

Wodonga Lutheran Parish

St John's Lutheran Church
Victory Lutheran College

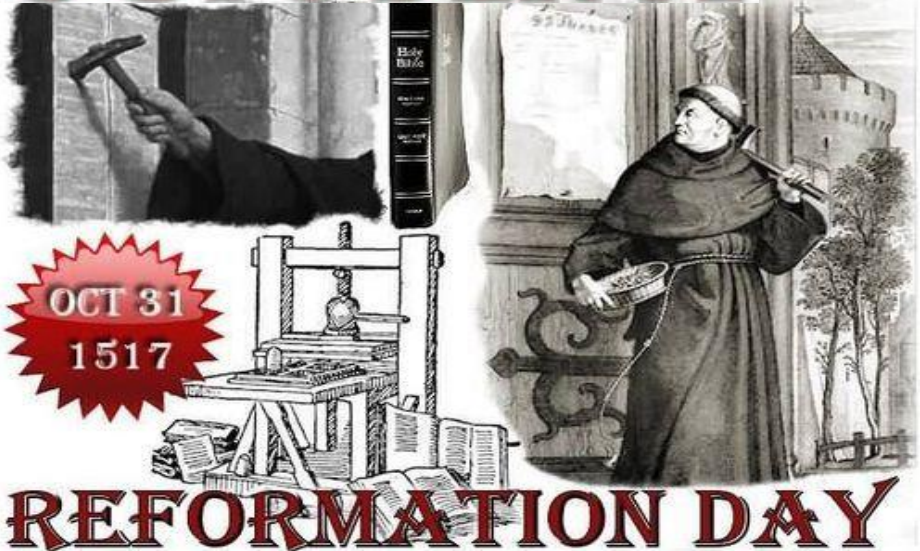


**LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
OF AUSTRALIA

*where love
comes to life*

Committed to Sharing Jesus

OCTOBER 31 2021



REFORMATION DAY

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)

14 Havelock St, Wodonga

Ph: (02) 6024 7072

wodluthp@westnet.com.au

www.wodongalutheranparish.org.au

College Principal: John Thompson

College Chaplain: Andrew Dewhirst

28 Drage Rd, Wodonga

Ph: (02) 6057 5859

reception@vlc.vic.edu.au

www.vlc.vic.edu.au

WORSHIP SERVICES TIMES: 9:30am and 11:00am

WORSHIP LEADERS: Pastors Graham Zweck, Ernie Kiss & John Simboras

SERMON: John 8:31-36

THEME: JESUS GIVES US REMARKABLE FREEDOM!

READINGS FOR THIS WEEKEND

Jeremiah 31:31-34 The Lord will write his law on our hearts

Romans 3:19-28 We are justified by faith

John 8:31-36 If we hold on to Jesus' teaching, that truth will make us free

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Sunday	John 8:31-36	Thursday	John 15:9-17
Monday	Leviticus 19:1, 2, 13-18	Friday	1 John 4:7-21
Tuesday	Deuteronomy 5:1-10	Saturday	Psalm 24
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 5:22-33		

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

In our prayers this week:

- **We pray for the following that are in need at this time:** Shirley BULLOCK (ESTIA); Kevin DRAPER; Ruth FRAUENFELDER; Phyllis HEINER [Yackandandah Health Aged Care]; Robert HASLAM; Gregory JENNINGS; Laurel McRAE [Yallaroo Albury]; Dianne WILLIAMS.
- **Please pray for Pastor Graham Pfeffer that he may have a restful break and God's blessing and guidance as he considers the Call to the Wodonga Parish.**
- **Victory Lutheran College** – We pray for the exams that are continuing for our Year 11s and the Exams commencing for the Year 12s at Victory. Grant peace, safety from COVID and clear heads for all our Senior Students
- **Nhill Parish, congregations of Nhill, Jeparit and Woorak** – Pastor Carl Thiele and Krista.
 - **Lay Staff** – Jennifer Goldsworthy.
- **Nhill Lutheran School Ltd** – Principal Damon Prenzler and staff team.
- **North Tasmania Parish, congregations of Burnie, Devonport and Launceston** – Pastor Stuart Kleinig and Julie.

LCA INTERNATIONAL MISSION – PRAYER REQUESTS

- Immanuel Woden Valley Lutheran church and St. John's Lutheran church, Dernancourt as they partner, pray for and financially support the Lutheran Church in Cambodia.
- The Lutheran Women of Australia, Joan and Kevin Koster and those who pack birthing kits, which will be shipped to Lutheran Health Services, Papua New Guinea, to be used by women who give birth in rural and remote regions.

'Lord, renew your church, begin with me!'



Friday-22nd-October-2021



Dear-Members,

As-most-of-you-are-aware-of-by-now-the-Covid-restrictions-in-Victoria-changed-as-from-11.59pm-on-Thursday-21st-October.

