

HIGHLIGHTS

CARMEL REFORMED CHURCH

“Can’t Wait For Sunday”

November 2026

Hello everyone!

We have been hearing political ads for months. There have been so many TV ads that at least one channel will occasionally play a very soothing commercial with the caption that speaks of a “break” from political commercials. Even the 5-10 second reprieve is appreciated!

I think it is safe to say that there is more frustration in our country over politics than at any other time of my life. There have been different political parties throughout our nation’s history. Throughout my life time there basically has been only two parties powerful enough to have a consistent impact of providing leaders. One of the differences I have seen this time that has not been as obvious in previous elections is the role of other world religions being held by candidates.

Our nation celebrates the freedom of religious beliefs and practices. With that being said, religious groups other than Christianity are impacting our elections more than any time that I can recall. Just as we who are Christians seek to have our Christian faith give direction in what we believe and in what we do – including leadership to our city, state and nation - so also the religious beliefs of those who hold to other religious faith are influenced by their beliefs.

As we consider the election that will be held in a few days, be in prayer about your voting. I cannot tell you who you should vote for, but I can remind you, that who we are as Christians, who are seeking to live in the Word of God and to God’s glory, we need to allow God to speak to us and lead us in our participation in the election.

Many people shrug off the thought of voting, excusing themselves with the rationale that their vote will not count “anyway.” But that is incorrect as recent elections have been frequently decided by single digit percentages.

It isn’t political parties that determine my vote, but which candidate statements seem to line up most consistently with who God is calling us as a nation to be.

Be in prayer for our nation throughout the election, and if possible, participate in the election not only with prayer but with your vote as well – as God leads you.

Blessings,
Pastor Gary



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

November 8: Brynn Van Voorst,
Kassidy Robinson, Gaby Prins,
Morgan Terpstra

November 15: Aubrey Van Kekerix, Lexy Van
Ginkel, Karlee Leusink, Addison Van Voorst

November 22: Juliana Van Kekerix, Morgan
Terpstra, Aniya Robertson, Kinlee Wolfswinkel

November 29: Londa Boogerd, Jo Moget, Alydia
Sandbulte, Faithe Van Maanen

December 6: Kristi Van Voorst, Rachel Van
Roekel, Ava Van Roekel, Ruthie Vanden Brink

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.

November 1-R—Jerry Renes, Gene Sandbulte
C—Lorna Vander Vliet, Rachel Terpstra, Misty
Zwart, Kaye Kuyper, Clarice Van Maanen

November 8-R— Jack Soodsma, Jared Terpstra
C— Carmen Maassen, Amy Rozeboom, Frieda
Bartels, Erica Robertson, Colleen Bomgaars

November 15-R— Becky Ochsendorf, Jerry
Noteboom
C— Teresa Sandbulte, Jami Sandbulte, Allison
Leusink, Sarah Nibbelink, Cheryl Lange

November 22-R— Mike Haverhals, Verlyn Van
Regenmorter
C- Fonda Post, Sherri Wolfswinkel, Mimi
Sandbulte, Anita Van Ravenhorst, Cheryl Sandbulte

November 29-R— Jami Sandbulte, Aubrey Van
Kekerix
C— Gene Sandbulte, Rhonda Sandbulte, Alice
Remmerde, Lin De Jong, Ronda Leusink

December 6-R— Denny De Jong, Glenda Van
Meeteren
C— Glenda Van Meeteren, 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.

November	1 – Scott Van Kekerix
November	8 – Harlan Van Maanen
November	15 – Nursery Choir
November	22 – Chris Van Meeteren
November	29 – Glenda Van Meeteren
December	6 – Art Van Ravenhorst

BAPTISM

On October 4, we celebrated the Sacrament
of Baptism with Harper Jimena Noble, daughter of
Kody and Gabriela Noble and
Beverly Elizabeth Pieper, daughter
of Trevor and Jayden Pieper.



