

our Journey



A newsletter for members & friends
of Saving Grace Lutheran Church.

September 2020

***“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.”***

FEASIBILITY STUDY PLANNING COMMITTEE

The end of our contract with the Goldridge Management Team continues to approach. We have approximately 28 months remaining. That time will go quickly. Despite the inconveniences of Covid-19, we need to reactivate the ***Feasibility Study Planning Committee***. The initial group composed of about 8 members got a great start. Covid-19 halted their progress. It is time to reactivate this committee. If you were on the committee initially your participation would be a greatly appreciated. To help facilitate reorganization, we are looking for members who have experience in the following areas:

- **One person to serve as Chair**
- **One member who has knowledge in the Financial field**
- **A background in land development, search and acquisitions** (Mike Brown has offered to fill this position- thank you Mike).
- **Experience in Real estate**
- **Member(s) who are willing to visit land/building possibilities**
- **Member(s) who have an interest in securing our own church building**

Our goal is to secure our own church HOME. This will take the efforts of our entire church family: our prayers, our participation and our commitment to the Capital Campaign. We’ve come so far in our seven-year journey, and now we are in the final lap (Kevin would probably say something like, “rounding third, heading home.”) Join our Pastors & Council as we move ahead. Please contact either Pastor Irgens or Pastor Doran or any member of Council if you would be willing to serve in this capacity. Thank you for your consideration.

Daily Devotions

You will find devotions prepared by your Pastors and church staff each day on our website (saving-gracechurch.com) and on our Facebook page. There will be a “food for thought” type of meditation for each day. **ALSO, we will have a family devotion on Wednesdays (all ages!) and a devotion digging deeper into our hymn for the coming Sunday Worship on Fridays.**

If you don’t happen to be tech savvy, reach out and ask someone what the devotional was about for that day. If you *are* tech savvy, reach out to someone and tell them what the devotion was about!

Miss a week? You will find devotions from past weeks on our website.



FROM THE PASTOR

“My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand.” John 10:27-28)

I know that the last five months have been difficult. First of all, I want you to know that I want to open the church safely and as soon as possible. For some of you it is the first time in your lives you haven't gone to church every Sunday. It seems foreign, unnatural, and just plain wrong. People ask me when are we going to open our doors again. My answer essentially the same each time. As soon as we can safely. I have heard comments about not enough faith, or just trust in the Lord, or why aren't we open if others are. I have talked to other pastors and some have said, "I don't think that anyone knows what to do one way or another. There isn't any right or wrong way to open and we're all in the same boat, so we just opened." I don't consider this wise. But I do think that we need to open soon.

Ecclesiastes which starts with a cry of despair to God, ***“Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.” (Ecclesiastes 1:2)*** I know that there has never been a time in my life that God wasn't there to guide me, whether I felt he was right beside me or I felt lost in the wilderness. Even the writer of Ecclesiastes cannot deny that God is still in control of the world around us. ***“I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him.” (Ecclesiastes 3:14)*** God is still in control. He is still working in our lives every day. The isolation we feel can be used to draw near to Christ and realize He has always been with you. He is teaching us that when all of the peripheral things in life are stripped away, most of all Christ desires a deeper relationship with you. He wants to be a part of your life day to day. Life isn't all just vanity (futility, uselessness, idleness, nor is life about self-centered narcissism). It is so much more when it's centered on who Jesus is and that He is there to guide you. "Follow Me." He says.

We have taken steps that have helped us grow during this time and keep us connected.

- **The Daily Devotion** on our Website and Facebook page is designed to enrich your faith.
- **Wednesday Night Worship at 6:15** has grown in attendance through the Live Stream.
- **Sunday Worship at 8:30 and 10:00** have increased dramatically in attendance through the Live Stream
- **Sunday 11:30 Parking Lot Worship Service** has between 32 to 60 people in attendance.
- **Pastor Doran and I are going to be visiting parishioners outside of your homes when it is convenient for You.** We will safely distance, wear a mask, bring Holy Communion for you and have a chance to talk and pray. You are vital to who we are as a church and we want you to know that you aren't alone.

The next chapter in our lives is opening up our services to parishioners in Worship. This should be happening soon in September. I know God has always been faithful to us as a congregation. He is strengthening our faith now so that we can be used to reach others. He isn't done with us yet. We're just opening the door and listening to Christ. "Follow me."

