

Alberton Lutheran Parish



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From Pastor's Pen

I got myself an early "Christmas present" this year! Let me tell you about it. It's a Hebrew, Greek and English Interlinear Bible. Isn't that exciting?!! ☺ It sounds like "blah blah blah" doesn't it?

But... this copy of the Bible allows me to access the original languages without having to find each and every word in a cross-language dictionary. I can quickly see the original meanings of the words in Hebrew (or Greek) and concentrate on the key words. This is a great asset when preparing sermons and Bible studies; or for personal research and devotion. I can deal with both Old and New Testament languages with the use of cross-language dictionaries; but it's hard to justify the time it would take to do the translation of an average weekly Bible text in Hebrew. That means that I have not preached on Old Testament passages as often as I would have liked. Now the dilemma is solved! Prepare for a barrage of Old Testament stuff ☺!

You might ask why this is so significant. After all, the Old Testament is about the times before Jesus; and certainly as Christians, we are living in New Testament times. Jesus is in the New Testament and we really just need to concentrate on Him, right?

The fact is that, of course we need only know the "Gospel in a Nutshell" – John 3:16 and live by these words, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son (Jesus), that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send

his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

That's a little like buying a big computer and then using it to type letters; or worse still: playing solitaire on it all day. ☺ I do both myself; (well, not all day) but I do so much more beside; and I'm not a "power-user" by any stretch of the imagination.

So, where is the value in the Old Testament for modern people? If nothing else, the O.T. predicts the coming of the Messiah: Jesus Christ, not once but repeatedly. It gives us special insight into the person and work of Jesus. The history of the Old and New Testament periods combine to show us God's plan in so many different lights; and show that God has 'the big picture' in mind more clearly than we imagine. The intricacy of His plan and attention to detail is clear to see when we look into the scriptures as well! God loves us so much he looks at us and our need from every angle, dealing with big and little considerations. When we really get to know the Bible as a whole, we start to see that God's plan actually works even if we don't understand how or why. Many of the so-called "big questions" can be "put to bed for good."

The Wise Men knew many things; but knowing Jesus personally changed their lives forever. Psalm 111: 10 says this: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. Reading the Bible is our way of being able to know God personally. It's in your hands. Use it and be satisfied!

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Greg.* Pastor Greg Vangness

DISTRICT AND PARISH MATTERS

The 2009 Convention of Synod theme will be "Forgiven and Forgiving" with the verse being Eph 4:31 – 32. *³¹Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³²Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

The next Convention of Synod will be in Rockhampton; and will be at The Cathedral College which is at 189 William Street Rockhampton. on the Queen's birthday weekend in June. The convention will start on Friday evening, (June 5th), at 6:30pm with a wine and cheese evening and early registration, and end late Sunday afternoon with the installation of DCC members and the closing service (June 7th).

Delegates should look at booking accommodation **now** as there are a number of national functions taking place in Rockhampton on and around the same time.

CALLING ALL PARISH YOUNG ADULTS:

If you are 18 or older here is an event for you! 'THE GATHERING' is taking place at Camp Somerset, Somerset Dam from the 6th – 8th of February.

We live in times of incredible change and uncertainty. As a global community we face significant challenges in the world; climate change, financial crisis and the less publicised world food shortage. The way we choose to respond to these challenges will shape our world for years to come. What part will the church play; and what part will you play?

The Gathering is about mobilising young adults together as agents of change in their world. LYQ wants to help you influence your community for positive change. Guest speaker: Stephen Said (National Youth Co-ordinator for TEAR Australia) will help us explore what it means to live out God's Kingdom in our lives daily.

Remember you'll be at Somerset Dam too! There will be plenty of fun organised; and time for relaxation with your friends; and opportunities to meet other young adults from around Queensland and see what others are doing to stay fresh in the faith. Cost: \$179.00 book now to get the early-bird and get your friends to come along as well. God Bless you.

