

Alberton Lutheran Parish

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The Messenger

August 2005 – Oct. 2005, Issue 3.

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From Pastor's Pen

This year has been filled with interesting events. I pointed out a few of these in the last edition of "The Messenger." Since then, there have been many more. In Government over the last few weeks, as this new "Messenger" is sent out:

- Globally, we are dealing with issues of poverty and terrorism,
- Prime Minister Howard has been to visit the troops and there's talk of a greater commitment on Australia's part as England prepares to downgrade it's commitment in the middle east;
- State government is dealing with change as long standing officials retire from politics;
- Local government works hard to manage infrastructure in a rapidly growing area.

These matters pressure us consciously and sub-consciously as we struggle with issues in our work, and family responsibilities with our spouse and children and after all that as we deal with the "inner person" – our own needs and concerns.

Think of these stressors as an inverted pyramid of pressure, layer on layer - a pressure so great and constant that you don't even recognise it for what it is.

Many of the pressures around us are not a 'natural,' part of the life God intended. We must address them, or like the example of holding that heavy pyramid the weight of it all becomes too much. We can be split in two and crushed by the unnatural stressors of life.

Think about the way too much stress can effect eating: It's been a stressful day and you get home

and realise you've been so busy that you haven't eaten the whole day or had a thing to drink. Now you don't even feel you have the energy to make yourself eat or drink. That's a physical symptom of deprivation, leading to loss of energy and a whole host of symptoms... Or we feed ourselves sugars & junk and give our bodies a hard time that way.

The same can be said of our spiritual lives. We deprive ourselves of spiritual food and drink, or feed ourselves the junk of social religion or other substitutes for the good "food" of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and kid ourselves that we don't really feel "hungry" for good spiritual food. Then, we wonder why we aren't satisfied and happy.

Health specialists constantly remind us that in order to cope with a hectic, stressful life we need a good well-balanced diet. Christ reminds us too that to enjoy good spiritual health, there is no source of strength and health other than Himself.

Last issue, I encouraged you to pray for the leaders of our world. This time I ask you to look after yourself by taking care of your own spiritual health. Pray about your own needs for Christ, especially if you are in that position of not feeling your own needs consciously. Pray for yourself. Hear Christ's call and allow Him to fill you with 'good things' as you worship in church regularly.

Psalm 107 verses 4 – 9 reminds us of God's provision: **Some wandered in desert wastes...they were hungry and thirsty. They cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and He delivered them from their distress... For He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.**

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Greg.*

SNIPPETS OF INTEREST AROUND THE PARISH

Meet LORDS Principal: Mr. Garth Hunt

Melindie and I are now "local" residents, having moved into our house at the Jacob's Ridge estate last Saturday. The cat has finally settled down and our dog thinks the wide open spaces are just great.



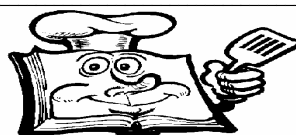
Previously, Melindie and I have worked at St Peter's and Immanuel Lutheran Colleges. More recently Melindie has been employed in local government as a librarian and I have been Head of Learning and Teaching at Redeemer Lutheran College.

We have two daughters, Samantha and Carlin. Samantha is currently employed as a boarding supervisor at Clayfield College while completing her university studies. She has returned to Australia after spending two and a half years in Dubai as a cinema manager. Many of you have already met Carlin and her husband Christopher Ruhle either through Christian Life Week camps or because Christopher would have been riding his motorbike through the Buhner's property.

I am excited by the concept plan for LORDS and am looking forward to the start of school next year. The educational and ministry opportunities are significant when planning for Church, school and retirement units on one site. At Immanuel College, Maroochydore, I experienced the thrills and hard work of founding a school. More recently, I have experienced the governance side of founding a school through my work as Chair of the Living Faith Lutheran Primary School at Murrumba Downs. In both cases the success of the mission of the church has only been fulfilled when the congregational community and the school community have come together with a common purpose and Christ centered vision.

Please pray for the continued progress of LORDS. While there are still a couple of small hurdles to be overcome before construction etc can start, God's work will prevail.

Melindie and I look forward to meeting all of you in church over the next few weeks.



The Men's Fellowship hosted a very successful dinner on 18th June with the highlights being Rev. Richard Mau from Lutheran Media Ministry who informed us of the need for getting the gospel out to our community via radio and television. An auction featured favourably on the night as did the men's voices united in singing. \$1456 was donated to Lutheran Media Ministry and \$350 to the LORDS Building Fund with a \$390 profit to the Ladies for their catering which will also be distributed to various charity arms of the church.



Donations to the LORDS Building Fund may be made at any time and are tax deductible. Have you met the Principal Mr. Garth Hunt. If the answer is 'no' - ring 5540 8888. We are currently stocking up on books for the library. If you have any children's books or novels in excellent condition that you no longer require please consider donating them to LORDS. They may be left at the manse. For more info see our School Publication - "The LORDS Voice". Volumes 1 and 2 are available by request or on the webpage at www.lords.albertonparish.org.au

Our Community Giving Thanks Together Celebration will be held on Sunday 7th August at 2.00 p.m. in the Woongoolba Community Hall. The theme is "The Year of Sports and Recreation". Our guest speaker will be the chaplain for Tennis Queensland, Tim Harland, who will have many interesting experiences to share with us. Everyone is encouraged to come along and praise God for our community. Please bring a plate of food to share for afternoon tea.



