

Graceline

A monthly publication of Grace Lutheran Church



Pastor David's Message

Are you a Gate Keeper?

Rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem in Nehemiah's time is like rebuilding the church today. When Nehemiah came out of exile to return to his home in Jerusalem he had a special task. The task that God placed in his heart was to rebuild the walls of the city and to restore its former gates. These gates that are described in Nehemiah, have been used to represent the gates that serve the church, just as it served the holy city at the time. In the book of Nehemiah, Chapter 3, each gate is described to us.

1. The Sheep Gate. The sheep gate for the old city was used to bring the sacrifice lambs to the temple. Jesus also represents the new sacrifice lamb for us on the cross. When Jesus entered the city on Palm Sunday, He entered that gate for that purpose. The sheep gate for us in our church today represents the evangelist. These gifted Individuals are willing to help lead people to know Jesus our Saviour. I call them, "The Shepherds' gate keepers of the church," and without them, we could not grow.

2. The Fish Gate. The fish gate is the gate where they brought in the fish. This was the gate that fed people. Jesus said to the disciples, "I will make you fishers of men." Matt. 4:19. This gate is another ministry in our church where we equip people to share God's word. These are the people in our church that are Sunday school teachers, who conduct bible studies and grant education opportunities. Without them we could not grow.

3. The Old Gate. I am not sure what the old gate provided for the city in Nehemiah's time. The old Gate for us to day in the church can represent those who keep us to our orthodoxy. Those who help us to be grounded to the practices and beliefs of the early church. These are the apostolic people that keep us anchored.

4. The Valley Gate. The valley gate in the old city is the gate that leads to the valley. The one valley it could lead you is to the, Kidron Valley. It is here where people buried their love ones. It is through this gate that God meets us in our sorrow and helps us through our trials in life. In the church we have people who feel called to this ministry. They may work in hospitality at funerals and as ushers. These are the people who provide comfort to the grieving. Without a heart of compassion, the church will not function.

5. The Dung Gate. The dung gate is a gate that we would think we would want to avoid. It was an important gate to the city where the garbage and waste would be ushered out. Without

Inside this Edition

Pastor David's Message.....	1
Youth Bowling Event.....	2
Compassion Corner.....	2
In Loving Memory Eve Reynolds.....	3
In Loving Memory Robert Shopland.....	3
Prayer Shawl Ministry.....	3
Annual Congregational Meeting.....	4
Congregational Life.....	5
February Calendar.....	6

GRACELINE is a monthly newsletter published by:
Grace Lutheran Church
1162 Hudson Road, West Kelowna, BC, V1Z 1J3
Website: www.gracelutherankelowna.com
Email: info@gracelutherankelowna.com
FOR PASTORAL EMERGENCIES PLEASE CALL:
Pastor David Wunderlich – 250.317.6502
GLC Chairperson: Everley Lutz
Church Office: Miriam Shopland-Keith
Office Hours: 9:00AM to 2:00PM – Monday to Friday - 250.769.5685

Annual General Meeting



Sunday, February 23rd following the 10:00AM Combined Service

this gate the city would not function. It is the same in the church with its physical waste. We need people to make sure it is done. We also describe this as a gate for the church in a spiritual way by using this as a ministry of confession and forgiveness. If we do not have a ministry of reconciliation, we would not have a future as a church. "Blessed are the peace makers." Matthew 5:9a

6. The Gate of the Fountain. The fountain gate was near the pool of Siloam where Jesus healed the blind man. The fountain gate represents a healing ministry in the church. It also represents people who are always blessing the church with financial gifts, music or giving the wealth of their time. This is a ministry that always reminds me how the Holy Spirit works in people.

7. The Water Gate. The water gate's purpose was to allow water in to the city. It is here where Ezra erected a pulpit and read the, "Word." I believe this gate represents God's word in the church. This is a ministry in the church where we are to be focused on the bible. These are the gatekeepers who make sure to uphold the word and for those to receive the word around the world who do not have a Bible.

8. The Horse Gate. The horse gate was used for the army and its horses to mobilize. It was an important gate for the defence of the city. The horse gate I believe could represent for the church those who defend the faith. These are ones who stand up in a public place to defend the Bible. The church is in need of these individuals, especially in this age. Paul proclaims: "Suffer hardship with me as a good soldier of Christ Jesus." 2Timothy 2:3 NASB.

9. The East Gate. The East Gate is the gate where the Jewish people believe that Christ will come and enter the Holy City. This is a gate for us to have hope. It is a gate keeping ministry where we are to be prepared for Christ to come again. It is a ministry to always be Christ centered at all times.

