

Graceline

A monthly publication of Grace Lutheran Church



2024 CALC Convention

Edmonton, AB

Delegate's Report

Submitted by Julia Emmond, Grace Lutheran Church Delegate

"Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before" – Joshua 3:4a I'm immediately thankful for the chance to have participated in this year's CALC convention, once more in Edmonton, Alberta. It's genuinely a privilege to be involved in such a rewarding and uplifting event. This year's convention grappled with the theological concepts of suffering, faith, and the nature of the church. We delved into the complexities of human experiences, including the age-old question of why bad things happen to good people, and explored the transformative power of suffering in shaping spiritual character. Additionally, discussion around the enduring resilience of the church, stressing the importance of discipleship, community engagement, and adaptability in fostering congregational vitality, was eye-opening and inspiring. A resilient church calls its congregation to a deeper understanding of faith, a willingness to confront challenges fearlessly, and a commitment to embody the love and teachings of Christ in both word and action. Dr. Leon Miles, faculty member and Executive Vice President of the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT), opened Friday morning with reflections on the practical realities within the church by offering a reminder of the challenges faced by contemporary believers. Leon shared that 90% of his confirmation students stop attending church after high school but noted a hopeful trend where individuals often turn to Jesus later in life, especially when facing darkness. He drew a parallel with Proverbs 22:6, suggesting that guiding children onto the right path ensures they remain steadfast in their faith as they grow older. Additionally, Leon highlighted that the increasing darkness in the world strengthens the church and reaffirms its role as a beacon of light and hope. Dr. Leon then went on to tackle a timeless question: why do bad things happen to good people? He echoed Luther's struggle in the 16th century, highlighting that good people ultimately win in the end, as they become stronger through adversity and can look forward to heaven. In contrast, bad people may gain material possessions in this world, but they ultimately lose out on eternal salvation. He

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Grace Lutheran Church

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GLC Chairperson: Everley Lutz

Church Office: Miriam Shopland-Keith

Office Hours: 9:00AM to 2:00PM – Monday to Friday - 250.769.5685



urged us to embody both gentleness and wisdom, embracing suffering as a tool for faith-building. Dr. Leon also delved into Luther's intriguing core belief that good works without faith lack significance. In Luther's Heidelberg Disputation, he emphasizes that neither the law nor good deeds contribute to righteousness and faith. He contends that relying on human works, rather than God's grace, leads to vanity and sin. In Luther's perspective, the right-hand kingdom operates by grace, while the left-hand kingdom operates by rewards, emphasizing that faith is essential for meaningful good works, and underscores the importance of admitting guilt rather than justifying oneself. After lunch, Dr. Leon taught us about the dichotomy between God's Alien Work and His Proper Work, drawing from Isaiah 28:21 to illustrate how the Law functions to expose sin. Conversely, Christ's call to bear our cross daily signifies God's Proper Work, wherein suffering is not indicative of divine anger but rather an opportunity for spiritual growth and understanding. This Work contrasts the Theology of Glory, which views suffering as punishment for wrongdoing, with a Theology of the Cross which sees suffering as a means of cultivating endurance and humility. This distinction highlights the transformative power of suffering, shifting the focus from self-centered pride to a deeper sense of humility and reliance on God's grace. Dr. Leon closed his presentation by emphasizing that God calls us to serve our neighbors, which means being faithful, repentant, and dedicated to discipleship without fear. Faithfulness involves trusting God's plan, despite challenges like financial struggles within the church, or leadership issues. Repentance means avoiding rigid traditionalism and being open to change, focusing on bringing people to faith more than maintaining buildings. Discipleship requires biblical literacy and preparing for new church members. We should be unafraid of change, knowing that closing a church isn't failure but part of God's plan. Lastly, we must lovingly reach out to those living in darkness, speak the truth in love, and practice true religion by caring for the vulnerable and marginalized. Pastor Ed led the afternoon session into an absorbing exploration of what congregational vitality entails, covering various factors such as member engagement, worship vibrancy, leadership effectiveness, and community impact. We learned how vital congregations demonstrate a commitment to Jesus Christ through active involvement in worship, discipleship, outreach, and service. Pastor Ed emphasized that congregational vitality is measured by mission fulfillment and community impact rather than size. Crucial to vitality is attracting young families, with an emphasis on newcomers feeling welcome to attend services without prior arrangements. He went on to explain however, that vitality faces challenges from internal and external forces that weaken congregational strength and effectiveness. Healthy congregations have well-trained clergy, active leadership, and engaged congregants, yet many congregations struggle with pastoral vacancies, financial challenges, and declining