Changes-to-restrictions-which-have-been-brought-in-by-the-Victorian-Government,-now-apply-to-the-vaccinated-and-the-unknown-vaccinated-status-of-all-Victorians.

These-changes-to-restrictions,-now-requiring-a-vaccination-passport,-also-apply-to-religious-gatherings-and-that-includes-our-worship-services-and-church-activities-at-St-John's.

The-Victorian-District-of-the-Lutheran-Church-of-Australia,-together-with-all-other-churches,-is-in-consultation-with-the-Victorian-Government-as-to-the-impact-of-the-vaccination-passport-on-members.

Your-Parish-Council-has-deliberated-over-how-we-as-a-Parish-can-implement-the-laws-on-the-vaccination-passport-so-as-not-to-exclude-or-offend-any-of-our-members.

We-know-that-proof-of-vaccination-is-a-standard-measure-now-for-entering-many-places.-This-presents-some-concerns-for-our-church-community-which-emphasizes-welcoming-as-a-core-value.-The-LCA-tagline-'Where-Love-Comes-to-Life'-is-true-whether-we-are-fully-open-for-worship-or-providing-lockdown-care,-the-time-in-between-these-two-presents-certain-challenges.

With-this-in-mind,-Parish-Council-has-come-to-the-decision:

- that-the-9.30am-service-will-be-for-those-who-show-their-double-vaccinated-certificate,-this-service-will-accommodate-30-worshippers-with-another-increase-on-5th-November.-
- the-11am-service-will-be-for-those-whose-vaccination-status-is-unknown.-There-will-be-no-vaccination-passport-checking-at-this-service,-and-numbers-will-be-capped-at-10-and-will-remain-so-into-the-future.-

Members-will-still-need-to-register-for-both-services.

If-you-do-not-want-to-come-to-either-service-at-this-time-but-would-like-communion,-please-contact-me-and-it-can-be-arranged.

These-changes-will-be-implemented-from-31st-October.

As your Chair, I ask you to be respectful to the person asking to view your vaccination certificate, remembering that it is not that member, the Parish Council or the Victorian District that has brought these laws into being. Please take any grievances you may have to your Victorian Government member. ¶

Another request from the Victorian Government and Chief Health Officer is that all employees and volunteers of St John's must show their vaccination passport and the sighting needs to be recorded. A guide from the Victorian District is that all those members who hold a Working with Children Check need for this to happen. I, as your Chair, will be the person to register the sighting of your vaccination certificate. It needs to be sighted and recorded only once to continue in your volunteer role. ¶

It is indeed your decision to be vaccinated or not to be vaccinated and that will be respected. I know some of you may be saddened and upset with the above requirements. I pray that it will not be long before these restrictions are lifted, never to be reimplemented again. ¶

Different ways of how we can handle the current situation have been considered, especially the closing down of all services until such time as we can all worship together again. As an end date to the vaccination passport has not been announced by Premier Andrews, and he has indicated it could go until April 2022 at least, it was felt this was not the path to take. I know many of you will struggle with the decision the Parish Council has made, please know it was not a decision we wanted to make or made lightly. ¶

If you have concerns, or you know of someone who is struggling with these changes, please phone/email me immediately. It is the last thing that I, or the Parish Council, want, that anyone should feel excluded or hurt in anyway. My phone number 0407-495-773 my email address jensimb@outlook.com ¶

I ask you to pray that our Heavenly Father, who loves us so dearly, would be with each one of us as we struggle with the changes that go against what we hold dear. ¶

¶

Serving Him with you, ¶

Jenny Simboras ¶

Chair, Wodonga Lutheran Parish ¶

¶

PARISH/COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP WORKSHOP

Monday 8th and 22nd November are the re scheduled dates for the above workshop to be run by Adrian Gutsche. This workshop is to work through a plan on how the Parish and College can work together in Mission and Ministry at the College. The workshop was to have been held in July of this year, but due to lockdown and restrictions it couldn't be held until now. If you would like to join several members of the Parish Council on these two dates, please let me know by the end of Sunday 24th October. The workshops will be held from 6pm to 8pm, and it is very important that you are able to attend both dates. Congregations who have a school in their parish are in the process of working through the Parish/School Partnership workshop. - Jenny Simboras

CONFIRMATION LESSONS POSTPONED

Due to the recent increase in COVID 19 cases in our area (also including Victory Lutheran College), and the stop/start nature so far of Confirmation lessons, and there only being four more weeks before the College breaks for the summer holidays, Rhonda and I have decided to postpone Confirmation lessons until February 2022. We both feel it is very important to have continuity with the lessons and this hasn't happened. Because of this decision the Confirmation Day will be closer to the end of next year. - Jenny Simboras

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - - - - CANCELLED

Due to a risk assessment re COVID restrictions reluctantly, we have decided to cancel the upcoming meeting on Wednesday 3rd November.
Please note Membership Fees for 2022 are due in December which will be \$30.00 - this includes subscription of the Lutheran Women magazine.
Any enquires please ring Sheryl 0438 247 505

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MAGAZINE

Please see attached/ enclosed flyer for information.

