

Graceline

A publication of Grace Lutheran Church



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Pastor David's Message

Question and answer session with Pastor David

Why do we celebrate Christmas and does Jesus need to be a part of it?

I am sure many have celebrated Christmas without Jesus. Most people love Christmas because it is a happy time with food, gifts and decorations that bring people together. Most people get that! Of course, if you know your historical background of the origins of Christmas, we know it starts with the birth of Jesus.

So why bring Jesus into it now when this happened a long time ago? Can we just go along with it with out the religious stuff?

To be honest, celebrating Christmas without Jesus, is like brushing your teeth but you don't believe in cavities. Why would you do something if you don't believe in the significance of it? I understand that life sometimes can be an oxymoron and we do things all the time that fill our hollow lives even when it has no meaning. No wonder many see their lives as empty and meaningless. Christmas with Jesus could make this celebration even brighter and greater when we bring Jesus into it. That is why we as Christians keep Jesus in the centre of it.

So Why does Jesus' birth have significance?

Jesus came and was born into this world because humanity needed hope to live in a new way. He is the new man or new "Adam". If humanity, man or woman would follow Jesus's example of love, forgiveness, and compassion for others in care and deed, the world would be a better place. The problem is not everyone is willing to do this. Even Christians fail to do this and need to change to get on track, to be the new person that Jesus calls us to be.

So big deal, are there not other great people who we can live by their example?

Yes, but what makes Jesus a big deal is his incarnation. He is the physical manifestation of God who has come to us, he is God incarnate. He is fully human and fully divine. If there is anyone who wants to set an example of how to live, it would be God himself to show the way. The maker of heavens and earth, the

beholder of the universe. If that does not get one's attention then I do not know what would.

How do we know it was God who came to us?

Good question! Only the gift of faith can make us believe this and that is what you can ask God for Christmas, "Lord help me to believe this is really You. Amen." There are of course other considerations like the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy. If one reads the bible, we can see that there are over 300 prophecies in the bible that Jesus fulfills. The chances of that to happen and the task to fulfill it could only be done by God himself. Jesus is the greatest historical figure in the world that changed the world and is still changing the world by changing one person at a time. Who knows, He could be working on you next.

Do I really need Him?

There are four things in life that we need. First is the means to live, which God has given as a free gift to those who believe or not. You may want to thank God one day about your existence. Some will never acknowledge that because they think the organization of their DNA was a cosmic mistake that happened in their favour. If you can do math, it would almost be a mathematical impossibility to believe that. Do the math before you would disagree with this statement, please! Second, Jesus came to show us the way to the path of forgiveness. We need God's forgiveness; without forgiveness there is no future with Him or with others. If we do not repent and forgive, how do we change for the better? Third, He shows us the path to salvation which leads us to Easter, here this grants us the key to eternal life beyond this one. Fourth, this finally gives us purpose and meaning in a life.

May Emmanuel, "God is with us" be with you and your loved ones this special season that we call Christmas.

Pastor David Wunderlich



- ❖ December 5th – 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 28th – 9:00AM 1st Sunday of Christmas Contemporary Service
- ❖ December 28th – 11:00AM 1st Sunday of Christmas Traditional Service

Dear Lord, we pray that this final month of the year will be filled with Your grace, presence and love. Help us to remember the importance of this during this holiday season.

May we find joy in the simple pleasures and treasure the opportunities to gather with our family and friends.

We pray for comfort for all those who are going through difficult times and ask for Your healing hands to be upon all who are ill and in mourning. We pray you watch over those who are in need and put a shield of protection around them to keep them out of harm's way.

Please bless our congregation and use us, so that we can be a blessing to others. We thank You for our Saviour Jesus in Whose Name we ask. Amen.

GRACE NEWS

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's 11:00AM traditional service. The choir anthem is right at the start of the service, so even if you attend the 9:00AM service, you can still join choir, attend the 9:00AM service, join our coffee social and sing the anthem at 11AM and then go home. Everyone who attends Grace is welcome to sing in the choir or if you know someone who loves to sing, they are welcome to join us!