attendance, indicating a need for revitalization. Pastor Ed's presentation stressed that congregational vitality relies on members' active involvement in worship, discipleship, outreach, and service. After enjoying a social hour reconnecting with friends from past CALC conferences, we indulged in a magnificent feast combining the best elements of all holiday meals into one delightful spread. The evening reached its perfect conclusion with a beautiful worship service shared alongside Pastor Ed, Pastor David, Deni, Linda, and all the other wonderful CALC attendees. Picture a colossal, endlessly replenishing gleaming silver platter of crispy bacon—a perpetual delight for CALC attendees as they kicked off their Saturday morning. Following this scrumptious breakfast was this year's business meeting which encompassed alterations and advancements within CALC, covering pastoral assignments, theological instruction, and the condition of different congregations. Key points from the meeting included the admission of two new congregations into CALC: Hope Lutheran Church in Edmonton, Alberta, and Peace Lutheran Church in Fort St. John. Additionally, Ivar Osness and Ruby Thiessen were welcomed as Individual Associate Members. Pastor Marc Lapoint, Pastor Manfred Schmidt, Pastor Rex Lo, Pastor Edmund Roste, Pastor Rick Berg, and Pastor Harry Huff, announced their retirements and removal from the Pastors Roster. Several new additions were then made to the roster, including Christiaan Koch (a Pastor-in-Training), Pastor Rick Berg, Pastor Johnson Hang-On Leung, Pastor Harry Huff (appointed as Pastor Emeritus), and Pastor Mark Lapoint (also appointed as Pastor Emeritus). Students Kelly Fedkiw, Christiaan Koch, and Jack Landon were acknowledged for their theological studies in the Shepherd's Pathway program. Next on the agenda was the presentation of the Theological Committee's Report, offered in draft form. The report highlighted contemporary challenges of Gender Dysphoria and Transgenderism, two major issues confronting our present generation. The committee stressed that their intention was not to seek adoption but rather to seek approval for initiating discussions and distribution to the congregations. We unfortunately had to depart the meeting earlier than anticipated due to our flight home. However, before our departure, Leona Ferguson from Trinity Lutheran Church in Alberta was appointed Trustee, and Caroline Park from Bethel Lutheran Church in Lea Park, Alberta, was welcomed to the Nomination Committee. Leaving behind the comfort of our routines, especially for the hustle and bustle of air travel, isn't always the most appealing prospect. The hassle of packing, navigating airports, and enduring long flights can make the idea of attending CALC seem less enticing at first glance. However, amidst the inconveniences, there lies a wealth of benefits waiting to be discovered. Attending the CALC convention is about being immersed in an environment where like-minded individuals gather to share experiences, insights, and faith. It's about the connections we forge, the knowledge we gain, and

the inspiration we receive. From engaging discussions to uplifting worship services, every moment at the convention is an opportunity for growth and renewal, and who better to have as a travel buddy than Pastor David! Despite temporary discomforts, the decision to attend the CALC convention is one that promises rewards far beyond what any travel inconvenience can overshadow. It's a chance to enrich your life, deepen your faith, and contribute to something greater than yourself. And in the end, as you reflect on the experiences gained and the connections made, you'll realize that the journey was indeed worth every moment. Sincerely, Julia Emmond

Grace News



The Holy Trinity – def: The doctrine of the Trinity means that there is one God who eternally exists as three distinct Persons — the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Stated differently, God is one in essence and three in person. (Internet - Jan 23, 2006). The Old Testament has been interpreted as referring to the Trinity in many places. One of these is the prophecy about the Messiah in Isaiah 9:6. The Messiah is called, "Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Some Christians see this verse as meaning the Messiah will represent the Trinity on earth. This is because Counselor is a title for the Holy Spirit (John 14:26), the Trinity is God, Father is a title for God the Father, and Prince of Peace is a title for Jesus. This verse is also used to support the Deity of Christ. (Wikipedia). If there is one passage in the New Testament which most clearly states the Trinity it is Matthew 28:19: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit." NIV This past Sunday, May 26th was Holy Trinity Sunday and we celebrated the Holy Trinity with a choir anthem by Doris Akers called, *Sweet, Sweet Spirit*, and Pastor Ed gave a very descriptive and thoughtful message about the Holy Trinity. If you missed in-person church on May 26th, please take time to go to the Vimeo and watch the service: <https://vimeo.com/950565475> In the month of May, the Okanagan Valley Pregnancy Care Centre started their Baby Bottle Campaign to raise money for the centre. Please pick up a baby bottle from the narthex table and fill it with loose change, or a cheque and return it on Father's Day, June 16th.



