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## Straight Dope

Peter Jonker

LaGrave members love their worship. That fact comes back to me with renewed strength as members continue to return to in-person worship. Was the singing always this vigorous? Did the organ always resound in my chest that way? Was shaking hands after the service always this much fun? Probably it was, and the two-year wait has made me newly appreciative. Still...it's wonderful.

And apparently I'm not the only one who thinks so. After the May 1 evening hymn sing (also wonderful!), a visitor, Doug Poortenga, came over to tell me something he'd overheard after the morning service. He and his family were walking out of church. Behind him were two young men - Calvin students perhaps. As they walked out of church, one of them exclaimed about the beauty of the sanctuary. "Dude, these windows are sick!" he remarked. "Yeah!" his friend agreed, "And that organ is straight dope!"

Now, for those of you who need translation, 'sick' is good. 'Sick' means awesome. And 'straight dope' is not a drug reference; it means really, really awesome. I seriously doubt that our worship has ever been described in those terms before, but these new descriptions make me happy. In the past, people assumed that our traditional worship appealed only to old folks who remembered the organ based worship of their youth. It's entirely possible that these two young men grew up with generic contemporary worship and have never experienced our style of worship. For them, singing with an organ is fresh and new and exciting. For them it was 'straight dope.'

Whatever descriptor you choose, it's a joy to be worshipping together again.

"Whatever descriptor you choose, it's a joy to be worshipping together again."

## ———— Welcome to Worship at LaGrave ————

Welcome to worship at LaGrave. That sentence is the first line of the Announcements section every Sunday. The intent is sincere. We want visitors and guests to feel welcome. However, a worshipping community is not a function of mere printed words; it also requires spoken words and acts of personal greeting. As our congregational life returns to more of the norms of the past, let's make a conscious effort to encourage visitors to return for worship by warmly greeting them following a service, asking if they have questions about our church or ministries, and inviting them to join you for a time of coffee and fellowship following the service.

We have been blessed with a gifted ministry staff, a wonderful facility, and excellent Livestream productions. Let's also use our gifts of personal connections to ensure that every visitor receives a spiritual and personal blessing as they worship. You, and we, are the Welcoming Committee.

# Welcome, New Members



LARA BAATENBURG  
Joined: Dec. 13, 2021



ALEX & MEGAN BAUMANN  
(GEORGE)  
Joined: August 9, 2021



ELEANOR BOELENS  
Joined: Dec. 13, 2021



JOHN & BARB LEEGWATER  
Joined: February 14, 2022



ROB & TRICIA BOSMA  
(NATE, KAYLA, JONATHAN)  
Joined: April 12, 2021



JOHN & SYLVIA COOPER  
Joined: August 9, 2021



RAY & MARY CORNELL  
Joined: October 11, 2021



JUSTIN & KATHLEEN ELLIOTT  
Joined: June 14, 2021

# Welcome, New Members



AUSTIN KANIS  
Joined: March 14, 2022



BRUCE & BARB ENGBERS  
Joined: October 11, 2021



ARIE & BOUKJE LEEGWATER  
Joined: February 10, 2022



STEVE & MARY GIBSON  
Joined: April 12, 2022



BOB & MARIAN HOUTMAN  
Joined: October 11, 2021



KAREN HENRY STOKES  
Joined: January 20,  
2022



ROWLAND & HELENE MITCHELL  
Joined: February 14, 2022



ORIN & CHAR GELDERLOOS  
Joined: February 14, 2022

# The Media Center

## The Covid Years

The Media Center was shut down for most of the Covid years. During that time, a committee of dedicated volunteers, Deb Bakker, Jenine VerSchure and Judy von Dobschutz, faithfully worked to improve the center. They organized the shelves and weeded out old and unused books to make room for new ones and to open space to display new additions.

## The Online Catalog

The former coordinator, Jim Kipp, had begun the process of putting the collection's catalog online. A later volunteer, Bob Otte, completed the process. Since February of 2021, the catalog has been available to all church members. It is also available on the Librista app. [Visit the online catalog.](#)

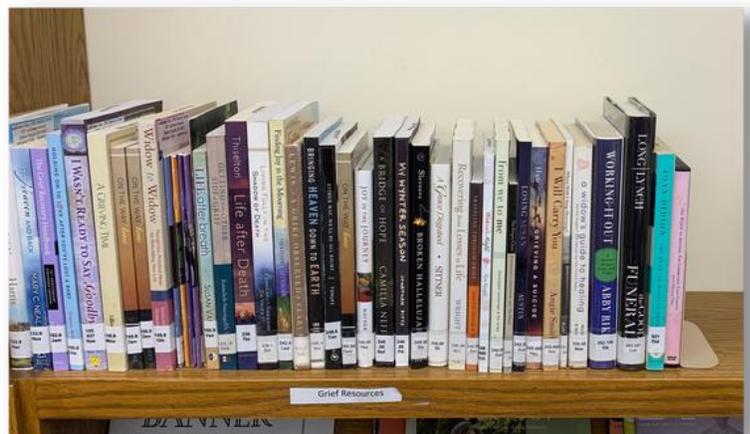


## Mission of the Media Center

"The purpose of the media center is to provide a quality collection of resources for LaGrave Christian Reformed Church: to help equip its corporate ministries and individual members with what they need to grow in Christ-likeness; to help facilitate the extension and nurture of God's Kingdom in the church, community, and the world; and to foster the accomplishment of God's purposes through them in his plan of redemption for his creation."