VLC "VOICE OF VICTORY" NEWSLETTER

<https://www.vlc.vic.edu.au/news-and-events/newsletters>

LCA eNEWS

<https://lutheranchurchofaustralia.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/t/F5E2DEDDD60D58752540EF23F30FEDED/D7674E8DAB845250CE63909E3969C05F>



Along with other Christians across Australia, we are invited to participate in this annual livestream event as individuals, couples or family groups, or even as congregations. We will uphold in prayer our leaders in their demanding roles of service for the common good of our nation and its diverse communities.

[More information](#)

[Register](#)



Growing FAITH at home

REFORMATION

Caring Conversations

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

1

Think about God. Share your thoughts. Who is God to you?

2

How do you see God in the world around you?

3

Humans have struggled throughout history to get a clear picture of God and how to please God. If God only saves sinners (Romans 3:20-24), how does that change the quest to please God?

Devotions



Daily Bible Readings

S	John 8:31-38	The truth will set you free.
M	Jeremiah 31:31-34	The new covenant
T	Romans 3:19-28	Righteousness through faith
W	Ephesians 2:1-10	Saved by grace through faith
T	John 11:32-44	Jesus raises Lazarus
F	Hosea 2:10-15	God draws Israel close
S	Psalms 46	God is our protection
S	John 11:32-44	Jesus raises Lazarus

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

Rituals and Traditions



PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you have set us free!
May we use our freedom to live for you. Amen.

BLESSING

May the grace of God cover you,
the love of God fill you,
and the Spirit of God lead you.
Amen.

God establishes a new relationship with us.

Creative Response

Luther wrote the Small Catechism to help people study and practise their Christian faith everyday in the home.

Faith, like learning a language, needs to be practised regularly.

Luther wrote a morning and evening prayer for individuals and families to begin and end the day in faith.

This week use his morning and evening prayers (Find them in Luther's Small Catechism or on the Internet.).

Add the Lord's Prayer and other prayers to your day and consider making these prayers part of your daily routine.

mealt ime prayer

Loving God, we praise your name for you are rich in grace. Bless this food and all who gather in this place. Amen.

verse for the week

"God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift."

EPHESIANS 2:8

Service



The Reformation emphasises the priesthood of all believers.

Not only do pastors have a calling from God, but all Christians have an important calling (vocation) in the world. Look at what you do with your gifts and passions to serve others and to give praise to God.

Whether at work or at school or at home, give thanks to God that you have a calling that pleases God and serves others.





Who is
Martin
Luther?



Reformation is a great time of year to revisit what we Lutherans believe and why it is so important that Luther was prepared to die for it. If you're still looking for Reformation ideas, Grow Ministries can help you. Check out their [website](#) for a great range of family

faith-building resources.

THIS WEEK:

Sunday	31 Oct	9:30am	Trad HC Service (GZ, EK, JS)
		11:00am	Trad HC Service (GZ, EK, JS)
Tuesday	2 Nov		Melbourne Cup Day
		11am-3pm	Church Office OPEN
		pm	Band Practice
Wednesday	3 Nov	9am-1pm	Church Office OPEN
		9:45am	Women's Fellowship Meeting
Thursday	4 Nov	11am-3pm	Church Office OPEN
Sunday	7 Nov	9:30am	HC Service (EK)
		11:00am	HC Service (EK)

LAST WEEK: 24 th October 2021			
Congregation	Attendance	Communion	Notes:
St John's – 9:30am	24	23	
St John's – 11:00am	22	18	
Total Attendance:	46	41	

NEXT WEEKEND: ALL SAINTS DAY

Sun 9:30am Wod HC Service (**EK**)
 Sun 11:00am Wod HC Service (**EK**)

READINGS

Isaiah 25:6-9
 Revelation 21:1-6a
 John 11:32-44

ROSTER FOR THIS COMING WEEKEND (7th NOVEMBER)

Communion/Altar	7 th Nov	9:30am	John Donker
		11:00am	Maria Davison/Ingrid Harder
Reader	7 th Nov	9:30am	Ron Asquith
		11:00am	Margaret Burkert
PowerPoint	7 th Nov	9:30am	Phill Edwards
		11:00am	Margaret Burkert
Usher/Counters	7 th Nov	9:30am	Lenore de Garis
		11:00am	Sheryl Parsons
Church Cleaning	Nov 1 st - Nov 7 th		Lenore de Garis
Mowers	Nov 1 st - Nov 14 th		Andrew Keller
			Ralph Behrends