

GRACE NOTES JUNE/JULY 2024

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

Psalm 100

By Pastor Dennis Norby

My wife, Samantha, has a little saying stuck on our refrigerator that she picked up somewhere. "Love People, Cook them Tasty Food." It reminds me that this is one of the ways (among many others) that she shows her love for our family. In fact, even as I am writing this, I am anticipating a great meal that she is preparing for our family when I get home. This is a quick and easy reminder of the value of vocation. That our callings, given by God, are used by Him to bless our neighbors. Samantha is the primary cook at our house, for which we are all thankful, but she is not only a cook. She serves us in many other ways as well. Each of us, whether husband or wife, son or daughter, employer or employee understands that we have tasks to complete for the help and benefit of those around us.

When I think about that saying from above, I also think about our neighbor at the church who ran La Cita for these last few years, Noah. Noah worked a lot of long hours and worked hard to cook tasty food for the people who entered the restaurant. His restaurant was a service for the community and when places like that close we notice. I cannot tell you how many times over the last couple of years I have seen people drive up to the doors of the restaurant and try the door and find it locked. They most often then covered their eyes to try and peer into the restaurant to see if anyone was there. Unfortunately, quite a bit of the time over the last couple of years Noah was ill and the place was closed. Now Noah has passed away and even if they do open, he will not be there to cook up some good food for us.

Over the last few years our Saturday Men's Discipleship group spent a lot of time over at the restaurant for breakfast. Enough time that we usually never grabbed menus because we knew them so well. Enough time that Noah knew our orders, unless we tried to mix it up a bit, and order something unusual. We spent enough time over there that I think he had our orders beginning to cook as we walked through the doors.

When Noah became ill, I had a few opportunities to visit with him, read God's Word, and pray for him. I was encouraged that he was glad to hear God's Word and wanted to be prayed for. On one of those early visits, I shared with him the words of Psalm 100.

Psalm 100:1 A PSALM FOR GIVING THANKS. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! 2 Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! 3 Know that the LORD, he is God! It

is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! 5 For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

This psalm is filled with joy as we consider who we are. We are people who have been created by a gracious and merciful God. We are His people, as it says, the sheep of his pasture. We who believe, who listen to the voice of the Savior, are rightly called His sheep. We become His sheep through faith and continue to listen to His voice and follow Him by faith. In that visit with Noah, he spoke about how he was one of Christ's sheep, trusting in Jesus and listening to his voice. I thank God that I had that time with him and was able to hear that confession.

May we rejoice to be Christ's sheep under his protection and care and expecting His continued mercy and abundant provision. Verse 4 of the psalm speaks about entering His courts, which is instruction for us to gather with God's people to pray, praise, and give thanks to God for His mercy.

Why do we praise Him? Because he is good and faithful. His goodness is shown to us as He gives people gifts and talents which are a help and are a blessing to us – even good cooks! His greatest blessings are those that are connected to our forgiveness won by Jesus at the cross. The Lord's steadfast love endures forever, and we who are His sheep will enjoy that love forever. Christ has shown His love for us through His innocent suffering and death for us that we might be brought into His flock and be called His precious little lambs.

I thank God that we can love people by using our everyday lives to bless and help people through various vocations. I also pray that those who bless us with their gifts and talents in this world might be blessed through us as they hear from us the message of Jesus Christ; may we love people by telling them of Jesus Christ.



Pastor Norby will be on Sabbatical through August 31. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the church office, 701-845-2753, or Jeremy Zeltinger, 701-840-6410.

**Grace Free Lutheran
Council Meeting
Thursday, June 6, 2024 &
Thursday, July 11, 2024
Deacons Meet 6:30pm
Boards Meet 7pm
Council Meets 8pm**



Please watch the bulletin for date & time of July quarterly congregational meeting.

