

Graceline

A Monthly Publication of Grace Lutheran Church

The Season of Lent



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GRACELINE A newsletter published by:
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Church Office: Miriam Shopland-Keith
Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM - Monday through Friday

Lent & Easter 2016

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 9th @ 5:30 PM

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

February 10th @ 7:00 PM

Sundays in Lent

First Sunday in Lent - February 14th
 Second Sunday in Lent - February 21st
 Third Sunday in Lent - February 28th
 Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 6th
 Fifth Sunday in Lent - March 13th

Midweek Lenten Services @ 7:00 PM

Wednesday February 17th
 Wednesday February 24th – Service of Healing
 Wednesday March 2nd
 Wednesday March 9th
 Wednesday March 16th - Service of Healing

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday – Sunday March 20th
 Maundy Thursday – March 24th
 Good Friday – March 25th

Easter Sunday Services *Sunday March 27th*

8:00 AM – Service of Holy Communion
 Easter Breakfast and egg hunt.
 Gellatly Nut Farm & Regional Park
 10:30 AM – Service of Holy Communion

Pastor Ed's Message

Key to My Heart

Published in the Kelowna Capital News

The Key to My Heart

On Sunday, February 14th we will celebrate Valentine's Day. Valentine's Day began in church. An annual church service and festive banquet celebrated the life, ministry and death of St. Valentinus of Rome. Valentinus, a Christian pastor, was arrested and accused of performing marriages for Roman Soldiers and their brides, and practicing the Christian faith, both of which were forbidden under Roman law at that time. He was convicted and sentenced to death. While in prison, Valentine performed a miracle in Jesus' name. He healed the daughter of his jailor, a Roman official named Asterius. The condemned saint wrote a letter to the girl in order to encourage her in her faith. He signed the letter, "Your Valentine," as a farewell.

Thanks to the influence of Geoffrey Chaucer and fellow poets, Valentine's Day became associated with romantic love and courting during the late Middle Ages. By the 18th Century, St. Valentine's Day became a day on which couples expressed their love for one another by presenting flowers, candy and cards, i.e., "Valentines." A unique Valentine's Day tradition arose in Wales. A young man declared his love and announced his marital intentions by giving his beloved a spoon decorated with a key. The key was known as, "The key to the man's heart." The key declared that the young man's heart was full of love for his lady. The key invited the lady to unlock his heart so that his love could flow freely to her. What a beautiful way of showing one's love for another.

We can see the Gospel in that beautiful Welsh Valentine's Day tradition. God the Father has declared His love for the human race. "*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*" (John 3:16) God hands us the, "Key to His Heart," in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God's love for us is revealed in how He, "Gave his One and Only Son."

King David declared: "*Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*" (Psalm 51:5) By Jesus' immaculate conception by the power of the Holy Spirit and his virgin birth, Jesus redeemed human conception and birth from the power of sin. Adam and Eve were tempted by Satan to eat the forbidden fruit and thereby brought sin and death into our world. (Genesis 3:1-24). The Gospels declare that God sent Jesus to be tempted by Satan in the desert for 40 days. Satan tempted Jesus to commit every sin possible. The Scriptures declare

that Jesus overcame Satan's temptations and thereby overcame Satan's victory over humanity.

Through the prophet Moses, God gave his people Israel the Ten Commandments and other moral and ceremonial laws for their good and for their protection. The people of Israel promised to obey God's laws. The Holy Scriptures testify to Israel's inability to keep God's laws. The Gospels testify that during his earthly life, Jesus obeyed the Ten Commandments and the other moral and ceremonial laws, thereby fulfilling God's laws.

Holy Scriptures reveal the consequences of breaking the Ten Commandments and God's other laws: pain, suffering, carnage and death. Scriptures reveal that God's most trusted and loved saints sinned and fell short of the mark. Scriptures declare that all have broken God's laws, all are guilty of sin and deserve punishment. For this reason, God used corrupt religious and political leaders to accuse and convict Jesus of the crime of blasphemy, the ultimate sin, by declaring he was God's one and only Son, whom God had sent into the world to die for sin and be raised to new life. Jesus was sentenced to death on the cross. He suffered and died on the cross on the first Good Friday and was raised from the dead on the First Easter Sunday.

