

June/July 2025



SAVING GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

OUR JOURNEY

A newsletter for members and friends of Saving Grace Lutheran Church



“Established in the Holy Scriptures,
our mission is to make Jesus Christ
known to all as the One True Savior;
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”

PIE AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL

THURSDAY, JUNE 26
4-7PM



BACH FESTIVAL

Sunday, July 27th | 1:30pm
Saving Grace Sanctuary



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

At True North, kids discover
that they can trust Jesus in a
wild world!

JULY 7TH - 11TH
9AM - NOON

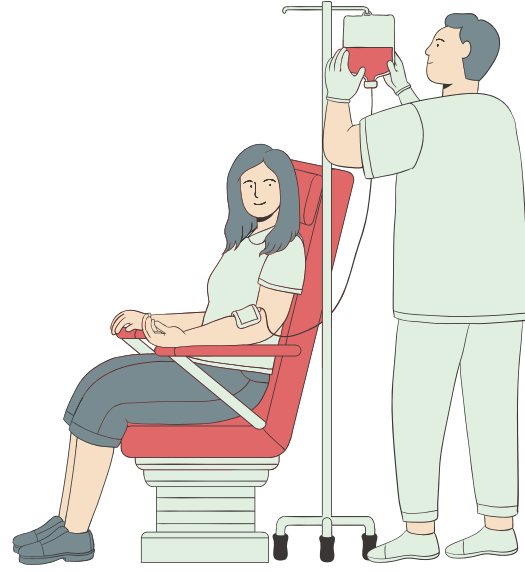
Events & News for June/July 2025

Blood Drive

Monday, June 9th

Noon - 5pm

American Red Cross



4th of July

HAPPY
Father's
DAY



CHRISTMAS IN JUNE

Sunday, June 22nd | 4pm

Kokemoors' Residence

Bring a lawn chair, a snack to share, and a gift worth less than \$5

Blue bags for men, pink bags for women



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

2025: TRUE NORTH

July 7 - 11 | 9am - Noon

BACH FESTIVAL



Sunday, July 27th
1:30pm

Celebrating the life and music
of Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685 - 1750)

Featuring Saving Grace
Choir and local Eau Claire
musicians

PIE AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL

THURSDAY, JUNE 26
4-7PM

BBQ Plate: \$8

Hot Dog Plate: \$7

Pie, Ice Cream: \$5

All meals include: beans, chips, pickle, ice cream, and our wonderful home-made pies!
(Take-out plates are available)



A Message From Pastor David

“^{24:44} Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”
(Luke 24:44-49)

“Power can be used in at least two ways: it can be unleashed, or it can be harnessed. The energy in ten gallons of gasoline, for instance, can be released explosively by dropping a lighted match into the can. Or it can be channeled through the engine of a Datsun in a controlled burn and used to transport a person 350 miles. Explosions are spectacular, but controlled burns have lasting effect, staying power.

The Holy Spirit works in both ways. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon them and “tongues as of fire... rested on each of them.” (Acts 2:3) The very power of God rested on them and they began to speak of God’s deeds of power in languages as God gave them ability. The Gospel of Jesus Christ, life, death, and resurrection was understood by everyone. “On that day about three thousand persons were added.” (Acts 2:41)

The Holy Spirit was poured out upon each one of Jesus’ disciples “120 persons in all” men and women. (Acts 1:15) Through the Holy Spirit the Gospel of Jesus Christ began to spread. Fulfilling the prophecy in Joel 3.

**“I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.
29Even on the male and female slaves,
in those days, I will pour out my spirit.**

³⁰I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. ³¹The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. ³²**Then everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved; (Joel 3:28-32a)**

Everything had changed! The Holy Spirit (Ruach) who was present when God created all that exists, Jesus the Word that was spoken, brought life into the world. We are given New Life in Christ! It means that in the face of the impossible we still have hope. It means, when the world has despaired, we know that “all things are possible with God” (Matthew 19:26) and through Christ who loved us. When the world has given up, we know that God is at work bringing about faith. We know that God moves beyond our understanding, with a power that can only be wielded by God Himself. Only He knows the possibilities of what can be. All this happens through the power of the Holy Spirit!

Life is no longer about what we want, or think should happen, it’s about God’s Kingdom breaking into our world, that His Word would go out to all nations. We can hope, because God has given us a spirit of adoption through Jesus Christ. (Romans 8:15-17) We serve Jesus Christ who is King of kings and Lord of lords, (Rev. 17:14) who has authority over all things. He is the Bread of Life, (Jn.6:35) the Chief Cornerstone, (Ps.118:22) the deliverer, (Thes.1:10) faithful and true, (Rev. 19:11) The Good Shepherd, (Jn. 10:11) Head of the Church (Eph.1:22) I Am (Jn. 8:58) He has all authority on earth and intercedes for us in the very presence of God, at God’s right hand. He can do all things. This is the one who has given us hope, and that’s just scratching the surface. He can do all things.

May the Holy Spirit guide, protect, and keep you as he empowers you this month,
In Jesus Christ our Lord!

