

Graceline

A monthly publication of Grace Lutheran Church



Pastor David's Message Are You Ready For Jesus!

As Christmas is approaching, many of us again make plans for family events, work parties, Christmas concerts and of course going to the mall. Some of you will have plans to visit family far away. Traveling means we have to tackle the holiday transit rush. Others will get away from it all and fly to Mexico and enjoy the sunshine. Whatever your plans are, if it is to stay at home and sit by the tree, or to fly across the globe, we still have one journey to embark on again this year. The journey is to pay homage to the Christ Child. We know that on that first Christmas the baby Jesus had guests. These guests had to make plans to travel. A few years ago, we ourselves came from afar to visit the birth place of Jesus. Bethlehem is like any little town in Palestine that we visited. Why is it that God chose this place where God becomes incarnate in His son Jesus Christ? This is the place where the greatest figure in human history would be born. Jesus could have been born in any number of places where he could have gotten a lot more exposure. In our modern-day context, we would think that Jesus should be born in a place with a lot more media coverage. Historically speaking, maybe Jesus should have been born in the centre of the universe of that time. In that age, Rome would have been the epicenter. It is no secret that a common saying was that, "All roads lead to Rome." In Jesus' day, Rome would have been like New York or London where culture and fashion are always in vogue. Jesus could have been born in Athens which was considered at the time the intellectual centre of the world. Here new ideas were tested and challenged, yet this is not the place that the Word would become flesh. God chose Bethlehem, and yet the world's logic would not likely agree with that conclusion. The prophet Micah claimed that Bethlehem was small among the clans. Micah 5:2 NIV. There was really very little action in Bethlehem, it did not have a lot of historical significance, nor was it an economic power house in its day. One would agree it was an obscure little place; hence we describe it quite well when we sing the Christmas hymn, "O Little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by." So why Bethlehem? We need to answer this question by going to the authority of scripture. In Micah 4:8 NIV, it refers to Jesus' birth place. "As for you, watchtower of the flock, stronghold of Daughter Zion, the former dominion will be restored to you; kingship will come to Daughter Jerusalem." The watchtower of the flock refers to Bethlehem in the Bible. Here the kingship is restored because this is also where King David was born and the Messiah will come from David's line. Bethlehem is fitting for the birth of Christ because Bethlehem means "House of Bread." Christians refer to Jesus as the *Bread*

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of Life. In John 6:35 NIV, it states: "Then Jesus declared, I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." Jesus came to us to spiritually feed us. The birth of Jesus is important to fulfill scripture, however, what is truly important is that Jesus is born in our hearts. When He is born in our hearts, we are born with Him. In that context we can grow with him and get to know that God is with us, "Emmanuel." We do not need to go to Bethlehem to witness this experience of the Christ child. To do that, all we have to do, is be part of an advent and Christmas worshiping community. Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones this year. May you know and feel the birth of Christ in your heart. May this epiphany draw you closer to our Saviour this year! Have a merry joyous Christmas! *Pastor David and the Wunderlich Family*

HELLO December

Grace News



- ❖ December 13th – 7:00PM Christmas Joy Concert
- ❖ December 24th – 5:00PM Christmas Eve service with Praise Band
- ❖ December 24th – 7:00PM Christmas Eve service with Choir
- ❖ December 25th – 10:00AM Christmas Day service with Holy Communion
- ❖ December 29th – 9:00AM 1st Sunday of Christmas Contemporary Service
- ❖ December 29th – 11:00AM 1st Sunday of Christmas Traditional Service

Prayer For December

Dear Lord, we pray that this last month of the year will be filled with Your peace, presence and hope. Help us to remember what is important during this season. May we find joy in simple pleasures and treasure each opportunity to gather with family and friends. We pray for comfort for all who are going through difficult times. We ask for Your healing hand to be upon all who are ill. We pray for provision for all who are in need. We pray for protection for all who are in harm's way. Please bless us and use us, so that we can be a blessing to others. We thank You for our Saviour Jesus in Whose Name we ask these things. Amen.

We now welcome December and the end of our 2024 year. If you know me, I am still wondering what happened to January! Time flies by and we are now in the season of Advent which means the anticipation of meeting our Saviour, Jesus Christ. O Come, O Come Emmanuel, to ransom captive Israel—to ransom captives all over the world. We are all in need of a Saviour who is Christ the Lord! Take time this Advent season to ponder this and ask God what we can do at this time to help others in need.

