

# Wodonga Lutheran Parish

St John's Lutheran Church  
Victory Lutheran College



*Committed to Sharing Jesus*



4<sup>th</sup>  
**Sunday  
of Easter**

25<sup>th</sup> April  
2021

**Welcome to members, friends & visitors.**

We pray that you feel at home as you worship our Lord Jesus with us today.  
Our Lord's love and peace be with you.

Retired Pastors: Ernie Kiss (0475 000 637)  
John Simboras (0438 810 109)  
Graham Zweck (0427 815 795)  
Chairperson: Jenny Simboras (0407 495 773)  
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College Principal: John Thompson  
College Chaplain: Andrew Dewhirst  
28 Drage Rd, Wodonga  
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**WORSHIP LEADER: Angela Uhrhane**

**READINGS FOR THIS WEEKEND**

**Acts 4:5-12**

Peter and John before the council

**1 John 3:16-24**

The Christian's assurance

**John 10:11-18**

The Good Shepherd dies for the sheep

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

Sunday	John 10:11-18	Thursday	Acts 20:25-32
Monday	Ezekiel 34:1-16	Friday	1 Peter 5:1-7
Tuesday	Matthew 18:10-14	Saturday	Psalms 22:25-31
Wednesday	John 10:22-30		

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**In our prayers this week:**

- ***We pray for the following that are in need at this time:*** Pastor Graham ZWECK; Shirley BULLOCK (ESTIA); Ruth FRAUENFELDER; Phyllis HEINER [Yackandandah Health Aged Care]; Robert HASLAM; Gregory JENNINGS; Laurel McRAE [Yallaroo Albury]; Dianne WILLIAMS.
- ***Please keep Pastor Greg Fowler in your prayers while he deliberates our call.***
- ***Mildura Parish, Congregations of Mildura and Robinvale*** – Pastor Carl Richter and Sarah.
- ***Trinity Lutheran College*** – Principal Eloise Beveridge and Staff Team.
- ***Minyip Warracknabeal Parish, Congregations of Minyip and Warracknabeal*** – Pastor John Weier and Anne.
- ***Moorabbin Dandenong Multisite Congregation, preaching places of Dandenong and Moorabbin Sudanese Fellowship*** – Pastor Greg Pietsch and Judy.
- ***Murtoa Congregation*** – Served on rotation.

**PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS**

**HEATHER IS TAKING 5 WEEKS ANNUAL LEAVE FROM 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL UNTIL 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

The Parish Office will be closed while Heather is away.

If you are in need of pastoral care please leave a message on the office answering machine (02 6024 7072), which will be checked regularly.

If you urgently need pastoral care phone Chairperson Jenny Simboras (02 6040 4494). Many thanks.

**ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH SERVICE TIME**

**ONE Service ONLY on Sunday at 9.30am.**

## **DINE-OUT FOR APRIL**

Will be held after church at the Plant Farm. All welcome to attend.

## **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

Next meeting for the Women's Fellowship is on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 9:45am in the Church Hall. All welcome.

## **VICTORIAN DISTRICT eVOICES**

**Registrations for District Convention** of Synod are now open. Registrations close 27 April 2021. Congregations and Schools will be invoiced for their delegates.

Payment options for Visitors are available via the registration system.

## **Nominations to District Councils**

Elections will take place at Convention for the following positions

- District Church Council (2 pastors, 6 laypeople elected)
- Council for Ministry Support (1 pastor, 3 laypeople elected - CMS Chair is an ex officio member to District Church Council)
- Assistant Bishop (ex officio member to District Church Council)

Completed nomination forms can be forwarded to [tim.stringer@lca.org.au](mailto:tim.stringer@lca.org.au). Pastor Tim is the Chairperson of the District Nominations and Elections Committee

## **Pastor Calls and Vacancy**

### **Calls extended**

Pastor Greg Fowler to Wodonga

Pastor Jason Pokela to Horsham Holy Trinity College

### **Calls accepted**

Pastor Howard Beard - Wangaratta Parish

Pastor Heath Pukallus - Warrnambool Parish

Pastor Eugene Minge - Pakenham Lakeside Church Plant

### **In the call process:**

Ballarat, Horsham Holy Trinity College, Melbourne Outer Eastern, Wodonga, Wyndham Hobsons Bay

## **Lutheran Women of Victoria Conference 2021**

The Lutheran Women of Victoria meet at St Paul's Lutheran Church, Shepparton on the 01 May for their annual conference. Please click the link for the updated registration **FORM** to find out more and to register.

