

GRACE NOTES OCTOBER 2025

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

By Intern Pastor Caleb Korhonen

On October 31, we celebrate Reformation Day, the day commemorating the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. On this day in 1517, Martin Luther nailed a document, the Ninety-five Theses, to a church door in Wittenberg, Germany. In this document, Luther publicly declared that the Roman Catholic Church had been promoting false teachings.

Luther proclaimed that the Roman Catholic Church had been teaching a false salvation that comes through our own good works, rather than salvation through the grace of God. Instead of pointing people towards repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, they proclaimed that people must earn their salvation, therefore enslaving people to their own sinfulness.

The spread of the Ninety-five Theses started what we now call the Protestant Reformation, a return to the preaching and teaching of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ alone. We celebrate Reformation Day to this day because the Bible is clear that salvation is not something we earn; rather, it is a gift from God. This is a gift of justification and the righteousness of God.

Luther discovered this great Gospel truth as he was studying Romans 1:17, which speaks of the righteousness of God. What Luther discovered was that the righteousness of God is not a frightening pronouncement of judgment like the Catholic Church had taught him. He discovered that justification is not something to work tirelessly for, but rather a gift that God offers to all people to be received by faith.

Romans 3:19-28 speaks clearly to this Gospel truth. Verse 20 states, "For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin" [ESV]. The law shows us our sin. Through the law, the commands of God, we see where we fall short. Every day we fail at keeping God's command. We don't love God as we should. We don't love other people as we should. Our sinfulness keeps us from obeying God's law. This verse is clear that no attempt at keeping God's law can justify us before God, the great Judge.

But God's heart isn't to destroy us, it's to save us. As the great Judge over His law, God doesn't desire to condemn you to destruction; He desires to save you and give you peace. He desires to pro-

claim a declaration of forgiveness to you. His heart is to draw you into a right standing with Him. Therefore, He proclaims a statement of justification to you, a proclamation that you are in a right standing with Him. That all costs of your shortcomings are covered. That every penalty that you incurred has been paid. Romans 3 tells us how this is done. Verse 22 states that we are "... justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus..."

The phrase "as a gift" is critical. God offers this justification to you as a gift. This means that nothing you do can earn this proclamation of justification. We can do nothing to earn this salvation. Our good works won't earn us this justification, because it is a gift. It is offered to us to be received by faith in Jesus Christ.

This gift wasn't without a cost, though. This gift of justification is possible, not because of our own works, but because of the work of Christ Jesus, "whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith" (v. 25). God's law requires payment for our shortcomings. The reality is that we should be the ones to pay for our shortcomings with our own lives. But God loves us so much that He sent Jesus Christ to pay for our shortcomings with His own blood. His blood paid for our sin. His blood is the reason that God gives us this gift of justification.

With this awesome news of salvation, we now live in the joy and freedom of Christ. We don't live under the slavery to our sin like the Roman Catholic Church falsely taught. We don't have to live every day trying to appease a terrifying Judge with our works. We live as already justified by the blood of Jesus Christ. When we fall short of God's commands, we don't despair and hide from God. We don't try to win God's favor again with more sinful works. Instead, we repent of our sin and trust in Jesus Christ who died and rose again for us.

This is the Gospel that we proclaim at Grace and Zion. Reformation Day is a reminder that salvation is through faith in Jesus Christ alone. We don't listen to the temptation to run back to our old lives or back to our own good works. The Bible teaches us clearly that God offers us salvation through Jesus Christ as a gift. We can't earn it. This is good news for every single one of us!

Grace Free Lutheran Council Meeting



Thursday, October 9, 2025
Deacons Meet 6:30 PM
Boards Meet 7pm
Council Meets 8pm

Grace Quarterly Congregational Meeting October 12, 2025

The Stewardship Board will serve a meal 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 09/26/2025

General Fund=\$60,076.34

Building Improvement Fund=\$15,609.27

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

Exterior Maintenance=\$6,852.44)

Scholarship Fund=\$5,702.08

Seminary Fund=\$0.00

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

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

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

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

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



**Sunday
October 5, 2025
2:00-3:00 pm**

2025

Every year since 1987, on the first Sunday of October, Life Chains form in cities nationwide to make a public, prayerful, peaceful stand for life.

