

Graceline

A monthly publication of Grace Lutheran Church



Pastor David's Message Why Go to Church?

Luke 2:40-49 NIV

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company; they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"

This is the time of year when we ask what New Year promises we want to make for ourselves. We make promises to ourselves to lose weight, join a gym to keep fit, stop drinking or maybe to quit smoking. The list could be endless. Endless times we make a promise to ourselves and then break it. When we fulfill a promise, we know how good we can feel. We make promises to ourselves all the time yet, when do we make a promise to God and if we do, do we really keep them? The one promise and commandment that one breaks is the third commandment. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy". Those who choose not to go to church every Sunday, this would be a goal for one to keep in mind this New Year. We see Jesus setting the example in this gospel. In the passage above, we see his family looking for him. Where do they find him but, in his, "Father's House." Jesus points to us that church is important and the Lord's house is a house of learning. Even when the bible commands us and Jesus directs us to keep the Sabbath day, are these examples evidence enough to convince us to go to church on a regular basis. It would be enough for me, yet we live in the age of reason where we seem to have to give many reasons why one should go to church. I can give you many reasons. I will make it simple and only give you three.

1. Going to church is not just a command. It is good for our faith. Hebrews 10:25 says: "we should 'Not [be] giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching.'" You see by going to church we are not only encouraging others in strengthening their faith but, it also helps us in strengthening our faith. By going to church we encourage one another.

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Epiphany (e-piph-a-ny)

(n) A moment of sudden revelation;
a poignant, sudden, profound
understanding of something.

2. The church can give biblical direction for life's difficulties. Not all of life's difficulties can be resolved by government, by-laws, money, or even civic education. The civic realm does not deal with the spiritual problems of the world! The Church can help in areas of purpose, marriage, raising children and encourage a healthy community.

3. You have to have it in you to want to go to church. To be honest, the Holy Spirit is the one that works in you to really want to go to God's house. It makes us want to go even when conditions of the church are not perfect, like the pastors, the people, and the music. The power of the Holy Spirit puts you above all that. You really want to go because your love for Jesus and His love for you gives you the courage to come to church. If you do not have this feeling of the Holy Spirit pulling you to church, then you are in need to get to church more than ever. It is telling us that we need to start hearing God's word again to stir your heart for Him. Not wanting to go to church is one of the signs that your relationship with God is not a healthy one. So, make church a number one priority in 2025!

God bless you in this New Year to come, *Pastor David Wunderlich*



Youth Family Game Night Coming Saturday January 25th at 5:00PM in the Fellowship Hall. All families welcome!



Grace News

Christmas has come & gone, the presents are unwrapped and being used, the turkey dinner & lefse has long been eaten, the tree has been taken down for another year and we now look forward to everything that 2025 has to bless us with. It is time to work on our New Year's resolutions and wonder what we can do to be a blessing to others this year. Who needs help in our congregation; who needs help in our neighbourhood; who needs help in our city, our province, our country and in the world? There is always someone somewhere who can use our help and we have been blessed to be a blessing for others. All it takes is a simple question, "What can I do for you?"

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!

Secret Sister Start-up January 25th at 10:00AM. Please meet in the fellowship for coffee & snacks and meeting everyone. More information on the next page. See you there!

Ladies Bible Study Every Wednesday at 9:30AM
Monday Night Zoom Study 7:00PM with Jim Statham.
Grief Support Group – Thursday at 1:00PM starting Feb 6th
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.