Baby Announcement The proud grandparents, Craig & Heidi Sloan would like to announce the following: Praise God from whom all blessings flow for the birth of a healthy baby girl, Alora

Ambrosia Sipho Sloan, to Logan Sloan and his partner Liseli Ingram on May 28th. "God is good all the time, all the time God is good." Heidi & Craig Sloan (happy grandparents)!

Thank You We had a great turn-out for the Annual Cleaning Bee at the church on Saturday, May 25th. Thank you to all who showed up and made the church look so fresh!

Mark your calendars for June 23rd! There will be a combined worship service at 10:30AM to welcome new members to Grace. Following the service there will be a welcome luncheon. Take this time to welcome our new members and get to know them a little better.

New Faces Are Welcome! There are new faces in the pews each Sunday and we are so happy that you are here and hope you make Grace your home church. If you have any questions or are interested in becoming more involved at Grace, please call Pastor David or the Church Office at 250.769.5685 and we will be happy to answer your questions.

It is so good to hear and see more people in the church during the week and on Sundays. 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!

Ladies Bible Study finishes up on June 12. Liliias will be resuming a new study in September. Have a wonderful summer!

Sound Booth Help Needed! Our dedicated sound booth team is shrinking and we need more people to join them so there is no burn-out. Please consider helping out. It is not difficult and little technical skill is needed, just a willingness to try it out. Please call the office at 250.769.5685 or let one of the sound booth team know you are interested in helping. Thanks.

Grace Choir is taking a break over the Summer but will resume practices on Thursdays at 7:00PM in September.

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 Second Saturday of each month 8:30AM in the Fellowship Hall unless otherwise notified.

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. If you have provided the Church Office with an email address, the video link will be sent to you on Sunday or Monday. If you do not receive it in your email box, it might have gone into Junk Mail or spam folder. On this same note, the 11:00AM service is recorded for shut-ins and uploaded to Vimeo. If you do not wish to be seen in a recorded video, please sit on the left side (piano), or behind the first four rows on the right side (sound booth) of the sanctuary. Thank you.

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@gracelutherankelowna.com with a brief description of the momentous occasion.



COMPASSION CORNER

Pray for everyone in our church family who mourns including the Colcerin, Hagan and Schoepp families. Pray for those in hospital including Evelyn Werner. Pray for those at home, including Alma Pasker, Robert Shopland, Kris Gering, Maria Heise, Karen Arend, Jim Szabo, Louise Shopland, Nedra Schuler, Gerald Schuler, Penny Pfahl, Emily Hughes (Deni Skutshek's mother), Fran Schmidt, Joan Ulmer, Coco Heebner, Brenda Heise, Helene Hack, Lorraine Wentland and Ferne Sather. ***And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person***

well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. James 5:15 NIV

In Loving Memory



Eleanor Colcerin

November 8, 1934 - April 29, 2024

We are sad to announce the peaceful passing of Eleanor at the age 89, on Monday, April 29th, 2024. Predeceased by her first husband Moritz Mang, father and mother, Cecil and Anne Brander, along with her brother Robert (Bob) Brander. She is survived by her loving husband and our Earth Angel, Peter Colcerin, of 33 years. Daughters, Shelley Wright (Stan) from Regina, and Donna Schaffer from Calgary; five grandchildren: Justin Wright, Jennifer (Jason Schmidt), Lindsie (Tyler Korchinski), Erin Schaffer (Paul Rosler), Reid Schaffer (Ciara Healy) and 8 great grandchildren: Bella, Carter, Nixon, Logan, Jaxon, Emily, Elvi, and Archer, as well as numerous extended family. A special thank you is extended to our Kelowna Angels, Marlene and Maurice Hitchcock. We want to thank them for everything they have done during Mom's lengthy journey through her illness, as well as ensuring Poppa Pete is well taken care of, in the long-distance absence of immediate family. Eleanor was a Registered Nurse for over 25 years and enjoyed quilting, cooking, square dancing and travel. She and Peter were snowbirds in Arizona and California for many years. They also loved camping across Canada.

Her Celebration of Life will be held in the Faith Lutheran Church, 250 Gibbs Rd W, Kelowna, BC at 2:00pm on Saturday, June 15th, 2024. Lunch will be served immediately following the service in the church hall. (from Castanet obituaries.)

