

August 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.”

fall treasure sale

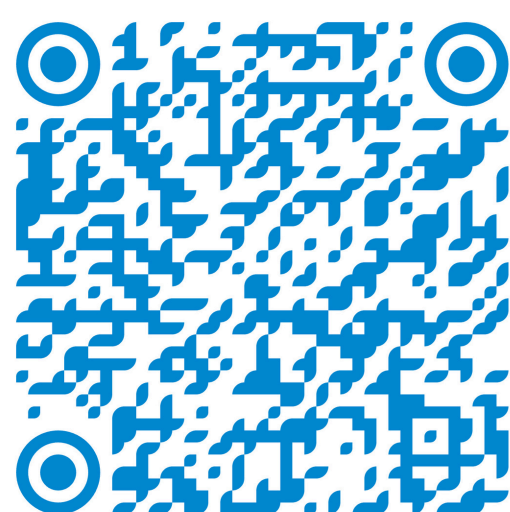
SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

9am - 2pm

SUNDAY
school

Registration is open!

Sign up in Narthex or online:



DUNN COUNTY

“NORTHERN LIGHTS”

BARBERSHOP CHORUS



SUNDAY, AUGUST 24  **8:30AM**

www.dcbarbershop.org
(715) 962 - 3038

Events & News for August 2025




WE CARE
EAU CLAIRE

Sixth Annual Back-to-School Backpack Event at Phoenix Park — August 18

www.wecareeauclaire.com

SAVING GRACE IS A SPONSOR
OF WECARE'S
BACK-TO-SCHOOL EVENT!

Scan to donate:



MONDAY, AUGUST 18
4 – 7 PM
PHOENIX PARK

**CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED
DUE TO SEALING OF
PARKING LOT**

Thursday, August 14th
11:00am - rest of day

Friday, August 15th
All day

Tuesday Bible Study
will be on moratorium for
the month of August. They
will resume in September!

NO LEFSE MAKING
on August 12

Next Lefse making on
August 26th!

Join Saving Grace in supporting
the Beacon House!



**TUESDAY, AUGUST 19
5 – 8 PM
RIVER PRAIRIE PARK**

Family Homelessness:
The answer is not just shelter.



Family Promise

6,000
Congregations
& Organizations

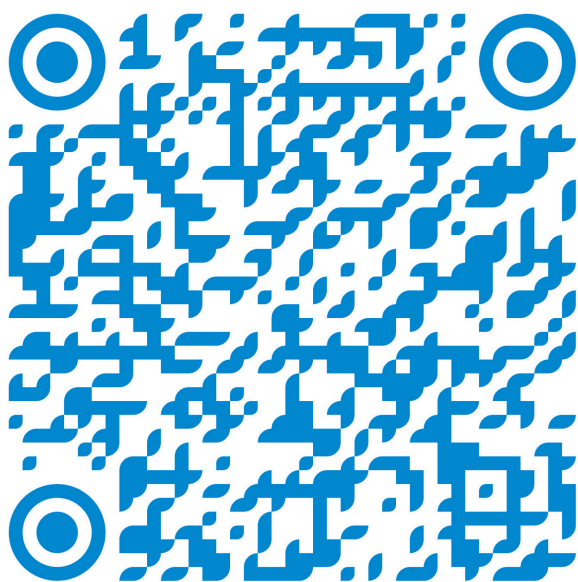
200+
Affiliates

200,000
Volunteers

Family Promise has created 1,700 Community Initiatives
to prevent homelessness, build skills, and ensure stabilization.

SUNDAY
school

Registration is open!
Sign up in Narthex or online:



Sunday School volunteers needed!
Email office@saving-gracechurch.com for
more info

fall treasure sale

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23
9am – 2pm

Item donations begins August 16

Contact Chuck Hill | havenfun6@yahoo.com | (715) 529-5794



DUNN COUNTY
"NORTHERN LIGHTS"
BARBERSHOP CHORUS



SUNDAY, AUGUST 24  **8:30AM**

www.dccbarbershop.org
(715) 962 - 3038

A message from Pastor David Irgens: “Captive in Christ!”