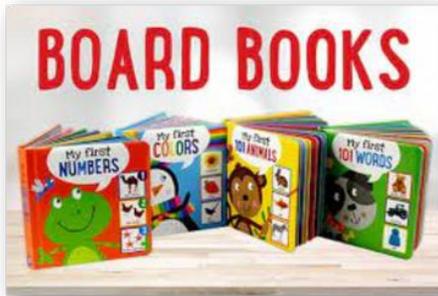
## Featured: Grief Resources

The Comfort and Care Ministry, in its mission to minister to those who have or are experiencing grief, has been working with Bob Otte to build a collection of appropriate resources in our Media Center. We have a number of books on grief, but also a small collection of books about divorce. If you or someone you know is in one of these seasons in life, be sure to take a look. They are located on the north wall beneath the clock.

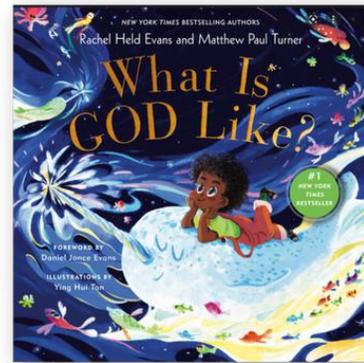
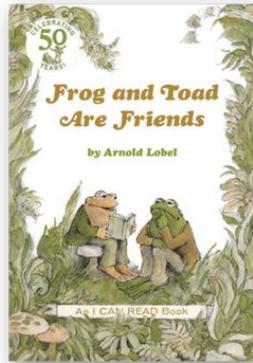


# What's in the Media Center?

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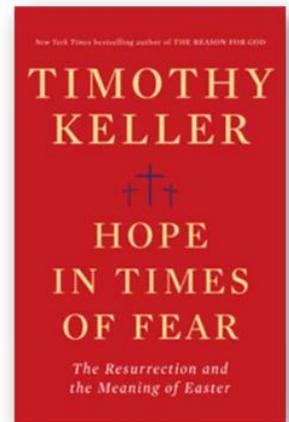
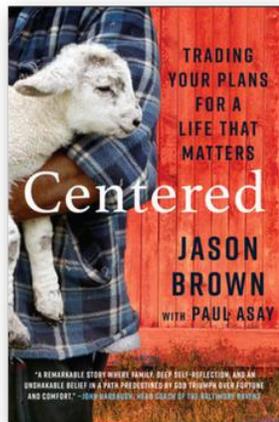
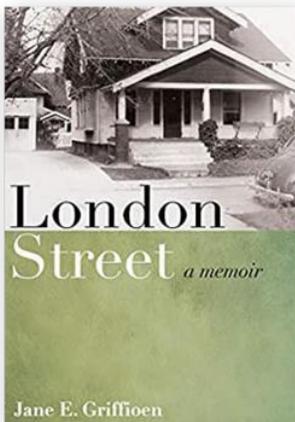
Board Books for Really Young Children



Hundreds of Books for Young Children



Hundreds of Books for Young Adults



Many Books for Adults

# LaGrave Staff Updates



**Amy Hermen**  
**Administrative Manager**

My name is Amy Hermen. I am excited to be the new Administrative Manager at LaGrave! I most recently was the Office Manager at Mayflower Congregational Church in East Grand Rapids but other prior positions I have held have been as the Box Office Manager at Calvin University as well as an Administrative Assistant at Brookside CRC, which is the church where my family and I are members.

My husband Dan and I have three children. Our oldest, Ben, just finished up his sophomore year at the University of Michigan; our daughter Megan is graduating from GRCHS this month and will be attending Hope College in the fall; and our youngest, Emily, is finishing up her sophomore year at GRCHS. Most of my free time right now seems to be spent watching my children in their various sporting events, but when I have the time, I love to read mysteries and go on walks with my husband and our dog Oreo. We also love to travel when we can, and most recently just got back from a spring break trip to Costa Rica.

Please stop by my office and introduce yourself. I would love to meet you!

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## Chancel Choir Update

What a gift and blessing it is to witness the return to near normal activity in many groups and ministries at LaGrave, including the Chancel Choir. In March of 2020, the pandemic silenced the Chancel Choir into inactivity. Later in the fall of 2021, the choir began singing with masks, separated into men's and women's choirs, then distanced themselves in the chancel and choir loft, and finally joined all together in the choir loft. This year, more and more choir members gradually returned to the choir, while others who are not back yet plan to return in the fall. Leading the choir through these challenging and unprecedented times with skill, patience, flexibility, kindness, and humor, is our faithful interim director, Dr. James Borst. (continued on next page)



## Chancel Choir (continued)

To step in as an interim director during a very difficult time was not an easy task, and yet, Jim courageously took on the challenge and successfully brought the choir back to its full activity by leading weekly Wednesday evening rehearsals and directing the choir in Sunday morning worship services and other special services. The Search Committee recently made the decision to invite Jim to remain in his interim position for another church year, September 2022 through early June 2023, an offer that Jim graciously and gladly accepted.

