

GraceNotes

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

Romans 8:1, *“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”* These are some of the sweetest words in the entire Bible! In this one verse, the entire weight of Jesus Christ’s death on the cross and victory over the grave is proclaimed! The powerful message of this one verse is that Jesus Christ perfectly and completely satisfied all the impossible demands of the law. For those who believe in this sufficient work of Christ, the law does not condemn them, because Jesus has paid for their sin.

This verse is absolutely stunning when you compare it to the demands of God’s law. In Leviticus 19:2, God tells us, *“You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.”* In Leviticus 19, God teaches His people how they were to be holy. They were to be a holy people separate from the other peoples of the earth who worship false gods. They were to be holy by obeying all of His commands that were given in the Ten Commandments. These commands included those of obeying mother and father, keeping the Sabbath, and not turning to idols. These commands include, *“You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD”* (Lev 19:11-12). The commands continued with those about not hating your brother, loving your neighbor as yourself, not committing adultery, and more. Later, God adds, *“And you shall observe all my statutes and all my rules, and do them: I am the LORD”* (Lev 19:37).

This call to be holy is also found in 1 Peter 1:14-16, *“As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”* The Scriptures teach us very clearly that God is holy and His law demands that we too are holy. The law demands that we obey every single commandment perfectly to achieve this holiness. The law demands perfect obedience from every single person.

However, we quickly recognize that obeying the law perfectly is absolutely impossible. We were born already having broken God’s law because we inherited sin and we break God’s commandments all the time, every day. As a result, we are condemned by the law. The law shows us our sin and proclaims that we have fallen short. We have not obeyed God’s law perfectly and we now stand condemned. For those who are condemned by the law, the punishment is death. Every single person who has ever sinned and broken God’s law deserves to die. The Apostle Paul, in recognition of his own sin, cried out, *“Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?”* (Rom 7:24).

In the midst of this condemnation of the law, Paul joyfully proclaims the sweet truth of the Gospel, *“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus”* (Rom 8:1) How can that be? How is it possible to stand before God, not condemned by the law for our own wretched sinfulness? Paul explains, *“For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit”* (Rom 8:2-4).

In His love, God has done something absolutely amazing! He sent His Son Jesus to earth, to be born and live as a human in perfect obedience to the law, to die on the cross, and to rise again in victory. In doing so, He “condemned sin in the flesh” and fulfilled the “righteous requirement of the law” in us. The truth proclaimed here is that Jesus has perfectly fulfilled the law and now calls on all people to trust in Him and be united with Him. By being “in Christ,” we are set free from the law of sin and death. By being “in Christ,” the law is fulfilled by Christ’s perfect sacrifice.

For those who are in Christ Jesus, the reality is both clear and sweet. There is no condemnation. The law cannot condemn you to be destroyed. The law cannot find fault with you because it can only see the perfection of Christ. That means that in Christ Jesus, we are holy. We can read, *“You shall be holy, for I am holy”* (1 Peter 1:16) and rejoice because in Jesus Christ, that is a reality!

Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

*By Intern Pastor
Caleb Korhonen*



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Grace Council Updates

Monthly Meeting:

Thursday, March 5, 2026

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

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

Financial Summary

As of 2/25/26

General Fund=\$60,692.92
Building Imp. Fund=\$14,409.27
(Sign=\$897.78; Parking Lot=\$6,659.05;
Exterior Maintenance=\$6,852.44)
Scholarship Fund=\$2,412.25
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

He's Alive Rehearsals

Wednesday, March 11–

8:00pm He's Alive Singers Rehearsal
HA Quartet Rehearsal
Narration Rehearsal

Sunday, March 15–

1:00pm Costume fitting
All Cast Rehearsal
Narration Rehearsal

Sunday, March 22–

1:00pm All Cast Rehearsal
Narration Rehearsal

Saturday, March 28–

9:00am Set Completion
1:00pm Full Run Rehearsal

Sunday, March 29–

1:00pm Full Run Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 1–

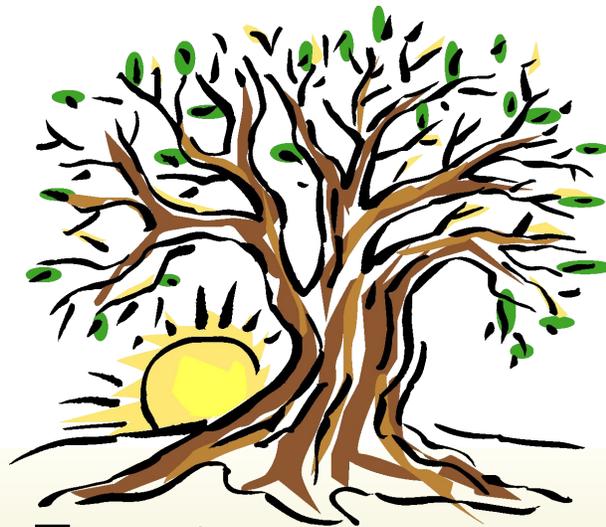
5:00pm Cast & Crew arrive in shifts
7:00pm Dress Rehearsal

