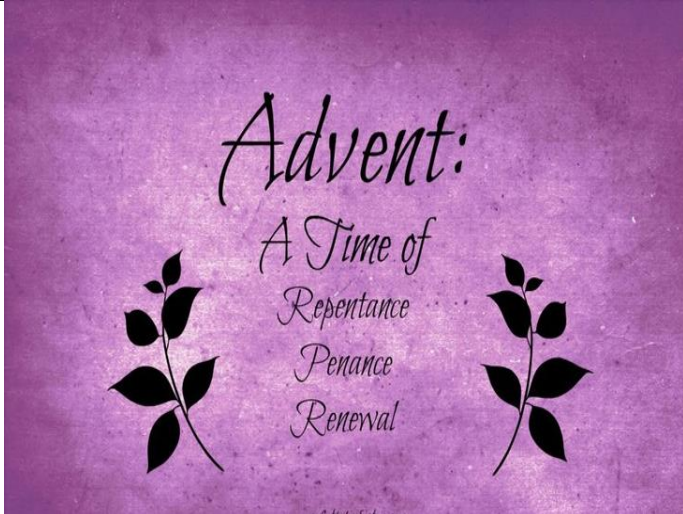


# Graceline

A monthly publication of Grace Lutheran Church



## Pastor David's Message



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**GRACELINE is a monthly newsletter published by:**  
**Grace Lutheran Church**  
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**Church Office: Miriam Shopland-Keith**  
**Office Hours: 9:00AM to 2:00PM – Monday to Friday - 250.769.5685**

### Joy to the World

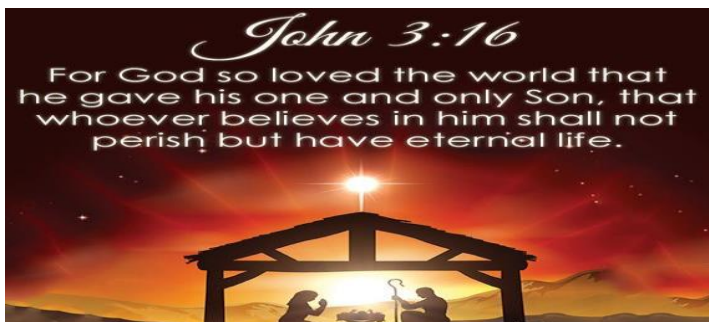
Is there a lot of Joy in the world this Christmas? With the war and destruction in the middle east and Ukraine there is little joy in these places. With the escalating prices of inflation there is little joy for struggling folk. So, can we sing, "Joy to the World," this year? Singing this song is not about these things. However, it gives us hope for the only one who can give us true joy, and that is Jesus Christ. To follow the Christ child is part of the third verse of this song:

*No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
 nor thorns infest the ground;  
 He comes to make His blessings flow  
 far as the curse is found,  
 far as the curse is found,  
 far as, far as the curse is found.*

With Jesus, His thorns on him at the cross defeats the curse of sin and death, that infest us no more. In believing in Him frees me to be a better person, His teaching leads me to peace, to kindness and compassion which the world needs. I believe the world needs more of Jesus now, than anything else.

We always say we need a new plan, a new vision to make the world a better place. That plan has always been there in the Gospels, yet when we do not follow the instructions, things will tend to break.

Jesus is what we really need for Christmas, however, is this what people are asking for this Christmas? If we let Christ rule



our hearts, then, truly then, we can live in hope. In the fourth verse it proclaims:

*He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of His righteousness  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders, wonders of His love.*

Truth, grace and love is the theme of Christmas and the Gospel of Our Lord. How are we to react to this to make the world a better place? Maybe it starts by singing this song. Isaac Watts wrote the lyrics to this song many years ago, and it was set to a tune written by Handel. Isaac Watts wanted to make the world a better place. He started with a song. One day he complained to his father about how the church hymns they sang were boring. His father then challenged him to come up with better hymns if he wanted to complain about it. So, Isaac Watts did and wrote many hymns including, "Joy to the World". What new song will we sing in our hearts for Jesus this year, I hope it is a song of joy, hope, grace and of the wonders of His Love.

