

# Together



Sunday 13 March 2022

## Minister

Rev. Greg McConnell  
0404 046 697

## Website

[www.stlukesbelmont.com.au](http://www.stlukesbelmont.com.au)

## Email

[belmontuca@gmail.com](mailto:belmontuca@gmail.com)

## Administration Assistant

Katy Burfield  
4945 4655 - office  
Tues 9am - 5.30pm  
Fri 9am - 5.30pm



*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*

## Worship services

Sunday 13 March: 8.00am Rev Tom Anderson HC  
9.45am Rev Tom Anderson HC  
Sunday 20 March: 8.00am Pastor Kim Langford HC  
9.45am Pastor Kim Langford HC

Narla Hostel services are held each Friday at 3.45pm

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## Lectionary readings for the coming week

Is 55:1-9 Ps 63:1-8 1 Cor 10:1-13 Lk 13:-1-9

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

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## 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!*

## Pray for those who are not well or recuperating

John Lockwood

Marj Hicks



### Calendar

#### ***Monday 14 March***

**Activity Centre** meet from 9.30am with

Talking Point at 10am.

Rev Tom Anderson is the speaker and the topic is stamps.

#### ***Tuesday 15 March***

**Quirky Quilters** meet from 10am

#### ***Friday 18 March***

**Friday Plus Bible Study** meet from 10am

Mark 2:1-12 'The Unexpected Jesus'

## **Just Kids:** Term 1 dates:

March 13 & 27

April 10



### 1 **Bruce Kay's Thursday Bible Study**

Bruce Kay's Thursday Bible Study will not be meeting this week, 17 March.

### 2 **Help for Ukraine**

The Slavic Gospel Association, which has a branch in Australia, works in many countries in Europe, including Ukraine and Russia, supporting local churches, training pastors and workers, running children's camps, helping orphans, prisoners and others in need as well as bringing God's love to all, so they know the area and the people very well. Local pastors and churches have organized to provide groceries, medicines, winter warmth packages and Family Survival Kits for those fleeing the war in Ukraine. Your prayers would be appreciated, and if you wish to learn more or contribute to their work, more information is available on [sga.org.au](http://sga.org.au) or speak to Wendy Webb 0418 681 858.

### 3 Help needed!

Margaret Jurd College has made a request to help restock its community pantry used to help the students and their families in need. Items most sought are tinned or packaged non-perishables that can be prepared to make a quick meal. Please note as a matter of safety they can have no glass, or tins with a ring pull. Donations of supermarket gift cards are also gratefully accepted. There will be a box in the welcoming area for any donations over the next few weeks. Gift cards should be handed to Dita, Alison Cleary, Meredith, Eldrene, Margaret Guerke or Margaret Hudson. Thank you

*Local and Global Mission Group*



### 4 Dinner Church

#### **The first Dinner Church is 1 May!!**

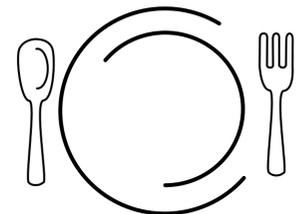
We are starting a new Sunday Evening Gathering at St Luke's. We are calling it Dinner Church because it will be held on Sunday Evenings (starting at 5.30pm) and will involve a simple shared meal. We will meet in the Gathering Area.

You may be wondering why we are starting this new thing at St Luke's?

There are a number of reasons;

- We are excited about creating a new opportunity for people to gather in a less formal way to learn about God, to support one another in our discipleship journey, to share stories and to pray together.

- We want to create a Service with a focus upon participation and engagement where the wisdom, insights and experiences of everyone are valued and shared.
- We wanted to create a genuine “all-age” environment in which children are welcomed and encouraged to participate.
- We recognise that Sunday Mornings are no longer a convenient for many families as a time to come to Church. We hope that a Sunday evening gathering which includes dinner might work better for those families who just can't make it on Sunday morning. We would finish up no later than 7pm.
- We also recognise that the more Traditional style of worship no longer “works” for some people. Dinner Church will be less formal and more participatory than regular church.
- We wanted to create a gathering with a focus upon welcoming and hospitality. We hope to invite our neighbours from Narla Rd and the adjacent streets to join us from time to time and we hope that Dinner Church might become something to which you would be comfortable inviting friends and neighbours to because it's engaging, fun and non-threatening.
- For the time being we will continue to have two morning Services each Sunday so coming to Dinner Church can be either an alternative or in addition to Sunday Morning Worship.



## 5 Moderators Flood Appeal



Next Sunday, 20th March, we will be having a special offering for the Moderators Flood Appeal. There will be a basket on the table in the entrance area for anyone who wishes to place a donation. Alternatively you can donate online as per information in last week's Together.

## 6 Morning tea 9.45am — Volunteers needed

Over the past couple of Covid years we have lost a couple of our very valued volunteers for a number of reasons.

If morning tea is something you enjoy after the service you might consider being on a roster volunteering to serve the morning tea.

The more volunteers we have enables a roster that doesn't burn out our very willing volunteers.

So please consider helping us! The more we have, the fewer times we need to be on the roster. Enquiries to Margaret Guerke.



