

GRACE NOTES DECEMBER 2025

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

By Intern Pastor Caleb Korhonen

"Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" (Matthew 11:3) John the Baptist's question for Jesus summarized the expectancy of those waiting for the arrival of the Messiah, the promised King, the Immanuel. After the fall of humanity into sin thousands of years earlier, God promised that He would send a Savior. One who would crush the enemy and deliver them from sin. Later in Isaiah 7, God gave the name of this Savior, Immanuel, meaning "God with us" (Matt 1:23). God promised that He would come down to earth and be present among His people and save them. In Isaiah 61, God proclaimed how people would know who the Messiah was. He would "bring good news to the poor," "bind up the brokenhearted," "proclaim liberty to the captives," and open "the prison to those who are bound" (vs. 6). In Isaiah 29, God declared that when the Messiah comes, "the deaf shall hear," and "the eyes of the blind shall see" (vs. 18). This would be the Messiah's mission to earth. This is who He would be. With these miracles and works, the people would know that their King had come to earth, that God was with them.

After four hundred years of "silence" from God, years of occupation under various stifling rulers and authorities, and suffering under the oppression and affliction of sin, the people of God were waiting for this Messiah to come and save them and execute judgment on their enemies. And now they were wondering, could this Jesus really be the Messiah? Is He the one who has come to save us and set up His kingdom? John himself, sent by God to "prepare the way" (Matt 11:10) before Christ, wondered, is Jesus the One who is to come, or is there another?

John had been sent from God, "to bear witness about the light" (John 1:6-7). He baptized Jesus and confessed, "I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God" (Jn 1:34). But now he sat in prison wondering about these works of Christ he heard about. What was the work of the Messiah? Where is the salvation of the people from their oppressors? And so he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?"

Jesus' response to John revealed that the Messiah's work on earth was vastly different from what many expected. The Messiah didn't come to

earth to judge the world, but to save it. Jesus responded, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have the good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me" (Matt 11:5-6). This was a proclamation of the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecies that the Messiah would come and enact these miracles and works. According to Isaiah 29 and 61, the Messiah's ministry would be one of proclaiming the good news of salvation and demonstrating His steadfast love by healing the blind and deaf.

Jesus tells John that this is exactly what He has been doing. He has been working miracles in people who are not only physically but also spiritually blind, deaf, sick, poor, and dead. He is the Messiah. He is the One who had been promised to them. There is not another. He has fulfilled the prophecies about Himself. And all these miracles and works point to what He was about to do. Isaiah 61:2 proclaimed that the Messiah would "proclaim liberty to the captives." As we read through the Gospels, we see that this proclamation of liberty wasn't a revolutionary war cry against earthly oppressors, but rather His death on the cross and resurrection from the dead! Through His death and resurrection, Jesus defeated our greatest enemies, sin, death, and the devil. He proclaimed victory over them and freed the captives!

Advent and Christmas season is a joyful time of the year because we focus on the truth that, yes, Jesus is the One who was to come! There isn't another. He appeared to us, lived among us, died, rose again, and still lives with us! He is Immanuel, God with us. Even now He still seeks the blind, deaf, sick, poor, and dead. He seeks those who have been blinded and infected by sin, those who close their ears to His Word, those who are poor in spirit, and those who are dead in their trespasses. He draws near to them, speaks to them in His Word, and calls them to Himself. He proclaims to them that He won the victory and that there is healing and life in Him. Christ has come to give sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, healing of the sick, riches for the poor, and life to the dead.

Grace Free Lutheran Council Meeting



Thursday, December 4, 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 11/21/2025

General Fund=\$58,086.23

Building Improvement Fund=\$15,609.27

(Sign=\$897.78; Parking Lot=\$7,859.05;

Exterior Maintenance=\$6,852.44)

Scholarship Fund=\$10,308.95

Seminary Fund=\$0.00

General Fund CD (1)=\$44,165.70

General Fund CD (2)=\$33,013.24

General Fund CD (3)=\$60,000.00

Parking Lot Fund CD (1)=\$39,408.06

Parking Lot Fund CD (2)=\$7,000.00



Art Show

The Grace/Zion Art Show will be held Sunday, February 22, 2026

Theme~ The Miracles of Jesus

"Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered"

Psalm 105:5

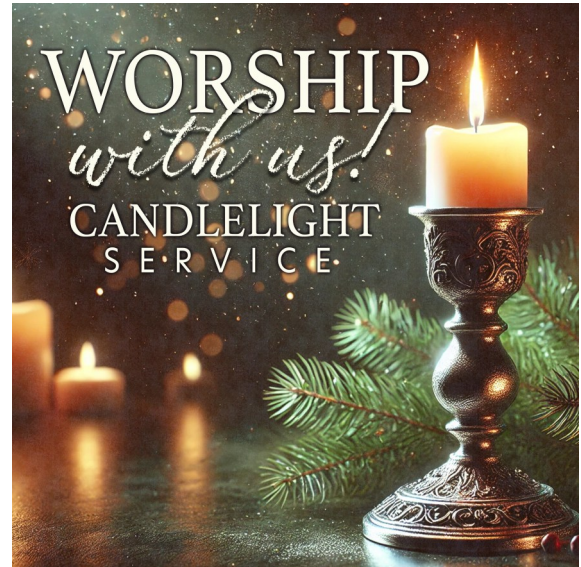
Zion's Schedule

Sundays

9am Divine Worship

WMF

7pm Monday, December 15



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
at Grace

Wednesday, December 24, 5:00pm

Beginning with the December issue of GraceNotes...