Friday, April 3–

5:00pm Cast & Crew arrive in shifts
7:00pm He's Alive presentation

Saturday, April 4–

12:00pm Cast & Crew arrive in shifts
2:00pm He's Alive presentation
7:00pm He's Alive presentation



Lent

Wednesdays During Lent

6:15pm Soup Supper

7:00pm Service

Daylight Saving Time

begins **March 8**

Remember to turn
your clocks ahead
one hour!



Zion Free Lutheran Events

Sundays

9:00am Divine Worship

10:00am Fellowship

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

WMF

7:00pm Monday, March 16



Join us for a Stewardship Meal



Sunday, March 8
Following the worship service

A free-will offering will be taken
to support our FLBC students



- 1 Lukas Kietzman (Joshua)
 - 2 Suzette Trenda
 - 3 Devyn Glasman (Devin)
Brandon Stensland
 - 5 Kaydence Kietzman (Joshua)
 - 7 Tori Perleberg
 - 9 Jonah Norby (Dennis)
 - 15 Cindy Tatom
 - 17 Bonita Roswick
 - 20 John Halverson
 - 21 Barry Borg
Justin Roswick (Cody)
 - 22 Scott Roehrich
 - 24 Sarah Halverson
 - 26 Daryl Stensland
Tate Halverson
 - 30 Devin Glasman
 - 31 Jack Schroeder (Josh)
- Missionaries**
- 11 Jonathan Abel
 - 16 Eliana Olson (Andrew)
 - 18 Selah Olson (Andrew)

Ladies of Grace ~

You are invited to a
“Make Your Own BOUQUET Bar”
at the spring
WMF Quarterly Meeting
Saturday, March 14 at 9:30am



The **FLBC Women’s Ensemble** will join us for
our worship service Sunday, March 29.



L-R: Anna Keranen, Lily Hoffman, Hannah Gullickson,
Naomi Hanson, Elizabeth Norby, Emma Richardson

MARCH EVENTS

Sundays

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

Wednesdays

- 5:45pm Confirmation
- 6:15pm soup supper
- 7pm Lenten service

Women’s Bible Study

- 10am Thursdays

Men’s Prayer

- 7am Saturdays

WMF Board Meeting

- 6:30pm Tuesday, March 3

Stewardship Meal

- 11:30am Sunday, March 8

Quilting

- 1pm Thursday, March 12

WMF Quarterly Meeting

- 9:30am Saturday, March 14

WMF Bible Study

- 7pm Monday, March 16

Faith Circle

- 9:30am Tuesday, March 24



HE'S ALIVE

Friday, April 3
7pm

Saturday, April 4
2pm & 7pm



March~

John 10:14-15 - ¹I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ²just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

February~

Deuteronomy 7:6 - For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

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~

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.



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/



AFLC Ministry Focus for March 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/

**Thank you to all who participated in the 2026 Grace/Zion Art Show!
Here is a sampling of the talent presented at the show.**



"Trondheim" painting by Brent Peterson



"Miracles Cubes" drawings by Homeschool Co-op



"Shanenko Farm" painting by Abby Shanenko



"Portuguese Tiles" painted tiles by Tom Meester

Mark 10:46-52

The dust blows in my eye
When I hear some passer by
"Son of David hear my cry!"

Word incarnate made flesh for me,
Oh Lord, heal this flesh, make me see.
From this body of death, make me free.

Breathe and roll away this heart of stone.
Speak and shake the dust off my bones.
Raise me to life eternal by your grace
So this begg'r may always see your face.

By Caleb Mehlhoff

Words of Thanks!



