NOVEMBER
2026

GraceNotes

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

May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Colossians 1:11-14).

"What are your qualifications?" This might be the question you hear if you are applying for a new job. The employer asking that question wants to know how capable you are at accomplishing the tasks and responsibilities of the job. Can you actually do the work? Your answer, listing your training, education, and certifications, shows how you have prepared for the job and understand the duties the job requires.

When Paul writes to the Colossians, he says that they have been qualified to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. But if you look at how that has come about it is not through the abilities or strength of the Colossians. The Colossians could not qualify themselves to share in such an inheritance. It has come about through the gracious work of God who has delivered them out of the domain of darkness and transferred them into the kingdom of his beloved Son.

This then is our confidence and joy; our "qualification" is Jesus. His work, His love poured out upon us, gives us the position and place that we have. In 1 John 3:1 we hear about our position, as we read, "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him."

Our place then is not in the place of darkness but with the Lord and His saints in the light. We have been provided with an inheritance, which of course is not earned but given to us out of the Father's divine goodness and mercy. God's gracious work of "qualifying" His people stretches back in history to His people Israel. Remember how God provided for the Israelites when they left slavery in Egypt? He opened a way and provided the land of Canaan, the promised land as a gift to them. The people of Israel in that day were instructed in Deuteronomy 9:4-7:

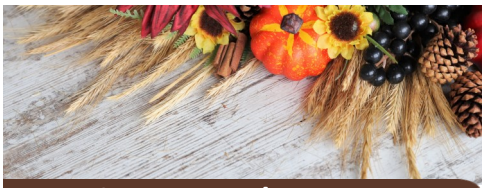
> Deut. 9:4 "Do not say in your heart, after the LORD your God has thrust them out before you, 'It is because of my righteousness that the LORD has brought me in to possess this land,' whereas it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is driving them out before you. [5] Not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart are you going in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations the LORD your God is driving them out from before you, and that he may confirm the word that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. [6] "Know, therefore, that the LORD your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stubborn people. [7] Remember and do not forget how you provoked the LORD your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day you came out of the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the LORD.

We see in such a passage a reminder of God's work which The Israelites were not "qualified" to receive such a gift but the Lord "qualified" them. Such a reminder from the history of God's people would have helped settle the Colossians into an attitude of thankfulness for what God had provided to them. These reminders should also lead us to humility and thankfulness. The inheritance the Colossians enjoyed, and ours (and even the Israelites of the past) is not primarily about the material or physical blessings that God bestows upon us, but the redemption provided for us in Christ. He forgives our sins.

The Thanksgiving holiday is set during the Fall when the harvest has been brought in, and we can rightly thank God for the provision of the crops which sustain our physical lives. I would encourage you to take time during this season to not just thank God for the regular, consistent provision He provides for our physical needs but to thank God also for the abundant, gracious gifts that He provides for our spiritual needs.

You and I have so many reasons to give thanks! We can thank God for our adoption as children of God. And we can thank God for the forgiveness of our sins. And we can thank God for the promise of heaven and eternal life. Thank God for the peace and joy that He provides for us in the midst of this dark world. Our inheritance in Christ is something that we have now, and we enjoy many benefits here and now, but we also look forward to the full enjoyments of God's gracious gift when we are with Him forever. We have not qualified ourselves for any of this. Give thanks, our God has been at work to "qualify" you through the work of Jesus Christ the Son.

By Pastor Dennis Norby



DATES to remember

- **Youth Sunday**
  November 8, 2026
- **Thanksgiving Supper & Service**
  November 18, 2026

Grace Council Updates

Monthly Meeting:

Thursday, November 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 10/30/26
General Fund=$38,833.60
Building Imp. Fund=$11,281.27
Scholarship Fund=$15,227.91
Seminary Fund=$1,374.00

General Fund CD (1)=$46,133.50
General Fund CD (2)=$34,225.00
General Fund CD (3)=$62,673.29

Youth SUNDAY

November 8
9am Zion
10:30am Grace



Sunday, November 29

NOVEMBER 2026

AFLC Ministry Focus for November
Help In Service Fund (HIS Fund)

Help In Service Fund (HIS Fund)

The purpose of the HIS Fund is to assist AFLC pastors and their families with financial needs resulting from various unforeseen circumstances. Any money distributed is done so as a gift, and repayment, while accepted, is not expected.

Donations can be sent to the AFLC with the designation HIS Fund.

