

# Wodonga Lutheran Parish

St John's Lutheran Church  
Victory Lutheran College



*Committed to Sharing Jesus*

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany



## 7<sup>th</sup> February 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

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**WORSHIP LEADER: Pastor John Simboras**

**SERMON:** Isaiah 40:21-31

**THEME:** “I WILL LIFT YOU UP”

## READINGS FOR THIS WEEKEND

**Isaiah 40:21-31** “Those who hope in the LORD . . . will soar on wings like eagles.”  
**1 Corinthians 9:16-23** In Christ we are free to be all things to all people to win them for Christ.  
**Mark 1:29-39** Jesus’ ministry of healing begins.

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Sunday	Mark 1:29-39	Thursday	Matthew 9:32-38
Monday	Isaiah 35:4-7a	Friday	Acts 10:34-43
Tuesday	Isaiah 57:14-20	Saturday	Psalm 2
Wednesday	Matthew 8:14-22		

## 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 & Kerry JENNINGS; Melva KLEMKE [Westmont]; Laurel McRAE [Yallaroo Albury]; Frieda PTSCHLINZEW [Culcairn]; Dianne WILLIAMS.
- ***Footscray Congregation*** – Pastor Vacancy.
- ***Lay Worker*** - Ruth Borchert.
- ***Mara Partner Congregation*** – Lian Cung Thang.
- ***Sunshine Christian School*** – Principal Damian Pietsch and Staff Team.
- ***Geelong Parish – congregations of Geelong and Leopold (including Sudanese Fellowship)*** – Pastor Milton Fritsch and Gaylea; Pastor James Ruei (SMP) and Mary.
- ***St John’s Kindergarten*** – Director Raelene Roede and Staff Team.
- ***Geelong Lutheran College*** – Principal Jill Lange-Mohr and Staff Team; Pastor David Spike and Carol.
- ***Geelong North Congregation*** – Pastor Boyd Briese and Tania.

## MISSION INTERNATIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

- The family and friends of Pastor Gabriel Sogimo, former LCA International Mission scholarship holder, who tragically drowned in Papua New Guinea, along with two of his children. Pray for God’s comfort and protection over his wife and two remaining children.
- Christians in Myanmar who are poor, especially in rural areas, and have been displaced and denied access to food and healthcare because of their faith, due to the impact of the longest civil war in the world. Pray the church will be a source of hope, in the turmoil of Myanmar’s violent war



## **PARISH UPDATES**

### **PARISH CALL MEETING – 14<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021**

Bishop Lester will be the Guest Preacher at the **9:00am Service on 14<sup>th</sup> March**, before chairing the Parish Call Meeting after the service. The Call Committee will present their selection of Pastor names at this meeting.

### **CLOSING OF ST MARK'S YACKANDANDAH CHURCH** **14th MARCH 2021, 2pm**

As Bishop Lester will be in the Parish on Sunday 14th March for our Call Meeting, he will also officially close St Mark's Yackandandah Church. Pastor Graham Zweck will be Guest Preacher.

This service will commence at 2pm at 15 Wellsford Street, Yackandandah. All members, past and present, of the Parish and friends are invited to this special service.

As time is short, could all members please advise their family and friends of this special occasion and invite them to attend.

Serving Him with you, Jenny Simboras  
Chair, Wodonga Lutheran Parish

### **MASKS NEEDED DURING WORSHIP**

Due to the COVID case in Melbourne as from Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb at 11.59pm, masks will need to be worn again at the worship service.

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## ***DISTRICT eVOICES VICTORIAN/TASMANIAN DISTRICT***

<https://lutheranchurchofaustralia.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/t/DF763756300BDBD22540EF23F30FEDED/5068D6C3513CC68E2018F019E6F15D33>

### **eNEWS from GROW MINISTRIES**

<https://lutheranchurchofaustralia.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/t/B74A28D9FAA23BAC2540EF23F30FEDED/B2CB8502319BCD3274AF8F7A76570606>



## **SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2021**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 9:00am**  
PARISH SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING  
Pastor: Ps John Simboras

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 9:00am & 10:30am**  
TRANSFIGURATION - LAY READINGS  
Leader: Andrew Klein

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 7:00pm**  
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE  
Pastor: Ps John Simboras

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021 at 9:00am**  
VICTORY SUNDAY – SERVICE HELD AT VICTORY COLLEGE  
Pastor: Ps John Simboras

## **NO MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 9:00am & 10:30am**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent  
Pastor: Ps Graham Zweck

TWO SERVICES (9:00am and 10:30am) WILL CONTINUE FROM  
THE 7<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021 [EXCEPT for 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021].

