

GraceNotes

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

The book of Job records events likely coinciding with the time of the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (approximately 2000 BC). The book of Job has often been classified as wisdom literature having many similarities to the books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. One place in which we see the theme of wisdom being explored in Job is in chapter 28 where we read:

Job 28:20 "From where, then, does wisdom come? And where is the place of understanding?"

Job 28:23 "God understands the way to it, and he knows its place."

Job 28:28 And he said to man, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.'"

All true wisdom comes from God, and God desires to give His wisdom to us. These verses from Job might remind you of the book of Proverbs that says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (9:10). Job certainly needs wisdom as he deals with the trials and sufferings he experiences. Job is often closely connected with the question, or discussion of the question of theodicy. Theodicy is the discussion of why God permits evil in the world. The contents of Job's book don't answer every question we might have about evil in the world. However, through Job's suffering, his conversations with his friends, and the message God delivers to him, we learn that God is worthy of our trust even when we do not understand all that He allows or does.

The Scripture makes clear that God is the source of true wisdom. The Lutheran Bible Companion says, "Biblical wisdom is a special revelation from God as surely as the Ten Commandments or the sermons of the prophets. Ultimately, it is knowledge leading to repentance and faith in the Lord" (vol 1, p. 482). True Biblical wisdom then is not primarily about the gathering together of all kinds of information but is primarily about knowing and believing in the Lord. Since that is the case, the book of Job certainly fits into the genre of wisdom literature because it shows Job wrestling with the broken world and what he knows about God. How can we believe in God when it seems that everything is falling apart? How can we believe in God even when it seems that God is angry with us? Can we truly trust God?

These questions are explored in Job 13:15 which says, "Though he slay me, I will hope in him; yet I will argue my ways to his face." We read a comment on this verse in the People's Bible Commentary:

Verse 15 is a remarkable expression of Job's faith in God. Regardless of what might happen to Job, he would still hope and trust in God. Smitten with disease and wracked with pain, Job felt he was already close to being killed. Yet his desire to lay his case before God was so intense that he would risk everything in the hope of being judged innocent of the charges brought against him by his friends. Job felt convinced that God would justify him. As we will see in later passages, particularly 19:25-27, Job looked beyond this life to the eternal life to come. His primary concern was not his physical suffering but his relationship with his God. We can all learn a valuable lesson from Job in that regard (p. 94-95).

The book of Job describes Job's wrestling with his understanding of God and how the Lord works in this world. Ultimately, Job's wisdom is expressed in the faith he shows in this verse which shows that Job believes in God's existence, His power, and the reality that the Lord is the only one in whom we can place our hope. We live in a sinful world and Job experienced firsthand the reality of suffering and his own helplessness. However, the wisdom revealed in Job's story is that the Lord continues to guide us to look to His character and His promises, especially His promises concerning the Messiah. This wisdom of Job is further expressed, as mentioned in the reference to Job 19:25-27 above, when he exclaims that he knows that his redeemer lives and that the Lord can provide eternal life and raise the dead. As believers in Christ, we know that Job was looking to Jesus who died and rose again that we might have eternal life.

The world is a place filled with difficulties and troubles that we cannot navigate without the Lord and the wisdom that He provides. May the Lord give us true wisdom which leads us to trust in the Lord through the good times and the difficult times in our lives. May the gracious hand of God keep turning us to His wisdom in His Word which speaks of Jesus and His work of saving and protecting us. Amen.

*By Pastor
Dennis Norby*



DATES to remember

- **WMF QUARTERLY MEETING**
September 12, 2026
- **RALLY SUNDAY**
September 13, 2026
- **END WMF FALL RALLY**
September 19, 2026

Grace Council Updates

Monthly Meeting:

Thursday, September 10, 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 8/31/26

General Fund=\$50,700.86

Building Imp. Fund=\$11,281.27

Scholarship Fund=\$11,962.86

Seminary Fund=\$0.00

General Fund CD (1)=\$46,133.50

General Fund CD (2)=\$33,533.56

General Fund CD (3)=\$62,673.29

Welcome VCSU Students!



Theo Herzog and Amelia Johnson represent Grace at VCSU Marketplace, welcoming students back to campus.

SEPTEMBER 2026

AFLC Ministry Focus for September



**Free Lutheran
BIBLE COLLEGE**

The Free Lutheran Bible College (formerly known as Association Free Lutheran Bible School—AFLBS) began in 1966 with 13 students.

The mission of FLBC:

"Establishing students in the eternal and inerrant Word of God for a life of faith in Jesus Christ and faithful service in His Kingdom."

