

March 1, 2026

To the Whom it May Concern,

It is my sincere privilege to write this letter of recommendation for a truly exceptional young man as he applies for this scholarship to attend Grand Canyon University. As Elijah's pastor and youth minister, I have had the honor of walking alongside him throughout his high school years and witnessing firsthand the depth of his character, faith, and commitment to serving others.

For several years, Elijah has been an active and devoted member of our church community. He faithfully serves on our praise band, using his musical gifts to lead others in worship with both excellence and humility. His heart for worship is not about recognition, but about authentically honoring Jesus and inviting others to do the same. His consistency and reliability have made him someone our church family can always count on.

Beyond Sunday mornings, Elijah also regularly attends youth gatherings and is deeply engaged in every aspect of our ministry. Whether participating in service projects, volunteering at church events, or being engaged with assisting our youth fundraisers, he approaches each opportunity with a positive attitude and a servant's heart. Elijah does not need to be asked twice; if there is a need, he steps in. His joyful spirit and willingness to serve set a powerful example for his peers.

One of the qualities I admire most about him is his integrity. His faith is not confined to words—it is evident in his actions. He lives out what he believes, demonstrating kindness, respect, and maturity in his relationships. He regularly brings his girlfriend to our bi-monthly youth nights, encouraging her spiritual growth as well, which reflects his leadership and desire to share meaningful parts of his life with others.

Over the years, I have watched him grow into a young man of strong conviction, compassion, and responsibility. He is dependable, teachable, and eager to grow. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to be part of his life during these formative years.

I am confident that Elijah will be a positive and impactful presence on campus. He will not only pursue academic excellence but will also contribute meaningfully to campus life through service, leadership, and genuine care for others. I believe that any scholarship that he is awarded will be put to incredible use, and he will dedicate his time and attention to his college programs in the way he has poured himself into the youth program at Saving Grace Lutheran Church.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Pastor Ryan Golden
Associate Pastor
Saving Grace Lutheran Church
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