



OUR JOURNEY

A newsletter for members & friends of
Saving Grace Lutheran Church

A message from Pastor David Irgens

“Jesus answered them, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.’” John 6:29

In Shadowlands, the movie based on the life of C.S. Lewis, Professor Lewis returned to Oxford from London where he had just married an American woman, Joy Gresham, in a private wedding. Joy was dying from cancer and through the struggle with her illness, they discovered the depth of their love for each other. C.S. Lewis began talking with a friend, an Episcopalian Priest Harry Harrington about his marriage to Joy. Lewis said, “Ah, good news, I think, Harry. Yes, good news.” Harrington misunderstood. He thought he was talking about Joy’s health, and he responded, “I know how hard you’ve been praying... Now, God is answering your prayer.”

“That’s not why I pray, Harry,” Lewis responds. “I pray because I can’t help myself. I pray because I’m helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn’t change God; it changes me.” C.S. Lewis knew that we are changed in relationship with God, in faith, in prayer and life itself.

The Holy Spirit has come. As Children of God how are we changed? Is there a self-improvement program on how to become a better Christian or is our relationship with Christ and following Him all we need? When I was 18, I believed I could do anything, now I see my limitations. My hope isn’t in me and what I can accomplish, but it is **in Jesus Christ my Lord, He who strengthens me.** “i can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13). It isn’t me that accomplishes it, it’s the Holy Spirit that gives me the strength.

Jesus said to His disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done” (Matthew 16:24-27).

When Jesus calls us to follow Him, He doesn’t leave it up to us to plan out our course of development or how we can be better Christians. If so, then our progress would be primarily dependent upon our actions or works. Instead, He first reminds us, as He did His disciples, ***“And remember, I am with you always, to the end...”***

JUNE 2026

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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 JULY/AUGUST

Our Journey

newsletter due:

MONDAY, JUNE 22nd

NEWS & EVENTS



Blood Drive

Monday, June 8th

Noon - 5pm

Fellowship Hall

Sign up online or on the board in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Patty Dundas for more info!

SCAN HERE



CELEBRATING THOSE WHO PROTECT OUR FREEDOM

Submit pictures of military family members (past, present, or future) in uniform with a note of their name and dates served for a Fourth of July display.

Turn in pictures to Visual Display mailbox by **Saturday, June 20th**

Contact Chuck Hill for more information:
havenfun6@yahoo.com | 715 - 529 - 5794



SAVE THE DATE!

Pie & Ice Cream Social

Thursday, June 25th
4-7 PM

Mark your calendars! Our annual Pie & Ice Cream Social will be on Thursday, June 25th at Saving Grace. Meals will be served from 4-7pm. Menu choices are a BBQ Plate for \$10, or a Hot Dog Plate for \$8. Meals include beans, chips, pickle, ice cream, pie, & a beverage. Or, just pie, ice cream, & a beverage are \$6. Take-outs are available. Be sure to join us for fun, fellowship, & a delicious meal!

Bazaar/Craft Ladies News

The Craft Ladies will meet every **1st** and **3rd** Monday of the month throughout the summer - check the calendar either in the office or on the website.

...of the age” (Matthew 28:20b). We are not alone: “I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city (Jerusalem) until you have been clothed with power from on high” (Luke 24:49).

We wish to attain “the Christian life, righteousness and freedom.” Martin Luther says there is only one thing that is necessary, it comes through the Word of God, the Gospel of Christ (His Word to us). **It is to believe as Jesus says, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die”** (John 11:25-26). There it is! There’s the Gospel of Jesus Christ! Jesus says, **“So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed”** (John 8:36). We continue to place ourselves in bondage, making new rules/laws for us, that we may somehow grasp God and hold onto Him. We miss the mark. We are called to faith, to believe His Word, that His Holy Spirit may take a hold of us. Luther says God’s Kingdom comes “when the Father gives us His Holy Spirit so that by His grace we may believe His holy Word and live a godly life, both here in time and hereafter forever” (Luther’s Small Catechism, explanation to the Second Petition of the Lord’s Prayer).