## A FINAL EXPRESSION OF FAITH

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**Being with people who are dying can be uncomfortable, daunting and sad. We might worry about saying the wrong thing or what to do to be a witness of God's grace and love.**

Even people with years of experience caring for or ministering to people who are dying, such as Sue Westhorp, say that each situation is different and that feeling uncomfortable may always be part of the process.

Sue is the spiritual care manager and Clinical Pastoral Education Centre director for Melbourne's Austin Health. She was formerly a palliative care chaplain at Royal Melbourne Hospital and was a pastoral care worker for St Paul's Lutheran Church Box Hill.

Being with people who are dying can be uncomfortable, daunting and sad. We might worry about saying or doing the wrong thing. But even those with years of experience ministering to people who are dying say that discomfort or anxiety may always be present as we confront our own mortality in the process.

'I've never become used to being with people who are dying', she says. 'It's different every time and it's profound every time. It's important to be very aware of our own discomfort and anxiety. It's okay to be uncomfortable. Your own mortality is being confronted in the process.'

However, she says just being present and listening are the two constants of our call as Christians, regardless of the context.

'We're called to sit with the person in grief, or as someone is dying, to actually just follow ... if they want to talk about it, or if they don't', Sue says.

'I've had experiences in palliative care of people who are dying who've got no interest in faith, who a day out from dying start asking the big questions. Or someone who's had a strong faith and gets to a week before they die, and suddenly they're very wobbly about their faith. So, it's about responding to what you see in front of you and listening, and the ways in which we show up for people to show them God is present with them.'

## NEW HORIZONS

If your heart longs to see Jesus honoured in our society, then the '***New Horizons: bridging cultures with the gospel***' conference is for you. Registrations for the Sydney workshop on 29 May are open now! Click [here](#) for more information, or click [here](#) to register.



## COME AND HELP US

'A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us"' (Acts 16:9).

The LCA might be a relatively small church in Australia and New

Zealand, but God calls us to support his mission among churches of neighbouring countries. Answering that call will make an eternal difference for many people.

In 2020 the president of the Lutheran Church in the Philippines (LCP), the Rev Antonio Reyes, called on LCA International Mission, just like the man in St Paul's vision. Rev Reyes asked us to come over and help LCP train pastors and deaconesses. LCP's seminary in Baguio City had two faculty vacancies and needed support.

LCA International Mission was not in a position to respond to this request alone. But God provided the way through a funding partnership with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in the USA.

The LCA's General Church Board called Rev Dr Michael Lockwood to serve as a missionary to the Philippines under LCA International Mission. Dr Lockwood accepted the call and, together with his wife Naomi and children Asher and Jadon, is preparing to take up teaching duties in July 2021 at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Baguio. 'I am very excited about this opportunity to be part of what God is doing in the Philippines and within the region, and to be able to play a part in equipping pastors and church workers with a deep understanding of God's word and the good news of Jesus Christ', Dr Lockwood said.

Rev Reyes is excited about the arrival of the Lockwoods, as well as the developing partnership between our churches. 'We are truly thankful to God and the LCA for sharing with us this precious privilege of learning from Rev Dr Lockwood', he said.

Bishop John Henderson wholeheartedly endorsed this new partnership. 'I see the call to Dr Lockwood to serve among our fellow Lutherans in the LCP and our region as a significant moment for the LCA's participation in the mission of God', he said. 'We do not stand alone, but alongside others whom God has called into the same mission.'

