

Graceline

A publication of Grace Lutheran Church



Inside this Edition

Pastor David's Message.....	1
December at Grace.....	2
Operation Christmas	3
Offering Envelopes & Men's Coffee	4
Youth Group/Confirmation News.....	4
The Year Ahead.....	5
Compassion Corner & In Memory	5
Congregational Life.....	6
January Calendar.....	7
February Calendar.....	8

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Pastor David's Message

Freedom of Religion and Expression

I believe in these two terms, even if it means at times that my expression or religion may not always agree with someone else. The issue is when one side takes dominance and shuts the other side down or makes one voiceless. This is what happened in Germany during the Nazis' regime or in the Soviet Union. We have places in the world today like North Korea and other places where one cannot freely express their beliefs. These two terms hold the key to healthy government and education. We want to teach people how to think, to seek truth, and not force belief and expression on them. Truth is freely more accepted when it is given in a loving way that is not forceful. Jesus was one to express a new way for humanity to think and to believe. He was often challenged by the authorities and in the end was crucified for it. We live in a more polarizing time and many feel threatened in their beliefs even if it might be a different spectrum. Some have not always put their best foot forward in expression and have caused issues. We always ask, how do we prevent such things to be expressed? I don't know, because when we try, we may also silence others in their expressions when there maybe value to their views. Its complicated, and part of these freedoms do come with a price. The age of reason always changes therefore we can disagree but, we can do what Jesus' spoke of. To love your enemy and to treat those in how you may want to be treated.

The scripture says

Mark 12:31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these. "NIV

Galatians 5:14

For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbour as yourself. NIV

James 2:8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbour as yourself, "you are doing right. NIV

Romans 13:10

Love does no harm to a neighbour. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law. NIV

The key is when we speak about belief and expression we do it in a loving way. This is the key in holding on to our freedoms.

Happy New Year!

Pastor David Wunderlich

Freedom of Religious Expression could be threatened by a government Bill currently before Parliament.

Bill C-9 entitled the Combatting Hate Act was given second reading (support in principle) by the House of Commons and has been in Committee for detailed study since the beginning of October.

The Bill's expressed intention is to further curb hate speech which in principle many of us could support. However, in an attempt to do so, it seriously threatens religious expression by denying it protection that is provided for other forms of expression including artistic and scientific. This is being done by a proposed amendment to the Bill sponsored by the Bloc and supported by the government. Religious expression and institutions are thus being targeted for tougher and potentially repressive measures.

As the Bill is still in Committee, there is still time to contact your local MP and urge that this amendment be rejected by the Committee before the Bill is reported back to the House.

***December* at Grace Lutheran Church**

Advent and Christmas 2025 at Grace Lutheran

The Preparation

The preparation for Advent began on Wednesday November 26th. The sanctuary Christmas tree was decorated. With the four candles, evergreens and garlands affixed to the stand, the Advent Wreath was ready for the lighting of the candles. Advent banners were hung. Our beautiful blue Advent paraments were installed on the altar, lectern and pulpit. A Christmas tree, beautiful photo booth was placed at the stage, little Christmas trees on the tables and a gingerbread house adorned our Fellowship Hall. Some of the highlights of Advent and Christmas follow.

16th Annual Christmas Joy Concert



On Friday December 5th at 7:00PM, we opened our doors for an evening of Christmas music and a Christmas devotion. We had over 100 people in attendance at the concert.

An amazing duet by Ellie Schindel on keyboard and Melodie Petersen on piano called, "A Christmas Eve Memory," opened the Concert.

God has blessed Grace Lutheran congregation with an abundance of musical talent. These gifts shone brightly throughout the concert. Above pictures on the right Maksym Lysenko playing a solo on Violin and on the left of Our Children singing Little Drummer Boy By Joyful Hearts Children's Choir.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Above picture is of Ursula Sommerfeld Family's the Son Arik Daughter-in-law Charis and Grandkids, Kiana, Cecilia, Carson & Adelade. It was an amazing heartfelt Christmas Eve as we all sang Silent Night Holy Night in beautiful candlelight.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS

From the 11 bags we did for folks on the street in 2024 to the over 60 bags in 2025. With the help of Grace Lutheran Members, the Secret Sisters, our Community Outreach Team and the Men's Group, we were able to put together 23 hygiene bags for West Kelowna's Women's Shelter, 20 hygiene bags for the men's 20 bed recovery house in Lake Country and 12 prayer shawls and quilts for Brookhaven Care Facility here on the West side. The Pregnancy Care Centre received various homemade items from our summer sewing bee, and a young mother in Kelowna was given household and baby items along with a grocery gift card, to enable her to flee a violent living situation. God's blessings on a ministry well done!! *"As each has received a gift, use it to serve another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."* 1 Peter 4:10



Linda Lutz and Christine Williams gathering Christmas bags for the Men's Faith Based recovery House In Lake Country. The bags were well received and much appreciated. Kudos to the Men's Breakfast for their support in getting things needed to fill the bags.



