November 29, 2026
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

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

MORNING WORSHIP (9:30)

Prelude: *Amanda Van De Berg*

Welcome

Call to Worship

*Christian Greeting

*Worship Hymns: **#157** *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Savior"*
#163 *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

Invocation

Children's Message: *Allison Leusink*

Congregational Prayer

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Hymn: **#170** *"Once In David's Royal City"*
(Offerings for the General Fund & Cemetery Fund)
(Please pass the Guest Registers during this time)

Scripture: Psalm 24

Message: **"King of Glory"**

Prayer

*Hymn: **#278** *"Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending"*

*Benediction

*Parting Hymn: **#165** *"Emmanuel"*

Postlude: *Amanda Van De Berg*

*(*please stand if you are able)*

EVENING WORSHIP (6:30)

Prelude: *Amanda Van De Berg*

Welcome

Call to Worship

Worship Hymns: **#174** *"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"*
#180 *"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"*

Invocation

The Belgic Confession

Congregational Prayer

*Hymn: **#186** *"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"*

Scripture: Luke 2:1-21

Message: **"Hope"**

*Hymn: **#181** *"Go, Tell It On The Mountain"*

*Benediction

Postlude: *Amanda Van De Berg*

*(*please stand if you are able)*

Today is the First Sunday of Advent. We begin now to prepare spiritually for the blessed event we call Christmas. Let us vow to take part in as many church activities as possible. Let us engage in sincere worship and vow to walk daily with God. A warm welcome to each of you! Please join us for refreshments after the morning worship service.

A warm welcome to Verlyn Raak as he leads our morning service and Chris as he leads our evening 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: Londa B., Jo M., Alydia S., Faithe V.M. **Door Attendant:** Wayne. **Ushers:** Todd N. (M), Brian R. (NE), Loren P. (SW). **Refreshments:** Jami S, Aubrey V.K., **Audio:** Riley. **Video:** Laura. **Power Point:** Jami. **After Service Greeters:** Hans & Henry (M), Dennis (NE), Brian (SW).

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, December 1

6:30 p.m. **– Communion at Crown Pointe**
Diamonds Ministry

Wednesday, December 2

6:15 p.m. **– Sunday School Christmas Program Practice**

6:30 p.m**. – Women's Life Christmas Bunco**
Meet at The North Place bring a snack to share!

7:00-7:45 p.m. **– Wednesday Night Activities for all grades**

NEXT SUNDAY, December 6

Nursery Attendants: Kristi Van Voorst, Rachel Van Roekel, Ava Van Roekel, Ruthie Vanden Brink. **Door Attendant:** Larry Wolfswinkel. **Ushers:** Brad Beukelman (M), Luke Haan (NE), Cole Steendam (SW). **Refreshments:** Denny De Jong, Glenda Van Meeteren. **Cookies:** Glenda Van Meeteren, Hazel Haverhals, Donna Renes, Rachel Van Roekel, Doree Wolfswinkel. **Music:** Art Van Ravenhorst. **Special Offering:** Hope Haven.

UPHOLD IN PRAYER

Brian and Donna Renes are leading a workshop in Cambodia. They return December 6.
Zane White is in the hospital with pneumonia.
Arlyn Keizer is recovering from eye surgery.
Stan Prins is recovering from gallbladder surgery.
Mary Ann Zinnel is recovering from foot surgery.
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 Whispers of Love, Hope & Joy Congregation and Pastor Deb Rensink.

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.

Marcella Langstraat – 94th birthday, Thursday, December 3

"Thank you to everyone who helped with Pigs-In-The-Blanket this year! We truly couldn't get them all done without our wonderful volunteers. A special thank you to Barb Punt for leading this for the past 14 years and for showing me the ropes as I take it on. Her time and dedication are so appreciated! If anyone is interested in joining me as a co-helper, I would love to have you!"

-Rebecca Sandbulte-Banks

Pastor Gary will be in the office Wednesday, December 2 and Thursday, December 3 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Please contact him if you would like to set up a meeting outside of office hours.

