LaGrave Avenue
Christian Reformed Church

Morning Worship

September 27, 2026 | 8:40 & 11:00 a.m.

Order of Worship

Morning Worship | 8:40 & 11:00 AM

Please prepare your hearts and minds for worship with a time of prayer and meditation

Welcome to worship at LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church. Please follow this order of worship carefully as worship proceeds without announcement. There are **two** different red hymnals. The *Worship & Rejoice* hymnal will be indicated by bold, italic type. An asterisk (*) denotes standing for those who are able.
We are glad you are here.
As you worship, please remember to silence your cellphones.

God Calls Us to Worship

The Prelude:

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty	John B. Dykes
Just As I Am, Without One Plea	William B. Bradbury
Sing to the Lord of Harvest	Johann Steurlein
Amazing Grace	Edwin O. Excell

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

O Come, My Soul, Sing Praise to God — arr. Rob Hobgood

O come, my soul, sing praise to God your Maker, and all within me, praise his holy name. Sing praise to God, forget not all his mercies; his pardoning grace and saving love proclaim. Praise him, you angels, wondrous in might; praise him, you servants who in his will delight.

*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 540
Holy God, We Praise Your Name

*The Greeting

*The People's Response: **Amen.**

The Welcome

We Humbly Approach God

The Call to Confession: Isaiah 64: 6-7

The Prayer of Confession

Righteous Lord, we are unclean people;
no matter our effort, our sin is ever before us.
All our best works are crooked.
They are built poorly and cannot last.
Show us our sin, Lord, and clear it away.
Raze our shoddy work that you might build anew.
Our vanity blinds us to our true state.
The deceiving one helps us to lie and say, 'We aren't so bad.'
In the insecurity of our sin, we are desperate to believe
that others are crumbling faster and suffering more than we are.
Crush the devil, Lord, and tell us the truth.
Show us our weakness so we might rest in your strength.
We forget your sacrifice on the cross,
when you, the sinless one, became sin for us.
We spurn your easy burden for the full weight of the law,
and under such a burden we are crushed.
We have all sinned,
and fallen short of the glory of God. Amen.

The Assurance of Forgiveness:

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine
or nakedness or danger or sword?
No, in all these things we are more than conquerors
through him who loved us.
For I am convinced that neither death nor life,
Neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future,
Nor any powers, neither height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. From Romans 8: 35, 37-38

*The Hymn of Commitment: Lift Up Your Hearts 424: 1, 3, 4
Jesus, Lover of My Soul

We Respond with Thanksgiving

The Children's Moment
Congregation: **The Lord be with you.**
Children: And also with you.

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:
O Savior of the World — Arthur Somervell
O Savior of the world, who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us, save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee. Amen.

The Offering

**Please sign and pass the Welcome Register found on the pew in the middle aisle*

The Offertory:
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross — Robert A. Hobby

*The Doxology
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him, above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

God Speaks to Us

The Scripture: Romans 3: 19-31 (p. 1748)
concluded with:
Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.
Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon: **The Book of Romans: But Now . . .**

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 825
Beneath the Cross

*The Benediction

*The People's Response: **Amen.**

*The Choral Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:
Toccata on *Amazing Grace* — J. Christopher Pardini

Rev. Kristy Manion ..... minister
Levi Huizenga ..... liturgist
Dr. Rob Hobgood ..... organist
Youth Instrumental Ensemble, Dr. Rob Hobgood ..... director
Preston Hollenbach, Penny Redder ..... violin
Audrey Schaap, Maddox Veldkamp ..... violin
Polly Slotsema ..... viola
Shiloh Gebben ..... cello
Norah Hollenbach ..... string bass
Mia Ackerman ..... flute
Caleb Ackerman, Joellah Bouwman ..... trumpet
Pierce Slotsema, Preston Slotsema ..... trumpet
Leah Karr, Ike Schaap ..... trombone
Sam Horton ..... tuba
Nancy Ryskamp ..... organist
Vocal Quartet, Dr. Rob Hobgood ..... director
Rachele Holwerda-soprano, Natalie Poortenga-alto
Chad Scholtens-tenor, Leo Christner-bass
Remi Stuit & Dave Versluis ..... Cross & Bible bearers (8:40)
Dan & Linda Slotsema ..... Cross & Bible bearers (11:00)

This morning is Christian Education Sunday, when we acknowledge our commitment to making Christian education accessible. The LaGrave Christian Education Society is providing financial support for 46 families and 103 students enrolled in Christian schools this year.