10. The Gate of Miphkad. Miphkad means registry or review. This gate is referred to as the gate where the soldiers came back from battle. It was here that King David would review his troops and honor their faithfulness and courage. This gate in the church as I would describe it is the cheer leader section who honor our saints. This also could be for people who take leadership in our church and who take account and honour our works in Christ.

All these gates can point to meaningful references for the church today. Some scholars would give some of them different meanings. I hope that these meanings can act as a guide for us. May it help us to keep Christ's ministry real and meaningful as we reach outside of our walls and gates to the community. Reading McGee, J. V. Thru the Bible Commentary, on Nehemiah, was helpful for me to understand the depth of this subject.

May we ask the question, what gate, or gates, do we stand by to help when we are called? Something to pray and think about.

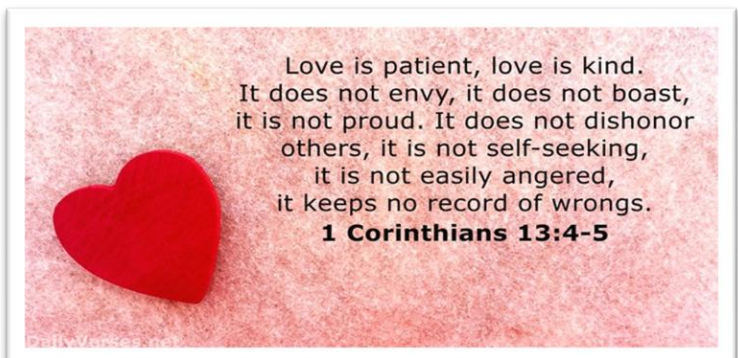
Pastor David Wunderlich



Youth Bowling Event ~ Friday, February 28th at 7:00PM at the Capri Lanes. Text Pastor David: 250.317.6502



It is with deep sadness we announce the passing of our friend, and Grace member, Ferne Sather. Lift up her husband, Eugene, and their family in prayer for God's comfort during this difficult time. **A Celebration of Life for Ferne Sather will be held at Grace on Saturday, February 22nd at 2:00PM.** Pray for everyone in our church family who mourns including the Shopland/Keith, Pfahl, Hack and Burt families. Pray for those recovering from surgery including, Nedra Schuler and Len Weber. Pray for those at home, including Dulce Intengan, Ellen Spielman, Alma Pasker, Kris Gering, Maria Heise, Jim Szabo, Louise Shopland, Gerald Schuler, Emily Hughes Fran Schmidt, Joan Ulmer, Coco Heebner and Lorraine Wentland. *"He himself bore our sins...by His wounds you have been healed."* 1 Peter 2:24.



In Loving Memory



September 28, 1938 – January 12, 2025

Eve Reynolds (nee Mack) passed away peacefully on January 12, 2025 at the age of 86 years. Eve was born in Wilkie, SK to parents Aldrich & Lena. Eve was a beloved mother to and is survived by her son Brent Keith (Miriam) and daughter Sandra Nass (Mike); and devoted grandmother to Shellbe Elliott & great-granddaughter Scarlett; and cherished sister Kathy Terris. Eve was predeceased by her eldest daughter Laura Elliott; and brothers Simon, Chris, Mike, Frank, Jack and sisters Sue Pearson, Marie Lapinsky, Lorraine Harrell, Ann Mack and baby sister Clementine. In her early life in Saskatchewan, Eve made it clear she did not like farm work. With her father's support, Eve became one of the first young women to work at the local sawmill. She enjoyed the physically demanding job of putting the wood through the wood cutting machine. Eve moved to Vancouver when she was 19 years old and began working at the Hudson Bay Company in Vancouver where she made many good friends. She raised three children in the Vancouver area and, when they were grown, Eve decided to move north to Tumbler Ridge. Eve had an entrepreneurial spirit and it was in Tumbler Ridge where she started her cleaning company called, "E.W. Janitorial." Her strong work ethic and attention to details drove this into a thriving business. When she retired, Eve moved back to the Vancouver area to help out with her sisters and to be closer to her daughters & granddaughter. In 2016, Eve moved to West Kelowna to live closer to her son Brent Keith. Eve made many friends throughout her lifetime and you would often see her lending a helping hand to someone in need. Helping others was innate to Eve, no matter what their situation. When she returned to the Okanagan, Eve reconnected with a church family and she never missed a church service, senior's dinner, coffee social or gospel music event. Eve enjoyed photography, gospel & country music, crocheting, scrapbooking, jigsaw puzzles, collecting dolls, her cats, and spending time with friends & family. Eve lived in many places throughout her life, and she continued to make many new friends after she moved to West Kelowna at Grace church, the Lion's Manor and finally at Brookhaven. Thank you to all those who thoughtfully cared for Eve at Brookhaven and made her life so comfortable there.

