



# OUR JOURNEY

A newsletter for members & friends of  
Saving Grace Lutheran Church

## A message from Pastor David Irgens

***<sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup>"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I have appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.***

*(John 15:9-12, 16-17)*

Daverius Peters arrived at Hahnville High School for graduation. He was turned away because he was wearing the wrong shoes. According to the school's dress code, male students were required to wear dark-colored dress shoes. "I thought I could wear them because they're black," said Peters, who said that his outfit abided by the rest of the code, which included a white shirt and tie and dress pants. Peters said, "I was in shock. I felt humiliated. I just wanted to walk across the stage and get my diploma."

John Butler, a teacher at the school, was there to see his daughter graduate. Peters explained to Mr. Butler the situation. Mr. Butler said, "Of course, it sounded crazy to me," but Mr. Butler didn't want Peters to miss receiving his diploma. So, Mr. Butler slid the shoes off his feet and gave them to Peters to wear. Peters eventually walked—actually "slid" across the stage with Butler's size 11's on his size-9 feet. And Butler attended the graduation in his stocking feet with no regrets. Butler said, "This was the most important moment in his life... I wasn't going to let him miss it for anything. I was just happy to see him receive his diploma."

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**MARCH 2026**

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**Submissions to the APRIL *Our Journey* newsletter due  
MONDAY, MARCH 23**

## WORSHIP WITH US

### **Saturday**

Traditional 3:00 PM / 5:00 PM  
*(moves to 5:00 PM after Daylight Savings)*

### **Sunday**

Traditional 8:30 AM  
Contemporary 10:30 AM

### **Wednesdays (during Lent)**

12:00 PM  
6:00 PM

## **LECTIONARY SCHEDULE for the month of March 2026**

### **Sunday, March 1 – Second Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 12:1-4  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17  
John 3:1-17  
Psalm 121 (1, 2)

### **Sunday, March 8 – Third Sunday in Lent**

Exodus 17:1-7  
Romans 5:1-11  
John 4:5-42  
Psalm 95 (1)

### **Sunday, March 15 – Fourth Sunday in Lent**

1 Samuel 16:1-13  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41  
Psalm 23 (5)

### **Sunday, March 22 – Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Romans 8:6-11  
John 11:1-45  
Psalm 130 (5)

### **Sunday, March 29 – Palm Sunday**

Isaiah 50:4-9  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Matthew 26:14-27:66  
Psalm 31:9-16 (5)

**Interested in reading the Word at the Sunday  
8:30 AM traditional worship service?**

Contact Ellis Stewart to sign up!  
[ellis.stewart@charter.net](mailto:ellis.stewart@charter.net)

## **FELLOWSHIP Sundays @ 9:30 AM**

Thank you to the Bazaar/Craft Ladies  
for leading fellowship the month of March!

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

This Lent we are reading the book, **Practicing the Way by John Mark Comer**. When he writes about being with Jesus, he reminds us that we are to “abide in Jesus,” to live our lives in the presence of God. “**Abide**” means to remain, stay, dwell, make your home in, to live. In the busyness of life we often get wrapped up in little things that mean very little but are annoying. It pulls us away from what is really important. Do you remember when Jesus went to visit Martha and Mary? He was teaching, Mary was sitting at the Lord’s feet listening to what Jesus was saying and “**Martha was worried and distracted by her many tasks.**” Martha complained to Jesus, “**Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.**” But the Lord answered her, “**Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her**” (Lk. 10:38-42).

We forget that “**there is need of only one thing,**” to sit at the feet of Jesus and listen to Him. No matter what the worries of this world are or the many distractions, we are called to listen to Him. Listen to His Word and to be shaped by it. To listen to His guidance in our lives and to respond to His desire for us to “**Love one another.**” Not to think about it or all the other things on our plate, but “follow Him and to obey Him.”

We forget sometimes that the things we think are so important, aren’t very important at all. Jesus said, “**Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away**” (Matt. 24:35). If that is so, which it is, then everything else pales in comparison to Jesus and His Word. We are called to “Follow Him.” That doesn’t mean that it’s going to be easy, sometimes it means that we must “Take up your cross” and follow Jesus (Matt. 16:24). He always has a plan and I have to admit it’s often different from the plans that we come up with for our lives, but when we look back we realize that He has been guiding us with His plan our whole lives. We are the ones who shuffle in His shoes as we cross the floor, often distracted as we go along. May your day, week, month, year be filled with Christ’s presence.