For more information visit aflc.org/benefits/

"I would also like to remind you that we are part of something much bigger than a nation or a political party: the Kingdom of God. It is the eternal reign of God that shows itself in time, and it can do things we think impossible. It is the true source of justice and peace and our shelter when the storms of life are raging. No matter what happens … in the days to come, our hope is in the true King, Jesus Christ, who works through, around, or in spite of our human institutions."
Rev. Chris Wheatley – 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, November 16

JOIN US FOR OUR

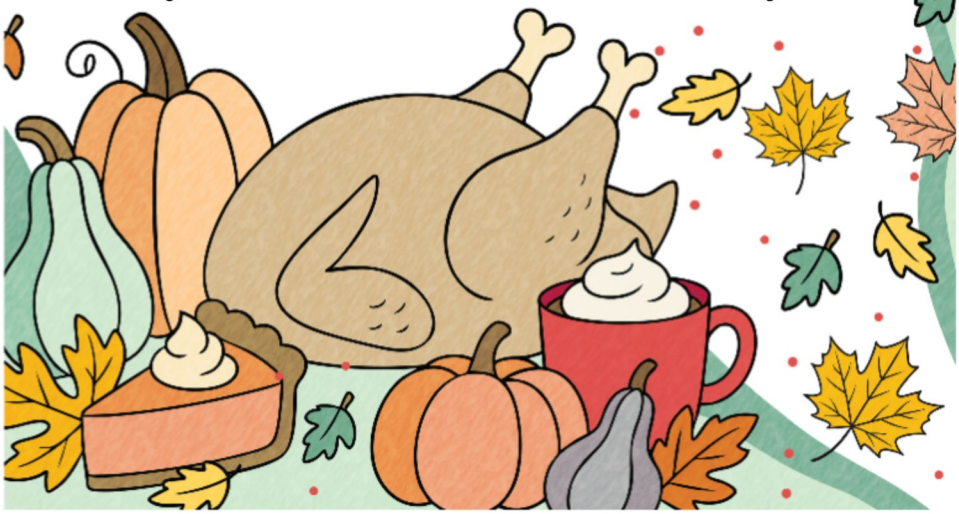
THANKSGIVING

Supper & Service

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18

SUPPER SERVED 6:00PM
SERVICE 7:15PM

Carryout Meals at 5:30pm–
Please call the church office at 845-2753 if you would like a meal delivered to you.



Meals on Wheels

Volunteers are needed to deliver Meals on Wheels on the 3rd Sunday of each month, immediately following the worship service. Sign up at the kiosk. Questions? Contact John Drummond 720-217-8934

November BIRTHDAYS

5 Mary Burchill
6 Gary Retterath
7 Daniel Norby (Dennis)
Tina Borg
10 Riley Pickar (Lindsey Schroeder)
Walter Rolf
11 Audrey Poitra (Kacie Gervers)
14 Reagan Powers (Shayne)
15 Darin Hannig
Lisa Rush
17 Doug Sorensen
19 Sophie Gilbertson (Erik)
20 Becky Schroeder (Darrell)
21 Martha Norby (Dennis)
24 Jace Shanenko (Jeremy)
27 Erik Gilbertson
30 Kristi Shanenko
Owen Schroeder (Dan)

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Youth Sunday
10:30am Sunday, November 8
Quilting
1pm Thursday, November 12
WMF Bible Study
7pm Monday, November 16
Thanksgiving Supper & Service
6pm Wednesday, November 18
Faith Circle
9:30am Tuesday, November 24
Women's Bible Study
10am Thursdays
Men's Prayer
7am Saturdays
Sundays
9am Sunday School
10:30am Divine Worship
Wednesdays
6pm Confirmation
Answers For Kids
7pm Youth Group
Adult Bible Study

Verse of the Month

November~
Colossians 1:13-14 - [13]He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, [14]in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

October~
Psalm 23:4-6 - [4]Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me. [5]You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. [6]Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

September~
Job 19:25-26 - [1]For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. [2]And 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~
Psalm 23:1-3- [1]The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. [2]He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. [3]He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.



December 20–
Sunday School Christmas Program

December 24–
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

January 22-23, 2027–
Ladies Craft Weekend



NOVEMBER

2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am	2	3	4 Confirmation 6pm Answers For Kids 6pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 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 Youth SUNDAY	9	10	11 Confirmation 6pm Answers For Kids 6pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm VETERANS DAY	12 Women's Bible Study 10am Quilting 1pm	13	14 Men's Prayer 7am
15 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship 10:30am	16 WMF Bible Study 7pm	17	18 Carryout Meals 5:30pm Thanksgiving Supper 6pm Thanksgiving Service 7:15pm	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 No Activities	26 THANKS Giving Day	27 Church Office Closed	28 Men's Prayer 7am
29 Sunday School 9am Fellowship 10am Divine Worship 10:30am FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	30					

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 thenorbys@msn.com
Administrative Assistant~ Sarah Meester gracefree@msn.com
Children's Ministry Leader~ Erin Dahl gracefreechildrensministry@gmail.com