

BUNDABERG LUTHERAN PARISH

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OUR MISSION

“Celebrating life in Jesus, Growing in Faith, Sharing his Love”

Second Sunday of Advent *8th December, 2024*

May the Hope of the Lord fill you.
The Love of the Lord shine on you.
The Joy of the Lord shine through you.
The Peace of the Lord dwell in you. Amen.



CHRISTMAS SERVICE NEXT SATURDAY, 14TH DECEMBER

Redeemer: 10.00 a.m. H.C. (Pastor Graham Pfeffer)
SERVICE TO BE HELD AT 122 SKYRING RESERVE ROAD, GIN GIN

ADVENT 3 SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY, 15TH DECEMBER

Faith: 8.00 a.m. H.C. (Brett Mankofski)
St. John's: 9.00 a.m. H.C. (Pastor Graham Pfeffer)
6.00 p.m. Christmas Carols and Reading Service
Gracehaven: 10.30 a.m. (Dave Stewart)
Rosedale: 5.00 p.m. H.C. (Pastor Graham Pfeffer)
Christmas Service and Break-Up

Lectionary Readings for next Sunday
Zephaniah 3:14-20; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18



Celebrating life in Jesus

Valuing: Joy, Vibrant Worship, Hospitality, Discipleship, Faith at Home, the Gospel, Grace, Personal Faith.

Our Ministry for This Week

Monday:

Pastor Graham's Day Off

Thursday:

7.00 p.m. Young Adults Fellowship Group in the Youth Room

Friday:

5.30 p.m. Youth Group pizza & plan night in the Youth Room



REDEEMER CONGREGATION CLOSING SERVICE

Please join Redeemer Congregation for the Closing Service of Redeemer Church, with First Assist. Bishop Ben Hentschke presiding, on **Sunday, 8th December at 11.00am**. *Please bring a plate for a shared lunch.*



There will be no 5.30pm Service next Sunday at St. John's, as the Christmas Carols & Reading Service will be held at 6.00pm.

FROM ST. JOHN'S OP SHOP



Please note that the Op Shop will be OPEN on Saturday, 7th December and Saturday, 14th December from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

The Op Shop will be CLOSED from Monday, 16th December and will re-open on Monday, 13th January, 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

CRAFTY LADIES

There will no "Crafty Ladies" in December. This Group will recommence on Saturday, 8th February, 2025 at 1.30 pm *May you all have a peace filled Christmas.*



PRAYER GROUP

St. John's Prayer Group is currently in recess and will resume next year.



GRACEHAVEN FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Please note that the Gracehaven Friendship Group is in recess and will recommence in February 2025.



YOU ARE INVITED TO

**A TRADITIONAL CAROLS
AND READING SERVICE**

To be held at St. John's Church on
SUNDAY, 15TH DECEMBER
COMMENCING AT 6.00 P.M.

INVITATION TO REDEEMER, GIN GIN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE AND LUNCH

Redeemer Congregation is having a Christmas Break-Up on **Saturday, 14th December** at Marion Pape's home, 122 Skyring Reserve Road, Gin Gin. Morning tea will start at 10.00 am. Pastor Graham will conduct a Worship Service with communion then lunch will follow. Please bring a plate of food to share. RSVP to Cheryl Fritz by 8th December on 0427 572 587 or c.fritz@bigpond.com.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



ROSEDALE'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Will be held next **Sunday, 15th December at 5pm**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

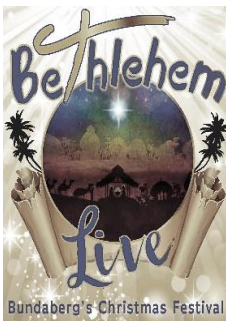
The service will be followed by a shared dinner and fellowship hosted by Barry and Lea Ruhl, 5472 Lowmead Road, Rosedale. *Please bring a main and dessert dish to share, along with your chair.*



CHRISTMAS EVENTS COMING UP IN THE PARISH

14 th December	10.00 a.m. Redeemer Christmas Break-Up - Morning Tea, Service & Lunch
15 th December	5.00 p.m. Rosedale Christmas Service & Dinner 6.00 p.m. St. John's Christmas Carols & Reading Service
24 th December	6.00 p.m. St. John's Christmas Eve Service
25 th December	8.00 a.m. Faith Christmas Day Service 9.00 a.m. St. John's Christmas Day Service 10.30 a.m. Gracehaven Christmas Day Service

BETHLEHEM LIVE 2024



Bethlehem Live will be held this year on Tuesday, 17th to Friday, 20th December from 6.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. at the Bundaberg Central State School grounds.