## **LCA eNEWS**

### **SPECIAL PROMOTION EDITION**

<https://lutheranchurchofaustralia.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/t/D673F3E96E3AEFE22540EF23F30FEDED/D7674E8DAB845250CE63909E3969C05F>

### **KEEPING US CONNECTED**

<https://lutheranchurchofaustralia.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/t/803647F8C6EF2B602540EF23F30FEDED/D7674E8DAB845250CE63909E3969C05F>

### **WE ❤️ THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE**

<https://lutheranchurchofaustralia.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/t/498F7B60DC337F0B2540EF23F30FEDED/35DB503868DED073C9C291422E3DE149>



## **URGENT CALL TO PRAYER FOR MYANMAR**

2 February 2021

**Members of the LCA/NZ are being urged to pray for peace in Myanmar, where the military has staged a coup d'état and taken control of the country.**

Following an overwhelming victory by Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) party in elections held last November, the military has disputed the result, detained elected leaders including Ms Suu Kyi, and instigated a 12-month state of emergency.

LCA International Mission works closely with four churches in Myanmar through the Federation of Lutheran Churches in Myanmar and Pastor Matt Anker, LCA Assistant to the Bishop – International Mission, has invited Australian and New Zealand Lutherans to join in praying for a 'peaceful resolution' to the unrest in the South-East Asian nation.

'Please join us as we pray for a peaceful resolution to this latest unrest in Myanmar, and for our brothers and sisters in Christ as they live in times of increased uncertainty and insecurity', Pastor Matt said. 'May our Heavenly Father send his holy angels to watch over the churches of Myanmar and the entire country and use this moment as an opportunity for the gospel of forgiveness, life and salvation to be proclaimed even more widely in this troubled country.'

Pastor Matt said one of Myanmar's church leaders shared with him details of the current situation there. 'He said: "I went outside this morning and the streets are not busy though a few vehicles are running. The public bus will stop their services early evening today. And internet and communication is coming back with limited access. The association of commercial banks announced they will close and stop their services due to slow down of internet (not mentioning any political problem). The army arrested almost all of the elected representatives from NLD from different parts of Myanmar starting from early morning today. Some of them were released in the afternoon and sent back home. The detainees didn't say anything much due to security reasons. The military-owned TV station announced that they will transfer the power once they convene another election without mentioning time."

'He concluded, "Thank you for your prayers ... we want to see things resolved in a peaceful way".'

### **PASTOR AND CHURCH WORKERS LCA EMAIL ADDRESSES**

Many pastors and other church workers are not accessing their LCA email account. This means they are not finding emails from LCA Churchwide and District offices and no doubt also some from their congregation and community members. This is particularly relevant now because Microsoft has apparently ended its period of grace in relation to the cessation of its automatic email forwarding function, e.g. from an LCA email account to a private account. This change was implemented by Microsoft to enhance its security measures and to further protect its users. LCA IT notified the church about this change in the LCA eNews of 1 September and provided ways to minimise the impact.



All LCA Churchwide and District emails are directed to church workers' LCA addresses, not to private addresses. Since those people affected by the cessation of Microsoft's automatic email forwarding service will now not be receiving LCA eNews in their private email inboxes (and thus not receiving this message):

(1) **Pastors**, please ensure that your Church Council members and Synod delegates have set up their LCA email accounts and regularly access them.

(2) **Church Council members**, please alert your pastor about this.

For more information, [click here](#). For IT support, email [ithelp@lca.org.au](mailto:ithelp@lca.org.au)



Growing  
**FAITH**  
at home

7 February 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY  
AFTER EPIPHANY

## Caring Conversations

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

1

When do you feel close to God?

