

Together



Sunday 21 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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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 21 April	8.00am	Rev Greg McConnell
	9.45am	Rev Greg McConnell
Sunday 28 April	8.00am	Rev Greg McConnell
	9.45am	Rev Greg McConnell
	5.30 pm	Rev Greg McConnell

Narla Hostel services are held each Friday at 3.45pm

Dinner Church—every Sunday at 5.30pm
(during school term)

In recess for 14th and 21st April
It will recommence on Sunday 28th April

Lectionary readings for the coming week

Acts 4:5-12	Ps 23
1 Jn 3:16-24	Jn 10:11-18

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

Tuesday 23 April

Quirky Quilters meet from 10am

St Luke's Leadership Team meet at 7.30pm

Thursday 25 April

Thursday Bible Study meet from 1.30pm

Friday 26 April

Friday Plus Bible Study meet from 9.30am

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 Caves Beach Uniting Church

Caves Beach Uniting Church has an elderly congregation blessed by God's love. We are aware of the increasing challenges and uncertainty faced by many within our community. We feel the need to share God's love and provide ways and means for others to come to church and experience comfort and security. We sense this is the time to act so we support the step of faith being led by our Church Council to provide ways and means to outreach to the community.

Prayer: May God bless our proposed mission outreach and may the Holy Spirit be present in all our Church Services and activities. May all we do be to God's glory. We ask this in Jesus' name. 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! **Fresh & Fruity Bake Sale!**
Optional: Come dressed tropical style and/or colours! Enjoy on the night or take home

Eftpos Available

1 **St Lukes Trivia Night: Saturday 4th May 2024** (just 2 weeks away)

It's getting close and it's getting bigger by the day – more tables booked in and more prizes donated by local businesses!



Tables: We are now up to 13 tables (of 8) booked in.

No table – No problem ... Jenny Mathieson is compiling a list of people who would like to attend and join one of 2 “St Lukes” tables. These will be finalised on Monday, 29/4 and you will be notified of any details you need for the night.

***If you have already booked in with Jenny please give your \$15 to her in cash by Sunday, 28/4. Thanks.

Donations from businesses/prizes: As you would have seen over the past 3 weeks, we have been adding the names of businesses that are supporting our night with vouchers and items to use for prizes. This week, many more businesses have donated and they are as follows...Belmont: Star Anise Café, Sesame's on the Lake, Belmont Hotel, Guzman Y Gomaz, Woolworths, KFC, McDonalds, Belmont Fish and Chips, Salina's. Jewells: Priceline Pharmacy, Other: Let's Face It/beauty (Charlestown), XS Espresso (Bennetts Green), Dull Boys Social Co. (Warners Bay), The Retreat (Anna Bay), Valentine/Eleebana Physio, Charlestown Golf Club (Hillsborough). Please support these businesses whenever you can!

On the night: We will be fundraising in various ways (see last week's Together). One of them was a “Fresh & Fruity Bake Sale”. Thankyou to those who have already added their name and items to the list, taken containers and tested recipes (Marj, it was very nice!) all baking can be dropped at the community centre between 5-7pm on Friday, 3rd May or between 10-11am on Saturday, 4th May. Thanks.

Also needed/requested...

- * We need 5 empty, large, rectangle tissue boxes for the night. If you can help with this, please contact Marj Hicks.
- * Help cut up and package fruit salad on Sat, 4th May at 10am (let Jean T know if you can help).
- * There are still a few coloured flyers and posters to help advertise the night feel free to take some and hand them out.

2 **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.

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 **Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Olive Webb**

A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at St Luke's on Saturday 27 April at 10.30 am followed by refreshments and a time of sharing memories in St Luke's Community Centre.

5 Friday Plus Bible Study

Previously Friday Plus Bible study group have met on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Fridays of the month. As of next Friday, 26th April, we will meet fortnightly regardless of which week in the month it turns out to be. This Friday, April 26th, we will be looking at the first chapter of Acts, written by Luke and follows on from his Gospel. Acts is an important book because it records the happenings following Jesus' ascension, the coming of the Holy Spirit and how the Christian Church came into being.