The choir thoroughly enjoys Jim's leadership and they look forward to spending another year of singing under his capable direction and guidance. Jim is no stranger to LaGrave. Throughout many years, he has attended countless special worship services. He appreciates many connections and acquaintances from his past with several LaGrave members in musical circles and with students and teachers. His knowledge of the CRC, LaGrave Church, his passion for quality choral music and liturgy, and his genuine love for people allows Jim to be a wonderful fit for this interim position. Jim, too, enjoys this post-retirement opportunity to use and share his musical gifts in ministry at LaGrave. He looks forward to spending another year with the choir.

As always, anyone who is interested in becoming a member of the Chancel Choir is warmly invited to join our fellowship. Inquiries can be sent to Jim at [jborst@lagrave.org](mailto:jborst@lagrave.org).

When you next see Jim, please extend a warm welcome to him in his acceptance of the interim choir director position for another year. We are thrilled that he has joined the music ministry staff and we look forward to the ways God will use his and the choir's gifts to inspire and enrich our worship, all for the glory of God.

Faithfully,  
Dr. Larry Visser

## Children and Youth Choir

Rehearsals for LaGrave's Children and Youth Choirs begin again after Labor Day. Upper Elementary singers currently meet prior to GEMS and Scouts with a time for dinner in between. Our early elementary singers rehearse between services during our former JUMP time. High School Choir currently meets Sunday morning and Middle School Choir meets prior to youth group on Sunday evenings.

Our early elementary choir sings Ken Medema's Tree Song:

<https://youtu.be/eAZrrckRsJk>



# Hidden in Plain Sight

David DeWinter

In 1980 a family friend returned from a visit to China, and gave my parents a beautiful silk-woven tapestry that she bought there. The artwork is untitled and anonymous. It hung in their home for about ten years, and I looked at it often, admiring its craftsmanship and studying the abstract landscape at the bottom -- which I figured was a mountain covered with trees and snow. Many other people also viewed the tapestry, and no one mentioned seeing anything unusual. Knowing how much I liked the tapestry, when I bought my own house, Mom & Dad gave it to me.

One night many years ago I watched a TV show about the Shroud of Turin, an old length of linen that bears the image of a crucified man, and which many people (including myself) feel is the actual burial cloth of Jesus Christ. After the show, I sat there and thought about people who claimed to have seen Jesus in visions and near-death experiences. I thought that if Jesus appeared to me, I could make a comparison of His face with the face on the shroud. So I prayed and asked Him to do just that -- make Himself visible to me right then and there, in my home. I was expecting to see an apparitional image. The tapestry hung in the room where I watched TV. After my little prayer, for no apparent reason, I walked over to the wall and looked at the lower area of the tapestry.



Then, again for no apparent reason, I cocked my head to the left -- and watched in amazement as a face became visible! First the eyes, then the nose, mustache and beard. What looks like a cloak covers the top of His head, and tears appear to be flowing down from His right eye. Goosebumps covered my body. After realizing what just happened, I immediately thanked Jesus for the prompt answer to my prayer. And it was good that instead of seeing a temporary apparitional image, I was gifted with a physical picture that I can look at often and show to other people.



Ironic that His face had always been there, hidden in plain sight -- but I never saw Him until I specifically asked. I think many Christians (myself included) sometimes forget that Jesus is always close by -- ready, willing, and wanting to help us whenever we faithfully ask for it. As I pondered this event, I wondered how the face was formed? Was it randomly made by chance, or was it intentionally designed -- and if so, by whom? Considering how the face was discovered, I doubt it was made by chance. If the artisan made it intentionally, it seems the face would be easier to see. More likely, the weaver was simply adding different color thread here and there to create an abstract landscape, unaware that God was actually directing the weaving process to create an image of Jesus. In my opinion, the face is a miraculous manifestation of God's handiwork -- basically, a self-portrait of Jesus Christ! After considerable thought, I've decided to share this story, so here it is...

## LaGrave Christian Education Society

Tim Mustert

The Christian Reformed Church has long supported Christian day school education as evidenced by its history, doctrinal statements, and ecclesiastical policy. At the core of this support is the covenantal relationship between each congregation, the parents, and children. Congregations along with parents commit to Christian education for their children. The commitment on the part of each congregation includes encouragement, prayer and financial support of Christian education.

In like manner, LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church supports and encourages Christian education and considers all members of the church to be members of the Christian Education Society. The goal of the church, acting as the society, is to make Christian education available to all children of LaGrave and, to that end, the society, along with parents, commits to this goal.

The CEC is involved in facilitating family Christian school enrollments annually, tracking payments, and maintaining communication with each of the schools on behalf of the LaGrave families. The responsibilities are handled in an efficient and professional manner by the CEC thanks to its dedicated committee members who have a strong commitment to our covenantal statement.

Additionally, CEC oversees funds given/gifted to the Christian Education Society Fund, with the goal of balancing long-term growth of the fund assets so income from fund principal can be used to offset current year and future years' operating budgets. CEC determines annually how much gift income received for the year will be allocated to the CES operations budget for the coming year and how much will be designated as permanently restricted in the Christian Education Society Fund for long-term stability. The LaGrave Christian Education Committee (CEC) is seeking three volunteers to join the committee to replace retiring members over the next couple of months and an additional four volunteers for retiring members in June of 2023. Included in this group of volunteers for June of 2023 is the need for a treasurer, who would assume the accounting role working in conjunction with the office manager to manage the various family accounts.

