

Graceline

A monthly publication of Grace Lutheran Church



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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



Pastor David's Message 2025 CALC Convention Highlights

Submitted by Christine Williams, Delegate

Day 1:

Opening Devotion by Kelly Fedkiw, "Prayer is to the Christian as air is to the human being." Prayer is where the Lord speaks to us, where we acquire our strength to live and serve through the power of the Holy Spirit. This was followed by an exercise standing saying, I am a missionary, arms out, thumbs up, I am a missionary. This exercise really got the group engaged for a great first day. The keynote speaker: Rev. Dr. Ebassa Berhanu who spoke about his journey from a pastor's son growing up in Ethiopia to a pastor and educator in USA. He focused on 3 key questions in his presentations. 1. What has God done? 2. What is God doing now? 3. What will God do in the future?

Session 1: What has God Done?

The key points Rev Ebassa stated are that God made a promise and gave His only Son so that we are forgiven for our sins. Jesus didn't die to make bad people good; He didn't die to make immoral people moral; He died to make dead people alive! The gates of hell will not prevail against the bold proclamation of the Gospel. We must fight as though the battle is real, and the victory is certain! God's promise (Genesis 3:15) Seed of Promise.

Session 2: What God is Doing Now?

Rev Ebassa reaffirmed God is with us, He meets us where we are and He guides us to be ambassadors of the Lord's word, and He does not leave us. In prayer, "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord." Let us go from here transformed, so that people will see us and know that we have been with Jesus. Rev Ebassa then spoke of his time working as a telemarketer while in university. He was rejected not because his communication skills were poor, but because he didn't believe in what he was selling. As Christians we want to be sure God's message is not only heard but understood. We need to speak with conviction and believe what we are saying. He reminded us that faith is not blind optimism, but a solid conviction that God is alive, and powerful, and He keeps His promises.

Session 3: What Will God Do in the Future?

God will finish what He has started, God's love will never leave us; no matter how far we wander, no matter how broken we may be, He will not give up on us. God is patient; He is persistent; He is merciful. From 2 Corinthians 5:10, "For we must all appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ, so that each

of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. C.S. Lewis said, "the Hound of Heaven pursued me." ... not to punish or torment us, but to redeem us.

Day 2:

CALC 2025 Annual Business Meeting: Speaker Pastor Kebede Dibaba from Fort St. John, BC spoke of his experience and the importance of being consistent according to what we preach; we will only be able to accomplish God's work through prayer, and the leading and power of the Holy Spirit. President Jim Bredeson called the business meeting to order. President Bredeson spoke about his various visits to CALC churches and events with other organizations he met through the year. There were 66 people present. Some key take-aways: The welcoming of the Oakridge Lutheran Church in Vancouver BC. This now makes a total of 39 congregations in CALC. There are now 12 congregations actively looking for pastors. A new Travel Expense Policy was accepted for CALC National Council and employees. This will follow the CRA guideline moving forward. There was a small deficit of \$590.00 at the end of the year 2024. The budget for 2025 was approved and it was lower than the 2024 budget as they no longer have a president's assistant role in place. There was also a discussion on the hierarchy of CALC put forward to replace the title of "President" with "Bishop." A motion was put forward to strike the title of "Bishop." It was voted on and passed, that the term "Bishop" be deleted from the proposal moving forward.

Elections and Appointments

The following people were elected:

1. President: Jim Bredeson, 2nd 4-year term (ending in 2029)
2. Secretary: Hein Bertram, 2nd 4-year term (acclamation)
3. Board of Elders: Ivar Osness, 1st 4-year term (ending in 2029) lay person
4. Board of Trustees: Gordon Ng, 1st 4-year term (ending in 2029), pastor
5. Board of Trustees: Darinka Ericksson, 1st 4-year term (ending in 2029), lay person

Pastor Scott Kopperud and his wife, alongside other musicians, blessed the gathering as they led in worship songs. President Bredeson spoke briefly thanking everyone and then led a communion service on Friday evening.

Next CALC Convention: The Business meeting for CALC's AGM in 2026 is set for April 17th & 18th, 2026 at the Holiday Inn in Edmonton as they offered their facilities at the same cost as this year. Other locations to be looked at for following years.

Submitted by Christine Williams, Delegate



Sunday, May 25th at 11:30AM ~

Fellowship Hall Everyone is Invited!

