

Alberton Lutheran Parish



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The Messenger September – November 08, Issue 3.

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From Pastor's Pen

I'm in two minds as to topic for this devotion! Do I talk about my knees and bore everyone or talk about LORDS developments and bring up a different type of pain! ☺☺ The two relate in an interesting way.

I have my double knee replacements in October; and will be "out of commission" for most of October and November, healing up after the surgery. I can tell you in one sense I am more than eager for the day, though I'm not looking forward to the pain of recovery. I am, however, looking forward to putting the question and response about knee pain behind me. Drastic measures for a desirable outcome.

LORDS developments (or lack thereof) have been painful for our parish, as we have yet to make our way through government policies and red tape. Finally, we believe we can get the act together; and with your help, and the help of federal, state and local politicians, who are on side, and the media, find a way forward. We strongly desire to see the project on its feet and moving along again; (it's been a plan of the parish for almost 20 years) and believe this can now happen.

You might say, "Hang on...you're the pastor, yet I hear no mention of God in all this. Shouldn't you be seeking Him out on these matters?!"

The answer is: of course; and we certainly have! I, like Paul, have asked God for healing as have friends and relatives alike. Paul's answer from God, concerning his infirmity (Read 2 Corinthians 12: 8ff for the account) is the answer I have to hang onto along with the knowledge that like so

many others, God is going to provide healing via the miracle of modern medicine; and add to it His blessing. I trust Him on that one to know best.

When it comes to LORDS, once again, we are in God's hands. That is a very safe place to be, though it certainly makes us wonder what God has in store. Being able to see the whole picture makes it easy for God to see the best solutions, and pull things off despite our human fears, ineptitude, interference and doubt.

In addition He continues to call us to follow Him and gives us reason to trust. Looking back on my life so far, I can say that God has brought me safely through many hard times in ways I could not have done a thing about in my own strength, ways that had greater effect and blessing than I could have imagined. Let's follow on trustingly, and hear God's words of assurance:

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile." Jeremiah 29: 11ff

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Greg.*

Pastor Greg Vangness

DISTRICT AND PARISH MATTERS

LCA SUNDAY - Sunday 14 September has been set aside as LCA Sunday. This is an opportunity to celebrate our walking together in Australia and New Zealand, the training of pastors, teachers and laity along with the mission in the Finke River area and in our partner Churches in Papua New Guinea and South East Asia, our ecumenical endeavors and dialogues with other denominations, our Schools, Community Care and Aged Care Centres. So many blessings to celebrate, so much yet to do. A DVD presentation will be posted on the LCA website for use general use.

Youth Matters

KIDS BAGS PROJECT

As a Youth we are trying to become more community minded. As a part of this we are making up bags for children in need in the Beenleigh area. We are collecting items to place into bags to give to children when they are taken from families in crisis situations and leave with nothing. We have already made approximately 50 bags which have been distributed. We hope to continue this project so if you can help us out by donating any of the following (new) items we would really appreciate it. Items can be left in either of the Church Halls.

- Nappies
- Clothing
- Bottles
- Dummies
- Blankets
- Nappy Wipes
- Shoes
- Stuffed Toys
- And anything else baby or child related

Thanks for helping us help others.

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Youth Camp Highlights

On the week-end of 23rd August we went out to Bell for our annual camp. Although the weather was cold we enjoyed warm fellowship, a huge campfire, adventure walk, scavenger hunt and worship time together. Thanks to all leaders and helpers. This special event takes heaps of preparation and really helps our youth to become a close-knit group who stick together.



Youth camp dessert time: A Chocolate Fountain. "Roughing it" sure is tuff!

Youth Dates - September

The Far Out Family Concert is on Friday the 19th of September from 6pm to 10pm. You'll find it on the green grassy area near the Redeemer Lutheran College Chapel. Attractions include food, music, jugglers and a general good time.

Cost is only \$15 per person or \$40 for a family - this includes your sausage sizzle and a drink! and all proceeds go directly of the building of a boarding facility at Chea Sim Secondary School, Oral District, Cambodia. Our Woongoolba Alberton Youth (WAY) will be making this our Youth Event for the month. Come along and be part of the fun & support God's people abroad!



LORDS has moved into a gearing up phase over the last few weeks. Federal member for Parliament Stuart Robert and Councilor Donna Gates have been active in preparations for a media campaign, which commenced on the 20th of August, headed up by an article in the Gold Coast Sun. A Rally Day was held at the LORDS site in Pimpama on Sunday, 24th of August and was attended by 150 adults and another 50 children of school age. Thanks to those who rallied to show support and need for this independent Christian School of the Lutheran Church of Australia.

