

# Alberton Lutheran Parish



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### From Pastor's Pen

I had a wonderful Christmas holiday season with family this year. My brothers-in-law, one a Lutheran pastor from W.A.; and the other a computer programmer from S.A. brought their families up for extended visits. We were 14 in the house for most of the summer, which adds new dimensions to the word 'family'. ☺ (Particular thanks to the members of our parish who did special things for us to make this time of family even more celebratory.)

This group of 9 youngsters & 5 adults took energy to organise, mobilise, feed and entertain. That made holidays a real break as there was almost no time to think about the wider world.

Still, news from the Middle East; and angst in Indonesian drug trials; political upheaval in Micronesia; ethnic riots at the national level; kaffuffle in Dubbo, NSW managed to filter through.

Wouldn't it be nice to come back from your holidays and find that everything had paused with you? Our world doesn't take pause, though, simply because we do. Jesus himself knew that while the world would still be waiting for Him and His disciples, that it was important to take a break. "Come away into the hills with me to pray" – was His regular call to them and to us today.

What did He do when that time of retreat was over for a time? Luke declares that He "set his face toward Jerusalem; and sent messengers

on ahead to prepare the way..." for the spreading of the Gospel. (Luke 9: 51)

In other words, after Jesus' time of refreshment, He threw Himself back into His work and took it on with a whole heart. Part of that work referred to, was the knowledge that the steps He took were leading towards His time of torment and death for our sakes. He did not shirk this task; but was willing to die to self for the sake of all, knowing that the joy of new life would be generated by His work.

My summer was used to consider a call to another ministry in Dubbo NSW; and it was my decision to remain here, to see projects in our parish come to completion. I propose to throw myself into these and new efforts with a whole heart and ask the members of the parish to journey with me in the strength which Christ supplies, because He is faithful. In Christ, the work of the Gospel continues.

Jesus continued to serve the community at large, while continuing to serve the kingdom of God; and in His strength I will continue to seek to be there for the members of our community as well as for the members of the parish, that we may be close.

Together, as parish and community let us 'set our faces' to the task of seeing that we continue in the peace of Christ, that the troubles spoken of earlier may not be reflected in our homes and lives; but the peace of Christ may continue with us.

*Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Greg.*

Pastor Greg Vangness

## NEWS FROM LORDS

### New Development Application

I met with our consulting team on the 18<sup>th</sup> January to receive the preliminary reports from each consultant. Based on this information our architects have been making minor changes to the masterplan. We meet again on the 1<sup>st</sup> February to finalise this part of the process and prepare the new development application. This will be submitted to Gold Coast City Council during February.

The next edition of The LORDS Voice will provide details of the submission and will be published immediately following the application to Council. I must say that I am very excited about the look of our new masterplan.

### Temporary Office

LORDS will open its temporary office in the next fortnight. It is located in the shopping centre in Mirambeena Drive. We will be at the end beside the hairdresser. It will be staffed by our part-time, temporary secretary, Sue Westlake. This will provide us with a visible presence close to the school site and provide an excellent base for our operations as we commence enrolment interviews and construction in the second half of the year.

### Secondment to Bethania LPS

I am currently on secondment to Bethania as Acting Principal for the first part of the year. The timing of the transfer of Elaine Nitschke to Endeavour College at Victor Harbour in South Australia meant it was not possible for Bethania to advertise last year. The process to find a new principal at Bethania has begun and the successful applicant will take up that appointment no later than the end of 1<sup>st</sup> semester.

The agreement reached by the two School Councils is that my position at Bethania is 4/5 of a fulltime position to reflect the ongoing work at LORDS at this time and will conclude no later than the end of 1<sup>st</sup> semester.

I will be working from our temporary office on Thursday afternoons on a regular basis and continuing to attend various meeting regarding LORDS business during the week.

Garth Hunt  
Principal

## PARISH MATTERS



RETREAT is on again for all ladies of the parish who wish to have a relaxing weekend away from the household chores. You do NOT have to be a member of the guild to attend – it is open to all ladies. This year the retreat begins on Friday evening March 10<sup>th</sup> and finishes on Sunday after lunch. It will be held at Luther Heights Coolum. Cost for the weekend is \$75 which includes all food and accommodation. Retreat this year is hosted by the Darling Downs Zone under the theme “Take Time”.

So, take the time to come along, have a stroll on the beach at your leisure, meet other ladies from throughout Qld and have a good laugh at the antics they get up to. This year there is a Theatre Restaurant on Saturday night. Guest Speaker for the weekend is Pastor Ern Sabel. Forms need to be in by February 13<sup>th</sup> and are available from Guild members. Please ask!

