



# KARMEL NEWS

OCTOBER 2025

## From the Desk of Pastor Jason

BRING YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS FOR OUR **FREE** FESTIVITIES INCLUDING:

- VENDOR FAIR
- KIDS BARREL RIDES
- INFLATABLES
- OUR FAMOUS APPLE CANNON
- CORN PIT
- PULLED PORK MEAL
- CAR & TRACTOR SHOW
- KIDS FACE PAINTING



NEW FOR 2025 - BLUEGRASS  
MUSIC FROM THE NORSKY  
BROTHERS OF  
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

*All day fun for all  
ages here at  
Karmel Cov!*



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Greetings friends,

*"Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him." – Psalm 34:8*

Fall is upon us, and that means it's time for one of Karmel Covenant Church's most beloved traditions – **Karmel Apple Fest!** For eighteen wonderful years, this event has been a cornerstone of our church's outreach to our community, and this year promises to be sweeter than ever.

Mark your calendars for **October 11** from **11:00 AM to 4:00 PM** as we open our doors wide to welcome neighbors, friends, and families for an afternoon packed with joy, laughter, and delicious food. This isn't just another church event – it's our opportunity to live out Christ's command to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31) in the most practical and delightful way possible.

The aroma of smoked pulled pork will fill the air, accompanied by the irresistible sweetness of homemade apple crisp and apple pie will be some of the food that is offered. These aren't just meals – they're expressions of hospitality that echo the biblical tradition of sharing bread and building relationships around the table.

Adding to our festive atmosphere, the talented **Norsky Brothers** will provide live music throughout the day, creating the perfect soundtrack for fellowship and fun.

Our little ones (and young at heart!) will have plenty of activities to keep them busy: bouncing inflatables, rides on our barrel train, the excitement of our apple cannon, diving into our corn pit, and kids face painting. The generous **Veurink family** will once again provide the carriage rides, giving families a chance to slow down and enjoy each other's company.

Don't forget to explore our vendor fair, where local craftspeople and businesses showcase their talents and merchandise – a wonderful way to support our broader community. This year holds special significance as we also celebrate **Karmel Covenant Church's 140th anniversary!** Be sure to visit our commemorative table where you can explore our rich history, view historical photographs and artifacts, and celebrate God's faithfulness to our church family across nearly a century and a half of ministry.

As followers of Christ, we're called to be "salt and light" in our world (Matthew 5:13-14). The Apple Festival is one of our most powerful ways to shine that light brightly. **Here's how you can participate:**

**ATTEND:** Your presence matters. Come enjoy the festivities and be part of creating a welcoming atmosphere for our guests.

**SERVE:** Many hands make light work! We need volunteers for setup, food service, activity stations, and cleanup. Sign up in the church foyer or contact the church office. Remember, "whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant" (Matthew 20:26).

**INVITE:** This is perhaps the most important way you can contribute. The Apple Fest removes barriers and creates natural opportunities for spiritual conversations. Invite your neighbors, coworkers, friends, and family members. Sometimes a simple invitation to a fun community event opens doors that formal evangelism cannot.

While we'll have a wonderful time together, let's remember that this event serves a greater purpose. It's our chance to demonstrate God's love in action, to build bridges in our community, and to plant seeds that may grow into eternal relationships. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9).

The Apple Festival embodies our church's heart for community engagement and reflects God's generous nature. Just as He provides the autumn harvest, we have the privilege of sharing His abundance with others.

For eighteen years, the Karmel Apple Fest has been more than entertainment – it's been ministry. Friendships have been formed, needs have been met, and hearts have been opened to the Gospel. This year, let's make it our most impactful yet.

Come hungry, come ready to serve, and come expecting God to work through this sweet celebration of community, harvest, and His faithful provision.

*"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching." – Hebrews 10:24-25*

Peace,  
Pastor Jason

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please contact the church office at (763) 389-3169 or email us at office@karmelcov.org

*Our mission:*  
The mission of Karmel Covenant Church is to love God, serve others, and make Jesus followers.  
*Matthew 22:36-40; 28:19-20 2:42-47*

## Church Facility Use

There is a calendar request form on our church website. Please use it to submit a request for church facility use, If you have difficulty, please contact Cindy in the office.

