



The Messenger

June, 2009 – August, 2009, Issue 1.

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From Pastor's Pen

Swine Flu, Recession Survivalists, December 21st, 2012, fires and floods, etc. Guess what people are predicting yet again. (I guess one day one of the soothsayers will be right, chance says so) but In the words of R.E.M... "It's the end of the world as we know it (and I feel fine)."

This may sound like a complacent attitude, however it's anything but! John, in his vision, recorded as the Revelation, gives us a waking dream much of which will only be interpretable when it's no longer relevant because we will be in heaven and it will be known. What we can take from John is the overriding message which is clear: we are to be ready – ready for Jesus' second coming.

The problems of the world are tragic and our hearts should go out to those who suffer. In fact, if the hearts of all in the western world went out to our third world family members, there would be less to 'cluck' over. Yes it would mean that we would need to live simply, so that others could simply live; BUT would that be a bad thing? Diabetes is a major killer in the western world, directly related to obesity, which is now Australia's number one health concern. Putting less on our own plates and more into international aide could be a start for some.

But...there is a simple thing that those who struggle to make ends meet ; and those who are wealthy, here in the western world could do that would address the issue of being ready and the issue of the needs of the world. This cost free thing is daily at the disposal of God's people; and those who don't even know who God is engage in it when the troubles of the world come knocking. This precious gift of God is the gift of prayer. God attaches promise after promise to it.

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7: 14

In everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Phillipians 4: 6 & 7.

Do you find this hard to believe in light of the circumstances of life? Go and read the passages again. God does not say he will prevent hardship. He says He will meet our needs and give us a peace the world can't give.

If that does not satisfy, then do yourself a favour; and for two weeks as you pray write down the requests you make of God. As the answers begin to come in, remember to thank Him for the answers to prayer and keep on "p.u.s.h."ing – **Pray Until Something Happens.**

God is faithful and He will accomplish greater things for you than you would ever have thought. He is the giver of all good gifts. He is trustworthy in a world where we are surrounded by deceivers, including Satan who seeks to usurp God's place; but cannot; and bind us in fear and doubt; but cannot as we remain in Christ, who is our true assurance and strength. God's peace to you in the circumstances of life. Amen.

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Greg.*

Pastor Greg Vangness.

National Church & District Matters

LLL INTEREST RATE CHANGE

The prime objective of the LLL is to provide benefits and services to the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA). The LLL Board regularly reviews its strategies to ensure that these benefits and services are maximised. This interest rate change is being made as part of this regular review, and is necessary due to reduced investment income as a result of low interest rates in the current economic environment. The interest rate on deposit accounts will be changed to 4.25% as of 1 June 2009. Loan interest rates remain unchanged, with the standard interest rate on loans of 5% per annum, debited on June 30 and December 31 annually. We sincerely thank all depositors for their continued support of the Church via their LLL deposit accounts. We thank God for the many blessings that he provides, and for continuing to bless the work of the LLL as we support the mission of the Church.

QLD CONVENTION OF SYNOD

The QLD District Pastors Conference and Convention of Synod will be held in Rockhampton from 3 to 7 June under the theme of 'Forgiven and Forgiving'. Pastor Tim Jaensch will not be standing for re-election as District President. It will also be Mr Trevor Ruthenberg's last Synod as the QLD District Executive Officer before he takes up his new position of Executive Officer of the Church in July.

A New SafePlace Officer for the LCAQD.

It is with considerable regret that the LCAQD announces the resignation of Kellie Renwick as the SafePlace Officer for the LCAQD. Kellie has provided the LCAQD a considerable service in all she has done, especially in the area of thought leadership and policy development. Kellie leaves the position having been instrumental in the establishment of the Professional Standards Unit for the LCAQD and the framework surrounding that entity. Kellie's resignation is effective as of June 12.

Kellie will be leaving to join the Lifeline team, the opportunity offers her a professional challenge and a better personal situation. Kellie, on behalf of the President and myself I offer you our sincere thanks and appreciation for a job well done! Thank you.

We have commenced the search for Kellie's replacement and will keep you informed as events unfold.

Serving Christ by serving you.
Trevor Ruthenberg
LCAQD Executive Officer
Office: (07) 3511 4015

PARISH MATTERS



LORDS – The school council has been very busy meeting with representatives of Lutheran Education Queensland, Deacons Lawyers, Conics Town Planners and various consultants to meet the demands of the Gold Coast City Council Requests. Conics advise that the lodgement of final information request responses will be made in mid June. We have a Block Grant Authority Visit on the 2nd June on site and we have a visit from LEQ on 4th June. The architect has been working diligently on our plans and although the floor plan of buildings is very similar we now have quite a different appearance of our buildings. Keep your eyes peeled for updates and Please keep LORDS in your prayers.

