

Together



Sunday 12 November 2023

Minister

Rev. Greg McConnell
0404 046 697

Administration Assistant

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

Website

www.stlukesbelmont.com.au

Email

belmontuca@gmail.com



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 12 November	8.00am	Rev Greg McConnell
	9.45am	Rev Greg McConnell
	5.30pm	Rev Greg McConnell
Sunday 19 November	8.00am	Rev Greg McConnell
	9.45am	Rev Greg McConnell
	5.30pm	Rev Greg McConnell

Narla Hostel services are held each Friday at 3.45pm

Dinner Church—every Sunday at 5.30pm

Dinner Church is a casual service for all ages with a message, a catered meal, prayer, discussion and friendship. Sharing will include interviewing Rev Greg McConnell this week. Eldrene will be catering.

Lectionary readings for the coming week

Jgs 4:-1-7	Ps 123
1 Thes 5:1-11	Mt 25:14-30

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



Welcome to St Luke's Uniting Church, Belmont



A place for everyone

A church where you are welcome
regardless of who you are, where
you are from, and whom you love

Pray for those known to you who are in hospital,
not well or recuperating

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!



Calendar

Monday 13 November

Activity Centre meet from 9.30am
with Talking Point at 10am

Tuesday 14 November

Quirky Quilters meet from 10am

Thursday 16 November

Thursday Bible Study meet from 1.30pm

Friday 17 November

Friday Plus Bible Study meet from 9.30am

Just Kids - Term 4 Dates

November 12

November 26

December 10



1 St Luke's Annual Elections

Nominations are being called for ten elected members of St Luke's Leadership Team (Church Council) and one representative to the Hunter Presbytery meetings. Those nominated must be Confirmed Members of the Uniting Church Members in Association. Nomination forms are available on the table in the entrance area. Please return nomination forms to the box provided. Nominations close on Sunday 19th November. Any enquires to Jenny Mathieson: 4946 8143 or email: jennyandray@bigpond.com



2 Activity Centre

On Monday 13th November the guest speaker at Talking Point will be Warren James. All seniors who turn 85 and want to keep driving are tested with a practical driving test.

Warren James is a local testing instructor who also is an educator on all new and old road rules and how to implement them. As rules are often changed, all drivers of all ages would benefit in coming to this talk and become better drivers as a result of hearing what he has to say.

Everyone is welcome to come and hear him at from 10am -11 am in the Community Centre and enjoy morning tea after his talk. If you have a question, please bring it along written down to give to the speaker.



3 Project Blessing 2023: Reaching vulnerable families in our local schools with food hampers

Here is the timeline;

- **Sunday 19th November – Sunday 10th December 11am-** Donations of money + suitable hamper items come in from congregation. Lollies & chocolate (bags or boxes), shortbread, puddings etc. Boxes provided in gathering area to place your donations in. ***Sunday 10th December at 11am - Deadline for donations***
- **Tuesday 12th December - afternoon** - shopping and sorting of items for hampers.
- **Tuesday 12th December - 7:30pm** - Packing of hampers by Community Outreach and Mission team members.
- **Wednesday 13th December - 10am** - Delivery of hampers to schools and individuals.



4 Thank You

Thank you to Wendy Blane for her many, many years of wonderful service as a pastoral care leader at St Luke's. Wendy has just recently stepped down from this role. Wendy's care and pastoral concern for the people who were in her pastoral group was quite amazing and appreciated by all. Thank you Wendy! Note: If you have been in Wendy's pastoral group, you have now been allocated to another group, and that person will notify you shortly.

Thank you

5 **St Luke's Congregation - Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday 3rd December at 9.15am (in-between the two morning services). At this meeting, annual reports will be presented and the election of ten members for our Leadership Team (Church Council) will be held.

The Leadership Team consists of Rev Greg McConnell as our Minister in placement (who is currently the Chairperson) and ten elected members. From our ten elected members the Council will then elect a Secretary, Treasurer and leaders of each of our teams:

Community Outreach Team (current team leader is Alison Gill) who are responsible for our community connections and our fundraising and has our outreach activities groups under its umbrella.

Local & Global Mission Team (currently without a leader since the loss of Dita) who are responsible for all our mission and wider work focus and areas of social justice.

Worship Team

This team looks at the worship and music of the congregation and is under the leadership of Rev Greg McConnell.

Finance & Property Team (currently led by our treasurer Greg Anderson)

who look after the finance and property.

Pastoral Care Team (Rev Greg McConnell leads this team)

This is made up of the Pastoral Care leaders in the congregation. Early next year the Leadership team will be looking for additional members for each of the above teams, so please start prayerfully considering if you may be able to become a member of one of these teams next year.

6 **Friday Plus Bible Study**

This week we continue our study on Paul's letter to Titus who was ministering to the young church on Crete. In chapter 3 he urges Titus to stress the importance of Christians living a life that is beneficial for everyone. We invite you to join us at 9.30 in the gathering area for tea/coffee before commencing at 10am. We aim to finish by 11.30. Any inquiries to Julie Killeen 0427 505 874 or Jan Kellahan 0424 139 100

7 **A Grant for the Quirky Quilters**

The Quirky Quilters are delighted to have been awarded a grant of \$3,500 from the IMB Bank Community Foundation for our quilting group. It's a great opportunity to continue our work in providing some comfort and joy to people in the community.

We are grateful to the IMB Bank Community Foundation, who is supporting 54 other projects this year.

The money will be used to buy fleece and flannelette to back the quilts we make.