Carmel Women's Life is inviting all women to their Christmas Bunco night on Wednesday, December 2 starting at 6:30 p.m. at The North Place. Please bring a snack or appetizer to share! Sign up at the Coffee Station or the church office by Monday, November 30!



Any youth (preschool-high school) that would be interested in sharing their musical talents, whether it be playing an instrument, piano, singing, etc. during the prelude of the children's Christmas program, please contact Brooke Byker.

We are looking for VBS directors for next year. If you are interested, please contact Henry Sandbulte.

Hard copies of the December *HIGHLIGHTS* are on the Coffee Station.

At our Annual Congregational Meeting on November 16, the following were elected to serve on the consistory. Elders: *Scott Van Kekerix and Verlyn Van Regenmorter*; Deacons: *Brad Beukelman and Marlin Sandbulte.* If there is any scriptural reason why these men should not serve, please contact one of the elders. Installation will be on Sunday, January 10.

At our Annual Congregational Meeting, the congregation voted 119-11 in favor of moving forward with exploring the possibility of engaging an architect for our building project. Thank you to everyone who participated in this important vote and for your continued interest, support, and commitment to the future of our church!

There will be no evening service on Sunday, December 27 or Sunday, January 3.

GENERAL FUND GIVING: Offering: $7,057.31
Fiscal YTD General Fund offering: $28,0004.81

We're looking for more nursery volunteers – adults and students! Students must be in 4th grade or older. We're currently on an 8–9-week rotation and would like to extend it, giving volunteers more time between scheduled weeks. Contact Morgan Hoekstra if you or your child would like to be added to the rotation. Additionally, if you're interested in helping with or taking over nursery scheduling, please reach out.

GEMS Christmas Giving Project

This Christmas season, our GEMS girls are leading a special collection to bless a few families within our church community, and we'd love for our entire congregation to join us! We will be collecting donations **now through December 9**. Suggested items include ***shelf-stable groceries, snacks, paper products, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, toiletries, personal-care items, and grocery or gas gift cards.***

Donations can be dropped off in the church library anytime through December 9. Or you can give them to Becky Ochsendorf, Kris Van Voorst, or Kristi Segar.

Our hope is not only to provide some practical support for these families, but also to give our GEMS girls an opportunity to see our church family come together in generosity and care for one another.

Thank you for partnering with our GEMS girls to bless others this Christmas season!

PIGS-IN-THE-BLANKET

Pigs-in-the-blanket are available in the freezer in the Moses Room. They are **$15 per dozen.** Sign the sheet on the counter and put your money in the box.

Please do NOT take pigs unless they are paid for.

The Search Committee continues to review candidates and is thankful for the progress being made. We have a second interview scheduled for December 9 with one candidate and are planning a first interview with another candidate in January.

Please continue to pray for:

- Wisdom and discernment for the Search Committee.
- God's clear direction in leading us to the pastor He has prepared for our congregation.
- Wisdom, peace, and clarity for the candidates and their families.
- Unity and patience within our congregation.
- Trust in God's perfect timing throughout this process.

Thank you to everyone for your continued prayers, kind messages, and encouragement. If you would like to recommend someone for consideration, please contact Tim Gesink or any member of the Search Committee. Our next meetings are December 9 and January 6.

Thank you, Carmel Church Family!

On behalf of Diamonds Women's Ministry, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you for your continued prayers, encouragement, and financial support, especially for our recent CLOTHED retreat!

Because of your generosity, 45 young women, 10 leaders, and 10 adult speakers were able to be part of this incredible weekend at no cost to attendees.

Throughout the weekend, God reminded us that we no longer have to hide behind our shame or carry the weight of our past. Through Christ, we are clothed in righteousness, made new, and called to live as His chosen, holy, and dearly loved daughters.

It was a beautiful weekend filled with worship, vulnerability, prayer, fellowship, and the life-changing truth of the Gospel.

Thank you for investing in the next generation of women and partnering with us in what God is doing through Diamonds. What a privilege it is to serve the Lord alongside such a supportive church family!

To God be all the glory!

With love and gratitude,
The Diamonds Leadership Team