“^{2:6}As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority.” (Colossians 2:6-10)

Carol Leet wrote about her daughter, “My four-year-old granddaughter, Amanda, went to the doctor's office with a fever. The doctor looked in her ears and said, ‘Who's in there? Donald Duck?’ She said, ‘No.’ He looked in her nose and said, ‘Who's in there? Mickey Mouse?’ Again she said, ‘No.’ He put his stethoscope on her heart and said, ‘Who's in there? Barney?’ Amanda replied, ‘No, Jesus is in my heart. Barney is on my underwear.’” (*Carol Leet, New York. Today's Christian Woman, Vol. 18, no. 4.*)

Amanda got it. “Jesus is in my heart.” When we are exposed to a little education sometimes people get a little full of themselves and in their sophistication think that there isn’t any room for God. Sometimes hold onto philosophies, lies (empty deceit), and human tradition, instead of Jesus. Life looks like an endless smorgasbord of what we’d like to believe. We try to fill the emptiness in our lives with others things. Augustine wrote, “Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee.” (Augustine of Hippo, Confessions)

Paul writes: **“⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him (Christ) the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority.” (Colossians 2:8-10)**

Christ holds all things together. It’s in Christ that we see who God is in His fullness. In Jesus Christ we see the love that God has for us. “I have not come to be served, but to serve and give my life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45) It can be attractive to hold onto the newest fad, a new philosophy, rumor (empty deceit), elemental spirits, or even angels, but in their effort to comfort, they take attention off the only one, Jesus Christ who brings us life, hope, and peace. They all begin with the notion that the only reality that matters is mine and what works for me. It’s all about me. We end up being the center of our own Universe, but that’s where we get off course. Paul sets us straight. We are to be “captive to Christ” (Colossians 2:8) who is the fullness of God and has power over all things, heaven, and earth, visible and invisible, all thrones, dominions, and powers. He is the one who speaks on our behalf. He is the one who gives us life, hope and peace. (John 14:6, Jn 10:10, Jn 14:27, Jn 20:20-22)

There are plenty of theories out there, turn on the T.V. or radio and you’ll hear them. They’re nice ways to think, but we start with the one “who is and was and is to come.” (Revelation 1:8) All of the other ideas come up lacking, empty. In Christ we have hope for tomorrow. We place our trust in Christ who gives us a “peace that passes all understanding.” (Philippians 4:2) He is immovable, our rock, our fortress, very present in time of trouble, “at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord of all.” (Philippians 2:10)

The new school year is almost here. It means big changes for some, others it will be everything as usual. We are called to be captive in Christ, to look to the “one who is, and was, and is to come.” (Rev. 1:8) Isn’t it amazing that God guides our lives so that we don’t have to rely on speculation or random theories, but we can place our trust in Christ. The one who never disappoints, The One who never fails.

The Lord bless you, and give you His peace,

Pastor David Irgens

A message from Pastor Dan Doran

How have you experienced the Holy Spirit? As a Christian, through Baptism, we each have been given the promised Holy Spirit. God worked for thousands of years to bring us his very presence as our constant companion in life. There's a fun children's sermon illustration that explains the difference between the promise of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament and the reality of the Holy Spirit in our lives today as seen in the New Testament.

It's as if two kids went on a field trip and they had to bring lunch with them. One had a lunch box and that lunch box carried a sandwich, an apple, a juice box, and a brownie. The other had a very small paper sack and it couldn't have held much at all, but it contained \$10. The child with the lunch box looked at the small sack and said, "You're gonna be hungry, if that's all you have." And the child with the small paper sack took out the money and said, "How come? This \$5 is for a hamburger, \$1 for some apple slices, \$2 for a milk, and \$2 for ice cream later." Both children were going to be taken care of for lunch. One carried his lunch with him and the other carried the promise of what was to come! (71, Weisheit. *To The Kid in the Pew*)

The people of God in the Old Testament carried the promise of what was to come. The prophets talked about a day when God would pour out his Spirit on all flesh. (Joel 2:28) Jesus tells us that because he has accomplished his mission on the Cross, the Spirit is sent from heaven for us. "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever," (John 15:15). Like that child with the full lunchbox, we carry around "the full meal" with us forever! God's very presence has been given to us as a constant companion, as our helper to walk alongside us and within us.

