

GRACE NOTES JANUARY 2023

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

Twelve Days of Christmas By Intern Pastor Joe Frech

Happy New Year! As well as that, Merry Christmas! Yes, as many of you know from church on January 1, the Christian Church celebrates Christmas even after the actual date of December 25. As a matter of fact, Christmas is celebrated right up until January 6, when the church begins the season of Epiphany. This is the basis for the song "12 Days of Christmas", because the time between Christmas and Epiphany is 12 days.

Those 12 days are not arbitrary by any means, however. There is a tradition throughout all of Church History that it took the wisemen 12 days to reach the baby Jesus and give him praise and glory. From Matthew 3: "Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."... After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh."

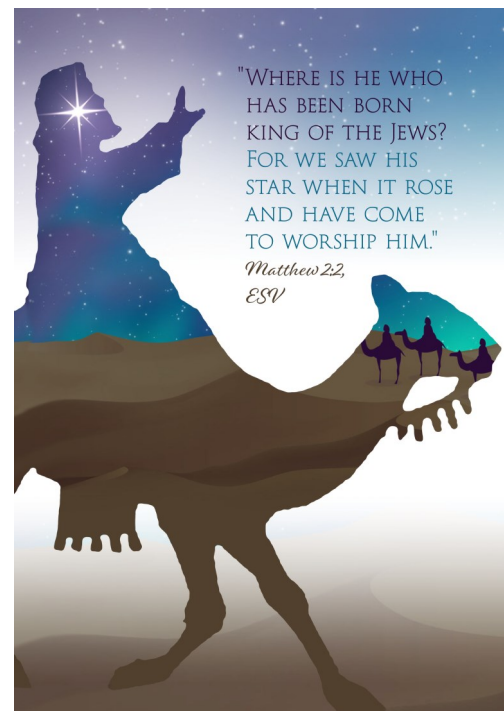
The wise men, who inspired the song "We Three Kings" came from far in the east, a great journey, in order to come give worship to this new king. Assuming that the king would be born in the capitol, Jerusalem, they went there first in order to ask to see the baby. However the king of the Jews was not born in splendor, majesty, or riches. He was not adorned with a royal garment, nor was he cared for by servants. Rather, the king of the Jews that they were seeking was lying in a dirty manger, in a pen surrounded by smelly animals, with simple swaddling cloths to wrap him up.

However, the wise men, following the star, came to Bethlehem where Jesus was. They saw the humility of his birth. They were able to see, hear, and smell everything when they arrived. But did that stop them from praising the king? Certainly not. God had told them about this great king who would be born, and they were coming to give honor and glory to him. Gifts of riches and honor

they bestowed on this child. The gold being a sign of riches, and the myrrh and frankincense being expensive perfumes, that the royals would be elevated above everyone else even by their smell. These great gifts they gave to a baby, born in some of the poorest conditions imaginable. These great wise men, kings, or whatever great station they would have held, came to worship Jesus.

Epiphany is a season of revealing. Jesus was revealed in this event as a King. For the wise men, they only knew him as the king of the Jews, which he certainly was. You, however, know him as much more. Jesus is not only the King of the Jews. He is the King and Lord of all creation. He is God incarnate, come for you. He is the servant of God spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, who would suffer for His people. He is your great High Priest, who has made sacrifice for your sins once for all. The greatest prophet, who revealed to you the Word and will of God, and the great King, who fights for His people, and cares for them to the very end of time. This is the Jesus who is revealed to you. When people first were reading the reports of these apostles, this is the Jesus that was revealed to them. And what's more, this is the Jesus of whom we proclaim. For God never changes, and His love for you is so far beyond anything you could ever ask or hope for.

So Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and praise God for the coming and revealing of Christ!



Grace Free Lutheran Church

Council Meeting

Thursday, January 5, 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.

The Grace Annual Meeting will be held

Sunday, January 22, 2023 at 12:30pm

Reports are due January 11.

There will be a potluck fellowship meal following the service. The meeting will begin at approximately 12:30pm. In case of inclement weather the meeting will be held January 29.

Financial Summary

As of 12/31/2022

General Fund=\$87,884.23

Building Improvement Fund=\$1,947.78

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

Exterior Maintenance=\$0.00)

Scholarship Fund=\$8,449.15

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



Life Sunday

January 22, 2023 is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. A special offering will be taken at Grace for the Life Fund. The distribution of funds will be voted on at the annual meeting.



If you need a giving statement for 2022, contact Sarah in the church office.

Zion's Schedule

Sundays

9am Divine Worship

Wednesdays

7pm Adult Bible Study at Grace

7pm Youth Group at Grace

7pm Answers For Kids at Grace

Annual Meeting

Saturday, January 14, 10:30am

A potluck will follow the meeting.

In case of inclement weather the meeting will be held January 21.



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.

For thou hast been
a strength to the poor,
a strength to the needy
in his distress, a
REFUGE
from the
STORM.

