

Together



Sunday 7 April 2024

Minister

Rev. Greg McConnell
0404 046 697

Administration Assistant

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

Website

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be with you.
As the Father has
sent me,
so I send you."

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 7 April **9.00am** Rev Greg McConnell HC
 5.30pm Rev Greg McConnell

Sunday 14 April 8.00am Rev Greg McConnell
 9.45am 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 more. This week Rev Greg McConnell will be giving the message and Alison Cleary will be sharing. Meredith & Peter Hudson will be catering .

Lectionary readings for the coming week

Acts 3:12-19 Ps 4
1 Jn 3:1-7 Lk 24:36b-48

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 8 April

Activity Centre meet from 9.30am with
Multicultural Sharing at 10am

Tuesday 9 April

Quirky Quilters meet from 10am
Community & Outreach Team meeting at 2pm

Thursday 11 April

Thursday Bible Study meet from 1.30pm

Just Kids Term 2 dates

tba



Presbytery Prayer Diary

The Hunter Presbytery has produced a Prayer Diary which includes prayer points for every congregation in the Hunter Presbytery over the next few months. Each Sunday every congregation will be praying for one of our other congregations. By praying together we can encourage one another in mission as we grow in faith and unity and develop understanding and relationships across our region.

This week's Presbytery Prayer Point is Black Hill Uniting Church:

Black Hill Uniting Church meets every Sunday with a regular attendance of 10-12 people.

We are a true rural church, with an operating cemetery and very strong community and

historical ties to the community. We have a small hall, that is regularly used for congregation

and extended church family events. We are looking toward increasing our connections to

the wider community through more events. We have many people connected to us through


family history, with many relatives laid to rest in our cemetery. Past events have shown us

that our continued presence in the Black Hill community and contact with them is very

important, with their support for us being very strong.

Prayer:

We pray for the leaders and congregation of Black Hill Uniting Church as they continue to maintain the buildings, grounds, cemetery and historic significance of this rural church, whilst bringing the community together by continuing to be a place of welcoming hospitality and friendship to the wider community. Amen.



In 2022 it was Black & White ... In 2023 it was Bold & Bright

This year you are invited to a:

'Tropical' Trivia Night

When:
**Saturday, 4th
May 2024**

Where:
**St Lukes Community Centre
Narla Rd, Belmont North**

Doors Open: **6:30pm** Trivia Begins! **7:00pm**

Tickets: **\$15pp** Book a table of 8 at:
<https://www.trybooking.com/CQFCO>
Deadline for bookings: 27/4

! Bring !
Snacks & Drinks
For your table

Gold Coins
For activities

Amazing Auction!

Optional:
**Come dressed tropical
style and/or colours!**

**Lots of prizes to
be won!**

**Fresh & Fruity
Bake Sale!**
Enjoy on the night or take home

Eftpos Available

1 **St Lukes Trivia Night: Saturday 4th May 2024**
(just 4 weeks away)

Now is the time to start getting your team of 8 ready to enjoy this fabulous night that's full of activities, fellowship, prizes and of course... trivia!



Forming a table of 8: Each person's ticket is \$15. The total cost for the table is \$120. It can be paid for in 2 ways: Using the trybooking site on the flyer or n cash and given to Jean T or Jenny M. Be sure to write a table organisers name on the sheet provided in the gathering area.

Coloured flyers: these have all the info about the night and are to give to your family and friends who won't receive one (or see one) at St Luke's.

A4 posters: These are to take and put up on noticeboards in your village, shop windows etc to help promote the night to our local community.

Letters to Businesses: Can you help with asking and collecting prizes this year? If so, take some letters, fill in the name of the business on the letter and your details in the space provided and drop it in. It might be a business you support - hairdresser, butcher, lawnmowing man, mechanic, beautician, massage therapist etc. All help in this is appreciated!

Table bookings are now starting to roll in and so are the donations from businesses, so there will be lots of prizes to win on the night. A huge thankyou to the following businesses who have donated this week.

Belmont - Lu Lu Beauty, Cassowary Cafe, Subway (Citi Centre), KFC, Unique Barber Co, 16 footers

Warners Bay - Royal Copenhagen Icecreamery.

Charlestown - Reading Cinemas

*Write the name of the business on the sheet provided so we don't double up! If you have questions about this event, please call Alison Gill on 0435653531.

2 **Hunter Community Alliance Founding Assembly**

St Luke's has been asked to have six people present on this night. If you are able to attend to contact Eldrene March or write your name on the list on the table and she will register St Luke's people attending as a group.

Please note additional new information for those attending

The Hunter Community Alliance

Founding Assembly

6.15 for 6.30pm
Food trucks 5.30pm
Wednesday 10th April
The Great Hall—University of Newcastle

Over 100 people participating from The Uniting Church so far
gather 6.15pm in The Great Hall
register for latest details

<https://events.humanitix.com/hca-founding-assembly>

T Shirts
pre-order closed 19th March
contact robhanks@bigpond.net.au
to check extras for your size

3 Friendly Foodies

The first gathering of the Friendly Foodies will be at 12pm on Sunday, 21 April, for lunch at Valentine Bowling Club. Everyone is welcome to attend. Bring your friends, family and neighbours to enjoy a meal, the view and great conversation. Please contact Alison Cleary if you need transport.



4 Community and Outreach Team

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th April at 2pm in the gathering area. We will be discussing and planning all of our 2024 fundraising events. Everyone is welcome to join us!

5 Exciting news!



After years of being in recess, St Luke's Playgroup is starting up again on Friday mornings in the community centre.

It will commence on Friday 3rd May and is for all babies and toddlers with their parents and grandparents.

A big thankyou to Renee Keast who has offered to return to her role in leading this group each week.

More info is on the A5 flyers on the table in the gathering area and there is also a poster on the pinboard.

What (another) wonderful opportunity for our church to mix with the local community including the preschool, who will be supplying a staff member to help each week and have families attending.



St Luke's Playgroup

Fridays
10am - 12 noon
(During school terms)

St Luke's Community Centre
(Narla Rd, Belmont North)

Starts May 3rd 2024


\$3 cash per child per week please

Playgroups allow children to try out new toys and activities

Playgroups help children learn how to play with other children and interact with adults other than caretakers

Playgroups provide a safe and friendly learning environment

Playgroups help parents, caregivers and their children to connect with their local community and other families



6 **Activity Centre**

On Monday 8th April the Activity Centre is having a multicultural morning with a sharing time with 10 members who were all born overseas. Questions will be asked as to reasons for coming to Australia and the circumstances that eventually brought them to be part of the Activity Centre.



Everyone welcome to attend this interesting discussion.

This will be the last Monday of activities and will resume again on 29th April.

7 **9.45am Communion Preparation Roster**

It is time for another 9.45am Communion preparation roster. This one will go up to November. If you can assist, please write your name on the sheet on the back table on the dates that suit you.



8 **Name Badges (thoughts from Marjorie Hicks)**

I have noticed that some people wear name badges at St Luke's regularly and others do not and I would like to encourage more people to consider wearing them. I wear mine all the time and find it very helpful whenever there are new people. If you do not have a name badge and would like to buy one, then they can be purchased from Elite Trophies and Merchandise (formally Impact Digital) - 6/468 Pacific Highway, Belmont, who have the Uniting Church logo.

1 John 1:1-2:2 NIV

The Incarnation of the Word of Life

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete.

Light and Darkness, Sin and Forgiveness

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

John 20:19-31 NIV

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

Jesus Appears to Thomas

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

The Purpose of John’s Gospel

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.