LUTHERAN HOLIDAY PROGRAM 2005



Yes, it's that time again. Lutheran Holiday Program is just over 6 weeks away. Preparations are now in full swing for the program which is "SonGames 2005". The program is based on Paul's ministry through the theme of Olympic Games past and present.

Kids love being part of a team! That's why every activity at SonGames is full of action and camaraderie. The children will cheer each other on as they play outdoor sports just like the Olympians, building team spirit as they design team flags, learning how to make international snacks and creating new and interesting crafts.

We will learn how to "Join In", "Team Up", "Get Strong", "Keep On" and "Celebrate as we follow Paul's life journey from conversion to reaching his goal.

The program this year is on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday the 13th, 14th and 15th of September. Please note the change of days because of the Beenleigh Show.

At this stage, we are short of adult helpers. So if you can spare just one day or even 3 hours of your time we would really appreciate it.

Our mission project this year is to buy a water filter for the Orphanage in Bali that a few of us were able to visit earlier this year. The filter will cost \$300 and this will enable them to have "fresh clean water" on tap for all to use instead of having to boil water before drinking.

Please, please remember to pray for the teachers, helpers and the children and their families during this time.

"Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57)



**PARISH WINE AND CHEESE NIGHT:
SATURDAY 20TH AUGUST. 7:30P.M.**
Venue is the St Peter's Hall,
185 Alberton Road, Alberton
\$10 PER ADULT

Please come and have an entertaining evening sampling a selection of wine and cheese under the expertise of Pastor Michael, John & Robyn Brydon and Pastor Greg. There are always a few surprises in store; and it's a great mixing opportunity for the community.

Advance booking is a must!
Contact John & Robyn Brydon on 3807 3790
in order to arrange your booking now.

Parish Youth: Trivia Night

On Friday night the 7th of October the youth are holding a Trivia Night and we have decided to make it a parish event with the aim of raising money for LORDS. At this stage the details have not been finalised but please keep this date free and come along and enjoy this fun and exciting event. There will be a flier circulating very soon.

What's happening at Youth? We have been having a great time at youth. Over the school holidays a few of our youth attended the CLW camps and really enjoyed there time of fun and learning.

We have also enjoyed some fun and games at the hall; and a great night of Ten Pin Bowling.

The majority of the older youth have also been meeting for one of three Bible Studies either on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday night, which has been a really great development over the last few months. If you know anyone who would like to come along please let us know because we would love to have them.

If you have any great ideas for activities or some awesome questions please be sure to tell us!

REDEEMER LUTHERAN COLLEGE at Rochedale is celebrating its 25th birthday this year and the school fair is on Saturday 22nd October. Everyone welcome!

COLOUR MY WORLD: Meals are available for those shut in because of illness or family circumstance. Please contact Pastor Greg.

St. Peter's, Alberton brings you NEWS!

The Ladies of St. Peter's Fellowship have been very busy with visiting other church fellowships within the zone for inspiring times together. Our own special morning on 1st August features an 'Adventure through the Seasons'. As we take a look at Summer we thank and praise God for the beautiful person he created each of us to be. May each moment of our days reflect God's love and may we use each part of our body to do his will. As we envelope ourselves in Autumn we begin to think about planting so that our seeds have time to unfold for spring. If you would like to know about the 5 rows of Peas, the 3 rows of Squash or 5 rows of lettuce ask one of our ladies. Also ask them to explain the Winter Emergency Kit to be used before springing into Spring and "If Jesus came to your house I wonder what you'd do". Our guest for the day is Peter Proeve who has been working for Lutheran World Federation in Geneva and will tell us of his experiences there. Some of our ladies will travel to Kingaroy 20/21 Aug. for LWQ convention centred on the theme "Under New Management". We wish them a great weekend.



PICNIC – SUNDAY 11th September departing after morning tea at church to a mystery destination. Please bring a smile, a hat, your friends, and picnic food. A fun filled adventurous day is guaranteed.



Can you assist us with a financial donation towards Village Birth Kits???????

Our ladies have assisted in formulating over 400 kits to be shipped to Papua New Guinea to assist the midwives in safe, sanitized conditions for birthing. The kits include a metres square

each of plastic and linen, 2 cloth nappies and nappy pins, 10 squares of gauze, 2x25cm cotton tape, a single edged razor blade, disposable gloves, a cake of soap and a baby singlet – all enclosed in a zip lock bag. God bless you for your generosity. Please give donations to Lyn or Betty in an envelope marked "PNG"

What's happening at Bethlehem Church – Woongoolba

Our Ladies Fellowship wish to thank all those who helped at our morning tea held with the theme "This is the Day". Les Garrett was our guest speaker and we enjoyed a great morning tea. The proceeds of the day assisted in the cost of having the hall floor restored. (and its looks great).

Jim Schirmer On a magnificent winter's day in July our congregation welcomed a visit from Jim Schirmer, (a leader from the Christian Life Week camps) who shared with us the message of reaching out to those around us and sharing God's love with them. A congregational picnic followed at Rocky Point. It was great to experience God's creation and everyone enjoyed the atmosphere and fellowship.

Our Sunday Kids meet each Sunday morning between 9.00 and 10.00. We would love to have more children come and join us.

The Bethlehem Pre-school & Kindy are having their annual Festival of Fun on Saturday 27th August 10a.m. – 1p.m. A Jumping castle, pony rides, fun sports, face painting, spinning prize wheel, sausage sizzle, coffee and cake stall, etc. Please come and enjoy the special day at the Kindy.

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