

# Alberton Lutheran Parish



www.albertonparish.org.au

## *The Messenger* March, 2008 - May, 2008, Issue 1.

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### From Pastor's Pen

“Every time we prepare to walk out the front door, we should do so as if we are walking out for the last time.”

What a ‘scary’ thought! ☺ The fact of the matter is that not one of us knows how long we will live. Could be fifty years ... could be five minutes. That’s not something to get bent out of shape about. It’s just a fact. I recognise the truth of this in my head; but it was when a man I’ve only met once, said the words in the above quote to me, that a greater working degree of that knowledge came into my heart and “got me where I live.”

It has helped me to address the question: “Why?”... Why did Jesus work, teach, heal and help without taking time to eat on many occasions? Why did He allow Himself to become so exhausted with efforts for others that it took a major storm at sea; AND his disciples’ fearful pleas to wake Him? Why does Paul remind us that he and the other missionaries of the early church period ‘were poured out like water’ in their efforts to spread the life-saving news of Jesus?

Jesus and His disciples applied themselves to such a self-sacrificial extent because they were living life according to the principle of loving care in an uncertain world. They desired to serve the people around them based on the idea that every moment counts. Every moment is precious for me and others,

because I don’t know if or when the opportunity for quality time may come again.

Jesus’ attitude to each moment of life, and its importance for others, lent urgency to every occasion. That same spirit is the hallmark of Jesus’ followers. It encourages us to share our belief in:

- a present life, which is full;
- a message of relationship God has established for us and with us
- a desire to see that everyone can share in the joys of this awareness of what has real value of life.
- a positive future in eternity which is secured by Christ for all now and later;

And... yes, this attitude can leave Christians with seriously depleted energy levels at times; but also grateful hearts.

My prayer for each one of us who believes in our Saviour, is that we may have the attitude that we deal with one-another and all people as though we will not see one-another again. Each time we see one-another is like the first and last: No time for quarrels - too wasteful; time to listen and talk – there may not be another opportunity; time to share Jesus my best friend with my other best friends (and strangers) – there may not be another time.

*Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Greg.*

Pastor Greg Vangness

## National Church & Parish Matters

### ANNIVERSARY OF FORMER CONCORDIA SEMINARY BUILDING

On the 16th February 1958 the building for Concordia Seminary, Highgate SA was dedicated. It is now known as the Media Building on the Concordia College campus and is still used for teaching history, geography and music. The building also houses the school counsellor and careers advisor.

### FLOODS IN MACKAY

Pastor Brinkmann advises that some of his parishioners have been affected (the manse also had its floors covered in water), but that those who wish to offer monetary help wait for an appeal if that is to happen at all or alternatively to make any monetary gifts available to the wider community through a recognised provider.

### LUTHERAN CHURCH ETHIOPIA

The Ethiopian Church now counts 4.9 million members. When it was established as a national Church in January 1959 there were 20,000 members. At the end of 2007 its membership stood at 4,869,157, making it the world's second largest Lutheran Church after the Church of Sweden, with 6.9 million members. The membership increase by nearly one million in the last five years is attributed mainly to growth in families, and sustained outreach efforts to new language groups, incorporating Bible translation and the training of local evangelists

### New Confirmees of 2007 - 2008

We welcome our group of young Confirmees: Aleisha Collard, Courtney LeMasurier, Steven Schwenke, and Michael Zipf. These young people continue in their Confirmation classes, and will be trialing the new Confirmation materials called "Faith Incubators." The materials are Internet based and interactive in nature. They bring back a more creative teaching method which is more suited to the interests of Generation Y and beyond. The materials are also intended to be used in the home as devotionals and inter-generational activity packs for those who can access the net. Confirmation Camp will fall on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of May - May Labour Day weekend. Likely Confirmation dates are May 11<sup>th</sup> at St. Peter's and 18<sup>th</sup> of May at Bethlehem. Please remember these young people in your prayers. Confirmees are encouraged to continue attending A-Team and are also invited to attend Youth at this stage