St. John's will be participating in this special Christmas Event by manning "Boaz's Bakery & Granary".

If you would like to volunteer in the stalls and/or can assist to set up and dismantle them, please fill out the sign-up form in Church. If you have any queries, please contact Rhiannon Grotherr on 0422 411 884.

BETHLEHEM LIVE 17th to 20th December


The Bundaberg Bethlehem Live team are looking for extra volunteers, both young and old, to help set up and pack down the event. Set up starts from Saturday, 14th December. The Team are also seeking to fill numerous volunteer roles over the four nights to bring Bethlehem City to life. If you can help, please contact Lisa Hardie on 0414 983 353 or Kevin Dekker on 0459 399 482.

DON'T FORGET YOUR NAME BADGE!!!

As I have been announcing, it would be helpful to our new pastor if we were all wearing name badges by the time he starts in March 2025. So if you have one, put it in a place to remind you when you leave for church. Some people store them in the pigeon holes at church and if that works for you well and good.

If you don't have a name badge, Eryl is collecting details to do a bulk order depending on the numbers. There are 2 types, traditional pin type and magnetic which doesn't leave holes in your Sunday best. They cost around \$12.00 each.

I will be looking out for your co-operation!!! *from Geoff Sampson.*




ALWS GIFTS OF GRACE GIVE YOU MORE THIS CHRISTMAS!


- ✓ FREE children's book to share your values
- ✓ 30 unique Gifts of Grace – the most ever!
- ✓ Gifts start at just \$3, with 7 under \$10
- ✓ ALL Gifts of Grace are tax-deductible


PLUS MORE!


HOP(E) TO IT AND ORDER NOW!
alws.org.au/grace* 1300 763 407

Working together to bring love to life!

 Australian Lutheran Relief Service

 Lutheran Education

 Finance with a mission

 LUTHERAN CHURCH AUSTRALIA
www.lutheran.org.au

IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM ST. JOHN'S ELECTION AND BUDGET PRESENTATION MEETING

Last Sunday your Church Council team was elected (mostly re-elected!!!) to continue the organisation behind the smooth and safe administration that enables you to worship freely. There was one notable exception, the resignation of our previous treasurer, Jason Krenske. With the increased work demands of a very involved job and increasing involvement with his family, Jason found he was struggling to find the time for the input required for such an important role. During his 7 years as St John's treasurer, he has provided an extremely professional and comprehensive level of looking after the finances of our congregation and setting up our investment account to assist the offering shortfall. We have appreciated his efforts and, while we understand his reasons for resigning, we will miss his contribution.

With his training and assistance, Judy Krenske has offered to carry out this essential role and been elected as Treasurer. Please pray for her and support her as she eases into the position.

Jason's Budget Report for 2025 has some alarming statistics and I would like to bring those to your attention but this is only the start of a promotion that I would like to see well established before our new pastor commences. Jason announced that there is roughly a \$20,000 shortfall in our giving to date. This is alarming and affects the viability of our congregation. If we are required to draw on some of the capital of our investment account to pay the overheads of operating, that then obviously reduces the amount of money we can earn from it. Currently approximately 33% of our required income is from this source. There are a few reasons behind our giving shortfall and we will be addressing those in 2025. I understand times are tough with household budgets in the current economy and this is reflected in our financial position. Obviously if our worship numbers increase, this will help and I anticipate and pray that Pastor Bensted will attract more simply by his spiritual leadership and personality.

Please consider the amount of your personal free-will giving and also how you give as Regular Electronic Giving provides a steady income for the church. I understand and accept there are many reasons why you may not come to worship every week but unfortunately, the expenses still turn up even if you don't. I ask you to show your appreciation for your own blessings and the continued blessings of our congregation as we prepare to welcome and install Pastor Bensted probably on 9th March 2025. There are many more deserving congregations working through pastoral vacancies for months and even years in some cases.

Through all this, I am confident our Gracious God will provide but, as always, he needs us to be his willing children. *In His Service, Geoff Sampson.*



MAINLY MUSIC - Is in recess and will resume in February 2025. New families, including Grandparents, are welcome to attend. We are in need of fill-in volunteers when regular team members are away. You must have a current Blue Card. For more information, please speak with Gay Ridge or Lyn Duldig.

SCRIPTURE READINGS ROSTER FOR ST. JOHN'S 9.00 A.M. SERVICE



08/12/24 Greg Uebergang
 15/12/24 Rhiannon Grotherr
 22/12/24 Melva Ferguson
 29/12/24 Brenda Cochrane
 5/1/25 Laurel Matthews



FAITH, NORTH BUNDABERG, PRAYER TEAM

Our Prayer Team will be available for personal prayer in the prayer room from 7.30 a.m. each Sunday morning before Service at Faith.