*In Jesus Christ our Lord, Pastor David Irgens*

### **A message from Pastor Dan Doran**

The season of Lent is a special opportunity every year to submerge ourselves in the waters of faith. We ask foundational questions, like, “What does it mean to follow Jesus?” We remember his life, sacrifice, and resurrection. We proclaim that He’s coming again at the end of time to make all things new. We confess our hope in the savior who has wiped our slate clean. As we recenter our lives on Christ, we remember the words spoken by Joh, the Baptizer, “He must increase, but I must decrease,” (John 3:30). That would be a wonderful verse to memorize and recall leading up to Easter. And, it reminds me of a story...

There was a very accomplished man who came to his pastor wanting to learn about God. “Pastor, I was a straight A student throughout my academic career. I started my own business and created a franchise that spread across the United States. I raised my children to be the best they could be. I’m retired and have made a good life for myself. Now, I want to learn about God.” So, the Pastor invited the man to have coffee with him.

They sat in the fellowship hall in the basement of their small country church. And as soon as the coffee was ready, the pastor picked up the pot and began to pour this successful man a cup of coffee. And he continued to pour until the cup was overflowing out onto the table and then, off the table and onto the ground. The man in disbelief, shouted, “Stop! Can’t you see it’s full? You’re getting coffee everywhere!” The pastor put the coffee pot down and said, “And you are so full of yourself that there has been no room for God. If you want to learn about Him and his Son, then you will have to be emptied of yourself...”

Our sinful self can be so insistent on filling our lives—heart, soul, mind, and strength—that we leave no room for God. We get so fed up when we can’t schedule our doctor appointments as soon as we’d like. We have to wait weeks and sometimes months. But, how long does God have to wait in order to have an appointment with us?

It’s a challenge for us all. As I was worshipping and listening to the Sermon on the Mount a couple of weeks ago, I was struck by Christ’s words of...

*continued on next page...*

## **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **Bazaar/Craft Ladies**

Mondays @ 1:00-3:30pm

### **Discipleship**

Monday, March 2 @ 3:30pm

### **Mission Outreach**

Monday, March 2 @ 5:00pm

### **Church Management**

Monday, March 9 @ 4:30pm

### **Worship & Music**

Thursday, March 12 @ 5:30pm

### **Education**

Sunday, March 15 @ 10:30am

### **Council**

Tuesday, March 31 @ 6:00pm

*Interested in joining a committee?  
Contact the Office for more information:*

715 – 514 - 3552

[office@saving-gracechurch.com](mailto:office@saving-gracechurch.com)

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## **NEWS & EVENTS**

*Be with Jesus, Become like Jesus, Do as He did*

# **LENT SERVICES**

**Wednesdays 12pm | 6pm**

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Lunch is served following the noon service, dinner is served at 5:00 PM before the evening service. Our Lenten discussion this year on Practicing the Way: Be with Jesus, Become like Jesus, Do as He Did by John Mark Comer takes place following both services . *More info on pg. 6.*

## **HOLY WEEK**

### **PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP**

Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 PM  
Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30 AM | 10:30 AM

### **LENTEN WORSHIP & LUNCHEON**

**Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> @ 11:00 AM**

Join us for a special Lenten worship service with lunch served afterwards.  
Please RSVP in the Narthex!

### **EASTER PRAYER VIGIL**

**Wed. April 1<sup>st</sup> @ 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall for 30 minutes of prayer in the Sanctuary. Slots are available from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Materials will be provided.

### **SEDER MEAL**

**Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> @ 5:30 PM**

A traditional celebration of the Passover meal, including lamb, matzah, and bitter herbs.  
Please RSVP in the Narthex!

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP**

**Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 12pm & 6pm**

### **GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP**

**Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 12pm & 6pm**

### **EASTER WEEKEND**

**Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**

5:00 PM | Traditional

**Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 AM | Traditional

8:30 AM | Traditional

10:30 AM | Contemporary

*Easter Breakfast will be served on Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 – 11:30 AM.*

...warning. “And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues...so that they may be seen by others,” (Matthew 6:5). And later in that very service, I was going to get up and lead the prayers of the church, not in a synagogue, of course, but Jesus’ words still apply! Pastors face a temptation to let their work for God overtake their relationship with God. That the praise they receive from their congregation would be more important to them than the “Well done,” Christ has promised to us at the end of time. We too have to be poured out, so that Christ can fill us. We too have to decrease so that Christ can increase in us.

