

# Graceline

A Monthly Publication of Grace Lutheran Church

## Fall Edition



*When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matthew 9:36-38)*

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## Fall Stewardship Dinner

Saturday September 26<sup>th</sup> ~ St. Vincent de Paul Society ~ Mark Your Calendars!

GLC's Stewardship Committee is hosting our Annual Stewardship Dinner on Saturday September 26<sup>th</sup>. We will gather in our Sanctuary between 6:00-6:20 PM. Our guest speaker will be introduced and we will ask a blessing over our meal. We will adjourn to the Fellowship Hall for a catered meal that will be served at 6:30PM. Around 7:30PM, we will gather in the Sanctuary to hear our guest speaker. The cost of the meal is by donation. We want to encourage all to come out to the dinner. We suggest a donation of \$20.00 per person or \$50.00 per family, however, this is just a suggestion and we encourage participants to come out and donate what you are able.

This year we will hear a speaker for the St. Vincent de Paul Society of West Kelowna, which is a ministry of the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, of Westbank. The Saint Vincent de Paul Society is Catholic organization of lay people who promote and perform works of charity through personal service.

The Society was founded by Frederic Ozanam (1813-1853), a successful professor at the Sorbonne, a world-famous university located in Paris, France. Ozanam was haunted by the misery of the Parisian poor. He dreamt of seeing harmony among social classes. He campaigned for justice and charity. His faith enabled him to see Christ in the poor, and in the evening of his life, he repeated very clearly: *"Our aim is to keep the faith and to spread it among others by means of charity."*

He founded the Conference of Charity, later known as the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. The first meeting of the new Society was held April 23, 1833.

Come hear about St. Vincent's De Paul's mission and their vision for West Kelowna.

In Christ,

Grace Lutheran Stewardship Committee

# Pastor David's Message

## ***The Post-Christian Wave***

*"Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons. Deuteronomy 4:9*



Living near beaches most of my life, the one thing I do know, is that waves do not last forever. In this age, we are living in a post-Christian wave. What does that mean? In our society, historically we have been a nation that has been influenced by Christian ideals and values. These adherents have been interwoven in to all aspects of society. Starting from public education to work ethics, law and government. In the last forty years or so, there has been a decline in the involvement of Church in the public domain. Most people do not mind the church and love to have a church in their neighborhood. Yet the involvement has not been what it was with our forefathers and foremothers. The generations afterwards have had a mixed reaction in their involvement with church. Some have been very committed, others have had a less meaningful relationship with the church and of course many have just dropped out. This has been a concern for churches and church leaders for some time. There are many reasons for the decline, but they are for another article. The one thing I do know is that the model of doing church is going to look very different in the future. So, anyone who are not involved in church and not living out their faith may say, "What is the big deal pastor David? Isn't our society functional and aren't we just getting along without church and without God?" The fact is that we have been functional, however that time will soon pass. What has been saving us thus far is the post-Christian wave. The churches and biblical influence have affected and created a wave of moral fiber in the post-Christian society. Even the church drop-outs over the years have shared Christian values with their children and grandchildren. Yet without church fellowship and with

biblical literacy declining, those in the next generation are not getting these life-giving values that are important for a healthy community. Hence the Christian-wave will eventually subside and crash, and the benefits of the wave will not be felt in the future.

We are starting to see the effects now. The break down in family, youth who have no spiritual identity are more likely to have damaging depression and psychological problems. Community volunteerism is on the decline since we have been moving away from the ethos of the body of Christ. Because of this we are moving to the embodiment of individual self-serving natures.

The church concept was for strengthening family values, the living in the community, and for uplifting youth and children. Our goal was, and still is, to make the youth feel that they are special in this world, because they are part of God's plan. The church was a training center for teaching us to serve others in need and not be so self-centered. You see where this is leading and it is only going to get more difficult. We still have time to turn this around. We, as the church, have experienced downturns in faith participation before, and society has woken up to see how the church and faith life are important and have found reasons again to come back to the faith. We are also told in the scriptures that these times will occur and it may mark the end of an age and a new beginning. I don't know what the future will hold but, I do feel we are living soon in the time of Noah where people do not care to know God. This does not make me want to give up. We are called to be witnesses and shining lights of Christ in the darkness of this world until Jesus calls us home.