Our Office Administrator, Miriam Keith, is retiring at the end of May after 11 years of service in this capacity. She started training for this position in May 2014 and has worked steadfastly for the glory of God and His congregation here at Grace ever since then. We want to thank Miriam for her commitment and faithfulness to her position by having a retirement luncheon on **May 25th** after a combined service which will include the installation of our new council and a new member recognition Sunday. So, **everyone is invited to the combined service at 10:30AM with lunch to follow at 11:30AM.** We want to take this time to wish Miriam a very happy and blessed retirement and to take the time now to enjoy all the things that you could not do while you were working!

OFFICE COORDINATOR

We are seeking a dedicated and organized individual with a heart for ministry to join our team here at Grace Lutheran. This in-house position offers a 16-hour a week where you will be the primary point of contact for our church. More information can be found posted in the Fellowship hall and the bulletin boards . Please reach out to Ursula Sommerfeld or Christine Williams. You can also send your resume to bookkeeper@gracelutheranelowna.com



COMPASSION CORNER



Pray for everyone in our church family who mourns including the Johnson, Sutherland, Lutz, Sather, Shopland/Keith and Pfahl families. Pray for those in hospital including Linda Hardy. Pray for those recovering from surgery including, Dennis Lazaroff Nedra Schuler and Len Weber. Pray for those at home, including 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



Penny Pfahl

June 16, 1937 - December 12, 2024

In Loving Memory



October 3, 1935 - April 7, 2025

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the peaceful passing of Janet Bernice Sutherland on April 7, 2025, at the age of 89. Janet was born on October 3, 1935, in Tullymet, Saskatchewan, to Bill and Effie Eyre. She lived a life filled with love, kindness, and devotion to her family, leaving behind a legacy that will be cherished by all who knew her. Janet was the beloved wife of John Sutherland, with whom she shared 66 beautiful years of marriage. Their bond was a testament to enduring love and partnership. Together, they raised two sons, Dale and Warren, and built a family rooted in warmth and togetherness. Janet is survived by her loving husband, John; her son Dale and his wife Brenda, along with their children Nicole (Mike) and their sons Rylan and Grayson, and Jared (Lindsay) and their daughter Savannah; her son Warren and his wife Deena, along with their children Kirstie, and Jadon (Genesis) and their children Anabelle, Tony, and Léo. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren brought her immense joy, and she treasured every moment spent with them. Janet was predeceased by her parents, Bill and Effie Eyre, and her siblings Jean, Wilma, Bud, Gordon, and Jack. Though they left her too soon, their memory lived on in her stories and the values she carried forward. Born in the prairies of Tullymet, Saskatchewan, Janet grew up with a deep appreciation for family, community, and the simple joys of life. Her warmth and generosity touched countless lives, whether through a kind word, a shared meal, or her quiet strength in times of need. She had a gift for making everyone feel welcomed and valued, and her love for her family was boundless. Janet's life was one of grace and resilience, and her memory will live on in the hearts of her family and friends. A private family gathering will be held to celebrate her life and honor her legacy. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to a charity of your choice in Janet's name. Forever loved, forever remembered. Rest in peace, Janet. (Obituary & Picture taken from Castanet)

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

Men's Breakfast

May 10th 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

May 20th at 7:00PM

Prayer Shawl Ministry Update

This new ministry at Grace needs your help. There have been five prayer shawls given out so far, and have been received with warmth and joy. In order to keep going, we need people who are willing to knit, crochet, or quilt anything they can to resemble a shawl. Just covering the shoulders or even a lap blanket. We have already had some who are willing to donate some wool, so, if you need some, we have a contact person. This is truly a labour of love to those who are hurting and we would love to continue. If you have questions, please contact Ursula 250.470.9817 or Linda 250.808.6480. With love in Christ, we serve our loving God.

Adult Bible Study

1, 2, & 3 JOHN

Bible Study

Thursdays at 1PM
May 13th - June 10th

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



Council Meeting

May 27th at 7:00PM

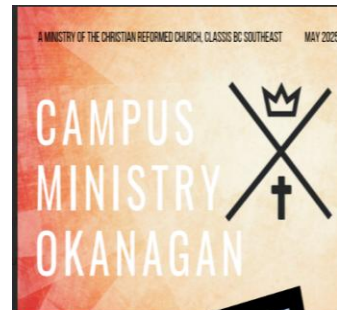
Secret Sisters

A praying and giving ministry to connect and encourage women.

Saturday, May 10th Fellowship Hall

Join us for an afternoon of fun!