Music at LaGrave: The prelude is played by young musicians of LaGrave in 5th through 12th grade. *Holy, Holy, Holy* is a hymn of adoration that depicts all of creation praising God around the throne. *Just As I Am* confesses our unworthiness before such a holy God. *Sing to the Lord of Harvest* is a hymn of thanksgiving for all the gifts God has given us including Christ's sacrifice on the cross to save our souls. *Amazing Grace* recognizes this sacrifice and entreats God for his continued grace throughout our lives until that grace leads us home.

The flowers on the reredos today are given in loving memory of **Timothy Steele**, our dear husband, loving father and grandpa. **The Steele and Havlicek families**

Ordinary Time, the liturgical season of spiritual growth, continues until Advent. Notice that the liturgical colors for Ordinary Time, blue and green, are now lighter and changing in color. Along with the addition of texture, they symbolize elements of growth and the passage of time. As we continue through this time, reflect on these concepts from 2 Peter 3: 17-18. We are encouraged to continue our growth in the knowledge of our Lord, Jesus Christ and experience his grace. As we do, we will be prepared to face life's challenges and remain firm in our faith. These banners are hung in diptych form.

The single candle near the lectern is our **Christ Candle,** reminding us of the Prince of Peace and the light of the world.

The September special offering is for the Pregnancy Resource Center. Services include abstinence education, testing, prayer, consultation, information about pregnancy/adoption/birth control and the distribution of food/formulas/diapers/baby clothes.

Today

2 & 3s, Nursery & Children's Worship will be provided today.

CREW (9th-12th grade): We will meet tonight in the Vault from 5:30pm - 7:15pm. We will play games, have time in small groups, and eat Jimmy Johns. See you then! **Rachel will be on vacation** from Sunday, September 27 - Sunday, October 4. She will be back in the office on Monday, October 5. If you have questions while she is away, please contact the office.

MSYG (6th-8th grade): meets tonight in the MPR from 5:30p-7:15pm for small group devotions, Telestrations and waffles for dinner! Next week, 10/4, we head to the Scholtens' (2300 Onekama SE) for Capture the Flag! Contact Jess Hollenbach with questions.

Young Adult Small Group: We will be in the Parlor at 6:00pm for our study of John Piper's *Desiring God*.

This evening, we will be joined by the Calvin Alumni Choir for a special hymn sing. The service is called, "Homeward Bound: A Hymn Sing for Homecoming" and it celebrates the biblical image of home and the promises associated with it. Dr. Visser and Pastor Jonker will lead the service.

Next Week's Worship

Next Sunday morning Pastor Jonker will continue our sermon series on the book of Romans. His sermon will focus on Romans 4, a passage where Paul uses Abraham as the paradigm of how faith works. It will also be World Communion Sunday, so we will celebrate the Lord's Supper together.

Next Sunday evening will be our Service of Remembrance, where we will have the opportunity to remember friends and family who have died, including those in our congregation who have died in the past year. Chad Boorsma will preach on Ruth 1 with the message "Not Letting Go."

The
Ten O'Clock Hour
Growing in Fellowship and Faith Formation

Happenings today between the morning services:

- **Nursery** (ages 0-3) - 2s/3s Room
- **Littles Choir** (ages 4-2nd grade) - Junior Choir Room
- **Church School** (3rd-12th grade)
  - 3rd/4th grade— Room 221
  - 5th/6th grade— Room 218/220
  - 7th/8th grade— Room 219
  - 9th/10th grade— Lower Level Classroom
  - 11th/12th grade— Room 214
- **Coffee, Fellowship, Puzzles and Games:** Everyone welcome in the MPR!
- **Stan Kruis' African Trip Presentation:** Come to the Chapel to hear about Stan's trip to a West African, predominately Muslim country this past April.
- **Inspirations Youth Exhibit Reception:** opens today in the parlor! Stop by to greet our young artists and admire their creativity. The exhibit will continue through November 8.