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

Financial Summary

As of 5/31/2024

General Fund=\$103,276.28

Building Improvement Fund=\$44,397.96

(Sign=\$897.78; Parking Lot=\$20,000.18;

Exterior Maintenance=\$3,500.00; Roof=\$20,000.00)

Scholarship Fund=\$5,030.73

Seminary Fund=\$0.00

General Fund CD (1)=\$40,348.85

General Fund CD (2)=\$30,233.04

Parking Lot Fund CD=\$35,240.74

Roof Fund CD=\$65,295.00

Exterior Maintenance Fund CD=\$60,000

General Fund Average Weekly Income \$6,211.45

General Fund Average Weekly Expense \$7,128.52

VBS

**Prepare to swing into fun as we head out
on *The Great Jungle Journey!***

June 2-6

5:30 to 8:30 pm

Please sign-up if you are interested
in helping!

Contact - Erin Dahl 388.0631

Zion's Schedule

Sundays

9am Divine Worship

WMF

Monday, June 17, 7pm

WMF Quarterly Meeting

TBD– please watch the bulletin
for information

WMF Bible Study

Monday, June 17 at 7pm

Faith Circle

Tuesday, June 25 at 11am

Men's Discipleship

Will not meet during the summer

Men's Prayer

Saturdays at 7am



Zach Davis / Elsie Twedt / Esther Rabenberg / Gracia Rolf / Eli Hedstrom

**The FLBC Ambassador Team
will be in concert at Grace on
Sunday, June 30, time TBD**

Family Camp at Wilderness Bible Camp,
Lake Park, MN July 16-21

Teen Camp at FaHoCha

July 28-August 2

Pre-Teen Camp at FaHoCha

August 4-8

*Registration forms are available at the kiosk.

Dear Grace Family,

I want to thank you for your prayers and support for my family and me in the last year of my seminary classes, and over these past three years altogether. You have been able to bless our family in more ways than you know.

This last year of classes has been full of its ups and downs. Last Fall, Madi and I had our hearts set on going to Stanley, ND for our internship. During my time in seminary, I had felt a strong calling to serve a church in a more rural setting and be able to set down roots in a small community. Stanley fit that desire quite well. In addition to this desire, Stanley is only 45 minutes away from Madi's family, and we hadn't been able to see them much when we were in the Twin Cities. We were overjoyed when we were told in December that we would, in fact, be going to Stanley. Additionally, we were blessed in November to discover that we were going to be having another little boy, Leo, in August. As we looked into our future, we were full of excitement and praising the Lord for the great times we were to expect with our growing little family as well as being able to spend more time with our extended family.

In addition to the family aspects, my schooling went very well. I particularly was enjoying Pastor Steve Mundfrom's class on the study of God and looking at the Trinity. I also took an apologetics class where I wrote a paper on how the heretical teaching of Modalism destroys the Gospel. During that time, I also continued to preach regularly at Living Word Lutheran Church in Eagan, MN and taught an adult Sunday School class on the book of Genesis.

If the Fall semester was an "up," much of the Spring semester was a "down." As many of you know, Madi's dad passed away in February of heart failure, which threw a great wrench into everyone's lives. As we looked toward the future now, while we were perhaps even more anxious to move to Stanley, it was no longer out of an excitement, but rather out of a feeling of necessity: a necessity to be with family in order to support each other as we healed. During this time, I also began to wrestle with God's calling for my life. Was I really called to serve in the pastorate? As you can imagine, wrestling with this issue when you are about to go off on internship and complete three years of studying for this vocation can be rather overwhelming. I have continued to pray about this issue, and God has given me many external confirmations that this is where He wants me for now. However, I would ask that you would pray for me: that I would be open to going where God wants me.

After talking with my supervising pastor at Our Savior's Free Lutheran Church and First English Free Lutheran Church of Lostwood, Pastor Erin Tormanen, we made the move out to Stanley a month early and arrived on May 7th. We have been provided with a spacious apartment, however, in the three weeks we've been here we have had the garage door break, a mouse in our cupboards, and just today the front doorknob broke and there is now just a rag in the hole so the

neighbors can't peer in.