*In Christ, Pastor David*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Christmas Youth Event-**  
Please contact Pastor David  
Wunderlich by text or phone:  
250.317.6502



**CONCERT at Grace Lutheran Church  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> - 7:00PM  
EVERYONE WELCOME - BRING A FRIEND!**



Notice is hereby given to hold a Special Congregational Meeting on **Sunday January 7, 2024**, for the sole purpose of postponing the Church's Annual General Meeting from the end of February, 2024 to March 24, 2024. Our Treasurer will be away from January 1 to February 9, 2024, and will therefore be unable to prepare the annual financial reports to December 31, 2023, for presentation to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) which is normally held at the end of the following February. Council has approved the above proposed motion, which would allow the Treasurer time to complete the annual reports upon his return for presentation at the Church's 2024 AGM proposed for **Sunday, March 24, 2024**. After the Special Congregational Meeting, which should take only 10 minutes to consider this one resolution to change our annual congregational meeting to March 24, 2024, as required by the Church's Bylaws. We will have a combined service at 10:00AM followed by the meeting at 11:00AM, followed by lunch.. Your Council Chair, Paul Hertel

## Grace News



December is here and the sentiment I hear the most is, "This year has flown by," or "What happened to 2023?" or "I think that time is going by faster." Whatever it is, December has certainly arrived quickly and the advent of our Saviour, Jesus Christ is upon us. What are we doing to prepare for this wondrous advent? Are we prepared? Are your hearts prepared for a King? Be sure to attend our 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Joy Concert on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, and you will hear the Grace choir sing the song, "Is Your Heart Prepared for a King?" There are many participants in this year's concert, including, our Ukrainian families, Linda Wadsworth, Ellie Schindel, Melodie Petersen, Rhiannon Jones, Don Chapman, Nils Selnes, Brent Keith, Full of Grace, Vox Forte! Youth Chorale Ensemble and Miriam Keith. Every year the Christmas Joy concert is such a



popular event and it brings so much joy to the members of our Grace congregation and to the members of our West Kelowna community, so please come out to share in the Christmas Joy!! This month we also look forward to our Christmas Eve Candlelight services. We will have a 5:00PM service with Praise Band and a 7:00PM service with Grace Choir and Full of Grace singing. **Please note that Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year so there will only be the 2 services at 5:00 & 7:00PM.** We will have a Christmas Day Nativity of Our Lord service at 10:00AM with Holy Communion. Everyone is welcome to attend! Grace Choir is practicing on Thursdays at 7:00PM and we look forward to hearing anthems from Grace Choir on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. Deni invites everyone who has been thinking about joining choir to finally make the move to come out on Thursday nights at 7:00PM. You won't be disappointed because of all the health, social & spiritual benefits you will receive from singing with the choir. Take a moment to read the following article to discover these benefits: <https://www.healthline.com/health/benefits-of-singing>. Thank you to Full of Grace who has continued to provide a monthly Call to Worship and who are also leading the hymns on Sundays in the 11:00AM service. Full of Grace continues to provide their music ministry at Brookhaven Care Home and Brent Keith gives a short message with Bible readings and prayers to a very enthusiastic audience. We are very blessed to have this music ministry in our church. It is awesome to hear and see more people in the church during the week and on Sundays. There is no time commitment, just a willingness to serve. **We are looking for help in the following areas: Sound Booth, Greeters, Communion Assistance & Choir.** If there is an area where you would like to help out in the church or in the worship services, please contact the pastor or the office and let us know what you would like to do. If you are still undecided about coming out for Sunday worship, please consider it, we miss seeing you!

**Grace Choir** resumes on Thursday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM. If you have any questions call Deni Skutshek 250.801.9098 or the church office 250.769.5685.

**Full of Grace** is the singing group leading the 11:00AM worship hymns and who perform an anthem in the 11:00AM service once a month. We could use a bass singer so if you love singing and can sing the bass-line, please contact Miriam in the office at 250.769.5685.