On October 11, we celebrated the Sacrament
of Baptism with Wylder Henry Doelman, son of
Thijs and Kaylen Doelman.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

On Sunday, November 15, we will celebrate
the Lord's Supper at our morning worship service.
We will have a time of devotion and communion at
Crown Pointe on Tuesday, December 1.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Our Thanksgiving worship service will be
held on Wednesday evening, November 25, at 6:30
p.m. Pastor Gary Hegstad will lead us in our service
of praise and thanksgiving. Watch the bulletin for a
list of causes you may consider for your
Thanksgiving offering. There will be no Wednesday
Night Activities, GEMS, or cadets.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our annual Congregational Meeting will be held Monday, November 16 at 7:00 p.m. We will be electing two elders and two deacons to serve three-year terms on the Consistory. The yearly financial report will also be presented.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16

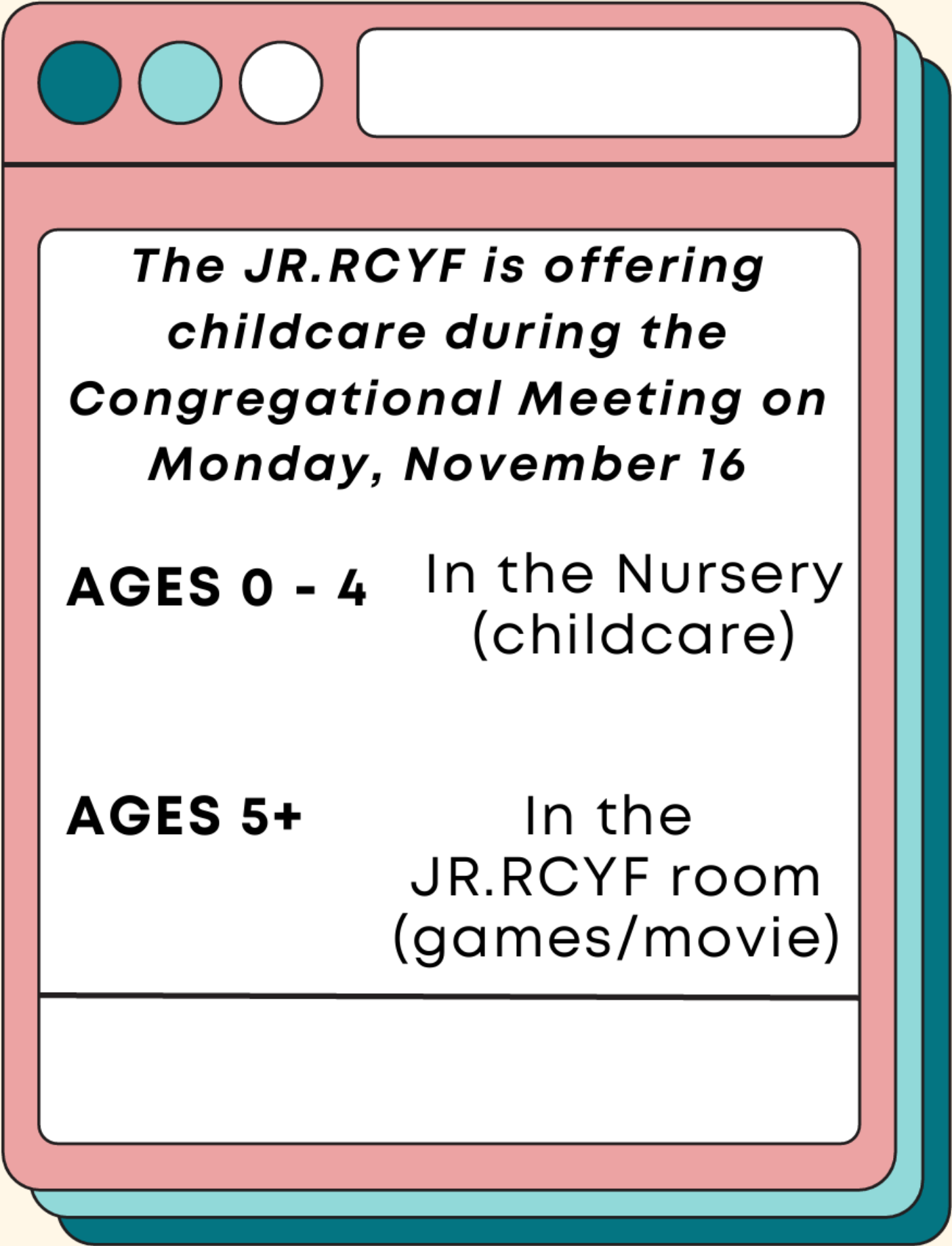
Following the Congregational Meeting

The JR.RCYF will be having an Ice Cream Social, serving ice cream sundaes with ALL of your favorite toppings!

Free Will Donations Appreciated

****Money raised will help us fund our Middle School Retreat and Power Connection next spring & summer**

Thank you for your support of our youth



***The JR.RCYF is offering
childcare during the
Congregational Meeting on
Monday, November 16***

AGES 0 - 4 In the Nursery
(childcare)

AGES 5+ In the
JR.RCYF room
(games/movie)



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.

* * * * *

PIGS-IN-THE-BLANKET

We will be making pigs-in-the-blanket on
Thursday, November 12 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at
Carmel. Then we will package pigs on Saturday,
November 14 starting at 8:00 a.m.

The freezer in the Moses Room will be
stocked with pigs-in-the-blanket by Sunday,
November 1 and those yummy pigs will no doubt
be flying off the shelves.

The pigs are \$15.00/dozen. *****Please DO
NOT take pigs from freezer if they are NOT paid
for.*****

Sign the sheet and place your money in the
box on the counter.

* * * * *



The Sunday School mission
project this year is Hope Haven
Wheelchair Ministry. Since 1994,
Hope Haven International Ministries