Job well done by this amazing group of ladies who made bags and filled them with necessary items to support the women's shelter here in West Kelowna! They were so appreciated by all the ladies who received one.



Above picture of Marilyn with the items the ladies made at our Sewing Bee this past Fall. Handmade bags and quilts ,newborn hats, Baby blankets and beautiful prayer shawls for Brookhaven Care Home shown below.



Bringing Cake to Sunday Coffee Fellowship?



If you are bringing a celebration cake to share during Coffee Fellowship, please let the Kitchen group know



Sign-up to Serve for Coffee Fellowship

Men's Breakfast



Saturday, January 10th at 8:30AM. Special guest from Teen/Adult Challenge to give testimonials and thanks for the gift bags that were donated to them for Christmas.

Check Your Church Mailbox



Your 2026 Grace Offering Envelopes are in your church mailbox. Please pick them up as soon as possible. If they are not in your mailbox. Please contact Tim Hartness or the office.



January 8th – Confirmation resumes at 4:00PM

Youth events Family Youth games event.

Friday January 30th. 7-9pm Bring your favourite game, Come out and enjoy the fun. Everyone invited. Snacks provided.

Feb. 18th – Shrove Pancake Supper –

Youth will be preparing and serving a delicious pancake supper at 6:00PM in the Fellowship Hall. Come out and enjoy a meal and stay for the Ash Wednesday service following at 7:00PM.

Youth Event- Bowling at the Capri

Center Friday March .27th 7:00-8:00PM.

Located at the Capri Center Mall at the corner of Hwy 97 & Gordon Drive.

Questions? Please contact Pastor David Wunderlich by text or phone: 250.317.6502 or email. It is free.

Youth /Confirmation Zoom Bible Study

Please contact Pastor David for more information at 250.317.6502

On Sunday January 11th Rev. Edward Hill. Program Director Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute and 9 students are coming to worship with us .

2026

At-a-Glance

We look forward to 2026 and the opportunities for worship. The seasons of the Church year and the important festivals and services for each season are listed below:

Season of Epiphany: January 6th to February 15th

Monday January 6 th	Feast of Epiphany
Sunday, January 11 th	Baptism of our Lord
Sunday February 15 th	Transfiguration Sunday

Season of Lent: March 1st to April 8th

Wednesday February 18 th	Shrove Pancake Supper 5:00PM Ash Wednesday Service 6:15PM
Sunday February 22 nd	1 st Sunday in Lent
Wednesday February 25 th	Midweek Lenten Service 6:00 PM
Sunday March 1 st	2 nd Sunday in Lent
Wednesday March 4 th	Midweek Lenten Service 6:00 PM
Sunday March 8 th	3 rd Sunday in Lent
Wednesday March 11 th	Midweek Lenten Service 6:00 PM
Sunday March 15 th	4 th Sunday in Lent
Wednesday March 18 th	Midweek Lenten Service 6:00 PM
Sunday March 22 nd	5 th Sunday in Lent

Holy Week: March 29th to April 10th

Sunday March 29 th	Palm Sunday Service
Thursday April 2 nd	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday April 3 rd	Good Friday Service

Season of Easter: April 12th to May 31st

Sunday April 5 th	Easter Sunday
Sunday April 12 th	2 nd Sunday in Easter
Sunday April 19 th	3 rd Sunday in Easter
Sunday April 26 th	4 th Sunday in Easter
Sunday May 3 rd	5 th Sunday in Easter
Sunday May 10 th	6 th Sunday in Easter
Sunday May 17 th	7 th Sunday in Easter

Sunday May 24th Pentecost Sunday

Sunday's After Pentecost: June 7th to November 15th

Sunday June 7 th	Holy Trinity Sunday
Sunday October 25 th	Reformation Sunday
Sunday November 1 st	All Saints Sunday
Sunday November 22 nd	Christ the King



COMPASSION CORNER

Pray for everyone in our church family who mourns including the Gniewotta, Hardy families. Pray for those healing incincludng Jim & Marline Pope's

Granddaughter Kala, Alma Pasker, 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. *I will not forget you! For I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands. Isaiah 49:15-16*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF MEMBERS, WE HAVE LOST THIS PAST YEAR

Eve Regina Reynolds

September 28, 1938 – January 12, 2025

Robert Shopland

November 5, 1920 – January 20, 2025

Ferne Marie Sather

August 29, 1940 – January 20, 2025

Janet Bernice Sutherland

October 3, 1935 ~ April 7, 2025

Craig Heise

August 18th, 1967 – July 15th, 2025

Please check your weekly bulletin for updates!

Congregational Life

Christian Education

Sundays

10:15AM: Sunday School. Our Sunday School meets every Sunday except during school holidays.

Wednesdays

9:30AM: Ladies Bible Study led by Lili Statham on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00AM. If you want more information, please call Lili at 250.767.0153.

