

May 28, 2023

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. During the offering please take the time to sign the Welcome Register and pass it from the center aisle to the outside aisle and back to the center so that you will be able to greet your fellow worshippers by name following the service. We pray that your worship experience today will be a blessed one, and that together we will see Jesus.

Next Sunday Morning we begin our summer sermon series called *Psalms for the Summertime*. Throughout the summer we will study the Psalms. The Psalms cover the full range of human experience, so all summer long, we will let the Spirit form us through these inspired poems of faith. Our first sermon will be on Psalm 1, and Reverend Jonker will preach. It is also our last Sunday with two services! That means we will celebrate Holy Communion together, and the choir will sing at both services.
Next Sunday Evening we will have a hymn sing! Reverend Jonker and Dr. Visser will lead the singing. Tell your friends!

2 & 3s, Children's Worship and nursery will be provided this morning.

CREW (High School) Those who signed up to come to SERVE have a planning meeting next Sunday, June 4 at 6pm at the Vault. If you did not sign up to come to SERVE, we encourage you to sign up to help – sign up online or at the big board today.

UPCOMING

The Office will be closed on Monday, May 29 for Memorial Day.

SERVE - Last week we received word that *50 additional participants* will be coming to SERVE and living at LaGrave from June 24 - July 1. This means that instead of planning for 60 participants we are now planning for 110. This also means **WE NEED YOUR HELP** more than ever since our volunteer and donation needs have basically doubled. We need food and monetary donations, people to help serve meals, wash towels, help with security, pray, make goodies and more. You can sign up online by clicking on the link that you received in last week's email blast or on the "big board" located in the Narthex.

Party In the Park, an All-Church old fashioned summer picnic, hosted by the Fellowship Committee, will be here soon! Mark your calendar for ***Wednesday evening, July 19*** for a great time with our church family! There will be activities and fun for all ages. Good news...Panera Bread has agreed to cater this event again, so we need your RSVP and your main dish request. Look for a sign up RSVP link in next Tuesday's LaGrave News & Opportunities email. We will have a separate sign up poster in the foyer for those who want to bring lawn games, go into the dunk tank, and/or help in various ways. Hope you can join the FUN!

Bob Grussing - Celebrating 38 years of Ministry to Youth
SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday September 5, 2023. Meijer Gardens. Details and reservation info to follow this summer. Questions, contact Laurie Boer lboer5338@gmail.com

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Starting in June, all able-bodied LaGrave members will be part of the morning greeters team. For a long time, and especially since COVID, a relatively small group of people have served as our morning greeters. They've faithfully stood at the door, smiled, and shook your hand as you arrived to worship. We would like to expand this greeting team. The Welcoming Committee believes that it is good for a church community if all able-bodied members take a turn greeting at the door. While there are a few people for whom greeting is difficult because of various physical issues, for most of us, taking a turn as a greeter is a relatively easy way to serve the church. It's also an excellent way for children to engage with fellow congregation members, and experience participation in the community's ministry. Starting on June 11, every able-bodied person will be put on the greeter's schedule. That means everyone will greet about once a year. You will receive a schedule, and if the date assigned to you does not work, we invite you to switch with another member. We plan on sending reminders to all greeters the week before their date, and all greeter's names will be posted for the current week and the week to come. We are excited for this small change that will help us connect with one another as the body of Christ. If for some reason you are physically unable to participate in this ministry, you may call the office and opt out. But we hope most of you will choose to participate with us in this endeavor.

HBMS missionary Chris Hirt is in need of a fuel efficient vehicle to use for traveling to and from his cancer treatments. Please contact Maria Uekert with any information. Also, if you would like to send

Chris and his family notes of encouragement, please send them to Chris Hirt, 3856 Pemberton Dr SE Grand Rapids MI 49508.

May is National Mental Health Awareness Month. Winter and grey days can get anybody down. If you're struggling, don't struggle in silence! You're not alone. LaGrave households have access to the Church Assistance Program through Pine Rest. You can access an online library of resources, legal and financial consultations, and counseling services. Call 1-800-442-0809, press 1, and mention you have CAP with LaGrave Church.