As we sing the words of Mary during the Holden Evening Prayer service, we can welcome God into our lives again, to transform us from the inside out. Mary said, “I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will,” (Luke 1:38). Let that be our prayer this Lenten season! As we await Christ’s glorious return, we can remember how he poured out his life for us so that we could be full in him.

*Longing for his appearing, Pastor Dan*

### **Katherine Altreuter, Office Administrator & Music Director**

Recently I played a bluegrass show with *Flambeau Jambeau*, a local group made up of musicians with backgrounds in bluegrass, country, blues, and jazz. The photographer hired for the show ended up being an old acquaintance of mine—Teddy photographed the folk band I used to tour with three years ago.

As I was catching up with him, we reminisced on a show I played in August 2023 in Durand at the *Blues on the Chippewa* festival, which was the last time we saw each other. It was at the end of the month-long streak of touring, where the band had gone from northern Minnesota to Missouri to the Black Hills of South Dakota to Michigan and back. This was also a particularly tumultuous tour, both personally and for the other band members. I had just lost my nineteen-year-old cat, I was preparing for my wedding, and within a month I would no longer be touring but going back to school. It seemed like so many changes were happening...

*Katherine's message continued...*

...so quickly. After a month of being on the road, I had about five days to get all the last-minute details nailed down for the wedding.

So the day before Mike and I were wed, I played the *Blues on the Chippewa* festival as it was on my way to La Crosse. It was miserably hot, with the temperature on a black stage in the sun almost 100 degrees. I remember being so sweaty I could barely keep my bow in my hand. I watched my bandmates' sweat pool on their own instruments while most of the crowd stuck to the shade of the trees, fanning themselves profusely.

As I look back on my memories of touring, I remember a lot of the negatives. Being on the road was very emotionally and physically taxing, I missed out on a lot of opportunities and experiences, and I started to lose my desire to be a musician. The band was falling apart at the seams with everyone on edge, fighting, and engaging in unhealthy behavior. It felt like the life was getting sucked out of me the longer I was on the road. But then I run into an old friend like Teddy, who remembers photographing not miserable bandmates at the end of their rope, but a band that put on their best performance despite everything going on behind the scenes. No matter what, the show must always go on.

Ministry can feel the same way, too. Despite our brokenness, the difficulty to still have faith in the challenging times, we show up to worship, ready to honor God the best that we can. No matter what happens, our Father, who art in heaven, blesses us with the strength that we can't find anywhere else. As Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane on the eve of his crucifixion, he cried, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want" (Matt. 26:39). And still, despite how much Christ did not want to receive the punishment he knew was coming, he follows through. Because more importantly than what we want is what we know is true, what is right, and what is ultimately God's plan. If Christ can take upon the ultimate punishment, then I can show up and worship my God, my Father.

# GAME DAY SUNDAY, MARCH 15

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

11:30AM

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

# LADIES' CRAFT DAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH

9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

in the Fellowship Hall

The Bazaar/Craft Group is hosting a **Ladies' Craft Day** to include all those who cannot make it to the Monday meetings and/or the summer retreat.

It is **FREE** to attend and **lunch will be served!**

Bring your projects and materials or come ready to work on something with the group. *Please sign up in the Narthex by Easter Sunday (April 5<sup>th</sup>).*

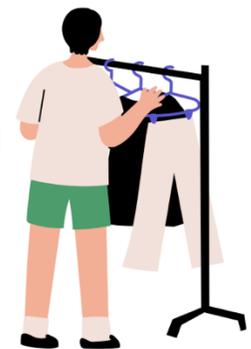
Contact Kari Irgens for more information:

[karianddavid8312014@gmail.com](mailto:karianddavid8312014@gmail.com)

## spring treasure sale

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

9am - 2pm



Our **Spring Treasure Sale** is a great opportunity to clean out your closets and support Saving Grace!

