

GraceNotes

A PUBLICATION OF GRACE FREE LUTHERAN CHURCH, VALLEY CITY, ND

1 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, 2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, 5 that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge- 6 even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you- 7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

It is so good to know that we are not alone. One of the regular attacks of the Devil is to make us feel like we are all alone. The tactic of the Devil is to try and separate us from our faithful God as well as the loving care of believing Christians. A church filled with problems, like the one in Corinth, might have a number of people wondering whether they were alone. They might have asked themselves, "With all these problems are we still a part of the body of Christ?"

The first verses of the letter from Paul would then have come to them as a great encouragement. They are receiving a letter from the Apostle Paul, called by God for the purpose of sharing the truth and he is including them with saints in other locations who also call upon the name of Jesus Christ. They are not alone they are part of something much bigger. They are, with all believers, part of Christ's bride, the Church.

Paul's letter describes how he can speak with such authority. He came to be an apostle by the call of God. No one comes to faith or faithful service in God's kingdom without His call. Paul's service, as well as the Corinthian's membership in the Church are acts of a gracious God who wants to shower His love upon them.

His overflowing mercy is shown in the greeting that Paul extends to the Corinthians. The Church in Corinth included Gentiles, those who were not Jewish, who would have used as a regular greeting the word, grace. The Church in Corinth would have also included Jewish believers who would have been more accustomed to using, shalom, "peace," as their customary greeting. By joining these two greetings together the Apostle makes clear that the Lord has called Jews and Gentiles to be a part of His kingdom. We should continue to be reminded that God is calling people from every tongue, tribe, and nation to receive grace and peace from His hand. He provides these through faith in His One and Only Son Jesus Christ.

In verses four through six, Paul speaks a little of how he prays for the Corinthian Church. He thanks God for them because of what God has already provided to them. Certainly, they have many struggles and sins to deal with – the rest of the book will lay those things out. But those things should not twist or distort the truth concerning what God has already given them. He has provided to them the great good news – the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The greatness of this gift should never be diminished.

In verse seven we read, "so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ." Here as Paul writes to the Corinthians, he helps us understand one of the activities of the Christian: waiting. We are a waiting people. Not inactive – we have been given many things to do before the Lord Jesus returns. Not inactive – but busy in our waiting – serving, loving, praying – expecting the day of His return. Looking forward to that day with expectation. As Christians, we look to see the time when the Lord's promises are fulfilled. We have what we need now as Christians – the promises of God – we cherish them and cling to them and wait for the day when they will all be fulfilled by our gracious Savior.

Quickly following that, we see how that waiting can happen. God is the one who sustains us in this waiting. You and I know that waiting can be hard. We want to have things now. We want to know things now. We want to see things now. But as Christians we wait. Where does the strength for this come from? Where does the patience needed for this come from? From our Savior Jesus Christ who will sustain us unto the end. Until that day when He fulfills all His promises for us.

In our last verse, Paul writes to the Corinthians about the faithfulness of God. We often note that as he shares this letter with the Corinthians it clearly states their many acts of unfaithfulness. But the Corinthian's sins are not the focus. The focus is the faithful acts of mercy from God who can be trusted in completely. Because He is faithful all that He says will come to be. This includes His promise to forgive all those who confess their sins and to welcome into His eternal rest all who believe. May the Lord grant to you faith in the Lord who is faithful, trusting in the work of Jesus Christ for you. Amen.