COMPASSION CORNER

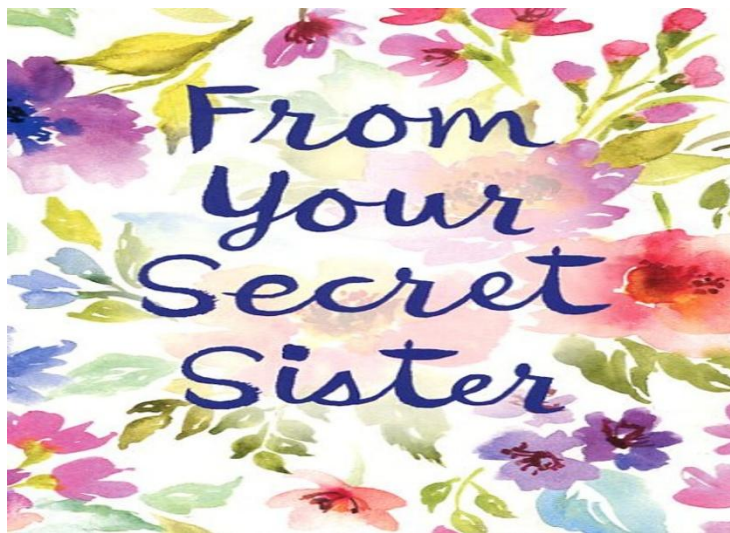
Pray for everyone in our church family who mourns including the Pfahl, Hack, Burt, and Arend/Howay families. Pray for those in hospital including Jean Reimers and Dulce Intengan. Pray for those recovering from surgery including, Nedra Schuler and Len Weber. Pray for those at home, including Ellen Spielman, Alma Pasker, Robert Shopland, Kris Gering, Maria Heise, Jim Szabo, Louise Shopland, Gerald Schuler, 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.*

UNDERSTANDING
YOUR

Grief

12-WEEK NON-DENOMINATIONAL GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Beginning Thursday, February 6th, at 1PM at Grace Lutheran Church. This support group works through the book, “Understanding Your Grief – 10 Essential Touchstones for finding Hope and Healing Your Heart,” by Dr. Alan Wolfelt. Randy Benson and Melanie Simpson are the facilitators. There is no cost for the course and space is limited so please call or email Randy Benson to pre-register: 250.868.7205 or randypbenson@gmail.com.



SECRET SISTER START-UP

If you would like to be a SECRET SISTER please join us on Saturday, January 25th at 10:00AM in the Fellowship Hall. We will be drawing names for a year of fun, caring, encouragement and uplifting of each other. We will do this for one year and at the end reveal our secret sisters for a surprise. Come and find out what it's all about. We will be having a coffee and snack as well. For more information, please call Ursula at 250.470.9817 or email Linda at: mccall@telus.net.



STUDENT LEADERS 2024



NAME: CALEB FAUST
 HOMETOWN: LANGLEY, BC
 PROGRAM:
 YEAR 4, ENGINEERING

CAMPUS MINISTRY PROJECT:

“HERESY: KNOWING
CHRISTIAN TRUTH...BY
KNOWING WHAT IT'S NOT!”



NAME: ZACHARY SHUKALOV
 HOMETOWN: EDMONTON, AB
 PROGRAM:
 YEAR 3, SCIENCE

Reach out to Todd Statham or Curtis Mellefste by email or text (listed at the bottom of the page).

You can support the work of Curtis and Todd at crrccampusokanagan.ca. Simply click on “Donate” and follow the instructions.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

These days on campus one often hears accusations that Christianity is shallow and dull. So it's wonderful when students come to appreciate the depth and beauty of orthodox Christianity. This term's small group did exactly that. Two student (see sidebar) worked with me through the Fall to lead an introduction to Christian basics – but with a twist! “HERESY: Knowing Christian truth...by learning what it's not” was a fun way to work through our core beliefs about Scripture, God, Jesus, church, and salvation, then connect them to current issues and controversies students experience.

The CRC Campus Ministry aims to be a catalyst for thoughtful Christian engagement with university culture and ideas.

At the end, one student remarked: “The ‘heresy club’ was incredibly informative and allowed me to come to a deeper understanding of my faith and to see how consistent Christianity really is.” Zach—one of the student leaders—wrote this: “The group really helped grow my leadership skills as well as pushed me to deeper wonder at God, the grace that He shows, and my place within his kingdom.”