We are very grateful for the prayer support of all members and friends.

With thanks, LORDS School Council.

MEN'S ANNUAL DINNER – **Saturday 18th July – 6 p.m. \$30**

What can you expect at the Dinner this year?

'NAMASTE' Our Guest Speakers: Aaron & Kellie Hardke visited Nepal as part of a trip organized by Lutheran World Service where they were able to visit the Bhutanese refugee camps. LWF Nepal was the first organization extending assistance to the refugees. Initially, it established systems for all key needs and later handed over some services when UNHCR and other NGOs arrived on the scene as more refugees arrived. Now, UNHCR is responsible for the overall co-ordination of the camps. The number of refugees is huge at approximately 107,000. These are in seven camps. **Beldangi-1, Beldangi-2** (the largest at more than 22,6000, **Beldangi-2 extension, Goldhap** (where 9,000 were left homeless after a devastating fire on March 1st 2008), **Khudunabari, Sanischare** and **Timai**.

Did you know Raksi is a kind of whisky distilled by fermenting rice, millet and barley. It is also

made at home as well as in bigger distilleries. Fermentation is attained by adding yeast or a green mould. Other alcoholic beverages are rice beer (Jaand) and fermented rice or millet drink (Chhang). You will be amazed at the resilience and determination of these people who have lived in the camps for more than 18 years. Many of the children have known no other home. These are just a few of the interesting insights into another culture and the work of God's people in this mission area. Come along and learn more and enjoy God's goodness and All the usual fun:

Auction of prized Intarsia, Wine etc –
Great Food, Drinks & Fellowship.

Get your tickets now!

Ladies Fellowship 'Dreamtime and Visions' was the theme for our Rally Day held at Bethania. Guest Speaker was Maureen Hampel from the Inverell parish who told us about her dream and vision to see an early childhood centre developed. At LWQ retreat we kicked off our shoes, relaxed, refreshed and rejuvenated in the presence of Christ while walking in the shoes of others. Ask us about the wonderful highlights and why we look forward to it each year. We have been very busy being entertained and informed at neighbouring ladies fellowships: At Bethesda we were amazed at the stories from Zimbabwe, at Beaudesert we marveled at the textile talents of Robyn Crisstofel, at Tingalpa we were treated to the joys and sorrows of mission work throughout the world and we helped the Woodridge ladies celebrate their 40th Anniversary. Coming up on the 24th June there is opportunity to hear Pastor Neil Guthrig at Trinity Southport and we are looking forward to LWQ convention at Everton Hills.

PARISH PLAY GROUP - continues on the second and fourth Mondays of the month and is open to mums, dads, grandparents, friends – anyone who has little children at home and would like to bring them along for some fun times and a chat. Share your funny stories of the things 'bubs' do and join in the fun and laughter of your children as they experience the many facets of play.

JUST FOR FUN – A minister is walking down the street one sunny day and sees a small boy trying to ring the doorbell of a house across the way. The doorbell is set too high and so the pastor decides to help. He crosses the street, rings the bell for the lad; and smiling, says to the boy, "There you are. Now what?"

"Now we RUN!" the boy smiles back, fleeing.

Five Love Languages News - Many have given feedback as to the value of this Six Week Series undertaken by our Parish! As the series draws to a close I would like to say that it is never too late to get involved.

In fact, I plan to send the Sunday Handouts to the "young marrieds" of our parish who couldn't attend in order to give them resources for their married and family life.

This will give a general idea. I will hope to continue to offer profiling opportunities for those who would like to engage this very useful self-analysis device. If you would like to use this resource it is available in our New Parish Library in book form for various age groups; and in DVD format for those who want to review the info we've covered in worship sessions. I'm also happy to work with couples and small groups for dialogue and deeper study of the material. GV.

Lutheran Holiday Program Set-up Day -

Those of you who read this article, PLEASE NOTE: there will be no Orientation Dinner on Friday, 19th of July!!! ☹ There will, however, be a Set-up Day on **Saturday, 4th of July 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 pm** ☺ at the Bethlehem Hall, Woongoolba. All leaders and helpers will be expected on the day. We respect the fact that not all will be able to stay for the whole time; but give it a shot as you are able. A Pizza Feast will be provided on the day; we will have opportunity for orientation.

