

September 2025



SAVING GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

OUR JOURNEY

A newsletter for members and friends of Saving Grace Lutheran Church

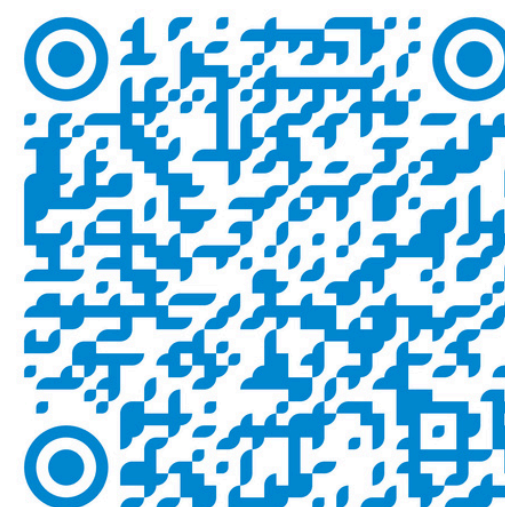


**“Established in the Holy Scriptures,
our mission is to make Jesus Christ
known to all as the One True Savior;
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”**

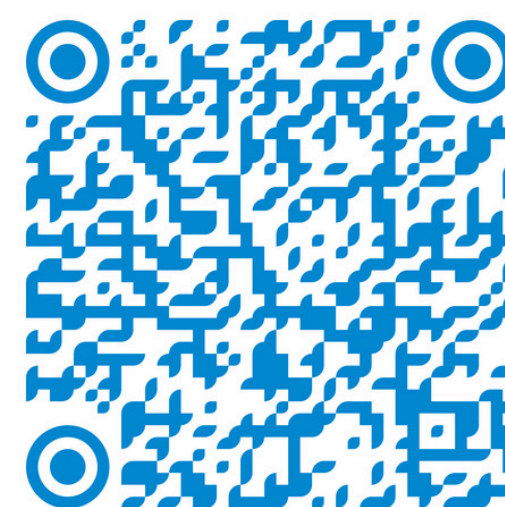
RALLY SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025
9:30AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL
REGISTRATION IS OPEN!



CONFIRMATION
REGISTRATION IS OPEN!



HICKORY HILLS GOLF COURSE

9TH ANNUAL

SAVING GRACE OPEN

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH

Events & News for September 2025

RALLY SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025
9:30AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKOFF

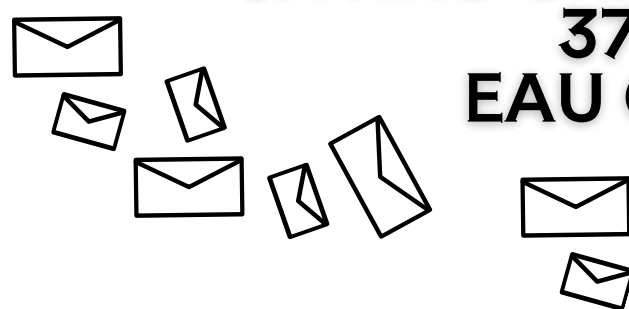
OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

GROUPS & COMMITTEES

OUR PHYSICAL ADDRESS IS NOW OUR MAILING ADDRESS!

We closed our PO Box, so now send all mail to:

SAVING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
3735 JEFFERS RD
EAU CLAIRE, WI 54703



HICKORY HILLS GOLF COURSE

9TH ANNUAL

SAVING GRACE OPEN

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH

SIGN UP AT SCRIP TABLE OR CHURCH OFFICE

1:00PM SHOTGUN START

\$75 PER PERSON

INCLUDES 18 HOLES W/ CART & MEAL (5PM)

HOLE SPONSORSHIPS: \$75 PER HOLE

JUST THE MEAL (5PM): \$10

ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS KITCHEN IMPROVEMENTS



New Members Classes

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
9:30AM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
9:30AM

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
6:00PM

Email office@saving-gracechurch.com to sign up!