## Leadership Team Highlights

At our most recent Leadership Team meeting, we heard an update on the Sound Booth equipment replaced due to the July lightning strike damage. We are also working with Ministry Teams to ensure there are job descriptions for each ministry position. We have begun the process of updating our database (Amplify) for improved communication and discipleship. Hopefully you stopped by the table in the narthex during one of the September services to verify the accuracy of your family's contact information. Phone calls will be made to those we missed. Expanded ministry offerings are also underway in Community Faith Nursing, Visitation, and the Funeral Ministry to best meet the needs of our Karmel family. Sunday School, AWANA, and Youth Group have all started back up for the school year. As our ministries become more active, please use the website calendar Event Request Form to avoid scheduling conflicts. In addition to restarting our Wednesday night programs, we have also transitioned to the new adult Sunday School format, and our Worship Service now begins at 10:30. To improve the safety of everyone on Sunday mornings, the front doors will be locked once the service starts. Someone will be in the narthex to open the door for anyone who arrives after the service begins. There will also soon be a changing table installed in one of the hallway bathrooms for the convenience of parents with little ones. If you have feedback on any of these changes, please reach out to anyone on the Leadership Team. We are excited about better meeting the needs of Karmel as we all strive to Love God, Serve Others, and Make Jesus Followers!

## Awana Family Meals

As part of our Awana program, Karmel volunteers serve a family fellowship meal each Wednesday from 5:30-6:15pm. While everyone is welcome, it is especially helpful for busy families who have children in the Awana program. It's a chance for everyone to share a meal with their family and friends before the evening starts. It's an extra special bonus that it's a meal on a busy night that parents don't have to prepare!! To help continue with this beloved tradition, the Fellowship team is looking for volunteers to cook and serve these weekly meals. If you have considered doing this but aren't sure you're comfortable doing it alone, ask a friend (or two) to do it with you. It's half as "scary" and twice as FUN!!! Plus, we now have a handbook at the church that includes instructions, helpful tips and even easy meal ideas and recipes. We've also increased the reimbursement budget to make it even easier! If you'd like to help cook and serve a meal, please use the QR code below to access the SignUp form - or contact Shannan Sabby by phone/text at 763-567-0711.



## Youth Group

Here's the thing about football fans (real ones) – they're consistent.

Specifically, there is consistency between their love for the team throughout life and in the rituals they practice on game day.

There are lots of rituals to participate in. If you're a Vikings fan, for example, there is the Gjallarhorn and SKOL chants (the call to worship, if you will). There are jerseys and other symbols to be worn (the vestments). There are even certain moments when it is appropriate to clap, sing, stand up, sit down, and raise your hands! I could go on.

But these rituals are not empty. They are loaded with meaning, all practiced by the fan who passionately loves their team, even when they disappoint and dash the hopes yet again. And yet, disloyalty is never on the table. You won't see this Vikings fan don a cheese-wedge hat anytime soon!

Contrast this with the people of Israel, circa 750 BC. Sure, they had their rituals for worshipping the Lord. They had sacrifices, festivals, methods of worship, and an ordained priesthood to implement all of it. And they did many of these things, thinking that this would make the Lord happy with them.

But God saw past these external behaviors. He saw their hearts. He also saw their lives outside of their times of worship. There was much evil and injustice in Israel, especially among its leadership. They oppressed the poor, perverted justice, and committed violence. So God sent Hosea, his prophet, to deliver this message (Hos. 6:6) -

For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,  
the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

Their rituals were empty because they did not truly know and love God. If they did, they would have known that he hates injustice and does not tolerate it. In fact, he acts in judgment against it. And as good as their rituals were (there's nothing inherently wrong with rituals), their everyday lives revealed that they did not have a real relationship with him.

Knowing God means living his way. Not living his way reveals a lack of true, personal knowledge of God. We cannot divorce our church worship from our everyday lives. If we love God, our whole lives must be a testament to this fact.

This was part of our challenge to our students as we kicked off youth group this year. First, don't just go through the motions when you come to church. Be intentional about why you are here. And second, be consistent in your love for God. In church, outside church, and everywhere you go.

May we all know and love God. Truly, deeply, and in all of life.

Blessings,

Pastor Kohl Hanson

# Karmel Covenant Church History 140th Year



During the apple fest (October 11th from 11 am to 4 pm) , Lee and I (Bonnie) will have a display cabinet with things of interest from the past you will be interested in looking at. We will have a table that has several history books that record membership, confirmation, baptisms, funerals and burials at Karmel and history of Karmel. This is our 140th year so we have a lot of history. I will be at the table to answer questions.

