



## The Messenger

March, 2010 - June, 2010, Issue 1.

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### From Pastor's Pen

"More Bread More Circuses!" - the cry of the mob of the Roman Empire. What it meant to those in leadership was: Feed and entertain us and we'll forget that we're slaves!" Scary attitude isn't it? It was this encouraged attitude that allowed the nation that developed education, hygiene, philosophy, sport and many other benefits to tolerate the military and financial suffering inflicted on smaller surrounding nations; the obliteration of whole societies, and religious groups because they would not submit. This same society came to accept the lie: that people were just one of many animals walking the planet, of no more value than any other species. Desensitisation of this sort led to many practices lacking true humanity. Individuals threw parties for the purpose of publicly suiciding in the presence of friends and family. This same society then was able to make the steps to involuntary euthanasia; and relish the 'sport' (so-called circus) as those who had not 'toed the line' were publicly tortured and executed. The mob did this while crying out the phrase quoted earlier; and bread was thrown to the crowd as they called for fellow humans' blood.

Ultimately, the government is ruled by an emperor who is not strongly politically driven, or capable and the 'Roman Empire' as history demonstrates, falls in on itself, repeatedly leaving an ignorant mass of people with a broken world that must be rebuilt by a new emerging nation.

I have concerns for the world where some pretty stark parallels can be drawn. Powerful nations around the world today permit cheap unhealthy foods, while encouraging us to eat healthily. There are many entertainments for the public mass-media mob. If it's not Tennis, it's Footy or Cricket. As you read this, the Winter Olympics

just finished. Crusty Demons and Metal Mulisha and ACDC can really pack the stadiums these days in the hopes of an accident or an opportunity to scream out trite lyrics at the top of one's voice. If you can't afford these amusements, there's always an internet to put you into a fantasy world of graphic violence or a chat room of one dubious description or another. People today have many variants of 'the circus' and wonder why they are satisfied only for the moment. (Don't get me wrong. I enjoy some of these things; but hopefully don't let them rule me from one moment of the day to the next.) I don't believe that Marx was right when he said, "Religion is the opiate of the people"; rather, the opiate seems to be the false security of an over-full tummy and a temporary fix of adrenalin. To the love of these things over our life in Christ, God says: **"Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."** Ephesians 5:14

God offers us an alternative to consider in this season of Lent instead of empty self-seeking routines of entertainments that does not satisfy:

**"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.**

Isaiah 55: 1 & 2.

*Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Greg.*

Pastor Greg Vangness

## National Church & District Matters

### NATIONAL CHURCH OFFICE SNIPPETS:

THE FOUNDATIONS ARE BEING BUILT

A wise builder invests in the foundation of the house to ensure a sound construction. Leaders, along with the Executive Officer of the Church, Trevor Ruthenberg, have been heavily investing in foundations for the effective and sustainable structuring of the LCA for the future.

Ms Debbie Venz has been appointed as Business Manager for the Church. Her New Zealand accent is a daily reminder there are two countries in our structure.

Fifty two leaders will meet 5-7 March in Melbourne to produce an action plan for resourcing the synod, streamlining processes and training leaders and laity for the LCA in support of our mission. Please keep this event and the people who work on our behalf in your prayers, for the nature and purpose of church is to be salt and light. May we be strong as church so that Christ's kingdom may receive glory.

### 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF PASTOR AUGUST KAVEL

Pastor August Kavel immigrated to Klemzig, South Australia with members of his congregation in 1838 to escape religious persecution in Prussia. Kavel was one of the pioneering Lutheran leaders in South Australia. Pastor Kavel continued to be a leading figure in the Lutheran Church until his death on 12 February 1860.

### HOW THE WORLD WAS WON

A collection of 12 songs for Lent & Good Friday from Robin & Dorothy Mann from When Our life Began Again to On That Final Night.

This CD recording & pdf files are available for \$20 plus postage from Robin on 08 8396 5019 / 0438 869 559 or email [robindormann@ozemail.com.au](mailto:robindormann@ozemail.com.au). You can view Robin's website at [www.robinmann.com](http://www.robinmann.com).

Robin and Dorothy are one of God's gifts of song and sound theology to the Church. Their songs have stood the test of time; and this is a great collection of old and newer songs. The focus of this CD is Lenten Meditation. Enjoy!



Elevation Training is one of the most important parts of our ministry calendar. It is here that we generate the ideas, mobilize the energy and develop the capability of our volunteer leaders so that our children and teenagers get the best we can offer them.

In 2010 we've managed to pull together experienced trainers to offer 12 different electives - *there is something for every Sunday School or Youth ministry leader!* New Leaders can complete the necessary childsafe/safeplace risk management training and learn about the basics of leadership. Experienced leaders can choose to update their risk management training or attend electives that will enhance their Sunday school or youth ministry leadership skills.

#### Key Details

**When:** Saturday 20 March 2010 | 8:30am - 4:00pm

**Where:** Good News Lutheran Church | 45 Horizon Dr, Middle Park

**Cost:** \$30 per person | includes all training materials as well as m/t, lunch & a/t

#### Program

The Elevation 2010 program includes 12 electives spread across 5 sessions. An overview of the program is outlined on LYQ's Website.

### LCAQD Convention of Synod – 14, 15, and 16 May 2010

#### Venue: Bethany Raceview

The Theme: All People – God's People

More than just a meeting, it's a **convention!**

It's not just for synod delegates but also for everyone to attend.

We want youth workers, kids, church leaders, small group leaders, council members, mission hearted members, regular members, treasurers, safe place coordinators, secretaries, young and old to attend.

