

**January 10, 2021**

**Welcome to worship at LaGrave.** It is our hope and prayer that you will receive a deep spiritual blessing as we listen to and praise our Lord. The sanctuary and the chapel are equipped with T-coil loop systems.

**Preparing for Worship: Next Sunday morning,** we continue our Growing Deeper Series based on the Sermon on the Mount. Reverend Jonker will preach on Matthew 5:27-30 and his sermon will focus on Jesus' challenging words about Lust. **Next Sunday evening** will be our first in almost a year! Reverend Jonker will preach and he will focus on Matthew 17:14-21. His sermon is called Healing and Prayer. It will wrestle with the startling promise in verse 20.

### **CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

**With gratitude to God and to the LaGrave congregation,** the Finance Committee and Council are pleased to report that we have ended the 2020 year in a very good positive financial position. Your faithful giving throughout this challenging year and additional year-end gifts resulted in meeting all our expenses and maintaining our General Fund reserve at above 15%. Thanks be to God!

**From the Art Committee:** Members attending the church service at 11:00 AM are welcome to take home a poinsettia after the service. Please feel free to take more than one!

**2s & 3s and Children's Worship will meet** during both of our services this morning. **Church School classes will NOT meet** today between the services. We hope to resume our Church School classes soon.

**CREW (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders):** We plan to meet outdoors **today**. Because our activity is weather dependent, look for a text with all the details.

**GEMS Girls' Club activities:** Thanks to all of you GEMS families who joined us for our impromptu sledding party last Wednesday. This Wednesday will be another outdoor event. Please watch your emails and texts for fun details as we take this one week at a time for now.

**OPPORTUNITY:** As we begin 2021, we invite you to join in praying for and connecting with our high school students. As part of our "Growing Young" efforts, we are looking for 50 persons to join our Caring Adult Team designed to help LaGrave "Grow Young." Please contact Pastor Bob for more information or to volunteer.

**Flowers:** We are grateful to every one of you who brought praise to God in our worship services by donating beautiful flowers in memory or in honor of your loved ones. Once again, there is a new sign-up poster on the kiosk in the narthex for the New Year. Sign up now for a special date or sign up any time during the year. You may use one of the forms near the poster.

**In this age of Covid, the Fellowship Committee** was seeking ways in which LaGrave members could stay connected under our socially distant circumstances. In lieu of face to face, there are many other means in which we can still practice fellowship – phone calls, emails, texting, FaceTime, Zoom, cards, letters, care packages – but in each of these, they require intentional action as opposed to casually bumping into each other in the MPR or Fellowship Hall. To spark this activity in each other, the Fellowship Committee is spearheading a new initiative launching in the New Year called **Branches**.

*John 15:5, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."*

**Branches** is about sustaining connections with familiar faces, nurturing relationships with casual acquaintances and spawning brand new fellowship with unknown church members. After celebrating the Advent Season, we'll look forward to a fresh start in 2021 in which we hope to enjoy new, renewed and strengthened bonds with our extended LaGrave family members. More details to come. LaGrave Fellowship Committee

**In the event of severe weather** and church services, events, or activities are cancelled, you will receive a text message and an email message if we have your information in Elexio. We will also put an announcement on the TV stations (WOODTV and WZZM) and it will be posted on the website. The easiest and quickest way to know will be through the text and email messages that come from Elexio, so if the church office doesn't have your cell phone number or email address please contact the office or you can put that information into Elexio yourself.

### **Pastoral Care Corner**

*The Pastoral Care Committee wants to encourage the LaGrave family to stay connected and emotionally healthy during this time of being apart. In this space, we'll post ideas to promote connection and health.*

Our partners at Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services recommended that during a time of increased stress, we should seek out good listeners. Talking helps. Positive social support that encourages, as well as provides feedback, is helpful. Intentionally, seek out those who will speak truth with you and set necessary boundaries with those who will not. Whereas social distancing limits options for these conversations, use technology to stay in touch.

**Dear Friends at LaGrave:** During this Advent season, we are especially grateful for your partnership. Your faithful prayer and financial support of the Pregnancy Resource Center makes a life-saving difference (both physically and eternally) in our community. We can't do this work without you! Thank you for helping us change the future...one life at a time. Your friends at **Pregnancy Resource Center**.