Newsletters will be mailed to you only by request. Newsletters will be available for pick up at both Grace and Zion and online at **gracefree.com/publications**
***If you or someone you know would like to receive the newsletter by mail, please contact the church office at 701-845-2753 or email gracefree@msn.com



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~

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

October~

Psalms 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.



**It's that time
of year again!**

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



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

St. Paul's Free Lutheran in Fargo will host the 2026 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 a great distance.

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

www.aflc.org/conferences/

CHRISTMAS
at Homewood
Saturday, December 6, 2025
2:00 pm

Come and celebrate Christmas like you've never celebrated it before in the old, but recently restored barn (For those unable to do the steps a closed circuit TV will be on main floor)

FEATURING MUSIC BY SEVERAL AREA MUSICIANS INCLUDING:
Redeemer's Praise Quartet -- Dan Klein
Tim & SueAnn Berntson -- Mike Kranzler
The Maasjo Sisters -- Curt Beattie
Greg & Andrea Hager -- Tim & Becky Hager

Tim Berntson, MC -- Laurie Christensen, Keyboard
Doug Fogderud, Song Leader

AT THE HOME OF TIM & BECKY HAGER
1145 40TH ST. SE, VALLEY CITY, ND
Exit 288 on I-94, 5-1/2 miles South on Hwy #1 and 1-3/4 mi. W
(TURN AT THE MOON LAKE SIGN)

Children's Ministry News

Sunday, November 30-

Program practice at 9am

Wednesday, December 4-

"Answers for Kids" (prek-6th gr) 7pm

Sunday, December 7-

Program practice 9am

Wednesday, December 10-

Supper for kids at 6pm

Program practice 6:30-8pm

Sunday, December 14-

Program practice 9am

Wednesday, December 17-

Caroling and pizza 5:30pm

Saturday, December 20-

Dress Rehearsal 9:30-11am

Sunday, December 21-

Program practice 9am

Christmas Program 4pm

Supper served following the program

Sunday School resumes January 4, 2026

AFK resumes January 7, 2026



Sunday School for
grades 7-12

Sundays at 9am

Youth Group meets Wednesdays at 7pm.

- 2 Madelyn Hoots (Nathan)
- 3 Rebekah Norby (Dennis)
- 5 Diane Olson
- 6 Jackie Hafele
- Greg Shanenko
- Tim Hass
- David Peterson
- Evie Sorensen
- 7 Megan Sorensen
- 9 Tasha Glasman
- 10 Lexi Grotberg
- Faith Peterson (Brent)
- 11 Theo Herzog
- 13 Makenna Kietzman (Joshua)
- 15 Meredith Hovda (Kevin)
- 16 Vicki Hass
- 17 Evan Schroeder (Josh)
- 18 Mike Kjelland
- 19 Julie Hass
- Paige Powers
- Kathy Laumb
- 21 Samantha Norby



DECEMBER
birthdays

- 22 Kari Kietzman
- 24 Noel Murray
- 25 Lisa VanBruggen
- 26 Sarah Meester
- 27 Waylon Halberg
- (Jessa)
- Claire Hass(Tim)
- 28 Carter Hass(Tim)
- 29 Carson Hass (Tim)
- Kris McLean
- 31 Allie Hafele (Jessa)
- Myron VanBruggen



**Join us for caroling Wednesday,
December 17 at 5:30pm.
Pizza will be served after.**

WMF Quarterly Meeting

Monday, December 8, 7pm

Quilting

Thursday, December 11, 1pm

WMF Bible Study

Monday, December 15, 7pm

Faith Circle

Tuesday, December 23, 9:30am

Men's Prayer

Saturdays at 7am

Save the Date!

The Ladies Craft Weekend will be held
Fri-Sat, January 9-10, 2026.

december

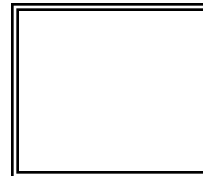


2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Confirmation 6pm Answers For Kids 7pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	4 Women's Bible Study 10am Deacons Meet 6:30pm Boards Meet 7pm Council Meets 8pm	5	6 Men's Prayer 7am
7 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am	8 WMF Quarterly Meeting 7pm	9	10 Confirmation 6pm Answers For Kids 7pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	11 Women's Bible Study 10am Quilting 1pm	12	13 Men's Prayer 7am
14 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship 10:30am	15 WMF Bible Study 7pm	16	17 Confirmation 6pm Answers For Kids 7pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	18 Women's Bible Study 10am	19	20 Men's Prayer 7am
21 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship 10:30am Christmas Program 4pm followed by meal	22	23 Faith Circle 9:30am	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5pm 	25 	26 Church Office Closed	27 Men's Prayer 7am
28 Divine Worship 10:30am	29	30	31 No Activities			



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