May you be enriched with every blessing in Christ,
Pastor David Irgens

¹ The LORD spoke to Moses: ² See, I have called by name Bezalel son of Uri son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: ³ and I have filled him with the spirit of God, with ability, intelligence, and knowledge in every kind of craft, ⁴ to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, ⁵ in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, in every kind of craft.

-Exodus 31:1-5

There is something special about seeing family in person and about being in a place you have called “home” as a child. I just visited the place where I spent most of my childhood years. There is history there. Memories were made there. Birthdays, anniversaries, confirmation, baptisms, and more were all celebrated there. It’s a special place because of the history that was made with specific people—those people being my mom, my dad, my brother, along with other family and friends.

On August 22 we read a devotional on Romans 12:1. We can understand that Paul tells us that the true “place” of spiritual worship is our very bodies. The true “time” of spiritual worship is all the time. The Bible can help us work through this time of being away from the sanctuary in time and place by reminding us that true spiritual worship has to do with all of life. But, that’s just part of the picture. This reading in Exodus 31 reminds us that God has been concerned with the physical gathering of his people for worship for quite some time. God picks someone out by name, empowers him with his very own Spirit, and commissions him to build the tabernacle, the tent of worship where God’s presence would dwell with the people of Israel. This was a meeting place between God and man. A specific place that people would gather at during a specific time. God gave very specific instructions on how to craft this mobile worship location. What the “place” of worship looked like mattered to God.

In this time, we know now more than ever, there is something special about being with fellow Christians worshipping the Lord together in a single place. We miss it and realize that some of us have been homebound long before the pandemic required us to think twice about large group gatherings. We make memories tied to a specific place when we are together. Just like growing up in a certain town and being a part of a certain family. The sanctuary is a specific place during a specific time where the people of God receive the Word of God. It’s important that other people are there. We miss something of the Word of God without being in the presence of the very people of God that the Word came to save.

It’s true, many of you feel it. We are missing out by not being together. But we have to remember that, “the Sabbath was made for humankind, not humankind for the Sabbath” (Mark 2:27). God cares about our worship because it is vital to our wellbeing. That is why he created the Sabbath. Worship during a specific time and place has everything to do with God caring for his people. Although we might be able to gather again soon in person, many of us have claimed a new place of worship. In living rooms, computer rooms, offices. On chairs, couches, recliners. What is it that you miss most about gathering with the people of God? How could you remind yourself of the people of God when you watch worship from home? Is there anything you need to add or take away from your impromptu “sanctuary” living room?

Every Blessing from the Lord,

Pastor Dan



“Music “Notes” - by Beth Joosten, Music Director

Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing praise to his name, for that is pleasant. (Psalm 135:3)

As we continue to offer worship virtually, you may have noticed we have had some new and additional musicians joining us this summer. We have been very grateful to Heidi Joosten for her offering of music on Sundays during the interim as we seek to find a replacement keyboardist. Joining us also has been Dr. Frank Watkins and many of our regular contemporary musicians have been returning. Special music in August was provided by Heidi Joosten and Dr. Frank Watkins (Aug. 2), Heidi Joosten (Aug. 9), Sarah and Alex Plum (Aug. 16), We sincerely thank ALL musicians for their wonderful contribution to our worship services. We are looking forward to the time we can all return to worship together. In the meantime, we are working to keep our musicians protected by wearing masks and social distancing during worship so that we can continue to safely provide music for services.

Coming in the future months, we will “feature” our worship musicians in the monthly newsletter. This will include a brief bio and some “fun facts” about each person so that Saving Grace may get to know these talented people who so graciously share their musical talents with us. Stay tuned.

N S T H G I F A M S J M
 I O S U S E J G U H U O
 S T I W E A P O N S D D
 Y U F T B O I R C T G G
 U T O I A R R H C R E N
 F N D I O V A E H E M I
 O E M T R M L E R N E K
 R D C O P O L A I G N S
 E I R I V T L S S T T S
 V I O O T E S G T H O M
 E N U A L R D E V O U R
 R G B S P I R I T O D A

Hidden Hymn

Below is a list of lyrics that are found in the hidden hymn. Write the letters below that are leftover in the puzzle to solve for the title of the hymn.