has been a global leader in
refurbishing, manufacturing, and distributing
custom-fitted wheelchairs – provided free of
charge- to transform lives of children and adults in
desperate need. Each wheelchair is carefully
selected and tailored to meet the unique needs of the
recipient, ensuring comfort, mobility, and
independence. The second Sunday of each month
the Sunday School offerings goes towards the
mission project. The amount of offering to date is
\$163.75 and our goal is to raise \$2,000.00 by April
2027.

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!

SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee has reviewed several candidates and is planning to conduct a first-round interview with one candidate at our next meeting.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for wisdom and discernment for the Search Committee as we evaluate candidates and seek God's guidance throughout this process.
- Pray for the candidate being interviewed, that the conversation would be open, honest, and productive.
- Pray for patience and clarity as the search continues. An interview is an important 1st step, but it does not necessarily mean the search is coming to an end.
- Pray that God would lead the right person to this opportunity in His perfect timing.

Please note that we are **still receiving and reviewing candidates**. If you would like to recommend a candidate, please reach out to **Tim Gesink** or any member of the Search Committee.

Search Committee Members:

Tim Gesink
Randy Van Der Weide
Janice Luevano
Matt Smolders
Phil Hooyer
Alex Koedam
Adam Nibbelink
Rebecaa Sandbulte-Banks

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

Acts 17 describes Paul speaking about God to the people of Athens in front of — incredibly! — a site that still exists. What is that site?

A. The Panathenaic Stadium
B. The Areopagus
C. The Acropolis and the Parthenon
D. The Temple of Hephaestus



Answer: B (See Acts 17:22.)

CARMEL GEMS



The GEMS theme this year is Wayfinder. What is a “wayfinder”? A “wayfinder” follows Jesus -the Way, Truth and the Life.

This year God blessed Carmel GEMS with 28 girls attending our Wednesday evenings.

Our evenings begin with devotion, singing, prayer, pledges and a video that goes with our lesson. We have Bible study, a craft 1 time a month that is prepared by our craft ladies.



