

Together



Sunday 9 June 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 9 June	8.00am	Rev Greg McConnell
	9.45am	Rev Greg McConnell
	5.30 pm	Rev Greg McConnell
Sunday 16 June	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

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, Alan Moore will be sharing and Jenny and Julie will be catering.

Lectionary readings for the coming week

1 Sm 15:34-16:13	Ps 20
2 Cor 5:6-17	Mk 4:26-34

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 11 June

Quirky Quilters meet from 10am

Thursday 13 June

Thursday Bible Study meet from 1.30pm

Friday 14 June

Playgroup meet from 10am

Just Kids Term 2 dates

June 9, 23

July 7



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 Kurri-Weston-Mulbring Uniting Church

Kurri - Weston Church meets each Sunday at Weston followed by Morning Tea and Fellowship. About 8 to 10 people then move on to lunch together at the local Club. We are a Multi Congregation with Mulbring Church who meet fortnightly at 10.30am and often provide a light lunch for their visiting Preachers. We conduct a combined Coffee and Chat monthly on a Saturday afternoon.

Prayer: We pray for Kurri Weston Multi Congregation at Weston and Mulbring as they endeavour to be places of welcome to all comers. As members age, we pray that we can continue to worship and share with our communities. Amen.

1 **Spotlight on ... Activity Centre**

Each month we are going to feature one of St Luke's groups/ activities in Together. For June our spotlight is on St Luke's Activity Centre. Please read and enjoy!

Highlights of the Activity Centre

On 23/7/92 a meeting was held at St Luke's to decide on a new weekly outreach day group for St Luke's. Jean Thirkettle is the only one still at St Luke's who attended that meeting. It was decided to call it "The Meeting Place" and it would be held on Monday mornings from 9.30-12.00. The aims of this new group were to:- Meet people at their point of need by providing friendship and an opportunity to share in the various activities. To overall provide opportunities to enhance participants in the way of life. To serve people in the love of Christ. To meet, where possible, needs in a practical ways. By Christian love and caring to help us discover ways of touching people's lives for Christ and so break down barriers. (In 2013 these aims were reviewed and it was decided that they remain.) Caring for members outside of the morning program has always been a big part of the Activity Centre. Cards are sent to people for various reasons which was started in 1994. Absences are followed up and even this week we have been checking on a frail member who is not well enough to attend any more, to make sure she is receiving the care she needs for her present state of health. The original program consisted of 3 different physical activities viz. 1. Power walk 2. Walk &Talk 3. Aerobics or Jazz ballet. Also offered 1.Tapestry 2. Crochet 3. Embroidery The groups would come together for morning tea.

Children were welcome and played near activities. This program quickly expanded to include more people's interests so more church members were needed to use their talents instructing new activities. In 1993 the name was changed to "The Activity Centre" and other activities were offered, being Calligraphy, Art and French classes which commenced in 1994, ably taught by Bill Bryant for 25 years. Over the past 32 years so many different activities have been offered, 163 in the first 20 years. A Creative writing group was established each week in 2006 under the guidance of Jan Watts. Nine books were published including "The History of St Lukes", 200 copies being printed. Another successful group has been "The Book Club" which was started by Daphne Turton in 2010 and now led by Helen Propert. To date the group has studied 97 books. In the early years different activities were offered every week. The first programs were printed by Neville Clifton as the church did not have office staff. By 1998 the permanent groups were carpet bowls, croquet, various crafts, French and walks. In 1993 Graham Thirkettle organised a group of men to help build a croquet court to be used by Narla village and The Activity Centre. One of the men made 2 sets of mallets. It proved to be a very popular activity, many people playing twice a week. The weekly program has evolved according to the interests of those attending and changes in society over the years. Craft has lost its appeal, discussion and topics for speakers very different in an ever changing world. Technology is so different as well as the affect Covid had on attendance. The program that has been successful over the last few years is board games (21 different board and 6 outdoor games offered) plus cards (Hand and Foot mostly played) with the option

