

# GRACE NOTES APRIL 2025

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

## 1 Corinthians 10:11-13

By Pastor Dennis Norby

*Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.*

*No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:11-13*

Imagine for a moment, for some of you it will be more like “remember,” a scene like this. Mom to son: “How many times am I going to have to tell you? Don’t run in the house. Remember when your friend, Jimmy, did that and ended up tripping and hitting his head on the corner of the table. Remember how they had to take him to the hospital, and he had all those stitches. He still has that big scar. You don’t want that to happen, do you?”

A rule has been stated, a negative example produced, and hopefully fear has been induced. At least that is what the mom is hoping will lead the son to obey the rule.

We have rules stated at the beginning of 1 Corinthians 10. Do not be idolaters. Do not be sexually immoral. Do not put Christ to the test. Do not grumble. We have the negative example of the people in the wilderness. They broke the laws of God and faced the consequences. There is no doubt that these things were written as examples to us for our instruction (v. 11).

The mom in the above scene knows that fear might keep her son from disobedience for a time. But she knows she has proclaimed the rule in the past and will have to proclaim it again in the future. The son keeps breaking the rule. The Apostle Paul knew that the people in Corinth had heard the law before, but he knew that they needed to hear it again. As we all do. The churches of today are more like the messed up Corinthian church than we would like to admit. The Law is important for us as well, we “on whom the end of the ages has come” (v. 11).

The Apostle Paul begins chapter ten by telling the Corinthians he did not want them to be ignorant of what God had done. It is true, he did not want them to be ignorant of God’s laws, but he also most certainly did not want them to be ignorant of the Gospel. We have in the first few verses of this text a wonderful connection of the gifts that God gave to

the people of Israel and the gifts of the sacraments for the Christian Church. The Apostle says those who passed through the Red Sea were baptized into Moses (note Ex. 14). The baptism into Moses was God’s work of saving the people from slavery in Egypt through the waters. Baptism into Christ is God’s work of saving people from slavery to sin through the waters. We also see a picture of the Lord’s Supper when Paul speaks of the eating of spiritual food and drinking spiritual drink in the wilderness. It was no doubt a physical food that they ate. It sustained them from day to day. It was no doubt a spiritual food; it was from heaven, from God Himself. And so that we are not confused Paul makes clear that the spiritual Rock from which they drank was Christ.

Pride is such a dangerous sin it must be fought against whenever we see it. We who are God’s people are to look at God’s people in the past and consider how we can also fall. When we rightly assess the situation, we find that without Christ’s help we will fall. The only way that we can stand is through Christ’s strength and the only way we can get up again is through His mercy and forgiveness. The sins of the Hebrews in the desert were appalling. The sins of the Corinthians were terrible. The sins of God’s people today are...just as bad. There are no excuses for the sins that we have committed. We cannot think, “I will stand where all others have fallen” (v. 12).

But by God’s grace we see Jesus. The One whom God sent to stand up under the full weight of sin and never folded. The One who has proved God’s faithfulness (v. 13). The One who was tempted in every way but remained without sin (Hebrew 4:15).

The temptation to run in the house might fade as we grow older (maybe the temptation to run anywhere) but the flesh, the world, and the devil will continue to bring forth temptations. They might look a little different or come in a different shape than they did before, but they will still come. When they do come, and we stand up under them recognize that we can do so only by Christ living through us (Galatians 2:20). And when we fall to temptation remember that Christ has provided a way of escape: Complete forgiveness of our sins by His finished work at Calvary. He washes us, he feeds us, he strengthens us...Jesus does it all. Thanks be to God. Amen.

## Grace Free Lutheran Council Meeting

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Deacons Meet 6:30 PM

Boards Meet 7pm

Council Meets 8pm



### Quarterly Congregational Meeting Sunday, April 27

There will be a potluck fellowship dinner following the worship service. The meeting will begin at approximately 12:30pm.

