

GRACE NOTES FEBRUARY 2025

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

1 Corinthians 15:14-16 By Pastor Dennis Norby

“And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised.” 1 Corinthians 15:14-16

1 Corinthians 15 is sometimes simply called, “The Resurrection Chapter,” because through its fifty-eight verses it speaks about the importance of Christ’s resurrection and what it means for the promise of God that we too will be resurrected from the dead. The first verses of the chapter speak about Christ’s resurrection and the many witnesses to that fact. In the next section, the thought is introduced that some were saying that there was no resurrection of the dead.

We do not know all the details of what was being taught and believed by the people in Corinth at the time, but it seems likely that the Roman concept of a bodiless, spiritual eternity was being promoted among the people in the church. In the verses above we have part of Paul’s response to that false teaching. He says that if there is no resurrection of the dead then Christ’s resurrection is a fairy tale, a made-up story, and then his preaching is in vain.

His preaching would be in vain because Paul’s goal in ministry was to lead people to faith in the crucified and risen Christ. Not a man who died like all others but a redeemer whose perfect sacrifice was received by God the Father. As Paul wrote in Romans 4:25, Jesus was “delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.” So, if his preaching was in vain the faith of the Corinthians would also be vain because it would be based on an empty deception rather than the true historical reality. Paul even adds the additional remark, that if Christ has not been raised that he was misrepresenting God by saying that He was raised. What a terrible thing that would be if he were leading people away from God’s truth by preaching a lie, giving people a false hope in an untrue proclamation.

The Apostle Paul unravels all these worries and concerns by restating in verse twenty what he had emphasized at the beginning of the chapter. The

Lord Jesus Christ has indeed been raised from the dead. He was seen numerous times over numerous days by numerous people! Even five hundred at one time. Christ has been raised! Paul’s preaching was not in vain, the Corinthians faith was not in vain, and our faith in Jesus is also not in vain. We must and will continue to hold to this precious truth which gives us peace and hope. Without Christ’s resurrection from the dead, we face condemnation for we have no Savior, no one to take away our sins and provide to us justification before God. But, to say it simply again: Christ has been raised from the dead.

Our day, as in times past, has been filled with people who claim that we can pick and choose which doctrines from the Bible we can or should believe. The Bible has become for many a buffet line in which we select which things seem palatable to us today. The miracles of Scripture are doubted, the doctrines mocked, and the Scripture is put into a position in which we decide the importance or validity of certain portions of Scripture.

Paul makes clear, using the doctrine of the resurrection of the dead, how all the doctrines of Scripture are tied together. To try and pull apart Christ’s resurrection from our hope of being resurrected does not work. To try and pull apart Christ’s suffering and death for us from repentance and faith does not work. We could add many other teachings to this discussion. The Word of God is not some haphazard pile of random teachings on arbitrary subjects. The Bible teaches us about how God desires to save and care for people who have rebelled against Him and His will. The Scriptures and the various teachings they contain fit together; they serve and support one another. The Author of the Scriptures inspired them that they might fit together to reveal to us the Savior and His work for us.

So let us rejoice that Christ indeed has been raised from the dead and that that doctrine, along with all the others taught in the Bible, has been written for our instruction and to bring faith in Jesus Christ to each of our hearts. Rejoice, Christ is risen from the dead! Amen.

Grace Free Lutheran Council Meeting



Thursday, February 6, 2025
Deacons Meet 6:30 PM
Boards Meet 7pm
Council Meets 8pm

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

Financial Summary

As of 1/30/2025

General Fund=\$89,496.96
Building Improvement Fund=\$38,256.83
(Sign=\$897.78; Parking Lot=\$14,859.05;
Exterior Maintenance=\$3,500.00; Roof=\$19,000.00)
Scholarship Fund=\$4.18
Seminary Fund=\$0.00
General Fund CD (1)=\$43,446.75
General Fund CD (2)=\$31,666.34
General Fund CD (3)=\$25,000.00
Parking Lot Fund CD=\$38,766.54
Roof Fund CD=\$66,685.08
Exterior Maintenance Fund CD=\$60,000
Building Fund CD=\$25,000.00

Grace Church Leadership~

Newly Elected Officers are listed in bold.