1:00PM



Christians are like spies, wrote the French Reformed writer Jacques Ellul, "working secretly in the world on behalf of the Lord." On a secular campus that is often hostile and condescending to Christianity, I'm drawn to the notion of campus ministry as subversive activity! And what better moment to engage in such spy-craft than at Easter? Working with several Christian residence advisors and another Christian club, we hosted an Easter Saturday brunch for almost



During exams we welcomed UBCO's Power to Change Christian club to my wife's charity SPARK for some horse-based community building and stress-relief activities.

CHAPLAINS

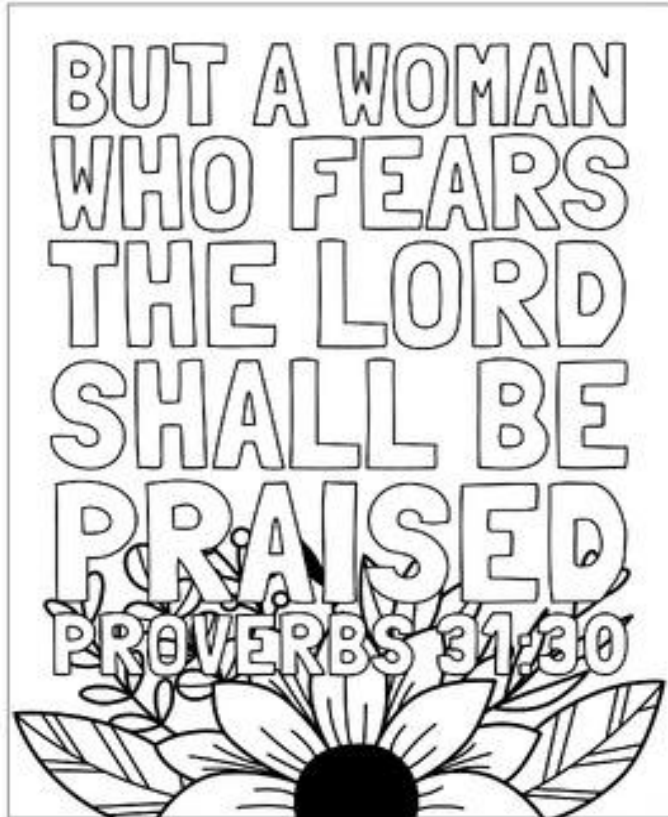
REACH OUT TO REV DR TODD STATHAM OR CURTIS MELIEFSTE BY EMAIL OR TEXT (LISTED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE). PLEASE SUPPORT THE WORK OF CURTIS AND TODD. YOU CAN DONATE DIRECTLY THROUGH OUR WEBSITE CRCCAMPUSOKANAGAN.CA. SIMPLY CLICK ON "DONATE" AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS.



50 students from UBCO residences who were curious to learn about Easter's history and cultural significance. Several Christian international students spoke about how Easter was celebrated in their countries. The pic above shows me retelling the biblical account of Jesus's resurrection and why the first Christians believed this was good news of earth-shattering importance for the whole world. Our team wasn't preaching - we were just sharing our experiences and describing the origin of Easter. I'm praying that seeds were planted in the hearts of students who attended this subversive event, many of whom heard the Easter story for the very first time.

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

Remember - Sunday School is at 10:15AM



Spring Crossword

Across

4. A day set aside for planting trees.
7. A winged insect that comes in a variety of colors.
9. The first month of spring.
11. What happens in April to bring May flowers?
12. After it rains, what is something colorful you might see in the sky?
13. What do the flowers do in the Spring?
14. A basketball tournament that occurs during a spring month.
15. What is it called when time is moved one hour back?

Down

1. Small round beetles that are often red with black dots.
2. A colorful plant with leaves and petals.

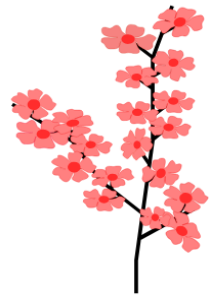
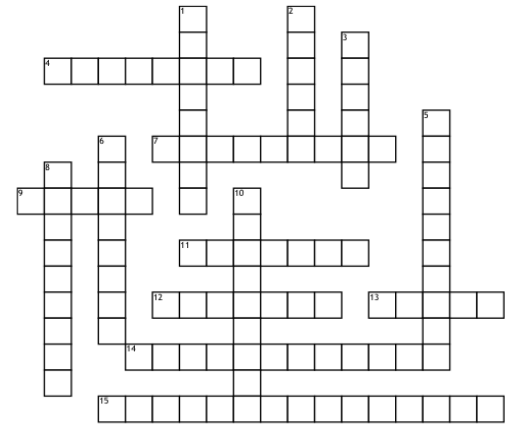
3. A small pool of water.

