanings, the lamp has become a lasting symbol of God's guidance, faithful living and the light of Christ shining in the darkness.



OCTOBER

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|-----|--------------------------|-----|----------------------------|
| 1- | Rowan DeMeester | 17- | Chad Hoekstra |
| 2- | Kade Van Voorst | | The Henry A. Wolfswinkel's |
| 3- | Mrs. Alicia Wolfswinkel | 18- | Mrs. Ramona Vander Weide |
| | Mrs. Kay Koedam | 20- | Mrs. Rachel Van Roekel |
| | Glenn Vander Lugt | 21- | Tyke Van Kekerix |
| | Bob Ver Mulm | | Bryce Robertson |
| 4- | Trinity Douma | | Colin Robertson |
| | Kelly Zinnel | 23- | Zeke Smolders |
| | The Shawn De Wit's | | Hans Smolders |
| | The Tim Maassen's | | Mrs. Deb Vander Weide |
| 5- | Daniel DeMeester IV | 24- | Mrs. Jayden Oostenink |
| | The Bob Janisch's | | Mrs. Stephanie Vande Vegte |
| 6- | Natalynn Van Kekerix | | Harold Van Essen |
| | Ashayla Soodsma | | The Herb Remmerde's |
| 7- | Ainsley Oostenink | 25- | Anna Haverhals |
| | Kyler Bomgaars | | The Jerry Renes' |
| | Mrs. Rachel Terpstra | 26- | Grace Van Roekel |
| | Pete Vonk | | The Brian Rozeboom's |
| 8- | Everlee Nibbelink | 27- | Knox Rozeboom |
| | Mrs. Marcia Vander Weide | 28- | Kavri Van Kekerix |
| | The Ross Hulstein's | | Mrs. Kristi Oostra |
| 9- | Wyatt Rozeboom | | Wayne Te Grotenhuis |
| | Rylee Bomgaars | | The Anthony Rau's |
| | Mrs. Betty Wolfswinkel | 29- | Jack McAlpine |
| 10- | Bowen Punt | | Alli Huizenga |
| 12- | Ben Haverhals | 30- | Thijs Doelman |
| | Gavyn Dibbet | | |
| | Lane Van Kekerix | | |
| | Mrs. Amy Davelaar | | |
| | Mrs. Erica Robertson | | |
| | The Austin Vande Vegte's | | |
| 13- | Mrs. Kristi Van Voorst | | |
| 14- | Mrs. Lynna De Wit | | |
| | Mrs. Erika Van Kekerix | | |
| | Brian Renes | | |
| | The James Vanden Brink's | | |
| 15- | Chris Van Meeteren | | |
| | Dave Dibbet | | |
| | Ron Dieck | | |
| 16- | Gene Sandbulte | | |
| | Mrs. Dorene Hulshof | | |

JUST FOR KIDS



A Family of Prayer

Acts tells us about a man named Cornelius. He was a Roman soldier who worshiped God and prayed with his family. God used Cornelius to help Peter learn an important truth: God welcomes everyone who loves Him and does what is right.

Solve the math problems using the grid. Then use the key to find the letter for each answer. Write each letter on the blank to discover what Cornelius and his family did.

GRID	
A	B
2	4
C	D
6	5

KEY	
a = 7	e = 8
i = 10	o = 9
u = 11	y = 6

"He _____nd _____ll h_____s f_____m _____l _____
A+C A+D A+D B+C A+D B+C A+B

w_____r_____d_____v_____t_____nd
A+C A+C A+C B+D C+D A+D

G_____d-f_____r_____ng; h_____g_____v_____
B+D A+C A+D B+C A+C A+D A+C

g_____n_____r_____sl_____t_____th_____s_____n
A+C A+C B+D C+D A+B B+D B+D A+C B+C

n_____d_____nd pr_____y_____d t_____G_____d
A+C A+C A+D A+D A+B A+C B+D

r_____g_____l_____rl_____." _____cts 10:2, NIV
A+C C+D A+D A+B A+D

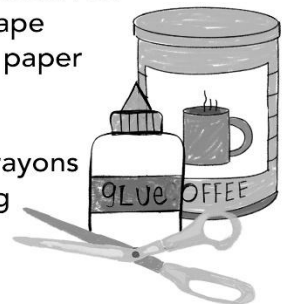
Give Thanks with Music

Music is one way to give thanks to God. Make these simple instruments to accompany your singing!



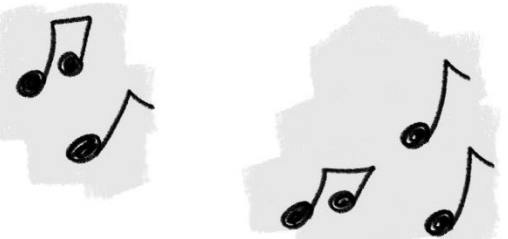
What you need:

- 3 small coffee cans with lids
- 1/2 cup dry pinto beans
- 1/2 cup unpopped popcorn
- 1/2 cup uncooked rice
- Heavy-duty tape
- Construction paper
- Glue
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons for decorating



What you do:

1. Put the beans in one can, the popcorn in another, and the rice in the third.
2. Secure the lids and tape around the rims.
3. Cover the cans with construction paper and glue it in place.
4. Decorate the cans with markers or crayons.
5. Shake the cans to hear the different sounds, then use them to make joyful music for the Lord!



Answers: "He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly." Acts 10:2, NIV