

Alberton Lutheran Parish



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The Messenger June – August, 2008, Issue 2.

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From Pastor's Pen

Most of you will know that I have had bad knees for many years now. I still remember the doctor's words to me years ago: "If you were a horse, we'd shoot you now."

As this edition goes to press, I have been to see my knee specialist; and he has consented to do my knee replacements when we can find a suitable time this year. ☺ ☺ It's up to me now.

Just like any other human being, now that the option is there, I'm consciously asking myself: 'Should I wait a little longer? Maybe my knees aren't as bad as I've been making out!' ☺ But... the knee specialist is no longer saying, "Wait." And I'm going to be glad to have a different kind of pain for a while – a pain that hopefully means a kind of healing; and a greater sense of freedom of mobility than I've experienced in years.

Jesus said, "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground, it cannot produce fruit." and faced 'the hard yards' Himself, so we could all enjoy the benefits of His victory. In that sense, anything we endure in this life is a poor shadow of Jesus' sufferings on our behalf, so that we might have a crown of life. Isn't that amazing and humbling?

I am going to undergo an operation that will hopefully give me benefit. As a result, I may be more useful to others; but I'm still not looking forward to the pain involved. Jesus underwent an "operation" that gave Him no tangible assurance of a full benefit to Himself, but which offered the

possibility of a major benefit to others – life in eternity in the presence of God - for you and me. While not a 'magic wand', God's desire that all should (can be) be saved through Jesus death and Resurrection, is in place and effective. Even so, this "operation" assured Him of personal pain on many levels; AND He still did it willingly. You have to admit that that kind of service and self-sacrifice doesn't make sense to the average person. The fact is, that most people would say it was, at best, a misguided if generous effort.

BUT, It wasn't misguided, nor the effort of someone who was delusional. Jesus says to the Pharisees:

The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life - only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. John 10:17 & 18

Scripture's claim is also that He is the one who heals all our infirmities. Jesus, our great physician encourages each of us to call on Him in time of need. I am confident that God provides for our healing in many ways. I look forward to the outcomes of my surgery with confidence in the medical staff and the God who stands behind them and guides their hands. Call on Him in your own need. God is faithful and knows and cares for each of us.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Greg. Pastor Greg Vangness

PARISH MATTERS

LWQ Retreat 2009 -

Brisbane South/Gold Coast Zone will be hosting Retreat 2009 Koojarewon on the 13th, 14th and 15th of March. Guest Speaker Kelly Hardke (Shirley's daughter-in-law) will be speaking on her trip to Nepal in September 2007. The trip was made with Australian Lutheran World Service to help run a number of refugee camps. Musician Erica Hardke (Shirley's daughter) will be along to lead and perform as well.

Fellowship Day – will be hosted by Zone Executive at Trinder Park Rest Home on Thursday, 9th of October instead of the original proposed date. The theme will be: "Varieties of Gifts" and will include input from children Betty Schultz works with, telling the Keystone Story. Mrs. Jan Bell also has a 10 minute time slot to share about the need for extra volunteers at Keystone in a variety of pursuits. Some residents at Trinder Park are ex-Guild members from the Alberton Parish. They will undoubtedly enjoy the opportunity to catch up with long-time friends. Pastor Tim Jaensch, our District President will bring his guitar along on the day.

LWQ Convention 2009 –

Convention will be held in August 2009. Brisbane North/Sunshine Coast Zone will be host for this event. Margaret and Neville Taft will not be taking position as Koojarewon, so they are still in need of our prayers

Can You Help?

- Keystone is 30 years old (on September 13th) and are having a "Birthday Bash." A fashion parade is planned by Keystone on the day. Guild's have been invited to attend and/or hold a stall.

A group from Alberton Parish, organised by St. Peter's Ladies Guild, is going to run a 'mixed stall that day. It would be great to have your involvement on the day. Times range from 10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. If you cannot attend the day, you might like to assist by providing items for the stall (ie. Cakes, handcrafts, plants and the like). If you have any further input or questions, please contact Kaye Rossmann (5546 2376) of Lyn Eggert (5546 2128). Funds raised on the day will be for the benefit of Keystone.