Since we're running it a little differently this year we want leaders and helpers to have time to orientate. We will be straight into it on Monday, 6th of July, so we want everyone to feel comfortable beforehand. Just let Jennifer know how many to cater for please! We'll see you there; and have some fun games and activities besides, all to get you in the mood.

Remember, LHP runs from the 6th – 10th of July this year from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and of course the usual BBQ and concert on the Friday night starting with BBQ at 6:00 p.m.

Parents: a reminder that the Early Bird prices finish on 19th of June! Don't miss out. Fix it now!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BETHLEHEM, WOONGOOLBA

Confirmation Sunday is just around the corner!

Confirmees Meghan McConnel and Jane Enchelmaier will be confirmed, God willing on Sunday, 21st of June at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Woongoolba. The rest of the class will be confirmed the week before at St. Peter's, Alberton. All Confirmees are encouraged to come along and support the members of their class on these two days. We wish you every blessing and that you may remain in Christ who is the true vine, the source of our life and joy. Following service, there will be opportunity for the family and friends to join in a special Morning Tea. If you are planning to be there, please bring along a small plate of something to share. Thanks. God's blessing for preparations.

Easter may be past; but **Lutheran Holiday Program** is just around the corner! Hold onto your hats! We're in for a WOWWWWWW! of a time at **SonWorld!** Keep your tickets at the ready, and hang on for the ride of your life!

LHP runs Monday – Friday, 6th – 10th of July. 9 am – 1 pm. with BBQ and Sausage Sizzle at 6pm.

Young children: **Parish Playgroup** 2nd & 4th Mondays contact Kay Kleinschmidt 5546 1525
This group is mainly for Children aged 0 – 4 and their carers: mums, dads, grandparents etc.
The emphasis is on the casual get-together. The group meets at St. Peter's Hall, Alberton from 9:30 am until people need to go.

Bethlehem Pre-school & Kindy: Enrolments welcome. Phone Sheena on 55462246.

Sunday Kids: Every Sunday morning 9.00 – 10.00 a.m. This is the Sunday School at Bethlehem Congregation. It meets each Sunday during school terms and breaks for Holidays.

Parish Youth Group meet twice monthly this year. Phone Fiona 55462644 and get onto our e-mail or mailing list.

Men's breakfast and ShedMen (See Article in this issue for details of ShedMen) nights held monthly contact Lee Zipf 55466353

Ladies Fellowship Group and various **Bible Study Groups** contact Janette Keith 55462470.

NEWS FROM ST. PETER'S, ALBERTON

Confirmation at St. Peter's – Sunday 14th June – 9.30 service

We welcome eight young members into their affirmation of faith and adult membership of our

congregation: Chloe Gilloway, Rebecca McCloskey, Abbie Douglas, Max Gilloway, Daniel Grant, Taylor Pearson, Joel Kerkin and Thomas Ponting. After service a celebratory luncheon will be held in the hall. Please bring a main course and dessert to share. God be praised for these wonderful young people!

Explorers Club & God's Girls – continue to meet on Friday afternoon's from 4.15-5.30
Happy smiles brings happy faces as we join in cooking, craft, jokes, bible stories and games and we should not forget the yummy afternoon tea's provided by a willing band of mums. Thanks to the Brain family for the donation of another set of swings. We are so blessed by the families of our community.

PARISH REGISTER – Baptisms, Marriages and Death Marriages –

Dan Willmann and Emma Williams 28/03/2009

Deaths-

Born **Died**

Pastor Greg was the minister who took two services in the last quarter for family members of people associated with our Parish.

Fuller, Patricia

20/12/1940 12/04/2009

Marks, Cecil Maurice 13/02/1920 11/05/2009

We celebrate the lives of friends and family He has given us to know. We trust in the resurrection; and so we are not as those without hope. In Christ, we are united though separated physically for a time. We have assurance of the resurrection and know we will be reunited with those who are in Christ, Jesus, our Lord.

Parish Pastor

Rev. Greg Vangsness
Tel.: (07) 3287 2084 Mob.: 0409 898 646
E-mail : pastor@albertonparish.org.au

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. Lee Zipf Tel.: (07) 5546 6353

New Parish Library and Resources-

As an outcome of last year's Alpha Course's meal donations and dinners, a sum of money was raised. The group agreed to put this money towards establishing a Parish Library of materials. These materials are available to all and sundry for borrowing purposes. There are theological books; many of **C.S. Lewis's** writings including the Narnia series; topical books dealing with a wide range of topics from grief, to personal development. We also have a growing selection of children's books, notably, the wonderful **Max Lucado** series – "You Are Special."

