

GRACE NOTES FEBRUARY 2023

A Monthly publication of Grace Free Lutheran Church Valley City, ND

God's Universal Gospel By Intern Pastor Joe Frech

The Gospel is for you. Yes, you personally. On the 22nd of January, Pastor Dennis preached on 2 Kings 5, which conveys to us the story of a Syrian commander known as Naaman, who after faithful service to his king and the gods they worshipped, came down with the terrible disease known as leprosy. As many of you know, the story continues with Naaman going to visit Israel to have his leprosy healed, and was ordered to dip in the Jordan River and be made clean. He did so, *"and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean."* (v.14b). What I want you to consider in this text now is the universal nature of God's word of Gospel. Naaman was a Syrian commander, and Israel was constantly at war with Syria. So when this Syrian general comes to the king of Israel asking for help and healing, the king sends him to Elisha the prophet. Picture if you can the scene as Naaman leaves the court of the king. The king may have slumped into his chair, and maybe had a cruel smile on his face in thinking that God *surely* wouldn't heal this man. *Surely* the God of Israel would see the evil of this man and say "absolutely not" to any request from such an awful person.

Yet what happened was a sign of absolute wonder and amazement. Not only did this man get healed of his disease, but the prophet Elisha refused any payment for such a miracle. (v.16) and what's more, he forgave the sin that this man was going to commit in bowing before false gods with his king. (v.17). Did Naaman deserve such an honor? Not at all, in fact when Naaman heard what was to be done, he balked at it. How could it be so easy? How could it be so humiliating? All the prophet had him do was go to the Jordan River (which was closer than his own rivers at home) and dip himself into it 7 times. And voila! He was clean. What a complete miracle!

This event prefigures the sacrament of Baptism that we celebrate each time a new life is brought into our congregation. The Word of God, combined with the water, cleanses this child, washes him and makes him new. Is there anything required to receive this gift? No, rather this is a gift given from God to mankind. Did Naaman have faith before going into the water? No. But did Naaman receive the gift of faith due to a complete miracle from God? Absolutely. In this dipping in the water, Naaman was completely cleansed from his disease, made a child of God, and went away rejoicing. Such is the power of the gospel for you. This gospel, this gift of God's grace is not restricted by age, sex, skin color, or even past sins. God desires to give his gifts to all people, from the oldest to the very youngest, and He does this for your sake.

I am a sinner. My sin is as bad as Naaman's, as is yours. If God can so save Naaman, if He can so save Paul, so much can He save you and I. Rejoice with me in this gift, the Gospel is for you, and for me. It is for your neighbor, coworker, and newborn child. Praise God for His great gift! Amen

"Go,
wash
in the Jordan
seven times ...
and you
shall be
clean."

2 Kings 5:10, NRSV



Grace Free Lutheran Church

Council Meeting

Thursday, February 9, 2023

Deacons Meet 6:30pm

Boards Meet 7pm

Council Meets 8pm

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



Financial Summary

As of 1/28/2023

General Fund=\$96,488.79

Building Improvement Fund=\$1,947.78

(Sign=\$897.78; Parking Lot=\$1,025.00;

Exterior Maintenance=\$0.00)

Scholarship Fund=\$9,839.15

Seminary Fund=\$7,808.90

General Fund CD (1)=\$40,308.54

General Fund CD (2)=\$30,000.00

Parking Lot Fund CD=\$49,045.74

Roof Fund CD=\$48,295.00



Members of Grace & Zion are invited!!!

Feel free to invite your Family, Friends, and Community Members for a day of Fun, Laughter, Fellowship, and an Afternoon at the Ball Park!

Saturday, May 13th 1:10 pm vs. Chicago Cubs



Itinerary:
7:00 am departure from Grace Free Lutheran
12:00 pm approximate arrival at Target Field!
1:10 pm GAME TIME
4:40 pm Approximate end of game
5:00 pm Departure from Target Field
*We will make a quick stop on the way home for supper – (your responsibility)
10:30 pm Return to Grace Free Lutheran



Cost - \$105 per person

A \$55/person deposit is due at sign up (deadline to sign up is Sunday, April 2nd). The remaining \$50/person will be due Saturday, April 29th (two weeks prior to game).
*Checks made out to - Tom Milbrandt (Or @Tom-Milbrandt to Venmo)
(Questions? -> give me a shout - 701.840.9853)

The Price Includes:

- Transportation on a 54-passenger Motor Coach (with lavatory) to & from Target Field.
- A "sack lunch" including a sub, chips, fruit, dessert, and beverage on the trip to the Cities (distributed about an hour before we get to the stadium).
- Your ticket for the game in the left field bleachers.
- And a snack for the ride home.