**Men's Breakfast** December 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:30AM in the Fellowship Hall.

**Online Services** We continue to record one Sunday worship service each week, and our sound booth team makes it ready for viewing on Sunday afternoon. Here is a quick link to Vimeo so that you may watch it in the afternoon: [Grace Videos on Vimeo](#). Otherwise, you may view the Sunday worship service at our church website: [www.gracelutheranelowna.com](http://www.gracelutheranelowna.com) by clicking on the Videos tab. This will drop down and you can choose what service you would like to view.

**Special Occasions** Are you celebrating a milestone birthday or anniversary and would like to share your happy day in a picture that we could include in our monthly newsletter, please send it

to [info@gracelutheranelowna.com](mailto:info@gracelutheranelowna.com) with a brief description of the momentous occasion.



## COMPASSION CORNER

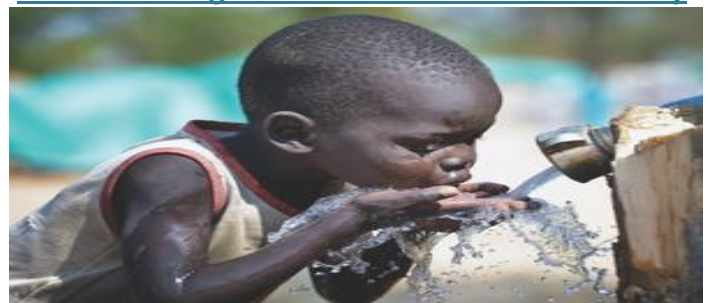
Pray for everyone in our church family who mourns including the Ruff, Fenson, and Rodacker families. Remember the Hamilton family and all families affected

by the wildfires in your prayers. Pray for those in need of prayer after surgery including Ursula Sommerfeld. Pray for those at home, including Louise Shopland, Nedra Schuler, Gerald Schuler, Penny Pfahl, Jim Szabo, Emily Hughes (Deni Skutshek's mother), Fran Schmidt, Joan Ulmer, Coco Heebner, Brenda Heise, Pia Scott, Robert Shopland, Helene Hack, Lorraine Wentland and Ferne Sather. ***Come to me, all who are weary and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28***

### **Ukrainian Humanitarian Mission Fund UPDATE**

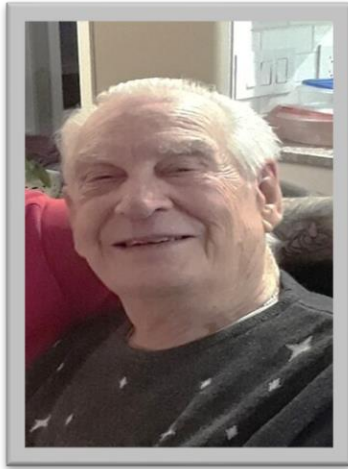
The Ukrainian Humanitarian Mission Fund committee would like to announce that another Christian family from has arrived in West Kelowna could use some help. Denis Vinkov and his wife Anna Fursa and daughter Juliana arrived in Canda 6 weeks ago. The father has a job in construction 4 days a week but is looking for additional work on Fridays and Saturdays), while his wife studies English and daughter attends Mount Boucherie secondary school. They could use a dresser, wardrobe cabinet, clothes dryer, freezer, computer desk large sauce pan, coffee grinder, kitchen towels adult bike, mixing bowls (large and small), empty canning jars with lids, sofa cover lamps, embroidery and sewing material a shelf for the bathroom, and cat toys. If you can help with any of these please contact Jack Spielman: [espielman@shaw.ca](mailto:espielman@shaw.ca) or 778 215 0839.

### **Clean Drinking Water for an Entire Community**



This Christmas, Grace Lutheran Church will be supporting **Canadian Lutheran World Relief - Community Clean Drinking Water Project**. For \$2,000.00, a well will be built in a refugee settlement to provide the life-giving water they need. We will be collecting money from November 5th until December 17th. - **Please write on your envelope: CLWR - Clean Drinking Water Project** - All money collected will be put towards purchasing a well or two.