ABIDE	ARMS	BATTLE
CHAMPION	CHRIST	DEVOUR
FIGHT	FIGHTS	FOREVER
GLORIOUS	JESUS	JUDGEMENT
KINGDOM	LORD	SALVATION
SPIRIT	STRENGTH	UNMOVED
VICTORIOUS	WEAPONS	

Answer provided on page 9 in the newsletter

Hidden Hymn



Sunday School starts September 13th!

All classes will be via Zoom. Pre-k through 3rd grade class will be from 9:30-10:25 and the 4th through 6th grade class will be from 10:30-11:25. Links to the classes will be sent to parents during the first week of September.

Just as in the spring and VBS, class materials will be provided. Materials will be delivered the week of September 6th. See the link email for more information.



On Sunday, September 27th (during the parking lot service at 11:30) we will be presenting Bibles to the youth in our congregation that are 3 and 4 years old, first graders, fourth graders, and seventh graders. Emails will be sent to families with more details.

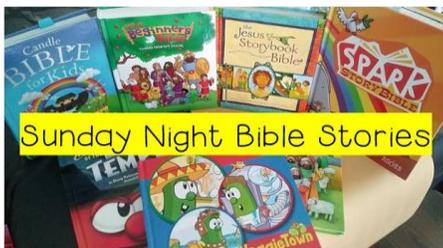
Confirmation begins Wednesday, September 23rd at 5:00pm.

At Saving Grace, youth start confirmation in 7th grade. Parents of 7th graders will receive an email soon about confirmation, as well as an invitation to the parent meeting (see below).

Confirmation Parent Meeting: Thursday, September 10th 7:00pm via Zoom. We will be talking about the program this year, the requirements, how the classes will be formatted, and tips on talking to your youth about faith. (link to the meeting will be sent in an email) Youth @ Home

All information regarding our youth programs will be updated and available on the church website.

Don't forget Family Devotions published on Facebook and our website each Wednesday! If you missed one, go to the homepage of our website <http://savinggracechurch.com/> and check out past devotions!



Join Melissa and her family each Sunday night at 7:00 pm

for Sunday Night Bible Stories. Each Zoom meeting will be about 20 minutes. We'll read a story either from a children's Bible or a story book (Veggie Tales, anyone?) and then we'll have a little bit of fun time- we'll talk, sing a song, dance, or play a game. All are welcome to join in the meeting!

All youth families will be emailed the link before August 1st.

Grandparents, are your grandchildren visiting you? Email Melissa Corlett at savinggraceeducation@gmail.com for a copy of the Zoom invitation link. We'd love to have them join us!!



Did you know that we have a Facebook page just for our Saving Grace Families? If you would like an invite to the page, please email Melissa @ savinggraceeducation@gmail.com. Access to the page is by invitation only to keep it safe for our children and families.



WEARING A MASK

PLEASE NOTE: We are asking you to please wear a mask if you are in the church building; including the Sanctuary, Office and Kitchen. Thank you for helping to keep everyone safe!

News from Haiti

Coronavirus hits Pignon, orphanage & church Please pray for Pastor Francois, his family, the orphans and church in Pignon Haiti as they suffer through the coronavirus, without the medicine and medical care we take for granted. Francois, his family and the orphans have all been sick this past week, probably the coronavirus. Since there is no testing or medicine, they we will never know for sure. Please read Francois' email. In the orphanage, the older children help look after the younger.

Here is Pastor Francois' email:

Honorable father in Jesus, God has been gracious to me, my families and the orphans. we thank our sweet Jesus for healing. let US tell you this month was terrible. we get fever this week, next week we heal so next week the fever comes back. thank you so much my dear pastor for the money sent then we get it today then we will put more control over the expenses even the situation is more critical. we pray for you, families and the sponsors for God protection upon you all and we pray for the love one lost in America. we are glad all the Folz families and the sponsors are fine. We pray for Daddy and mommy à message from the orphans. May the Lord grant you all à long life. The peace of God on you, Prayerfully, Past François Delange and the church members Pignon and Gaspard, Haiti.

In Christ, Pastor Jim Folz

2517 Heffron St, Stevens Point, WI 54481
Jimfolz77@gmail.com 715-204-8276

Articles for the October newsletter are due to Julie Atkinson via email office@saving-gracechurch.com or "snail mail" by September 21.