*By Pastor
Dennis Norby*

INSIDE this issue

- **Ladies Crafting Weekend**
January 9-10, 2026
- **Life Sunday**
January 18, 2026
- **Grace/Zion Annual Meetings**
Grace– January 18, 2026
Zion– TBA
- **Grace/Zion Art Show**
February 22, 2026

Grace Council Updates

Monthly Meetings:

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Deacons Meet 6:30pm
Boards Meet 7:00pm
Council Meets 8:00pm

Thursday, February 5, 2026

Deacons Meet 6:30pm
Boards Meet 7:00pm
Council Meets 8:00pm

ANNUAL MEETING

Annual Congregational Meeting: Sunday, January 18, 2026

Potluck following the service
Congregational Meeting will
begin at approximately 12:30pm

**In case of inclement weather, the
meeting will be held January 25.*

*Complete Council meeting minutes and monthly
financial report are available in the copy room.*

Financial Summary

As of 12/31/25

General Fund=\$58,052.47
Building Imp. Fund=\$14,409.27
(Sign=\$897.78; Parking Lot=\$6,659.05;
Exterior Maintenance=\$6,852.44)
Scholarship Fund=\$13,617.31
Seminary Fund=\$0.00
General Fund CD (1)=\$45,201.48
General Fund CD (2)=\$33,013.24
General Fund CD (3)=\$60,000.00
Parking Lot Fund CD (1)=\$40,332.26
Parking Lot Fund CD (2)=\$7,000.00

ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENTS

If you would like an annual giving
statement for 2025, please contact
Sarah in the church office.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026



THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

Life Sunday January 18, 2026

"Fearfully and Wonderfully Made"

A special offering will be taken at Grace for the Life Fund. The
distribution of funds will be voted on at the annual meeting.



If church services or activities are canceled due
to weather, the announcement will be sent via
email, posted on the Grace Free Facebook page
& Grace Free website, announced on KOVC
radio 1490AM and Valley News Live (Channel
4 & 11). Sunday morning worship services are
livestreamed on Facebook, YouTube and our
website www.gracefree.com/watch-online

Zion Free Lutheran Events

Sundays

9:00am Divine Worship

10:00am Fellowship

Annual Congregational Meeting

TBA

WMF

7:00pm Monday, January 19 & February 16



AFLC Ministry Focus for January



AFLC Home Missions exists to help plant free, living, Lutheran congregations.

Home Missions is planting congregations that align with the DNA that we have inherited from our Lutheran Free Church and AFLC heritage.

Pray for current Home Missions sponsored congregations:

- Living Stone: Chinese Lutheran Fellowship St. Paul, MN
- Hope Free Lutheran Killdeer, ND
- Emmanuel Lutheran Ankeny, IA

The Home Missions Department also oversees the **AFLC Alaska Mission**, which serves to bring Christ's message of saving grace to people in Alaskan villages through congregational worship, radio, and aviation.

- **FLAPS** operates three small airplanes out of the village of Nakek, Alaska. The airplanes are used to fly pastors, lay preachers, and VBS teams out to about ten villages within 125 miles of Naknek in SW Alaska.
- **BAY BROADCASTING** operates KAKN, a commercial non-profit FM Christian radio station that serves the Bristol Bay area around Naknek. Listen to KAKN online at kakn.org or stream via Tunein.com.
- **THE NET** is an internet cafe in Naknek where coffee and baked goods are free and people from all over the world hear about the free gift of salvation.

For more information or to donate to the ministries of AFLC Home Missions visit aflchomemissions.org

Free. Living. Lutheran.



- 1 Samuel Borg (Kevin)
- Rachel Drummond (John)
- 3 Becky Pfennig
- 4 Cheryll Borg
- Teresa Perleberg
- 5 Caleb Norby (Dennis)
- Sarah Miller
- 6 Tucker Perleberg (Jeff)
- 8 Richard Hass
- 15 Isaac Norby (Dennis)
- Matt Powers
- 20 Sawyer Dahl (Mardy)
- Tory Hafele
- 22 Walt Schroeder
- 23 Abby Peterson
- Rachel Richman
- 24 Ava Shanenko (Jeremy)
- 25 Cody Roswick
- 26 Jeremy Shanenko
- 27 Nicole Powers
- 31 Trina Shanenko
- Missionaries**
- 8 Ian Abel (Matthew)
- 11 Tamba Abel
- 22 Alexis Olson