Ladies' Bible Study Every Wednesday at 9:30AM

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

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

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.



COMPASSION CORNER: Pray for everyone in our church family who mourns and their families. Pray for those healing including Kelly McLennon, Brandon Howe, Sasha Sokolov, Marian Ruff, Don Chapman, Richard Shalogam, Marissa Hutchison, Nedra Schuler, Ellen

Spielman, Kris Gering, Maria Heise, Jim Szabo, Louise Shopland, Gerald Schuler, Emily Hughes Fran Schmidt, Joan Ulmer, Coco Heebner and Lorraine Wentland. *For the LORD comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones. Isaiah 49:13b*

ILT EDUCATION:

Where Will Your Next Pastor Come From?

We are all familiar with the traditional model of selecting a new pastor, which involved a pipeline that included Bible camps, Bible colleges, and seminaries. Students would attend seminary and then relocate to a church elsewhere that extended a call. Congregations would apply to seminaries, and a seminary would send them a suitable candidate.

However, we are experiencing a transitional period where these old pipelines for training pastors no longer exist, resulting in congregations struggling to find pastors. Bible camps and colleges are in decline, and fewer Christian young people aspire to become pastors. The higher cost of seminary education and the lengthy process discourage many potential candidates. This has resulted in most of today's seminary students being non-traditional, often second-career individuals who are stepping forward to serve their local congregations.

Addressing these challenges necessitates a new model of education, one that ILT has already successfully pioneered. Our certificate and degree programs are tailored to train individuals regardless of their prior educational background. ILT assists students in selecting the most appropriate program to prepare them for ministry and provides mentorship to support their transition into pastoral roles. Many students start serving their congregations before completing their studies, balancing employment and coursework. The result is a combination of academic excellence and practical apprenticeship.

This innovative model represents a significant advancement for Lutheran congregations across North America, and it is already proving effective, one pastor at a time. The traditional internship and candidate lists are no longer viable. The next pastor of your local church could very well be someone already sitting in the congregation, ready to serve and lead from within.

Contact jwilliams@ilt.edu or call 605-692-9337 for more information.



2025 REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE:

Tuesday, November 11th at the Royal LePage Arena on 2760 Cameron Road. Pastor Ed will be giving the homily. This service is always well-attended, so it is strongly suggested that you arrive early for parking and to be seated by 10:30AM

Annual Christmas Joy Concert **Friday, December 5th 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, Deni Skutshek, Ellie Schindel, Melodie Petersen, Linda Wadsworth, Julia Emmond, Karen Emmond, Mandy Smalldridge, the children's choir, Frieda Schwarz, Full of Grace & more! Come out and bring a friend!

GOOD
Tidings
of
Comfort
& JOY



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

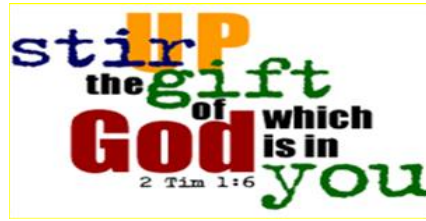
Secret sister

Event coming soon

Ladies', please join us November 29th from 9:00AM ~11:00AM in our fellowship hall for Potluck brunch, a fun gift exchange (\$2.00 limit) and great conversation. See you there!

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, November 8th and
December 13th at 8:30AM



Grace Coffee Social

Sundays at 10:00AM Everyone is
Welcome to come to the Fellowship
Hall and meet your Grace
neighbours!

Healing Prayer Service

Tuesday, November 25th at 7:00PM

Rides to Church

Do you need a ride to Sunday services or special congregational events? Would you be willing to give someone a ride to Sunday services or special events?

Call the office at 250.769.5685 and we will match those who need a ride and those willing to give a ride.