How does God change us? He changes us through the work of the Holy Spirit and trust in His Word. Where do we find our contentment? We find our contentment in the LORD. “‘The LORD is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘therefore I will hope in him’” (Lamentations 3:24). The LORD is my allotment/inheritance. He is my happiness and my blessing. In Him I lack nothing, because I have His Word which never fails. “The Word of God...is rich and lacks nothing since it is the Word of life, truth, light, peace, righteousness, salvation, joy, liberty, wisdom, power, grace, glory and of every incalculable blessing” (Luther, The Freedom of a Christian, p. 597). We are drawn to Christ who is all in all, we can’t help ourselves, without Him we are helpless. We need Him all the time, waking and sleeping. Through the Holy Spirit, He is changing me. So, I will be content in Him.

The LORD is your portion – may you find contentment in all that He is doing, has done, and will do.

*In Jesus Christ our Lord,
Pastor David Irgens*

A message from Pastor Dan Doran

A good friend of mine just purchased his first home. He moved in, along with his wife and their three children. It was so funny to receive a text from him that said, "I feel so responsible for this house, it's crazy." And, at first, it left me scratching my head—sometimes I can just totally read things wrong or hear things wrong, just ask my wife! So, when I read the text, I thought, "What does he mean by responsible for the house? It's not like he built it as if he was responsible for it being there..." Of course, he didn't mean that. He texted again after I asked him what he meant. He responded, "the yard, inside the house, just keeping it all picked up—it's kind of stressful!" Then, I got it. I knew exactly what he meant because I had the same feeling when we moved into our house on the West Side. There's no more maintenance request form to fill out when something's not working in the apartment. As homeowners, the buck stops with us!

Wherever we call home, that place always come with some amount of responsibility. Over the season of Easter, we got to spend some time listening to Christ's teaching in John 14. Often, these verses will be read at funerals to remind us of our heavenly hope that Jesus himself goes to prepare a home for us in heaven. These verses are a wonderful reminder of the promises we have in Christ. This new home comes with a sense of responsibility as well. For Jesus says, "Believe in God, believe also in me...Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father" (John 14:1, 12). Jesus came to reveal what God was up to in the world through his Son. He came to open the gates of heaven and give residents of Earth a dwelling place in heaven. He made his home with us so that we would find our home in him.

So, our work should reflect Christ's work to reveal the purpose of God in his Son. We too are invited to allow our lives to work as a spotlight shining light on the risen Son Jesus. Our works become even "greater works" than what Jesus had accomplished in his teaching and miracles because we can provide even greater clarity about this Son of Man and Son of God. This clarity comes because Christ's resurrection has now taken place and the gift of...

LECTIONARY SCHEDULE **for the month of June 2026**

Sunday, June 7 – Second Sunday after Pentecost

Hosea 5:15-6:6
Romans 4:13-25
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
Psalm 50:7-15 (15)

Sunday, June 14 – Third Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 19:2-8a
Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35-10:8
Psalm 100 (3)

Sunday, June 21 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 20:7-13
Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39
Psalm 96:7-10 [11-15] 16-18 (16)

Sunday, June 28 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 28:5-9
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 (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

Christmas in June

at the Kokemoors

Sunday, June 28th at 4:00 PM

Picnic potluck at the Kokemoors!
Bring your favorite picnic food and a gift from the dollar store (pink gift bag for females, blue gift bag for males). Plates, silverware, glasses, and lemonade will be provided.

Contact Donna Kokemoor with any questions or for more information:
715 - 832 - 1184



4 June 2026

...the Spirit is available to us and all who are baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Christ ascending to the Father and sending the promised Holy Spirit really changes things for us and people everywhere!

Jesus never baptized anyone in his own name. Have you ever realized that? He gave the instruction to baptize to his disciples. They baptized in order to continue the work of Christ in the world. We do all of this because we have been given a heavenly home. Jesus is saying the place you're headed is shaping the way you're taking to get there. Sometimes we are a little more hard headed... Ole was driving home from work when he was pulled over for speeding. Two days later he was given another ticket by the same officer for speeding on the same road. "So," the officer asked, "Ole, have you learned anything today?!" Ole said, "Ya, I learned I need to take a different way home from work!"