JANUARY EVENTS

Sundays

- 9am Sunday School-all ages
- 10:30am Divine Worship

Wednesdays

- 6pm Confirmation
- 7pm Adult Bible Study
- Answers For Kids (pre-6 grade)
- Youth Group (7-12 grade)

Women's Bible Study

- 10am Thursdays

Men's Prayer

- 7am Saturdays

Ladies Craft Weekend

- 9am Friday, January 9-
- 8pm Saturday, January 10

Quilting

- 1pm Thursday, January 15

Potluck & Annual Meeting

- 11:30am Sunday, January 18

WMF Bible Study

- 7pm Monday, January 19

Faith Circle

- 9:30am Tuesday, January 27

Ladies Crafting Weekend

Friday, January 9 @ 9am through
Saturday, January 10 @ 8 pm

- * Doors open Friday at 9am and close Saturday at 8 pm
- * 3 meals provided: free-will offering will be taken
- * Bring snack to share
- * Invite friends!
- * Wi-fi available for online use

Come for all of the time or part or the time. You are welcome to stay overnight. Some couches will be available to sleep on.

To Register Contact:

Becky Pfennig at 490-0355 or Sarah Meester at 845-2753



AFLC Ministry Focus for February *The Lutheran Ambassador*

Did you know the AFLC publishes a monthly magazine and you can receive this magazine for free?

The Lutheran Ambassador exists to educate its readers about the AFLC, to encourage the local congregation, to equip Christians for service, and to evangelize our neighbors and the world. Since 2022, The Lutheran Ambassador magazine is free of charge to subscribers!

For more information visit
aflc.org/lutheran-ambassador/

Here you can start a subscription, view current and past editions, and make tax-deductible donations to help cover the costs of the producing ***The Lutheran Ambassador***.

****Look for recent issues of *The Lutheran Ambassador* in the Grace fellowship hall.**



- 2 Aaron Norby (Dennis)
- Bridger Weber (Devin)
- 5 Melissa Schroeder
- 6 Faye Graalum
- 7 Gabe Herzog (Larry)
- Jeanne Shanenko
- 8 Kathleen Schierkolk
- 9 Rebekkah Borg
- 11 Abigail Gilbertson (Erik)
- 14 Kevin Borg
- 15 Ada Gilbertson (Erik)
- 18 Isaac Gilbertson (Erik)
- 19 Garrett Hokan (Brandon)
- 21 Kerry Trendera
- 23 Bella Shanenko (Jeremy)
- 24 Shayne Powers
- 26 George Richman

Missionaries

- 15 Barb Schierkolk
- 19 Hannah Lee

2026 Grace/Zion Art Show

Sunday, February 22 3:00pm
Theme: The Miracles of Jesus



Art Show

- ◇ Art viewing begins at 3pm
- ◇ Music and Literary Arts Program at 4pm
- ◇ Meal following the program
- ◇ Art viewing and fellowship following the meal

Our theme verse for this year's art show is Psalm 105:5
*"Remember the wondrous works that he has done,
his miracles and the judgements he uttered"*

All ages are encouraged to take part.
Please share what talent God has blessed you with!
Music. Poetry. Visual Arts. Culinary. Quilting. Etc.

Entry forms will be available at the kiosk. Entry deadline is February 15. For more information contact Pastor Norby.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Sundays

- 9am Sunday School-all ages
- 10:30am Divine Worship

Wednesdays February 4, 11

- 7pm Adult Bible Study
- Answers For Kids
(pre-6 grade)
- Youth Group
(7-12 grade)

Confirmation

- 6pm Wednesdays

Women's Bible Study

- 10am Thursdays

Men's Prayer

- 7am Saturdays

Quilting

- 1pm Thursday, February 12

Valentine Party

- Sunday, February 15

WMF Bible Study

- 7pm Monday, February 16

Ash Wednesday Service

- 7pm Wednesday, February 18

Art Show

- 3pm Sunday, February 22

Faith Circle

- 9:30am Tuesday, February 24

Lenten Supper & Service

- Wednesday, February 25
- 6:15pm supper; 7pm service



January~

John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

December~

John 1:1-2 - ¹In the beginning was the Word, and Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God.