Spring Baby Bottle Campaign



OKANAGAN VALLEY
**Pregnancy
Care Centre**

May 12th - June 16th

Life just changed. Unexpectedly. Take courage. You are not alone. There is hope.

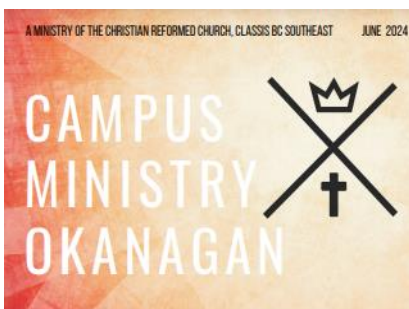
We help women and teens facing unexpected pregnancy.

Pregnant? Let's talk.

All our services are free and confidential.

We do not provide or assist in arranging abortions.

Pick up a baby bottle from the narthex table and fill it with your loose change or a cheque. Your change can change a life.



Student encampments on North American campuses have lately garnered a lot of media attention of late. Through the spring, UBC Okanagan saw a few demonstrations for Palestine and against the war (or against Israel). In May this protest camp (pic above) was erected in the centre of campus. Tension is in the air, but the UBCO campus remains calm, thank God. Please pray that it may continue so, and that I'll be able to have good and edifying conversations with students and staff about these complex issues.

CHAPLAINS

REACH OUT TO REV DR TODD STATHAM OR CURTIS MELIEFSTE BY EMAIL OR TEXT (LISTED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE). PLEASE SUPPORT THE WORK OF CURTIS AND TODD. YOU CAN DONATE DIRECTLY THROUGH OUR WEBSITE CRCCAMPUSOKANAGAN.CA. SIMPLY CLICK ON "DONATE" AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS.

contact Todd: crccampusokanagan@gmail.com 250.215.7486
contact Curtis: curtismeliefste@gmail.com 604.340.3493

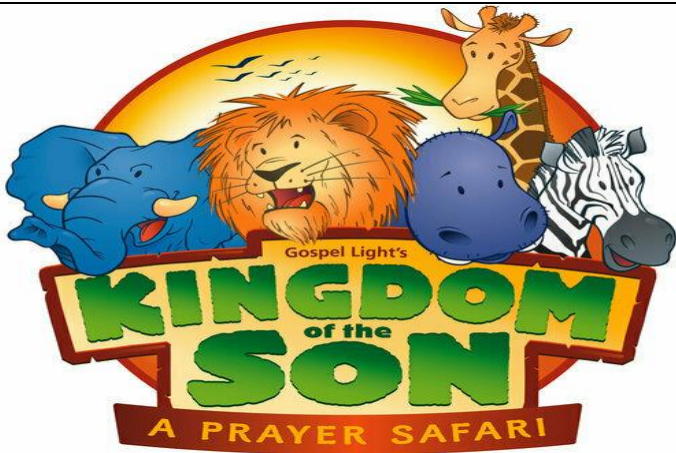
"Where in the Bible should I start?"

This is definitely one of my favourite questions to hear- and one a student will throw at me most years. A young man enrolled in the course I taught this past term (*Introduction to World Religions*) posed this question to me after we wrapped up the unit on Christianity. He was intrigued by what he learned in class about Jesus and wished to follow up for himself by reading the Bible. Of course, in the classroom I take care to be impartial, especially when I'm teaching about Christianity. But I know the Spirit works even through my 'objective' lectures. As we chatted during office hours, I pointed the student to the Gospel of Mark as a good place to start.

I'm grateful to God for the opportunity to connect with so many nonreligious students through teaching a UBC course!

From Curtis @ Okanagan College:

A new club popped up on the student scene at Okanagan College Kelowna Campus this year: The Okanagan College Christian Club. Each week, I (Curtis) would gather with the OCCC students and enjoy an hour of prayer, discussion, Bible study and sharing. We studied the Book of Jude, Psalm 119, and other texts relating to Christmas and Easter. Our time was marked by prayer and reading Scripture together. We often shared about the struggles and joys of student life and what we had learned or experienced in church the prior week. We hope to build on the momentum of last year and continue meeting together in the new semester.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

3 DAYS ONLY – JULY 8TH, 9TH & 10TH
9:00AM – 12 NOON

Registration Form Below

Call: Linda Heming at 250.808.7160 or
Marilyn Donlson: 250.258.8352 for
more information.