Our committee meets monthly typically on a Tuesday evening and is actively involved in the enrollment process for the coming year during the months of March and April. If you are interested in volunteering for the Christian Education Committee in support of our families, please feel free to communicate with Caleb Doezema at [c\\_a\\_doezema@comcast.net](mailto:c_a_doezema@comcast.net) or Tim Mustert at [tmustert@intarch.com](mailto:tmustert@intarch.com).

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## Reflecting on Another Year: Kids Hope USA

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The month of May brings to a close another year of Kids Hope mentoring at Congress Elementary. The COVID years have certainly caused us to pivot and get creative in ways to mentor safely and yet effectively. This current year felt a little more "normal" but also was a time to really reflect on the needs in our community and the effectiveness of our mentoring program. If we have learned anything from these difficult years, it is that we need each other. Isolation and distance (though necessary during COVID) was never the design for community and fellowship. This was never more clear than the week our LaGrave mentors came back into the building this fall to begin our mentoring year. There were enormous hugs, squeals of delight and even some tears. (continued on next page)



# LaGrave Youth Programs



## Kids Hope USA (continued)

For Lisa and Elizabeth (Directors of KHUSA) it was an emotional week filled with joy and great affirmation that we were where we needed to be. LaGrave's partnership with Congress Elementary is mutual and full. We learn and grow together, building community with staff, students and with fellow LaGrave members. Mentoring through our KH program looks like this: eating lunch together, reading, playing games, going out on the playground, painting, puzzle making and just talking together. We thank LaGrave for providing mentors, prayer and support to our Kids Hope program. If you have questions or would like to talk about the possibility of mentoring (starting next October), please reach out to Elizabeth Scholtens, Lisa Bauman or Mike Hoozeboom. We would love to have you join us in the fall!

## GEMS Celebrate 35 Years

Our LaGrave GEMS Club just celebrated its 35th anniversary in a festive service. The theme for our past year was "Unshakeable" (Psalm 62:2) and so appropriate for what we have all been through in the past two years of Covid. We welcome girls and their friends in grades 1-8 and meet the first 3 Wednesdays of the month during the school year. Our activities are both indoors and outdoors. We do fun and silly things, as well as serious activities.

This past year our service projects were to Trick or Treat for food for Westminster Pantry, make Christmas Card bags for our congregation to fill for home-bound members, and fill backpacks with personal items for In the Image clients. (continued on next page)



Olivia Ackerman and Isabella Redder are with counselor Amy VandenBerg who made plush blankets for them with the GEMS verse and their names on them.

# LaGrave Youth Programs

## GEMS continued

The girls engaged in penpal relationships with adults in the congregation and met each other at the end of April.

The next year will begin in September with a fun kick-off event. Watch the LaGrave bulletin for that information, or call Tina Rooks, Club Coordinator, if questions (616-723-3041)



Our Club on GEMS Sunday

## LaGrave Youth Outdoors

LaGrave Youth Outdoors (formerly Cub Scouts) is a K-5th grade program for boys that meets primarily outdoors. The goal of Youth Outdoors is to equip boys with outdoor skills and cultivate an appreciation for God's creation. Popular outings include shelter building, knife care and use, fire building, snowshoeing and many outdoor games. Everyone has become proficient at roasting smores too! The pinewood derby race is another big event for both boys and parents - we look forward to inviting the congregation to participate next year! We conclude each year with a campout at the LaGrave Scout property with the Boy Scouts.

We are looking forward to our third year of programming starting next fall. If you have any questions about the program please contact Matt Scholten for more information.



# LaGrave Youth Programs

## **CREW Spring Break Mission Trip: Plymouth, North Carolina**

For the first time in 3 years students, leaders and members of the congregation had the opportunity to go on a mission trip. Sixteen persons loaded the vehicles and trailer on Friday, April 1 to spend a week serving those in need in Plymouth, North Carolina. They arrived and moved in to their quarters at Plymouth United Methodist Church where they would sleep, cook, eat, shower, and spend their free time for the next 7 days. Plymouth is located in the poorest county in North Carolina and partnered with Carolina Rebuilding Ministry who services that area.

We split into 3 teams for working and accomplished a lot. We put new tar on the roof of a mobile home, took apart a deck and built a new deck and stairs, laid laminate flooring in two rooms, put a transition strip between rooms, took down drywall and put up drywall in two rooms and ceilings.

Each evening we would spend time in worship. We sang songs, shared highlights of our morning devotions, talked about our “God Glimpses,” mentioned our “wows and pows” of the day and were challenged by a story/message with Pastor Bob.

It was a wonderful week. God was faithful and protected us as we traveled and at the worksites. There were no major injuries, accidents or illness. We grew closer as a community and closer to God as well. We learned patience and practiced being “willow trees.”

Thank you LaGrave Congregation for your financial support, food donations and especially your prayers. To God Be The Glory!



# Pastoral Care: How Can We Help You?

Jennifer Schroder

The Pastoral Care Committee is a very active, yet behind the scenes committee at LaGrave. Our job is to care for you, our members. We are an “umbrella” committee that oversees the work of 16 committees.

These committees provide you with meals when there is an illness or new baby in your family, help members (or their children) with disabilities navigate the church environment, walk with members during times of grieving, and pay for the yarn used to knit prayer shawls in addition to many other acts of caring. Did you know we can help you with durable medical goods (knee scooters, shower chairs, walkers) if you or a family member have an illness or physical limitation. We have a “lending library” available to help out!