In Loving Memory



November 5, 1920 – January 20, 2025

Robert Shopland passed away peacefully on January 20th, 2025 at the age of 104 years. Robert was a man of deep integrity and he was still a dear husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, friend, WWII veteran and a strong man of faith in God. He was the eldest son, and second child of ten, born to Robert & Agnes (nee Scot), in Willen, Manitoba. He grew up on farms in Manitoba & Saskatchewan, where he attended school, and then later completed his mechanic's apprenticeship in Rocanville, SK. At age 21, Bob enlisted in the 8th Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment, 2nd Division, and completed his Tour of Duty until the end of WWII. Bob served his country in Germany, France & Belgium, assisted in liberating the Dutch, and did whatever else he could do to help win the war and return safely. Upon discharge from the army, Bob moved to Chauvin, AB, where he owned & operated Chauvin Transport. Here he met the love of his life, Louise Erickson and they had 3 children, Rodney, Timothy & Miriam who all grew up in Chauvin. In his spare time, Bob served in many positions with his church, he served as Deputy Fire Chief in Chauvin for several years, and he helped out anyone who was in need. In 1979, Bob & Louise moved to Wainwright, AB, where he continued in the trucking business until he retired completely. Bob could not stop driving, nor being helpful to everyone who called on him, so he started driving seniors from Wainwright to Edmonton for their doctors' appointments. He completed a layman's course and served as a lay minister at the hospital for several years. In 2005, Bob & Louise moved to Camrose, AB to be closer to family and then moved to West Kelowna in 2014 to live with their daughter & son-in-law. The highlights of Bob's life are his wife and his family. He cherished his wife dearly for 72 years, and his love for his children & grandchildren was evident at every visit or phone call, and his face would light up whenever their names were mentioned. Most importantly, Bob was a prayer warrior who lived out his faith in God every day of his life. When asked what he was doing in the last year of his life, Bob would answer that he was praying for people. He wants us to know now that

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd

11:00AM

Annual General Meeting



The 2025 Annual Congregational Meeting will take place following the **combined service at 10:00AM**. (The Bulletin of Reports will be available at the church on February 16th.)

he is forever with the Lord. Robert Shopland was predeceased by his parents, Robert & Agnes; parents-in-law, Ernest & Johanna Erickson; his sisters Margaret Andre, Ina Hayden, Bette Williamson & Queenie Mae Hodder; his brothers Jim, Joe, Phillip & Jack. Robert is survived by his beloved wife, Louise and their children, Rod (Lois), Tim (Marlene) & Miriam (Brent Keith) and their families; sister Helen Thompson and sisters-in-law Janet Mills and Margaret Shopland; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and nephews & nieces. He loved you all. A gravesite service & burial will take place on Tuesday, February 4th, 2025 at Battle River Cemetery, north of Chauvin, AB, with Pastor Tim Acey officiating.



What is a Prayer Shawl?

Prayer shawls—Peace shawls—Comfort shawls—Mantles—whatever name you give them; they serve the same purpose. These are a wearable hug crafted with love and intent from maker to recipient. It is with these thoughts & prayers imbedded in the shawl with each stitch that makes them what they are.

Prayer shawls wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace, mother, hug, shelter and beautify. They can be knitted, crocheted, woven, or worked by any other means desired. They may be adorned with beads, bobbles, shells, fringe, etc., or left plain and understated. They can be shocking pink or muted tan and anything in between. In the instance of these shawls, the product is a physical representation of the process. That process is a journey through thought and intent. When creating a prayer shawl the individual making it begins with a recipient in mind. This person is held in the crafter's thoughts from beginning to end. Then whenever the recipient wears the shawl, they have a tangible reminder of the care and prayers directed their way. It is as much a healing item for one person as it is the other.

In the words of the Prayer Shawl Ministry: "Shawls can be used for: undergoing medical procedures; as a comfort after a loss or in times of stress; during bereavement; birthing; bridal shower or wedding gift; during an illness and recovery; ministering to others; graduation, birthday, anniversary, ordination, holiday gifts; or just socializing." If you do not crochet or knit, perhaps you would like to make a small lap quilt for someone. Whatever you like to do best, consider your ministry, "A hug from God." For more information call Ursula at 250.470.9817.



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

February 15th Valentine Breakfast



All ladies are welcome to attend!

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

Grace Coffee Social

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

Healing Service

Tuesday, February 25th at 7:00PM



Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

ROMANS 12:9

Council Meeting

TBA

"We have known and have believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who remain in love remain in God and God remains in them."

1 JOHN 4:16



Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

EPHESIANS 4:32