Kid's Bible Camp for 2009 – "Heroes"

This year's camp will once again be held at Luther Heights. Many leaders from around Queensland will be joining us for the event.

This camp is available for children in grades 4-7 (in 2008). The cost per child is \$ 255 (incl. GST) Each additional child from the same family is then charged \$240; BUT ... earlybird prices finish on the 12th of December, so hurry! Forms are available from Pastor Greg. Get in NOW!

For any further queries please feel free to call:
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YOUTH INTERN WORKER ADRIAN KRAMER SOON TO BE REV. ADRIAN KRAMER

Adrian was our parish youth intern six short years ago. He has completed his training for the ministry of the Lutheran Church of Australia and will be ordained on Sunday the 7th of December, in Adelaide. Adrian has been appointed to his first parish in Esperance, Western Australia and will take up his new post in late December to commence in early January. Please remember Adrian in your prayers as he takes up this calling. Esperance is a warm and welcoming parish and Adrian will be kept busy no doubt. The parish involves many country kilometers as he will be traveling up to Kalgoorlie on a monthly basis. God has blessed this parish to be part of his development and training. Let's support him.

Men's Fellowship/ShedMen

Did you attend the Men's Annual Dinner this year and listen to our amazing guest speaker?

Did you come to the various Shed Men nights for grandfathers, fathers, sons, uncles, brothers and friends and be inspired by the various guest speakers and talents of the shed owners?

Did you visit in men's homes on the second Tuesday of each month for friendship, sharing and bible study, or Saturday mornings?

If the answer is Yes! You have been truly blessed. If the answer is No! plan to join us in 2009. Ask those who went whether they'd pass on the experience. Hope to see you in 2009!

DEATH OF BISHOP JULIUS PAUL

Bishop Julius Paul, head of our partner Church the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malaysia, tragically lost his life in a boating accident on Saturday 22 November in Guatemala, South America. After attending a Lutheran World Federation Conference, Bishop Paul was one of 15 people who went on a boat cruise on Lake Atitlan. Bad weather developed and the boat carrying 15 people capsized. Twelve were rescued but three, including Bishop Paul, lost their lives. The LWF is currently making arrangements for the body to be flown back to Kuala Lumpur. Funeral arrangements will be announced when details are known. Bishop Julius Paul had become a familiar face at General and District Church Conventions over the last three years here in Australia. He was well regarded by the LCA for his efforts for the Gospel in his own and other nations including his goodwill efforts between Malaysian and Australian Lutheran groups. Please remember your Christian brothers and sisters in Malaysia in their loss and Bishop Julius' family.

DEATH OF DAVID SCHUBERT

David Schubert served the Lutheran Church of Australia in many ways: as a teacher at Concordia College Highgate SA; as an editor at Lutheran Publishing House/Openbook Publishers; as a long standing member of the Commission on Worship and its Departments of Liturgics and Hymnody; as an historian – the author of 'Kavel's People' and 'Because of their beliefs'. He was a co-producer of 'Worship Today', which is still widely used in churches around the LCA, and he translated and reworked a number of hymns. David was one of the LCA's members in the group which prepared the Australian Hymn Book *Together in Song*, which also includes some of his hymns. He was involved in the production of *Growing*, the Australian translation of *Luther's Small Catechism*, the hymn book *Supplement* and the books *Church Rites* and *Rites and Resources for Pastoral Care* and the LCA Worship resources.

David died peacefully on Tuesday 18 November 2008, after an 11-month illness. We express our sympathy to his wife, Helen, and to the members of his extended family.

Did you hear about the monster who ate all the Christmas decorations? He got tinselitis.

Parish Playgroup

Playgroup meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at the St. Peter's Church Hall, Alberton from 9.30a.m.

Come along and meet other mums and have a chat while your children have a special play time together inside and outdoors as well as music and language sessions. We are part of the Playgroup Association of Australia. Sessions are free to all and you are most welcome to join us in 2009.