We are also the contact committee for CAP ( Church Assistance Program) through Pine Rest Christian Services. This is a comprehensive resource available to all members. Pine Rest provides a variety of counseling services including help with depression and anxiety, marital counseling, financial counseling, elder care help, and legal consultation. As members, you can get three appointments- either virtual or in person- with no charge to you. They also offer an extensive library of resources (videos, articles and websites) free of charge. To access this amazing program, go to the link provided on our webpage. Our sign in information can also be found there.

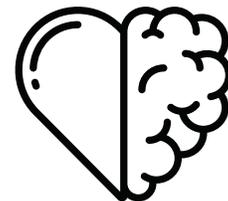
If you or a family member have a specific need and you want to see if we can help you, please contact Kristy Manion ([kmanion@lagrave.org](mailto:kmanion@lagrave.org)) or Jennifer Schroder, chair ([jennschroder@gmail.com](mailto:jennschroder@gmail.com)).

## Stress Management

CAP program just released this video on stress management that is accessible for us. Thank you to all those who attended our most recent virtual CAP presentation, "Stress Management, Healthy Boundaries and Rejuvenation" and participated in the discussion. For those who were unable to attend this time, please enjoy the below recording of the event.

Passcode to view presentation is: 5522

<https://vimeo.com/706599028>



# Safe Church Ministry

Jane Elzinga

Abuse is in our church. Even when we don't see it, it's there. It affects us all. Abuse is a darkness – letting it continue dims the light of the gospel. The devastation caused by abuse goes very deep; it's long-lasting and far reaching. Abuse is never the fault of the victim and is never an act of Christ's love. Abuse is never justified.

Most Christians agree that caring for the poor and marginalized is a central tenet of the gospel, and Matthew 25:31-46 is a beautiful statement of Jesus's concern for the weak and the vulnerable - the least of these.

Did you know LaGrave has a committee dedicated to care for the least of these who are abused? Formed in 2012, LaGrave's LiveSafe Team's mission statement is "motivated by Christ's love and church mandate, to create a safe place where abuse victims and concerned others can break their silence; to respond with confidential, honest, non-judgmental listening; to provide those affected by abuse with additional resources and connect them with our community partners available to help; and to raise awareness and empower our congregation with knowledge."

If you would like to know more about what we do, if you might like to join us, or if you or a loved one is abused, contact any of the team members: Tricia Bosma, Deanna DeVries, Jane Elzinga, Kristy Manion ([kmanion@lagrave.org](mailto:kmanion@lagrave.org)), or Joy Winkle.

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## Serving God in Oaxaca, Mexico

### Lorri Scholten

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself. I'm Lorri Scholten, one of the people you have generously supported through the Henry Beets Committee. So first of all, let me say thank you! I'm so grateful to you for enabling me to serve God in Oaxaca, Mexico for 14 years.

I work as a support person for SIL, a partner organization of Wycliffe Bible Translators, by teaching at a school for missionary children. Some of the students of the school are children of linguists working with indigenous peoples on literacy and Bible translation. Others are children of missionaries working for a variety of Christian organizations.

I've been teaching first and second graders so that their parents are freed up to do ministry without having to worry about the educational needs of their children. This past year I've been transitioning to a new role that can best be described as filling in the gaps. I've been helping the new first and second grade teacher adjust to teaching, as I also work in the library, office, and computer lab. We have enough gaps that it's easily a full time job. I get to teach young children and at the same time have a front row seat to see translation work in southern Mexico. I often accompany a good friend of mine to her language area. (continued on next page)

## Serving God in Oaxaca, Mexico continued

For security reasons, she needs someone to go along. I've learned to greet people in the language, tonal languages being incredibly difficult. Still, I love hearing Mixtec speakers speak their beautiful language and especially am thrilled to hear them read Scripture and sing in Mixtec.

Mixtec is not one language, but rather a language family. SIL has people working on translations into many different Mixtec languages, along with many Zapotec, Nahuatl, and many other languages. When I first came to Oaxaca, I was surprised to learn just how many languages are spoken in Mexico. New Testaments have been completed in over 152 languages in the country, with work in progress in 55 more. We as English speakers are incredibly blessed to have a huge variety of Scripture translations available to us, while 145 million people worldwide struggle to read Scripture in a second language or may have no access at all. If you have questions about the work in Oaxaca or want to receive prayer updates from me, you can contact me at [lorri\\_scholten@sil.org](mailto:lorri_scholten@sil.org).



Our school campus is an inviting place to learn.



Mixtec church services usually end with a communal meal. The women work hard, preparing food over open fires.



Teaching here is a very rewarding job. With our small classes, we can get to know the children well.



The Mixtec part of the country has incredible scenery. This village nestled in the mountains is one of the areas where translation is currently being done.

# Foot Spa Day

Suzan Couzens

On a frigid January day in 2007, as a means to better understand the health needs of the Heartside neighborhood, a monthly foot care service, the Foot Spa Day, was begun. The neighborhood was invited into the chapel at Heartside Ministries to have their feet soaked in warm lavender scented water. Faith community nurses from the greater Grand Rapids area sat on the floor while neighbors sat in chairs relaxing and soaking their feet. A brief nursing assessment was implemented, toenails trimmed, feet massaged, and people's stories were listened to by the nurses.