of attending a 1hr special activity of interest during the morning, being a discussion, talking point or book club on a selected Monday. If there is a 5th Monday a special event is held where all members participate together. At present 36 are regular participants, eleven of them were born overseas and 19 are community members. When the group first started, only the gathering area was used and gradually the church, vestry, Williamson and Laxton halls were all needed to enable the activities to take place. Now with the use of the Community centre the facilities are excellent. The Activity Centre has always been self sufficient financially by receiving grants and members contribute by donation to cover cost of morning tea. The small tables, so well used in the Community Centre, were purchased with a grant to the Activity Centre. In the last 32 years many people have been part of our Monday mornings including visiting speakers on numerous topics and special events where church members have been invited. I would like to thank Win Clifton, who joined the committee a month after the group was first established, Marj. Hicks in 1993, Pam Cummings in 1995 and Pauline Thomson in 1997, who are all still on the committee together with Helen Propert and Lenora Finch, for their commitment. Many other people have served in different capacities on the committee and leading groups and to them I also say thank you for your time and effort. For many years male members set up the tables etc. needed each week. Geoff Brock took over for many years and when he was no longer available Casey Turner has been doing it each week. Thank you to everyone who has supported, prayed for, shown interest and attended either weekly or other functions related to the Activity Centre over the past 32 years.

Jean Thirkettle Co ordinator .

2 **Uniting Church National Assembly Prayer Chain**

Continue to pray for the congregations of Warradale (SA) and St Luke's Uniting Church, Bothwell (Tas).

3 **Unite / All Families—'Soup on Sunday'**

Reaching Out to Everyone in their 30's—60's

Join Cathy & Michael Turner on Sunday 16th June at their home for lunch and a catchup after church. Optional backyard activities to do as well. We may be sitting outside so please bring appropriate clothing. Arrive between 11:30am and noon at the Turner's - 18 Carawa St, Blacksmiths *RSVP to Cathy via text:

0402 432 522 or email:ccjam@bigpond.com

today.



4 **Friendly Foodies**



The Friendly Foodies shared another great meal and a chance to chat with each other last Sunday. I caught up with some people from church I don't often meet and enjoyed a lovely afternoon.

Our next lunch will be at the Gunyah Hotel, at 12 pm

on Sunday, 14 July. Come one, come all!

Alison Cleary

5 **Family Fun Day**

Saturday 7th September 9am—2pm

A huge thankyou to the 19 people that attended the Family Fun Day information session and the 16 others that indicated support of it, but unable to attend the meeting.

After a lot of information, discussion, general input and great ideas, it was decided to go ahead with this community focussed day. In recognition of our reduced capacity we are only planning to have a limited amount of stalls/activities run by St Luke's. The majority of stalls will be provided by the community for a fee per participant.

We understand that any date that was chosen would not suit 100% of our people (but hopefully 99%) - now that you all have the date, please put it in your diaries.

From July onwards there will be lots of info coming out in Together about how you can be involved with the planning, and on the day.

As quoted by our treasurer Greg Anderson at the info session - "Fundraising is essential to keep our doors open. In particular we need contributions from outside the congregation"

Please keep this event in your prayers. Thanks.

Alison Gill



6 Guided Walk

As a result of Winsome Lambkin from Landcare speaking at a recent Fellowship meeting, she will be guiding a walk into Floraville valley on Saturday morning 22nd June. It is a flat walk, but uneven.

If you are interested in joining the group contact Jean Thirkettle on 0418 214 199 for more information.

7 Good News!

St Luke's Quilting Group have been given a grant from Lake Macquarie Council for \$2,000.00 to assist them to buy materials and warm fleece for their quilts.

8 9.45am Communion Preparation Roster

People are needed to be a part of the 9.45am Communion preparation roster. If you are able to take a turn, please write your name on the list on a date that suits you.



(See Genesis 6-8)

07-02-2010

TWO ANTS? YOU HAVE ONLY TWO ANTS?!?
MY WIFE AND I EAT LIKE 100,000 PER
DAY EACH!

1 Samuel 8:4-20, 11:14-15 NIV

So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have."

But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. And the Lord told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will claim as his rights."

Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking him for a king. He said, "This is what the king who will reign over you will claim as his rights: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots. Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and others to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants. He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants. Your male and female servants and the best of your cattle and donkeys he will take for his own use. He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, but the Lord will not answer you in that day." But the people refused to listen to Samuel. "No!" they said. "We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles." Then Samuel said to the people,

"Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingship." So all the people went to Gilgal and made Saul king in the presence of the Lord. There they sacrificed fellowship offerings before the Lord, and Saul and all the Israelites held a great celebration.

Mark 3:20-35 NIV

Jesus Accused by His Family and by Teachers of the Law

Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."

And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons."

So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man's house. Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin." He said this because they were saying, "He has an impure spirit."

Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."

"Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked.

Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."