We have been given a heavenly home because of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. He's calling us to be his followers to share clear testimony about the Son of God who takes away the sin of the world. Summer is a great time to sit with others, listen to their stories, and share the hope that you have in Jesus Christ.

*Have a Blessed Summer,
Pastor Dan*

FELLOWSHIP

Sundays @ 9:30 AM

Thank you to the Education Committee for leading fellowship in June!

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

Did you notice our new refreshment counter?

Thank you to Bob Eberhardt, the Men of Saving Grace, and the Craft Ladies for our new cabinets in the Fellowship Hall!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 13 - 17, 2026

9:00 AM - Noon



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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

ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Interested in helping out with VBS? We need adult volunteers for set-up/clean-up, working stations, etc. Fill out a form online or contact Cheryl Eberhardt.

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We celebrated Pastor Ken Kuziej's 55th anniversary of ordination! Congratulations, Pastor Ken!

Sunday, May 24, 2026



WORSHIP & MUSIC

Saving Grace Choir – June Schedule

Rehearsal on Thursday, June 11, 6:30-7:30pm.

Performing on Sunday, June 14th 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

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” Hebrews 10:24-25

Mike and I have been traveling over weekends a lot lately, and that won't be slowing down any time soon. We went to a music festival, visited my family up north, and I went to St. Cloud for my college friend's birthday all in the span of three weeks. While we love quiet weekends at home, it is such a blessing to have so many people in our life that we love to visit and spend time with. Our busy schedules can make it hard to fit in all the things we want to do or people we want to visit, especially family and friends far away.

Even though I find myself fighting back exhaustion with everything going on, I am so thankful to be tired from good times of *fellowship*. Getting to camp at our favorite music festival for three days with our close friends (which involves lots of communal meals and teamwork to set up camp), visiting my cousins in the Northwoods to celebrate a graduation, and celebrating my friend's birthday ends up to be a lot of time and energy spent planning and traveling, but I always leave each event with a smile and precious memories.

Here at church, *fellowship* is an important facet of our operations. Rarely do I leave the building hungry (for food *or* friendship) and I've always heard new members talk about how welcoming our community is. The fellowship we share with each other is a special gift from our Lord. Each opportunity we have to be with friends and family is that gift of fellowship – the gift that keeps on giving. Maybe I'm dragging myself into work on Monday morning wishing I had another hour to sleep in, but the fellowship I experienced is priceless.

Each one of us carries experiences, personality traits, and mannerisms that we (unconsciously) gathered from the people around us. Our fellowship with each other is what makes each of us who we are! God has put our friends and family members into our lives in order to shape us into the person He wants us to be. It's also an opportunity to raise each other up, encourage these relationships we're growing, and commit to the commandment from Christ to love one another. May this summer be filled with many opportunities of fellowship for you and yours.

*Blessings,
Katherine Altreuter*

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Bazaar/Craft Ladies

Monday, June 1 and Monday, June 15
@ 1:00-3:30pm

Discipleship

Monday, June 1 @ 3:30pm

Mission Outreach

Monday, June 1 @ 5:00pm

Church Management

Monday, June 8 @ 4:30pm

Education

Sunday, June 14 @ 10:30am

Worship & Music

No meeting in June

Council

Tuesday, June 30 @ 6:00pm

Fingerprints of God

Cheryl Eberhardt, Education Director

What is a fingerprint of God? I propose that a fingerprint of God is as simple as a subtle impression He leaves on our ordinary days, things that are often missed by the hurried eyes of those who go about each day.

If we were to look back in the Old Testament, we see the gentle way God appeared to Elijah: “The Lord said, ‘Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.’ Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper” (1 Kings 19:11-12).