ISAIAH 25:4, KJV

**7th
ANNUAL**

Grace Free WMF Presents

Ladies Crafting Weekend

Registration Contacts:

Amy Milbrandt
840-0848
Becky Pfennig
490-0355

February 3 @ Noon through
February 4 @ 10 pm

Key details:

- ✂ Pre-register by January 25
- ✂ Doors open Friday at noon and close Saturday at 10 pm
- ✂ 3 meals provided: free-will offering will be taken (\$5-\$10 per meal)
- ✂ Bring snack to share
- ✂ Invite friends!
- ✂ Be prepared for lots of laughter!
- ✂ Wi-fi available for online use

Accommodations!

You can join some of us for a good old-fashioned lock-in. Just bring an air bed or cot. We will have rooms available for you to set up your sleeping arrangements. Some couches are available to sleep on also! Otherwise head home or stay at a local hotel and come back Saturday morning.

Fellowship - God's Word - Crafting

Are you ready for a great weekend, ladies? Come and enjoy one another's fellowship, eat some food, have a few snacks and some caffeine. We will take time for God's Word through worship, testimony, and prayer. And let's not forget to get some crafting done!

Maybe you scrapbook, quilt, color, crochet, knit...whatever your craft of choice is, come with your supplies, share with others and join in all the fun! Doors open Friday at noon, and we plan to head home on Saturday evening by 10 pm. Come for all or part of the time. You are always welcome! Also, we encourage you to bring a friend and make new ones! Last year was such a great time of fellowship!

Pre-register by Wednesday, January 25 so we can prepare some delicious food for you! There is a sign-up sheet at the information center or contact Becky or Amy.

Take part in a class...

Quilting- contact Gwen Sveet at 701-570-1248 to find out more information and what you should bring.

Painting- cost is \$15 per painting

Let's talk Food!

We will provide three meals for everyone! We also encourage you to bring a snack to share with the group. We will provide coffee and water, so feel free to bring whatever additional beverages you would like for yourself. A free-will offering will be taken for the meals and all the proceeds above the cost of food will be donated to a ministry by the WMF.

Meals will be served around these times:
Friday supper - 6:30pm, Saturday Brunch - 10:45am
Saturday Supper - 5:00pm

If you miss the time, leftovers will likely be available to reheat.



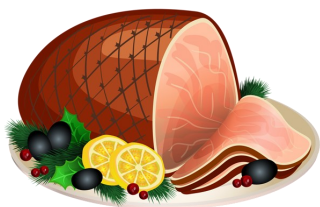
Grace & Zion Music Program & Art Show February 26, 2023

- * 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.



Join the
Stewardship
Board
January 29th for
a Ham Dinner.

The meal will be served following
the worship service.

A free will offering will be taken
with the money going towards the
Bible College Scholarship Fund. It
will be a great time of fellowship!

- 1 Samuel Borg (Kevin)
Rachel Drummond (John)
- 3 Becky Pfennig
- 4 Cheryll Borg
Teresa Perleberg
- 5 Hunter Berntson (Tim)
Caleb Norby (Dennis)
Sarah Miller
- 6 Tucker Perleberg (Jeff)
- 8 Richard Hass
- 12 Seth Zeltinger (Jeremy)
- 15 Isaac Norby (Dennis)
Matt Powers
- 20 Sawyer Dahl (Mardy)
Tory Hafele
- 22 Roselyn Huber
Walt Schroeder
- 23 Abby Peterson (Brent)
Rachel Richman
- 24 Ava Shanenko (Jeremy)
- 25 Cody Roswick
- 26 Jeremy Shanenko
- 27 Nicole Powers
- 31 Trina Shanenko



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Missionaries

- 8 Ian Abel (2020)
- 11 Tamba Abel
- 22 Alexis Olson

Women's BIBLE STUDY

On January 12, Ladies will
begin a 10 week study of
Exodus 19-40, called "God of
Freedom". The group meets
Thursdays at 10am.

Quilting

Wednesday, January 11
at 1pm

Women's Bible Study

Thursdays, beginning
January 12 at 10am

Men's Discipleship

will not meet during January

Men's Prayer

Saturdays at 7am



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Divine Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am	2	3	4 Confirmation 6pm Meal for SS kids 6pm Program Practice 6:30pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	5 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 Meal served by Youth 11:45am Christmas Program 1pm	9	10	11 Quilters 1pm Confirmation 6pm Answers For Kids 7pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	12 Women's Bible Study 10am	13	14 Men's Prayer 7am
15 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship 10:30am	16	17	18 Confirmation 6pm Answers For Kids 7pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	19 Women's Bible Study 10am	20	21 Men's Prayer 7am
22 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship 10:30am Potluck 11:45am Annual Meeting 12:30pm	23	24	25 Confirmation 6pm Answers For Kids 7pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	26 Women's Bible Study 10am	27	28 Men's Prayer 7am
29 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship 10:30am Stewardship meal 11:30am	30	31				



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