### **RALLY DAY FOR THE ZONE IS AT TRINITY SOUTHPORT on 22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH** **Keep this date on your calendar.**

Ladies Fellowship/Guild dates are on the calendar in this messenger. All ladies are welcome to attend. This morning includes a bible study and general discussion on our own church needs and those of church activities throughout Australia and the wider world community. Our morning cuppa's are sharing morning's where we meet in our homes, have a cuppa and a good chat.

### **DO YOU remember ADRIAN KRAMER?**

– Have you seen his photo recently? Did you know he was the Worship Officer at Australian Lutheran College? Check out what he has to say – Purchase a “Tangara” magazine from the church Treasurer for only \$10 and catch up on all the news and check out the new Pastors of the church. Some of you may know Matthias Prenzler who attended Redeemer Lutheran College, Steve Maas from Rochedale or Dan Rooney or you may remember Rachel Richter from Redeemer – she also married a Cramer this month. News on all of these people can be found in the “Tangara”.

**Lenten Home Devotion** nights will use “Narnia” - the film, as the basis for studies this year.  
**Lenten services** will also be held to cater for all.

## PARISH YOUTH

This year looks like an exciting one within the Youth area of our parish. We will be continuing with our regular Friday night Youth meetings, with some exciting events planned. We are also looking forward to continuing a variety of Young Adults Bible Study Groups; and the creation of a couple of new ones. We look forward to seeing all of you there and would love to hear about any new people who would like to join any of our groups. We are also searching for some new ideas or things that young people would like to do. Please share with us, & we'll see you soon.

## NEWS FROM ST. PETER'S, ALBERTON 2006

**ST. PETER'S MEN:** Whether you're a father, grandfather, single or married you are welcome at the men's fellowship evenings held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month in various men's homes. There's a bible study & a chance for men to talk!

This year they will once again host an annual dinner so be on the look out for details of that. As quoted in 'The Lutheran' by David Kuss: The shed is the last bastion of true, uninhibited masculinity which is why the church needs SHED MEN. The need for a shed has been there since man had his cave and there are unwritten signs for the ladies that say 'Keep away – men doing men stuff inside'. An important element of SHED MEN is the recognition that men and women are vastly different from each other and that those differences are to be recognised and celebrated. Keep your ear tuned for where the first SHED MEN Evening will be held.

**CHILDREN** now have the opportunity to attend **Explorer's Club** on Friday afternoons and/or Kids Church on Sundays.

**KID'S CHURCH** will be held in conjunction with church at the 9.30a.m. services. Children will join their parents in church and continue in the hall from the second song. Here they will have a bible story, singing, craft and games as well as a snack. All children are welcome!

We would love to have you join us for **Dawn service on EASTER morning** as the sun rises over the Logan River. This is a wonderful view from Ageston Plantation, Faciles Rd Alberton.

You are welcome to join in the traditional breakfast of hot cross buns and a hot cuppa following the service.

## BETHLEHEM, WOONGOOLBA 2006

**THE BETHLEHEM PRE-SCHOOL AND KINDY** has begun the year with excellent enrolments. Our centre continues to be a blessing to the families within the community. All enquires about enrolments for the future contact the centre on 55462246.

**SUNDAY KIDS** has commenced for the new year. We encourage our young children to come along and listen to Bible stories and join in the fun!! Sundays 9-00 - 10.00 a.m. Come along and bring your friends. Parents are welcome to stay.

**OUR CONFIRMEES** this year from Woongoolba are Brenna Huth, Teilah Huth, Cassandra Pahlke, Rebekah Pahlke, Joshua Pahlke, Jessica Schwenke, and Adam Fischer. These young people will be introduced to the congregation Sunday 19th February at our 8.00 a.m. service. We look forward to the Confirmees camp coming up on 29th, 30th April & 1st May (the May Labour Day long week-end). Please remember these young people in your prayers.

**SMALL GROUPS** i.e. friendship groups who gather for Bible Study and fellowship will begin again and we would love to have people offer to begin a group in their home.

As the new year begins we are always needing more people to help out with morning tea rosters, church cleaning roster, mowing roster, usher duties, Sunday School and R.E. teaching. If you have not been asked to assist and would be happy to help out please talk to Pastor Greg.

### Parish Pastor

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### Parish Chairman

Mr. David Huth Tel.: (07) 5546-2279

### St. Peters Lutheran Church, Alberton

185 Alberton Rd, Alberton  
Contact: Mr. Geoff Rossmann Tel.: (07) 5546 2131

### Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Woongoolba

Cnr. Mill Rd. & Staplyton  
Jacobs Well Rd., Woongoolba  
Contact : Mr. David Keith Tel.: (07) 5546 2470