- We are still seeking a "World Day Of Prayer" President from Lutheran circles.

- We are in need of a new LWQ Banner, so if you are artistic, we need to have designs before LWQ Executive Meeting on the 13th of October.

How some of your financial gifts are at work- Teaching Bursaries have been presented to students of Australian Lutheran College, went to Chris Raatz and Luke Spilsbury.

Zone Events – Beaudesert – have their Morning Tea on Tuesday, 3rd of June, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Shirley Hardke is the guest speaker on the day, with reflections on her trip to Scotland. Cost for the day is \$5.00

Woodridge – meets for Morning Tea on Tuesday, 17th of June at 9:30 a.m. Guest speaker is Jason Sondorp – A Lutheran Ambulance Paramedic, who is in training to become the first full-time chaplain for the Queensland Ambulance Service. His personal story is inspiring and his passion for ministry to all is apparent. Cost is \$5.00 for the morning.

Trinity, Southport – meets for Brunch on Wednesday, 25th of June, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Guest speaker is Dr. Norman Hohl from Christian Radio Station 4CRB. Cost for the day is \$7.00

Alberton's having a Brunch on Monday, 21st of July, beginning at 9:45 a.m. Guest speaker on the day is from "Angel Flight." "Angel Flight" is a charity that co-ordinates non-emergency flights for financially and medically needy people. All flights are free and assist patients and/or carers travelling to or from medical facilities anywhere in Australia. These pilots do not carry aero-medical staff or medical equipment, and therefore do not act as an alternative to Flying Doctors (RFDS) or ambulance in that capacity. Cost for the morning is \$7.00. Come and hear more. Bring your friends!

Guild/Fellowship can be an excellent way to grow in so many ways. Why not come to one of our events. You will be made welcome. We have great fun together, lovely morning teas and great enjoyment in and around of God's Word.

Our Publications editor has moved! –

Viola Lang's new address is now:
46 George Street,
Moffat Beach, 4551.

INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL DISTRICT, & NEWS AND VIEWS

DEATH OF BISHOP WESLEY KIGASUNG

Head Bishop Evangelical Lutheran Church Papua New Guinea Rev Dr Wesley Kigasung died on Wednesday 14 May. Wesley was 58 years old. He had been active in LWF circles including serving on their council. The ELC-PNG is our sister church and Rev Kigasung worked closely with the LCA to foster and further develop this close relationship between our churches. He attended my installation in 2000 and joined the College of Presidents for their retreat in 2007. Secretary of the Church/ Mission Director Rev Wayne Zweck attended the state funeral in Port Moresby on Tuesday 20 May and Gordon Samuel, finance secretary of LCA Missions and Lutheran Overseas Partner Churches, attended the funerals at Ampo and St Andrews, Lae on Friday 23 May and the Lae state funeral on Saturday 24 May. Dr Wesley was buried in his home village of Aluki on Sunday 25 May.

INSTALLATION OF AUSTRALIAN LUTHERAN COLLEGE LECTURER

The installation date for ALC Lecturer in Pastoral Theology specializing in counselling studies, Rev Stephen Pietsch has been confirmed for Sunday 20 July 2008. The installation will take place as part of the 9.00am worship service at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Flinders Street Adelaide.

The Faith Inkubators tour will be held in Brisbane from the 1st -3rd of August, 2008 at Redeemer College, Rochedale.

This three day conference will give you and your children/youth ministry team the opportunity to hear from the creator of Faith Inkubators, Rich Melheim, and his team Monty and Debbie.\

Our parish has already decided to hop on board with these internet based materials. We plan to use Faith Inkubators with future Confirmation Groups; but Youth Groups and Childrens Groups within the parish are encouraged to check out the materials as well. We are soon to finalize our method of participation after hearing

more at Synod this year and looking into proposals of a District/National scheme for involvement. Keep this venture in your prayers.

- Looking to teach and engage young people in Sunday School and Confirmation?
- Looking to get more parents involved in ministry with their own children?
- Looking to bring joy, growth and energy to your church?