God's most passionate desire for you is to unleash this love on you and make you one of His sons or daughters. He wants to take something from you. He wants to take your sin from you and put it on Jesus' cross so that Jesus suffers and dies for your sin. He wants to give you something. He wants to give you salvation. God gives you Jesus's perfect obedience and opens the door to eternal life. The key to God's heart is turned by faith. This faith also comes from God, from hearing the Gospel.

God has a key waiting for you. Come hear the Gospel of Jesus at Grace at 9:00 and 10:30 on Sunday mornings. Come out to and join us for a feast, at our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Super at 5:30 PM on February 9th, and come hear the Gospel at our Ash Wednesday service on February 10th.

In Christ,

Pastor Ed Skutshek

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 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

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDY, SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP THIS WINTER:

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday Morning:

Discussion Group

Led by: Pastor Jim Statham

Time: 10:15 AM (after 9:00 AM service)

Location: Fireside Room

Topic: The Ten Commandments

Wednesday Morning:

Ladies Bible Study

Led by: Liliias Statham

Time: 9:30-11:00 AM

Location: Fireside Room

Topic: Materials by Sola Publishing

Bible Study/Table Talk

Led by: Pastor Ed Skutshek

Time: 11:00 AM to noon.

Location: Fellowship Hall

Topic: The Book of Revelation

Bag luncheon and discussion follows the Bible Study.

Confirmation

Classes are held on Wednesdays

Led by: Pastor David Wunderlich

Time: 4:00-5:00 PM

Location: Fireside Room

Sunday School

Time: 10:45 AM

Children are dismissed from our 10:30 AM worship service after the Children's Time to attend Sunday school.

Location: Church Basement

Superintendent: Heidi Vant Geloof

250.764.7544.

hlvantgeloof@telus.net

SERVICE

Rides to Church

Would you be willing to give a ride to one of our parishioners, who lives close to you but is no longer able to drive to Sunday services or attend other congregational events? Call Nora Steffenhagen at 778.478.4117, and she will put you on a roster of drivers and will match you with a parishioner who lives near you.

Sunday Coffee Fellowship

Following our 10:30AM Sunday worship service, all are invited to our coffee hour. Members and friends of Grace Lutheran are generally assigned to a group who hosts coffee fellowship for the Sundays in a given month. Each group typically serves for two months a year. Our service groups need extra help from time to time, i.e., during the summer and winter when many are away. If you love to serve God in this way, why not consider signing up as a spare? Service group leaders could call upon you. Let our church office know if you are willing at 250.769.5685.

Special Music

We love to include Special Music at our 10:30 AM service on the second, fourth and fifth Sundays. If you would be interested in singing a hymn for special music during the service, or playing an instrumental piece during the offering, please put your name on the special music sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office, and Miriam will be in touch with you.

Praise Band

Praise Band practices on Friday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. They lead the congregation in song at the 9:00 AM service. We welcome anyone who has a voice and wants to sing to the Lord! Please speak to Deni Skutshek 250.862.9098 or the Church Office 250.769.5685 for information.

Grace Choir

Our Grace Choir performs a musical offering during worship on the first and third Sunday of each month from September to May. We practice on Thursdays from 7:00-8:30 PM. We welcome anyone who has a voice and wants to sing to the Lord! Please speak to Deni Skutshek 250.862.9098 or the Church Office 250.769.5685 for information.

Grace Lutheran Women

Date: Thursday February 11th

Time: 9:30 AM

Place: Fireside Room

The women of Grace Lutheran Church minister to the congregation in so many ways. They maintain our kitchen and supply pantry. They minister to grieving families by offering hospitality. They support local, national and international missions.



OUTREACH

Kelowna's Gospel Mission

251 Leon Ave, Kelowna, BC

The 4th Tuesday of every month a team from Grace Lutheran goes to the Gospel Mission. They help in the kitchen with lunch and dinner preparation. If you feel called to help serve in this area, contact Penny Pfahl @ 250.707.0418 or by email: pennymelvin@shaw.ca

Youth at Risk

Grace Lutheran congregation has committed to preparing a meal for 50 youth on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. You can help in many ways:

- Make a special donation for the cost of the food used to make the meal.
- Transport the meal from our church to the Boys and Girls Club facility on Main Street. The meal is served at 4:30 PM.