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

#### Financial Summary

As of 3/20/2025

General Fund=\$104,124.69

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=\$1312.18

Seminary Fund=\$0.00

General Fund CD (1)=\$43,446.75

General Fund CD (2)=\$32,263.66

General Fund CD (3)=\$25,000.00

Parking Lot Fund CD=\$38,766.54

Roof Fund CD=\$68,624.32

Exterior Maintenance Fund CD=\$61,945.31

Building Fund CD=\$25,000.00

#### **He's Alive Rehearsal Schedule**

Wednesday, March 26    8:00pm    He's Alive Singers  
He's Alive Quartet  
Narration

Sunday, March 30        1:00pm    Costume fitting  
All Cast rehearsal  
Narration

Sunday, April 6         1:00pm    All Cast rehearsal  
Narration

Saturday, April 12      9:00am    Set completion  
1:00pm    Full run rehearsal

Sunday, April 13        1:00pm    Full run rehearsal

Wednesday, April 16    5:00pm    All cast and crew arrive  
in shifts beginning at 5:00pm  
7:00pm    Dress rehearsal

Friday, April 18        5:00pm    All cast and crew arrive  
in shifts beginning at 5:00pm  
7:00pm    He's Alive presentation

Saturday, April 19      12:00pm    All cast and crew arrive  
in shifts beginning at 5:00pm  
2:00pm    He's Alive presentation  
7:00pm    He's Alive presentation

## Zion's Schedule

### Sundays

9am Divine Worship

10am Fellowship

## LENTEN Schedule

Wednesdays, April 2 & 9

Soup Supper 6:15pm

Lenten Service 7:00pm



Thursday, April 17

Maundy Thursday Service with  
Holy Communion 7:00pm

Friday, April 18

He's Alive 7:00pm

Saturday, April 19

He's Alive 2:00pm & 7:00pm

Sunday, April 20

Easter Breakfast 9:00am

Easter Worship Service 10:30am

*Catechization for Junior and Senior  
confirmation students will be held  
Sunday, April 27*

*Confirmation will be held  
May 4, 2025, 10:30am at Grace*



## AFLC Ministry Focus for April *Youth Ministry*

AFLC Youth Ministries exists to encourage local congregations to WIN teens to Christ, to BUILD teen believers in God's truth and love, to EQUIP teen workers to live and share their faith, and to MULTIPLY maturing disciples in Jesus Christ.

AFLC Youth Ministries hosts The Free Lutheran Youth (FLY) Convention held at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, CO every two years.

The purpose of The FLY Convention is to provide congregations with a tool to: Win the lost, BUILD the believer, and ENCOURAGE student discipleship in the local congregation.

The theme for FLY 2025 is BEHOLD—John 1:29  
The following students from our congregation will be attending the convention June 30-July 5.

**Evan Schroeder, Naomi Hanson, Sam Dahl, Tricia Pfennig, Cambri Pfennig, Mason Dahl, Gabe Berntson, Elijah Drummond, Isaiah Gregory, Rebekah Norby, Benjamin Norby**  
Please pray for the students along with adults accompanying them.

Along with The FLY Convention, AFLC Youth Ministries hosts FLY Beyond and Youth Workers Weekends