This year marks the eighth year for the Foot Spa Day. The first Foot Spa Day we served ten neighbors with 6 volunteers. By October of 2008, we were serving twenty people with ten to twelve volunteers. The photo on the right was taken during one of our last foot spa days in the chapel at Heartside Ministry. There was barely room to walk. We were not able to serve more people because we lacked space. It was then that we approached Rev. Mike Hoogeboom to inquire about using the all-purpose room at LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church once each month.



Since December of 2008, on the third Tuesday of most months you may find a scene similar to this photo, as people wait to enjoy the warmth of the multi-purpose room and the welcome from volunteers that they have come to know and trust over the past eight years. John our door volunteer chats with people as they wait. Then welcomes them into the church where people sit around the tables and fellowship over food, sip a hot chocolate, iced tea or coffee drink made especially for them. We are able to serve an average of 60 neighborhood people each month. The neighborhood excitedly anticipates the event. Because we have such a large space, we are able to offer additional services. (continued on next page)

## Foot Spa Day continued

Faith community nurses and Calvin College nursing students screen for hypertension, advocate for follow up care of chronic disease through primary care providers, and educate on chronic disease management, while providing foot care. We also share a nutritious meal, provide haircuts and listen. The stories of those we serve are both tragic and hopeful. After providing foot care, we ask how we may pray for each person. On many occasions, after the nurse offered prayer, the neighbor asks how they may pray for the nurse.

Over the past eight years of serving our Heatside neighbors, there have been many answers to prayer which demonstrate God's faithfulness. People who we initially served now serve with us. When we walk the streets of the neighborhood people ask, "When are we at LaGrave Church again? Is that this week?" During the foot spa day they are free to chat with each other and the volunteers in a safe environment. They know our foot spa day volunteers and the members of LaGrave CRC care for them as image bearers of a gracious, loving God.



## Christian Reformed Church in Cuba

The Christian Reformed churches in Cuba have undergone a very difficult year. Cuba is experiencing extreme inflation, work layoffs, food shortage and hunger. Covid has also closed worship services during this year. Supporting churches including LaGrave have assisted in providing spiritual support for pastors and their families as well as financial support for the purchase of available food and basic living supplies.

Some pastors are also experiencing political surveillance and retribution in visibly promoting the evangelism outreach of their churches. In spite of the difficulties there has been a noticeable increase in evangelism efforts in establishing new congregations at several locations in Cuba. (continued on next page)



## CRC in Cuba continued

LaGrave members in coordination with the Henry Beets Cuba Committee have been in E-mail contact with 20 pastors in Cuba affirming the support of Christian communities in America and Canada.

Travel to Cuba has not been possible during the Covid outbreak and political unrest. We pray that our continued support will assist in the stability of the work of Christ in Cuba and that our over 50 years of Cuba support can continue.



# Henry Beets Mission Society Update

The Henry Beets Mission Society (HBMS) was established by LaGrave members over 70 years ago as a unique means of financial support for global missions. Currently, HBMS financially supports 29 missionaries in a wide variety of missions, including church planting, discipling, medical doctors, medical supplies, pilot, mechanic, translation, consultant, chaplain, horse therapy, teachers, foster care, working with youth, pastors, clergy training, and videography. Each missionary has an interesting story about their work and how they serve as the hands and feet of Christ. Many of the missionaries send periodic newsletters which you can find on the Kiosk in the narthex. Also, check out the HBMS photo board outside the library (right side) to see photos of some of HBMS missionaries along with a list of all of the currently supported missionaries. The HBMS board has about 12 members and each member is assigned as a liaison for 2 or 3 missionaries to maintain communication and prayer support. HBMS is in the process of updating a booklet on the history of HBMS which is expected to be made available to the congregation in 2022. The board is excited about this publication as a means to provide the congregation information on the rich history of HBMS. There are several ways you can help support HBMS:

**Financially:** The sole source of income for HBMS is through 3 annual special collections, as well as estate and memorial gifts. The board is thankful for the faithful and generous support that the LaGrave congregation has provided.

**Prayerfully:** Prayers are appreciated. Contact Pete or Bev Clover, HBMS co-chairs, to be added to an email list to receive copies of the newsletters and prayer requests.

**Board Member:** New board members are needed! If you are interested in becoming a board member, please contact Pete or Bev Clover.

# Loeks Advisory Committee Proposals

The Loeks Advisory Committee (LAC) is accepting proposals for programs that intentionally focus on women's care on or before April 1 and November 1 of every calendar year. Proposals must receive prior approval from the appropriate standing committee before consideration by Loeks. The LaGrave Council has final approval prior to the release of any funds. The application guidelines for consideration of funding from the Ruth Loeks Women's Care Fund include the following:

1. Any proposal application for use of this fund must be approved, owned, and implemented by the appropriate standing committee of LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church
2. The proposal for use of these funds must focus on women's care and it must have significant involvement of women from LaGrave Church in the planning and/or execution of the project or alternatively have significant impact on a woman/women of LaGrave
3. The use of these funds must be for a new program/ministry or the expansion of an existing one; and
4. Christian non-profit organizations engaged in outreach may be considered for funding to special projects if there is significant, direct LaGrave membership involvement or sponsorship in those projects and those causes explicitly affirm the Christian faith.

The Application and full Guidelines for funding can be found on the church website ([www.lagrave.org](http://www.lagrave.org)) or by contacting the church office.

