



CHRISTMAS IN JULY

July 20, 2025
10:00am

Land Acknowledgment

We recognize that we gather on the ancestral lands of the Ojibwe, Ho Chunk, and Dakota. We acknowledge their leaders, past, present, and emerging.

Pastor Phil is on sabbatical until August 15th. We thank all those who have stepped up this Sunday to offer us God's word and lead your worship of God. Information on Pastor Phil's sabbatical can be found in the narthex and office.

Prelude Variations on "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" (text and tune by Martin Luther) **Settings by J. S. Bach and Ernst Pepping**

Welcome

Family Handbell Ensemble Ding Dong! Merrily on High arr. Sondra K. Tucker

Hymn He Came Down #253

A reading from Luke 1:26–38

Luther's commentary on Gabriel

Prayer

Hymn O Little Town of Bethlehem #279

The story continues in Luke 1:39–45

Luther's commentary on Mary and Elizabeth

Prayer

Anthem Joy to the World (sung by choir)

Offering

Family Handbell Ensemble Still, Still, Still arr. Sondra K. Tucker

The story continues in Luke 2:1-7

Luther's commentary on the journey to the manger

Prayer

Hymn Away in a Manger #277

The story continues with Luke 2:8-20

Luther's commentary on the shepherds

Prayer

Hymn Angels We Have Heard on High

#289

Blessing

Postlude In Dulci Jubilo

J. S. Bach

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers this Sunday were given in honor of Bev Page's birthday by her family: Jim, Jodi, Emily, Jacob & Alli. Thank you!

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Assisting Minister: Paul Lokken

Reader: Molly Wilson

Organist: Elaine Mann

Choir Director: Diana Cataldi

Family Handbell Ensemble

Director: Karen Lionberger

Family Handbell Ensemble

Members: Katrina Cooper, Karen Lionberger, Norma Lionberger, and Violet Meyer

Church Office Hours

Monday — Thursday : 10AM — 2PM

Phone: 715-832-9713

Email: info@grace-church.org

Rev. Dr. Phil Ruge-Jones: pastorphil@grace-church.org



Services are live streamed Sundays at 10am on:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gracelutheraneauclaire/>
- Youtube embedded in our website: <https://grace-church.org/our-ministry> Bulletins may also be found on the same page.

Recordings of worship services are broadcast Sundays 10:30am on WQOW Channel 18, Cable 9, 618HD (every other week)

Past services are posted at “Grace Lutheran Church ELCA Eau Claire Wisconsin” YouTube page — <http://grace-church.org/our-ministry>

Do you have information for the bulletin and Grace at a Glance? Deadline is Wednesday by 2:00 p.m. by emailing Andrew at info@grace-church.org or by calling the office at 715-832-9713

Christmas in July Collection Extended!

The Christmas in July celebration at Grace continues on July 20 with a special worship service featuring some theological thoughts from Martin Luther and a Christmas carol sing-along. The choir will sing, and Pacibells and organ will present some unique Christmas arrangements using bell tree and swinging bells.

All are welcome.

In addition, we will be extending the collection time up through July 20. Below is the original notice which includes lists of the items we will be collecting. Please help out if you are able.

We will be collecting Wish List items from Sojourner and Beacon House. Sojourner needs: Bug spray, Sunscreen, Bottled Water, Heat-resistant individually packed snacks and Deodorant. Beacon House needs: Diapers (size 5/6/7), Mouthwash, Kitchen towels, baby wipes and Deodorant.

Labeled boxes will be placed in the Narthex.

Mission Outreach Ministry

WeCare Backpack Program For ECASD Kids Collection

We will be collecting NEW Elementary school age backpacks (boys needed most) at Grace now through August 3rd. Labeled area to place in the Narthex. Please see the associated graphic.

Lets help a few students start off the school year with a NEW backpack!

Mission Outreach Ministry



Beacon House Sign Up

MEALS FOR THE FAMILIES AT BEACON HOUSE: Grace members will be responsible for evening meals Aug. 3, 4, 5, and 6. (Sunday through Wednesday) At this time, there are 5 adults and 7 children which includes 2 babies at one month old. The leftovers from evening meals will be used for lunches by the mothers. The menus feature summer fare. Donations to the Deacon Fund will be used to purchase additional food staples, ex: milk, orange juice, fruit, cereal. Sign up sheets are at the Lighthouse in the Narthex. Questions? call Barb Radke at 715-835-3440 Thank you.

Sabbatical Week 9

This week and the next will be moving toward my father's funeral. I am in such a different place because you gave me all these weeks to reflect on my grief. I knew the grief of this past year was leaving me exhausted and distracted, but I didn't quite grasp how much rest and feeling whole would equip me to grieve. When we are pulled in many directions and therefore weary, we don't have the energy to face what needs to be faced. How important all the ways we create rest and space for each other in the midst of grief is--ways large and small. Peace be with you. (Here is a photo of my father, the tap dancing pastor in action.)

