



OUR JOURNEY

A newsletter for members & friends of
Saving Grace Lutheran Church

A message from Pastor David Irgens

MAY 2026

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴**All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.** ⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶**And...each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.** (Acts 2:1-6)

²⁹But Moses said to him, **“Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD’s people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!”** (Numbers 11:29)

Pentecost takes place 50 days after the Passover. It was called “Festival of Harvest,” the “Festival of Ingathering,” and “the Day of Firstfruits.” The people of Israel celebrated the giving of the Ten Commandments, the first harvest.

Moses brought the people the law, the Ten Commandments, and they were blessed because of it. They are called to **“Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb [Sinai]... You came near and stood at the foot of the mountain while it blazed with fire to the very heavens, with black clouds and deep darkness. Then the LORD spoke... He declared to you his covenant, the Ten Commandments, which he commanded you to follow and then wrote them on two stone tablets”** (Deut. 4:10-13). The people respond, **“We will do and we will obey/understand”** (Exodus 24:7).

The Law would guide and govern the people. He asked God for help in hearing the people’s grievances. God took the 70 Elders and put the Holy Spirit upon them and giving them His guidance. Then they prophesied, the people complained, they couldn’t bear it. And Moses says, **“Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD’s people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!”** (Numbers 11:29) This is remembered 50 days after Passover. The Jews are freed from Egypt, they receive the Law/Ten Commandments and they celebrate the first harvest and give back to God for all He has provided.

The gift of the Holy Spirit came to the disciples on the third...

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WORSHIP WITH US

Saturday

Traditional 5:00 PM

Sunday

Traditional 8:30 AM

Contemporary 10:30 AM

OFFICE HOURS

Mon. – Thur. 9am – 4pm

(715) 514 – 3552

www.saving-gracechurch.com

3735 Jeffers Rd, Eau Claire, WI 54703

Submissions to the JUNE

Our Journey

newsletter due:

MONDAY, MAY 25th

NEWS & EVENTS

starting Sunday, April 26...

OUR NURSERY IS OPEN!

REGISTER
ONLINE:



Only during the 10:30am
contemporary worship service

Contact Cheryl Eberhardt,
Education Director, for more
information:

savinggraceeducation@gmail.com



proclaiming

THE GOSPEL CHANGES EVERYTHING

A fundraising banquet benefitting the
ministry in Western Wisconsin Jails

Monday, May 4
6:30 PM



Sign-up & more information in Narthex

8th Annual

SPAGHETTI DINNER & SILENT AUCTION

Fundraiser for Veterans in Need



SCAN HERE



Saturday, May 16
4 - 7pm

Tickets & more information in Narthex

Game Day!

Sunday
May 17

11:30 AM

Games, food, fun!

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for **Game Day!** Bring your favorite game & a friend! Lunch will be served.

...day when Jesus rose from the dead. ***“Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’”*** (John 20:21-22). Now again the Holy Spirit comes upon the disciples, but this time there are about 120 disciples in the room (Acts 1:15) and they begin speaking about ***“God’s deeds of power”*** (Acts 2:11). They spoke about what God had done and all who heard it were amazed!

They were the first to witness to who God is and what He had done through Jesus Christ His Son our Lord! Remember when ***“...Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split”*** (Matt. 27:50-51). God tore open the separation between God and us through Jesus’ death on the cross for our sins. Now he goes further and pours out His Holy Spirit upon the disciples so they can carry the message into the world. It’s not through our intellect, discernment, wisdom, or any of our attributes that this takes place, but through the power of the Holy Spirit. ***“Would that all the LORD’s people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!”*** (Numbers 11:29)

God still works through us today through the power of the Holy Spirit that others might believe in Jesus Christ. It is the fulfillment of all that He has promised. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is on the loose and nothing can keep the Good News of who God is and what He has done through Jesus Christ from going forth, not even language.

*In Christ Jesus our Risen Lord and King, may everyone hear,
Pastor David Irgens*

Share your recipe with us for the Saving Grace Cookbook!

Pick up a blank recipe page to fill out in the Narthex under the bulletin board.

Deadline to turn in recipe pages is June 1st!

Standard categories
PLUS a
Scandinavian section!