5. A day to play pranks.

6. A name for a young duck.

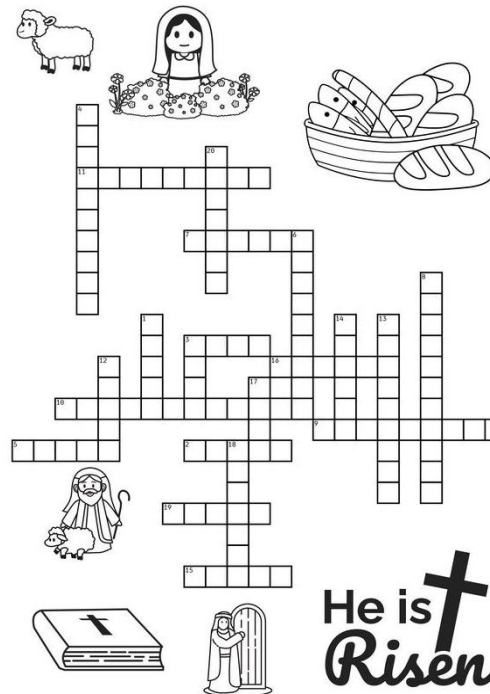
8. A grassweed with a yellow flower.

10. Animal who shows if spring is coming.



Scripture Crossword Puzzle

Solve the clues and fill out the grid



DOWN

1. The Gospel of John's account of Jesus turning it into wine
3. Corinthians 13 talks about this
4. Kindness and care for those in need
6. The result of Christ's work
8. Treated poorly for following Jesus
12. Turned water into wine
13. Obeying God's commandments
14. What Christians do to acknowledge God's greatness
17. A plant representing God's people
18. A biblical term for someone not of Jewish origin
20. Honoring the Creator

ACROSS

2. God's special messenger with wings
3. John 1:29 identifies Jesus as this animal
5. One of the twelve apostles who turned against Jesus
7. He finally believed in resurrection
9. The concept of asking forgiveness from God in Christian teachings
10. When Jesus conquered death
11. This event began the Christian Church's mission around the world
15. Symbolizes Jesus' body in communion
16. He washed his hands and delivered Jesus
19. Trust without seeing

He is
Risen

MAY 2025 – Grace Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:00PM Choir Practice	2	3 1:00PM Emmaus Finnish Service
4 Easter 3 9:00AM Contemporary w/Holy Communion 10:10AM Coffee Social 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM Traditional w/Holy Communion	5 7:00PM Zoom Study with Jim Statham	6 2:00PM Lakeview Lodge PD	7 9:30AM Ladies Bible Study 2:00PM Brookhaven PD	8 8:15-10:00AM Pre-School Mother's Day Tea (Private Event) 7:00PM Choir Practice	9	10 8:30AM Men's Breakfast 1:00PM Secret Sister's Event
11 Easter 4 Mother's Day 9:00AM Contemporary 10:10AM Coffee Social 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM Traditional OVPCC Baby Bottle Campaign Begins	12 7:00PM Zoom Study with Jim Statham	13 1:00PM Adult Bible Study	14 9:30AM Ladies Bible Study	15 7:00PM Choir Practice	16	17
18 Easter 5 9:00AM Contemporary 10:10AM Coffee Social 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM Traditional w/Holy Communion	19 7:00PM Zoom Study with Jim Statham	20 1:00PM Adult Bible Study	21 9:30AM Ladies Bible Study 2:00PM Brookhaven FOG	22 6:30PM Choir Potluck & Practice	23	24
25 Easter 6 10:30AM Combined Service with Council Installation and New Members Welcome 11:30AM Retirement Luncheon for Miriam Keith & Welcome New Members	26 7:00PM Zoom Study with Jim Statham	27 1:00PM Adult Bible Study	28 9:30AM Ladies Bible Study	29	30	31 11:00AM Smallldridge Wedding

THE LORD DELIGHTS IN
THOSE WHO FEAR HIM,
WHO PUT THEIR HOPE
IN HIS UNFAILING LOVE.
PSALM 147:11

HAPPY
*Mother's
Day*