FLBC equips students to understand Scripture for themselves, grow in their understanding of the gospel, navigate the culture with a biblical worldview, and make a difference in their family, community, and local congregation. This is accomplished through a holistic educational approach that includes academic study, intentional community, and ministry experience.

For more information or to donate to Free Lutheran Bible College visit www.flbc.edu

"Again, our worth is never determined by what we do. God has given us value by creating, redeeming, and calling us as His own. Still, we can be comforted knowing that even as we age and reach the point where we can no longer be active, God not only watches over us and cares for us, He accomplishes great and wonderful things through us. May the Lord of life grant us the faith and the strength to bear the crosses of aging in such a way that others are led to see the love of Christ manifest in us!" *Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Zion Free Lutheran Events

Sundays

9:00am Divine Worship

10:00am Fellowship

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

WMF

7:00pm Monday, September 21



Women's Bible Study

Join us for a study of
"The Holiness of God"
by RC Sproul
Beginning Thursday,
September 17, 10am



- 2 Etta Pritchett
Eldred Knutson
- 3 Tidus Glasman
- 6 Addison Hovda (Kevin)
Elizabeth Norby (Dennis)
- 7 Diane Oien
- 12 Teresa Cole
- 13 Bruce Shanenko
- 14 Katy Kupser
- 16 Owen Hovda (Kevin)
- 17 Tillie Martin
Lillian Stiegelmeier (Ben)
- 19 Benjamin Norby (Dennis)
- 21 Joanne Wetch
- 24 Larry Herzog
- 25 Elizabeth Herzog
- 28 Kya Schroeder
Reuben Stiegelmeier (Ben)
- 30 Delmere McLean

END WMF FALL RALLY

SUSTAINED BY HIS WORD

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 19

9:30 AM

 **EBENEZER FREE LUTHERAN**
220 S. Dohney St. Northwood, ND 58267

\$15 Registration Fee (includes light luncheon)

SPEAKERS: LAURIE NASH & SHARON TUNGSETH
ALASKA MISSIONS

*My soul longs for your salvation;
I hope in your word. - Psalm 119:81*

***Carpooling is available for the fall rally. Please
contact LaDeen Knutson for more information.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Quilting

1pm Thursday, September 10
WMF Quarterly Meeting
9:30am Saturday,
September 12

Rally Sunday

9am Sunday, September 13
WMF Bible Study
7pm Monday, September 21

Faith Circle

9:30am Tuesday,
September 22

Women's Bible Study

10am Thursdays beginning
September 17

Men's Prayer

7am Saturdays

Sundays

9am Sunday School
10:30am Divine Worship

Wednesdays

6pm Confirmation
7pm Answers For Kids
Youth Group
Adult Bible Study

Verse of the Month

September~

Job 19:25-26 - ¹For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. ²And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God

August~

Haggai 1:5 - Now, therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways.

July~

Isaiah 44:8 - Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any.

June~

Psalms 23:1-3- ¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. ³He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

May~

1 Peter 5:6-7- ⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

April~

1 Peter 1:3- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

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.

SEPTEMBER 2026

Rally Sunday

September 13th @ 9am

Adults - youth - kids
come & hear about the upcoming year
light breakfast served / stewardship
meal after the church service

Stewardship Fundraiser Meal

- * Rally Sunday, September 13th
following the service
- * A free will offering will be taken
for the FLBC Scholarship Fund

You Are Invited!

Tillie's 90th Birthday Open House



Saturday, September 19th
From 2-4pm

Join us in sharing memories as we
celebrate Tillie Martin's special milestone.

GRACE FREE LUTHERAN CHURCH
2351 W MAIN ST, VALLEY CITY, ND

No gifts please. Your presence and
your love are all we ask.

S E P T E M B E R

2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	3	4	5 Men's Prayer 7am
6 Lake Chapel 9am Divine Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am	7 Church Office Closed 	8	9 Confirmation 6pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	10 Quilting 1pm Deacons Meet 6:30pm Boards Meet 7pm Council Meets 8pm	11	12 Men's Prayer 7am WMF Quarterly Meeting 9:30am
13 Rally Sunday 9am Divine Worship 10:30am Stewardship Meal following service	14	15	16 Confirmation 6pm Answers For Kids 7pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	17 Women's Bible Study 10am	18	19 Men's Prayer 7am END WMF Fall Rally-- Northwood
20 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship 10:30am	21 WMF Bible Study 7pm	22 Faith Circle 9:30am 	23 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
27 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship 10:30am	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



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

Phone: (701) 845-2753

E-mail: gracefree@msn.com

Website: www.gracefree.com

Senior Pastor Dennis Norby henorbys@msn.com

Administrative Assistant~ Sarah Meester gracefree@msn.com

Children's Ministry Leader~ Erin Dahl gracefreechildrensministry@gmail.com