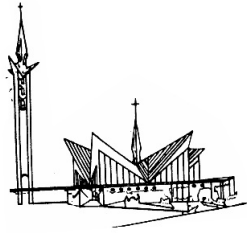


GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)



December 8, 2024

Church Office Phone # 616-534-0805

Reverend Zachary Marklevitz

Pastor's Email: zmarklevitz@gmail.com

Website Address: www.gracelc.net

Office~email: gracelc.office@gmail.com

Office Hrs: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Second Sunday in Advent

Grace Lutheran Church

75th

Anniversary

October, 2024

LEARN-TO-HEART HYMN...This Advent season, we will sing hymn 375 - "Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising" by Paul Gerhardt.

About the Author: Paul Gerhardt (b. Gräfenheinen, Saxony, Germany, 1607; d. Lubben, Germany, 1676), famous author of Lutheran evangelical hymns, studied theology and hymnody at the University of Wittenberg and then was a tutor in Berlin, where he became friends with Johann Crüger. He served the Lutheran parish of Mittenwalde near Berlin (1651-1657) and the great St. Nicholas' Church in Berlin (1657-1666). Friederich William, the Calvinist elector, had issued an edict that forbade the various Protestant groups to fight each other. Although Gerhardt did not want strife between the churches, he refused to comply with the edict because he thought it opposed the Lutheran "Formula of Concord," which condemned some Calvinist doctrines. Consequently, he was released from his position in Berlin in 1666. With the support of friends, he became an archdeacon in Lubben in 1669 and remained there until his death. Gerhardt experienced much suffering in his life; he and his parishioners lived in the era of the Thirty Years' War, and his family experienced incredible tragedy: four of his five children died young, and his wife died after a prolonged illness. In the history of hymnody, Gerhardt is considered a transitional figure who wrote when hymns changed from a more objective, confessional, and corporate focus to a pietistic, devotional, and personal one. Like other German hymns, Gerhardt's were lengthy and intended for use throughout a service, a group of stanzas at a time. More than 130 of his hymns were published.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY...Will NOT meet this Tuesday, December 10. We will resume December 17 at 9:15 and cover the last chapter of Luke

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY...will meet with others from Hope, Epiphany & Christ Evangelical as well as their pastors and will rotate as to location. The next men's Bible study will be here at Grace on Saturday, January 18 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT...Don't forget to sign up at the showcase for Advent by Candlelight (which is NEXT Sunday, December 15). Music by the Libertas Christian School Chorale will begin at 4:00 in the Sanctuary with a pot-luck dinner to follow. The meat entrée will be provided so we are asking you to bring a side dish or dessert to contribute to the meal. We need to have all who plan to attend to sign up so we know the count to provide enough entrée and give you a seat at a table. We look forward to sharing this occasion with you. Any questions or concerns, contact Diane Long at 616-745-5594.

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON...Brings to us an opportunity to remember our Homebound, Young Singles, and Seminary Students. Please find the list on the tables across from the mailboxes in the hallway. Write your words of encouragement to these individuals and place your cards in the Christmas bags provided. There will be two individual cards to sign for Nathan Bublitz and Noah Dunsmore, our Seminary students. Please have these cards completed on or before NEXT Sunday, December 15. The bags will then be delivered to the members to remind them that they are held in our prayers not only during the Christmas Season, but throughout the year. Your participation in this meaningful ministry is very much appreciated. Thank you for being a part of it.

GIVING TREE...The giving tree is out and ready! Please take a tag and bring the gift(s) back WITH THE TAG no later than NEXT Sunday, December 15. If you have any questions please see Dawn Schrader.

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES...This year, Pastor Beffrey, Pastor Nuttelman, and Pastor Marklevitz will Pulpit Share by preaching at one another's congregations during the midweek services. The theme is: "The Three Advents of Christ." Pastor Beffrey will preach on "The Advent of the Last Day," Pastor Nuttelman will preach on "The Advent of Word & Sacrament," and Pastor Marklevitz will preach on "The Advent of Christmas."

ADVENT DEVOTIONS...Daily Devotions for Advent - *What Child Is This?* is available on the devotional table (next to the *Portals of Prayer* basket). Please help yourself.