Valley City will join over 1500 cities in the U.S. and Canada for Life Chain 2025, which will be held Sunday, **October 5, 2025, from 2:00 to 3:00 PM.**

Life Chain **IS NOT** political or confrontational. Life Chain **IS** a silent prayer vigil by Christians to communicate their opposition to abortion. Participants prayerfully display uniform signs which state the truth about abortion. It is an opportunity for local churches to unite in prayer and stand up for the rights of the unborn. Everyone who believes in the protection of unborn children and their mothers is invited to participate.

Bring your whole family! Rain or Shine!

~ Water, lawn chairs, & strollers are welcome

~ Signs will be provided

~ Participants stand 20--50 feet apart and pray.

*** Receive your signs at the Valley Meat parking lot or just east of the flood wall across from Bank Forward.

2 Chronicles 7:14 ~ "If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Zion's Schedule

Sundays

9am Divine Worship

WMF

7pm Monday, October 20

Zion Fall Auction

Thursday, October 23, 7pm

Pie and coffee will be served.

Ladies, please bring two pies and something for the auction.



**October is
Pastor Appreciation Month.**

Thank You
Pastor Dennis & Samantha
and Pastor Caleb
for your service to
our congregations.

AFLC Ministry Focus for October



The Home Missions Department serves as the church planting ministry of the AFLC. Home Missions works to plant and renew free, living and Lutheran congregations.

FREE

- **GOSPEL:** We make disciples by proclaiming the powerful gospel message— that Jesus Christ lived in perfect obedience to the Father, was crucified for our sin, was resurrected by the power of the Holy Spirit, ascended into heaven, and will one day return to make all things new. We celebrate that his grace and forgiveness grant us true freedom to live with peace, joy, and hope.
- **CONGREGATION:** We believe that the congregation is where God's Kingdom is manifested and experienced in this world. We cherish that the congregation is free to be led by God's Word and Spirit. We gladly cooperate in Gospel mission with other like-minded congregations for the salvation of souls.

LIVING

- **MISSION:** We celebrate that God is a missionary God. He desires to bring souls to repentance and faith through the gospel. Empowered by His Spirit, He has gifted and chosen to use the body of Christ to actively go, baptize, and teach to make disciples.
- **PIETY:** We proclaim that God's Spirit has been given to indwell his people which cultivates a deep spiritual vitality and living fruit. We seek to joyfully walk by His spirit, serving others with His grace gifts that He has given to each believer.

LUTHERAN

- **WORD & SACRAMENT:** We believe the Scriptures are God's inspired and inerrant Word. This Word is our ultimate authority and the source of our preaching and teaching. The Lord also unites His Word to the tangible gifts of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, by which He creates new spiritual life and nurtures His Church.
- **HISTORICAL:** We are thankful for the Holy Spirit's work throughout the centuries in the Church all around the world. We affirm the Ancient Creeds and Lutheran Confessions as faithful expositions of Scripture which have unified believers throughout history. We value the spiritual practices that the Lord has used to form His people, and we believe these truths and practices remain relevant for new generations in an ever changing world.

The Home Missions Department also oversees the **AFLC Alaska Mission**, which serves to bring Christ's message of saving grace to people in Alaskan villages through congregational worship, radio, and aviation.

- **FLAPS** operates three small airplanes out of the village of Nakek, Alaska. The airplanes are used to fly pastors, lay preachers, and VBS teams out to about ten villages within 125 miles of Naknek in southwest Alaska.
- **BAY BROADCASTING** operates KAKN, a commercial non-profit FM Christian radio station that serves the Bristol Bay area around Naknek. Listen to KAKN online at kakn.org or stream via Tunein.com.
- **THE NET** is an internet coffee house in Naknek where coffee and baked goods are free and people from all over the world hear about the free gift of salvation.

For more information or to donate to the ministries of AFLC Home Missions visit aflchomemissions.org

Operations Christmas Child Boxes Due Nov. 16th!