Thursdays: 2pm, 4:30pm

Starting September 4th

Contact Pastor Dan Doran for more information:

pastordansglc@gmail.com

GAME DAY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Games, pizza, and fun! Every third Sunday of the month!

11:30AM

BAZAAR/CRAFT LADIES

Summer has flown by, and September reminds us of school, fall, and our Bazaar!

After some fun and relaxation over the summer, it's now time for our group to get busy creating and crafting items for our annual Bazaar.

Beginning September 8, we will meet every Monday from 1:00 - 3:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

All women who are interested in crafts are encouraged to bring any type of project you would like to work on. We welcome new ideas and new faces, as well as old ones!

THE MEN OF SAVING GRACE'S

FISH BOIL

3 seatings of 45 available:

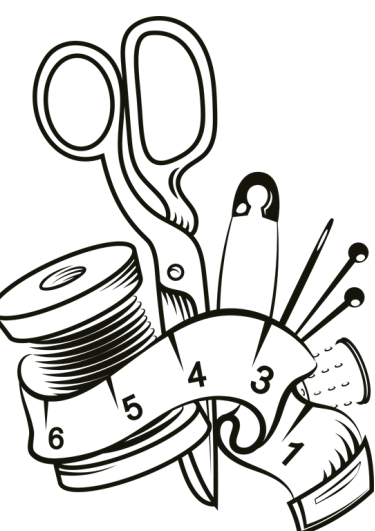
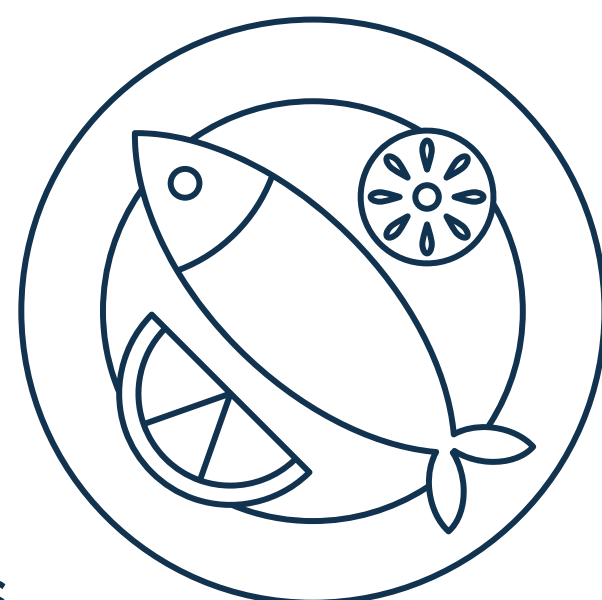
4:00pm, 4:50pm, 5:40pm

Tickets are \$15

Meal includes fish, carrots, potatoes, onions, coleslaw, and apple crisp!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Tickets available at Scrip Table on Sundays or in the Office during the week



A message from Pastor David Irgens: “patience”

¹⁵The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners-- of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.” (1 Timothy 1:15-17)

This first-grade teacher, and her class of thirty-two first graders, had watched it rain all day long. The last bell had rung, it was time to go home, and this teacher began putting galoshes on all thirty-two of those first graders.

She came to the last little girl and she was so excited that she was about finished with this dirty chore, and she began to put the galoshes on this little girl, and they were unusually tight. She struggled, she strained, she pulled, she tugged, she grunted, she groaned, and finally got the galoshes on that last little girl. Just as she finished snapping them into place, the little girl said, “You know what, teacher? These aren’t my galoshes.”

The teacher couldn’t believe it. She struggled, she strained, she pulled, she tugged, she grunted, she groaned, until glistening with sweat, she finally yanked the galoshes off those little girl’s feet. Just at the moment she finally snapped them off, the little girl looked up at her and said, “They’re my sister’s and she lets me wear them.” (unknown)

It’s not easy to be patient. Patience has everything to do with our perspective and what we want to accomplish. It’s difficult to be patient when you have deadlines that are looming and projects to accomplish. It’s difficult to place the things that we consider important on the back burner so that we may be of service to others, but isn’t that what Christ calls us to do in our lives?

