

# Together

Sunday 23 May 2021

Minister  
Rev. Greg McConnell  
0404 046 697

Website  
[www.stlukesbelmont.com.au](http://www.stlukesbelmont.com.au)  
Email  
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*We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand. We pay our respects to them for their care of the land. May we walk gently and respectfully upon this land*



## Face to face worship

Services will be held at 8am and 9.45am. Please sign in on arrival, observe social distancing and use hand sanitiser provided. You are encouraged to wear a mask though this is not mandatory. The 9.45am Service will be streamed and stored on St Luke's website and Facebook page. The camera will be focussed on those people participating in the conduct of the service at the front of the church, and not the Congregation.

## Lectionary readings for the coming week

Is 6:1-8   Ps 29   Rom 8:12-17   Jn 3:1-17

Onsite internet: St Luke's Guest - no password required



## Bank transfer option for your weekly offerings

If you would like to transfer your offerings into the St Luke's Uniting Church giving account the details follow.

All transfers are anonymous.

BSB: 634 634

Account No. 100028307

Account name: St Luke's Uniting-Giving Acc

*Thank you for supporting the St Luke's Uniting Church!*

## **Worship services**

Today:            8.00am     Rev Greg McConnell  
                  9.45am     Rev Greg McConnell  
  
Next Sunday:    8.00am     Rev Greg McConnell  
                  9.45am     Rev Greg McConnell

Narla Hostel services are held each Friday at 4pm

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## **CALENDAR**

### **Monday 24 May**

*Activity Centre* meet at 9.30am with games at 10.00am

### **Tuesday 25 May**

*Quirky Quilters* meet from 10am

### **Wednesday 26 May**

*New service planning meeting* 7.00pm

### **Thursday 27 May**

*Bruce Kay Bible Study* 12pm

### **Friday 28 May**

*Playgroup* from 10am

## **Pray for those who are not well or recuperating**

Wendy Ellway     Noelene Cox  
                     Shirley Farmer

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### **1 Sympathy & Prayers**

Our sympathy and our prayers are with Dita Yabsley and her family members in the passing of Graham last Sunday evening. Graham was a member of the 9.45am Service and involved in various activities including a member of the cast of the last Murder Mystery Drama presentation. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at St Luke's on Friday 28th May at 1.30pm.

### **2 Just Kids**

Just Kids term 2 dates: May 23, June 6 & June 20



### **3 'Community Organising for Congregation Renewal in The Hunter' Skills for Mission**

Saturday 29 May

9.45 for tea/coffee, 10am sharp to start, concluding at 11.30am.  
Garden Suburb Uniting Church , 158 Marshall St, Garden Suburb.  
Flyers with all information on the back table.

## 4 Looking Ahead Lecture Series

Tuesday 1 June 5.30pm - 7.00pm

The University of Newcastle presents esteemed social researcher and author, Hugh Mackay, to deliver the eighth Looking Ahead Lecture from the institution's Great Hall at Callaghan.

Hugh's keynote address will centre on his new book, titled *The Kindness Revolution*, which is written as a call to arms for our "lucky country" to use lessons of the pandemic and evolve as a more loving country.

Full details on the flyers on the back table and on the Newcastle University website.

## 5 Reading and Reflection

You are invited to join a Reading Group (Theological Book Club?) to read and discuss the book "The Love That Is God" by Frederick Christian Bauerschmidt. The group will meet on five Wednesday evenings beginning on the 14th of July. The final week (11 August) will be spent watching and discussing the 2020 movie "Hosea" at Greg McConnell's place.

If you'd like to be involved please sign up ASAP. You will need to order the book from Book Depository (\$33 / free delivery) or from Amazon (\$25 plus delivery for the book or \$15 for the Kindle edition).



## 6 Exciting News!

Rev Greg is starting up an extra service on a Sunday which will be held at 5:30pm or 6.00pm. These services will be held every week and will begin after the July school holidays but ... we need to plan them.

This is where you come in – a planning meeting is set for Wednesday 26th May at 7pm (in the gathering area).

Topics for the meeting will be "Who do we want to attend?", "Who will we invite?" and "Where will we meet?" along with ideas for themes, speakers, format, catering, music and more. All ages are encouraged to be involved so add the date to your diary and use the sign up sheet to add your name.

*"I've commanded you to be brave and strong, haven't I?  
Don't be alarmed or terrified, because the Lord your God is with  
you wherever you go."*

— Joshua 1:9

## 7 Volunteer's Week



This week is Volunteer's Week, where people all over Australia are thanking their volunteers. St Luke's has many, many volunteers in all aspects of our congregational and community life. We take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone who volunteers in a wide variety of ways. Thank you so much, you are appreciated!