We are excited to put together boxes for OCC! Have you considered putting one together? Carmel GEMS challenges you as a family to put a box together!! You will be making a difference in someone who is less fortunate as we are.

Upcoming dates:

October 28, 2026 – Lesson 2 -The Way it Began

We will be putting OCC boxes together!

November 11, 2026 – Lesson 3 -Going the Wrong Way

December 9, 2026 – Christmas Celebration

Thank you:

- For those who donated something to help pack OCC boxes
- All the prayers for these beautiful girls and the counselors.



Watch the Intro and Lesson One Real Talk videos



bit.ly/GEMSWayfinderRTintro
bit.ly/GEMSWayfinderRT1

Clothed

WOMEN'S OVERNIGHT RETREAT

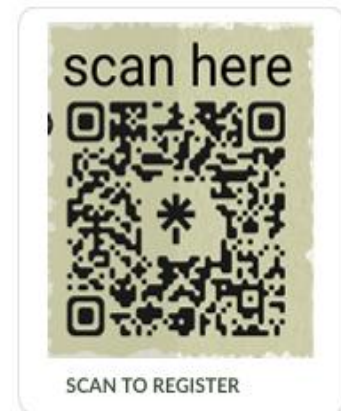
NOVEMBER 20-21, 2026 | CARMEL REFORMED CHURCH

FREE TO ATTEND • ALL WOMEN AGES 18+

Diamonds Ministry invites women to CLOTHED, a weekend to step away from the noise, lay down the labels we carry, and discover our identity in Christ. Inspired by Isaiah 61:10, this retreat will be filled with worship, teaching, prayer, and genuine community.

Join us for worship with the Dordt Worship Team, messages from Rachelle, breakout sessions, small groups, and fellowship. Whether you are in college, married, single, or in another season of life, you are welcome!

Registration is open! Scan the QR code to sign up. We also welcome Carmel members to support the weekend through snacks, food, borrowed quilts, and prayer partnerships. Above all, please pray for the women attending.



PIZZA RANCH

COMMUNITY IMPACT NIGHT

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9 | 4:45-8:00 P.M.

PIZZA RANCH • SIOUX CENTER

Skip cooking supper and come support Diamonds Ministry! Our team will be helping serve at Pizza Ranch in Sioux Center for a Community Impact Night fundraiser.

Bring your family and friends for an evening of food and fellowship. Tips and eligible fundraiser proceeds will help support Diamonds Ministry and our upcoming CLOTHED retreat.

Thank you, Carmel, for your continued encouragement, generosity, and prayers. We are so grateful for our church family!



Deacons Corner — NOVEMBER

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



TEC

Register for a high school experience of a lifetime! Tri-State Teen Encounter Christ (TEC) is accepting applications for the upcoming weekend at the Maurice Reformed Church in Maurice, IA. TEC is an interdenominational three-day Christian retreat designed to help high schoolers learn more about their faith and their community. The next TEC is November 20-22. If you would like to learn more about TEC or register, please visit www.TriStateTEC.org or email TriStateTEC@gmail.com. The cost is \$50.00 and includes a t-shirt and other special gifts. Scholarships are available upon request.

KATELYN'S FUND

We're excited to invite you to join us again this year for our Annual Auction on Friday, November 6 at New Life Reformed Church! It will be an unforgettable night filled with amazing food, fantastic auction items, and even more opportunities to change the lives of children in need.

Doors open at 5:00 p.m. with a meal at 5:30 p.m. then the auction will begin at 6:30 p.m. We've got a great lineup of items, including electronics, home goods, vacation stays, autographed NFL merch, and more!



