

The Messenger.

Publication of:

*St. Peters Lutheran Church of Alberton &
Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Woongoolba*

*Pastor Greg Vangness - 185 Alberton Road, Alberton, Qld., 4207.
Ph./Fax. (07) 3287 2084 Mobile Ph. 0409 898 646
E-mail: albertonparish@iprimus.com.au*

Parish Chairman Mr. David Huth-----Ph. (07) 5546 2279.

Alberton Contact Mr. Geoff Rossmann-----Ph. (07) 5546 2131.

Woongoolba Contact Mr David Keith-----Ph. (07) 5546 2470.

From Pastor Greg,

I imagine that the start of "Olympics Fever" has begun to effect the sports conscious. One thing I have always appreciated about the Olympics is the ideals with which the modern Olympic competitions were established. In theory, one of the aims of the Olympics is to foster a sense of world-wide unity.

It is often in unlikely individuals that this is achieved. Australia has its favourite sons and daughters; but in the 2000 Olympics the world took "Eric the Eel" to its heart. Do you remember Eric?

Eric Moussambani, the swimmer from Equatorial Guinea, who competed in the 100-meter freestyle swimming event at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia became an overnight hero. Eric's determination serves as an example to all young athletes. The excitement was created by his solo swim over 100 metres at the Homebush Bay pool where world records had been tumbling all week. His two fellow competitors had been disqualified in his heat so he had to swim alone.

Eric struggled to make it; but the crowds roared him home in one minute 52 seconds, about a minute slower than the rest of the heat winners.

The 22-year-old student, who had only learned to swim in January of 2000, thought he might be going under at one stage. "The first 50 metres were okay; but in the second 50 metres I got a bit worried and thought I wasn't going to make it. Then something happened? I think it was all the people getting behind me," he said.

Eric the Eel's words are a great reminder of the support we need to give each other, particularly in times of change in our own community.

Hebrews 12:1 - 3 says this:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. ² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith... ³

Eric Moussambani may not have made it into your memory banks before now... he is largely an unsung hero in his own nation of Equatorial Guinea to this day. (I guess people have a habit of liking there national "heroes" to be winners - gold medallists - not athletes who come in last under 'embarrassing' circumstances.)

"Eric the Eel" stands as a reminder that the victory, has already been won for us in Christ. Surrounded by the 'great cloud of witnesses' at the pool, Eric's great success was in completing the race.

This is what our Saviour calls us to do. We recognize that our place on the victory podium is already beside Christ as we remain in Him. So, the perseverance spoken of in the Hebrews passage has to do with our recognition that we are in Christ and that, the heavenly goal achieved, there are still things to be striven for here and now. We seek to live actively as God's people, using all at our disposal to give Jesus glory, recognizing the need for mutual support. I encourage you as God's people, to be faithful to the community in taking every opportunity to gather with the "cloud of witnesses" in regular church worship and fellowship. Let us, as a community, fix our eyes on Jesus and persevere as his faithful followers.

PARISH MATTERS

Lutheran Ormeau Rivers District School known as L.O.R.D.S.

The application to the Board of Non Government Schools has been submitted and we expect approval to be granted before the end of this year. This means we need a lot of volunteers to work on Committees. You may be interested in finance, fundraising, marketing, architecture, engineering, education & curriculum, uniforms and logos or you may have a real heart for mission outreach. Please give your name to Pastor Greg so that we can facilitate your participation. Even if you feel you have no experience in any of these areas your enthusiasm will get you in to the area of your choice. All ideas will be considered. A principal will be appointed in July 2005 and building will be on the go.

Mr. Tom Kenny who works for a number of Lutheran colleges throughout Queensland will be our Business Manager until the school is fully operational.

Australian Lutheran World Service

The St.Peter's Mens Fellowship held a very successful Banquet at the Alberton hall on Saturday 24th July. 82 men attended from throughout South East Queensland and were served with beer, wine and savouries, prawn cocktails, a variety of homestyle soups, a roast dinner, fresh fruitsalad, jelly and icecream and coffee and mints.

The guest speaker for the night was Denise Grieshaber, the Queensland representative on the board of Australian Lutheran World Service. An auction of local products was a highlight of the evening and provoked much fun and laughter. Total proceeds from the night allowed a donation to ALWS of over \$3500. Congratulations men!

Did you know: -

- * ALWS is the overseas aid and resettlement agency of the Lutheran Church of Australia. Its mission is to witness through service to those in need and operates in over 20 countries around the world.
- * ALWS is providing significant support to development programs in Cambodia, Nepal and Mozambique.
- * \$50 can provide the inputs and training required to assist a family in Cambodia improve their food production.
- * \$100 is the approximate cost per student of building an improved classroom in Mozambique.
- * \$160 purchases the materials required to construct a shallow well in Cambodia ensuring a safe supply of water.
- * 8 students plus 2 teachers from Redeemer Lutheran College are travelling to Cambodia in December to assist with the building of a school. Out of the total population ALWS is working with 21000 people in 30 villages. If ALWS can provide a school building the government is committed to supplying a teacher. In this area ALWS also hopes to sink or rehabilitate over 170 wells to provide clean drinking water. If you would like to hear more about the Redeemer mission trip please see Kirsten Rossmann.