## In Loving Memory



### Harold Ruff

August 5, 1933 – November 9, 2023

Harold Theodore Ruff, age 90, passed away on November 9, 2023 at Kelowna General Hospital. He was born to Frederick and Therese (Rose) Ruff on August 5, 1933 in Yorkton Saskatchewan. He was married to Marian Petrie on April 10, 1999 and currently resided in Peachland. Harold is survived by his son Glenn Ruff and his wife Marian, his daughter Diane Isaak and her husband Vic, his daughter Carol Warren and her husband Cal and his daughter Sue Schindel and her husband Bob, his brother Ed Ruff and his wife Viida as well as his sisters-in-law, Mary Liggett, Jenny Ruff and Ruth Smith who came from England to look after Harold and Marian and whom he often referred to as the sister he never had. Harold also leaves behind his grandchildren Nichole Ankerstein, Jeremy Allen, Dallas, Phillips, Michelle Marciski, Michael Allen, Justin Clarke, Steven Collins, Rylan Clarke and 15 great grandchildren. Harold was predeceased by his parents, brother Gordon Ruff, wife Lillian and wife Grace. As a residential contractor Harold built many homes in Winnipeg, Kelowna and Vanderhoof and finished his career back in Kelowna working for Gallagher's Canyon Homes. Harold's love for carving has left us all with many amazing gifts of woodworking projects and carvings. A memorial service was held on Friday, November 17, 2023 at 11:00AM Grace Lutheran Church.

She will bear a son, and  
you shall call his name  
Jesus, for he will save his  
people from their sins.

MATTHEW 1:21

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
CHRISTMAS JOY  
CONCERT**

**Friday, Dec 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:00PM**  
**1162 Hudson Road West Kelowna**

*Come out and enjoy listening to members of the West Kelowna community share music that reflects the Christmas season. There will be cider time in the Fellowship Hall after the concert. We will be delighted to see you!*

*Vox Forte! Youth Chorale Ensemble Grace Choir  
Holik Family Sokolov Family Full of Grace Nils Selnes  
Melodie Petersen Ellie Schindel Strupynsky Family  
Vinkov Family Brent Keith Rhiannon Jones Miriam Keith  
Linda Wadsworth Deni Skutshek Don Chapman*



## Christmas Services at Grace Lutheran Church

**5:00PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**  
**7:00PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**  
**10:00AM Christmas Day Service with Holy  
Communion**



# Congregational Life

## Christian Education

**Sundays - Sunday School** – 10:15AM. Please meet Marilyn in the Quiet Room.

**Mondays - Bible Study** at 7:00PM via ZOOM. Email Jim for an invitation at: [jhwstatham@shaw.ca](mailto:jhwstatham@shaw.ca)

**Wednesdays - Ladies Bible Study** at 9:30AM

**Thursdays - Choir practice** at 7:00PM. Choir will sing an anthem at the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday service at 11:00AM.

SO VERY  
*grateful*  
INCREDIBLY  
*thankful*  
UNBELIEVABLY  
*blessed*

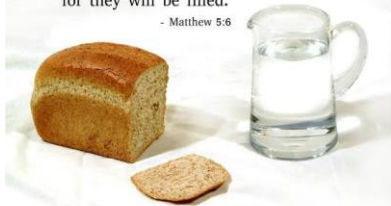
## Serving Others

**Volunteer at the Kelowna Gospel Mission**  
251 Leon Ave, Kelowna, BC

On the 4th Tuesday of every month a team from Grace Lutheran goes to the Kelowna Gospel Mission. They help in the kitchen with lunch preparation and serving. If you would like to serve in this way, please contact Corinn Lutz at 250.869.8092 or by email: [timcorlutz@gmail.com](mailto:timcorlutz@gmail.com)

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

- Matthew 5:6



## Grace Dine & Chat

**NO December Dine & Chat!** Merry Christmas! Are you interested in meeting more people from Grace Lutheran Church and enjoying Christian fellowship and good food? Grace singles & couples are Invited out after church on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month for lunch and discussion at one of our local restaurants. Contact Karen Arend at: [arendek@shaw.ca](mailto:arendek@shaw.ca).