Coming next Sunday to the 10 O'Clock Hour:

- **Church School Curriculum Update:** This past summer, Chad Scholtens was hired as a project intern to work alongside Rachel Thorne in updating the Church School curriculum for 3rd-12th graders. Come hear from him next Sunday in the Chapel about his work and the way the new curriculum empowers students to learn about the Bible, doctrine, and how both apply to their lives.
- **Book Study:** Mike & Linda Hoisington will be leading an 8 week book study in room 200 using *Gentle and Lowly* by Dane Ortlund. If possible, please read the first three chapters before next Sunday.
- **Global Concerns Prayer Time:** Join us in Room 204 for our monthly Prayer Time, which occurs each first Sunday of the month during the 10 o'clock hour. We will pray for our missionaries, the persecuted church, and worldwide concerns and calamities.
- **Visitor Coffee:** There will be a special coffee time in the Parlor for visitors/regular attenders and newer members who have been around for roughly two years or less. It is a great way to meet people, most of whom are relatively new to LaGrave.

Upcoming Events

Scan the QR code for more information or to sign-up

Wednesday Night Programming
Wednesday, September 30 at 5:45pm
Grab 'n go meal is from 5:45-6:30pm. Burgers are on the menu. We are now offering gluten free options. Childcare (0-4 years old). GEMS are at LaGrave and Youth Outdoors is at the Farm (note this is different from the original schedule). There is a van from LaGrave to the Farm that will leave at 6:15pm.

Women's Book Club
Monday, September 28, 7:30pm
Join us in the Parlor to discuss *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell* by Robert Dugoni. Get the book at your library, Schuler Books or Amazon.

Circle of Support
Tuesday, September 29 at 10:30am
Caregivers and those who provide support for someone else are invited to the Parlor for Circle of Support, a time where we will share our concerns, hear encouragement from God's Word, and spend time in prayer. See Chad Boorsma with any questions.

College/Career
Wednesday September 30 at 6:00pm
Mark your calendar for Wednesday, Sept. 30, for another BBQ dinner of hotdogs, hamburgers, and ice cream! Join us for supper from 6:00-7:30PM. Come, grab dinner and visit with other college/career adults! We will meet in the Parlor. Contact Heidi with any questions.

GEMS Event at Robinette's Corn Maze
Saturday, October 3 from 10:30am-12:30pm
GEMS Girls' Club invites ALL girls in grades K - 8 to join us for a fun time wandering the corn maze. Parents are welcome to drop off/pick up or stay on the property (E. Beltline/4 Mile). GEMS will pay entrance fee for the girls. RSVP to Tina Rooks (616-723-3041) ASAP so we have enough tickets. See you there!

Service of Remembrance
Sunday, October 4 at 6:00pm
Join us as we remember those in our congregation who have died during the last year, but also celebrate the hope we have in Jesus' victory over the grave. We will also have the opportunity to remember other friends and loved ones who have passed away. Refreshments will be served after the service by the Comfort and Care Team.

College/Career

Sunday, October 4 from 5:30pm-7:30pm

Join us for a casual hang-out dinner at the Glover House on Oct. 4 (1933 Pinnacle Dr. SW). All are welcome to stop in, grab dinner, meet others and fellowship over a homemade meal. Reach out to Heidi (616-437-6830) with questions. Hope to see many of you there!

Mahjong Night

Tuesday, October 6 from 6:00-8:00pm

All Mahjong players! For those that know how to play, come on Oct. 6 from 6-8pm. For no cost, our instructors will come to play and answer our questions. Email Cindy cbusscher@lagrave.org to RSVP.

Heartside Women Who Care

Wednesday, October 14, 5:30-7:00pm

An evening of community connection and collective philanthropy featuring a light supper and women's project presentations by ICCF, Covenant House and the Downtown Food Pantry at Westminster. RSVP by October 7 via email heartsidewomen@lagrave.org.