Fellowship

Fun

Baseball

Zion's Schedule

Sundays

9am Divine Worship

10am Fellowship

Wednesdays

7pm Adult Bible Study at Grace

7pm Youth Group at Grace

7pm Answers For Kids at Grace

He's Alive Rehearsals begin March 3.

Anyone interested in participating should contact Tim Berntson at 701-840-1157.

March 3- 8:00pm HA Singers, HA Quartet, Narration (Library)

March 8- 8:00pm HA Singers, HA Quartet, Narration (Library)

March 15- 6:00pm Costume fitting
8:00pm All Cast music rehearsal (Sanctuary)

He's Alive will be presented Friday, April 7 and Saturday April 8.



In Case of Bad Weather...

It's that time of year! 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). If in doubt, feel free to call the pastor or deacons.

Sunday morning worship services are livestreamed and archived at

www.gracefree.com and on YouTube.

If you have any problems with the livestream, don't hesitate to contact the church office.

The Women's Trio from Free Lutheran Bible College will be participating in our worship service Sunday, February 5.



L to R: Britta Roehrich, Abby Peterson, Ellen Dalager, Kiana Olson

Dear Grace Congregation, The last several months at the Free Lutheran Bible College have been great. 2 of my favorite classes are Pentateuch taught by pastor Brent Olson and Theology of the Christian life taught by pastor Jason Gudim. In pentateuch I enjoyed learning more about the Israelites and how much gospel is in the first five books of the Bible. In theology we talked a lot about assurance of salvation and vocation and how to apply those two things to our daily lives. I have also been working and playing basketball so I have been staying pretty busy. The Bible College is filled with many great people and it has been awesome getting to know them all.

Seth Zeltinger

My fall semester at the Free Lutheran Bible College went very well. I never thought that I would be excited to go back school, but I am eager to return to Plymouth for the spring semester. The classes at FLBC have played a major role in strengthening my faith and I enjoy learning more about God and His Word. My first semester at FLBC was also full of fellowship with other believers, which has been an amazing blessing. Morning classes allow me to work at United Rentals with Big Hale, where I have learned a lot and also had some fun.

During class, I learned so many things from many great pastors. In Luke and Acts we focused on how the kingdom of God is for everyone. As we explored the text, we saw how God called all kinds of people to be a part of his kingdom. He showed no discrimination and did not follow the cultural standards of the day. In Pentateuch, I learned about different ways that God demonstrated His power over the Egyptian's gods. Theology of a Christian Life was my favorite class, in which we discussed salvation, vocation, and Christian freedom. **Jakob Rolf**

This year at FLBC has been a blessing to me. I have made so many new friends and learned so many great things. I took a class called poetical books and really got to dig into the poetical books on a new level and grow my Christian understanding of them. Thank you so much for your support and prayers through the semester and I am excited to see what God will do in the semester to come.

Hale Berntson

In this last semester of Bible College, I have learned a lot. This past semester I took 4 core classes along with choir and gospel teams. One of my favorite classes has been Major Prophets which Dr. Brent Olson taught. As the name suggests, we spent the class going through the Major Prophets. Throughout my time taking this class, we spent a lot of time in the book of Isaiah. Isaiah is not written in chronological order and, it is filled with prophecies that are both historical and eschatological. Dr. Olson helped show us the historical context of these books and also helped us apply them to our lives today. This class helped me feel much more confident in interpreting the book of Isaiah and other prophetic books. I also took a class called Means of Grace and Eschatology, taught by Pastor Mundfrom. While learning about the means of Grace, we spent a decent amount of time learning about what scripture says on the subject of baptism. This class was very helpful for me and I now have a much better knowledge of what I believe about specifically baptism, but also the means of Grace and the end times. One way I have been blessed this year is through the gospel team ministry at the school. I am on the Women's trio and get to travel to different churches to praise God through song. The Bible college gives great encouragement to all the students to participate in ministry both in the congregation and out of it. Gospel teams has let me see the different ways that God works through people in his church. Finally, I have also been blessed through playing basketball oddly enough. At the beginning of this year, I was far from having any plans of being on the basketball team, but after a week of practice, it was hard to say no. The Bible College treats basketball like it is a gospel team. When we say that we can glorify God through whatever we do, this is what we work to do while on this team.