NOVEMBER

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|--|
| 1- | Clara Smith
Cole Steendam
Mrs. Linda Valentine | 19- | Mrs. Nikki Bomgaars
Scott Kuyper
Russ Vande Vegte
The Brady Hoogendoorn's |
| 2- | Addalee Madsen
Elyse Zwart | 20- | Aniya Robertson |
| 3- | Jayce Van Essen
Easton Van Ginkel
Hannah Van Roekel
The Greg De Wit's | 22- | Jaxon Klein |
| 5- | Mitch Nettinga
Mrs. Ev De Jong | 23- | Kierra Wolfswinkel
The Chad Robertson's |
| 6- | Henry Nibbelink
Waylon Van Ginkel
Tanner Douma | 24- | Mrs. Lori Kleyer
Mrs. Vicki Fischer |
| 7- | Warren Vonk
Eddie Van Der Weide
The John Kleyer's
The Orlin Oostra's | 25- | Derek Vande Zandschulp
The Barry Van Kekerix's |
| 8- | Eric Van Roekel
The Dawson Vonk's | 26- | Ella Zwart
Ross Hulstein
The Enrique Luevano's |
| 9- | Ken Verburg | 27- | The Kendrick Van Kekerix's |
| 10- | The Dave Bohl's | 28- | Archer Vande Vegte
James Hooyer
Jill Sandbulte
Mrs. Twila Renes
Loren Hooyer |
| 11- | Grant Boogerd | 29- | Harper Van Meeteren |
| 12- | Mrs. Tami Ronning | 30- | Mrs. Lindsey Vonk
Steve Rozeboom
Mrs. Sue Sandbulte |
| 13- | Mrs. Kristi Segar | | |
| 14- | The Wilbur Van Grootheest | | |
| 15- | Danny DeMeester
Kinlee Wolfswinkel
Mark Sandbulte | | |
| 16- | Brock Bomgaars
Brianna Fedders
Mrs. Jolene Horstman | | |
| 17- | Mrs. Laura Maassen | | |
| 18- | Sage Bomgaars | | |

JUST FOR KIDS



Counting Our Blessings

Thanksgiving is a great opportunity to “count our blessings.” God blesses each of us daily in so many ways. Solve the following math problems. Then write the words on the numbered lines below to complete Ephesians 1:3, NIV.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 14 - 7 = ____ Father | 10 + 15 = ____ in |
| 10 + 9 = ____ heavenly | 6 - 3 = ____ to |
| 10 + 5 = ____ blessed | 12 - 6 = ____ and |
| 2 - 1 = ____ Praise | 6 + 6 = ____ Christ |
| 7 + 7 = ____ has | 18 - 9 = ____ our |
| 11 + 11 = ____ every | 22 - 11 = ____ Jesus |
| 12 + 12 = ____ blessing | 1 + 1 = ____ be |
| 10 + 10 = ____ realms | 7 + 6 = ____ who |
| 13 + 13 = ____ Christ | 2 + 2 = ____ the |
| 8 + 8 = ____ us | 10 - 5 = ____ God |
| 8 + 9 = ____ in | 4 + 4 = ____ of |
| 5 + 5 = ____ Lord | 9 + 9 = ____ the |
| 10 + 11 = ____ with | 10 + 13 = ____ spiritual |

“ _____

1 2 3 4 5 6

7 8 9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16 17 18

19 20 21 22

23 24 25 26

_____”

Ephesians 1:3, NIV

Answer: “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”

Bread Painting



When you eat this fun snack, be thankful for Jesus, who is our Bread of Life.

What you need:

- Small cups
- Milk
- Food coloring
- Clean, food-safe brush
- Slice of bread
- Toaster or toaster oven
- Butter, optional



What you do:

1. Set out one small cup for each color you want to use.
2. Pour 1 to 2 tablespoons of milk into each cup.
3. Add a few drops of food coloring to each cup and stir until the color is bright.
4. Using a clean, food-safe brush, gently paint a picture or design on the bread. Be careful not to soak the bread.
5. When you're finished painting, toast the bread. Add a little butter, if desired, and enjoy!



Reminder:

Ask an adult for help when using a toaster or toaster oven.

“I am the bread of life.”
John 6:35, NIV