September

**"The golden-rod is yellow;
The corn is turning brown;
The trees in apple orchards
With fruit are bending down.**

**The gentian's bluest fringes
Are curling in the sun;
In dusty pods the milkweed
Its hidden silk has spun.**

**The sedges flaunt their harvest,
In every meadow nook;
And asters by the brook-side
Make asters in the brook,**

**From dewy lanes at morning
The grapes' sweet odors rise;
At noon the roads all flutter
With yellow butterflies.**

**By all these lovely tokens
September days are here,
With summer's best of weather,
And autumn's best of cheer.**

**But none of all this beauty
Which floods the earth and air
Is unto me the secret
Which makes September fair.**

**T'is a thing which I remember;
To name it thrills me yet:
One day of one September
I never can forget."**

- Helen Hunt Jackson



Thank You for Your Gifts

Donations made to the church in memory of or in honor of someone will be printed on a monthly basis in the newsletter. Your gifts in times of celebration or remembrance are always important and very much appreciated.

General Operating Fund

In Memory of Charles Hill Sr.: Arnie & Irene Johnson, Allan & Ruth Hofland, Donna Switzer, Judy Tulgren (for on-line streaming)

In Memory of Donna Hoepfner: Kay Ramsey, Sharon Risberg, Kris Quier, Chris Heacox, Brenda Marlow, Anstice Capelle, Mary Amend, Paul & Patty Dundas

In Memory of Janet Wisner: Allan & Ruth Hofland, Sharon Risberg, Donna Switzer

In Memory of Edith Knudson: Caroline Irgens

In Memory of Stanley Aubert: Stan & Jean Brettingen

In Honor of Bob & Bea's 62nd Wedding Anniversary on August 23: Bob & Bea Frazee

Television Fund

In Memory of Donna Hoepfner: Marcella Jordan, Jerry & Rose Schmidt, Marian Spoolhoff, Jean Parkhurst, Todd & Karen Nelson

In Memory of Clayton Nibaur: Jeanette Nibaur

In Memory of Ralph & Delores Zimmerman & Michael Seidling: Mary Seidling

Capital Campaign

In Memory of Donna Hoepfner: Rosella Nelson

In Memory of Dale & their 60th Wedding Anniversary: Dolly Papke



2020 General Operating Giving through August 24:

\$267,670

General Operating Expenses through August 24:

\$336,681

Assets:

General Operating Account: \$59,426

Legacy/Reserve Account: \$111,286

Dedicated/Exchange Account + Capital Campaign:

\$435,513

Dedicated/Exchange Account Savings: \$6963



As of August 24, \$591,415.19 has been pledged to the Capital Campaign, with an additional \$184,528 non-pledge dollars donated to the Capital Campaign Account.

Current Capital Campaign Balance:
\$410,540.26

Scrip Sales

If you wish to purchase scrip, please preorder by contacting either Chet or Dale @

Chet's cell: 715-864-3125 or cberkey@centurytel.net

Dale's cell: 715-828-5542 or sfarley44@hotmail.com

Arrangements can be made with them to pick up in the parking lot on Mondays or Fridays from 8 -10 am.



Saving Grace Church Mission Outreach Committee

In August, in addition to our Monthly gifts to Ephrem and Starfish Kids we donated to:

Sofas for Service: The Men of Saving Grace were unable to hold the annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser this year so we are providing a check to help cover costs for mattresses, and other goods they need to purchase new and also a scrip card for gas for the truck.

Western Dairyland sponsors housing for 30 families. Although the families receive apartments or houses to live in, there are no furnishings or household items furnished and they depend on donations from businesses and the community. We are gifting a check to their Housing First Program and scrip cards to be distributed to individuals to purchase cleaning supplies and needed household items.

We will be sponsoring another week for Beacon House August 23 - 29. Bev Nelson was requested to send a message to her list of craft ladies which she did send out.

Shoebox Project: This year’s Shoebox Project through Samaritan’s Purse will be Nov. 16 - 23 and we hope to plan a way to be able to distribute boxes for people to fill and return to the church. Kay is checking into ordering the boxes to provide to congregation members and if we are unable to use any or all of them this year, they will be kept for next year.

Thank you messages were received from Feed My People, the Sr. V.P. of Military Bible Sticks, American Legion Women’s Auxiliary, Jacobs Jackets, Sojourner House, Family Promise and Hope Gospel Renewal Center for Women & Children.

We are always open to ideas and suggestions for Mission from our congregation members. Call or email one of our Mission Committee members or office@saving-gracechurch.com and Julie will pass along your suggestions.