Coming and going to other colleges, we as a team encourage each other, work hard, show good sportsmanship, and pray with other teams. Your support as a congregation makes a lot of these things possible for me, so thank you for all your gifts and prayers for me and the other students from Grace Free. **Abby Peterson**

Last summer I had the privilege to be on the Covenant Team and travel to different churches around the Midwest teaching VBS to kids. We were also able to counsel at Galilee Bible Camp for two weeks. Throughout the summer, God continued to provide for us in our host homes, and he provided the resources the churches needed so that they were able to have VBS. I was very blessed to work with the 3-5 year olds, and I loved seeing their excitement to learn more about Jesus every week. One thing that God continued to teach me over the summer is that my strength comes from him alone. I learned a lot on summer teams, and I have continued to learn more about God's Word in my classes. In Means of Grace and Eschatology, Pastor Steve Mundfrom helped us to better understand what Scripture says about the Sacraments. He emphasized the importance of Baptism and the Lord's Supper for Christians, and that God is the one at work in both of these. They are not human works that depend on us. God has blessed me immensely during my time at FLBC, and I am looking forward to one more semester. Thank you for all your prayers and support. **Britta Roehrich**

Children's Ministry News

Everyone is invited to join us for our Valentine event on February 12th. A potluck will follow the church service. Kids are welcome to bring a Valentine box or bag. Everyone is welcome to bring Valentines for the kids. (approximately 30 - extras will be delivered to Bridgview) We will enjoy an afternoon sharing the love of Jesus through visiting, kids games and treats!



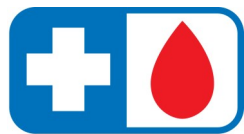
Grace & Zion Music Program & Art Show February 26, 2023

- * Art viewing begins at 3pm
- * Music & Literary program at 4pm
- * Meal following the program
- * Art viewing & fellowship following the meal

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

*Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
1 Corinthians 10:31*

Entry forms are available at the kiosk. Deadline to enter is February 19th.
For more information talk to Pastor Norby.



**GIVE
Blood**

There will be a Blood Drive at Grace Tuesday, February 14-12:30am~6:00pm
For information contact Elaine Miedema, 845-9972

- 2 Joanne Mundfrom
Aaron Norby (Dennis)
Bridger Weber (Devin)
- 3 Randy Melvin
- 5 Melissa Schroeder
- 6 Faye Graalum
- 7 Gabe Herzog (Larry)
Jeanne Shanenko
- 8 Rebekkah Borg
Kathleen Schierkolk



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 10 Laurie Christensen | 21 Kerry Trendera |
| 11 Abigail Gilbertson (Erik) | 23 Bella Shanenko |
| Nikki Hanson | (Jeremy) |
| 14 Kevin Borg | 24 Shayne Powers |
| 15 Ada Gilbertson (Erik) | 26 George Richman |
| 18 Isaac Gilbertson (Erik) | 27 Hayden Morast |
| 19 Mikey Meester | (DJ) |
| Garrett Hokana (Brandon) | |

Missionaries

- 15 Barb Schierkolk
19 Hannah Lee

Quilting

Wednesday, February 8
at 1pm

Women's Bible Study

Thursdays at 10am

Men's Discipleship

Tuesdays at 6am

Men's Prayer

Saturdays at 7am

Create in me a

clean heart,

*O God;
and renew a*

*right spirit
within
me.*



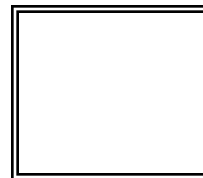
Psalm 51:10



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Confirmation 6pm Answers For Kids 7pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	2 Women's Bible Study 10am	3 Ladies Crafting Weekend	4 Men's Prayer 7am
5 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am	6	7 Men's Discipleship 6am	8 Quilters 1pm Confirmation 6pm Answers For Kids 7pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	9 Women's Bible Study 10am Deacons Meet 6:30pm Boards Meet 7pm Council Meets 8pm	10	11 Men's Prayer 7am
12 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship 10:30am Potluck 11:45am Valentine's Event	13	14 Men's Discipleship 6am Blood Drive 12:30-6pm <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15 Confirmation 6pm Answers For Kids 7pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	16 Women's Bible Study 10am	17	18 Men's Prayer 7am
19 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship 10:30am	20	21 Men's Discipleship 6am	22 Confirmation 6pm Ash Wednesday Service 7pm 	23 Women's Bible Study 10am	24	25 Men's Prayer 7am
26 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship 10:30am Art Show 3pm	27	28 Men's Discipleship 6am				



GRACE FREE LUTHERAN CHURCH
2351 WEST MAIN ST.
VALLEY CITY ND 58072



GRACE & ZION FREE LUTHERAN CHURCHES

«AddressBlock»

Sundays at Grace

Sunday School 9:00 AM
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
Seminary Intern Joe Frech joefrech07@gmail.com
Administrative Assistant~ Sarah Meester gracefree@msn.com
Children's Ministry Leader~ Erin Dahl