This past semester has gone by extremely fast, but in the midst of it, I have been learning so many things. One of my favorite classes was The Gospel of John, where we dug deep into the account and studied these words, focusing on the theme “these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.” John 20:31. Throughout John, Historical books, Means of Grace and Eschatology, Public speaking, and Logic, I am continuing to learn so much and grow in knowledge. In historical books, we were walked through how the Lord continued caring for and loving His people even when they kept living in a constant cycle of sinning, coming back, sinning, and coming back. Means of Grace taught me further what and why we believe certain things about baptism, the holy spirit, angels, demons, election, and eschatology. Public Speaking showed me that even when I am afraid, the Lord can lead me through; I am better equipped to share my faith because of that class. Logic, though it was not my favorite class, showed us how to prove or disprove statements in any circumstance. Choir and Gospel teams have continued to encourage me in bringing praise to God in song! Alongside class, the Lord

is constantly reminding me that He is in control and is the ultimate provider. Our Christmas concert theme this year was, And His Name Shall Be Called, throughout the concert, each of our songs drew us back to the names of God, and that concept has shown me just how incredible and amazing our God is. His name truly is above Every Name! This school year took some adjusting to, but I am so excited to see God continue to lead my life and grow me in ways I cannot even imagine. Thank you so much for your constant prayer and support!

Elizabeth Norby

As I think back on this last semester, I have come to the conclusion that although I have learned a lot in this last year, and done a lot, one of the biggest things that God has shown me is that I cannot do anything on my own, much less do everything that I want to do. While I might be able to help my neighbor, or carry out my job effectively, or even attend church weekly, I can only do so by God's grace, and the new life He has given me through His Son's death and resurrection. I have been reminded that belief in Jesus is better than belief in any other standard, and that Jesus is the only answer, because only Jesus is truly God, able to live a perfect life, and true man, able to sympathize with us and apply the forgiveness of sins to us through Baptism. As we are good stewards of the Gospel we need to give it away, to everyone we come in contact with.

I have also been learning that I can rely on Jesus, that in any situation my hope is built on Him and what He has done for me, that I have no salvation in myself. It is not my work or my effort that can save me, but only by placing my hope in Jesus, even in the storms of life assures me that I will be in Heaven, because of that promise that Jesus gives us that we are His, we can be sure that we will be with Him. Regardless of the tempests that are causing trouble in the world, or the tumultuous activity in our country or state, we can be assured that we will be with Christ, He holds our faith, salvation, and lives firmly in the palm of His hand.

I want to thank you all for your prayers for me as I have been studying at FLBC, and I want to thank you for the generous support you have provided; it is greatly appreciated! As I have been studying, I have felt the call to go and learn more so I can be an effective voice in the world for Jesus, but especially to learn in Seminary with a focus on sharing the Gospel to those who need to hear it. I don't know exactly where that is yet, but it is my prayer that God would lead me where He needs me and keep me following His will as I study and search for where He has me going next.

The first stage of going to Seminary will be getting a Bachelor of Arts degree, and I plan to serve this summer on a VBS team, but I am still waiting to hear back regarding that, before returning in the fall to begin my studies at FLBC. After discussing with the registrar, I will be able to graduate with that degree with only one additional year of study. Therefore, I ask for your continued prayer support both as I continue in my studies this semester and next year, and as I wait to see exactly where God is calling me next.

In Christ, Jonah Norby

Dear Congregation, My second year at FLBC 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. My time at FLBC is coming to a close, which is a bitter sweet feeling. I will miss all of my friends and the time that I have been able to spend in God's word. This time has prepared me for the future and what God is calling me to in the years to come. I am so thankful for all of the support that all of you have given me throughout the years, especially during my time here. God's provision is very evident through your generosity and prayers for me. Please continue to be in prayer for me even as I continue my life outside of Bible college.

Thank you all very much.

Sincerely, Eli Grotberg



M · A · R · C · H

2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am	2	3 WMF Board Meeting 6:30pm	4 Confirmation 5:45pm Soup Supper 6:15pm Lent Service 7pm	5 Women's Bible Study 10am 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 Stewardship Fundraiser Meal following service	9	10	11 Confirmation 5:45pm Soup Supper 6:15pm Lent Service 7pm	12 Quilting 1pm Women's Bible Study 10am	13	14 Men's Prayer 7am WMF Quarterly Meeting 9:30am
15 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship 10:30am	16 WMF Bible Study 7pm	17	18 Confirmation 5:45pm Soup Supper 6:15pm Lent Service 7pm	19 Women's Bible Study 10am	20 	21 Men's Prayer 7am
22 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship 10:30am	23	24 Faith Circle 9:30am	25 Confirmation 5:45pm Soup Supper 6:15pm Lent Service 7pm	26 Women's Bible Study 10am	27	28 Men's Prayer 7am
29 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship 10:30am	30	31				

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

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