We've enjoyed settling into our jobs, routines and being a part of the community. I have been spending most of my time at work reading as there isn't a whole lot to do at the beginning of internship, especially when you start a month early. I've enjoyed having the time to start memorizing Psalms. My goal is to memorize one psalm per week. Madi has been spending a lot of time with her mom and Tommy has enjoyed seeing his uncles. During our time here we've also tried to become more integrated in the community, visiting the library, going to the parks, and next week we are taking a trip with a local homeschool group to go to the Roosevelt Zoo in Minot.

While there have certainly been high and low points over this past year, we are continually thankful to God for getting us through. What a continual joy it is to know that despite all of the things that life throws at us, Jesus Christ crucified for the sins of the world—mine and yours—always stands true. There is nothing that can change that fact. We are forgiven. We are loved by Christ. And He is preparing a place for us. I pray that this can be a comfort for you as well when you experience times of trial. Thank you again for all that you've done for our family. We truly couldn't have made it through this chapter in our lives without you. I am hopeful to make it back to Valley City to preach for all of you this summer. God bless you all.

In the Triune God, Mikey Meester



Mikey, Madi & Tommy

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (Thess. 5:16–18 ESV).

The apostle Paul set out a great example of his love and thanks for the congregation at the start of his letters. Having been absent these last three years from my home congregation has certainly allowed me to, in some small measure, empathize with Paul. We continue to keep Grace in our thoughts and prayers as the members have shown such wonderful support to our family while attending the Free Lutheran Seminary. The financial support, along with the encouragement, visitations, and overnight stays with us on campus, have all been blessings to us. We thank God for all the training, support and love you have shown us, and it is difficult to imagine seminary without it! May our Lord Jesus Christ continue his work among you all.

We are currently preparing for our transition to internship at Emmanuel Free Lutheran Church in Williston, ND. The truck will be loaded on June 4th, God willing, and we will unload in our new apartment on June 5th. It feels surreal as the time nears as I am saying my goodbyes to classmates at the end of the semester and on my final day working at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Cokato, MN.

Nikki will finish working at Heritage Christian Academy at the end of May and I know she is already missing her Job and the community of friends there even before she leaves. She really enjoyed teaching International Bible Class this year and the chance to share the Gospel to High School students who had never heard it.

Naomi just arrived home, as I type this, from the last day of her junior year of classes. She has had a very active year with tennis, softball, theatre, concert and select choirs, playing oboe in band, and attending Engage Global (a youth training organization for global missions). As a seminarian, it was with great curiosity listening in on her classmates (Baptists, Lutherans, Presbyterians, and Catholics) discuss their Biblical Doctrine class. Naomi plans to attend Trinity school in Williston her senior year. Her friends are not giving up so quickly and are already planning flights and trips to visits her.

We would love for you to continue to keep us in your prayers as we transition into this year of internship. It really took three years of seminary to realize the limitations of classroom instruction. Seminary has certainly provided knowledge, but it is God who molds his servants by his Word and experience. “Solid food (Christian truth) is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil” (Heb 5:14). I am excited to be under the stewardship of Senior Pastor John Wellumson, whereas the verse states, I can combine the teachings of Christian truth with experience to be better able to apply God’s Word to precious souls.

In Christian love, Troy Hanson

- 2 Claudia Gilbertson
- 3 Titus Mehlhoff (Caleb)
Jeffrey Richman
Steve Richman
- 4 Abby Shanenko (Eric)
- 6 Colleen McGinnity
Rebecca Drummond
- 7 Tricia Pfennig (Greg)
- 10 Kinsley Hoots (Nathan)
- 12 Josh Schroeder
- 13 Duane Wetch
- 14 Danny Schroeder
- 15 Wanda Niess
Elaine Almberg
Trevan Pfennig (Greg)
- 16 Jessa Hafele
- 19 Ashten Hannig (Darin)



- 20 Delores Card
- 22 Brandon Pritchett
- 28 Amelia Meester (Tom)

Our Missionaries

- 1 Steve Kvale
- 21 Emily Raan
Elijah Wagner (Josh)