### What is Shed Men???

**A man's shed is nearly an Aussie Icon, sometimes shrouded in mystery. Now what goes on in some of these sheds will be revealed... or just come along! ☺ It's not a secret - just a great night out for men of all generations!**

Eye witness reports have confirmed that Shed Men has something genuine to offer. ☺

Here's what Lee Zipf says about the group:

"Well guys, Shed Men started off on an exciting note on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February, 2007. We went to Bevan Eggert's shed for our first meeting. The age of the men gathered ranged from 13 to 78.

Since that first meeting we've been to other interesting "sheds" as well. Progressing to Glinderman's Sign's Factory, to Rocky Point Mulching Shed, and to Bethania Lutheran Parish's new Worship Centre. We've certainly seen and learned great things.

The host at each of these events shared some exciting moments (high-level woodworking, sign fabrication, the mulching industry, preparation of worship centre furnishings and finishings,) let alone the speakers such as Ian Watson, owner of a truck driving school; Liam Renton, Radio Announcer at Family Radio Station 96.5 FM; Rob Cheslin, Director of "On The Edge" ministering to street kids in the Beenleigh district; and Tim Mander, CEO of Scripture Union and former Rugby League central umpire. These guys were certainly fascinating in their own right.

Attendances on the nights have been averaging 54 plus helpers. Hopefully, 2008 will be just as rewarding. Shed Men brings together: fathers, sons and friends. The atmosphere is Christian and casual and we share God's Word informally and relevantly.

On behalf of the men gathered from Woongoolba, Alberton, Beenleigh, Bethania, and other churches involved, I look forward to sharing fellowship and a great barbeque with Shed Men old and new. Lee Zipf.

The next meetings are scheduled for Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> of February and Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> of May. The nights start at 6:00 pm and we wind up about 8:30pm. Cost is \$10.00 for working men. This includes filling BBQ and great guest speakers as well as a look at some interesting sheds.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BETHLEHEM, WOONGOOLBA

"A doing church - a doing people"

"Did you know our Church was doing so much?"

If you require more information about any of these small groups please see the leaders or contact Pastor Greg for more details.

Young children: **Parish Playgroup** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays contact Kay Kleinschmidt 55461525  
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 Ph Sheena or Noela 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.  
Ph Christine 55461879

### **Junior Youth Group (A-Team)**

- For grades 6,7 & 8 meeting monthly.  
Enquires Ph Laura 0403136058.

### **Youth Group** meet monthly.

Ph. Fiona 55462644 and get onto our e-mail or mailing list.

### **Young Adults Bible Study Groups**

Ph Josh 55462223 or Dan 0438735452.

**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

**"There is no situation so chaotic that God cannot, from that situation, create something that is surpassingly good. He did it at the creation. He did it at the Cross. He is doing it today."** Handley C G Moule.

## NEWS FROM ST. PETER'S, ALBERTON

### **Parish Play Group**

Play group is up and running on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at St. Peter's Hall, 185 Alberton Road, Alberton.

Children and babies like playgroup because they can:

- participate in new experiences
- develop and increase their social skills
- learn sharing, co-operation and simple routines
- interact with other adults and children in a safe environment
- enjoy learning more about their world

Parents, Grandparents, Care givers like playgroup because they can:

- meet other local families and develop new friendships
- relax and talk in a friendly environment
- share experiences and ideas
- play with children and nurture a spirit of co-operation
- take up opportunities for personal development
- work together to run the playgroup

Each day begins at 9.30. We share morning tea, have an inside play time and an outside play time, a story session and a music and movement session. We aim to join the Playgroup Association of Qld. It's great to be able to talk to other people dealing with the same adventures as you are.