There is a selection of **Movie titles in DVD format** available for weekly loan. Some movie titles include: "The Passion", "Fire Proof" and more.

Study DVDs include "**The Five Love Languages**" recently focussed on in church worship. If you missed out on some of the series or want to repeat some sections, why not get this DVD out? You might also like to consider studies in DVD format on **Islam** or **The Apostle's Creed**. All these and more are available.

A small selection of **videos are available** for those with older technology!!

Audio copies of the Bible are awaiting you **in CD and cassette tape formats**. Study series in CD format are available from "**Focus on the Family**", and include such titles as: "Forgiveness and Reconciliation."

Feel free to borrow short term; or long term by arrangement.

You can also contribute unused books and media to the Library! We don't guarantee to keep all offerings; but will gratefully receive and review materials you are not using. Anything not accepted for the library will be promptly returned or forwarded to a suitable place in the event you do not want it returned.

Special Offer – For those of you who have a Video Player of your own, here's a great deal!

We are giving away copies of the "Jesus" Movie in VHS format. **Please just ask for yours.** This is a popular feature length film, suitable for the children of the church and general viewers. It comes in English format; but has been reproduced and distributed in over 60 languages worldwide.

The Movie uses the words of Jesus and others directly from the Gospel According to Luke, so you know you are getting the good news of Jesus as it was recorded for us in Scripture. It can be used for your own enjoyment, devotions; or as an aide to sharing the Gospel with family and friends.

Where is this Library? Sitting in the meeting room at the Manse for the time being:

185 Alberton Road, Alberton.

That's a good thing! As you sift through these excellent resources you will have Pastor Greg around for advice, discussion or perhaps as a personal 'cuppa' maker.

We hope you will take advantage of this free service
Lutheran Holiday Program 2009
 - NEW AND IMPROVED

This year our program is moving to the second week of the June School Holidays which will make the dates from Monday the 6th of July until Friday the 10th of July. Another huge change will be from 2 ½ days to 5 x ½ days – the program will run each day from 9 am til 1pm. This will mean that we won't be providing lunch, but instead we will have a substantial morning tea break. I am hoping that the shorter days will make each session mean more to each of our students instead learning 2 themes in one day, each day will have 1 theme on which we can concentrate. Other churches that run this program run on a 5 day system and we also give it a go.

Each family who attended the program last year was sent a letter in November advising of the two major changes. I invited feedback, positive or negative, however didn't receive any at all.

The theme this year is SonWorld Adventure Park. Each day the students will learn that life is about making choices, just like making choices at a Theme Park (i .e. which ride will I go on?) and that will determine what sort of day we have. But the big and little choices we make every day will determine what kind of lives we'll have, our relationships with those around us, and ultimately our relationship with God. And all that begins with our understanding of who is Jesus, and how will we choose to respond to him? At LHP our kids will meet various people who encountered Jesus and discover how they responded to Him. They include a blind man, ten men with leprosy, a paralysed man, a rich young ruler and the disciple Thomas.

At SonWorld Adventure Park, there's no height requirement, the lines are short and everyone gets a good view of the parade. But hold onto your hat and glasses, because it's sure to be a life-changing ride!

We really need some extra help this year in these few months of preparation. I have listed below jobs that will need filling this year, if you are able to help please contact me directly.

- Helpers (year 8 and upwards)
- Publicity Co-ordinator
- Missions Leader
- Leaders for Kindy & Primary Groups
- BBQ Co-Ordinator
- Sound and Vision Co-ordinator
- Treasurer/Finance Co-ordinator
- Set-up & pull down Co-ordinator

All helpers over the age of 18 years must have a Blue Card – this is everyone. Please see Pastor Greg if you don't have one or don't have one that is current.

This program is in its nineteenth year and generally the same leaders have been working and running it the whole time. We'd love some extra help and your children would love you to come and participate too. You don't have to take on running a whole group, but just being there is a huge help to our teachers.... Please consider it prayerfully.

If you attended the program as a student in the past 19 years, please consider coming back to help us too....

I can be contacted by email at jennikeith@bigpond.com.au or at night on 5546 2223 or during the day on 0408 184 044 (I'll ring you back if I'm unavailable).

Blessings

Jenni Keith