3 April 2026

A message from Pastor Dan Doran
The Lord's Supper

Has the excitement around celebrities worn off? It seems like when I was growing up, there was a fascination with seeing movie stars or famous artists. Maybe it's because we don't have cable TV anymore and I don't see snippets of Entertainment Tonight and the latest paparazzi photos capturing the famous in a sweatshirt and sweatpants. In addition to that, there was an excitement about becoming famous in one way or another. I remember when American Idol first came on the air. It was exciting to think that there was some way for the "average Joe," the diamond in the rough, to be found and given every opportunity for success.

I remember, when I was going to college, my brother bought me tickets to see one of my favorite bands. He splurged and got the "VIP access" to "meet and greet" the musicians of For Today. I thought this was really something special. I was expecting to be shown to a green room behind stage where the band members were getting ready for the show. Then, my brother and I could sit down and actually have a conversation with the band I loved listening to so much. Well, that's not what happened. When we got to the venue, there was a long line of people who had apparently all paid for "VIP access." And we were all funneled through the front doors in a single file line to receive a t-shirt, a CD, and a poster handed to us by members of the band. As soon as we walked past the band, our meet and greet was over!

We've been given something so much greater than entertainment, celebrity, fandom. Jesus has given us himself in the Lord's Supper—his real, lasting presence. We're just finishing up our lessons on the Lord's Supper in Confirmation. We've learned that we receive Christ's real presence as often as we take communion.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26: "For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often...

LECTIONARY SCHEDULE
for the month of May 2026

Sunday, May 3 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16 (5)

Sunday, May 10 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

Psalms 66:8-20 (8)

Sunday, May 17 – Seventh Sunday of Easter/Ascension of our Lord

Acts 1:6-14

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

Psalms 68:1-10, 32-35 (4)

Sunday, May 24 – Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

John 20:19-23

Psalms 104:24-34, 35b (30)

**Sunday, May 31 – The Holy Trinity/
First Sunday After Pentecost**

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

Psalms 8 (1)

Interested in reading the Word at the Sunday 8:30

AM traditional worship service?

Contact Ellis Stewart to sign up!

ellis.stewart@charter.net

FELLOWSHIP

Sundays @ 9:30 AM

Thank you to the Misson Outreach committee
for leading fellowship in May!

**Sign-up to lead fellowship and/or bring snacks at
the refreshment table in the Fellowship Hall.**

...as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

When Jesus says, "This is my body," and "This is my blood," he really means it. He's giving it to us intending that we keep it and take and eat. He has given himself that we might claim him as our own—and he, in fact, claims us as his own. He's not just interested in giving out some "VIP access," that barely amounts to a "hello." He wants us to spend our entire lives together in his presence. He gives us this very promise at the end of Matthew's gospel, "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

Jesus has taken a great interest in our lives. He's made himself available to us. He insists that we welcome his very presence into the tapestry of our lives. And as we receive him, our faith is strengthened with the many gifts he gives; eternal life, forgiveness of sin, and the peace that comes in his presence.

*Every Blessing in the Lord,
Pastor Dan*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 13 - 17, 2026



SCAN HERE



Registration is open online or fill out a form in the Narthex!

Join us again for VBS this summer!

Contact Cheryl Eberhardt, Education Director, with any questions:
savinggraceeducation@gmail.com

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Saving Grace Choir – May Schedule

Rehearsal and end of year party on Thursday, May 7th, 6:30-7:30pm.

Performing on Sunday, May 10th at the 8:30am traditional service.

See the bulletin board in the Narthex or in the Music Room for the choir schedule!

Interested in sharing your gifts?

Contact Katherine Altreuter, Music Director, for more information about the choir, Special Music, the contemporary band, or helping out in the Audio/Visual Booth.

sglcmusic@gmail.com

A message from Katherine Altreuter, Office Administrator & Music Director

"You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide their grain, for so you have prepared it. You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth. You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with abundance. The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy, the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy." Psalm 65:9-13

Welcome spring! As the grass turns from brown to green and buds fill the branches of the birch trees lining the driveway, I've been watching the transformation of God's creation from my office window the last few weeks. Renewal is upon us; we are leaving the cold and desolate winter behind. I am so grateful every year when the weather turns to warm sunshine and gentle breezes – God provides once again.

