

Together



Sunday 10 December 2023

Minister

Rev. Greg McConnell
0404 046 697

Administration Assistant

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

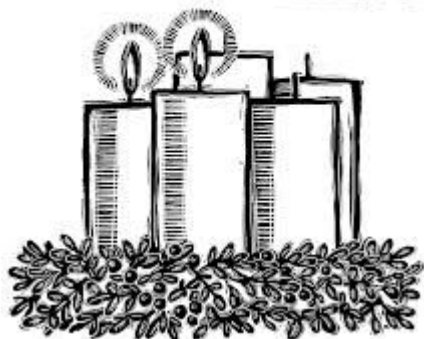
Website

www.stlukesbelmont.com.au

Email

belmontuca@gmail.com

Second Sunday in Advent



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 10 December	8.00am	Rev Greg McConnell HC
	9.45am	Rev Greg McConnell HC
	5.30pm	Rev Greg McConnell
Sunday 17 December	8.00am	Rev Greg McConnell HC
	9.45am	Rev Greg McConnell HC
	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. Greg McConnell will bring us the message this week.

Lectionary readings for the coming week

Is 61:-1-4,8-11	Ps 126
1 Thes 5:16-24	Jn 1:6-8,19-28

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 11 December

Activity Centre meet for their Christmas Celebration at 10am

Tuesday 12 December

Quirky Quilters meet from 10am

Thursday 14 December

Thursday Bible Study meet from 1.30pm

Friday 15 December

Friday Plus Bible Study meet from 9.30am

Just Kids - Term 4 Dates

December 10



1 For Sale

Frontier Services Christmas Cards. These are left over from previous years. They are on the table in the entrance area. Please leave money in basket provided.



2 Christmas Gift Stall

There are a variety of gift items left from our last Carnival Homecraft stall. These will be on sale after each service today, Sunday 10th December. A great opportunity to purchase a last minute Christmas gift.

3 Unite/All Families—Christmas Party at The Gills

Saturday 16th December, 6pm

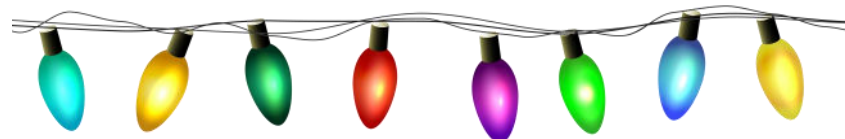
BBQ on the big deck. BYO meat, drinks & a salad or dessert to share.

Secret Santa: Bring along one pressie per person (\$5 value, the more interesting the better). Clearly label pressie before coming. e.g. adult/male, child/female etc. 34 Helen St, Mount Hutton.

*RSVP via text to Alison **today** on 0435 653 531.

4 Together

Please note that next week will be the final Together for the year. Together will resume on Sunday 28th January 2024.



5 Project Blessing 2023: Christmas hampers for our local school families.

Next week our church will undergo some wonderful outreach when Project Blessing 2023 takes place!

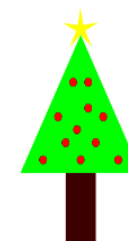
- Grocery items (and extra items purchased with cash) kindly donated by people at St Luke's, will be packed into large woven baskets kindly donated by the Market Basket Co.
- Stuffed toys, anonymously donated late last year will be added into hampers of families with children
- 50 hampers will be delivered to the following places - Belmont Public School, Marks Point Public School, Belmont High School, Floraville Public School, Belmont North Public School, St Lukes Pre-school, Eastlakes Refuge for women and to a few nominated individuals.

TODAY (Sunday) at 11am is the last day we can accept donations of food items and cash.

Food: Lollies & chocolate (bags or boxes), shortbread, puddings etc. Boxes provided in gathering area to place your donations in.

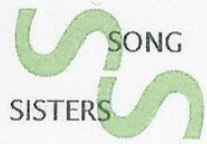
A huge thankyou to those people who have already donated cash or food items.

Alison Gill - Community and Outreach team Leader



6 Service For Peace

All are invited to an Interfaith Service for Peace on Tuesday 12 December, 5.30pm at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West. All denominations and faith backgrounds are invited to come together as we pray for peace in our world.



Song Sisters in Concert

Conducted by Kim Sutherland OAM
And featuring Terence Koo on piano

A final concert for 2023 with some reflections on Christmas and highlights from our repertoire. Our vibrant group of women bring joy to all our performances, and this concert is not to be missed!

FRI.15 DECEMBER | 6-7PM | ADAMSTOWN UNITING CHURCH

\$15 or \$10 (concession)

Book online at www.trybooking.com/CHECV or at the venue.



- 7 2024 Dates For Your Diary**
from St Lukes Community and Outreach Team
- **4th May** -Trivia Night
 - **16th - 30th June** - Pie Drive
 - **4th & 18th August** - Soup & Slice Sundays
 - **7th September** - Festival of Music (this day will include stalls)

We also hope to host two Bunnings BBQ's at the Bennetts Green store during the year - dates to be confirmed.

Keep an eye on Together for details on all these events and how you can support them.

8 Friday Plus Bible Study

Friday Plus Bible study group will meet on the 15th December in the gathering area at 9.30 am. This will be our final meeting for the year which will take the form of a Christmas reflection followed by morning tea/ lunch.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank Rev. Greg and Rev. Tom Anderson for their input during this past year. Anyone wishing to join with us in our studies is welcome at any time.

We wish you all a Blessed Christmas season and peace in the New Year.

9 Happy Birthday

Happy birthday to Nerida Nowland who celebrated a special birthday on Saturday!



10 St Luke's Annual General Meeting

St Luke's Annual General Meeting was held last Sunday morning. The annual reports were tabled and questions asked and answered. Greg Anderson presented a comprehensive financial overview of St Luke's finances. Thank you to Greg for all his work! The elections resulted in Greg Anderson, Stewart Ellway, Alison Gill, Margaret Guerke, Julie Killeen, Jenny Mathieson & Michael Turner being elected as members of St Luke's Leadership Team (Church Council), and Eldrene March was elected as the St Luke's representative to the Hunter Presbytery meeting.



THE WISE MEN, BEING WISE, GOT ALL OF
THEIR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING DONE WEEKS
BEFORE THE RUSH

2 Peter 3:8-15a NIV

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him.

Mark 1:1-8 NIV

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way"—

"a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.'"

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."