

SONSHINE CIRCUIT

Eastern Washington

The Sunshine Circuit of Eastern Washington has 10 congregations. Here's a brief note of what's happening in each one.

Trinity Lutheran, Omak - Pastor Kevin Schnake

The congregation has been continuing its focus upon making God's house a beautiful place to worship as well as making our visitors feel welcome when they join us. God continues to bless our Bible studies and we look forward this month to a very wonderful vacation Bible School session. The fields are ripe all around us and we thank God for the souls he is leading to us!

Our Savior's, East Wenatchee - Pastor Bryan Schwarz

We continue to work on the overall plan of making our worship, youth program and Bible study the best it can be to the glory of a perfect God. We believe that a part of that importance is found in an attitude that is reflected in the hearts and lives of our people, but also in the appearance and functionality of our facility. We have completed a \$35,000 renovation project to help us in our functionality to better serve our Lord. Our services are now projected on a large screen TV for ease and reinforcement of message. We are in the process of enhancing our worship in the area of the music by adding variety to what we presently offer. We are excited about the opportunities that God will afford us in the future as we serve to His glory!

Grace Lutheran, Zillah - Vacant

The church is presently vacant and is presently being served by Rev. Mel Teske.

Grace Lutheran/ Caminando con Jesús, Yakima - Pastor David Salinas

The first half of 2015 has been, to put it mildly, a time of transition for Grace/Caminando con Jesús. In the fall of 2014 Pastor Jim Turriff received and accepted a call to Memphis, TN. In April Hispanic missionary and associate pastor, Rev. David Salinas, officially received and accepted the call to be the sole Pastor of Grace/Caminando con Jesús. In February of 2015 Mrs. Marilee Nolte of Longmont, CO came aboard to replace and finish out the year for our 1st - 4th grade teacher, Mrs. Janine Turriff. In April Mrs. Nolte received and accepted a one-year call to continue serving as the lower grade teacher of Grace. Also, this spring Mr. Shu-Ting Lai, principal and 5th - 8th grade teacher, received and accepted a call to serve as the principal for our ELS sister church of Bethany, Port Orchard. This May Grace went to the assignment committee to replace Mr. Lai's position as the 5th - 8th grade teacher for the 2015/2016 school year; the Lord graciously assigned Miss Rebecca Hussman, currently finishing out a one-year call in South Dakota. While these have been times of change and upheaval for Grace/Caminando con Jesús with numerous plot twists, we remain cheerful, confident, and hopeful for the present and future. How can we not? Our eternal and immutable God is as he always has been and always will be—good. His love for us is as enduring and unfailing as he himself is, and Christ is risen! Our risen and ascended Lord, who loves us with an eternal and unfailing love, continues to bless us with a terrific three-fold ministry of a well-established English-speaking congregation, a long-standing Pre-K to 8th grade Christian Day School, and a fledgling but steady Spanish-speaking congregation, along with all the wonderful gospel opportunities of such a ministry. For all his present mercies and blessings and the many more he has in store we thank and praise our precious Lord!

Redeemer Lutheran, Yakima - Pastor Timothy Schwartz

Steady as she goes. We've experienced gains and losses as the Lord has promised. Events of note this year: 1) We have a church council made up of strong, spiritual leaders. 2) Anna Circle, the ladies group at the heart of our

Christian service, is being replaced by a volunteer committee that includes our women, men and kids into all the various need for service to the saints in the church. 3) An outreach team from Kingdom Workers conducted a canvass, spreading the word about our church and preschool. 4) After their week of work in the Pacific Northwest, we had a year-end barbeque with our best church attendance of the year. 5) For the first time since our preschool began, two families who came into contact with us through the preschool enrolled in bible information class. We're blessed, privileged to be able to continue to preach the gospel in the Yakima Valley.

Good Hope, Ellensburg; Good Faith, South Cle Elum - Pastor Ray Beckmann

Good Faith, South Cle Elum and Good Hope, Ellensburg, Washington have been served by the present pastor in a semi-retired manner for two years. Both congregations continue to explore ways to make the communities aware of their existence and their purpose to proclaim the Gospel. Good Faith has had two recent adult confirmations. The church councils meet annually to review the dual parish plan and discuss how things are going. Both congregations gather together in August for a joint service followed by a cookout picnic. Good Hope has had both child/infant/adult Baptisms and some adult confirmations in the last year. As happens in other congregations, the largest attendance has been at a wedding or at funerals, but the gospel is proclaimed at those worship services as well. Improvement projects on Good Hope's property include members painting the parsonage exterior and gathering funds to have the parking lot repaired and sealed. Neighbors to Good Hope have expressed appreciation of the attention to the appearance of the church and parsonage grounds.

King of Kings, Kennewick - Pastor Tim Wilkens

Last summer, Pastor Korey Van Kampen received and accepted a call to Mt. Calvary in Flagstaff, AZ. Several months and 2 declined calls later, I accepted the call to King of Kings. My wife, our three daughters and I moved from Kaukauna, WI to Kennewick at the end of February 2015. The last two months have been filled with ongoing ministry, visiting and beginning to learn the ministry plans at King of Kings.

There are plans in place to relocate to a growing area of Kennewick within two years. That property is owned and paid for. During the vacancy, the congregation decided to put the current church property up for sale knowing that it could be up to a year or more before the church would sell. Much interest and a few offers have been seen already. We are currently in the negotiation stages of one of those offers. In the meantime, we have begun working with Massmann Studios on a master plan for our facilities. Besides larger gathering and worship spaces, our desire is to start an ECM which would also be housed in our new facility. Preliminary planning for this new ministry is also beginning. At the same time, we are working with the DMB toward the goal of becoming a multi-site campus in the Tri-Cities, looking to start a physical presence in Pasco, Richland or both within the next few years. Last Sunday, we were blessed to welcome over 20 new members which have come into King of Kings within the last 3 months.

St. Matthew, Spokane - Pastor Matthew Kimmel

St Matthew in Spokane, WA, has been working diligently on a vision document that describes how we see ourselves in the year 2020. The major components of the vision include...

- Becoming a multi-site church by starting a second campus in the Coeur d'Alene, ID, area. Part of Pastor Schultz's call to St Matthew is to work on this outreach potential.
- Expanding our preschool program to include another teacher and possibly a full-day program with before and after school care. We currently have one preschool teacher and 37 children.
- Expanding the outreach potential of Sunday mornings by offering another worship opportunity. Our worship services are currently 83% full. The additional service will likely be a different style than the current one so as to hopefully reach more people for Christ.
- Installing an expanded water main to meet county code and provide for future building expansion. Our current water main is too small and will require us to install a larger one to accommodate a sprinkler system in any future buildings on our campus at a cost of \$100,000. (Ouch!!!)

Our elementary school finished the year with 42 students and 3 full-time teachers. In preparation for next school year, we are putting a lot more emphasis on advertising and promotion of our school and the quality of our staff so that people see the benefits of a Christian education at St Matthew.

Circuit Pastor Bryan Schwarz, June 2015