- 2 Sully Morast (DJ)
- 5 Jenna Hannig
- 6 Ann Rolf
- 7 Tom Meester
- 13 Andy Sveet
- 16 Violet Richman (George)
- 21 Erin Roswick
Tommy Meester (Mikey)
- 22 Ryan Graalum
- 23 Jan Kjelland
- 25 Nancy Sorensen
- 26 Mason Dahl (Mardy)
Iris Richman (George)
- 27 Nathan Hoots
- 28 Jeff Perleberg
Bonnie Van Bruggen
- 29 Aliyah Hannig (Darin)
Jeremy Stensland



Our Missionaries

- 3 John Lee Jr (John)
- 9 Zoey Abel (Matthew)
Isaiah Wagner (Josh)
- 20 Jonni Sliver
- 23 John Lee
- 30 Amaleah Raan
(Brent)



Seth, Nikki, Naomi & Troy



GRACE YOUTH SUMMER SCHEDULE

JUNE 12

7 pm Youth Group Chautauqua Park
Starting the study on James.

JUNE 19

No Youth Group - Mission Trip
departs for thru June 23rd.

JUNE 26

7 pm Youth Group Chautauqua Park
James Continued

JULY 3

Water Fun Together - Details to
Come... Continue James Study

JULY 10

7 pm Youth Group Chautauqua Park -
James Continued

JULY 17

No Youth Group - Family Camp

JULY 24

7 pm Youth Group Chautauqua Park
James Continued...

JULY 31

No Youth Group - Fahocha

AUGUST 7

7 pm Youth Group Chautauqua Park

AUGUST 14

7 pm Youth Group Chautauqua Park
James Continued...

AUGUST 16

Concert in Jamestown at SMILE
Studios

AUGUST 21

7 pm Youth Group Chautauqua Park
James Continued...

AUGUST 28

7 pm Youth Group Chautauqua Park -
James Continued



June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Men's Prayer 7am
2 Lake Chapel 9am Divine Worship with Holy Communion Confirmation 10:30am	3	4	5	6 Deacons Meet 6:30pm Boards Meet 7pm Council Meets 8pm	7	8 Men's Prayer 7am
VBS June 2 - 6, 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm						
9 Lake Chapel- Tim & Becky Hager 9am Divine Worship 10:30am	10	11	12 Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	13	14	15 Men's Prayer 7am
AFLC Annual Conference June 12-15, Plymouth, MN						
16 Lake Chapel- Tom Milbrandt 9am Divine Worship 10:30am	17 WMF Bible Study 7pm	18	19 Adult Bible Study 7pm	20 	21	22 Men's Prayer 7am
Youth Trip to Sioux Falls June 19-23						
23 Lake Chapel- Tim Berntson 9am Divine Worship 10:30am	24	25 Faith Circle 11am	26 Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	27	28	29 Men's Prayer 7am
30 Lake Chapel- Greg Allen 9am Divine Worship 10:30am						



July

2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	4  Church Office Closed	5 Church Office Closed	6 Men's Prayer 7am
7 Lake Chapel- Brian Wright 9am Divine Worship with Holy Communion Confirmation 10:30am	8	9	10 Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	11 Deacons Meet 6:30pm Boards Meet 7pm Council Meets 8pm	12	13 Men's Prayer 7am
14 Lake Chapel- Cade Powers 9am Divine Worship 10:30am	15 WMF Bible Study 7pm	16	17 Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	18	19	20 Men's Prayer 7am
Wilderness Family Camp July 16 - 21						
21 Lake Chapel- Gary Retterath 9am Divine Worship 10:30am	22	23 Faith Circle 11am	24 Youth Group 7pm Adult Bible Study 7pm	25	26	27 Men's Prayer 7am
28 Lake Chapel- Randy Schlecht 9am Divine Worship 10:30am Teen Camp at FaHoCha July 28 - August 2	29	30	31 Adult Bible Study 7pm			



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

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Senior Pastor Dennis Norby thenorbys@msn.com
Administrative Assistant~ Sarah Meester gracefree@msn.com
Children's Ministry Leader~ Erin Dahl