We meet at 9.30am in the Gathering Area for tea/coffee before beginning at 10am for a time of sharing and study. We welcome any who are interested to join us.

Enquiries to Julie Killeen 0427 505 874 or Jan Kellahan 0424 139 100

6 Invitation

All are invited to the Induction Service for Rev Greer Hudson at Adamstown Uniting Church on Saturday 27 April at 1pm.

7 Invitation to the Community Garden Morning Tea

Please come along and join our enthusiastic Community Garden team for a special morning tea between the 8am and 9:45am services next Sunday (28/4). This is an opportunity to meet the team, see what's going on in the refurbished garden and enjoy the morning tea which will be provided.



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

Playgroups allow children to try out new toys and activities

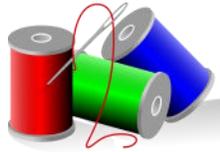
Playgroups provide a safe and friendly learning environment

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

The bottom of the flyer features a green grassy field with three cartoon children running happily. On the left is a boy with orange hair wearing a blue shirt and green shorts. In the middle is a girl with blonde hair wearing a red dress. On the right is a boy with dark skin wearing a green shirt and dark shorts. The background is a light blue sky with white clouds.

8 A new feature in Together

Each month we are going to feature one of St Luke's Groups/activities in Together. For April our spotlight is on St Luke's Quilting Group. Please read and enjoy!



A Bit About the Quirky Quilters, by Alison Cleary

The Quirky Quilters is an activity of St Luke's, meeting in the community centre every Tuesday during most of the year. My mother, Lurline and I started the Quirky Quilters in 2010. There were just five of us in the gathering area of the church. The idea to provide a space for women to come together in an informal, creative environment had been in my head for some time, but it took nearly a year to make the dream a reality.

Sue Bardsley and her friends Jill and Margaret had just been through a rather traumatic bag making workshop and they welcomed the informality of the group. We were soon joined by a few others who had heard about us through the church. We made 31 quilts in our first year.

Our group has gradually grown from those five into what it is today - a group of around 25 women. Fortunately, we don't all turn up every week or it would be chaos! Most of the women are retired and they welcome the opportunity to meet together, chat, share their joys and sorrows, solve the problems of the world and sometimes to have time away from family obligations. We also make time to do some quilting, although some days when you walk in the door, you can't hear a single sewing machine! The group is very informal - everyone comes and goes when it suits them and sometimes, one of the women will just drop in for a chat. We look after each other - making sure that each member of the group feels cared for and loved. Despite the informality, or perhaps because of it, we have managed to achieve great things over the

past 13 years. We started off making quilts for Wrap With Love but now we have relationships with a number of local organisations, and we distribute our quilts and other creations directly to them. Over the past 13 years we've distributed somewhere around 2,000 quilts.

A lot of our quilts go to the local women's and children's refuges. They're picked up by members of Zonta, a business women's group supporting women in need and they drop them off at the refuges. We give a lot of children's quilts to Hope in a Suitcase, a local organisation providing a suitcase of new items for every child who goes into foster care in the Hunter and beyond. We also make library bags, tote bags and small, zippered bags for sanitary items for Hope in a Suitcase.

Sue Bardsley, one of our original members, moved on to co-start Warm Blankets for Everyone. We've provided quite a few library bags to We Care Connect through Warm Blankets and we also give quilts to Warm Blankets to distribute where they're needed.

Over the past 6 months, we've also donated about 180 quilts and 60 toiletry bags to the Sisters of Mercy to distribute to 2022 flood victims living in temporary accommodation - pods made from shipping containers - in Lismore, Coriki and Wardell.