Confirmation: Contact Pastor David for more information

Thursdays

1:30PM: Pastor David's Bible Study TBA

Serving Others

**Volunteer at the
Kelowna Gospel Mission**

251 Leon Ave, Kelowna, BC

Looking for volunteers

On the 4th Tuesday of every month a team from Grace Lutheran was going 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

Unfortunately, we had to stop doing this important work in 2025. As we were unable to get volunteers to help so were unable to go. If you are interested please call Corinn Lutz or the office for more information.

Today
i Choose
Joy

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.

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

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 and will resume February

HEALING & PRAYER SERVICE

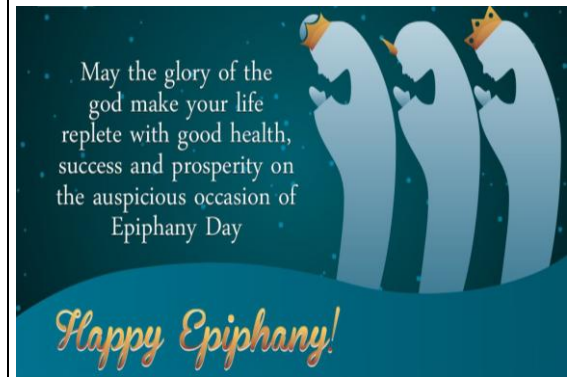
will be held on **Tuesday, January 27th**, at
7:00PM.

May the blessings of Christ
be always with you in all the
ups and downs of your life.
May your life be happy
and joyful forever.
Happy New Year!

Grace Choir

Grace Choir provides a special musical offering during worship on the first and third Sunday of each month. We sing from September through May. We welcome anyone who has a voice and wants to sing to the Lord. We practice on Thursdays from 7:00-8:30PM. If you have any questions, please speak to Deni Skutshek 250.862.9098 or the Church Office 250.769.5685 for information. Choir practice resumes on Thursday, February 5th, at 7:00PM.

Choir is on hiatus until February 2026.



Fellowship


Men's Breakfast: Grace men gather at 8:30AM for breakfast at Grace Lutheran in the Fellowship Hall the second Saturday of the month. **Our next breakfast Saturday, January 10th And February 14th, 2026.**

Council and Committee Meetings

Church Council: Tuesday January 20th at 7:00PM Fireside Room.



January 2026 Grace Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Happy New Year! - Office Closed - 	2	3
4 Christmas 2 9:00AM Contemporary w/Holy Communion 10:10AM Coffee Social 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM Traditional w/Holy Communion	5 Feast of Epiphany	6 2PM Lakeview Lodge PD	7 2PM Brookhaven PD	8	9	10 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast CLBI Staying overnight
11 Baptism of our Lord 9:00AM Contemporary 10:10AM Coffee Social 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM Traditional	12 7PM Spectrum Singers 7PM Zoom Bible Study	13 CLBI staying overnight	14 9:30AM Ladies Bible Study	15	16	17
18 Epiphany 2 9:00AM Contemporary 10:10AM Coffee Social 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM Traditional w/Holy Communion	19 12 7PM Spectrum Singers 7PM Zoom Bible Study	20 7PM Board Meeting	21 9:30AM Ladies Bible Study 2PM Brookhaven FOG	22	23	24 1PM Emmaus Finnish Service
25 Epiphany 3 9:00AM Contemporary 10:10AM Coffee Social 11:00AM Traditional	26 7PM Spectrum Singers 7PM Zoom Bible Study	27 10:00AM-	28 9:30AM Ladies Bible Study	29	30 Youth Family Game Night 7- 9PM	31

February 2026 Grace Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Epiphany 4 9:00AM Contemporary w/Holy Communion 10:10AM Coffee Social 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM Traditional w/Holy Communion	2 Spectrum Singers 7PM Zoom Study with Jim Statham 7:00PM	3 2:00PM Lakeview Lodge PD	4 9:30AM Ladies Bible Study 2:00PM Brookhaven PD	5 7:00PM Choir Practice	6	7
8 Epiphany 5 9:00AM Contemporary 10:10AM Coffee Social 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM Traditional Choir Anthem	9 Spectrum Singers 7PM Zoom Study with Jim Statham 7:00PM	10	11 9:30AM Ladies Bible Study	12 7:00PM Choir Practice	13	14 8:30AM Valentine Breakfast Everyone Welcome
15 Epiphany 6 9:00AM Contemporary 10:10AM Coffee Social 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM Traditional w/Holy Communion	16 Spectrum Singers 7PM Zoom Study with Jim Statham 7:00PM FAMILY DAY Office Closed	17	18 9:30AM Ladies Bible Study 2:00PM Brookhaven FOG 6:00PM Shrove Pancake <i>Ash X</i> <i>Wednesday</i> 7:00PM Service	19 7:00PM Choir Practice	20	21 1:00PM Emmaus Finnish Service
22 Epiphany 7 9:00AM Contemporary 10:10AM Coffee Social 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM Traditional Choir Anthem	23 Spectrum Singers 7PM Zoom Study with Jim Statham 7:00PM	24 Group Bible study 1pm	25 9:30AM Ladies Bible Study 6:00PM Lenten Service	26 7:00PM Choir Practice	27	28 Secret Sister event TBA