November~

Psalm 34:3 - O magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together.

October~

Psalm 46:1 - God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

September~

John 10:10 - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

August~

Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

July~

Proverbs 3:5-6 - ⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

June~

Galatians 5:1 - For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.



AFLC Annual Conference June 10-13, 2026 Moorhead, MN

St. Paul's Free Lutheran Church in Fargo will host the 2026 AFLC Annual Conference at Concordia College in Moorhead. Please consider attending as this is a great opportunity to experience the annual conference without having to travel far.

Watch for more information about conference registration, volunteer opportunities, and ways to contribute financially to offset expenses.

www.aflc.org/conferences/



Wednesday, February 18

Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm

Wednesdays,

February 25 - March 25

Soup Supper 6:15pm

Lenten Service 7:00pm

He's Alive practices will begin March 11.



2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 	2	3 Men's Prayer 7am
4 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am	5	6	7 Confirmation 6pm Answers For Kids 7pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	8 Deacons Meet 6:30pm Boards Meet 7pm Council Meets 8pm	9 Ladies Crafting Weekend	10 Men's Prayer 7am
11 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship 10:30am	12	13	14 Confirmation 6pm Answers For Kids 7pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	15 Quilting 1pm Women's Bible Study 10am	16	17 Men's Prayer 7am
18 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship 10:30am Potluck Annual Meeting 12:30pm	19 WMF Bible Study 7pm	20	21 Confirmation 6pm Answers For Kids 7pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	22 Women's Bible Study 10am	23	24 Men's Prayer 7am
25 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship 10:30am	26	27 Faith Circle 9:30am	28 Confirmation 6pm Answers For Kids 7pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	29 Women's Bible Study 10am	30	31 Men's Prayer 7am

F.E.B.R.U.A.R.Y

2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am	2	3  BLOOD DRIVE Blood Drive 11:30am-6pm	4 Confirmation 6pm Answers For Kids 7pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	5 Deacons Meet 6:30pm Boards Meet 7pm Council Meets 8pm	6	7 Men's Prayer 7am
8 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship 10:30am	9	10	11 Confirmation 6pm Answers For Kids 7pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	12 Quilting 1pm Women's Bible Study 10am	13	14 Men's Prayer 7am 
15 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship 10:30am Valentine Party	16 WMF Bible Study 7pm	17	18  ASH WEDNESDAY Confirmation 6pm Ash Wednesday Service 7pm	19 Women's Bible Study 10am	20	21 Men's Prayer 7am
22 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship 10:30am Art Show 3pm	23	24 Faith Circle 9:30am	25 Confirmation 6pm Soup Supper 6:15pm Lent Service 7pm	26 Women's Bible Study 10am	27	28 Men's Prayer 7am

GRACE FREE LUTHERAN CHURCH

2351 West Main St
Valley City, ND 58072



Sundays at Grace

Sunday School 9:00 AM (September-May)
Divine Worship 10:30 AM

Sundays at Zion

Divine Worship 9:00 AM
Fellowship 10:00 AM

Sundays: Lift High the Cross KOVC (1490) 10 AM KSJB(600) 8 AM

Watch Live! Sunday Mornings at 10:30 AM at www.gracefree.com/watch-online

Church office hours are 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Mon-Fri

Phone: (701) 845-2753

E-mail: gracefree@msn.com

Website: www.gracefree.com

Senior Pastor Dennis Norby thenorbys@msn.com

Administrative Assistant~ Sarah Meester gracefree@msn.com

Children's Ministry Leader~ Erin Dahl