We also would like information on the ball teams. Lee Olson was honored this year. If you have any interesting facts about

the past teams, and churches that had teams, please write them down and either send them to the Karmel office ([office@karmelcov.org](mailto:office@karmelcov.org)) or bring them with so we can start a history book of softball.

## Women's Bible Study

Starting Monday Morning

Sept. 29 at 10:00 am.

The Bible Study is a

Stonecroft Bible Study called

"Loving Your Neighbors".

Books are available for \$7.00.

Any questions contact

Bonnie Anderson at 763-389-3547.

All women of any age are invited,

especially those who do not

like to drive at night.

## Lake Beauty Update

### Upcoming events are:

Fall Youth Retreat Oct 17-19

Fall Quilt and Craft Retreats

Session 1: Nov 6-10

Session 2: Nov 13-17

Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner Dec 6

Young Adult Retreat Dec 31-Jan 2

If you have any questions about things

offered at Lake Beauty

get ahold of Tom or Kelly Filzen.

### Leadership Team Members

Steve Haverinen (Chair), Lee Olson (Vice-chair)

Betsy Standlee (Secretary),

Dwight Tonn (Financial Officer)

Steve Anderson, Cheryl Benson, Jim Olson,

Pastor Jason Hovis, and Pastor Kohl Hanson

### Ministry Team Leaders

Discipleship - Pastor Jason and Pastor Kohl

Outreach - Glenda Haverinen

Hospitality - Sandy Connell

Congregational Care - Cheryl Benson

Fellowship - Dawn Swedeen & Shannan Sabby

Properties - Jim Olson and Tom Filzen

### Women Ministries

## Barrel Ministry

Each month we choose an organization, charity or group that we are asking our church family to donate to:

### OCTOBER

#### Safe Haven Foster Shoppe



Most children enter into a foster home with nothing more than the clothes on their backs. This is a chance to change that and give them something to call their own.

Safe Haven Foster Shoppe provides children who are being placed into foster care with a placement bag of their own containing essential items. The bags are age, gender and size specific. We are collecting items to fill their standard placement bags for Ages 3-10. All items must be new with tags.

- Large backpack or duffel bag
- Pajamas, Outfits, Socks, Underwear
- Blankets and Stuffed Animals
- Toothbrushes, Toothpaste
- Body Wash and Deodorant
- Shampoo, Conditioner
- Hair Brushes and Combs
- Books, Flashlights, Night Lights
- Hats, Gloves, Mittens, Swimwear



Food donations can be dropped off in the hallway by the Sunday School office.

## October



### Birthdays

- 2 Aimie Koppendrayner
- 3 Nate Filzen
- 3 Michael Sabby
- 3 Cindy Swanson
- 5 Danyon Sommers
- 5 Ryan Thompson
- 6 Jody Marx
- 6 Levi Stewart
- 7 Beverly Pollema
- 8 George Duvall
- 11 Joyce Spicer
- 13 Chris Benson
- 13 Teresa Schoenwald
- 14 Dwight Tonn
- 16 Marissa Grabow
- 18 Colleen Anderson
- 18 Bev Griswold
- 22 Steve Haverinen
- 23 Cheryl Benson
- 24 Elessar Hanson
- 25 Heidi Sommers
- 27 Dawn Swedeen
- 27 Albert Wicklund
- 28 Carl Anderson
- 30 Cami Hawley

### Anniversaries

- 1 Michael & Shannan Sabby
- 1 Moriah & Josi Wood
- 6 Jon & Deb Marlton
- 17 Phil & Janell Olson
- 25 Ben & Hannah Stewart