²⁶It will not be so among you; but *whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant*, ²⁷and *whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave*; ²⁸just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:26-28)

It’s an entirely different perspective. We are called to be servants of others, to the glory of God, not for our sake, benefit, satisfaction, advantage, merit, or profit, but for God’s glory that others might be drawn to Him. In 1 Timothy 1:16, Paul helps us to see the perspective we have been given in Christ. The Greek word for patience is makrothumia (μακροθυμία), *makros* (μακρός), which means “long” and *humos* (θυμός), signifying “temper,” “emotions,” or “passions.” Literally translated, it signifies “long-temperedness” (cautivoestrella.org Blog Understanding Makrothumia: More Than Just Patience). It isn’t passive resignation. It’s about persevering through difficulties, even injustice, without resorting to immediate retaliation or punishment.

Patience reflects the character of God (Romans 2:4), is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22), through the Holy Spirit we yield to God and are called to control our emotions (Ephesians 4:2), we submit to God and are clothed in His love (Colossians 3:14-17), and it is centered in God who IS love (1 John 4:7-12, 1 Corinthians 13:4). Patience begins with yielding our will to God’s will and laying our plans in His hands. It means that we die to ourselves that we may live to Christ. We are called to reflect the character of God/Christ in our lives. It’s only through submitting to Him and the Holy Spirit that we can do this.

Job is a great example of “long-temperedness,” “long suffering,” and “patience.” Job shows an amazing amount of long-suffering in his address to God. In Job 42:1-6, he humbly comes before the Lord God Almighty and proclaims that He can do all things. It is according to His purpose and wisdom that He carries out His plans. God’s plans are infinite, and our understanding of God’s plan is flawed with our finite limited minds. Yet in God’s presence, Job is humbled before God’s power and majesty and replies, “Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.” Job’s response to God’s presence is humility, repentance, and submission to God and His will.

As this new school year begins may you be given perspective, patience, and purpose in everything you do.

In Christ Jesus our Lord,
Pastor David Irgens

A message from Pastor Dan Doran

Do you know what it means to be enlightened by the Holy Spirit? I've had some enlightening experiences lately. Our bedroom is in the basement of our house—our nursery is also in the basement, just across from our bed room. We have a sliding “barn door” between us and the nursery. And just behind the barn door, when it's fully closed, I began to notice little bits of dirt, dust, and what even looked like very fine wood chips accumulating where the baseboard meets the floor.

It left me scratching my head, but I was concerned. I didn't know where it was coming from or what it meant. In our day and age, you can find anything on the internet and not only can you search with words, but you can search with a picture and you'll find other pictures that look like the one you've uploaded. So, I snapped a picture of the mess that was piling up at the baseboard of the wall in our basement and plugged it into an internet browser. It was an enlightening experience.

I saw many pictures with information describing evidence of carpenter ants or termites and immediately, I became much more concerned. Just above, where all this mess was forming at the bottom of the baseboard, was our house's support beam!! Now, something that I was easily cleaning up with a vacuum in the basement felt like a much bigger issue.

Whether it's a bug issue at home, a personal conflict in the family, a health issue yet to be diagnosed, we need to understand what's really going on so that we can give it the attention that's appropriate for the situation. No amount of vacuuming or sweeping was going to fix our carpenter ant issue in the basement! I needed to understand what was going on.

Martin Luther reminds us that the Holy Spirit, “enlightens us with his gifts,” (Small Catechism, Luther's explanation to the third article of the creed). J.I. Packer agrees that the Holy Spirit, “enlightens, giving understanding of the gospel, so that the ‘spiritual’ man has ‘the mind of Christ’ (1 Corinthians 2:14-16; 2 Corinthians 3:14-17).” (Packer, J. I. (1987). *The Holy Spirit and His Work*. Crux, 23(2), 13.) It is the work of the Holy Spirit to help us understand what's wrong with the world, what's at stake, and what Christ has come to do in order to restore, repair, and resurrect.