CONCERT IN THE CANEFIELDS –

will be running today: Sunday, 1st of June, right here in our own community at the original Heck family homestead. Fast becoming one of Queensland's premier musical events, the music program commences at noon.

You may well have missed out this year, but put it in your calendars for next year so that you can enjoy some true culture in your own backyard.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BETHLEHEM, WOONGOOLBA

Bethlehem Kindergarten Fundraiser -

Now you may have been to party plan parties before; but this one is set to be local and will give you an opportunity to mingle with mums and others from the Bethlehem Preschool and Kindy as you get great bargains. The night will be held at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Hall on Friday, 13th June 2008, from 7:00 pm.

So get your girlfriends together and grab some bargains as you support our local preschool and put a face in the minds of the preschool and kindy mums when they think of the church next door!

NEWS FROM ST. PETER'S, ALBERTON

Just in case you didn't find it elsewhere in the Messenger, Alberton's having a Brunch on Monday, 21st of July, beginning at 9:45 a.m. Guest speaker on the day is from "Angel Flight." "Angel Flight" Cost for the morning is \$7.00. Come and hear more. Bring your friends!

I thank my God every time I remember you!
Phillipians 1:3

An Open Letter Of Thanks From Luke Moore

Since my accident and during the time of my initial surgery, I have faced extreme medical and physical challenges. I regret not being able to maintain regular contact with many of you; or being able to spend time with my church family and friends. These challenges have hindered my ability to attend most parish activities as well as many everyday life events.

Many of you have upheld me in prayer support and I want to thank you for that. To say 'thank you' sounds so ineffectual; and certainly is not enough to express my gratitude for your love and concern.

I am constantly amazed by your friendliness and care. It overwhelms me. I am just so appreciative and grateful for all your understanding.

Thank you for your patience with me. I look forward to the time when we can have a more normal pattern of being together again. My thanks once more for your tolerance; and I ask your forgiveness for any inconvenience my inconsistent ways may cause. I look forward in hope to better days to come and praise God for His care for us all.

Yours truly, Luke Moore.

Men's Fellowship: Men's Annual Banquet

will be held on Saturday 26th of July, beginning at 6:00 for 6:30p.m mealtime. The format has not changed since its beginnings. Just a great night out with good mates; new people to meet; a lovely three course meal graciously prepared by the ladies of the parish; a limited item auction (the auctioneering is as much fun as the prospect of taking home a fine wine or a fine piece of craftsmanship; and a speaker who enthuses us to be men of God and do our part to see that Jesus is known through us by His love. Speaking of which, Roger Kahler is the man who addresses us on the night. Roger did not always know Jesus as a friend and Saviour; but getting to know Him was and is a life changing event for many people through Roger today. Come along, hear Roger's story, and be encouraged as you here him talk on the theme: My Walk With Jesus. Cost for this evening is \$25.00; but remember to bring more than change for the auction. Proceeds on the night, after costs will be divided between Australian Lutheran World Service and another cause to be decided. Get your tickets quickly though! There wasn't much room left in the St. Peter's Hall last year. See you there! Bring your mate, or your son and double the fun. ☺

Colour My World!

Once again, Our Young Adults groups are preparing to put together a mass of meals for those in our community who are in need. Perhaps you've undergone surgery and are finding it a struggle to cook your own meals. You may have a short-term need in these financially tight times. "Colour My World" is the catch-cry for those who gather and make up these meals; and the aim is to brighten the days and fill the little gaps of people in need in our community. The meals are packaged with a list of the ingredients and a message from Scripture to consider as you eat. If you have need of a meal, contact one of the members of the Alberton Parish; and we will endeavour to do what we can for short-term needs.

If you would like to be involved in meal preparation, let Justin and Bec Ludcke, John Taylor or Paul and Jess Rossmann know and we will let you know when our next cook-up will be held.

In order to raise funds for the costs of meals, Colour My World are selling the popular Entertainment Books at a cost of \$60.00. You may not be able to help with the cooking, or need the meals; but you might like to support the work by getting this handy discount book full of savings. Along with the meals we add our prayers for those who receive the meals and you can be involved in this way too. We serve in many ways, because Christ Jesus, the one who sustains us, has first served us.