We are currently concentrating on making children's quilts, which will be transported to Coraki in late November to provide Christmas presents to children living in pods (temporary accommodation made from shipping containers), following the floods in 2022.

Proudly Supported by



Zonta Club of Hunter Newcastle Inc and Lake Macquarie City Council present:

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE YARN BOMBING AND REMEMBRANCE WALK

IT'S TIME TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Join us for a community gathering to:

- Launch 16 Days of Activism with Zonta's display of tree yarn bombing
- Walk to remember the women who have lost their lives to violence
- Connect with local services

Where: Warners Bay Rotunda, The Esplanade, Warners Bay
When: Thursday 23 November, 2023
Time: 10am

Supported by



8 Unite / Men & Boys

Weekend Away at Myall Lakes National Park

Due to a clash in dates for the organisers, the Men and Boys Camp at Myall Lakes will be postponed. We will advertise the new dates soon so you can add it to your calendar and plan to attend.

9 Our Services

St Luke's Uniting Church conducts 3 services each Sunday.

8am: Traditional worship, **9:45am:** Contemporary worship (includes Just Kids program fortnightly) and **5:30pm:** Dinner Church

Dinner Church began in 2022 and is held in the gathering area, not the church

*It involves a 2 course meal and is usually at tables of 6

*It is a very relaxed, casual atmosphere and all ages attend

*Each week, an individual shares something (a life experience, news, hobby etc).

*The message is shorter than usual and discussion is encouraged

*It runs from 5:30-7pm and you can attend regularly or just come when it suits.

*It is a great opportunity to meet people and enjoy fellowship.



10 Dinner Church Outreach Night -

Sunday 19th November

Next Sunday we will be having our second "Outreach" Dinner Church Night.

Our first one, held on June 4th, was for all Narla Road residents and this resulted in 3 new people coming along. They have continued to attend and also be involved with activities at St Lukes. Praise God!

Our second one is called "Community Centre Night" and the adults who attend groups that use our Community Centre on a weekly basis have all been invited to attend. Groups include: The Activity Centre, The Bridge Club, Quirky Quilters, 4 x U3A groups and the Over 50's single group.

If you personally know anyone who attends any of these groups, please encourage them to come along so they have the opportunity to meet Rev Greg and others and ... enjoy a time of fellowship.

All St Luke's members are welcome to attend any Dinner Church service at 5:30pm on any given week. If you would like to attend this special outreach one on 19/11, please let Jenny Mathieson (Ph: 4946 8143) know as we will be catering for a larger group than usual. Flyer with all details is in this edition of Together! Please add this outreach opportunity to your prayer list this week.



11 Update



As most of you would have read in Together a few weeks ago, we were looking for accommodation for a young, female, family friend.

Within days, a St Luke's member got in contact with us about an opportunity, we corresponded for about 2 weeks and we are happy to say ... that she moves into a wonderful granny flat next Thursday!

We are so grateful to have an extra family, a church family and one that is always open to helping others. Praise God for the accommodation and the perfect timing!

If you are planning to part with/no longer need any of the following and would be happy to donate them to her new home, then here are some things that she will need...

Toaster, sandwich toaster, iron, fridge (70cm wide or less), washing machine (70cm wide or less), small outdoor setting or just chairs, clothes airer, indoor and outdoor mats, saucepans and frypan, cutting board, mixing bowls (2), small table or desk, cooking utensils (tongs, large spoon, lifter), utensil holder (white or grey preferred), 1 litre water jug (clear or blue preferred).

Please text or call Alison on 0435 653 531 if you can help. Thanks

Alison & Chris Gill

12 Our Sympathy and our Prayers

Our sympathy and our prayers are with Angela Gleeson and her family in the passing of Angela's mother on Sunday night.



Everyone is welcome at the table

Come along to St Luke's Dinner Church...it is

"St Lukes Community Centre" Night

**We are inviting everyone that uses our
community centre each week!**

Sunday, 19th November at 5:30pm

St Luke's Gathering Area

(Church building/Narla Rd, Belmont North)



**A laid back, casual atmosphere with time to
enjoy food and a chat. Free of charge**

**For catering purposes, please give your name to
your group leader if attending. *We'd love to see you!***

As the sun rises
and a new day unfolds
with all of its promise and hope,
I recommit myself to join
your divine mission:
to exercise compassion
to love without reserve
to work toward peace
to extend understanding
to afford second chances
to offer my generous best
to witness blessing
to seize opportunities for gratitude
to change and be changed
to regard myself with grace
to embody Jesus
in whose Spirit I live, move, and have my being
in whose love I am made whole
in whose compassion I rise
to greet this day
and every day
for all my days.
Amen.

Joshua 24:1-3a,14-25 NIV

Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God.

Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods. But I took your father Abraham from the land beyond the Euphrates and led him throughout Canaan and gave him many descendants. I gave him Isaac.

"Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other gods! It was the Lord our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we travelled. And the Lord drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the Lord, because he is our God."

Joshua said to the people, "You are not able to serve the Lord. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you."

But the people said to Joshua, "No! We will serve the Lord."

Then Joshua said, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the Lord."

"Yes, we are witnesses," they replied.

"Now then," said Joshua, "throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel."

And the people said to Joshua, "We will serve the Lord our God and obey him."

On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people, and there at Shechem he reaffirmed for them decrees and laws.

Matthew 25:1-13 NIV

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

"At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

"Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

"'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

"But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

"Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!'

"But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.'

"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.