In other words, we've got carpenter ants in our very souls. The Holy Spirit enlightens us to this fact. Jesus tells us that when the Holy Spirit comes, “he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgement,” (John 16:8). We're made aware of our sin, so that we can be made aware of the gifts that God has prepared for us in Jesus Christ. Once I was made aware of our carpenter ant issue, you better believe I got a pest control professional out there as soon as I could! I wasn't going to let those ants keep making a meal out of our home's support beam! We needed to get rid of these pests. We needed to protect our home from further damage and safeguard against the issue in the future.

The Holy Spirit enlightens us to our current situation. We wouldn't really be aware of our sin apart from the Holy Spirit. He convicts us of our own brokenness, our separation from God, so that we run to Christ to hand our broken lives over to him, that he would remove our sin from us as far as the east is from the west, that our relationship with God could be mended, so that he would protect us in this life and keep us safe for whenever he calls us to our heavenly home.

All of this, we learn from his word, alongside the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Pray that as we enter another school year, and Bible Studies, Sunday School, confirmation, and small groups all begin to meet again, that we would continue to learn from God's word about the life that he has given us in Jesus Christ.

Every Blessing in the Lord,
Pastor Dan



Music Notes

Katherine Altreuter, Music Director

PSALM 131

***¹O LORD, my heart is not lifted up, my eyes are not raised too high;
I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me.***

***²But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother;
my soul is like the weaned child that is with me.***

³O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time on and forevermore.

Psalms 131, titled *Song of Quiet Trust*, is only three verses long and yet it has so much depth to its meaning.

The first verse is either a confession that we have been humble at the feet of the Lord, or a reminder to come back to that state. As we become distracted by the thrills of our earthly lives, do we sit down and remember that we must submit ourselves to our Heavenly Father? Stay true to this verse: do not occupy your time and mind with riches, possessions, jealousy, vanity, etc. but lay yourself down in front of the Lord and know that's all we need.

The second verse is the consequence of the act of the first. If we are humble and submit ourselves to the Lord, we shall know peace in our souls. To come to God and know Him is to know His peace. Instead of an overwhelming earthly life, we know "a peace that passes all understanding," as Pastor David reminds us almost every Sunday.

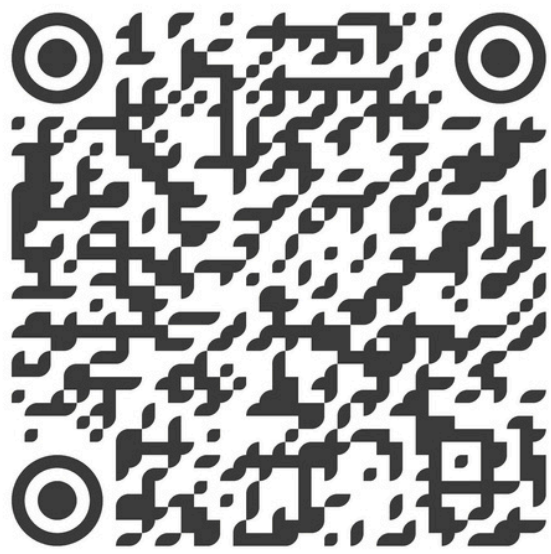
The third verse is our way back to the first. If we have hope in the Lord "from this time on and forevermore," won't we submit ourselves to Him and therefore know His peace?

Psalms 131 is a cycle of truth, not just a song of quiet trust. To move from one verse to the next is to continue a pattern of knowing God, submitting to God, and receiving peace from God. Sometimes as I read scripture, I get bogged down with knowing what is the "right thing to do." There are over 1,000 pages about knowing God and following His Son, Jesus Christ. The wealth of information and instruction can be overwhelming at times.