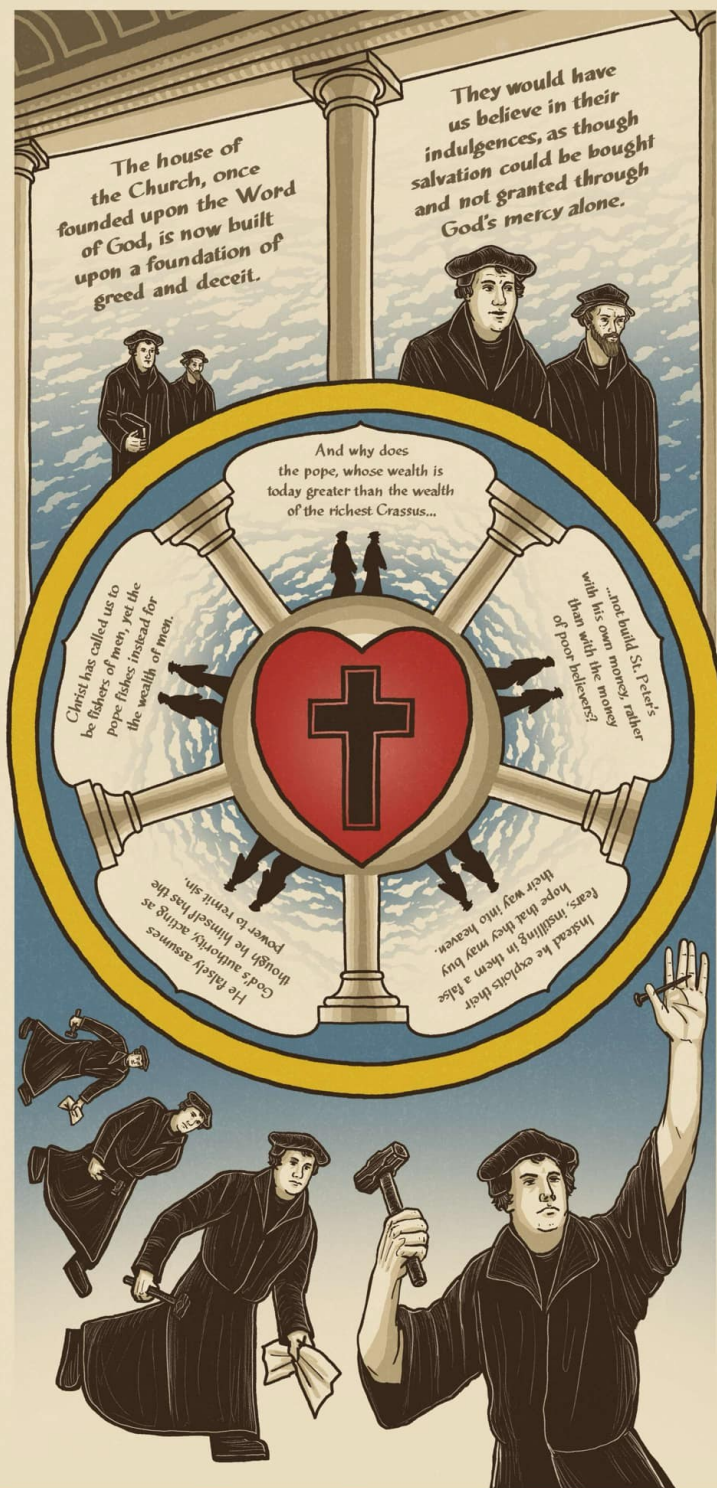
For more information and to donate to AFLC Youth Ministry, visit <https://www.aflc.org/youth/>



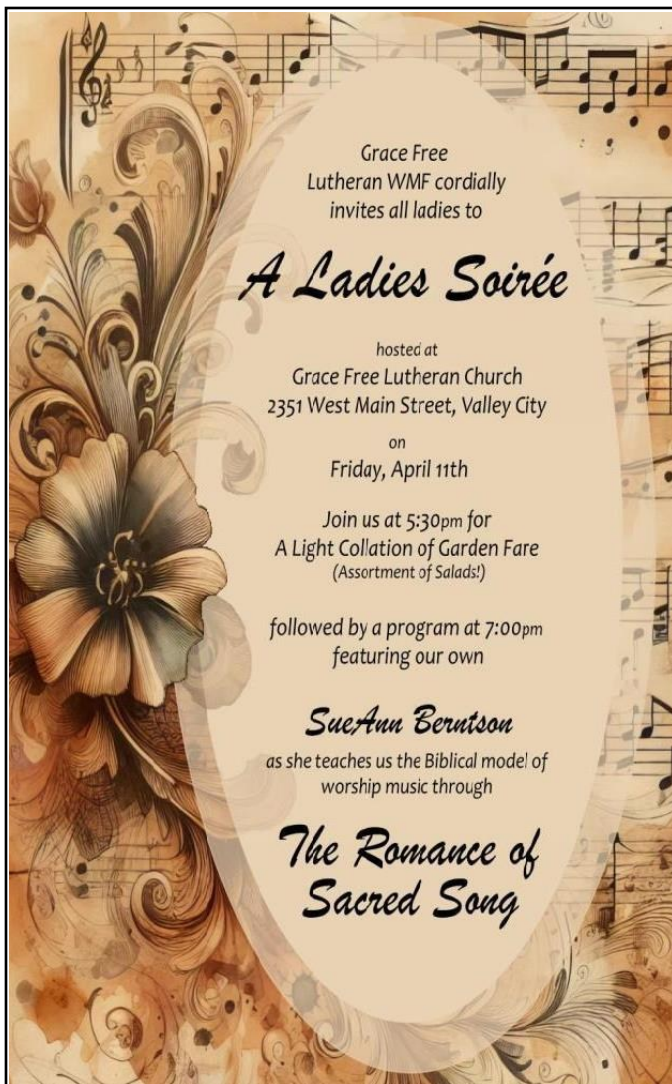
**Save the Date!**  
Bridal Shower for  
Rose Zeltinger  
Saturday, April 26, 6pm

Thank you to all who participated in the art show! We appreciate all who shared their talents by creating art, performing in the program, and preparing food. And thank you to those who came to view the art and attend the program.