We encourage you to use the opportunity to canvas your politicians as per the handout available. Contact Pastor Greg for copies.

ALPHA COURSE – Our Parish Alpha course is drawing to a close. ☺ It's been excellent, with Young Adults making it there "home" study night and others from the parish coming along as well. Meals have been shared before the screening of each session and this has created a real bond of fellowship amongst those who attended.

Meals have been filling, tasty and appreciated; and so we take this opportunity to thank more than a dozen ladies and men who prepared the delicious meals we've enjoyed. A sizable "kitty" has been built up from donations towards the cost of meals and the surplus will go to provide parish resources for home study groups in the format of Bible Study booklets, reading and DVD materials for members of the parish to borrow.

We thank God for the growth and learning He has provided through the course. We encourage others to attend an Alpha Course when it is next offered and to seek to grow in faith that we all may be more eager to share the free gift of salvation we each have received in Christ our Lord. We give Him thanks and praise!

Men's Fellowship Men's Annual Dinner, held in July was another fantastic night out. Thanks again to the ladies of the parish who turned out a lovely meal and table once again. Proceeds from the night were divided between Australian Lutheran World Service and Guest Speaker: Roger Kahler's project to supply Bibles to the military personnel of many African nations. You missed out on an amazing Testimony of the way God works miracles in our modern day if you weren't there to hear him speak. SO... you'll just have to make sure you get your ticket early next year, won't you, and save all the tears of loss. ☺

The auction on the night was the usual fun! One item (the intarsia Bull) raised \$1,200.00 of over \$4000 dollars raised for the two charities and the bidding was spirited and fun. We thank God for the camaraderie of the night and the opportunity to serve in interesting ways.

Keep the Fire Burning with "Shed Men!" Why wait til next year to get together again?!! Shed Men meets several times a year and keeps you in touch with your mates and your mates in Christ! At our next meeting we interface with the volunteers of the Rocky Point Rural Fire Brigade! Have you ever wanted to know more about helping out in your community; or wondered what being involved with a fire

brigade entails? **Tuesday, 30th Sept.** is your chance to find out all about it and meet some of the local heroes who help protect community and property; and have a great time doing it too! This is an activity for 'men' of all ages. Dad's bring your sons along. Granddads bring your grandsons. Members of the urban brigade are planning to be in attendance too. Hey guys... it's a rural fire brigade! What do you reckon the chances are of something catching alight? It might even be our spirits for God's kingdom! ☺

- **When:** We meet at 6:00 p.m. at the brigade station.
- **Where:** Corner of Beams Creek Road and Skopp's Road, Norwell (Jacobs Well area UBD Map 307 H6).

Working Men and adults are asked to give a \$10 donation to cover the costs of a great BBQ Dinner and light refreshments. Any surplus is defrayed to various 'not for profit' charities.

Guest Speaker: is Chaplain for the Queensland Fire Brigade Les Shaw. Les has had a varied career, beginning ministry as a Salvation Army Officer. He now works for the Urbans fulltime.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BETHLEHEM, WOONGOOLBA

Come one and all to the **Bethlehem Preschool "FESTIVAL OF FUN"** to be held on Saturday 13th September at the centre from 10.00a.m. to 1.00p.m. The Centre is in its 26th year of service to the community. We thank the Executive and its capable management of a happy group of staff and youngsters. They continue to foster core values established at the Preschool and Kindy's foundations, and celebrate the future in Christ, as we continue to provide highest quality early childhood education for the children in our community.

Jumping castle, face painting, cake stall, lucky wheel, and lots of fun for the family. Everyone is most welcome. We'll hope to see you there! Join in at 1279 Stapyhton-Jacob's Well Road, Woongoolba.

There will be opportunity on the day to inspect the premises, see the children's artistic efforts and discuss enrolments, and meet the staff. Bring the family for a great day out!

Bethlehem Preschool and Kindy is putting on a: **Gala Auction Evening** – Saturday, 18th of

October. The venue is the Beenleigh Tavern, 114 Distillery Road, Beenleigh. This is one of the preschool's fundraising events and will be in the form of a two-course bistro meal, silent auction and gala auction. The night will include live entertainment by Phoenix Calling and at a cost of just \$37.50 for tickets with lucky door prize and Mystery Prize you couldn't ask for a more entertaining night out for a worthy cause.