DOXOLOGY...Now that Pastor Marklevitz is a Doxology graduate, we are invited to attend future conferences! There is an annual conference called "Doxology: Encore," in which lay members are invited to attend. This is a unique opportunity to travel, getaway, and receive professional insight into church ministry and its impact. The next Encore Conference will be in Middleton, WI, from May 30 to June 1, 2025. Please contact Pastor Marklevitz, Tom Hoffman, or Jeff DeYoung with any interest or questions.

HIGHER THINGS REGISTRATION...Higher Things Conference will be held in Grand Rapids at Calvin University from July 29 to August 1, 2025.

CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH...Grace's second Church plant, gathers Sundays at 8:00 a.m. for Divine Service. They meet in the building of United Lutheran Church, 15424 Lake Michigan Dr, West Olive, MI 49460. Website: <https://christevangelicallutheran.org>

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND...If you are looking for a place to keep your money safe and you are a member of the LCMS, check out the LCEF information and rates on the bulletin board just outside the church office. Feel free to contact John Hoover with any questions or further assistance. John.Hoover@lcef.org.

BLESSING OF (additional) WINTER HATS...Randy Boogaart, uncle of Jennifer Tarbell, has made and gifted to the Grace Yarn Benders, 67 winter hats for youth and adults. Pastor blessed them on November 24th and now they are available to anyone who needs a winter hat. They will be in the Fellowship Hall for a couple of weeks. If your child, grandchild, or friend. THANK YOU, Randy! You are a blessing to all who will wear these beautiful hats.

PRIVATE MUSIC LESSON OPPORTUNITIES WITH OSLC!...Our Savior Lutheran Church is connecting families in the Grand Rapids community with quality music education for their children. For more information see the poster on the bulletin board outside the office. If you have any questions please contact Kantor Roberts at croberts@oursavior-gr.org or call the OSLC Office at 616-949-0710.

POINSETTIAS!...Time is running out, but there is still time to order to help us adorn the sanctuary with beautiful Christmas Poinsettias. Please return an order form and payment to the church office or place it in the poinsettia basket on the devotional table in the Narthex.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TO CATECHISM - "RECITE" AND "RECEIVE"...Any child who has yet to start the Catechism can recite one of these categories to the Pastor at the beginning of Bible Study hour & receive a gift. The goal is for each entering Catechism student to have already received all four gifts. Recitation can be done in any order. Please contact Pastor with any questions.

1. Recite the Lord's Prayer and receive Luther's Small Catechism for Kids.
2. Recite the Apostles' Creed and receive Lutheranism 101 for Kids.
3. Recite the Ten Commandments and receive Luther's Small Catechism.
4. Recite Old and New Testament books (all at once or separated by Testaments) and receive a Faith Alive Student Bible ESV.

QUILTERS WORKSHOP...The next work session is planned for Wednesday, December 18 from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.. We welcome any and all help of those who can tie knots, layer and/or design Quilts. It's a great way to get to know your fellow Grace members while working on a worthy mission.

SCRIP/RAISERIGHT...If you would like to order Scrip you can find order slips as well as a list of all of the RaiseRig

Grace Beginnings
Preschool. Orders are due on the first 1 ch month (HOWEVER, special order for Monday, December 16) with delivery Wednesday or Thursday of that week.

THANK YOU...To Pastor, for all your many prayers, and for bringing Al and I communion. We really appreciate everything. God bless you. AND, **THANKYOU**...To all of our church family for the many get-well and birthday cards. You are all such a blessing in our lives. Please keep us in your prayers.

God's blessings. Love, Al & Mary TePastte

A BIG THANK YOU...To the Yarn Benders and everyone for the prayers. I am forever thankful for my church family and love them dearly. I am having a few health issues going on that require big appointments. Knowing I can come every Sunday to church and be surrounded by people who love me makes my heart complete.

Lots of love, Hailey Cutler



WINGS HAS APPLE PIES AVAILABLE



Impress your friends by baking a home-made apple pie! If anyone would like to purchase a frozen pie, please see Carol Klein, Diane Long or Linda Franks. The price is \$13 per pie, and there are order forms, if needed, on the showcase.