Deacons: Craig Schroeder, Walter Rolf, Tim Berntson, Scott Roehrich, **Jeremy Zeltinger, Brent Peterson**

Trustees: Andy Sweet, Brandon Hokana, Josh Schroeder, **Bob Reinsel, Shayne Powers**

Christian Education: Samantha Norby, Lexi Grothberg, Tina Borg, **Katrina Zeltinger**

Stewardship: Joanne Wetch, Val Reinsel, Ann Rolf, Carina Roehrich

Youth: John Drummond, Becky Pfennig, Melissa Schroeder

Auditing: Tasha Glasman

Council Secretary: Kristi Shanenko

Thank you to those who completed terms this year:

Mardy Dahl, Greg Pfennig, LaDeen Knutson

Zion's Schedule

Sundays

9am Divine Worship
10am Fellowship



AFLC Ministry Focus for February

The AFLC General Fund

If you would like to give a donation to the AFLC General Fund, you may place a check in the Sunday offering and designate the gift to AFLC General Fund, or give online at aflc.org/give/give-general-fund/

The **FLBC Proclaim Choir** and **Women's Ensemble** will join us for our worship service Sunday, February 9. If you are able to house choir students, please contact the church office.



Women's Ensemble: Faith Peterson, Sarah Mickelsen, Emma Richardson, Grace Sperry, Anna Keranen, Melea Carter, Esther Rabenberg



Notes of THANKS

Merry Christmas! It is the season of the year where we remember the day, approximately 2020 years ago that Jesus came to Earth as a baby to live a sinless life and rise for our sanctification. As I have been on Christmas break the last few days, I have realized how much of a blessing we have truly received from God, and how much I personally have received, both from Him and from many others throughout my life.

One such blessing is the school of FLBC, where I have absolutely loved being able to spend time in classes, learning more about the Bible, as well as our world and how Christians and Christianity fits into it. I have especially enjoyed our History and Geography of the Biblical World class, where we are learning more about the background of what the world was like during the times of the Old Testament, with a special focus on the time of Genesis and Exodus, talking about the ancient Near East with regard to Egypt and Mesopotamia, as well as a focus on the time of the Kingdom of Israel and later the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah. I have also greatly enjoyed the blessing of community that is fostered at FLBC; having a small campus makes it easy to get to know everyone and grow relationships that would not happen without the close-knit community that the school has. I participated in intramural Ultimate Frisbee earlier this year and I am looking forward to playing intramural Volleyball later this Spring. I have made a number of friends that I have enjoyed hanging out and studying with throughout the semester, and I look forward to making more in the months and years to come.

However, while I have been away, I have come to realize, more than I had before, how great a blessing the Congregations of Grace and Zion, and their members therein, have been for me; for me to grow in and to spend time with while I have lived in Valley City. I want to thank each and every one of you who have spent time with me, and those who have provided for me in many different ways, you have been a great blessing for me the years that I have spent at Grace and Zion, and I look forward to seeing you between our meetings. **In Christ, Jonah Norby**

Thank you all so much for all your prayers and support while I've been attending FLBC for my senior year. Throughout this semester I have learned a lot about Eschatology, I attended a Revelation class as well as a Means of Grace and Eschatology class. Learning about the second coming of Christ and how that will play out according to what we know in scripture was fascinating to me and gave me a lot of assurance on how the second coming of Christ will play out for those who are Christians. In the Gospel of John, we went into a deep dive into the "I am" statements, my favorite assignment was where we wrote a reflection paper on one of the "I am" statements, I chose "I am the good Shepherd" which was a sweet and encouraging thing to look into and left me in awe of our amazing Shepherd. These were just a couple of things that impacted my semester and that was the biggest takeaway from my time here so far. Thank you all so much again for all the prayers. I am so blessed and thankful to have a church family like you.
Love, Katy Borg

Thank you for all the support you have given me as I attend the Free Lutheran Bible College! I primarily studied the Minor Prophets, the Gospel of John, and the Means of Grace this semester in my classes. We also had a successful volleyball season and are now a couple of months into basketball. I am in the Women's Ensemble and Concert Choir again this year as well. While my days were very full, God was at work in it all.

As I study the Word of God each day, I am continually amazed at how all of Scripture fits together. For example, it's easy to pass over the minor prophets when we read the Bible, but my appreciation for these books grew the more I learned about them, and it became clear where they fit in the "big picture" of Scripture. Dr. Brent Olson helped us see how each book shows God's faithfulness during times of crisis in Israel's history and how each prophet ultimately points to Christ. In Dr. Nathan Olson's class on the Gospel of John, I learned about John's purpose in writing the fourth gospel of Christ. By revealing the identity of the Messiah throughout the book, John's gospel contributes largely to the foundations of Christian theology. Dr. Steve Mundfrom's class was also super useful in teaching me to articulate the doctrines of what I believe and why I believe them. As we studied the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, I was constantly reminded of the abundance of God's grace. In my last semester at FLBC, I look forward to many more basketball trips, visiting other congregations with the Women's Ensemble, and a 2-week choir tour through some western states. Thanks again for your prayers and financial support as I attend Bible College!