The 26th of October: is our Annual Kindy Service. Each year we hold a special worship service at the preschool. The service is our regular Family Style with a particular emphasis on the younger members of the parish. It is a celebration of the gift of the future God has given this community in its children. Come along and bring a plate of Morning Tea to share.

NEWS FROM ST. PETER'S, ALBERTON

PARISH PLAY GROUP - The brainchild of some of the young mums of the parish, this auxiliary meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at St. Peter's Church Hall, Alberton. This is a perfect chance for mums and carers to get together with each other and give toddlers and youngsters the venue to interact and socialise on a low-key scale. Indoor and outdoor activities, simple craft, story telling and general play form part of the mornings which run from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. There's even time for the adults to have a cuppa in the relaxed rural setting of the St. Peter's Church yard and Hall. Our group is part of the Queensland Playgroup Association and has the benefit of being held next door to the church and Pastor Greg's home. He's usually around to say G'day and have a chat if you so desire. Come and join us! The morning is free of charge. See you at 185 Alberton Road, Alberton. ☺

God's Girls God's girls have been a little quiet of late; but are going to be preparing some skits and plays over the next few weeks leading up to Lutheran Holiday program and Christmas. They meet while Explorer's Club is on on Friday afternoons at St. Peter's, while helping in various activities enjoy chatting and sharing together. The girls aged 13 & 16 are mentored by Bec Ludcke and others and are keen to invite more to join in and share and grow in faith & fun.

BLUE CARD

Child Safety Cards First aid certificates etc. - with greater awareness of child safety issues in our society it has become an essential piece of

plastic to carry these days. If you have involvement with any of the groups or auxiliaries of the parish involving minors, you are required by law to carry a blue card. They are free to volunteers and required by the parish and LCAQD. If you do not have a Child Safety Card (Blue Card), please contact Pastor Greg to get a form, fill it in and send it off.

The parish is also looking for numbers to run a weekend first aid course for those in the parish who are leading groups and auxiliaries. First aid and CPR Certificates are also required for all leaders, in order to protect the safety of those who are in our care. If you would like to refresh, update or complete a first aid certificate, please contact Pastor Greg soon.

PARISH REGISTER –

Confirmations – God's Blessing for Aleisha Collard, Courtney Le Masurier, Steven Schwenke & Michael Zipf our young Confirmees for 2007/2008. We ask that God will continue to assist them in their spiritual growth and bless themso that they can use their gifts and talents to the benefit of God's Kingdom on earth.

2008/2009 Young Confirmees are:

Abby Douglas, Jayne Enkelmeier, Chloe Gilloway, Max Gilloway, Daniel Grant, Joel Kerkin, Meghan McConnell, Thomas Ponting, Rebecca McCloskey and Taylor Pearson are currently enrolled as Confirmees. The parish also has three Adult Confirmees at present and another four who will undergo Confirmation during the year.

Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths

Baptisms-	Born	Baptized
Aleisha Anne Collard	-----	22-05-08
Samuel James Kilpatrick	20-01-08	01-06-08
Isabella Jayne Williams	05-03-08	29-06-08

Parish Pastor

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Cnr. Mill Rd. & Staplyton
Jacobs Well Rd., Woongoolba
Contact : Mr. Lee Zipf Tel.: (07) 5546

Lutheran Holiday Program

SonForce Special Agents 2008

Lutheran Holiday Program for 2008 is nearly upon us and we are excited at the prospect of sharing Christ with the children who will attend.

Our program this year will be to teach the kids about God's courageous team of disciples standing side-by-side to serve Him and to encourage them to be part of the team. As SonForce Special Agents, they will follow in the words of Joshua 1:9 *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you where you go."*

Our SonForce Headquarters is located on a satellite orbiting high above the earth. In this hi-tech command centre, SonForce Agents (the kids) gather together to prepare for their five daily missions - Trust! Unite! Train! Follow! Lead!

The program will run in the 1st week of the September school holidays on the Tuesday, Thursday & Friday (23rd 25th & 26th September) from 8.30am til 3.15pm (except on Friday when we finish at 1pm).

The Friday evening the 26th, we will have a closing concert and free BBQ and we'd love to have you all there to share in the experience.

Please pray for God's protection and care for all the children, parents and staff at this event.

Jenni Keith

PS We are still short leaders/helpers and would appreciate any extra help.

You can phone me on 5546 2223 and if I'm not home you can just leave a message on my answering machine.

Jenni Keith
Lutheran Holiday Program