On the farm I help work on, lambs are born in April and May and brought to the pasture for the first time. They feel the warmth of the sun on their fresh coats, the cool of the shade from the trees, and the comfort of their mothers' protection. God provides once again.

Lately in the evenings, I've been sitting next to...

5 April 2026

...our front window listening to the frogs and crickets hum away the sunset with a cup of tea. As incense or a candle burns, I journal about my day or meditate on scripture. It's the perfect way to wind down for the night before heading off to bed. God provides again.

In the early months of the year, when our world was transformed into a frozen paradise for skiers, ice skaters, and snow fanatics, God provided once again. When the winter returns later this year, and we hunker down amidst the Christmas decorations and Advent festivities, God will provide again: His only Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

When life is full of sunshine, fresh blossoms, and warm evenings, we know that God has provided creation another season of renewal and rebirth. It's in the darkness of winter that we lose our way along the snowy path. We feel the harsh realities of our mortal world, that nothing here is evergreen, that all the goodness of the earth is stripped bare each year. How do we remind ourselves that God still provides in these seasons of desolation?

When Christ was crucified, "there was darkness over all the land" and "the earth shook, and the rocks were split" (Matt. 27). What a terrifying and desolate place Jerusalem must have been that day. The sun had disappeared as the disciples mourned their Messiah who was brutally tortured, mocked, and put to death right in front of them. What hope did anyone have?

Yet, the resurrection came as He promised! On the third day, the tomb was opened and He walked among the disciples, showing them his wounds and repeating the promise: " 'Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations'" (Luke 24:46a-47a). What other hope can we have that is as eternal as Christ's promise to us? The seasons come and go, the spring rains and the winter chills, the summer sunshine and the harvest's bounty in fall – these things come every year but they are not promised like the Messiah is. No, He is Lord of all and forevermore! The disciples faced a brutal winter over those three days, yet spring came forth again on Easter morning.

This quotation from Psalm 65 is such a breath of fresh air. I especially love verses 12-13: "The...

...pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy, the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, *they shout and sing together for joy.*" Oh, how nature rejoices each spring that the harsh winter is over. How God brings creation into bloom, life abundant, joyful praises never ceasing.

In the winter season, whether it's January or a personal winter, remind yourself with Psalm 65 that spring *is* coming, Jesus Christ *is* risen, and there are so many blessings to be joyful about. May we all rejoice in the promise of Christ's resurrection, year after year after year.

One Spirit, One Word: Pentecost,
the Reformation & Eau Claire
by Nikki Jackson

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

At Pentecost in Acts 2, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples with *the sound of a rushing wind and tongues of fire*. They began to speak in many languages, and the crowd was amazed—because each person heard the Gospel in their own native language. The miracle was not only in the speaking, but in the hearing and understanding. God removed the barrier of language so that His Word could be clearly received.

This reveals something essential: God desires His Word to be understood.

Centuries later, Martin Luther emphasized this same truth, teaching that Scripture and worship should be in the common language of the people. What the Holy Spirit did miraculously at Pentecost, Luther sought to carry forward through translation and teaching—*so that all could hear and believe*.

Eau Claire in 1886

This commitment to understandable language could be seen right here in Eau Claire.

Primarily settled by "yankees" from New England, Eau Claire began to change in the 1860s as immigrants from Scandinavia, Germany, and...

...other parts of Europe arrived in large numbers. These immigrants brought with them not only their faith, but also their native languages—and they were not ready to give them up.

By 1886, Eau Claire was home to four Lutheran congregations, each shaped by both faith and language:

- **German Lutherans** gathered at St. John's Lutheran Church, located at the **corner of Gibson and Wisconsin Streets**.
- **Norwegian Lutherans** formed **First Lutheran Church** on the north side of Eau Claire, at the northeast **corner of Dewey and Wisconsin Streets**. As the congregation grew, the building itself reflected that growth—it was literally cut in half and expanded with a new section added in the middle.
- As the Norwegian population continued to increase, a second congregation also called **First Lutheran** was established in 1876 on the west side of Eau Claire at the **corner of Fifth Avenue and Hudson Street**. At that time, there was no bridge connecting the east and west sides of the city. Parishioners had to rely on a ferry to cross the river, making travel both inconvenient and costly. By establishing a second church, only the pastor needed to make the crossing regularly.
- Another congregation, known as **Our Savior's Scandinavian Church**, was located at the **northeast corner of Fulton and Oxford**. Though primarily Norwegian, it also included Swedish and Danish members. At one point, the congregation's buildings occupied an entire block between Oxford and First Avenue, including a church, a parsonage, and a school. The school building still stands today and was even used for worship while a new church was being built on Main Street in the early 1960s.
- **Swedish Lutherans**, desiring a congregation of their own, established **Immanuel Lutheran Church** at the corner of **Beach and Mill Streets**. While that original building and even the street itself have since disappeared, the congregation continues today on Eau Claire's south side.