## 8 Communion



Regulations regarding serving communion have changed and now members of the congregation are invited to do so. If you would like to join this ministry of preparation and serving the sacraments at the 8.00am service please see Jean Thirkettle .

## 9 Unite / Women - Pippis Meal & Movies

*Reaching Out to everyone in their 30's to 60's*

FINAL DETAILS - Saturday 29 May at 5.30pm. A great, relaxed atmosphere to chat over dinner at Pippis at the Point Hotel in Speers Point and the movie "June Again" at Lake Cinema Boolaroo afterwards. RSVP by Thursday 27th May to Vickie on 4945 1890 so bookings can be made.



## 10 Community and Outreach Team 2021

This team will be meeting on Tuesday, 8th June at 7pm in the gathering area.

All are welcome so come along with your ideas for social and fundraising events or simply sit back and hear what we are planning.

If you have any questions, contact Alison Gill/Team Leader on 0435 653 531

## 11 St Luke's Pastoral Care

As you would be aware, when the Uniting Church was first formed Elders were elected and exercised leadership and governance in the congregation (Elders Council). Over the years as some of the Regulations have changed and been updated some of these areas have changed and the leadership and governance became the responsibility of the Church Council as referred to in the Regulations or Leadership Team as we now call it at St Luke's. When this happened the role of an Elder became primarily one of pastoral care and serving communion. At St Luke's they were members of the Elders Pastoral Care Team and each Elder had a list of members of the congregation whom they were responsible to keep in contact with. An Elders term was for five years and then if they were available to continue could be re-nominated. The Regulations no longer require us to elect Elders (however those who came into the Uniting Church as Life Elders from the Presbyterian heritage will always remain as a Life Elder) .

In light of the above, at the last meeting of St Luke's Leadership Team, it was a decision that the Elders Pastoral Care team would be disbanded and replaced by a Pastoral Care Team. This would then mean that there was no longer need for elections. Pastoral Carers can be appointed by the Leadership Team.

It was a further decision that all Elders who are currently in their current elected five year term can either choose to remain as an Elder until their current term expires, or they can choose to step aside from that term and become a pastoral carer. In addition we currently have six Elders due for re-nomination and election. This will now not be necessary.

All current Elders and those due for re-election have been invited to become members of St Luke's Pastoral Care team and then depending on our numbers, others may be needed to join the team.

The general concept of our pastoral care will not change and all members of the pastoral care team will be given a small group of members to keep in pastoral contact with.

Some of our current groups may stay the same but many will change as we have several of our current Elders no longer able to continue in a pastoral care role due to their health. If you have a reason why you would like to either stay in your same pastoral care group or would like to change to a new group. This change can be made confidentially by making the request to Jenny Mathieson:

4946 8143 or email: [jennyandray@bigpond.com](mailto:jennyandray@bigpond.com)

Communion will be served by members of the Pastoral Care Team and other members of the congregation who feel comfortable and feel called to exercise this ministry.

The updating of the Church Rolls and pastoral groups will now be the responsibility of St Luke's Leadership Team.

If you have any questions relating to this Information please feel free to contact Rev Greg McConnell, Greg Anderson or Jenny Mathieson.

*Jenny Mathieson: Secretary – St. Luke's Leadership Team*

## Ezekiel 37:1-14 New International Version (NIV)

### The Valley of Dry Bones

The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "Sovereign Lord, you alone know."

Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'"

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' Therefore prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.'"

## Luke 2:1-21 New International Version (NIV)

### The Birth of Jesus

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

## PENTECOST PRAYER

When this earth was created,  
it was God who spoke the word, and it was done;  
gave his warmth to the cold earth;  
all was new and all was young. Time had begun.

Chorus: Make me warm, when I am cold; make me  
young; when I am old,  
move me, touch me inside; make your love burn in me  
now.

If I’m rough, make me gentle;  
if my words are hard and sharp, soften this heart.  
If I’m weak, make me stronger;  
let me look to you for strength to make a new start.

If I’m deaf, break the silence;  
if I’m blinded by the dark, give me your light.  
If I’m lame and I stumble,  
let me take your hand again, and hold it so tight.

If you speak, let me hear you;  
let me recognize your voice everywhere.  
If you pass, let me see you;  
Help me know the face is yours, help me to care.

*Words & Music: Robin Mann*