## 7 Special Morning Tea

On Sunday 27th March we are holding a special morning tea in-between the two morning services to celebrate the marriage of Greg and Wendy. It will also be an opportunity for those who have not met Wendy, to meet her. Please stay on after 8 am or come early at 9.10am before the 9.45 am service.



## 8 Lent Event has started!

For forty days, we invite you to celebrate the season of Lent by reflecting on and rededicating yourself to Christ's compassion and justice. Together, we've been part of helping achieve the lowest rates of global poverty than at any time in recorded history. It's a hopeful thought! But COVID-19 has reminded us how vulnerable we are; especially those living below the poverty line or fighting existing inequalities.

Since 2009, UnitingWorld's Lent Event has raised over 3 million dollars to change the lives of people and communities in the Pacific, Asia and Africa through long-term partnerships.

Join other Christians as we learn together about how to be a good global neighbour through our Bible Study series. Put what you're learning into action by pledging to live simply, and giving up something in solidarity with those who live with less (Action Ideas). You could count your steps each day (in solidarity with those who walk for water), reduce your plastic use (highlighting our care for creation and climate advocacy work) or cut back on screen time (in support of children's education). Make a bigger difference by doing it together with friends or your congregation.

Lent Event is 2 March - 14 April 2022. **All the information is at: [www.unitingworld.org.au](http://www.unitingworld.org.au)**

## 9 High Tea



The Salvation Army are providing High Tea for groups. If anyone would like to be part of a group from St Luke's on Wednesday 13th April: cost \$35, from 11am-2pm contact Jean Thirkettle ph 0418 214 199 by 27th March so a booking can be made. The group must be between 10 and 25 participants.

## 10 Happy Birthday

Happy birthday to Helen Weavers who is celebrating a special birthday today, Sunday 13th March.

## 11 Congratulations!

Congratulations to Greg McConnell and Wendy McGregor who were married in a small family wedding yesterday, Saturday 12 March. Our love and special blessings surround them both.



## 12 Food for Thought

Food for Thought will not be meeting this week as Rev Greg will be away.

## 13 St Luke's Uniting Church Belmont Finance Report July to December 2021

For the first half of the 2021/22 Financial Year we have achieved a profit of \$18,890 mostly due to a decrease in anticipated expenditure and Government subsidies.

	Budget	Actual	Result	+/(-)%
<b>Income</b>	131,012	128,861	(-2,151)	(-2%)
<b>Expenditure</b>	130,830	109,789	(-21,041)	(-16.1%)
<b>Profit/Loss</b>	(-182)	19,072	18,890	10,379%

### Points for noting

- The unexpected lockdown during July to October had a negative and positive impact on the financial performance of St Luke's. Offerings are down by 22.6% however, we received a Jobsaver subsidy of \$20,250 and a one of Grant of \$15,000 under the Business Disaster Scheme or a total of \$35,250 in financial assistance from the Commonwealth and State Governments.
- Grant income is on target with \$2,000 received from LMCC for the Quilting Group and processes are underway for the receipt of \$13,342 awarded to the church from the 2021 Community Building Partnership Grants Scheme for establishing additional disabled parking bays near the Community Centre. Please note that all Grant income has a corresponding outgoing.
- Rental income for the Community Centre has exceeded target by \$2,560 despite the curtailment of some activities during the July/October lockdown.



- While WWW donations are down by 57.4% (\$1,766), \$654 has been raised for Timor Leste, \$130 for the Christmas Bowl, \$400 for Frontier Services and \$157 for Love to the World. \$4,900 is remaining in the budget allocation for UCA Donations.
- Expenditure for office administration has decreased by 23% or \$1,553.
- While overall spending on Property and Maintenance is under target by 37% with \$20,358 spent against an allocation of \$32,375 there has been an increase in costs associated with additional cleaning and rubbish collection. Also, \$5,348 has been spent on tree lopping and gardening services, \$4,000 for new lining and signage in the carpark and \$2,753 on roof and window repairs in the Gathering Area.

### Observation

Although the St Luke's 2021/22 budget is in surplus for the first 6 months of the financial year this is mainly due to a combination of Government financial assistance for COVID-19 and lower than anticipated expenditure. As we emerge from the restrictions associated with the pandemic and look towards a normalised modus of operation, the remaining 6 months of the financial year should be viewed with a degree of caution as we recommence onsite activities in an environment which may be very different to our pre-pandemic era.

*Greg Anderson*  
Treasurer



### 14 Unite / All Families—Pizza & Movie Under the Stars Reaching out to everyone in their 30's—60's

Saturday April 2nd, 6pm at The Hudson's—10 Gilgal Place, Belmont North. Bring: picnic chairs, blankets and snacks & drinks to share. Adults \$6, kids (under 12) \$3. RSVP to Meredith by 27 March on 0425 259 020 or email [pmhudson@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pmhudson@optusnet.com.au)



## **Genesis 15:1-12,17-18 NIV**

### **The Lord's Covenant With Abram**

After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram.

I am your shield,  
your very great reward.”

But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

He also said to him, “I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.”

But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?”

So the Lord said to him, “Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.”

Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him.

When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates—

## **Luke 13:31-35**

### **Jesus' Sorrow for Jerusalem**

At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, “Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you.”

He replied, “Go tell that fox, ‘I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.’ In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’