A reminder that our Answered Prayer Fund is set up for members only who have a special need. Contact Pastor David or Pastor Dan if you need help - they will keep everything confidential.



Wednesday Worship Questions

During our 6:15 Wednesday evening Worship Service, Pastor David & Pastor Dan discuss and try to answer your questions. Do you have scripture questions or spiritual concepts you’ve always wondered about or would like explained in more depth? Please email your questions to office@saving-gracechurch.com (or mail to the office).

Tune into our live-stream and see what you can learn!





Pastor Irgens presided over the following:

Funerals

Sharon Ouimet

July 18

Laura Strum

August 1

Pamela Lane

August 8

David Zell

August 14

Sally Erickson

August 15

Jackie Kidd

August 20

Interment

Louis & Joyce Beaulieu

August 22

AND

Wedding

Tim Frederick & Raquel Dorf

August 21

(Tim is a former SGLC Band member!)



Mailing Lists



We are currently mailing large print bulletins for our TV Worship service to several of our homebound members. If you, or someone you know should be added to that list, please contact Julie at office@saving-gracechurch.com, jot a note in with your mailed donation, or call the church. *Note that this bulletin is slightly different than our live-stream worship bulletin.*

Likewise, we are mailing out monthly newsletters to that same list, plus some members who aren't internet connected. If you or someone you know should be on that list, please contact Julie as above.

We want everyone to be connected and informed!

“For I know the PLANS I have for you” declares the LORD “plans to PROSPER you and not to harm you, plans to give you HOPE and a FUTURE.”
Jeremiah 29:11



2020 Church Council

- Kevin Balash, President**
- Stan Brettingen, Vice President**
- Patty Dundas, Secretary**
- Bill Cunningham, Treasurer**
- Steven Dusick, Wilson Lund,**
- Dani Volz, Pete Hestekin,**
- Cindy Joy Fischer, Laura Wright,**
- Michelle Otto**

For contact information, please refer to your Church Directory or contact the Church Office via email.



Do you have a prayer request?

Please email your request to office@saving-gracechurch.com and indicate if it is a confidential request, or you would like it included on the prayer chain and in the worship service.

**Hidden Hymn Answer from page 4:
“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”**



Parking Lot Drive-up Worship Service Sundays at 11:30 am

In order to provide a safe option for those who would like to gather, we continue to offer a social distanced Sunday Parking Lot Worship in the parking lot behind the church (across Fairfax next to CCF Bank) **along with our Live streamed Wednesday Worship Service at 6:15 pm, and Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 am and 10:00 am.** In consideration of others, please come prepared to wear a mask if you have your car windows open or intend to walk around the lot. On Communion Sundays, bring your own grape juice & bread.

We will have live musicians and speakers so you can hear and we will broadcast over 91.7 FM so you may use your car radio as well. *The church building will not be open.*

Thank you for your patience. We continue to pray for a vaccine to be developed. During this time, we ask you to continue Social Distancing at least 6 feet between each other and wear a mask when you are out in public.

We can certainly use some help moving sound equipment and misc. items we need for this service each Sunday! The Pastors just don't have time between services. Let us know if you can help one or all Sundays!



***Thank you so much for your continuing support of Saving Grace Lutheran Church!
Your donations are appreciated! Other ways you can easily contribute to your church:***



Shopping on Amazon? Support Saving Grace by going to smile.amazon.com and register for Saving Grace Lutheran Church. Same Amazon, same prices, same Prime (if you have it), but a small percentage of dollars you spend are donated directly to the church.

Thrivent Choice

If you are a Thrivent customer, you can direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Saving Grace Lutheran church. Talk to your Thrivent representative about this!

Invite someone to your "virtual" or Parking Lot church this week! And don't forget to "Like Us" on Facebook and share our posts!

**You are
Loved**

Contact Information

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Pastor David Irgens: prirgens@saving-gracechurch.com

Associate Pastor Dan Doran: pastordansglc@gmail.com

Julie Atkinson, Office Manager: office@saving-gracechurch.com

Melissa Corlett, Education Director: savinggraceeducation@gmail.com

Beth Joosten, Music Director: music@saving-gracechurch.com

Website: www.saving-gracechurch.com

www.facebook.com/Saving-Grace-LCMC

YouTube Channel – Saving Grace