There will be workshops, seminars, discussion groups occurring all through the venue all Saturday 15th and most of Sunday 16th.

We need you to come to Convention and share with us your story about how you became a Christian or what being a Christian has meant to you in your life.

We want to hear your story.

We want to be inspired by you.

We are hoping to have many people spend five minutes of their life sharing with a friendly bunch of delegates and visitors their story about what being a Christian has meant to them.

(Don't be shy, we won't bite) Come young, come old, come new Christians, come old Christians. If you are game to be a witness, please contact District Office and ask for Michael Turner or Cherie Argall 3511 4000 (Option 1) and say the phrase ... "I want to be a witness!"

## **Parish Matters**



Get Excited Because No matter what happens now we WILL have a school. The Block Grant Authority have allocated a good sum of money so if we are efficient we should be able to go a long way with earthworks with capital especially allocated for that purpose plus build beautiful school buildings that are fully landscaped. We have Caretakers on site renting the building owned by LORDS that had been rented to St.Marks at Mt.Gravatt. We moved that building on site with a special thank you to those who donated their time and machinery. An Electricity Transformer is hooked up making it possible to have the caretakers and sufficient capacity to see out years and years of development. Mr.Gary Henderson has been appointed Project Manager and is working on Operational Works at the moment. A Special THANKYOU to the 62 people who wrote letters of support for the Development Application and general support from the community remains high.

We have received satisfactory responses from all concurrence agencies excepting DERM with whom negotiations are still underway. We need to finalize this before GCCC can give us a written decision. An official response from Gold Coast City Council is then pending but it appears they want us to dedicate (give them) a considerable portion of the land.

LORDS Council position is:-

1. It contravenes the 10th commandment God gave us of not coveting our neighbour's property
2. LORDS wishes to retain titleship so that students walk from the transit station across our property to the school
3. Maintaining the land secures the safety of staff and students – Public land between us and the transit station opens us to all kinds of safety issues.
4. Our Earth Science/Environmental Studies are a key part of the curriculum as stated in the 2005 prospectus and the land remaining in LORDS name sees these activities controlled by the school. This is to compliment the Astronomy science with the observatory and telescope.
5. LORDS 2005 prospectus featured a Nature Trail based on a variety of flora to provide students with sensual experiences thus proving LORDS commitment to land care of the environment
6. Many children come from 450metre square home sites these days and children need room to run and kick a ball.
7. When the school is fully operational the curriculum and surrounds gives 1200 students exposure to environmental skills that will last a life time.

Where to from here:-

- Please pray for DERM who have extended their response time twice which further prolongs GCCC decision time
- We would like to keep you updated through the Sunday Bulletins

LORDS Council Members: Ian Rossmann, Pastor Keith Scholz, Rhyll Rossmann, Dr.Peter Grant, Tim Kotzur, Dr.Ian Marks, Dr.Justin Ludcke, Yvonne Buhner, Christine Kleinschmidt & Kaye Rossmann

### **Pastor Greg & Wife on Long Service Leave**

Pastor Greg will be enjoying "Rest and Refreshment Leave" in the months of May and June this year. He and his wife, who has long service leave also, will head off for a 'second honeymoon. Pastor's last service before break will be Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> of May, and returning for services again on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> of July. ☺

**What's the Buzz? – a new group** will be meeting at St. Peter's Hall on the second Wednesday of the month: 9:30a.m. -11.30a.m.

This is an opportunity for enjoyment, pleasure and social contact of those in our congregation, our sister congregation of Bethlehem, their friends and members of our community. It is designed for those 70+ in age to enjoy an outing, to socialize, to encounter a time to chat, have fun, promote friendship and enjoy morning tea together. The first **'Buzzin Along'** will be on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March**. Please bring along a small plate of morning tea (packet of chips/biscuits etc) to share and a memento of your school days – maybe a photograph, a uniform, a funny story you can tell or a book. It will be a casual morning with time to catch up and chat. You may be able to get dropped off and picked up again (that is why we have specified a finishing time of 11.30.)

**Lutheran Women of Queensland  
Annual Retreat –**

is on at Coolum this year from the 12<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> of March. This is open to all ladies of the Lutheran church and their friends. Please contact Guild or Fellowship secretaries if you would like to go! Bookings are still possible; but time is growing

**PARISH PLAY GROUP**

Come along and join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month. We have a wonderful group of children who share in Indoor/Outdoor play times as well as language and music sessions. The mums also have time for a chat and everyone has a great time.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT  
BETHLEHEM, WOONGOOLBA**

**There's a New Friendship Group and we'd like you to join in:**

David and Janette Keith are hosting a group which will meet on Tuesday evenings at their place initially. The night gets under way with coffee and cake and then, the physical being taken care of, we get into some light spiritual food with a serve of Bible study and discussion. Welcome to one and all as this new group gets under way. We hope to see you come along. ☺

**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

**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.

**NEWS FROM  
ST. PETER'S, ALBERTON**

**Ladies: You are invited to  
"Buttons, Bows & Blessings"**

The first St. Peter's Ladies Breakfast to be held at the home of Sandra Vangsness on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March from 8a.m. - 9.30a.m.

Please wear your buttons and bows and enjoy the blessings of one another's company. A donation of \$5 to cover the cost of a continental breakfast would be appreciated. This is specifically designed for fellowship of all ladies as we seldom get to meet with so many who are working full time. Mark the following dates in your diary:-

17<sup>th</sup> April: Kaye Rossmann's home :

Theme: On Butterfly Wings

15<sup>th</sup> May: Helen Heim's home:

Theme: On the Dot

**Parish Pastor**

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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