Donations can be brought to church starting

**Monday, April 20th.**

**Victory in Christ:**  
**A Lenten Reflection on Faith, Focus,**  
**and Eau Claire’s Skiing Legacy**

**by Nikki Jackson**

*“The thrill of victory... and the agony of defeat.”*  
For decades, that phrase served as the motto of ABC’s *Wide World of Sports*. With the Olympics just behind us, it feels especially fitting that **2026 marks 140 years of ski jumping in Eau Claire** – a city some even claim as the birthplace of skiing in America.

Around 1886, Norwegian immigrants founded the **Dovre Ski Club**, bringing with them not just a sport, but a cultural tradition rooted in discipline, courage, and endurance. By the 1920s, ski jumping had exploded in popularity across Eau Claire, with as many as seven clubs operating throughout the city, including the Flying Eagles. Through decades of club name changes and consolidation, the Flying Eagles Ski Club has endured.

The Flying Eagles have produced four Olympians: **Jimmy Hendrickson (1936), Bill Olson (1952, 1956), Reed Zuehlke (1980), and most recently Ben Loomis (2018, 2022)**, who competed just last month in his third Olympic Games.

A recent conversation with former Flying Eagle Bob Eberhardt reminded me of an analogy between skiing and the Christian life, though I can no longer recall its original source. Whether you are ski jumping, downhill racing, or cross-country skiing (my personal favorite), success depends on keeping your focus fixed on the path ahead. Lose that focus – hesitate, look away, or panic – and the consequences can be serious. I’ve learned this the hard way with a bruised tailbone; Bob has witnessed far worse.

God’s Word speaks to this reality in our lives as well. When we get too wrapped up in the distractions of this world – trusting our own strength, wisdom, or control – we lose our balance. *Colossians 3:1-2* calls us instead to look upward: “Set your minds on things above, not earthly things” to trust in the Lord. Yet, as Luther reminds us, this turning is not our own doing, but God’s gracious work within us...

...We see this clearly in *Matthew 14:28-31*. Peter steps out of the boat and walks on the water toward Jesus. But when he takes his focus off of Jesus he becomes frightened by the wind and the waves. Peter begins to sink and cries out; Jesus immediately reaches out and rescues him. The good news is not Peter’s courage, but Christ’s mercy.

Amid this season of Lent, we are invited to refocus our hearts on Jesus, to reflect honestly on our sin, and to earnestly repent. As the psalmist writes, *“I have set the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken”* (Psalm 16:8).

We are reminded that Christ paid our ransom. He suffered and died for our sins – and He rose again. In doing so, He defeated death once and for all.

**In Christ, agony does not have the final word. Victory does.**

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

### **LENTEN DISCUSSION SERIES**

Join us in our book study after the Wednesday 6pm worship service this Lenten season



Learn more about **Practicing the Way:**



Our **Lenten Discussion Series** this year will be a group study of **Practicing the Way: Be With Jesus, Become Like Jesus, Do As He Did** by John Mark Comer. Discussions follow the Wednesday worship services led by Pastor David and Pastor Dan. Some copies of the book will be available at the discussion for purchase (\$14/book) but we encourage you to bring your own as we have a limited supply.

# FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Class @ 5pm on Mondays:

March 9

March 16

March 23

**& Seder Meal:**

Wed. April 1st @ 5:30pm



**First Communion Class** will be held for first graders that are ready to start taking Communion. The class includes three sessions plus the **Seder Meal** during Holy Week. For more information, please contact Cheryl Eberhardt (Education Director): [savinggraceeducation@gmail.com](mailto:savinggraceeducation@gmail.com)

## MISSION OUTREACH

### *Sharing God's Gifts*

In February, monthly gifts went to Starfish Kids, Ephrem, Binder Family, Dave Gray fundraiser, laundry basket project, Kwik Trip Scrip cards for future gifting and church fundraising, and Fountain.

We would like to thank the Sunday School Kids and Staff for helping with the \*Gifts of Hope\* project through Samaritan's Purse. The kids picked out the items we donated: 15 blankets, 1 water well, 2 baby chicks, 1 hive of honey bees, 1 dairy, 1 lamb, and a donation to build/improve a mission hospital, coming to a total of \$409.

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](mailto:office@saving-gracechurch.com).

Mission Outreach next meeting will be on Monday, March 2, 2026, at 5:00.