### **Explorers Club**

Did you enjoy the Pancakes night. We had scrumptious savoury and sweet pancakes for everyone. All children are welcome to join us on Friday afternoons from 4.15 for Afternoon Tea, followed by story time, craft and cooking and organized games. Children aged 3-12 are welcome.

**God's Girls** meets at the same time and is for girls aged 13-15 years. A time for sharing and building relationships through discussions and craft.

### **Ladies Fellowship**

St. Peter's ladies are welcome to join us for fellowship on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday mornings of the month. We meet from 9.30-11.30 at various venues. Check the messenger calendar.

**Lutheran Women of Qld Retreat** is on **14-16<sup>th</sup> March** at Luther Heights Coolum under the theme "Foreigners and Strangers" so if you feel like a relaxing weekend away please let Lyn know ASAP. This is a wonderful time to share with fellow Christians from all over our state.

### Invitation to: Kingdom Living Conference

Saturday, May 31st 2008 at 9 am  
St Andrew's Lutheran Church  
Tallebudgera, Gold Coast

Keynote speaker Pastor Peter Steicke challenges you to renewing your focus on Jesus  
"One of the biggest changes in my life has come through a renewed focus on Jesus as not only my Saviour, but as my king and my Emperor. It has impacted every area of my life and ministry, and I want to share some of that journey with you as we open our bibles and our hearts together. Through this day you can expect to be amazed at the enormity of King Jesus' grace and love for you, as well as the calling he has for you and the power for you to carry that calling out. We are called to impact our world and make a difference. Attending this conference will certainly head you in that direction," Pastor Peter says. Pastor Peter is senior pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Para Vista, SA.

Session 1: Having a Kingdom Agenda  
Session 2: Learning the Kingdom Life  
Session 3: Having a Kingdom ministry  
Session 4: Impacting our world and making a Kingdom Difference.  
Session 5: Breaking through the Kingdom Barriers.

Payment: \$40 includes morning and afternoon teas and lunch

Make cheque payable to St Andrew's Lutheran Church.

Further inquiries (07) 55798752 (ah) or [bev.malseed@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:bev.malseed@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Please return registration form and payment by May 24th 2008

Registration desk opens at 8 am

### PARISH REGISTER –

#### Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths

Baptisms-	Born	Baptized
Kleinschmidt, Lee Henry	23/07/07	02/12/2007
Meurant, Byron James	25/07/00	09/12/2007
Rossmann, Riley John	04/04/07	09/12/2007
Rossmann, Christian Henry	06/09/07	27/01/2008
Woolard, Brooke Casey	15/03/07	03/02/2008
Robinson, Kyronne Dion	12/12/07	17/02/2008

### Deaths-

While not members of this parish we acknowledge those who mourn the loss of loved ones since the last messenger was produced. Please ask God to give comfort to relatives and friends of:

"Teenie" Radcke  
Justin Ludcke's Uncle James  
Chris Sichter's Brother  
Garth Hunt's Father

From This Parish

	Born	Died
Kriedemann, Walter Harold	28/08/1912	28/01/2008

### Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd... That's Relationship!  
I shall not want... That's Supply!  
He makes me to lie down in green pastures  
That's Rest!  
He leads me by still waters...  
That's Refreshment!  
He restores my soul... That's Healing!  
He leads me in paths of righteousness...  
That's Guidance!  
For His Name's sake... That's Purpose!  
Yea! Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death... That's Challenge!  
I will fear no evil... That's Assurance!  
For You are with me... That's Faithfulness!  
Your rod and Your staff they comfort me...  
That's Shelter!  
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies... That's Hope!  
You anoint my head with oil...  
That's Consecration!  
My cup runs over... That's Abundance!  
Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life,, That's Blessing!  
And I will dwell in the House of the Lord...  
That's Security!  
forever... That's Eternity!  
AMEN! (So be it!)

### 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

**Thanks for the many who minister to our local community! Here's what we are part of elsewhere.**

**GUESS WHO???**

Minus 25degrees C...  
Car covered in snow...  
Playing the sport of curling...:  
Who has been experiencing this?????????????