Council Meeting

November 18th, December 16th at 7:00PM

From all the Grace Lutheran Staff & Council we wish everyone a very Merry & Blessed Christmas season! We hope to see everyone again in 2026!

Serving in Worship

Praise Band:

Praise Band leads the congregation in song at the 9:00AM Contemporary service.

Full Of Grace:

Full Of Grace leads the congregation in song at the 11:00AM traditional service

CANADIAN LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF GIFTS FROM THE HEART 2025 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

NOVEMBER 2025 – Grace

Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Private Event 8am -4pm
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS 1 HOUR BACK 2AM 2	3	4	5	6	7	8
All Saints Day 9:00AM Contemporary w/Holy Communion 10:10AM Coffee Social 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM Traditional w/Holy Communion	Zoom Bible Study every Monday With Pastor Jim & Lillas Statham 7 PM	Group Bible Study 1PM 2:00PM Lakeview Lodge PD	Ladies' Bible Study With Lillas Statham every Wednesday 9AM 2:00PM Brookhaven PD	Randy Benson Grief Support Group 1-3 pm Choir Practice Every Thursday 7PM		8:30AM Men's Breakfast
REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE 9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Pentecost 22 9:00AM Contemporary 10:10AM Coffee Social 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM Traditional Choir Anthem Special Tribute Full of Grace	Zoom Bible Study With Pastor Jim & Lillas Statham 7 PM	Office Closed Remembrance Day	Ladies' Bible Study 9AM	Randy Benson Grief Support Group 1-3 pm		1:00PM Emmaus Finnish Service
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Pentecost 23 9:00AM Contemporary 10:10AM Coffee Social 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM Traditional w/Holy Communion	Zoom Bible Study 7 PM		Ladies' Bible Study 9AM 2:00PM Brookhaven FOG	Randy Benson Grief Support Group 1-3 pm		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Christ the King Sunday 9:00AM Contemporary 10:10AM Coffee Social 11:00AM Traditional	Zoom Bible Study 7 PM		Ladies' Bible Study 9AM	Randy Benson Grief Support Group 1-3 pm	Bowling Youth Event 7:00PM	Secret Sister Event 9-11AM 4-H Club Event 2- 4PM
30						
Advent 1 9:00AM Contemporary 10:10AM Coffee Social 11:00AM Traditional						



Let Us Remember
those who sacrificed
themselves for us!

DECEMBER 2025 – Grace

Lutheran Church



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Randy Benson final Grief Support class 7:00PM Choir Practice	5 7:00PM Christmas Joy Concert	6
7 Advent 2 9:00AM Contemporary w/Holy Communion 10:10AM Coffee Social 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM Traditional w/Holy Communion	8 7:00PM Zoom Study with Jim Satham	9 2:00PM Lakeview Lodge PD	10 9:00AM Ladies' Bible Study 2:00PM Brookhaven PD	11 7:00PM Choir Practice	12	13 8:30AM Men's Breakfast Emmond. Christmas concert noon - 7PM 1PM,3PM,5PM
14 Advent 3 9:00AM Contemporary 10:10AM Coffee Social 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM Traditional Choir Anthem	15 7:00PM Zoom Study with Jim Satham	16 Council meeting at Pastor David's House 7:00Pm	17 9:00AM Ladies' Bible Study	18 6:00PM Choir Practice Potluck & Practice	19 Emmond. Formal Christmas concert 7PM	20 1:00PM Emmaus Finnish Service
21 Advent 4 9:00AM Contemporary 10:10AM Coffee Social 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM Traditional w/Holy Communion	22 7:00PM Zoom Study with Jim Satham	23	24 5:00PM Candlelight Service 7:00PM Candlelight Service Choir Anthem	25 10:00AM Nativity of Our Lord	26 BOXING DAY -Office Closed-	27
28 Christmas 1 9:00AM Contemporary 10:10AM Coffee Social 11:00AM Traditional	29 7:00PM Zoom Study with Jim Satham	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE!	January 1 Office Closed		