Make a dessert or other item for the meal at your home and bring it to the church on the 2nd Tuesday at noon. If you want to help call Iris MacKinlay at 778-754-1541 or Innes Wunderlich at 778-754-3212.

FELLOWSHIP

Next Ladies' Breakfast

Ladies Breakfast Saturday February 6th at the Gatekeeper Restaurant at 9:00 AM.

Next Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast Saturday February 13th at the Gatekeeper Restaurant at 8:30 AM.

Youth Events

Looking forward to another year of youth activities. Below are upcoming events for the year. If you have any questions or want to join in call Pastor David at the office. 250-769-5685

2016

February 27th ~ Big White

March 6th ~ Youth participate in 10:30 Worship & prepare Youth-At-Risk Meal

April 24th ~ Youth Service & pizza party

May 29th ~ Special Event

July 1st ~ Canada Day Parade in Peachland

Happiness Group Luncheon



& Hymn sing
Tuesday March 15th
11:30 AM

They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the king of Israel!"

A ministry of Grace Lutheran Church
1162 Hudson Road, West Kelowna, BC, V1Z 1J3
Please RSVP with: Church Office: (250) 769-5685 or
Wilma Lechner (250) 765-5649

CONGREGATIONAL NOTICES

2016 Annual General Meeting:

Grace Lutheran's annual general meeting will be held Sunday February 28th right after the 10:30 AM service. Lunch is provided.

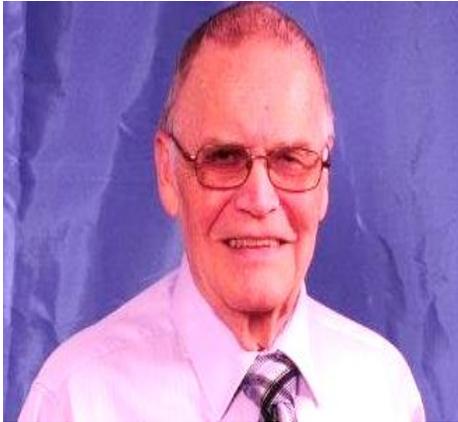
COMPASSION CORNER



We remember all the families of those who have recently gone on to be with the Lord including the Muri and Norheim/Arend families.

We lift up those in need of prayer at home including Gerald Schuler, Gloria Szabo, baby Ewen Wilson, Mary Toth, Lorraine Wentland, Diane Hamilton, Annamarie Mayer, Marian Ruff, Mary Timmerman, Ferne Sather, Alf Schmidt, Sharon Sowles (Diane Hamilton's sister), Dean Rigsby (Deni Skutshek's step-brother), Pastor Horst Gutsche, Helene Hack, Arline Nikolaj, Tema Fenson, Charlene Klingbeil-Anderson, George Osness, and Lawrence Slind. *And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. James 5:15a*

IN LOVING MEMORY



James (Jim) Muri went home to be with the Lord on January 6, 2016 at the age of 82 years. He was dearly loved by family and friends.

He is survived by his son Tim (Edith) Muri of Kelowna BC and daughters Cindy (Dan) Bentley of Camrose AB, Judy (Bill) Marsh of Red Deer AB, and Krista (Stephen) Vikse of Camrose AB, 16 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, and sister-in-law Rita (Peder) Andreasen of Surrey BC. Sadly, he was predeceased by his sister Jean.

On June 25th, 1933 in Frontier Saskatchewan's local hospital Jim was born James Arnold to Andrew and Dagny Muri, a brother for Jean. He attended Halliwell School which was situated right next to his farmyard. The Muri family moved to Deep Cove, BC in October of 1942, and settled in Burnaby, BC a year later.

At approximately 18 years of age, he purchased the family farm 12 miles southwest of Frontier SK from his parents. His farming years, although short, were very enjoyable. 1955 was a very important year in Jim's life. He started a house building enterprise in Burnaby but, most importantly, married the love of his life Gwen Jacobsen.

Jim met Gwen at a Luther League convention being hosted by First Lutheran, Jim's home church. Jim was an usher. When Gwen went up to give a report Jim asked the other usher, Arvid Thomassen, who she was, not realizing that Arvid was Gwen's sister's brother-in-law. Jim convinced Arvid that they should drive her home that evening and the rest is history. They had a very happy and blessed marriage until Gwen's passing in 2014.