Isaiah 41:17 "The poor and needy search for water but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst, But I the Lord will answer them; I, the God of Israel will not forsake them"

'A new world is emerging from God's grace and love.
A new reconciled humanity made whole.
A completely new restored creation is being brought into light.
This we believe.' from 'Project News' of ALWS

INVITATION to REDLANDS LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Saturday 28th August at the Mt.Cotton Hall at 6.45p.m. for both men and women.

Cost: \$25 per ticket

Guest speaker is Pastor Mark Doecke the Headmaster of Yarara Lutheran College at Alice Springs. All proceeds go to Bible translations in Aboriginal language.

Bookings are essential so please let Pastor Greg know if you would like to attend and we can try to make up a few tables.

QUEENSLAND COMMISSION ON WORSHIP presents "CHANGING CULTURE - CHANGING WORSHIP"

**A Lutheran Church of Australia National Worship Conference
from Thursday Sept 30th to Saturday Oct.2ndKeynote speaker is Dr.Frank Senn
who is Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Evanston, Illinois, USA.**

Key areas for discussion will be the impact of culture on the church; how the church generates its own culture and the interaction between secular cultures and the church's culture.

For more info check the webpage: <http://www.lca.org.au/resources/camps.html>

The Bethlehem Pre-school & Kindy are having a "Festival of Fun Day",

on Saturday 28th August commencing at 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

This is a great opportunity for all families to visit the centre and enjoy a day of fun for the children.

**Lots of activities will be provided i.e.
jumping castle..... pony rides..... lucky dips.....face painting.....
edible table.....playdough table.....spinning wheel.....sausage sizzle.
tea and coffee.....cake stall.....fun sports.
Everyone welcome!!!!**

The youth meet every 1st and 3rd Friday night of the month as per the messenger, and A- team meets on the second Friday of the month. Many of our young people attended Christian Life Weeks in June. Various camps were held around south-east Queensland, and our youth attended camps at Numinbah, the Downs and the Sunshine Coast. The photos and stories helped us to see what a great experience these camps are.

WHAT'S ON AT ST. PETER'S, ALBERTON

STAMPS FOR MISSIONS

Praise the Lord that over 13000 stamps have been forwarded from our parish since 2001 for sale to enable greater mission work throughout Australia. Mr. Ern Unger is now retiring after 66 years doing this service for the church and stamps will be sent to his successor. It is a help if you soak the stamps off the envelopes but please forward them still on the envelopes rather than not at all. Each one helps. Please pass them on to Kaye Rossmann or leave them in the appropriate boxes in either Alberton or Woongoolba church foyers. Many thanks.

EXPLORERS CLUB MYSTERY TRIP

Date: Sunday 12th September

Time: After service

Please bring your thinking cap, your owl eyes, a picnic rug and lunch and a sense of humour. You may organize your own driver, navigator and passengers. Please let me know if you will be coming by Friday 20th August. \$2 per car entry fee. Everyone welcome. Bring your family and friends. for a fun filled day.

LUTHERAN LADIES FELLOWSHIP DAY

Thursday 21st October at Bethesda Beenleigh beginning at 9.30am. RICE will be a special feature of this day as well as guest speaker Mrs.Narelle Bowden. This will be a funfilled day so plan to attend.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS FULL OF MONEY SAVING

VOUCHERS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR \$60. You get your money back in 2-3 outings and the book lasts till June next year. Imagine the savings! **SEE JUSTIN LUDCKE IMMEDIATELY FOR THIS BARGAIN!**

What's Happening at Woongoolba Congregation

Sunday Kids meet each Sunday at 9.00 - 10.00a.m. Children 3 years and over are welcome to come. We encourage families with young children to join us for this special time of learning about Jesus. The morning is full of fun activities for the children. As Jesus said "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them for to such belongs the Kingdom of God." Mark 10:14

Church cleaners now have the use of two magnificent arrangements of flowers. It was decided to purchase these silk flowers to assist the volunteers who clean the church each week. It is still appropriate to do your own arrangements if you so wish. If you would like to assist with the cost of the silk flowers a donation to the Ladies Fellowship would be gratefully accepted.

The weather is warming up and the days becoming longer so now it's a 6.00a.m. start on a Saturday morning for the men's breakfasts. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day and so lets also get into the most important spiritual food "God's Word." There will always be a place for you to join us. See calendars for the venues for each month.

Bible study groups continue to meet, and it is great to learn from the word of God, whilst building friendships which are so important to our church community and our daily lives. There are always opportunities to start new groups, and if you are interested in being involved please talk to Pastor and get started.

The Church council is currently investigating the possibility of building a ramp into our church at Woongoolba. This would make wheel chair access possible, as well as mother with babies could easily take prams into the church . Comments and suggestions are welcome to be given to council members because it will be a major project.

COLOUR MY WORLD

Just a reminder that frozen prepared meals are available for people in crises or illness.
Please contact Pastor Greg.