Lutheran Tract Mission
 has many resources for
 Advent and Christmas
www.ltm.org.au



Growing in Faith

Valuing: Spiritual Growth, Biblical Knowledge, Relationships,
Passing on Faith, Innovation.



Have a wonderful day

ST. JOHN'S

MORNING TEA ROSTER 2024/25



PLEASE NOTE:

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND FOR YOUR ROSTERED DAY, PLEASE SWAP WITH SOMEONE ON THE ROSTER BELOW

DATE	NAME	NAME
8 December 2024	Melva Ferguson	Lyn Milton
15 December 2024	Laurel Mathews	Carla Heaton
22 December 2024	Judy Krenske	Adrian Krenske
29 December 2024	Laurel Mathews	Carla Heaton
5 January 2025	Melva Ferguson	Lyn Milton
12 January 2025	Laurel Mathews	Carla Heaton
19 January 2025	Judy Krenske	Adrian Krenske
26 January 2025	Melva Ferguson	Lyn Milton
2 February 2025	Laurel Mathews	Carla Heaton
9 February 2025	Judy Krenske	Adrian Krenske
16 February 2025	Melva Ferguson	Lyn Milton
23 February 2025	Laurel Mathews	Carla Heaton
2 March 2025	Judy Krenske	Adrian Krenske
9 March 2025	Melva Ferguson	Lyn Milton
16 March 2025	Laurel Mathews	Carla Heaton
23 March 2025	Judy Krenske	Adrian Krenske
30 March 2025	Melva Ferguson	Lyn Milton

**If supplies for morning tea are running low or out,
please contact Allison Heiner on 4151 2760.**

Thank you.



Sharing his love

Valuing: Outward Focus, Loving One Another, Using our gifts, Shared Ministry, Service, Community Care.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK



Heavenly Father: We praise and thank you for the cleansing waters of baptism and our adoption as your heirs and co-heirs with Christ. Strengthen our faith and bless all who are preparing for baptism at this time, and those undergoing instruction.

Bless and watch over your church as it prepares for the celebration of the birth of Christ. Help us all to prepare for the coming of Christ by living a life of repentance. May the light of Christ uncover our sin so that we might be released from its destructive power.

We pray for the missions of the church and those called to preach the gospel. May all those who hear the gospel believe the good news and turn to you in faith. Help us to prepare the way for the gospel by pursuing justice in our society. Be with our pastors and lay workers and fill them with your spirit of truth and love. Call and inspire more people to serve you in public ministry for the harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few.

Graciously protect us from fire and flood, from war and disease, from famine and strife and from every kind of disaster. Support all people in their proper vocation, and help all those who are unemployed. Bless our arts and culture, our science and technology. Be with all widows and widowers, and provide for all children who have lost their parents. Help those who are sick and in need, and comfort those who are lonely and in trouble.

Lord God, as your servant John the Baptist called your people to prepare a way for the Lord, let us always be prepared to receive the blessings that you freely give us through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Youth Leaders

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of our leaders.

PS GRAHAM PFEFFER 0419 845 777 -
(PASTOR)

PS RYAN & PRISCILLA 0406 526 879 -
(YOUTH PARENTS)

RHIANNON GROTHOR & NEVE FRITZ -
(ST JOHN YOUNG ADULTS)



**RESPONSE TO THE GENERAL SYNOD VOTE TO THE LCAQD
BEING ONE CHURCH WITH TWO PRACTICES.**

***Please complete the questionnaire and return to Pastor
Graham, your Church Leader or the Parish Office***

NAME OPTIONAL, if you would like to meet with Pastor personally.

Name:

√ Tick which applies to you.

<input type="checkbox"/>	I am ok with the vote
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am not ok with the vote, but this is what synod approved and I don't want to leave the LCA
<input type="checkbox"/>	This vote has burdened my conscience, to the point I question if I can remain in the LCA NZ

Debrief Questions

What Pastoral care do you need? _____

How has the vote burdened your conscience, what answers are you seeking to be clarified? _____

What do you feel will happen to the Lutheran Church in the future in light of the way forward decision? _____

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

The Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) is committed to providing a safe church environment for children and young people. The LCA acknowledges that children are a precious gift from God, with special vulnerabilities, that they require nourishment and nurture in their spiritual development and that they are to be protected from all forms of abuse.

The LCA also affirms that it has no tolerance for child abuse and that all its people have an important responsibility to care for children and to keep them safe. The way we care for children reflects our genuineness of faith. It is also a reflection of God's love and his divine protection.



**There's a bunch of
good reasons to
SPEAK UP
if you don't feel safe**