### Pray Daily For:



**MaCinzey Maas**  
(US Army)

**Elisha Miller**  
(Army National Guard)

**Jenna Olson**  
(Southeast Asia)

**Seth Olson**  
(Army National Guard)

**Arti, Jemima & Letisia**  
(Congo Kids)

### October

- 1 Cindy Swanson
- 2 Bo Connell
- 3 Abby Standlee
- 4 JoAnn Swedeen
- 5 Greg Browen
- 6 Kellen Lenzen
- 7 Tracy Perry
- 8 Bryan Klaes
- 9 Josie Kulkey
- 10 Annika Hawley
- 11 John Foster
- 12 Nate Filzen
- 13 Lynette Gageby
- 14 Kevin Kulkey
- 15 Nora Hovis
- 16 Katie Anderson
- 17 Brad Lenzen
- 18 Peyton Browen
- 19 Josie Wood
- 20 George Duvall
- 21 Rachel Mosher
- 22 Dawn Swedeen
- 23 Jordan Grabow
- 24 Devin Perry
- 25 Loie Mashuga
- 26 Marv Eppard
- 27 Elsa Sommers
- 28 Linda Hass
- 29 Brandon Gageby
- 30 Eddie Barthel

# CELEBRATING OUR PASTORS & THEIR FAMILIES

October is Pastor Appreciation Month  
Celebrate with us on Sunday, October 26

Our pastors work tirelessly every day throughout the year and October has been set aside as Pastor Appreciation Month. We hope you will join us in honoring and blessing our pastors and their families.

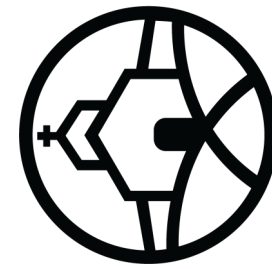
Pastors Jason and Kohl,

We are deeply blessed by you and your families. Your leadership and the love you show through your service are gifts to our church. Thank you for being our shepherds—for the countless hours spent praying, counseling, and guiding us closer to God. Your love for this church family and our community does not go unnoticed.

Thank you for boldly preaching and teaching God's Word. Your words bring hope, and your actions bring love. Your wisdom has made a lasting impact in our lives. Thank you for answering God's call. Please know that your work in His kingdom is not in vain - we see it, and we are eternally grateful.

Jackie, Emily, Audrey, Will, Isabel, Nora, Elessar and Valinor,

We love you all so much! Thank you for the many ways you pour out love and serve our Karmel Family. From the unseen, quiet acts of ministry to the visible, impactful ones—your dedication is a blessing. Thank you for allowing God to work in and through you. You are cherished and appreciated more than words can express.



# Karmel Covenant Church October 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Church Facility Use</b> There is a calendar request form on our church website. Please use it to submit a request for church facility use, if you have difficulty, please contact Cindy in the office.			7 5:30 pm - Family Meal 6:30 pm - AWANA - Bring a Guest 6:30 pm - Youth Group	2 5:30 pm Adult Pickleball	3 5:30 pm Adult Pickleball	4 11 am-4 pm Karmel Apple Fest
5 9:00 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship Communion	6 10:00 am - Men's Bible Study 10:00 am - Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm - Financial Peace	7 5:00 pm Women's Pickleball 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study 7 pm - Warped	8 5:30 pm - Family Meal 6:30 pm - AWANA 6:30 pm - Youth Group	9 5:30 pm Adult Pickleball	10 5:30 pm Adult Pickleball	11 11 am-4 pm Karmel Apple Fest
12 9:00 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship	13 10:00 am - Men's Bible Study 10:00 am - Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm - Financial Peace	14 5:00 pm Women's Pickleball 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study 7 pm - Warped	15 No AWANA or Youth Group	16 5:30 pm Adult Pickleball	17 5:30 pm Adult Pickleball	18 11 am-4 pm Karmel Apple Fest
19 9:00 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship	20 10:00 am - Men's Bible Study 10:00 am - Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm - Financial Peace	21 5:00 pm Women's Pickleball 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study 7 pm - Warped	22 5:30 pm - Family Meal 6:30 pm - AWANA 6:30 pm - Youth Group <b>Newsletter Items Due!</b>	23 5:30 pm Adult Pickleball	24 5:30 pm Adult Pickleball	25 11 am-4 pm Karmel Apple Fest
26 9:00 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship Pastor Appreciation Quarterly Meeting	27 10:00 am - Men's Bible Study 10:00 am - Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm - Financial Peace	28 5:00 pm Women's Pickleball 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study 7 pm - Warped	29 5:30 pm - Family Meal 6:30 pm - AWANA 6:30 pm - Youth Group	30 5:30 pm Adult Pickleball	31 5:30 pm Adult Pickleball	If any information needs correcting, please let me know! Thank you! Cindy