Our whole lives are now lived with the Holy Spirit. One professor recognized, "in human experience there is something odd, in fact impolite, about talking to a third party about someone else in that person's very presence and never directly addressing the person under discussion even though he or she is there. Likewise with the Spirit!" (19, Cole. *He Who Gives Life*) We can find ourselves forgetful of God's very presence with us always and forever in the Holy Spirit. But, he is always here. He is here as I am writing. Here as you are reading...The Spirit prays for us on our behalf when we don't know what to pray. (Romans 8:26) The Spirit is the one who helps us understand the Scripture and the hope we have in Christ. (2 Corinthians 2:10) The Spirit is our personal lifeline to the Father in heaven and the Son who sits at his right hand. The Spirit is the one who is bringing about God's purpose in our lives. The Spirit also acts as God's promise and downpayment to the believer that their eternal wellbeing is taken care of. (Ephesians 1:13-14)

So, maybe one thing needs to be added to that Children's sermon illustration. God has fulfilled his promise to provide the Holy Spirit, but he has also made us an even greater promise of eternal life with him through that same Spirit. Then, it seems, we have both the lunchbox and the small paper sack. Our Heavenly Father has provided for us in this life a full portion of the Holy Spirit and he's given us the promise of an eternal life to come. It's as if we have a full lunchbox and a hefty sum for the best desert we could ever imagine.

As the school year begins and the season starts to change, don't forget that the Holy Spirit goes with you and within you! The very presence of God has been given to you at your baptism and he will not leave your side.

Every Blessing in the Lord,
Pastor Dan

Thank You

Saving Grace Family,

It's with a full heart that I write this note of gratitude and farewell. This church has not only been a place of worship, but a second home for me. Thank you for being my home and family in Eau Claire while my own family has been in Appleton. I'm endlessly grateful for every opportunity I've had to serve, lead, and worship alongside you.

A special thank you to the choir and all of my Sunday School and Confirmation students. Making music with you, learning with you, and growing in faith together has been one of the greatest joys of my time here. Your voices, your energy, and your hearts have helped shape me into the teacher and person I am today.

Though this chapter is coming to a close, please know I carry each of you with me. I may not be here every Sunday anymore, but I won't be a stranger.

**Yours Sincerely,
Chloe Sawall**





Music Notes

Katherine Altreuter, Music Director

***“O LORD, all my longing is known to you; my sighing is not hidden from you. My heart throbs, my strength fails me; as for the light of my eyes – it also has gone from me. My friends and companions stand aloof from my affliction, and my neighbors stand far off.
“But it is for you, O LORD, that I wait; it is you, O Lord my God, who will answer. For I pray, ‘Only do not let them rejoice over me, those who boast against me when my foot slips.’
“For I am ready to fall, and my pain is ever with me. I confess my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin.
“Do not forsake me, O LORD; O my God, do not be far from me; make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation.”***

PSALM 38:9-11, 15-18, 21, 22

In the heat of preparations for an event like Bach Festival, a recital, or any other performance, there is a point in which you hit The Wall. Musicians, athletes, and other professionals have their own way of explaining this phenomenon, but for me, The Wall is the name I’ve given it. It’s the lowest point of distress, in which a great, expansive wall keeps me from reaching the other side that has success, freedom, and peace.

The Wall has always been my greatest foe to overcome. The Wall is the negative thoughts embodied as a physical obstacle. “I never should have decided to do this,” “This will never be good enough,” and “After this, I am never playing again” are a few things I said to myself this month. When The Wall starts to reach the highest of heights, it seems the battle is lost. I begin to play worse, struggle to sleep well, and other physical manifestations that discomfort me take over. The longer it goes on, the higher The Wall becomes.

At a certain point, you can’t take it anymore. “O my God, do not be far from me; make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation.” God, in His infinite wisdom and power, has given each of us our own Wall to face so that we may be ready to come to Him. At what point does it have to get so bad that we finally give in, that only God’s peace can comfort us? At what point do we finally admit to Him that we are not in control and that all things will come to be in His way, not our own?

So instead of wallowing in my despair at the foot of The Wall (like I’ve done so many times before), after practicing, I would lay down, flat on my back with my limbs splayed, and repeat over and over, “I am not in control. I am not in control. I am not in control.” I know that I am quite capable of playing Bach, that is not the question. The question is, how will I experience my performance? Will it be of misery from the stress I’ve burdened myself with in the shadow of The Wall, or will it be of freedom as I ascend to the top and make it to the other side?