REGISTRATION FORM:

Vacation Bible School

Do you consent to your child's photograph being taken and/or used for church use only ☐ YES ☐ NO

Please fill out one form per child

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH - 1162 HUDSON ROAD

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday July 8th, 9th & 10th

9:00AM - 12 NOON - ages 4 to 12

Name: _____ Age: _____

DOB: _____ Completed Grade _____

this year; Care Card # _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Home Phone# _____ Cell# _____

Emergency Contact Name & # _____

In case of emergency, who should we call first? _____

Known Allergies (other medical info): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Cost: There is no cost to attend - Please email this form to info@gracelutheranKelowna.com by July 8th, 2024 or drop off or mail to Grace Lutheran Church Office, 1162 Hudson Road, W. Kelowna V1Z 1J3

Tuesday Healing Service

Starts on June 18th

7:00PM

Everyone Is Welcome

"COME TO ME, ALL
YOU WHO ARE WEARY
AND BURDENED, AND
I WILL GIVE YOU
REST."

— Matthew 11:28



"...He has given us
the *Holy Spirit*
to fill our hearts
with His love."

—Romans 5:5



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

REJOICING IN HOPE
PATIENT IN TRIBULATION
CONTINUING IN PRAYER

ROMANS 12:12

Congregational Life

Christian Education

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

Mondays - Bible Study at 7:00PM via ZOOM is on a break until September.

Wednesdays - Ladies Bible Study at 9:30AM is on a break until September.

Thursdays - Choir practice is on a break until September when they will resume practice at 7:00PM. Choir will sing an anthem at the 2nd & 4th 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

Blessed are those who
hunger and thirst for
righteousness,
for they will be filled.
- Matthew 5:6

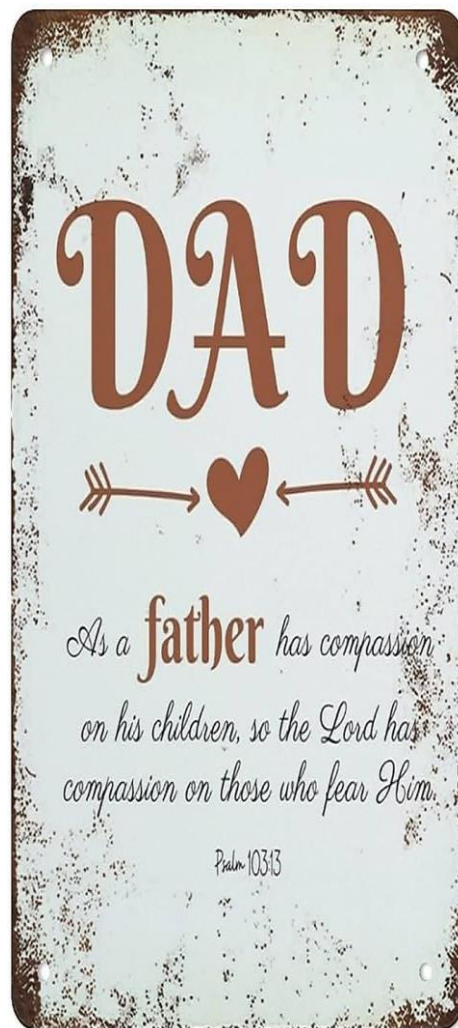


Men's Breakfast

Saturday June 8th at 8:30AM

All Grace men are invited to attend for faith fellowship, good food and good conversation. Bring a friend!

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



GRACE COFFEE SOCIAL

People of Grace are encouraged and welcome to join us in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays between 10:10-10:50AM for coffee, a snack and fellowship with other Grace members. This is a great opportunity 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