The LAC has continued to meet both virtually and in person over the past two years. Proposals approved this past year include continuing funding for the LaGrave Water Color Painting Class. A skilled instructor and supplies are provided while women from LaGrave connect to paint and nurture caring relationships they have formed with one another.

Another proposal came to Loeks through the Henry Beets Mission Society and the Haiti Nursing Foundation for the purchase of ten laptops for nursing students.

A third proposal submitted by the Social Concerns Committee approved funds for Treetops Concentric Program. The program invests in New American female leaders as they transform communities to be more responsive and welcoming to refugees.

The LAC continues to explore and discuss various ways funds can be used to intentionally benefit women of LaGrave in the future.

The Loeks Advisory Committee: Dr. Mike Hoogeboom, Ruth Ringnalda, Sam Schat, Sarah Weller, Julie Wisse, Kristen VandenBosch, and Kara VerMeulen (chair).

# Benefactors Trust Fund

In 1964, far-sighted members came together and shared a vision for long-term support of the mission of LaGrave CRC. The LaGrave Benefactors Trust Fund (BTF) was born. The BTF was established "to encourage and provide a means for expansion and enlargement of the activities of LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and the services of said Church to its members." BTF support was to include, but was not limited to the following:

- Sponsorship of, support for, or assistance to the development of programs of the Church.
- Development and support of LaGrave youth programs and for the attraction of young people who are not members of the Church.
- The support of and assistance to education programs for the youth of the Church.
- The expansion and enlargement of the mission program of the Church.
- The support of vocal and instrumental musical programs for the Church.
- The support and expansion of the benevolent activities of the Church.

Today the Trustees of the BTF continue to further the mission of LaGrave CRC with financial support. In the last two years, BTF funds have paid for much needed camera system improvements in the sanctuary and a comprehensive youth program. The Trustees encourage members of the congregation to consider the BTF as you plan your charitable giving.

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## Special Thanks

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As we restart the LaGrave News, we want to say a special 'thank you' to Rose Koning. Rose has faithfully written our congregational memorials for years. Every time someone passed away, she would make an extra effort to give the congregation a full picture of who they were. Rose didn't just copy the public obituary, she contacted family members and pastors so that her memorials would say something about who they were as members of our congregation. We thank Rose for all the effort she put into this helpful ministry.



# Member Opportunities + Announcements

## Klondike Bars on Sunday, June 26

The Fellowship Committee works to bring members from all over the congregation of LaGrave together through events, small groups, and informal gatherings, as well as the church directory. You might recognize us from putting on the church picnic last summer, or the various cookie and pastry snacks in the Multi Purpose Room, or the Elexio introduction presentations. As the church comes out of the pandemic hibernation, we're working on plans for upcoming opportunities for you to meet friends that you haven't seen in a while and folks you've not met yet. Our next scheduled event is the annual Klondike bar on SERVE Sunday, June 26. See you there!

## Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Our Wednesday Evening Bible Study will continue to meet this summer bi-weekly (depending on schedules) starting in June through August. We welcome all of you who would like to join us this summer to study and be inspired by "The Cost of Discipleship" an old great classic book by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Come to be challenged in your faith, build community and walk closer with Jesus by God's grace and the power of the Holy Spirit. We will start this study June 8 by praying Psalm 25 and then on June 15th we will start Chapter 1.

We meet in the church Parlor from 6:30 - 8:00 pm, Wednesday evenings. For more information or joining the class please contact Dean Rooks @ 616-899-5402 or [rooksarchitecture@gmail.com](mailto:rooksarchitecture@gmail.com).



The Facilities Committee completed two of their spring projects; resurfacing the main parking lot and doing a R'newal\* on the 26 year old chiller. Pictures are worth 1000 words.

\*Trane's Series R Compressor R'newal service is a major inspection and maintenance program that brings the chiller compressor back to like-new condition.

# In Memoriam

## Cynthia Roelofs

May 8, 1928- December 23, 2021



Cynthia Clara VanDyke was born in Leota, Minnesota to a farmer's family that had immigrated from the Netherlands. She was bilingual. She started teaching at Prinsburg, Minnesota, right out of high school where she met Harlan Roelofs, also a farmer's child. She married Harlan in August of 1951 and they moved to Grand Rapids where he completed training for the ministry at Calvin Theological Seminary. She completed her education degree at Cal State-Fullerton, California, and taught in many capacities throughout her life. She was especially fond of history and music.

Harlan was an ordained minister in the Christian Reformed Church, and they served churches in Luctor, Kansas; Orange City, Iowa; Anaheim, California; Montello Park (Holland), Michigan; and East Martin, Michigan, prior to retiring to Wyoming, Michigan.

Cynthia is survived by her children Lyle (Laurie) Roelofs, Karl (Vicki) Roelofs, Marilou Richardson, and Evan (Sue) Roelofs; 12 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren.

Cynthia was preceded in death by her husband Harlan, who died in 1997, two of her five siblings, her son-in-law Steve Richardson, and one grandchild, Gabriel Harlan Roelofs, who died from AIDS. Cynthia and Harlan also provided a home for two brothers who were refugees from Cambodia and who have both married. They and their families have remained in close contact.