Grace Lutheran Prayer Warriors for the Prayer Chain Needed

We have a very active and efficient Prayer Chain at Grace Lutheran Church. Since there are many new people joining us now, we thought it was time to mention this and let you know that whenever you have a prayer request, please let us know and you will be prayed for by many people in the church. That said, we are also in need of willing people to step up and be included in this very necessary ministry at Grace. If you feel this is something you can do, please contact Margaret Knoess at 250.768.0157 or Ruby Litke at 250.707.5422 for more information on how to join the prayer chain. Thank you!!

Sunday School 10:15AM and all children between the ages of 3-12 years are welcome to attend!

Grace Choir Thursdays at 7:00PM. We prepare a choir anthem for the 2nd & 4th Sunday 11AM service. The choir anthem is right at the start of the service, so even if you attend the 9AM service, you can still join choir, attend your service, join the coffee social, sing the anthem at 11AM and then go home. In other words, everyone who attends at Grace is welcome to sing in the choir and bring a friend!

Ladies Bible Study Every Wednesday at 9:30AM

Monday Night Zoom Study 7:00PM with Jim Statham.

Adult Bible Study Tuesdays at 1:00PM – Everyone is welcome!

Men's Breakfast – 2nd Saturday at 8:30AM

Help Needed If you are interested in helping out with one of the ministries at Grace Lutheran, please contact the Pastor or the church office and let us know what you would like to do: 250.769.5685.

Online Services We record the 11:00AM service each week and upload it to Vimeo for viewing by members who are unable to attend the service in person. If you do not wish to be seen in the online video, please sit behind the 4th row on the right-hand side of the sanctuary or anywhere else in the church.

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 with a brief description of the momentous occasion.

From all the Grace Lutheran Staff we wish everyone a very Merry & Blessed Christmas season! We hope to see everyone again in 2025!



COMPASSION CORNER

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our friend and Grace member, Helene Hack. Please keep her family in your prayers during this difficult time. Pray for everyone in our church family who mourns including the Hack, Burt, Arend/Howay and Heise families. Pray for those in hospital including Ellen Spielman. Pray for those recovering from surgery including, Nedra Schuler and Len Weber. Pray for those at home, including Alma Pasker, Robert Shopland, Kris Gering, Maria Heise, Jim Szabo, Louise Shopland, Gerald Schuler, Penny Pfahl, Emily Hughes Fran Schmidt, Joan Ulmer, Coco Heebner, Lorraine Wentland and Ferne Sather. *“The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” Psalm 34:18.*



Kelowna Community Gospel Choir Christmas Concerts
SUNDAY, December 8th - Westside Alliance Church Daimler Road West Kelowna- Recommend arrival at 6:15PM - Concert at 6:30PM
SATURDAY, December 14th - St. Michaels and All Angels Cathedral Sutherland Ave at Richter Street - Recommend arrive at 6:30PM - Concert at 7:00PM
SUNDAY, December 15th - Mission Springs Church of God, Mission Springs Rd. South off of Casorso just west of Gordon Drive (second Church in from Gordon- Recommend Arrive at 6:15PM) - Concert at 6:30PM



**15th Annual Christmas Joy Concert
 Friday, December 13th at 7:00PM**

You are invited to come out and enjoy listening to songs and poems and scriptures about the Christmas season performed by members of our Grace Lutheran congregation and the West Kelowna community including, Grace Choir, Ellie Schindel, Melodie Petersen, Don Chapman, Miriam Keith, Julia Emmond, Karen Emmond, Frieda Schwarz, Mandy Smallldridge, Liza Sokolova, Ukrainian Families, Lynn & Mike Greenwood, Full of Grace & more! Come out and bring a friend!



Congregational Life

Christian Education

Sunday - Sunday School at 10:15AM

Monday - Zoom Bible Study at 7:00PM.

Tuesday - Adult Bible Study at 1:00PM

Wednesday - Ladies Bible Study at 9:30AM

Thursday - Choir Practice at 7:00PM

so very
thankful
incredibly
grateful
unbelievably
blessed

Serving Others

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

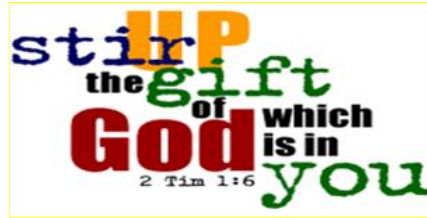
On the 4th Tuesday of every month a team from Grace Lutheran goes to the Kelowna Gospel Mission. They help in the kitchen with lunch and dinner preparation. If you would like to serve in this way, please contact Corinn Lutz at 250.869.8092 or by email: timcorlutz@gmail.com

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



Men's Breakfast

Saturday, December 14th at 8:30AM



Grace Coffee Social

Sundays at 10:10AM Everyone is Welcome to come to the Fellowship Hall and meet your Grace neighbours!