Below is a sample of some of the work displayed this year, a piece titled "The Reformation", created by Gabe Herzog.







## Children's Ministry News

AFK will resume Wednesday, April 23 @7pm

Save the Dates!

VBS June 1-5

All Sunday School students Pre-k through High School will sing for special music on Palm Sunday



Youth Group will resume Wednesday, April 23 @7pm in the youth room.

- 1 Roxanne Stensland
- 2 Claire Shanenko (Jeremy)  
Corey Johnson
- 5 Becky Schroeder  
Greg Pfennig  
Easton Grotberg
- 6 Tim Berntson  
Lori Pritchett
- 9 Kristin Peterson  
Katrina Zeltinger
- 14 Frank Christensen
- 16 Pat Hansen
- 21 Monte Pritchett  
Connor Pfennig (Greg)
- 22 Tom Milbrandt
- 25 Jakob Rolf (Walter)
- 26 Cade Powers  
Samuel Dahl (Mardy)
- 27 SueAnn Berntson
- 28 Katy Borg (Kevin)
- 30 Wally Bjornson



**APRIL**  
*birthdays*

### Missionaries

10 Bethany Lee (John)

### Quilting

Thursday, April 10, 1pm

### WMF Bible Study

Monday, April 21, 7pm

### Faith Circle

Tuesday, April 22, 9am

### Women's Bible Study

Thursdays April 3, 10, 21 at 10am

### Men's Prayer

Saturdays at 7am

## EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA

### WMF SPRING RALLY

Saturday, April 26, 2025

**REGISTRATION & COFFEE at 9:30am**

\$15 registration fee (*includes luncheon*)

10am Morning Begins

Zion Free Lutheran

3751 110th Ave (rural) Valley City

#### **Rally Theme**

LIVING to serve

**Theme Hymn**

Living For Jesus

**Theme Verse**

*"Just as the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."* Matthew 20:28 NIV

#### **Guest Speaker**

Vicki Johnson

Author of 2025 WMF Bible Study

"Seeing the Light of god in the face of Christ"



2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Confirmation 6pm  Soup Supper 6:15pm Lenten Service 7pm	3 Women's Bible Study 10am	4	5 Men's Prayer 7am
6 Sunday School 9am  Fellowship 10am  Divine Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am	7	8	9 Confirmation 6pm  Soup Supper 6:15pm Lenten Service 7pm	10 Women's Bible Study 10am  Quilting 1pm Deacons Meet 6:30pm Boards Meet 7pm Council Meets 8pm	11 Ladies Salad Supper 5:30pm	12 Men's Prayer 7am
13  PALM SUNDAY Sunday School 9am  Fellowship 10am  Divine Worship 10:30am	14	15	16	17  MAUNDY THURSDAY Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion 7pm	18  GOOD FRIDAY He's Alive Presentation 7pm	19 Men's Prayer 7am  He's Alive Presentation 2pm & 7pm
20  EASTER SUNDAY Easter Breakfast 9am  Divine Worship 10:30am	21 WMF Bible Study 7pm	22 Faith Circle 9:30am	23  ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS DAY Confirmation 6pm Answers For Kids 7pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	24 Women's Bible Study 10am	25	26 Men's Prayer 7am  WMF END Spring Rally at Zion  Bridal Shower for Rose Zeltinger 6pm
27 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship 10:30am Potluck following the service Quarterly Meeting 12:30pm Catechization	28	29	30 Confirmation 6pm  Answers For Kids 7pm  Youth Group 7pm  Adult Bible Study 7pm			



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



**GRACE & ZION FREE LUTHERAN CHURCHES**

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**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](http://www.gracefree.com/watch-online)

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

**Phone: (701) 845-2753**

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**Website: [www.gracefree.com](http://www.gracefree.com)**

**Senior Pastor Dennis Norby** [thenorbys@msn.com](mailto:thenorbys@msn.com)  
**Administrative Assistant~ Sarah Meester** [gracefree@msn.com](mailto:gracefree@msn.com)  
**Children's Ministry Leader~ Erin Dahl**