Only God is capable of the ascent. I can practice every day and master the music, my instrument, and my performance, but The Wall does not tumble down by my own will. It is with the help of God, knowing that only He is in control, that I release myself from The Wall. And it is not until I submit to God’s will that The Wall comes tumbling down.

Memorial & Honorary Gifts

In honor of Sandy & Larry McClean's 67th wedding anniversary & Sandy's birthday

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Larry & Sandy McClean

In honor of Pastor Dan Doran - "Father of the Year"

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Wilson Lund

In memory of Al Templin

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Gerald & Alice Dusick, John & Carol Mieske, Virginia Wright

In memory of Adolph King

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Kevin & Nancy Balash, Pastor Rolf & Sandy Nestigen

In memory of Paul Squier

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Matt & Shelly Squier

In memory of a great friend, Pat Swenson

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Barb Mathson

In memory of Arlene McCarty & Rita McCarty

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Kim McCarty

In memory of Barbara Lawrence

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Cyndi Stolldorf

In memory of Susan Partlow-Ottum

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Ronald Ottum

In memory of Doug Hillestad

to the General Operating Fund

Richard & Donna Kokemoor

In memory of Al Templin

to the General Operating Fund

Richard & Donna Kokemoor

In honor of her father, Russell Kaul's 88th birthday

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Kirsten Hartman

Memorial & Honorary Gifts (cont.)

In memory of parents, Don & Bev Erickson

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund and the General Operating Fund

Don Erickson

In memory of Dana Janssen

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Shawn & Jennie

In memory of Kim Polus

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Sharon Jurjens

In honor of what would have been Dan & Marie Gordon's 52nd wedding anniversary (July 28, 1973)

to the General Operating Fund

Marie Gordon

In memory of Nancy Haden

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Her four children

In memory of Joann Blaeser

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

David & Karen Roholt

In memory of Roger Flaten

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

David & Karen Roholt

In memory of David Cramer

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Barb Mathson, Dan & Nancy Gunderson, George & Sandy Nelson,
David & Karen Roholt, Kevin & Nancy Balash, Nancy Sparks, Sharon
Jurjens, Mary Seidling, Steve & Lena Wright, Paul & Patty Dundas

In memory of Joann Blaser

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Steve & Lena Wright

In memory of Beverly Halvorson

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Cindy Joy Fischer

In memory of "Nana" Marion Isaacson

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Pam Crandell

MISSION OUTREACH

SHARING GOD'S GIFTS

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

In July monthly gifts went to Starfish Kids, Ephrem, Binder Family, Family Promise *Bronze Sponsorship for Hike for the Homeless*, We Care Eau Claire, Haitian Mission Fund, Lutheran World Relief *Flooding Victims of Kerrville, TX*, Tom Hall's Fundraiser, and Ryde 4 Ryker.

The church recently received a letter and newsletter from Pastor Jim Folz. The newsletter is an update on Calvary Cross Church & Orphanage in Pignon & Gaspard Haiti where Pastor Francois is serving. The letter from Pastor Jim has reconnected us with Pastor Francois. We decided to send them a gift; their need is great. Pastor Jim has asked us to continue to pray for Haiti.

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.

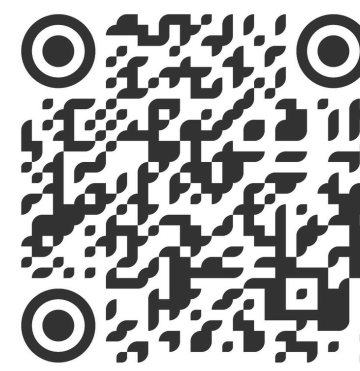
We would like to invite you to our Mission Outreach table in the fellowship hall. We have notes, newsletters, and volunteer information from groups and organizations Saving Grace supports. We are always open to ideas and suggestions *use the new Lockbox* for Missions from our congregation. Call one of our mission committee members or email office@saving-gracechurch.com.

Mission Outreach next meeting will be on Monday, August 4, 2025, at 5:00pm.



**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, Barb Clark**

Staff

Pastor David Irgens, Senior Pastor

Pastor Dan Doran, Associate Pastor

Katherine Altreuter, Office Administrator & Music Director



SAVING GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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