Outdoor Group Event

Saturday, October 17 at 10:00am

We will meet at Fred Meijer Nature Preserve, Pickerel Lake Park. We will hike the 2 mile trail around the Lake. Colors will be beautiful and everyone of all ages are welcome to join! We are adding a bonus extra option. Please check out News & Opps for details and RSVP. Any questions? Ask Dean & Tina Rooks, tina.erooks@gmail.com.

Spark Kickoff Event

Sunday, October 18 from 5:00-5:45pm

If you are a young, middle or older aged adult and interested in intergenerational discipleship at LaGrave, you are invited to the kickoff event on Sunday, October 18 from 5pm-5:45pm. Dinner provided by Qdoba. If interested, sign up via the Welcome Desk or contacting Heidi (616-437-6830) or Rachel.

Introduction to the West Michigan Friendship Center

Thursday, October 22 from 6:30-8:30pm

The Evangelistic Outreach Committee invites LaGrave members to join us in learning more about the center's work connecting the Grand Rapids Christian and Muslim communities. We have purchased 16 seats at their upcoming banquet on Tuesday, October 22, 6:30-8:30pm at Calvary Church's Gathering Place, 707 E Beltline Ave NE. Signup by Sept. 28 to reserve your seat to Kristin at kbatts@lagrave.org.

Announcements

Calming and active sensory rooms:
A reminder that Room 200 is a calming sensory room during the worship services and Room 217 is an active sensory room. There are tools in each space to accommodate both active and calming needs and there is livestream in both spaces. Contact Rachel Thorne if you have any questions.

Sunday scribbles (3rd - 8th grade)
Instead of worship notes, Rachel is providing a worship journal for any who are interested. Visit her office to look at one and pick it up.

Intercessory Prayer
Join the prayer team as we gather in the chapel each Wednesday to lift up the needs of our church. Beginning this month, we will be meeting at a new time -- from 12:15-1:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please see Jolene DeHeer or Chad Boorsma.

Resources for Fall Sermon Series
Be sure to stop by the library today to check out the display of fine books about Paul and Romans. They will enrich, inspire and/or inform you for a better experience listening to the upcoming sermons.

Caring Through Sharing
There is a group that quietly welcomes new babies to our congregation and helps with short-term meal needs during recover. Once the CTS team is notified of a need, an email goes out, and team members sign up to provide a meal if it fits their schedule. If this sounds like a way you can join in the life of the church and you would like to be added to the list, email Becci Zwiers at bzwiers@me.com.

Book Study
As we delve into the book of Romans for our fall sermon series, we will also delve into the heart of Christ with a study of *Gentle and Lowly* by Dane Ortlund. The book can be read as part of a group at the 10 O'Clock Hour, during a group at another time, or on your own. Books available for $5. See Chad Boorsma with any questions.

Lenten Devotional
Meditations are due by the end of September. Meditations should pertain to the Lenten season. Total word count should be 350-375 words in length. Send meditations to della.landheer@gmail.com.

Flourishing Families Service Small Group
We are looking for 2-3 more individuals/couples/families to join a small group that will support a family as they work to move from family shelter to their own place. We will kick off this group October 11. Contact Kristin at kbatts@lagrave.org or 616-450-9504 if interested.

Prayer Concerns

We praise God for his faithfulness to:

- **Christina Weller & Andrew Berry**, who were united in marriage here at LaGrave on Friday, September 18.
- **Maddie Knoor & Ben Lemke**, who were united in marriage here at LaGrave on Saturday, September 26.
- **Marilyn DeJong**, who will celebrate her 93rd birthday on Sunday, October 4.

Let us faithfully pray for:

- **Dan Beimers**, who continues at Mary Free Bed for rehab to gain strength.
- **Ron (Mary) Shoemaker**, who is in hospice care at Valley View Care Center.
- **Elaine Smith**, who is recovering at home after knee replacement surgery.
- **Valerie Visser**, who began chemo treatments for breast cancer on Thursday, September 24.