Though divided by language and heritage, these congregations including other Protestant churches were united in faith. Each gathered to hear the same Gospel—proclaimed in words their people could understand.

The Same Spirit at Work

This unity reflects the deeper truth of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit not only enabled people to hear the Gospel in their own language, He is also the one who inspired the Word itself. As 2 Timothy 3:16 teaches, "All Scripture is God-breathed."

Reverend Billy Graham described the Holy Spirit as the "Inspirer of Scripture," emphasizing that God was not only addressing the needs of people at the time the Bible was written, but also...

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Bazaar/Craft Ladies

Mondays @ 1:00-3:30pm

Discipleship

Monday, May 4 @ 3:30pm

Mission Outreach

Monday, May 4 @ 5:00pm

Education

Sunday, May 10 @ 10:30am

Church Management

Monday, May 11 @ 4:30pm

Worship & Music

Thursday, May 14 @ 5:30pm

Council

Tuesday, May 26 @ 6:00pm

MISSION OUTREACH

Mission Outreach's update for May will be included with June's newsletter. Thank you for your generosity regarding our projects!

MISSION OUTREACH

Laundry Basket Project



Thanks to our generous congregation, we were able to donate and fill all of the available laundry baskets with supplies for those in need!

spring treasure sale

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

9am - 2pm



OUR SPRING TREASURE SALE WAS A SUCCESS!

Thank you for the donations and to all the volunteers for making our Spring Treasure Sale such a success this year.
We brought in **\$2,366!**

...those of future generations. For example, more than 700 years before it happened, the prophet Isaiah wrote with remarkable detail about the suffering of Christ, even if he did not fully comprehend its meaning at the time.

From Pentecost to the Reformation to Eau Claire in 1886—and still today—the same truth remains: the Holy Spirit works so that people can understand God's Word. Through preaching, teaching, and Scripture in our own language, God continues to remove barriers so that all may hear, believe, and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

MEMORIAL & HONORARY GIFTS

In memory of Roger & Derick Albertson

to General Operating Fund

given by Joan Albertson

In memory of Sue Ottum

to General Operating Fund

given by Ronald Ottum

In memory of Amy (Parkhurst) Rickett

to General Operating Fund

given by Kevin & Nancy Balash

to Debt Reduction

given by Paul & Patty Dundas, Kevin & Nancy Balash, Allan & Ruth Hofland, Darleen Bauer, George & Sandy Nelson, Ginny Wright, Scott Isaacson, Stan & Jean Brettingen, Barb Hillestad

to TV Ministry

given by Clarice Erickson, Bob & Bea Frazee

In memory of parents, Don & Bev Erickson

to General Operating Fund

given by Don Erickson

In memory of Jeanne Janssen & Dana Janssen

to General Operating Fund

given by Shawn & Jennie

In memory of Elise Orr

to Debt Reduction Fund

given by anonymous

In memory of Emma Kokemoor

to General Operating Fund

given by Richard Kokemoor

In memory of Mike Brown

to Debt Reduction

given by Stan & Jean Brettingen

to TV Ministry

given by Bob & Bea Frazee, Clarice Erickson

to Music

given by Allan & Ruth Hofland

FLOWERS FOR EASTER

In honor of Chuck Hill, Stacy Setzer, Erin, Brad, & Mookie Odegard; in memory of Joan & Charlie Hill, Lloyd, Elsie, Dennis Stair, Pam Lane

given by Chuck Hill & family

In honor of Darin & Rebecca Kinstler; in memory of Laban Miller

given by Sylvia Miller

In memory of parents, Norma & Jeff Frazee, Stella & Ed Meyers

given by Bob & Bea Frazee

In memory of Carolyn Kuziej and John & Nita Kuziej; in memory of mother Caron Parke and grandparents George & Anita Parke