UP  
stir the gift  
of which  
God is in  
2 Tim 1:6 you

Prepare the way  
of the Lord  
Prepare the way  
of the Lord  
Prepare the way  
of the Lord

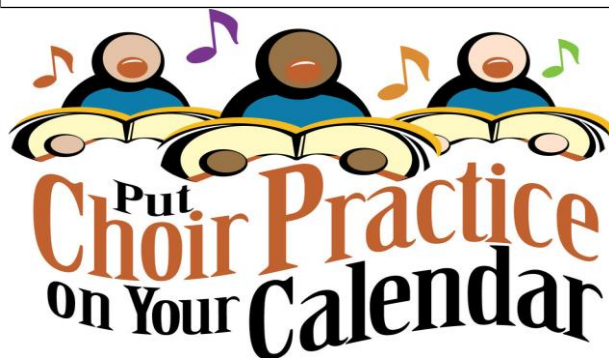
## GRACE COFFEE SOCIAL

People of Grace are encouraged and welcome to join us in the Fellowship Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays between 10:10-10:50AM for coffee, a snack and fellowship with other Grace members. Since COVID we have not been able to have our coffee hour after church and there are a lot of new faces at Grace. We need to reach out and meet with one another. We chose this time slot in order for people from both services to attend. If you would like to help out with the coffee, minimal setup and cleanup is involved, so please contact Erika Burt for more information at 250.768.5912.

## Council Meeting

Next meeting December 12<sup>th</sup> at Pastor David's place at 7:00PM

If you love to sing with a group or want to give it a try, please come out and join Grace Choir on Thursdays at 7:00PM. For more information, call Deni at 250.801.9098



For unto you is born this day in the city of David a

**Saviour**

which is Christ the Lord.

- Luke 2:11

# Jesus Loves ME!

The Bible tells me so!

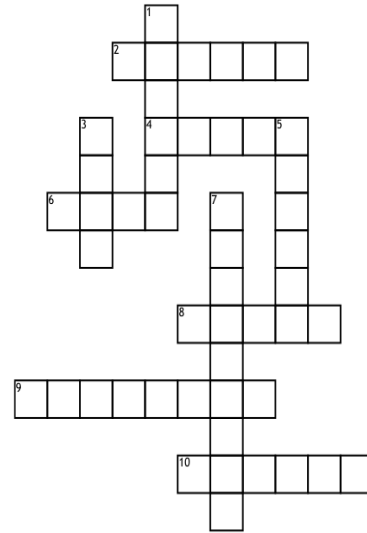
Remember to come to Sunday School at  
10:15AM! See You There!

## Holiday Tunes

- Away in a Manger
- Choir of the Bells
- Dominick the Donkey
- Frosty the Snowman
- Holly Jolly Christmas
- Jingle Bell Rock
- Jingle Bells
- Let it Snow
- Little Drummer Boy
- Little St Nick
- O Holy Night
- Rudolph
- Santa Baby
- Silent Nigh
- Silver Bells
- The Christmas Song
- The First Noel
- Winter Wonderland

S G R D A M A F C I F Z Z X F K U H J X  
 W A W A Y O B R E M M U R D E L T T I L  
 C K M B H P L O D U R J T G J I H Z N O  
 Z D W T Z E D S Y E L C B Y R T G C G K  
 G N O S S A M T S I R H C E H T I J L L  
 Q A N K O I D Y A L F D G I R L N B E D  
 X L S O X Q R T B T I N W X N E T O B J  
 D R T J T I R H V A A H X I P S N A E W  
 F E I F W V T E C M B E U U B T E S L S  
 N D T U C C H S A Y A A I N S N L C L Q  
 B N E V X E G N X I L M T R I I I Y R W  
 F O L N I A I O Z T K L I N X C S J O U  
 B W V E S Y N W K M G F O O A K T E C N  
 G R O K A C Y M V Z E U A J Y S L D K U  
 M E Q W Q O L A O H K P I T Y K B N M Q  
 G T A P U I O N T S L L E B E L G N I J  
 L N F G C Z H N S L L E B R E V L I S E  
 I I Y E K N O D E H T K C I N I M O D S  
 L W B T K S L L E B E H T F O R I O H C  
 U I M U Y F C J H B X B V R U M Q C Y B

## The Christmas Story



### Across

2. The father of Jesus
4. These wise men visited the baby and brought him gifts.
6. The mother of Jesus
8. Baa baa baa
9. The month we celebrate Jesus' birth.
10. Away in a....