God Bless all our workers, buyers and sellers
Women in God's Service

GRACE LIFE COMMITTEE

† “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” John 10:10 †



Now they were bringing even infants to Him that He might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to Him, saying, “Let the children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”
Luke 18:15-17 ESV

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE 2025 MICHIGAN ESSAY CONTEST:

Lutherans for Life and Lutherans for Life of Michigan are holding their annual Life Essay Contests for 6th - 8th grade students and for high school students. For the LFL of MI contest there are awards of \$150 for 1st place and \$100 for 2nd place for each of the two grade levels. First place winner's essays in the LFL of MI contests are entered in the National LFL contest where the 1st and 2nd place winners receive additional awards and benefits as described in the Essay Contest Guidelines. Each LCMS school or congregation may submit one essay for each of the two grade levels as explained in the contest guidelines. If you are interested in reviewing these guidelines, please contact Norm Long at 616-698-9437 to receive a copy. Essays must be received by our contest coordinator by February 28, 2025. In recent years very few essays have been received, but those received were well written and reflected a good deal of research done by the students. With all the false information that is being presented to young people, it is important to encourage them to sort out the lies and find the truth and we believe that participating in the Life Essay Contest is one way to encourage them. The Board of LFL of MI ask that you seriously consider asking students to participate in the contest and offer them your assistance or direct them to another person that can do so. It has been suggested that students be encouraged to use the latter portion of their Christmas break to prepare the first drafts of their essays. If you have any questions or would like to receive a copy of the guidelines, please feel free to contact Norm Long; 616-698-9437.



WEST MICHIGAN LUTHERAN

Serving Grades 7 - 12

Christ Centered - Student Focused

Academics.....Activities.....Achievement

† Individual attention so **each student** can achieve their goals;
† Integration of the **Faith in every class** throughout the day!

ENROLL TODAY!...Looking for an affordable and exemplary Christ-centered education? Then check out West Michigan Lutheran High School. Contact the WML office at 616-455-2200 or email office@wmlhs.org to get the simple and easy enrollment paperwork.

CELEBRATION BRASS...The Celebration Brass Band will be playing at West Michigan Lutheran High School THIS Wednesday, December 11 from 1:45-2:45 p.m. Please join us for this Advent celebration. No admission.

THANK YOU...To everyone who participated in this year's West Michigan Lutheran Giving Day. With your generosity, we have raised \$24,446. If you still want to give toward the WML Giving Day, contact office@wmlhs.org or call 616-455-2200 to make a pledge. Your financial support ensures that we can continue to Educate the Hearts and Minds of Students in the Truth of God's Word to the Glory of Jesus Christ.



IN OUR PRAYERS...

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WITH HEALTH CONCERNS & OTHER NEEDS:

Anna Barber; Debra Barber; Rev. Ryan Beffrey; Mae Conkright; Hailey Cutler; Jeanne Dykstra; Willis (Jack) Edwards; Marilyn Franks; Ronald (Ron) Hansen; Barbara (Barb) Hoffman; Cindy Johnston; Iris Kamradt; Vicki Kik; Lois Klooster; Elfriede (Elfie) Koehler; Terry Larson; Norman (Norm) Long; Sandra (Sandy) Melville; Allen (Al) Miiller; Margaret (Marge) Morgan; Carol Pellerito; James (Jim) Pellerito; Mark Schrader; Albert (Al) TePastte; Joseph (Joe) Theuerkauf; Sharon Theuerkauf.

PRAYERS FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN NEED:

Amber (Key); Anacaletto Ayala (Gorman); Alice Barnes (Barnes); Timothy (Tim) Barnes (former member); Dawsyn Bates (Schrader); David & Jane Boedecker (Marklevitz); Barb Castle (Franks); Douglas Christensen (Christensen); Shannon Crisman (Larson); Vicky Drougl (Barnes); Margaret Eastland (Keith's mother); Phil Edgerton (Cutler); Nicole Girth (Gorman); Brian Hague (Larson); Bruce & Ruth Harder (Kik); Jim Hoard (Larson); Theresa Holzhausen; Ginny Huizenga (Klooster family); John Hume (Quist); Donald Karel (DeYoung); Jakaila Key (Key); Robert Key (Key); Duane Kimle (Diener); Bridget Kimmel (Gorman); Brian & Dawn Klein (Larson); Laura Kooienga (Zwar); Cathy Kutschinski; Tom Murrphy (Larson); Richard Ohse (former member); Carrie Pattok (Hoffman); Dalton Palmer (Kutschinski); Violet Redner (Marklevitz); Warren Rentz (father of Brian Rentz); Carissa Richmond (Pellerito); Julie Rop (Long); Bonnie Seher (Kamradt); Aaron Spratling (Hoffman); Katie Stevenson (Schrader); Ty Tanis (Kutschinski); Donna TePastte (TePastte); Vicky Thompson (Hoffman); Gary Weber (Reynolds); Maggie and Josiah Whitley (Helak); Theodore Wright (Peterman).

PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY & THEIR FAMILIES:

Robert Barber (Barber); Klorissa Brown, Katie Collins & Nick Payne (Gorman); Skylar Eriks (Kamradt); Christopher Ferguson & Alex Gaunt (Schrader); Blake Hoffman & Austin Spratling (Hoffman); Jackson Miller (Miller).

PRAYERS FOR OUR GRACE SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES:

Nora Leon; Rev. Steven & Martha Mahlburg.

PRAYERS FOR OUR GRACE SUPPORTED SEMINARIANS:

Nathan Bublitz; Noah Dunsmore.

WE PRAY FOR ALL THOSE WHO WILL BE CELEBRATING birthdays and anniversaries this coming week that their celebrations would lead to rejoicing in God's goodness once again this year and to give Him thanksgiving for all His blessings.

Happy Birthday this week to:

Sunday, December 8 - Richard Kutschinski

Friday, December 13 - Drew Eastland

Saturday, December 14 - Jenny Peterman

No Anniversaries this week

<p>TOGETHER AS A CHURCH FAMILY IN WORD AND STEWARDSHIP</p> <p>Sunday, December 1, 2024 9:00 a.m. Worship Attendance: 106 Communion: 85</p> <p>Sunday, December 1, 2024 Offering & Joyful Response: \$5,815.00</p> <p>Wednesday, December 4, 2024 6:30p.m. Worship Attendance: 50 Communion: 43</p> <p>Wednesday, December 4, 2023 Offerings (WMLHS): \$796.00</p>
--

Those serving this week and next at Grace:

	Second Sunday in Advent	Midweek II Advent	Third Sunday in Advent
	12/8/2024 9:00 a.m.	12/11/2024 6:30 p.m.	12/15/2024 9:00 a.m.
Communion Assistants:	Tom Hoffman	Ed Gorman	Dan DenBraber
Deaconess/Deacon:	Diane Long	Jill Reyers	Martha Robach
Altar Guild:	Janet Dykstra Martha Gottschall	Norm & Diane Long Linda Franks	Norm & Diane Long
Acolytes:	Hailey Morse Elizabeth Reynolds	Connor Reynolds Molly DenBraber	John Gottschall Leah Morse
Sound:	Gray Ferguson	Any Available	Doug Klein
Fellowship:	Gorman	X	Gottschall

Sanctuary Choir and Handbell Ensemble Director: Diane Long

Organist: Charles Gottschall

Finance Team December: Cindy Johnston & ANY available count team members.

Altar Flowers: No Flowers during Advent

THE SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Sunday, December 8, 2024

(Second Sunday in Advent)

Div..... 9:00 a.m.

Handbell Ensemble

Fellowship following Worship

Bible Study/Sunday School..... 10:45 a.m.

Monday, December 9, 2024

WinGS Ladies Christmas Party..... 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Women's Bible Study..... 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Handbell Ensemble 5:30 p.m.

Midweek II Advent Divine Service..... 6:30 p.m.

Sanctuary Choir 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, December 12, 2024

Pastoral Care..... 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Friday, December 13, 2024

Yarn Benders..... 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Saturday, December 14, 2024

Sunday, December 15, 2024

(Third Sunday in Advent)

Divine Service..... 9:00 a.m.

Sanctuary Choir

Fellowship following Worship

Bible Study/Sunday School..... 10:45 a.m.

Advent by Candlelight 4:00 p.m.