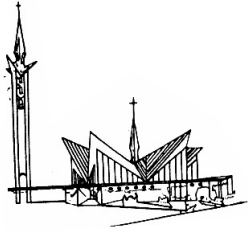


GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)



December 15, 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.

Third Sunday in Advent

Grace Lutheran Church

75th

Anniversary

October, 2024

Sermon Notes:

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

s, studied theology and hymnody at the University of Wittenberg and then was a tutor in Berlin,

66). 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.

BIBLE STUDY IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL...Join us for Bible study: *A Study on Exodus*.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY...Meets Tuesdays at 9:15 a.m. for the study of *Luke, Good News of Great Joy*. Born in a lowly manger, Jesus might not have been the messiah people expected, but He was the Messiah they needed.

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 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.

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."

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 24 and now they are available to anyone who needs a winter hat. They will be in the Fellowship Hall for a couple of weeks. Please take one for yourself, 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 [redacted] 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.

SCRIP/RAISERIGHT...If you would like to order Scrip you can find order slips as well as a list of all of the RaiseRight retailers on the showcase. Please be sure to turn in payment at the time you place your order. Make checks payable to Grace Beginnings Preschool. Orders are due on the first Monday of each month (HOWEVER, there will be a special order for TOMORROW, Monday, December 16) with delivery Wednesday or Thursday of this week.

SUNDAYSCHOOL 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.

SNOW REMOVAL...We are looking for volunteers to remove the snow from our sidewalks & entryways throughout the winter season for Sundays and also for Wednesdays during Advent and Lent and for any special services. There is a sign up board in the hallway wall, across from the [redacted] THANK YOU in advance for your willingness to help.

LUTHERAN WITNESS SUBSCRIPTIONS...If you would like to subscribe or renew your current subscription to Lutheran Witness magazine, please sign up on the clipboard at the showcase. The subscription cost is \$21.00 for the year. Please make checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church (payment envelopes available on the showcase). Payment can be placed thru the mail slot in the office door. The deadline to subscribe or renew is January 26, 2025. Be sure to verify your address and make note of any change on the last sheet on the clipboard.



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.



IN OUR PRAYERS...

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WITH HEALTH CONCERNS & OTHER NEEDS:

Anna Barber; Debra Barber; Rev. Ryan Beffrey; Mae Conkright; Hailey Cutler; Jeanne DeMeester; Jeffrey (Jeff) DeYoung; Janet Dykstra; Michael (Mike) Dykstra; Willis d (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); The **family of Iziekle Johnson**, who died suddenly (Eisen); 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:

Wednesday, December 18 - Tim Miller

Thursday, December 19 - Ryan Eastland

Friday, December 20 - Andrieu Blomeling

Happy Anniversary this week to:

Thursday, December 19 - Al & Mary TePastte - 65 years

TOGETHER AS A CHURCH FAMILY IN WORD AND STEWARDSHIP

Sunday, December 8, 2024 9:00 a.m. Worship Attendance: 107 Communion: 83

Sunday, December 8, 2024 Offering & Joyful Response: \$2,801.00

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 6:30p.m. Worship Attendance: 39 Communion: 34

Wednesday, December 11, 2023 Offerings: \$555.00

Those serving this week and next at Grace:

	Third Sunday in Advent 12/15/2024 9:00 a.m.	Midweek III Advent 12/18/2024 6:30 p.m.	Fourth Sunday in Advent 12/22/2024 9:00 a.m.
	Communion Assistants: Dan DenBraber	Keith Eastland	Dan DenBraber
Deaconess/Deacon:	Martha Robach	Kathy Helak	Diane Long
Altar Guild:	Norm & Diane Long	Norm & Diane Long Janet Dykstra	Barb Edwards Linda Franks
Acolytes:	John Gottschall Leah Morse	James Gottschall Elizabeth Reynolds	Hailey Morse Connor Reynolds
Sound:	Doug Klein	Any Available	Gray Ferguson
Fellowship:	Gottschall	X	Christmas Pageant

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 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.

Monday, December 16, 2024

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

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

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Quilters Workshop 9:00-11:30 a.m.
 Handbell Ensemble 5:30 p.m.
 Midweek III Advent Divine Service 6:30 p.m.
 Sanctuary Choir 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, December 19, 2024

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

Friday, December 20, 2024

Saturday, December 21, 2024 (St. Thomas, Apostle)

Hall Rental 9:00 am.-4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 22, 2024 (Fourth Sunday in Advent)

Divine Service 9:00 a.m.
Holy Baptism
 Fellowship following Worship
 Children's Christmas Pageant 10:45 a.m.
 Christmas Caroling 3:00 p.m.