The Crossroads Prison Ministries Art Exhibit is in the Parlor gallery! The artwork is created by prison inmates who are involved in the Crossroads Prison Ministries Bible Study program. Inmate participants often include doodles and other art pieces with the completed lessons sent to their mentors. Some of the artwork is unique in that it's created from materials the inmates find or make. Over the years the artwork has been collected and organized into a traveling exhibition which LaGrave is privileged to have. The exhibit runs through August 27.

Are you enjoying the Coffee Service? At the beginning of the year, locally-roasted coffee was introduced to enrich your fellowship experience. We need volunteers who can help with the setup of brewing coffee, setting up the pots, etc. No experience needed, please come see us at the coffee window to learn more on how you can help continue the great coffee experience. You don't want to miss out helping in this special area.

Summer is coming...and so is our summer sermon series: **Summer in the Psalms.** Be on the lookout for a variety of activities to help us grow in our faith, including creating a Psalm ABC memorization ring. Kids, families, and those of all ages are invited to put one together after the morning services beginning June 4 in the Multipurpose Room.

Summer Office Hours: The church office will be closed on Fridays between Memorial Day and Labor Day. If you need to access the church building on a Friday this summer, please contact a staff person ahead of time to make sure someone will be there to let you in.

Per their request, **Joel and Julie Westra** and their children have resigned their membership to affiliate with Trinity Lutheran Church. **Steve Skahn** has resigned his membership to affiliate with Harbert Community Church. May God bless them in their new church homes.

Prayer Concerns

We praise God for:

- **Rhys Walter Bowden**, who received the sacrament of baptism on Sunday, May 21.

Let us faithfully pray for:

- **Randy Bakker**, who is in Butterworth Hospital with a serious infection.
- **Sandy Gronsmann**, who continues to slowly gain strength and is becoming less dependent on oxygen.
- **Chris Hirt**, our missionary in Thailand, who will receive treatment in Grand Rapids for lymphoma. His address is: Chris Hirt, 3856 Pemberton Dr SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508.
- **Paula Hoekzema**, who is being treated for lymphoma.
- **Dan Rooks, Dean & Tina Rooks' son**, who has necrotizing pneumonia in his right lung. He is on antibiotics to avoid removal of a portion of his lung.
- **Bob VanderLey**, who suffered a fall and fractured his femur. He is receiving some services from hospice.
- **Millie Vriend**, who is making progress at home and is grateful for all of your prayers.

Please pray for:

those receiving hospice services - Katherine Doezema, Barb Voshel

those continuing treatment for cancer - Jim Burman, Joan Bolt, Tom Duthler, Anita MacDonald (John Postmus' daughter), Barb Voskuil

those with other continuing needs - Marlan Arnoys, Duke Boogaard, Sandy Buter, Cloe Ann Danford, Ron Day, Sandy Destrempe, Wayne Dornbush, Archer Hekstra, Addie Post (Roger & Phyllis Post's granddaughter), Rich (Mamuani) Postma, Bill VanDyk, Sharon VanHouten

CALENDAR

Sunday, May 28

8:40 AM

Morning Worship
Infant & Toddler Childcare
2s & 3s Church Time, 3s Room

11:00 AM

Morning Worship
Infant & Toddler Childcare
2s & 3s Church Time, 3s Room

Monday, May 29

Office Closed for Memorial Day

Wednesday, May 31

8:00 AM

Men's Morning Bible Study, LL

2:30 PM

Pastoral Care Assistants, Parlor

6:15 PM

Softball, Field 2, Whistlestop Park

6:30 PM

Faith Journey Bible study, Library

7:00 PM

Chancel Choir

Friday, June 2

8:00 AM

Men's Bible Study

Assisting This Week: May 28

Security: 8:40am— John Brandt & Justin Holford

11:00am — Jon Pastoor & Doug VanEerden

Assisting Next Week: June 4

Security: Mark Mensonides & Brad Schaap