Pastor David Irgens

Reflections from Pastor Dan

My parents encouraged us kids to learn a musical instrument. When I was a little boy, I picked piano—I'm not sure why. My older brother picked viola, violine, and later electric guitar. But, I picked piano. I loved my sweet teacher in Mississippi. She lived in our neighborhood and I would ride my bike to her house and we would have our lessons right there in the front room where the upright piano faced against the wall.

She was so sweet because of her patience with a little boy who never wanted to practice, but who wanted all the kind remarks that would've come to a student who played every day. I was that little boy! I can imagine how frustrated I would be if I had a student come week to week making the smallest amount of progress because they never looked at the music outside of our lessons. She showed me grace. Her kind, encouraging words for whatever I played, kept me wanting to come back.

Vaughan Roberts paints the world as an orchestral ensemble. God is both the composer of the music and conductor of the musicians. In our own lives, we neglect to read the music, lose it, and at times even rip it apart. But, Jesus comes to restore harmony in our lives and the world around us. "He wants to change the ugly discord of our lives and our world into the beautiful music they were designed to make: a symphony of praise to the Creator," (126, Roberts, God's Big Picture). Jesus did this by playing his part perfectly, dying for our sin to be raised from the dead. Now, he has made a way for us to return to God's orchestra and play our part in harmony with God's people.

Last month, I preached a sermon on the conversion of Saul and the reconciliation of Peter. I keep thinking about their stories and how God continues to work in our lives and the lives of those around us. Christ confronted Paul so that he would play his part in harmony with the kingdom of God, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do," (Acts 9:5-6). Jesus restored Peter so that he too would be able to play his part in confidence for the sake of his kingdom, "Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs,' ... 'Tend my sheep,' ... 'Feed my sheep,'" (John 21:15-17).

Jesus is a kind, patient, and gracious teacher. He doesn't just call us to play music as we please...in other words, live our lives however we'd like to live them. He's given us a specific part to play in harmony with those around us. He's standing at the front of the orchestra working to keep us in rhythm with the rest of the group. But, just like that piano teacher growing up, he is patient with our "progress," if we can even call it that. And he is generous with his encouragement and steadfast love.

Where has Christ found you today? Are you on your way to Damascus like Paul? Do you feel some sort of righteous anger to prove others wrong and possibly accuse other Christians of being unloving, impatient, and downright unchristian? Go back to Acts 9 and reflect on Paul's call to ministry and how Christ confronted him in his self-righteousness. Or, are you turning back to old habits, a previous preoccupation like Peter? Do you feel an inescapable longing to hide, to explain yourself out of responsibility, and numb the pain of failure? Go back to John 21 and reflect on how Jesus reconciles Peter and establishes his purpose.

Christ calls all of us to a purpose in his kingdom,

Pastor Dan

Music Notes

Katherine Altreuter, Music Director



1685 - 1750

BACH FESTIVAL

Sunday, July 27th | 1:30pm

Dear Saving Grace congregation and friends,

On July 27th, we are celebrating the life and music of Johann Sebastian Bach, featuring the Saving Grace Choir and other local musicians.

J. S. Bach continues to be an important figure in western classical music after all these centuries. His music for the church (including many hymns based on the writing of Martin Luther) and solo repertoire is studied by classical musicians all across the world.

Bach passed on July 28, 1750, which is why we've chosen to hold a concert in remembrance of his music and ministry at the end of July. I'm excited to share his music with you and we hope you will join us!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 7th - 11th | 9am - Noon



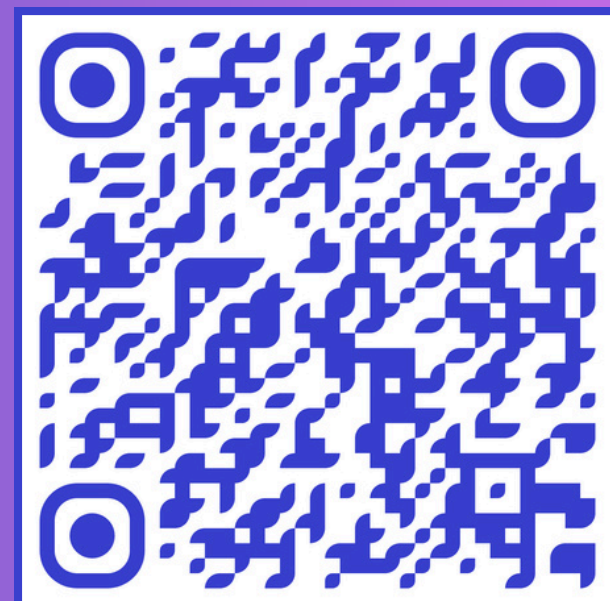
Filled with awesome Bible-learning experiences they can see, hear, and touch, our VBS kids will build crafts, play team-building games, and learn unforgettable Bible songs that help faith flow into real life.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Help facilitate crafts, games,
and faith-learning
experiences

Contact Chloe Sawall to
learn more:
saving_graceeducation@gmail.com

Sign up in Narthex, on
our website, or scan
the QR code below:



MISSION OUTREACH

In May, monthly gifts went to Starfish Kids, Ephrem, Binder Family, Miracle League of the Chippewa Valley, Eau Claire Transit (city bus tickets for Pastor Mike Henry (CVSM)), Eternal Angels, My Team Triumph - WI (Ann Seidel memorial), Beacon House and Haven House (provided cases of water), and supported two requests from our Lockbox.