Please keep in prayer next term's small group, Reframe: How the Scripture reframes all of life, as well as the UBC course I'm teaching on “The Bible in English Literature.” And keep Curtis in prayer as he leads a weekly Bible study at OC.

contact Todd: crrccampusokanagan@gmail.com 250.215.7486
 contact Curtis: curtismellefste@gmail.com 604.340.3493

Congregational Life

Christian Education

Sunday - Sunday School at 10:15AM

Monday - Zoom Bible Study at 7:00PM.

Wednesday - Ladies Bible Study at 9:30AM

Thursday - Grief Support Group for 12 weeks starting February 6th at 1:00PM (pre-registration asap)

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, January 11th 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, January 28th at 7:00PM

They set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

Matthew 2.9



Council Meeting

January 21st at 7:00PM

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.

Luke 3:21-22



Baptism of Our Lord
Because of baptism, all members of the People of God have become missionary disciples."
- Pope Francis

Remember Sunday School

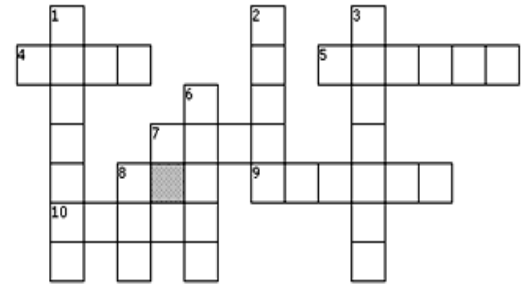
is at 10:15AM

Activities Page



- | | | |
|---------------|------------|----------|
| FIRST MIRACLE | REVELATION | MELCHIOR |
| FRANKINCENSE | BALTHAZAR | BAPTISM |
| WISE MEN | BETHEHEM | HOLIDAY |
| THREE KINGS | CHRISTIAN | JANUARY |
| TWELFTH DAY | EPIPHANY | CASPAR |

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Novice



ACROSS

4. Name of the man who baptized Jesus.
5. The river where Jesus was baptized.
7. The Spirit came down from heaven like a ____.
9. To turn away from sin.
10. What was heard when Jesus was baptized.

DOWN


1. To pardon for sins.
2. The liquid used to baptize someone.
3. To admit that you have done wrong.
6. A sticky, sweet fluid made by bees.
8. To break one of God's commandments.

This ^{is} my ^{beloved} son, in whom I am well pleased

Matthew 3:17

Doodle Art Alley ©

January 2025 – Grace Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			-Office Closed-			1:00PM Watercolour Class
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Christmas 2 9:00AM Contemporary w/Holy Communion 10:10AM Coffee Social 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM Traditional w/Holy Communion	Feast of Epiphany 7:00PM Zoom Study with Jim Statham	2:00PM Lakeview Lodge PD	Epiphany Clean-Up 9:30AM Ladies Bible Study 2:00PM Brookhaven PD	7:00PM Choir Practice		8:30AM Men's Breakfast 1:00PM Watercolour Class
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Baptism of Our Lord 9:00AM Contemporary 10:10AM Coffee Social 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM Traditional	7:00PM Zoom Study with Jim Statham		9:30AM Ladies Bible Study	7:00PM Choir Practice		1:00PM Emmaus Finnish Service
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Epiphany 2 9:00AM Contemporary 10:10AM Coffee Social 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM Traditional w/Holy Communion	7:00PM Zoom Study with Jim Statham	7:00PM Council Meeting	9:30AM Ladies Bible Study 2:00PM Brookhaven FOG	7:00PM Choir Practice		10:00AM Secret Sister Meet & Greet 1:00PM Watercolour Class 5:00PM Youth Family Game Night
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Epiphany 3 9:00AM Contemporary 10:10AM Coffee Social 11:00AM Traditional	7:00PM Zoom Study with Jim Statham	7:00PM Healing Service	9:30AM Ladies Bible Study			

Prayer for Epiphany

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for the Second Sunday After Epiphany, Book of Common Prayer, pg. 215