Please pray for:

those receiving hospice services – Sylvia Hugen, Harris Kiekover, Bruce Quinn, Bev VandenBosch, George Zandt

those living with cancer – Jolene DeHeer, Marsha Haan, Jim Krol, Steve Palazzolo, Lloyd Tinholt, Sharon VanHouten

those with other continuing needs – Sandy Buter, Cloe Ann Danford, Sandra Destrempes, Sandy Gronsman, Carole Hoffman, Renee Kuiper, Rich & Mamuani Postma, Millie Vriend, Joyce Zwiers

those actively serving in the military – Blake Huizenga, Tim VanBeek

As members of God's family, remember those who face religious persecution throughout our world, and who suffer for the sake of Christ.

Missionary of the week: Steve & Jan Michmerhuizen, serving in Hungary. Pray for the European Evangelical Alliance's "Hope for Europe" gathering in October in Albania, where Steve will be representing the Creation Care Network, presenting new material.

Transfer Out

Kate (Looman) Van't Hof has transferred her membership to Monroe Community Church, Grand Rapids.

Olivia (Alcumbrack) Gritters has transferred her membership to Walker United Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, MI.

We wish them God's blessing in their new church homes.

Calendar

Sunday, September 27

Morning Worship ..... 8:40 AM
10 O'Clock Hour ..... 10:00 AM
Morning Worship ..... 11:00 AM
Bells Gloria ..... 4:00 PM
7-12 Choir ..... 4:40 PM
CREW, Vault ..... 5:30 PM
MSYG, MPR ..... 5:30 PM
Evening Worship-Calvin Hymn Sing ..... 6:00 PM
Young Adult Book Study, Parlor ..... 6:00 PM

Monday, September 28

Community Engagement Planning, Library ..... 1:00 PM
Mission Committee, LL ..... 6:00 PM
Communications Committee, 200 ..... 7:00 PM
Women's Book Club, Parlor ..... 7:00 PM

Tuesday, September 29

Circle of Support, Parlor ..... 10:30 AM
Facilities Committee, Parlor ..... 4:00 PM
Bells Jubilate ..... 6:15 PM

Wednesday, September 30

Men's Morning Bible Study, LLMR ..... 8:00 AM
Women's Morning Bible Study, Library ..... 9:00 AM
Women's Mid Morning Bible Study, Parlor ..... 10:00 AM
3-6 Choir ..... 5:00 PM
Young Adult Gathering ..... 6:00 PM
Faith Journey Bible Study, Library ..... 6:30 PM
Wednesday Night Activities ..... 6:30 PM
Chancel Choir ..... 7:00 PM

Thursday, October 1

Beth Moore and More Bible Study, Parlor ..... 9:30 AM

Friday, October 2

Men's Morning Bible Study, Parlor ..... 8:30 AM

Sunday Volunteers

Assisting This Week: September 27

Security:	8:40:	Nate Versluis, Jake Versluis, Harvey DeMaagd
	11:00:	Kevin Scholten, Judy Scholten
Greeters:	8:40:	Beth Swagman, Denise DeGraaf
	11:00:	Andy & Becca VandeGriend, Brent & Cindy Busscher
	6:00:	Linda Slotsema, Ginny Geldof
Ushers:	8:40:	Tim Walcott, Eli Walcott, John Schat, Brad Schaap
	11:00:	Mitchell Schroder, Dave Tornga, Marilyn Rottman, Matt Scholten
	6:00:	Brad Schaap, Merv Kamper, Dave Becksvoort

Assisting Next Week: October 4

Security:	8:40:	Dave Versluis, Tim Walcott, Zach Kruyf
	11:00:	Jeff Scholtens, Chad Scholtens
Greeters:	8:40:	Julia Hoekstra, Marsha Kooistra
	11:00:	Peter Jouwstra. Don & Evonne Plantinga
	6:00:	Ann VanEerden, Jae Loucks
Ushers:	8:40:	Brent Busscher, Caleb Ackerman, Peter Ackerman, Dave Gebben
	11:00:	Matt Scholten, Merv Kamper, Jeff Plantinga, Luther Ajim
	6:00:	Pete Clover

Sermon Notes

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