We decided to support Eternal Angels; they are a nonprofit that takes donated wedding dresses and turns them into infant bereavement gowns for families whose baby dies at the hospital. It was started in 2015 and have provided more than 400 outfits. They are always looking for volunteers. For more information, contact Eternal Angels through Facebook.

We have started a collection of old and new devotional books *Our Daily Bread* & *Christ In Our Home*, we want to use them for future projects. We have a basket on our Mission Outreach table for them.

We would like to invite you to our Mission Outreach table in the Fellowship Hall. We have notes, newsletters, and volunteer information from groups and organizations Saving Grace supports.

We are always open to ideas and suggestions (use the new Lockbox) for missions from our congregation. Call one of our mission committee members or email: office@saving-gracechurch.com.

Mission Outreach will meet on Monday, June 2 at 5pm; Monday, July 7 at 5pm.

Memorial & Honorary Gifts

In memory of Carolyn Kuziej

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Peter & Renae Hestekin, John & Carol Mieske, Sharon Jurjens, Cindy Joy Fischer, Paul & Patty Dundas

to the TV Ministry Fund

Bob & Bea Frazee

In memory of Mike Sullivan

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

David Hanson, Barb Mathson

In memory of Mary Mickelson

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Barb Mathson

In memory of Kimberly Polus, sister of Cindy Joy Fischer

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Ginny Wright

to the TV Ministry Fund

Mary Seidling

In memory of Doug Hillestad

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Barb Mathson, Allan & Ruth Hofland, Wilson Lund, Dan & Nancy Gunderson, Kevin & Nancy Balash, Doug & Jill Klawiter, Mark C. Olsen, Ginny Wright, Nancy Zuber, Tom & Jayne Fleming, Barb Hillestad, James & Elaine Ellenson

In honor of Larry McClean's 88th Birthday

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Sandy McClean



Memorial & Honorary Gifts (cont.)

In memory of Sue Partlow Ottum

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Geraldine Slock

to the General Operating Fund

Stan & Jean Brettingen

In memory of my brother, Wayne Gruhlke

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Bonnie Spencer

In memory of my parents, Bev & Don Erickson

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Don Erickson

In memory of Gary Nelson

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Darlene Bauer

In memory of Carol Swartz

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Darlene Bauer, Stan & Jean Brettingen

to the TV Ministry Fund

Jerry & Rosemary Schmidt

In honor of the baptism of Ava Draxler

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Gerald & Alice Dusick

In honor of Joshua Titus Doran

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Cynthia Sprick



Memorial & Honorary Gifts (cont.)

In memory of Barb Medford

to the TV Ministry Fund

Richard & Sylvia Schumacher

**In memory of my parents, Ralph & Delores Zimmerman, husband
Dennis, and son Michael**

to the TV Ministry Fund

Mary Seidling

In memory of Irene Johnson

to the General Operating Fund

John & Carol Mieske

In memory of Al Templin

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

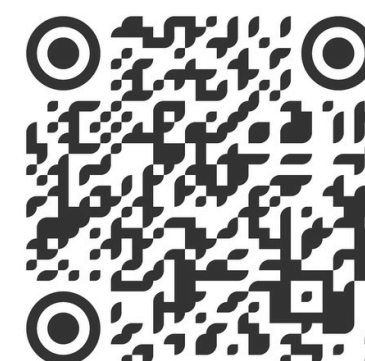
Stan & Jean Brettingen, George & Sandy Nelson, Kevin & Nancy
Balash, Darleen Bauer, Bev Nelson

“The family of Al Templin would like to thank each of you from our church family who made memorial donations to Saving Grace in Al’s memory. I am grateful for your kindness and thoughtful remembrances. Thank you also to the women and men who served and cleaned up following our picnic lunch and fellowship.”



**Keep up with current
events, live-
streaming, and more
on our Facebook
page!**

[https://www.facebook.com/
SGLChurchEC](https://www.facebook.com/SGLChurchEC)





OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY (FM 107.1)

5pm | Traditional

SUNDAY (LIVE-STREAMED)

8:30am | Traditional

10:30am | Contemporary

Church Council

Michelle Otto, President

Patty Dundas, Vice President

Pam Bee, Treasurer

Michelle Volz, Secretary

Council Members: Mary Schneider, Ruth Hofland, Steve Wright, Carol Pickhardt, Brian Hagen, Patrick Bartholomew

Staff

Pastor David Irgens, Senior Pastor

Pastor Dan Doran, Associate Pastor

Katherine Altreuter, Music Director

Chloe Sawall, Education Director & Choir Director

Kristina Johnson, Children's Choir Director



SAVING GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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