## MEMORIAL & HONORARY GIFTS

*In memory of Sharon "Sherry" Farley*

to General Operating Fund

given by Jean Parkhurst

to Fellowship Serving Tables

given by Cindy Joy Fischer, Allan & Ruth Hofland, Doug & Jill Klawiter, Darleen Bauer, Dan & Nancy Gunderson, Paul & Patty Dundas, George & Sandy Nelson, Kevin & Nancy Balash, John & Carol Mieske, Nancy Spehle, Chet & Kathy Berkey, Jean & Greg Tomac, Dave Isaacson, E. Robert Kein & Ruth Kein, Michael & Pam Small, Renae Hestekin, Virginia Wright, Carol Pickhardt, Bob & Bea Frazee

to Debt Reduction

given by Kevin & Michelle Otto, Scott Isaacson, Brenda Marlow, Bob & Pam Bee, Stan & Jean Brettingen, Sharon Jurjens

*In memory of Janice Isaacson, "Mom"*

to General Operating Fund

given by Pam Crandall

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

to TV Ministry

given by Mary Seidling

to TV Ministry

given by Bruce Winters

*In memory of Arlene Larson*

to Fellowship Serving Tables

given by Cindy Joy Fischer

## FLOWERS FOR EASTER

**Celebrate Easter by purchasing a plant to decorate the sanctuary in memory or honor of a loved one.**

Orders need to be in by Thursday, March 5, 2026.

*Visit table in Narthex for order forms.*

Tulips, daffodils, 3 color Easter egg mums, and 3 color Easter egg kalanchoes available.



## Saving Grace Lutheran Church

3735 Jeffers Rd.  
Eau Claire, WI 54703  
715-514-3552

[saving-gracechurch.com](http://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](mailto:ibn1irgs@yahoo.com)

**Pastor Dan Doran**, Associate Pastor  
[pastordansglc@gmail.com](mailto:pastordansglc@gmail.com)

**Katherine Altreuter**, Office Administrator & Music Director  
[office@saving-gracechurch.com](mailto:office@saving-gracechurch.com)  
[sglcmusic@gmail.com](mailto:sglcmusic@gmail.com)

**Cheryl Eberhardt**, Education Director  
[savinggraceeducation@gmail.com](mailto:savinggraceeducation@gmail.com)

### CHURCH COUNCIL

Michelle Otto	President
Patty Dundas	Vice President
Pam Bee	Treasurer
Barb Clark	Secretary

### Council Members

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
Renae Hestekin	Education
Chet Berkey	Men of Saving Grace
Kay Granger	Mission Outreach
Kevin Otto	Personnel
Chuck Hill	Visual Ministry
Kathy Berkey	Worship & Music

## WORSHIP & MUSIC

### Saving Grace Choir - March Schedule

**Rehearsals** on Thursdays, 6:30 – 7:30 PM  
**Performing** March 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Sunday 8:30 AM Traditional Worship service  
*Hallelujah Chorus rehearsal:* Wed. April 1<sup>st</sup> 6:30 PM

### 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](mailto:sglcmusic@gmail.com)

### Board of Worship & Music

We are in search of new committee members! If you would like to represent the Saturday service or contemporary service, please contact Katherine Altreuter, Music Director: [sglcmusic@gmail.com](mailto:sglcmusic@gmail.com)

## COMMUNITY NOTES

### **Death Notices**

**Sharon "Sherry" Farley** passed February 4, 2026. Pastor Dan Doran presided over the funeral on February 15th.

**Jeanette Peterson** passed February 5, 2026. Pastor David Irgens presided over the funeral on February 17th.

**Nancy E. Mayer** passed February 9, 2026. Pastor David Irgens presided over the funeral on February 25th.

### **Altar Flowers in February**

**Jan. 31-Feb. 1:** anonymously given in honor & memory of those affected by the events in Minneapolis.

**February 7-8:** given by Renee Hill & Ruth Morley in memory of Ronald Morley; given by Sylvia Miller in memory of Laban Miller.

**February 14-15:** given by Steve & Michelle Ganzer in memory of Steve's mother, Arlene Larson; given by George & Sandy Nelson in memory of their daughter, Amy Nelson Rogers; given by Ernie & Kathy Freid in honor of their 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**February 21-22:** given by Katherine Altreuter in memory of her grandfather, Bernard Voigt, Jr.