2

Mark 1:35 tells us that Jesus went off to a quiet place to pray. When do you pray? Where do you pray? What do you pray about?

3

Share about a time when you felt or experienced God answering your prayers.



## Devotions



### Daily Bible Readings

<b>S</b>	Mark 1:29-39	Jesus heals many people
<b>M</b>	Isaiah 40:21-31	The Lord gives strength
<b>T</b>	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	The rights of an apostle
<b>W</b>	Isaiah 35:3-10	God is coming to heal you
<b>T</b>	Matthew 8:5-17	Jesus heals in Capernaum
<b>F</b>	Luke 6:12-19	Jesus spends a night in prayer
<b>S</b>	Psalms 147	Praise the Lord
<b>S</b>	Mark 9:2-9	The transfiguration of Jesus

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

## Rituals and Traditions



### PRAYER

Lord, please give us strength when we are weak, and lift us up when we are tired.  
Amen.



### BLESSING

May the Lord give you strength.



Jesus brings us to  
God's healing.

## Creative Response

Christian people are praying people.

There are many traditions we can introduce into our homes to remind us to pray and to help make prayer a routine part of our lives. Here are some ideas:

Pray in silence to meditate on God's presence and assurance.

Pray to God about your disappointments.

Pray for people to receive the gospel.

Have a prayer whiteboard, where household members can jot down prayer requests during the week for others to see.

Make up a photo display of people you wish to pray for regularly.

Start a household prayer journal, in which to record prayer points and answers to prayer.

Display well-known prayers on your walls  
e.g. the Lord's Prayer.

### mealtime prayer

Lord, you set people free, you heal the sick, and you feed the hungry. We give you thanks and praise. Amen.

verse for the week

Those who trust  
in the Lord will  
find new strength.  
They will soar  
high on wings  
like eagles. They  
will run and not  
grow weary. They  
will walk and not  
faint.

ISAIAH 40:30-31

## Service



Caring for the sick  
is a special way  
of showing Jesus'  
love. Plan to visit  
or contact a sick  
friend or relative  
this next week.  
Bring their needs  
to Jesus in prayer  
throughout the  
week.



growministries  
about life and faith





### LUTHERAN MEN OF VICTORIA RETREAT

Is being held at Tandara Lutheran Camp Halls Gap on 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021.  
Theme: Psalms. Guest Speaker Darren Linke. Flyer & Registration Forms on the noticeboard for those interested.

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This service will be held at St Stephens Uniting Church on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Time to be confirmed.

### THIS WEEK:

Sunday	7 Feb	9:00am	PARISH HC Service of Thanksgiving (JS) Followed by a cuppa & chat
Tuesday	9 Feb	11am-3pm	Church Office OPEN
Wednesday	10 Feb	9am-1pm	Church Office OPEN
Thursday	11 Feb	11am-3pm	Church Office OPEN
Sunday	14 Feb	9:00am	Lay Service (AK)
		10:30am	Lay Service (AK)

### LAST WEEK: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021

Congregation	Attendance	Communion	Notes:
St John's – 9:00am	39		LAY SERVICE
<b>Total Attendance:</b>	<b>39</b>		

### NEXT WEEKEND: TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD READINGS

Sun 9:00am Wod	LAY Service– Andrew Klein	2 Kings 2:1-12
Sun 10:30am Wod	LAY Service – Andrew Klein	2 Corinthians 4:3-6
		Mark 9:2-9

### ROSTER FOR THE COMING WEEK

<b>Readers</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	9:00am	Grace Zweck
		10:30am	Roger & Jan Farrell
<b>PowerPoint</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	9:00am	Jason Zweck
		10:30am	Volunteer
<b>Usher/ Counters</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	9:00am	Sheryl Parsons + 1
		10:30am	Roger & Jan Farrell
<b>Church Cleaning</b>	Feb 8 <sup>th</sup> – Feb 14 <sup>th</sup>		Stacey Vogelsang
<b>Mowing</b>	Feb 8 <sup>h</sup> – Feb 21 <sup>st</sup>		Peter Lade                  Adrian Gutsche