But Psalm 131 is all of that in three verses: confess your sins, humble yourself before Him, and you will know God's peace.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

**REGISTRATION FORMS
ARE IN THE NARTHEX**



SCAN TO REGISTER ONLINE



**MEET THE TEACHERS:
RALLY SUNDAY (SEPTEMBER 7 @ 9:30AM)**

**FIRST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL:
SEPTEMBER 14 @ 9:30AM**

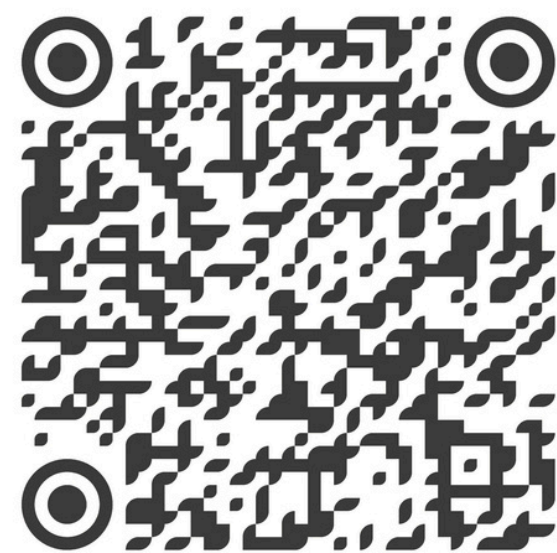
CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION IS OPEN!



**PARENTS MEETING:
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 @ 6PM**

**FIRST DAY OF CONFIRMATION:
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 @ 6PM**

**REGISTRATION FORMS
ARE IN THE NARTHEX**



SCAN TO REGISTER ONLINE

MISSION OUTREACH

SHARING GOD'S GIFTS

In August monthly gifts went to Starfish Kids, Ephrem, and Binder Family, to buy men's jeans for the homeless, and #WillPProject.

We read a recent story in the Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News about a non-profit called #WillPProject, we decided to support the *Growing Hope* program. After losing her brother Will to suicide, Brianne Massman decided to turn her grief into purpose. In 2021, she lunched #WillPProject, a grassroots effort to bring awareness to mental health and suicide.

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, September 8, 2025, at 5:00.

Memorial & Honorary Gifts

In memory of David Cramer

to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Cindy Cramer

In memory of Russ Spencer's birthday

to the General Operating Fund

Bonnie Spencer

In memory of Sharon Risberg

to the TV Ministry Fund

Bob & Bea Frazee

to the Children's Ministry & Nursery Fund

Jean Parkhurst, Roger & Kris Wiltgen, Ginny Wright, Jennifer (Risberg) Schoepel & Family,
Sharon Barnhardt

to the Music Fund

Wilson Lund, John & Carol Mieske, Allan & Ruth Hofland

to the Capital Campaign

Nancy Spehle, Mary Seidling

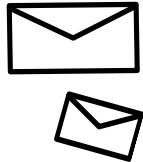
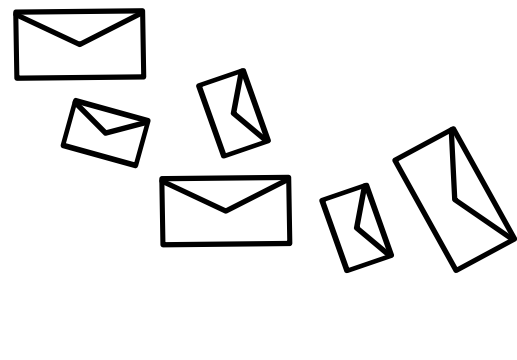
to the Mortgage Reduction Fund

Darleen Bauer, George & Sandy Nelson, Stan & Jean Brettingen, Barb Mathson, Carol Pickhardt, Kevin & Nancy Balash, Brenda Marlow, Gerald & Alice Dusick, Paul & Patty Dundas

OUR PHYSICAL ADDRESS IS NOW OUR MAILING ADDRESS!

We closed our PO Box, so now send all mail to:

**SAVING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
3735 JEFFERS RD
EAU CLAIRE, WI 54703**



*Make sure to update our address with any
third parties for giving!*

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

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday | 9am - 4pm

(715) 514 - 3552

www.saving-gracechurch.com

3735 Jeffers Rd, Eau Claire, WI 54703