All too often we are looking for God only in the “Big Events” of life, Easter Service, or other large special events. We stepped into the Lenten season with a beautiful Ash Wednesday service. This was only the beginning of the excitement to come. During this season, we were able to enjoy worship with our confirmation students, we were also able to grow stronger in our faith while participating in the “Practicing the Way” book study!

The opportunity was given to help prepare the little children of our congregation through the blessing we receive in the body and blood of Christ, which was given for each of us. Being able to walk through these basic lessons of our faith while teaching the children was refreshing.

Our Sunday School teachers were hard at work preparing the little ones of our church for a wonderful Palm Sunday program. Watching the little ones of our church family portray a wonderful and fun new perspective of Palm Sunday. And of course, no one can forget the Easter egg hunt. There was a great turn out, both from within our congregation and within our local community. Though the weather could have prevented a really fun day, our heartwarming church was a welcoming scene for all. We met some wonderful families during this event!

We saw God’s hand in all these things! Now that the “big events” of Easter have passed, I invite you to slow down with me, so that we can take time to

note some of God’s fingerprints within Saving Grace’s Education.

We have seen new young families attending services. What a beautiful fingerprint! We are overjoyed to be able to now provide those young families with a nursery!! Hard work was put in by so many to make this a reality and we are so blessed to be a part of a community that supports all of our congregational needs!! See that, another fingerprint.

Our Sunday School teachers have been hard at work reviewing curriculum for the upcoming year. Vacation Bible School curriculum has been picked, dates are set, and registration is open! The children worked hard to learn another song for our congregation before the end of the school year.

Just as Paul reminds us, “...we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28). As we finish this school year and prepare for summer, I encourage you to slow down – listen to the gentle whispers, watch for those Fingerprints of God!

MISSION OUTREACH

In April and May, monthly gifts went to Starfish Kids, Ephrem, and Binder Family.

April’s giving: Chalice of Mercy, Good News Global, The National Center for Missing Children, Safe Families for Children Wisconsin (Chippewa Valley), and Brilynne *B* Wright and Family.

May’s giving: Family Promise of the Chippewa Valley (Hike for the Homeless/Bronze Sponsorship), Fierce Freedom (Eau Freedom Fun Run & Fest/Partner Sponsorship), Lutheran World Relief (Children of Lebanon), and Sofas for Service.

We chose Sofas for Service in honor of Memorial Day. Look for future information on Eau Freedom Fun Run & Fest (Wednesday, July 15, 2026) and Hike for the Homeless (Tuesday, August 18, 2026).

We would like to invite you to our Mission Outreach table in the Narthex. We have newsletters, volunteer information, and notes from groups and organizations Saving Grace supports. We are always open to ideas and suggestions (use the Lockbox) for missions from our Congregation.

Breaking Bread Across Generations

by Nikki Jackson

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” – Acts 2:42

While preparing my recipe submissions for the *Saving Grace Cookbook*, I was reminded of an assignment I completed for the Chippewa Valley Museum two years ago. It was about the Canton Township German Lutheran Church, known today as St. Paul’s Lutheran Church and located on Steinke Road just south of Highway 10 between Mondovi and Durand.

The congregation was organized in 1870 by German immigrants who had settled in the area to farm. Initially, services were held in a log cabin, but in 1899 the members voted to build a proper clapboard house of worship, which still stands and operates today. Until the 1930s, services at the church were conducted entirely in German. That change in 1930, when the congregation voted to alternate between English and German during Communion services before discontinuing German-language services entirely in 1944.

Another major change also occurred during the 1930s: families began sitting together during worship. Prior to that time, women and men sat on opposite sides of the sanctuary. This shift appears to have coincided with the formation of the Canton Ladies Aid. The women of the church had ideas of their own about raising money to serve the needs of both the church and the congregation. In 1929, they began collecting recipes, and after five years of work they published what became the 1934 *Canton Ladies Aid Home Guide*.

Their efforts reflected the words of 1 Peter 4:10: “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” Through cooking, hospitality, fundraising, and fellowship, the women of the Canton Ladies Aid strengthened both their church and their wider community.