In Christ, Faith Peterson

My first semester has truly been a wonderful experience. I have grown so much in my faith and relationship with Jesus in so many ways. Classes have been really cool, because I am growing in my understanding of God's Word and His love for me. I have been encouraged in the faith through mentors, professors, and friends during my time here. It is such a good experience to be at a place where everyone is focused on God and His plan. This first semester has been a real encouragement to me, and I am excited to see what God is going to do in my life in the semesters to come.
Sincerely, Eli Grotberg

This past semester I learned and grew in many ways personally and spiritually. One of the ways this was evident to me was through my d-groups. D-groups (Discipleship groups) are small groups, in my case two students and a leader, who meet together weekly and grow in many ways. I personally saw myself grow in my personal devotions and quiet time with God. Throughout my classes, I dove deep into scripture or learned how to better study it. One of my favorite classes was Luke and Acts where we took a deeper look into the books than I had before. I left that class with a better understanding of how the Kingdom of God is FOR everyone and can USE anyone. This class had an assignment where we had to journal through the book of Luke and Acts, I really enjoyed this assignment. Another class I really appreciated was biblical studies, in this class, we had an assignment where we had to create our own bible study. Through this I was able to learn how to write a bible study but also how to lead one. I have truly enjoyed my first semester and look forward to what spring semester brings!
Elizabeth Norby



**Youth Group meets
Wednesday nights at
7pm in the youth room.**

Jesus Loves You A Waffle Lot!



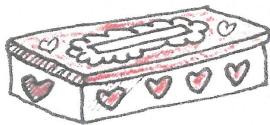
Valentine Party
February 16th



Pot Luck Meal following the service
Valentines/Games/Treats

Kids can bring a valentine box.

Anyone is welcome to bring valentines to drop
in their valentine boxes. (plan 20)



Contact: Erin Dahl 388-0631

Quilting

Thursday, February 13, 1pm

WMF Bible Study

Monday, February 17, 7pm

Faith Circle

Tuesday, February 25, 9am

Women's Bible Study

Thursdays at 10am

Men's Prayer

Saturdays at 7am

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 Kathleen Schierkolk

9 Rebekkah Borg

11 Abigail Gilbertson (Erik)

Nikki Hanson

14 Kevin Borg

15 Ada Gilbertson (Erik)

18 Isaac Gilbertson (Erik)

19 Mikey Meester

Garrett Hokana (Brandon)



21 Kerry Trendera

23 Bella Shanenko

(Jeremy)

24 Shayne Powers

26 George Richman

27 Hayden Morast

(DJ)

Missionaries

15 Barb Schierkolk

19 Hannah Lee

Good. True. Beautiful.

Grace Free & Zion
Art Show

Sunday, February 23rd at 3pm

-Art viewing begins at 3pm

-Music and Literary Arts Program at 4pm

-Meal after the Program

-Art viewing and fellowship following the meal

All ages are encouraged to take part.

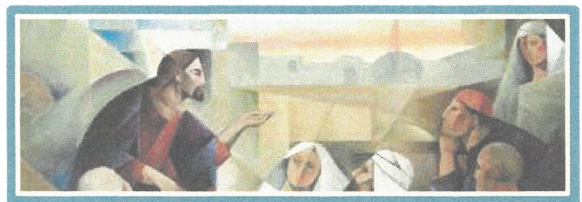
Please share what talent God has blessed you with!

Music. Poetry. Visual Arts. Culinary. Quilting. Etc.

Entry deadline is February 16th.

Entry forms are available at the kiosk.

May this year's theme "Parables of Jesus" inspire you.



Contact: Pastor Norby 815-883-1673

February



2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Men's Prayer 7am Ladies Craft Weekend January 31- February 1
2 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am	3	4	5 Confirmation 6pm Answers For Kids 7pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	6 Blood Drive 11:30am-6pm Women's Bible Study 10am Deacons Meet 6:30pm Boards Meet 7pm Council Meets 8pm	7	8 Men's Prayer 7am
9 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship with FLBC Proclaim Choir 10:30am	10	11	12 Confirmation 6pm Answers For Kids 7pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	13 Women's Bible Study 10am Quilting 1pm	14	15 Men's Prayer 7am
16 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship 10:30am Potluck following service Valentine's Party	17 WMF Bible Study 7pm	18	19 Confirmation 6pm Answers For Kids 7pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	20 Women's Bible Study 10am	21	22 Men's Prayer 7am
23 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship 10:30am Art Show 3pm	24	25 Faith Circle 9:30am	26 Confirmation 6pm Answers For Kids 7pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	27 Women's Bible Study 10am	28	



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
Administrative Assistant~ Sarah Meester gracefree@msn.com
Children's Ministry Leader~ Erin Dahl