We have many partners to be thankful for. Zonta passes on our quilts to the local refuges and some of our past and present members have given quilts to Kiwanis, Zara's House and refugees supported by the Barnabas Foundation. Much of the donated fabric we can't use goes to Survivors Are Us and Church4Life and Margaret from our group has been a faithful servant to us all, dropping carloads of donations to them. Some donation items we can't use go to The Maker's at Teralba, through Kay, another Quirky Quilter. There are so many more people involved in our venture and we appreciate everything they do.



Fortunately, we have a great reputation locally and donations of fabric, quilted blocks and unfinished quilts come to us often. However, the fleece or flannelette to back one quilt costs around \$10 and we generally have to buy it. The women in the group contribute each week to the cost of materials, but without donations of fabric, support from St Luke's and grants, we wouldn't be able to continue. Every year I write grant applications to try to make up the shortfall in our funding.

Together, as a group and as individuals, we've been involved in helping the local refuges, the hospitals, refugees, the homeless, schools, overseas aid organisations and much more. We have done so many things to be proud of that I can't begin to tell you all of them! As several people in our group have said, we're the best quilting group around and we're proud to part of St Luke's!



9 Happy Birthday!

Happy birthday to Bessie Johnson who will celebrate a special birthday on Tuesday 23 April.

10 Hunter Presbytery Annual Elections

The Hunter Presbytery will hold its annual elections on Tuesday 28th May 2024. Elections for Office Bearers and members of the Standing Committee, Finance and Property Committee and Pastoral Relations Committee. If you are interested in finding out more information, please see Jenny Mathieson .

11 Bunnings Fundraiser

This week on Anzac Day, St Luke's will be hosting the sausage sizzle outside the Bennetts green Bunnings store from 1-4pm.

A HUGE thankyou to those who have offered to help on the day – we have a team ready to serve the community while raising funds. Come along and visit if you would like to, buy a sausage sandwich and tell us what it is like!

The other 2 dates for hosting these BBQ's are listed on the sign-up sheet in the gathering area with options of 2 and 4 hr shifts. Please keep these BBQ's in your prayers, thanks.

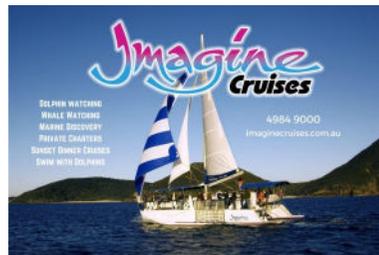


A huge thankyou to the following businesses that are supporting St Lukes by donating vouchers and items for our upcoming trivia night.

- Lu Lu Beauty, Belmont
- Cassowary Cafe, Belmont
- Subway (Citi Centre), Belmont
- Unique Barber Co, Belmont
- 16 footers, Belmont
- Reading Cinemas, Charlestown
- Imagine Cruises, (Port Stephens)
- Dullboys Social Co, Warners Bay
- Citi centre Newsagency, Belmont
- Murray's Meats, Belmont
- Nargiss Indian & Kebabs, Jewells
- Sesame's On The Lake, Belmont
- Guzman Y Gomez, Belmont
- Priceline Pharmacy, Jewells
- Let's Face It/Beauty, Charlestown
- XS Espresso, Bennetts Green
- Valentine/Eleebana Physio
- Belmont Smash Repairs
- Charlestown Golf Club, Hillsborough
- Royal Copenhagen Icecreamery, Warners Bay
- NewsXPress, Jewells
- Mrs Beetson's, Jewells
- Jewells Tavern. Jewells
- Australian Reptile Park
- Canon, Warners Bay
- Star Anise Café, Belmont
- Belmont Hotel
- Woolworths, Belmont
- KFC, Belmont
- McDonalds, Belmont
- Belmont Fish & Chips
- Salina's, Belmont
- Hair Art, Belmont
- The Retreat, Anna Bay
- Rainbow Nails, Belmont
- Belmont Motor Repairs
- URTH Fitness, Belmont

Please show your appreciation by supporting these businesses whenever you can!

Thank
you



1 John 3:16-24 NIV

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

John 10:11-18 NIV

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."