Healing Service

Tuesday, December 17th at 7:00PM



May God shower His
blessings upon you this
Holiday season and draw you
closer to Him.



Council Meeting

December 17th at 7:00PM

CANADIAN LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF GIFTS FROM THE HEART 2024 CAMPAIGN

Catalogues are available on the narthex table. You choose the right gift for that person on your Christmas list, like a pair of goats, or a flock of chickens! CLWR will send you a card that you can give that person to tell them about the special gift made in their honour. Pick up your catalogue and go to clwr.org/GFTH or call TOLL-FREE:

1.800.661.2597



Figure 1 A Flock of Chickens



Figure 2 A Pair of Goats



Figure 3 A Fishing Kit and More



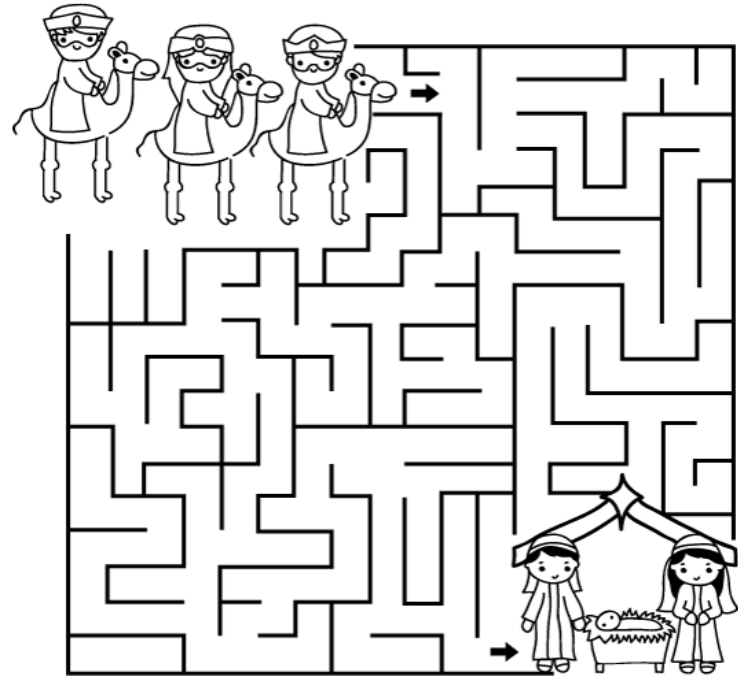
Christmas Activities

Remember Sunday School

is at 10:15AM

Nativity Maze

Help the Three Wise Men find the manger.




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 2024 – Grace Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Advent 1 9:00AM Contemporary w/Holy Communion 10:10AM Coffee Social 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM Traditional w/Holy Communion	2 7:00PM Zoom Bible Study	3 1:00PM Bible Study 2:00PM Lakeview Lodge PD	4 9:30AM Ladies Bible Study 2:00PM Brookhaven PD	5 7:00PM Choir Practice	6	7 1:00PM Watercolour Class
8 Advent 2 9:00AM Contemporary 10:10AM Coffee Social 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM Traditional	9 7:00PM Zoom Bible Study	10 1:00PM Bible Study 7:00PM Healing Service	11 9:30AM Ladies Bible Study	12 7:00PM Choir Practice	13 7:00PM Christmas Joy Concert	14 8:30AM Men's Breakfast 1:00PM Watercolour Class
15 Advent 3 9:00AM Contemporary 10:10AM Coffee Social 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM Traditional w/Holy Communion	16 7:00PM Zoom Bible Study	17 7:00PM Council Meeting	18 9:30AM Ladies Bible Study 2:00PM Brookhaven FOG	19 6:30PM Choir Potluck & Practice	20 4:30-7:30PM Private Recital WKMS	21 1:00PM Emmaus Finnish Service
22 Advent 4 10:00AM COMBINED Service with Christmas Coffee Social to follow – Everyone is Welcome & Bring a Friend!	23	24 5:00PM Candlelight Service 7:00PM Candlelight Service	25 10:00AM Nativity of Our Lord Service w/Holy Communion	26 Boxing Day Office Closed	27	28
29 Christmas 1 9:00AM Contemporary 10:10AM Coffee Social 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM Traditional	30	31 New Year's Eve 				



WISHING YOU
AN ABUNDANTLY
BLESSED HOLIDAY
SEASON!

FROM THE FULLNESS OF
GRACE WE HAVE ALL
RECEIVED ONE BLESSING
AFTER ANOTHER.
JOHN 1:16