ALPHA COURSE OUTCOMES

As you know, the parish ran the Alpha Course this year. Group size was in the 20's and we had great fellowship over meals, which were generously donated by many members of the parish. Special thanks to those who were a blessing in this way. We gave an offering each week and determined that this would go towards resources for the parish in the form of books, dvd's and cd's for our small, but growing Parish Library.

One of the purchases was the book and study series: The Five Love Languages by Gary Chapman. Initially, this publication was for married couples who wished to enhance marriage; but since it's first issue, this one resource has mushroomed into a hoard of resources for all age groups, married and single; and has great application in daily community life. (Pastor Greg plans to incorporate this resource into next year's worship and other programs as well as his pre-marital counselling.) It really is just so good! This is just one of many purchases to be made. If you have suggestions feel free to pass them on.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BETHLEHEM, WOONGOOLBA

Jacob's Well Community Christmas Carols Spectacular.



Come along and enjoy our awesome Christmas Carols, Fun Afternoon and Fireworks Spectacular.

Sunday 14th December 2008

Free Fun Afternoon for the kids - 4 to 6 pm

Carols start 6.30 pm followed by Fireworks

at Jacobs Well Community Centre.

Sausage Sizzle and drinks available
4 pm to 6.30 pm

Carols start at 6.30 pm

NOTE: all times are approximate!

For Further Information please call Fiona on
0401 649 704

NEWS FROM ST. PETER'S, ALBERTON

Our Christmas Nativity service
"A Night to Remember" performed by the
Explorers Club & God's Girls at
St Peter's Lutheran Church, Alberton



When: 7th December
Time: 6pm



This will be followed by the Advent dinner together in the hall. Please bring along a main course and dessert to share in a pot luck dinner. All family and friends are welcome!

St. Peter's Alberton Ladies Fellowship

All ladies of the congregation are welcome to join us at Lorikeets Restaurant at Neilsons Nursery, Redland Bay Rd on Monday 1st December at 9.30.a.m. We will be having morning tea together and then a walk through the nursery.

Mark in your calendar NOW Ladies Retreat for 2009 is being hosted by our Zone and our ladies are instrumental in ensuring a weekend of relaxation, refreshment and rejuvenation under the theme of "A Walk in their Shoes" with particular reference to the people of Nepal. The value of this retreat is greatly heightened and enriched by the love and warmth extended. May God restore us to better than new condition and grant us twenty four hour a day follow up service to keep us in tune with him. Convention will be held from March 13th-15th beginning at 4p.m. Friday and finishing after lunch on Sunday.

Mary and Martha's have been the recipients of our Harvest Thanksgiving proceeds plus some preloved clothing. Maureen Hampel from the Inverell Lutheran Church is also receiving preloved clothing and household bricabrac to sell in her op shop which operates from her

home verandah. This is to raise funds to build an early childhood centre for disadvantaged children in the area.

Community Carols by Candlelight

Hosted together with the Alberton Progress Association we meet in the church grounds at 7p.m. on Friday 14th of December for a wonderful evening of entertainment and carol singing. Santa Claus visits as a delight for children of all ages reminding us of the greatest gift of all at the very first Christmas- the gift of Jesus our Saviour. Come along and bring your friends for a wonderful evening.

Safety Manual

A safety manual has been prepared and is in the kitchen of the hall. If you are having a function in the hall please ensure that at least one person in charge of the function has read the safety manual and is familiar with its contents. We wish to provide as safe and secure a place as possible to our members, friends and visitors.

Bethlehem Cookbook!

What a great Christmas Idea! \$15.00

Combine it with the

125th History Book for \$5.00

BARGAIN for ONLY --- \$20.00 the lot.

PARISH REGISTER – Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths

Baptisms-	Born	Baptized
McGuane, Brandon Michael	12/01/2008	05/10/2008
Saunders, Loclan Eric Geoffrey	01/07/2008	23/11/2008
Deaths-		
John Robert Taylor	28/03/1977b	21/10/2008d

Parish Pastor

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Woongoolba

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