Remember this passage of scripture from St. Paul, *Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. Colossians 4:2-6 ESV*

God Bless,  
*Pastor David Wunderlich*

## Pastor Ed's Message

### *The Sun Will Shine*



What a blessing it is to call Kelowna home! We live in one of the most beautiful places in the world. The summer of 2015 has been a hot

one. Thousands of swimmers and sun-bathers flocked to our beaches and just as many boaters sailed and cruised the waters of Lake Okanagan. Others enjoyed our orchards, vineyards, fruit stands and numerous other tourist attractions. Backyards, decks, patios and parks came alive with picnickers. Summer in the Okanagan can be a time of refreshment, relaxation and fun. However, our legendary blue sky, spectacular views and sunshine were blocked for many days by smoke from fires that burned around us. The smoke forced many inside and curtailed our numerous summer activities. The smoke eventually disappeared and activities resumed.



The smoke that blocked the sun and the difficulties it inflicted, pointed to a reality in the lives of many in our community. Throughout

our city and surrounding communities many who were forced inside, experienced real gloom, found it hard to breath and had tears in their eyes because of illness, grief, personal tragedy and/or the sheer weight of sin and regret. To those who carry these burdens, it seems that the sun will never shine again, the tears will never stop flowing, breathing will always be labored and life cannot go on. They want to know if the sun will shine again. They wonder if anyone cares. They long for a good word.

Jesus has a good word for all those who suffer. *"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."* Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus asks you to give him what burdens you have and you will find rest in him. You will find solace when he reveals that the Son of God empathises with you. As truly human, he knows your physical pain and suffering. Jesus was tempted by the devil and he did not sin. He was beaten, scourged and crucified. He knows your mental anguish and pain. He put up with ignorant, egotistical and

downright evil political and religious leaders. He put up with disciples that misunderstood, denied, abandoned and betrayed him. He forgave those who crucified him because they did not know what they were doing.

As the Son of God, Jesus will reveal that he has the power to forgive our sins and pronounce that his innocent suffering and death paid for the consequences of our sins. You can experience freedom from sin and regret. The Son of God can perform miracles in your life. God can bless the hands of a physician and medical procedures and bring about healing and wholeness. Jesus can miraculously change any situation and change your whole life. Jesus can perform another miracle, he can give you the grace, the faith and the strength to endure your pain and/or suffering, and in the end, overcome the obstacles you face. When Jesus works in our lives, and he forgives, inspires and strengthens us, we can be transformed and we can become new people. The light of Jesus Christ can shine in our lives, we can see ourselves and the world differently and we can reflect that light on others.

Jesus longs to gather us together as a hen gathers her chicks, but we most often refuse. He is calling you today to come to him. He asks you to bring your burdens and leave them at his feet. He has much to give you. Come gather with us under Jesus wings. We begin our new church year in September. We worship on Sunday Mornings at 9:00 (Contemporary) and 10:30 (Traditional). Sunday school is at 10:30. During the week we have Bible studies, fellowship meals, and opportunities for service at church and in the community. Come join us.

In Christ,

*Pastor Ed Shritshchek*

*Printed in the Kelowna's Capital News September 3, 2015.*



Jesus said: *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. John 8:12"*

# CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDY, SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP THIS FALL:**

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### BIBLE STUDIES

**Sunday Morning Discussion:** Following the 9:00AM service **Rev. Jim Statham will be starting a discussion group on Oct 4th** in the Fireside Room. It will give us an opportunity to explore our faith and life struggles. He believes it is possible for us all to be excited and confident about what we believe! Topics will vary every two to three months. There will be a pot of coffee on. Do invite your non-church friends to meet you at 10 o'clock. Join us for the first of eight sessions throughout the fall on, **'Why You Can Believe in Jesus'**. Whether you know only a little about Jesus, or are a long time student of the Bible, matters not, for there are some exciting discoveries ahead for us! Note: Jim has outside preaching obligations approximately once a month in which case there will be no class that morning.

**Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study: Beginning September 16<sup>th</sup>, Liliastatham** will be leading a Ladies Bible Study from 9:30 to 11:00 AM. The topic: **"Becoming a Woman of Grace"** another book in the series by author Cynthia Heald. All women are welcome. Please contact Liliastatham at 250-707-0153 if you plan to attend so that books can be ordered.

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study: Beginning September 16<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Ed Skutshek** will be leading a Bible Study from 11:00 AM to Noon. We continue studying the Book of Revelation using William Hendriksen's book entitled **"More Than Conquerors: An Interpretation of the Book of Revelation."** **Bring a bag lunch with you.** Enjoy lunch and discuss what we have just *learned, other topics* and fellowship.

### CONFIRMATION CLASSES!!

**Dear Parents and Sponsors:**

It is that time of year to think about enrolling your child into confirmation classes. If you know anyone who is in grade 7 or above, please contact Pastor David or the office to enroll your child. **We will be having a meeting after the 10:30 service on Sunday, Sept. 13th to discuss weekly meeting times for class room instruction.** Confirmation is a vital program for the faith formation years of your child. I believe it is the most important classes they will take in their prime development years. In Christ, Pastor David

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School begins Sunday September 13<sup>th</sup>. Children come to the 10:30 service and go to Sunday School after the Children's Time. We would very much like to have **two new teachers who could make a 1 (or 2) Sunday per month commitment** so we can teach in rotation and thus enabling us to attend alternate Sunday services on a regular basis. Please call Heidi to discuss this opportunity at 250.764.7544.

## SERVICE

### KELOWNA'S GOSPEL MISSION

251 Leon Ave, Kelowna, BC

The 4<sup>th</sup> 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 are called to help contact Penny Pfahl @ 250.707.0418 or by email: [pennymelvin@shaw.ca](mailto: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.
- Come out to the church the 2nd Tuesday of the month at noon and help prepare 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.

### 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 or playing an instrumental piece during the offering please put your name on the special music sign-up sheet on the bulletin board and Miriam will be in touch with you.

### PRAISE BAND

Praise Band practices on Friday afternoons at 4:00 p.m.

The Praise Band leads 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 beginning Thursday September 10<sup>th</sup>. 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

Grace Lutheran Women will meet the second Thursday of the month in the Fireside Room at 9:30 AM. The first fall meeting is September 10<sup>th</sup>

# FELLOWSHIP

## Happiness Group Luncheon & Hymn Sing



Tuesday  
September 15, 2015  
11:30 AM

*"Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings." Psalm 17:8*

A ministry of  
Grace Lutheran Church  
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Wilma Lechner (250) 765-5649  
Website: [www.gracelutherankelowna.com](http://www.gracelutherankelowna.com)

## LADIES' BREAKFAST

Ladies Breakfast Saturday September 5<sup>th</sup>  
at the Gatekeeper Restaurant at 9:00 AM.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's Breakfast Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup> 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