Lutheran Holiday Program –

Is just a term away! Time to gear up and this year the gearing up is part of the program. Come along to: **SONFORCE KIDS – Special Agents Program!**

Meet Miss Newton, Inez Halley, Robot, Jack Oort and Edward Clark Felton and find out if these special agents can protect the earth from a runaway asteroid heading straight for the planet; and find out how God can help when we don't think anything can help.

LHP is proposed for the 23rd, 25th and 26th of September this year. Same place as usual. Program enrolments are NOT out yet; but will be coming your way before too long.

Why spend the holidays playing electronic games when you can spend it with friends at LHP. Set the dates aside in your calendar now! Don't miss out!

YOUTH TRIVIA NIGHT

Come along and enjoy our annual Parish Trivia Night on the 18th of July. The cost is \$5 per person and a maximum of 8 people per table. This is an excellent fundraiser for our youth and a lot of fun to come along and enjoy; so bring your family and friends and enjoy! See you there!

Our Community Giving Thanks Together Service this year will be held on Sunday 3rd of August in the Woongoolba Lutheran Church Hall at 10.00 a.m. On this one day of the year, the members of our community join together in thankfulness to God. Take this opportunity to invite family and friends to this special gathering. Please bring a plate of food for morning tea to be served at the conclusion of the service.

This worship time is always a relaxed and meaningful celebration. Seats fill up fast, so come early and chat with friends.

One of the possible speakers this year, as we focus on communities in need is Jason Sondorp. Jason is the Queensland Ambulance and Paramedics Chaplain in training. Jason will be the first full-time Chaplain for this important Community Service group, who deal with many difficult and stressful situations and conditions. If he can be freed from duties on the day, you are in for an interesting encounter with a keen Christian who works in interesting circumstances. Bring the family for this inspirational and refreshing community event.

Confirmees of 2007/2008: Aleisha Collard, Courtney Le Masurier, Steven Schwenke & Michael Zipf have been confirmed this past month. Their adult life in the church has begun; those who serve in various ways within the life of the parish are encouraged to ask these members to assist with parish life. Let them know they are valued for themselves and help them grow as God gifts to the body of Christ here.

Shed Men: This initiative of the men's fellowship is a **combined parishes event** between Bethania, Beenleigh and Alberton. While we love to get together for a fantastic Bar-B-Que tea, we're not just about food.

We find out new things about each other's lives and hear, from each other, the things that give us a sense of our identity as men and as individuals. We have permission to poke around in each other's sheds and hear from an inspiring fellow Christian man.

Any surplus raised on the night is distributed to worthy charitable organizations as our way of saying thanks to God for His gifts to us! This last meeting we got funds together for "Farm Packs" to help grow food for refugee families in Africa.

Cost is \$10.00 for working men to defray cost of supplies on the night and raise funds for good causes. Listen up for the next one. C U there. ☺

PARISH REGISTER – Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths

Baptisms-	Born	Baptized
Woolard, Brooke Casey	15/03/2007	03/02/2008
McTaggart, Zoe Eve	09/12/2007	02/03/2008
Kleinschmidt, Jordan Charles	19/11/2007	09/03/2008
Harm, Benjamin Kerry	19/08/2007	16/03/2008
Izard, Tamika Marie	10/09/2007	06/04/2008
Haack, Sophia Suzanne	01/12/2007	06/04/2008
Collard, Aleisha Anne	24/02/1994	25/05/2008

Marriages-

Christopher Keith/Cassandra Derrick	08/03/2008
John Zipf/ Lisa Woodward	15/03/2008
Paul Rossmann/Jessica Berndt	19/04/2008
Andrew Rossmann/Kylie Punch	26/04/2008

Deaths-

	Died
Huth, Patricia Ruth	19/04/2008

“God has come to save His people” – Luke 11:9

Parish Pastor

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Woongoolba

Cnr. Mill Rd. & Staplyton
Jacobs Well Rd., Woongoolba
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