### Down

1. This was the animal Mary rode into town
3. This is how the shepherds found the baby.
5. Because the inn was full, the family had to sleep in the
7. The town where Jesus was born.






**O HOLY NIGHT**


A	D	N	H	P	W	P	J	Q	B	T	G	F	F	S	Q	V
Y	D	M	Q	M	I	A	A	S	T	A	R	R	L	G	F	R
F	X	F	A	G	R	D	O	N	K	E	Y	A	S	Q	L	J
F	S	B	U	G	S	A	V	I	O	R	M	N	F	W	U	W
H	H	E	A	X	W	I	X	H	Z	I	E	K	J	A	C	B
E	E	T	M	B	Y	J	R	S	N	M	V	I	N	Z	X	I
M	P	H	I	N	Y	R	O	A	E	H	H	N	U	G	L	B
I	H	L	B	K	Y	P	G	S	Z	B	N	C	Z	O	Q	J
W	E	E	Z	M	Z	N	I	M	E	U	Q	E	X	L	M	E
K	R	H	I	M	Z	W	F	M	E	P	S	N	P	D	N	S
Z	D	E	R	A	S	K	T	A	B	A	H	S	L	D	Y	U
G	N	M	Q	J	J	J	S	N	Y	I	A	E	S	R	V	S
V	A	N	F	Q	F	A	T	G	F	T	G	I	A	Z	T	X
N	J	C	U	R	Z	Z	X	E	U	N	O	M	N	G	L	Z
B	K	Y	M	W	I	H	F	R	A	P	E	A	C	E	G	W

ANGEL	GIFTS	MYRRH
ANIMALS	GOLD	PEACE
BABY	JESUS	SAVIOR
BETHLEHEM	JOSEPH	SHEPHERD
DONKEY	MANGER	STAR
FRANKINCENSE	MARY	WISE MEN



# DECEMBER 2023 – Grace Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>Advent 1</b> 9AM Contemporary with Holy Communion 10:15AM Sunday School 11AM Traditional w/Holy Communion	7:00PM Zoom Confirmation 7:00PM Zoom Bible Study with Jim Statham	2PM Lakeview Lodge Chapel PD	9:30AM Ladies Bible Study 2:00PM Brookhaven Chapel FOG	7:00PM Choir Practice	7:00PM Christmas Joy Concert 	8:30AM Men's Breakfast
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Advent 2</b> 9AM Contemporary 10:10AM Coffee Social Fellowship Hall 10:15AM Sunday School 11AM Traditional	7:00PM Zoom Confirmation 7:00PM Zoom Bible Study with Jim Statham	7:00PM Council Meeting at Pastor David's place	9:30AM Ladies Bible Study	7:00PM Choir Practice		1:00PM Emmaus Lutheran Finnish Service 4:00PM 4-H Supper
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<b>Advent 3</b> 9AM Contemporary 10:15AM Sunday School 11AM Traditional w/Holy Communion				6:30PM Choir Potluck & Practice		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<b>Nativity of Our Lord</b> 5:00PM Candlelight Service 7:00PM Candlelight Service 	<b>Nativity of Our Lord</b> 10:00AM Service 					
31						
<b>Christmas 1</b> 9AM Contemporary 10:10AM Coffee Social Fellowship Hall 11AM Traditional						



The gift of love,  
the gift of peace, and the  
gift of happiness - may all  
these be yours.  
Wishing you a season full  
of light and laughter.

*Merry Christmas*  
From Pastor David Wunderlich, Pastor Emeritus  
Ed Skutshek and Miriam Shopland Keith, Office