You know you are in Canada when:

- you spend the first 15 minutes after arriving at church clearing the snow off the footpath and entry way
- you leave your water bottle in the car during the day and it freezes
- the roads are better to drive on in winter because the potholes have frozen over
- your friends have stories about hitting deer with their car and not kangaroos
- many people don't know what a fortnight is
- after church you have to remove 10 cm of snow from your car
- your neighbour's dog looks more like a wolf than a poodle

Adrian Kramer (Youth Intern from a few years back is doing part of his vicarage in Canada) You can read updates of his life in Canada on his blog: onlocationwithAdrian. It is great to see that God is blessing Adrian in many ways and he is also being a witness to those he is serving both in Canada and back home here in Australia.

Adrian returns to Australia this year to complete his studies at Australian Lutheran College, and God willing will be ordained at the end of this year. Please remember him in your prayers as he completes his vicarage and final year efforts.

**JeS GaRaTy is going to South Africa**

**TO BE A FOXFIRE!** You are probably wondering what exactly a FoxFire is and why on earth Jes is going to South Africa to be one. So here is the run down....

I am working with African Enterprise, an interdenominational organisation that works to evangelise the cities of Africa through word and deed in partnership with the church. FoxFires are the youth wing of African Enterprise.

The name **FOXFIRE** comes from the book of Judges chapter 15 verses 4 & 5 where Samson took 300 foxes and tied them tail to tail and sent them into the fields of the Philistines to set it on fire...so as FoxFires we are setting the youth ablaze for Christ!

The objective of joining FoxFires is to stand in God's will as he mobilises the 'next generation' to live out his calling. I will be part of a team of 20 young people (later split into three teams) who will after training, spend the

remainder of the year in fulltime ministry. Training gives us the opportunity to gain professional instruction in various life skills (violence, teenage pregnancy, sexual promiscuity, abuse and crime, education importance, character and self-esteem, unemployment etc). Life skills are a vital part of our ministry into schools, equipping us to uplift the community and help them to function effectively in society.

Over the year FoxFires target schools, youth groups, camps, workshops, hospitals, governments and a variety of other ministry opportunities with dance, life-changing dramas, music, audiovisuals and creative material.

I just want highlight the fact that we are sharing the Gospel message with young people. This is a tough job, but goes hand in hand with real life circumstances – we can't share the gospel and expect these young people who are often homeless, pregnant or in a really tough life circumstance, without doing something practical to help them. So we work with a holistic approach to sharing God's story and His love!

I would be so honoured and blessed to have you join hands with me in this ministry. Please prayerfully consider:

Becoming a prayer partner and/or a Financial Sponsor.

**I cannot overstress the importance of having precious people like you to support me in this.** The foundation of my time as a FoxFire must be God, I must be grounded in prayer and for that I truly need your help. Over the short time I have been home I have held onto the statement that when **'its God's will, its God's bill'**, because without Him I know financially I cannot go. So...if you are willing and able I encourage you to step out and support this ministry.

Blessings, Love Jes

Resources needed:

Digital Camera – we would like to give children the opportunity to tell their story using a camera

Uniforms – a team uniform makes it much easier to identify FoxFires in a school of 5000 children (things are often hectic), making it much easier to identify who to go to for help. In addition it gives us a professional, clean and consistent image. Tensions in our team are reduced when we all wear the same thing – socioeconomic backgrounds no longer matter!

SPONSORSHIP – the cost of being involved with FoxFires for 12 months (including airfare and insurance) is just over \$575 per month.

**Brief outline of important dates:**

31 <sup>st</sup> December	Fly out of Brisbane
7 January – 15 March	Training
16 March – 23 April	Ministry in Pietermartizburg
24 <sup>th</sup> April – 10 June	Mission to Australia!!
July – November	Ministry in Johannesburg
December	Graduation