Jim and Gwen raised their 4 children Tim, Cindy, Judy and Krista in Coquitlam. Jim and Gwen moved to Winfield in 2001 and to Kelowna in 2010. They attended Grace Lutheran Church which was a very important part of their lives and had many close friends there.

Jim always had time for his family and others and was always so kind. Everyone loved him. He always had a

ready smile and encouraging words for all. He will be greatly missed.

A Memorial Service was held on Saturday, January 16, 2016 at 2:00 pm at Grace Lutheran Church. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute, 4837-52A St., Camrose, AB, T4V 1W8 or Wagner Hills Farms Society (for Ministry), 8061-264th St., Langley, BC, V1M 3M3 or Camp Luther Association, 9311 Shook Road, Mission, BC, V2V 7M2. A video of Jim Muri's service can be seen by visiting the following link <https://vimeo.com/152029940>

CALC President's Itinerary

December 5 Pastor Ed gathered leaders from three of our CALC congregations and an independent Lutheran Church, located in the Vancouver area, for the purpose of beginning a dialogue on how they may coordinate their ministry efforts.

January 23 & 24th Pastor Ed traveled to Stony Plain, Alberta. He met with the Call Committee, Church Council and the congregation of Immanuel Lutheran Church as they navigate the call of a lead pastor for their congregation.

January 30 Pastor Ed, Everley Lutz and Vivien Georgeson traveled to Calgary for a CALC National Council meeting.

February 13-14 Pastor Ed is in Preeceville, SK to install Pastor Hein Bertram as the fulltime pastor of St. John Lutheran Church.

February 20-21 Pastor Ed is in Marwayne, AB, meeting with the church council of Bethel Lutheran Church and two pastors in training as they negotiate a letter of call under CALC's Pastoral Ministry Certificate program.

April 9-10 Pastor Ed is in Vancouver, BC, for a follow-up cluster meeting with the group that met on December 5. He will preach at Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church on the 10th and participate in an evening program.



FEBRUARY 2016 ~ GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		2:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting 2:00PM Lakeview Lodge Chapel PE	9:30-11:00AM Ladies Bible Study 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM Revelation Study & Table Talk 4:00PM Confirmation	5:30PM Girl Guides 7:00 PM Choir Practice	4:00PM Praise Band	9:00 AM Ladies Breakfast Gatekeeper Restaurant
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Transfiguration 9:00AM C-Worship 10:30AM T-Worship	Family Day – Office Closed - 7:00 PM Spectrum Singers Practice	5:30 PM Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting Fireside Room	9:30-11:00AM Ladies Bible Study 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM Revelation Study & Table Talk 4:00PM Confirmation 7:00PM ASH Wednesday Service	9:30 AM Grace Lutheran Church Women Mtg. 5:30PM Girl Guides 7:00 PM Choir Practice	4:00PM Praise Band	8:30 AM Men's Breakfast Gatekeeper Restaurant Pastor Ed in Preeceville, SK, CALC
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Lent 1 9:00AM C-Worship 10:30AM T-Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School 1:30PM Brookhaven PD Pastor Ed in Preeceville, SK, CALC	7:00 PM Spectrum Singers Practice		9:30-11:00AM Ladies Bible Study 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM Revelation Study & Table Talk 4:00PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Lenten Service	5:30PM Girl Guides 7:00 PM Choir Practice	4:00PM Praise Band	12:30PM BIG WHITE Youth Event ~ Meet Pastor David at the church Pastor Ed in Marwayne, AB, CALC
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Lent 2 9:00AM C-Worship 10:30AM T-Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Sunday School 1:30PM Brookhaven Chapel PD PastorEd in Marwayne, AB, CALC	7:00PM Spectrum Singers	10:00 AM-1:00 PM Gospel Mission	9:30-11:00AM Ladies Bible Study 11:00 AM – Noon Revelation Study & Table Talk 4:00PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Lenten Service Service of Healing	5:30PM Girl Guides 7:00 PM Choir Practice	4:00PM Praise Band	1:00-4:00PM Emmaus Finnish Service
28	29					
Lent 3 9:00AM C-Worship 10:30AM T-Worship 11:30 AM Luncheon 12:00 PM Annual General Meeting	7:00PM Spectrum Singers					