### **Notes of Thanks:**

- Many thanks to you for all the cards, prayers, calls, and attentive care from the Pastors during my heart episode and continued recovery. **Jim Balk**
- We would like to thank the members of LaGrave for the many cards and expressions of sympathy and concern that we have received upon the deaths of our loved ones to Covid and Ken's diagnosis of ALS. We are also appreciative of phone calls from the pastoral staff, our elder, and others; and for the prayer shawl that was delivered. We have been very blessed by your care for us and your prayers. **Ken & Marianne Gritter**
- Thanks so very much for the lovely poinsettia plant, the many special Christmas cards and notes in the GEMS decorated bag, your thoughtful birthday cards, notes and phone calls, and, most of all, for your prayers! What a blessing to be a part of the family of God at LaGrave. **Lois Ritzema**

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### Congratulations to:

- **Ruth Jansen**, who will celebrate her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday on Friday, January 15.
- **Joyce Pettinga**, who will celebrate her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on Friday, January 15.

### Let us faithfully pray for:

- **Sandra Destrempes**, who is recovering at home after being hospitalized last week.
- **Marvin DeWinter**, whose health has been declining and is now on Hospice care at home.
- **Blake Huizenga**, who has enlisted in the Marine Corps and will be sworn in and shipped out to boot camp tomorrow. Please remember Blake (and his family as they will have minimal contact with him while he is at boot camp) with notes of encouragement and your prayers as he begins this new journey.
- **Riley Swinehart**, who lost vision in his right eye three weeks ago. He has now been diagnosed with decreasing vision in his left eye. Pray for comfort and healing.

### We extend our Christian sympathy to:

- **Cornelius Hegewald, Sarah & Jim Breuker and Heidi & Jack VanSledright** and families, in the passing away of wife and mother, **Shirley Hegewald** on Sunday, January 3. A private service was held at LaGrave on Wednesday, January 6, with Rev. Jonker officiating.
- **Dan & Linda Slotsema**, in the death of Dan's sister, Kathy Spoelman, on December 30. A service took place on Saturday, January 2.
- **Barbara Stoutmeyer** and family in the passing away of her husband, **Garrett Stoutmeyer** on Tuesday, January 5. A private family service was held.

### Please pray for those with continuing needs:

Norman Bouma, Sandy Buter, Cloe Ann Danford, Sandy Destrempes, Katherine Doezema, Roger Dekker, Lois Dykstra, Rob Entingh, Mary Granstra, Shirley Grassmidt, Kathy Krager, Ken Gritter, Sherri Kanten, Marv Klyn, Sheryl

Maliepaard, Eve Meeter, Hattie Patterson, Tom Penning, Addie Post (granddaughter of Roger & Phyllis Post), Rich Postma, Gerri Tiggelman, Bob VanderLey, Sharon VanHouten, Joyce VerHaar, Glenda Veltman, Paul Wright

**As Members of God's Family**, we pray for all our members who are lonely and isolated at this time, especially those who are immune-compromised or elderly. We pray that we can be an encouragement to them as we reach out with cards, calls, and other contacts. We also continue to pray for healthcare workers who are working long and hard for the safety and health of this community, and in some cases, caring directly for those suffering from COVID 19. We pray for healing for those affected by the virus and protection for all others. We pray for those who grieve the loss of a loved one to COVID 19. We pray for our local non-profits who continue to address the needs of the marginalized in this challenging time. We pray for business leaders facing difficult decisions that touch the well-being of their employees and customers, and impact the long-term health of their businesses. We pray for patience, for the will to love our neighbors well, and for the light of Christ to shine brightly in all we do.

## CALENDAR

### Sunday, January 10

8:40 AM

Morning Worship

2's & 3's Church Time, 3's Room

8:55 AM

Children's Worship, 4s – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

11:00 AM

Morning Worship

2's and 's Church Time, 3's Room

Children's Worship, 4s – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

11:15 AM

### Monday, January 12

6:30 PM

Council - Elders/Deacons (Zoom)

### Wednesday, January 13

6:30 PM

Social Concerns (Zoom)