Cynthia was a long-time member of LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church. She had many interests: traveling with several disaster reconstruction trips with World Renew; she used her teaching expertise until her passing by participating in the prisoner education programs of Crossroads Prison Ministry; she documented the extended family in detailed scrapbooks; she loved knitting, reading, and playing games with friends and family. She was an avid Bible reader and had committed many passages to memory. Her latest goal was to memorize the Psalms. She succeeded in memorizing many. Cynthia spoke of God's great blessings in her life and with her family.

Her memorial service was held at LaGrave on May 20, 2022. Rev. Peter Jonker's meditation was based on Psalm 139, which speaks of the continual encompassing presence of God.

# In Memoriam

## **Gerald Vander Wall, DDS, MS**

September 17, 1929 - February 24, 2022



Jerry was born in New Era, Michigan. He graduated from Calvin College and the University of Michigan. After serving two years in the US Air Force, he practiced in Grand Rapids in General Dentistry and Endodontics until 1992.

Jerry was active in many professional, alumni, political and social clubs, and other organizations including: The West Michigan Dental Society, Michigan Dental Association, American Dental Association, American Association of Endodontics, Alumni Society of Calvin University, University of Michigan School of Dentistry, University of Michigan Alumni Association, University of Michigan Presidents and Victors Clubs, Kent County Republican 500 Club, committees for US Congressmen, Cascade Country Club and Spring Lake Country Club.

Jerry married Jessica Beets on August 26, 1953. They celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary in August. Their children are: Valerie (Mike) Volkema, Paula (Rick) Edwards, Sondra (Rick DeVries) Kuiper, Bill (Tobee) Vander Wall, and Sue (Dan) Haveman. They have 14 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents, five siblings and son-in-law Bill Kuiper. Jerry was a long time and active member of LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church. His wife Jess is a lifelong member.

He was active in council, served on many committees and charity organizations, and enjoyed fund raising for Christian Schools and Calvin University.

Funeral comments from his children and grandchildren, as well as comments on many cards received, spoke of Jerry's deep faith, which he passed on to his children and grandchildren. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather who loved to tell stories. Jerry never missed a chance to watch a child or grandchild in a concert, play or sporting event. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. His interests included traveling, golfing, boating on Lake Michigan at his summer home in Grand Haven, family trips to Florida and attending college basketball and football games. He embraced life fully.

Jerry's funeral was held at LaGrave on April 29, 2022. Jerry planned much of the music for his funeral and provided three pages of his favorite Biblical passages. Dr. Mast spoke on a selection of verses that focused on this life and the life to come, including Jeremiah 29, Psalm 16, and Isaiah 43. Rev. John Steigenga mentioned that Jerry was on the committee that had called him to LaGrave many years ago. Rev. Steigenga titled his funeral meditation "Jerry's Story," a title with a double meaning because that meditation was based on the book of Jeremiah (another Jerry), who recalled the Lord's great love and faithfulness to his people in times of trouble. Jerry had a long journey with Parkinson's disease yet in the midst of decline he trusted in God's great love and eternal promises.

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# Email Directory

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Benefactors Trust Fund - Mark Krommendyk - krommendykm@gmail.com  
Chancel Choir Director - Jim Borst - jborst@lagrave.org  
Children's Handbell Director - Trish Brummel - brummelstudio@gmail.com  
Christian Education Committee - Tim Mustert - tmustert@intarch.com  
College Age Ministries - Heidi Glover - goldglover@aol.com  
Communications Committee - Rich Bouma - rbouma@wnj.com  
Doorstep Coordinator - Erin Alley - eally@lagrave.org  
Early Childhood Worship Coordinator - Anna DeBoer - adeboer@lagrave.org  
Evangelistic Outreach Committee - Ben DeGraaf - nbendegraaf@gmail.com  
Facilities Committee - Dan VanEerden - danve@vaneerden.com  
Fellowship Committee - Thomas Wodarek - thomas.wodarek@gmail.com  
Finance Committee - Aaron Faber - aaron.m.faber@gmail.com  
Growing U Coordinator - Emily Redder - eredder@lagrave.org  
Henry Beets Mission Society - Pete and Bev Clover - bpclover@gmail.com  
Junior Choir Director - Renee Vande Wege - rvandewege@lagrave.org  
Kids Hope Co-Director - Elizabeth Scholtens - e.scholtensKHUSA@gmail.com  
Kids Hope Co-Director - Lisa Bauman - lcbauaman@sbcglobal.net  
Livestream Coordinator - Deb Bakker - dbakker@lagrave.org  
Loeks Advisory Committee - Kara Vermeulen - karavermeulen@hotmail.com  
Mission Committee - Peter Ackerman - peterackerman@hotmail.com  
Pastoral Care Committee - Jennifer Schroder - jenschroder@gmail.com  
Planned Giving Committee - Bob Noordeloos - noordeloos@sbcglobal.net  
Prayer Mobilizer - Jolene DeHeer - jolene@jolenedeheer.com  
Social Concerns Committee - Sue Pastoor - spastoor@firstam.com  
Spiritual Formation Committee - Jolene DeHeer - jolene@jolenedeheer.com  
Welcoming Committee - Don Dekker - dondekker@hotmail.com  
Worship Committee - Tom VanderLugt - tvanderlugt@hotmail.com  
Youth Education Committee - Jess Hollenbach - jessmedema@hotmail.com

Do you have an idea for a future LaGrave News article? Send a brief description of your idea to [news@lagrave.org](mailto:news@lagrave.org).

LaGrave News Editor-in-Chief: Megan Petroelje