Our goal is to create and ship 10 boxes this year. Help us reach this goal in a number of ways below. Thank you all for your help with this wonderful program!

Ways to Help:

- **Create and pay to ship a box**
 - You can find boxes, directions, and a drop box for shipping in the lobby.
 - Please return all boxes to the table by Nov. 17 so they can be shipped and delivered together.
- **Cash donation**
 - All monetary donations go towards creating and shipping more boxes.
 - It costs approximately \$20 to build a box and \$10 to ship a box.
- **Donate gifts for a box**
 - You can give extra items to Tasha or Devin Glasman.
 - All of these items will be put together to make more boxes.
- **Pray**
 - All boxes go to children in need who would normally never get a gift and they are a great way to spread the word of God
 - Please pray that all boxes reach a child's heart and make them hunger for His love!



Children's Ministry News

Sunday School 9:00 am

"Answers for Kids" (prek- 6th grade)

Wednesdays- 7:00 PM

Reformation Party October 29

Save the Date!

Christmas Program—

December 21 @ 4pm

Youth Group for grades 7-12 meets

Wednesdays at 7pm.

Youth Sunday will be November 2..



Please join us for
Devotions, Prayer,
Fellowship, Support &
Playtime for the kids.



Mother's of all ages and stages (including grandmas) are welcome. Bring the kids, come when you can and leave when you need.

October 18th 10:00am - 12:00pm
(The 3rd Saturday of each month)
Grace Free Fellowship Hall



- 1 Alex Ketterer (Eric)
- 6 Andrew Hokana (Brandon)
- 8 Libbie Perleberg
- 10 Alton Himmerick
- 11 Dennis Norby
- 13 Axel Miller (Matt)
- 14 Carina Roehrich
- 15 Madi Meester
- 17 Brent Peterson
- 19 Gracia Rolf (Walter)
- Macy Schlaht
- 22 Shantell Schlaht
- LaDeen Knutson
- 23 Eldwyn Van Bruggen
- Sara Morehouse
- Preston Dahl (Mardy)
- 24 Adam Shanenko (Erik)
- 25 Adyson Hannig (Darin)
- Connie Retterath
- 26 Sylvia Neros
- 28 Grant Christensen
- 29 Evie Grotberg (Ezra)
- 30 Tavin Glasman (Devin)
- Brynleigh Milbrandt (Tom)
- Della Richman



Missionaries

- 2 Anastasia Lee (John)
- 6 Becky Abel
- 18 Paul Abel

Quilting

Thursday, October 9, 1pm

Mom's Club

Saturday, October 18, 10am

WMF Bible Study

Monday, October 20, 7pm

Faith Circle

Tuesday, October 28, 9:30am

Men's Prayer

Saturdays at 7am

The Stewardship Board will serve a meal Sunday, October 12 prior to the Quarterly Meeting. A freewill offering will be taken for our three FLBC students.

Save the Date!

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

october

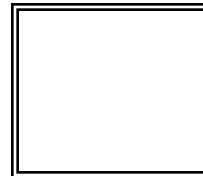


2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Confirmation 6pm Answers For Kids 7pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	2 Women's Bible Study 10am	3	4 Men's Prayer 7am
5 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am	6	7	8 Confirmation 6pm Answers For Kids 7pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	9 Women's Bible Study 10am Quilting 1pm Deacons Meet 6:30pm Boards Meet 7pm Council Meets 8pm	10	11 Men's Prayer 7am WMF Quarterly Meeting 9:30am
12 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship 10:30am Stewardship Meal Quarterly Meeting 12:30pm	13	14	15 Confirmation 6pm Answers For Kids 7pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	16 Women's Bible Study 10am	17	18 Men's Prayer 7am Mom's Club 10am
19 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship 10:30am	20 WMF Bible Study 7pm	21	22 Confirmation 6pm Answers For Kids 7pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	23 Women's Bible Study 10am Zion Fall Auction 7pm	24	25 Men's Prayer 7am
26 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship 10:30am	27	28 Faith Circle 9:30am	29 Confirmation 6pm Answers For Kids Reformation Party 7pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	30 Women's Bible Study 10am	31  Reformation Day	



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