### 2015

***September 27: Youth service & Hotdog Sunday for whole congregation.***

October 25: Go Karts & Lunch

November 15: Youth Service & pizza party

December 22: Gospel Mission & IHOP

### 2016

January 31: Youth Service & pizza party

February 28: Lunch Fundraiser & Bowling

March 22: Gospel Mission

April 24: Youth Service & pizza party

May 29: Special Event

July 1: Canada Day Parade

# CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

- The **May 23rd Work-Bee** was very well-attended and a great success with many items, including painting of lines in the parking lot and landscaping, taken care of! Thanks to all of the volunteers for a job well-done!
- The **rooftop heating and air conditioning** unit that heated and cooled our Narthex quit working. The costs of repair were high. The unit was very old and no guaranty could be given that other parts of the unit would not fail after the suggested repairs were completed. Replacement was seen as the proper remedy. The unit was replaced at a cost of \$7,800.00.
- **Our Church van has been repaired and refurbished.** One of the van's back doors was damaged during the winter so this was replaced; the van's battery was replaced and the engine was serviced.
- **Thermostats** for the sanctuary and fellowship hall have been replaced.
- **Landscaping to the left of our front entrance** was installed and looks beautiful.
- **Carpets** in the church office, Narthex, Fireside Room and Fellowship Hall have been professionally cleaned.
- **Basement Flooding.** On and around April 19<sup>th</sup> of this year an act of vandalism occurred. The vandals blocked the surface drains found in the lower level playgrounds adjacent to our basement, and then turned the outside water taps on. The water flowed into the basement, causing damage. Carpets were soaked and lifted in two rooms, some floor tiles were effected, some of the drywall at the floor level got wet, and some of the VBS decorations were destroyed. Damaged carpet was replaced, the basement was thoroughly dried, the commercial baseboard was replaced and some painting was done. A claim was made against our insurance policy and the claim was paid. The damage cost in excess of \$12,000.00 to repair. In order to prevent further vandalism, the handles on all outside taps have been removed and interior shutoff valves will be kept in an "off" position, where possible, so that all our outside taps can only be used by authorized persons.



## COMPASSION CORNER



**Remembering:** We remember in our prayers the families grieving the loss of their loved one, including the Hertel, Skutshek, Jennings, Puder, and Gering families.

**Interceding:** Pray for those who are in hospital, receiving treatment, convalescing or shut in: Tyler Martin, baby Owen Wilson, Gloria Szabo, Dean Rigsby (Deni Skutshek's step-brother), Walter Semeniuk, Kurt Tartsch, Diane Hamilton, Ken Werner, Lorraine Wentland, Heidi Wakal, Annemarie Mayer, Arline Nikolaj, Tema Fenson, Victoria Napora, Charlene Klingbeil-Anderson, Helene Hack, George Osness, Lawrence Slind and Mary Toth. *LORD, you know the hopes of the helpless. Surely you will hear their cries and comfort them.* Psalm 10:17

### In Loving Memory

## *Norma Hertel*

*(Loving mother of Paul Hertel)*

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Norma Hertel who died peacefully on August 6th, 2015, at the Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster, BC at the age of 91.

Norma is survived by her daughter Patrice Galassi of New Westminster, BC, and three sons, Paul (Rosi) of Kelowna, BC; Peter Hertel of New Westminster, BC, and Phillip Hertel of Stoke Poges, England. Her son Peter has two children, Michael and Stephanie, who live in Manchester, England, and has one grandchild. Son Phillip has two daughters, the Charlie attending University and Jamie completing high school in England. Son Paul has two children son Stefan (Risa) and daughter Antonia (Jordon) Terris. Antonia has twin sons, Austin and Brittain, and Stefan's wife Lisa is expecting.

Norma was predeceased by her parents, husband and son-in-law, Fiorino Galassi.

Norma was born in June 24, 1924, in Manchester, England. When WW II broke out, fifteen-year-old Norma, like many children in Manchester, was sent to live in the country in order to escape the dangerous rigors of life in wartime Manchester. She finished her schooling while living in the country. Upon graduation she moved back to the city and went to work for the railroad. Her wartime service included driving an ambulance in Manchester, responding to calls after enemy bombing raids.

Norma was a war-bride. She met Vincent Paul Hertel, a Canadian soldier. They courted and married in January of 1946. She emigrated from England to Canada with her

husband. They settled in Ontario, and raised their children. She eventually moved to the lower mainland.

Norma lived in New Westminster for many years. She was very close to her daughter Patrice, who lived right across the street.

Norma was a stay-at-home mother. She devoted her life to her children. She is fondly remembered by her children as a loving, encouraging, nurturing and kind mother who looked after their every need with tenderness and grace. She will be sadly missed by her family and friends.

## CALC President's Itinerary

**April 14-17.** Pastor Ed represented CALC at the Canadian Rockies Theological Conference in Canmore, Alberta.

**April 17-19.** Pastor Ed led the fourth cluster meeting in the development of CALC's 10-year Plan at Immanuel Lutheran Church, in Stoney Plain, Alberta.