given by Melissa Kuziej-Winder

In memory of family members

given by Delma Howell

In memory of John Setzer and Norma & Jon Otto

given by Michelle & Kevin Otto

In memory of grandsons Sean Thoney & Thomas Gargalak, son-in-law Scott Kramer

given by Norm & Kathy Brunkow

In memory of family members

given by Pete & Renae Hestekin

In honor of my children

given by Cathy Setzer

In memory of Richard Sparks

given by Nancy Sparks, James Sparks, & Stephanie Peterson

In memory of husband John Erickson

given by Clarice Erickson

In memory of David Lorentz

given by Kathy Lorentz

In memory of Mary Lahner and Lisa Ann Smith

given by Barb & Larry Clark

In memory of Russ Spencer and Larrie & Bev Olson

given by Chuck & Kim Olson

To debt reduction

given by Chet & Kathy Berkey

In honor of our grandchildren; in memory of daughter Amy

given by George & Sandy Nelson

In honor of Pastor David & Pastor Dan

given by Sharon Jurjens

In memory of Adolph King

given by his family

In memory of Delores & Ralph Zimmerman, Dennis Seidling, and Michael Seidling

8 April 2026

given by Mary Seidling
In memory of our family

given by John & Lucille VanBeek

In memory of Larrie & Beverly Olson

given by Dave Olson

In memory of parents

given by Cheryl Thorson

In memory of Helen Anderson

given by Duane Anderson, Jason, Brenda, Dale, &
Ashton Stahlbusch

*In honor of Don & Darlene Granger; in memory of
John & Marian Lunderville*

given by Jon & Kay Granger

*In memory of parents Mr. & Mrs. Andrew
Reynolds and Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lepien*

given by Reagan & Karen Reynolds

In honor of family; in memory of loved ones

given by Stan & Jean Brettingen

In memory of parents Dick & Evelyn Chappell

given by Sue Hutcherson

*In memory of Vernon & Virginia Gilbertson and
David & Lori Stark*

given by anonymous

In memory of Vicki Semingson

given by Rick Semingson

In memory of our parents

given by Roger & Kris Wiltgen



Saving Grace Lutheran Church

3735 Jeffers Rd.

Eau Claire, WI 54703

715-514-3552

saving-gracechurch.com

Office Hours: Mon. – Thur. 9AM – 4PM

MISSION STATEMENT

*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.*

STAFF

Pastor David Irgens, Senior Pastor

ibn1irgs@yahoo.com

Pastor Dan Doran, Associate Pastor

pastordansglc@gmail.com

Katherine Altreuter, Office Administrator & Music
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Cheryl Eberhardt, Education Director

savinggraceeducation@gmail.com

CHURCH COUNCIL

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Patty Dundas

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Pam Bee

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Barb Clark

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Patrick Bartholomew, Brian Hagen, Dean

Kallenbach, Melissa Kuziej Winder, Chuck Olson,

Carol Pickhardt, Mary Schneider

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Bev Nelson

Bazaar/Women's Group

Duane Erickson

Church Management

Carol Pickhardt

Discipleship

Renaë Hestekin

Education

Chet Berkey

Men of Saving Grace

Kay Granger

Mission Outreach

Kevin Otto

Personnel

Chuck Hill

Visual Ministry

Kathy Berkey

Worship & Music

COMMUNITY NOTES

Death Notices

Amy L. (Parkhurst) Rickett passed April 1, 2026.

Michael Walter Brown passed April 11, 2026.

Pastors David Irgens and Dan Doran presided over
the funeral on April 28th at Saving Grace.

Loretta "Dollie" McCann passed April 11, 2026.

Pastor Dan Doran presided over the funeral on
April 22nd at Stokes, Prock, & Mundt Chapel.

Marian Spoolhoff passed April 24, 2026. Pastor
David Irgens will preside over the funeral on May
5th at Saving Grace.

John E. Franey passed April 26, 2026. Pastor David
Irgens will preside over the funeral on May 8th at
Saving Grace.

Mandy Kucera passed April 26, 2026. Pastor David
Irgens will preside over the funeral on May 6th at
the Chippewa Valley Cremation Society.