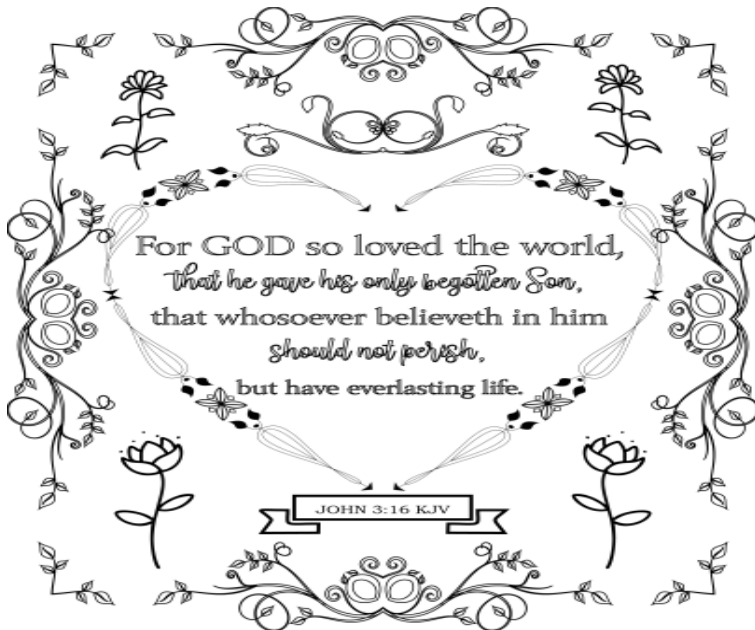
June 18th at 7:00PM



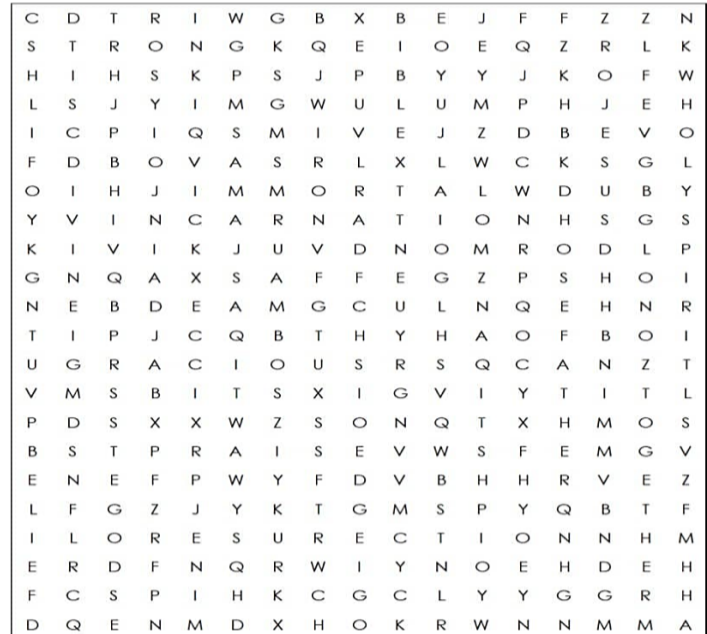
Jesus Loves ME!

The Bible tells me so!

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



The Holy Trinity Word Search



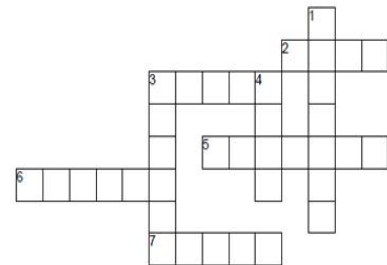
FATHER	INCARNATION	TOGETHER
PRAISE	STRONG	GOD
IMMORTAL	RESURRECTION	JESUS
DIVINE	SON	BIBLE
HOLY SPIRIT	BELIEF	GRACIOUS



Trinity Sunday

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. John 16:13 (NIV)

Complete the activity below.



ACROSS

2. To receive sounds with your ears
3. To use your voice to talk to someone
5. To give honor and praise
6. A male parent
7. A fact that has been proven

DOWN

1. To take something into your possession; to get something
3. A supernatural being that can become visible (or audible) to humans
4. To become familiar or acquainted with someone or something

RECEIVE	SPEAK	GLORIFY	KNOW
SPIRIT	FATHER	HEAR	TRUTH

JUNE 2024 – Grace Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Pentecost 2			9:30AM Ladies Bible Study with Lilias Statham			8:30AM Men's Breakfast
9:00AM Contemporary 10:10AM Coffee Social Fellowship Hall 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM Traditional Guest Pastor – Jim Statham						
Pastor David Away ----- Pastor David Away ----- Pastor David Away -----						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Pentecost 3			9:30AM Ladies Bible Study with Lilias Statham 2:00PM Brookhaven Chapel PE			
9:00AM Contemporary 10:10AM Coffee Social Fellowship Hall 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM Traditional						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Pentecost 4			2:00PM Brookhaven Chapel FOG			3:00-6:30PM Karen Emmond Recital
9:00AM Contemporary 10:10AM Coffee Social Fellowship Hall 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM Traditional w/Holy Communion RETURN BABY BOTTLES TODAY HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!		7:00PM Healing Service				
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Pentecost 5						
10:30AM Combined Worship Service to Welcome New Member with a Luncheon to follow		7:00PM Council				
30						
Pentecost 6						
9:00AM Contemporary 10:10AM Coffee Social Fellowship Hall 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM Traditional						



May all of our
Fathers have a
Happy &
Blessed
Father's Day!