I recently spoke with a woman now in her 90s who attended St. Paul’s as a child. She recalled accompanying her mother to collect recipes not only from St. Paul’s congregants, but also from local women who had reputations as exceptional cooks.

The Canton Ladies were also quite ingenious in securing funding for the printing costs – a substantial \$80 at the time – through Wingold Flour. The agreement was that every recipe requiring flour had to specify “Wingold Flour” as an ingredient.

One interesting feature of the *Home Guide* is that most of the baking and cooking recipes do not include numerical oven temperatures. At the time, most women were still cooking on wood-burning stoves. Only one woman in the group owned an electric oven, and her kitchen became the collection’s unofficial test kitchen.

Another thing missing from the collection was recipes from men – not much of a surprise for the time. As our congregation prepares the *Saving Grace Cookbook*, however, I am reminded of how church life and fellowship have evolved alongside society itself. At Saving Grace, we see women and men preparing and serving meals side by side, with many gatherings even led entirely by the Men’s Group. In many ways, both the *Home Guide* and the upcoming *Saving Grace Cookbook* tell the story of their congregations through food – ours of course with an additional Scandinavian section – fellowship, and service: one preserving the traditions of the past and the other continuing them for a new generation.

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!

COMMUNITY NOTES

Death Notices

Jean Marie Smith passed March 12, 2026. Pastor David Irgens presided over the funeral on May 29th at Lakeview Cemetary.

Shirley Mae Blaisdell passed April 28, 2026. Pastor David Irgens will preside over the funeral on June 6th at Stokes, Prock, & Mundt Funeral Chapel.

Clarice E. Arnsdorf passed May 9, 2026. Pastor David Irgens presided over the funeral on May 22nd at Lakeview Cemetary.

John Henry Naser passed May 10, 2026. Pastor David Irgens presided over the funeral on May 21st at Saving Grace.

8 June 2026



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 Director

office@saving-gracechurch.com

sglcmusic@gmail.com

Cheryl Eberhardt, Education Director

savinggraceeducation@gmail.com

CHURCH COUNCIL

Michelle Otto President

Patty Dundas Vice President

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Barb Clark Secretary

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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

Rena Hestekin Education

Chet Berkey Men of Saving Grace

Kay Granger Mission Outreach

Kevin Otto Personnel

Chuck Hill Visual Ministry

Kathy Berkey Worship & Music

MEMORIAL & HONORARY GIFTS

In memory of Mandy Kucera

to Debt Reduction

given by Allan & Ruth Hofland, Sharon Jurjens

In memory of Mike Brown

to Music

given by Cindy Joy Fischer, Darleen Bauer, Ron & Mary Doering, Adam Fiedler, Sara Doering-Fiedler, Pete &

Rena Hestekin

to Debt Reduction

given by Jean Parkhurst, Paul & Patty Dundas, Barb Mathson

to Building Fund

given by Bev Nelson

In memory of John Franey

to Debt Reduction

given by Stan & Jean Brettingen, Barb Mathson

to General Operating Fund

given by Dr. James & Mary Lou Andersen, Marie Gordon

In memory of Marian Spoolhoff

to Debt Reduction

given by Stan & Jean Brettingen, Jean Parkhurst

to General Operating Fund

given by Cindy Joy Fischer

to TV Ministry

given by Gerri Hodek

In memory of mom, Beverly Erickson – her birthday &

Mother's Day

to General Operating Fund

given by Donald Erickson

Thanksgiving for Donna's Recovery

to General Operating Fund

given by Richard Kokemoor

In memory of/in honor of Mother's Day for wife, Jan;

mother, Marian; mother-in-law, Eline Coolidge

to General Operating Fund

In memory of Amy Rickett

to Debt Reduction

given by Sharon Jurjens

In memory of Al Templin (passed 5/26/25)

to General Operating Fund

given by Judy Templin

In honor of veteran brother

to General Operating Fund

given by Kathryn Estridge

In memory of friend Jennifer Johnson

to Debt Reduction

given by Barb Mathson

In memory of John Naser

to Debt Reduction

given by Cindy Joy Fischer