Dr Lockwood's service in the Philippines will enrich not only the LCP but also the LCA. The church is a connected community of believers. We will be the richer for his service through this partnership in Christ.'



Growing  
**FAITH**  
at home

25 April 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER

## Caring Conversations

Share your highs and lows of the day, or respond to the following questions:

1

Share your ideas about the word trust. What does it mean? Is it important? Who is someone you trust? Who do you listen to?

2

Jesus calls himself our Good Shepherd. What does this mean? What does it mean for you?

3

How do we listen to Jesus' voice? How can we grow to know him better?

## Devotions



### Daily Bible Readings

<b>S</b>	John 10:11-18	The Good Shepherd
<b>M</b>	Acts 4:6-12	Peter and John before the council
<b>T</b>	1 John 3:16-24	Love one another
<b>W</b>	Genesis 48:8-21	God has been my shepherd
<b>T</b>	Ezekiel 34:11-24	God will look after God's sheep
<b>F</b>	Mark 6:30-34	Jesus, the compassionate shepherd
<b>S</b>	Psalms 23	The divine shepherd
<b>S</b>	John 15:1-8	Jesus the true vine

Discuss the bible reading. What word or phrase was important to you as you read these verses?

## Rituals and Traditions



### PRAYER

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, thank you for being with us, especially when we are going through difficult times. Amen.

### BLESSING

May God's kindness and love be with you each day of your life, and may you live forever with the Lord.

# Jesus is our Good Shepherd

## Creative Response

Read John 10:11-18 or read about Jesus as the Good Shepherd in a storybook Bible.

Talk about what it means to listen to Jesus' voice and to follow him as sheep of the Good Shepherd.

Play a game of "Follow the Leader."

Blindfold all the followers and have the leader guide them using only his or her voice.

Jesus says that other sheep will be added to his flock and they will listen to his voice.

Reflect on how you listen to Jesus' voice today.

Close with the Lord's Prayer.

## mealtime prayer

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, thank you for feeding us, protecting us and loving us. May we always listen to you and follow you. Amen.

verse for the week

"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep."

JOHN 10:14-15

## Service



Psalm 23 is one of the most familiar passages in the Bible. It speaks to people in all times and in all places. It's a great psalm to memorise and one that reminds us that God gives us all we need. How can you share with others the things God has given you?



## DINE-OUT RESCHEDULED

Due to 25<sup>th</sup> April (ANZAC Day) closures we will defer our Dine-out at the Plant Farm until 2<sup>nd</sup> May. (Heather)

### THIS WEEK:

Sunday	25 Apr	9:30am after church	ANZAC Remembrance LAY Service (AU) Dine-out at Plant Farm
Monday	12 Apr to	16 May	Heather taking 5 weeks annual leave
Tuesday	27 Apr	11am-3pm	Church Office CLOSED
Wednesday	28 Apr	9am-1pm	Church Office CLOSED
Thursday	29 Apr	11am-3pm	Church Office CLOSED
Sunday	2 May	9:30am	LAY Service without Communion (AU)

### LAST WEEK: 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Congregation	Attendance	Communion	Notes:
St John's – 9:30am	39	38	
<b>Total Attendance:</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>38</b>	

### NEXT WEEKEND: FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sun 9:30am Wod Service without Communion (AU)

### READINGS

Acts 8:26-40  
1 John 4:7-21  
John 15:1-8

### ROSTER FOR THIS COMING WEEKEND

Reader	2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Vogelsang Family
PowerPoint	2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Margaret Burkert
Usher/Counters	2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Lenore de Garis
Morning Tea	2 <sup>nd</sup> May	after service Margaret Burkert & Lenore de Garis & Wendy Dwyer
Church Cleaning	Apr 26 <sup>th</sup> - May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	G Scholz A Klein Family
Mowers	Apr 19 <sup>th</sup> - May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Andrew Keller & Ralph Behrends