**April 24-26.** Pastor Ed led the fifth cluster meeting in the development of CALC's 10-year Plan in Saskatchewan.

**May 2-3.** Pastor Ed led the sixth cluster meeting in the development of CALC's 10-year Plan at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Mission, BC. Pastor Ed preached at Mt. Calvary on Sunday morning and installed Pastor Manfred Schmidt as the Pastor of Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church at 2:30 PM.

**May 15-17.** Pastor Ed led the seventh cluster meeting in the development of CALC's 10-year Plan at Christ Lutheran Church in Morden, Manitoba.

**May 30** Pastor Ed and Vivien Georgeson attended a CALC National Council Meeting in Calgary.

**July 19-23** Pastor Ed will be a presenter at Hastings Lake Bible Camp near Edmonton, Alberta.

**September 19-21<sup>st</sup>** Pastor Ed will participate in a CALC National Council meeting in Calgary on the 19<sup>th</sup>. He will ordain/install John Graham as the Pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Sullivan, Ontario on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**October 4-7,** Frisco, Texas – Pastor Ed and Deni will participate as delegates for Grace in LCMC's 2015 Annual Gathering. Pastor Ed will participate, as President of CALC, in a panel discussion held on the Tuesday evening of the convention. The panel is being convened in order to discuss the recent US Supreme Court decision which legalized same gender marriage in all of the US.

**October 14-15,** Pastor Ed will lead CALC's 2015 Annual Pastor's Study Retreat at Camp Nakamun, north of Edmonton. Pastor David will also attend.

**October 16-18,** Pastor Ed will lead CALC's 2015 annual general convention at Emmaus Lutheran Church in Edmonton. Pastor David will participate on Friday and most of Saturday.

# September 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 30	August 31	1	2	3	4	5
		2:00 PM Stewardship Committee			4:00PM Music & Worship Meeting with Praise Band	9:00 AM Ladies Breakfast Gatekeeper
Pastor	David on Vacation		Pastor	David on Vacation	Pastor	David on Vacation
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
15 <sup>th</sup> After Pentecost 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Worship				9:30 AM Grace Lutheran Church Women Meeting 5:30PM Girl Guides Basement 7:00 PM Choir Practice	4:00PM Praise Band	8:30 AM Men's Breakfast Gatekeeper Restaurant
Pastor	David on Vacation					
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16 <sup>th</sup> After Pentecost 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School 11:45AM: CONFIRMATION Organization Meeting with Pastor David	7:00 PM Spectrum Singers Practice	11:30AM "Apple of Your Eye" Happiness Group Luncheon 1:30PM Pine Acres PP 7:00 PM Church Council	9:30-11:00AM Ladies Bible Study 11:00 AM – Noon Bible Study Noon-1:00 PM Table Talk	5:30PM Girl Guides Basement 7:00 PM Choir Practice	4:00PM Praise Band	1:00PM-4:00PM Emmaus Finnish Service
						Pastor Ed at CALC National Council in Calgary
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
17 <sup>th</sup> After Pentecost 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School	7:00 PM Spectrum Singers Practice	10:00 AM-1:00 PM Gospel Mission NS	9:30-11:00 AM Ladies Bible Study 11:00 AM – Noon Bible Study Noon-1:00 PM Table Talk	5:30PM Girl Guides Basement 7:00 PM Choir Practice	4:00PM Praise Band	Annual Stewardship Dinner – Speaker from St. Vincent de Paul Society. 6:00-6:30 PM We gather 6:30 PM Dinner served 7:30 PM Speaker
Pastor Ed at Ordination in Sullivan Ontario	Pastor Ed Returns					
27	28	29	30	October 1	October 2	October 3
18 <sup>th</sup> After Pentecost 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School 11:45 AM Hotdog Lunch & Celebration	7:00 PM Spectrum Singers Practice		9:30-11:00 AM Ladies Bible Study 11:00 AM – Noon Bible Study Noon-1:00 PM Table Talk 6:30 PM Healing Service			