

# Together



Sunday 10 November 2024

**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](http://www.stlukesbelmont.com.au)

**Email**

[belmontuca@gmail.com](mailto: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 10 November	8.00am	Rev Greg McConnell
	9.45am	Rev Greg McConnell
	5.30pm	Rev Greg McConnell
Sunday 17 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

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### 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 Marilyn and Ron will be catering .

### Lectionary readings for the coming week

1 Sm 1:4-20	1 Sm 2:1-10
Heb 10:11-25	Mk 13:1-8

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**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

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

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### 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 November***

**Activity Centre** meet from 9.30am with Talking Point this week

### ***Tuesday 12 November***

**Quirky Quilters** meet from 10am

### ***Thursday 14 November***

**Thursday Bible Study** meet from 1.30pm

### ***Friday 15 November***

**Playgroup** meet from 10am

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## Just Kids Term 4 dates

November 17

December 1 & 15



## Presbytery Prayer Diary

This diary provides an opportunity to pray each week for congregations in the Presbytery. By praying together, we can encourage one another in mission, as we grow in faith and unity and develop understanding and relationships across the region.

### **This week's Presbytery Prayer Point is The Hunter Presbytery**

The work of the Presbytery is largely carried out by elected volunteers such as Chairperson Rev Greg McConnell, Secretary Jenny Mathieson and Co-treasurers Rick Brownell and David Chegwlidden who work with a number of committees. Staff includes Presbytery Minister Rev Graham Perry, Mission Consultant Rev Dr Rod Pattenden and Administration Officer Ngarie Brown. The Hunter Presbytery covers urban and rural centres as well as coastal holiday destinations. It is a vast and diverse geography with a strong Uniting Church presence and history.

**Prayer:** For the continued development of the Presbytery's strategic plan, and the changes that will bring. We look forward to being a Church more engaged in mission, bringing hope to our communities and life to our members. We uphold our key volunteers and staff, asking that you give them energy and hope in their work, and that they will in turn, inspire and energise our church in this region to know the love of Christ, Amen.

## 1 **Unite / Women - Afternoon Movie & Dinner**

**Attention: all Unite/Women (30's – 60's)**

Are you ready to catch up at our next event on Saturday, 16th November when we enjoy an afternoon movie & dinner?



Here are the details ...

4.45pm: Movie - "Singin In The Rain" Lake Cinema, Boolaroo.  
\$10 cash, per ticket

7pm: Dinner - XS Espresso - Glendale City Centre (formerly Stockland Glendale). Easy parking and great menu, located near Woolworths.

Must book in (8 have so far) ... if you would like to attend, please call Vickie on 4945 1890 by Monday 11/11.

## 2 **Happy birthday!**

Happy birthday to Margaret Guerke who will be celebrating a special birthday on Friday 15th !

## 3 **The Friendly Foodies**

The Friendly Foodies met for a lovely lunch and get together at Windale Bowling Club last month. We had some additional people come along, which was great!

We hope to see more new faces at this month's lunch.

It's on at **Lake Macquarie Tavern** (beside Lake Fair shopping centre at Mount Hutton), at **12pm on Sunday, 17 November.**



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## **St Luke's Quarterly Budget Update for the 2024/24 Financial Year 5th November 2024**

Our finances for the July to September Quarter are going well with a small surplus of \$769 against a predicted deficit of \$2,372.

The positive result is due to:-

- The 2024 Annual Financial Return has been audited by Ian Edenborough.
- Above target donations, rental income and fund raising. For the latter, \$11,883 has been raised for a year against a quarterly target of \$3,750. Many thanks to Alison and everyone involved in fund raising events.
- Offerings are slightly under target with \$29,011 collected towards a target of \$30,004.
- The Grant income for the new air conditioners in the Gathering Area has been received which has "balanced the books."
- Congregational expenses are slightly under budget with \$7,736 spent. This includes our contributions to the Presbytery and Synod of \$4,538.
- Repairs and maintenance costs are also under budget.

### **Property Matters**

- Under insurance obligations, our property assets need to be revalued by an independent valuer. This is a 3 year cycle and the valuation will be undertaken by Marsh Valuations on behalf of UCA. The inspection will take place some time in November.

- During the first quarter of the year Michael Turner and Peter Hudson improved drainage in the area at the rear of the Community Centre. We are very grateful!
- There have been some plumbing repairs associated with the toilets in the Church and a sewage blockage during the Family Fun Day.
- The Community Garden has been reborn thanks to Kylie, Marilyn, Ron and the team of enthusiastic volunteers. David, Kylie's partner has generously offered to slash the perimeter of the fence surrounding the Preschool and will also work across the bush area behind the Church.
- Dave Keast is organising a quote to strengthen the roof cavity for a section of the Manse.

**Greg Anderson**

**Property & Finance Team**



### **5 9.45am Advent Holy Communion Preparation Roster**

If you are able to be part of the roster for preparation of Communion during the Sundays of Advent: 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd December, please write your name on the roster on the date that suits you.



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## St Luke's Fundraising Fortnight

Bunnings, Bennetts Green

Saturday 30th November

**Home Cooking & Homecrafts Stall - inside foyer**

### Home Cooking

Always popular, so the more we can provide, the more we can sell and raise \$\$ for our church.

We have created a list of home-cooking ideas on a whiteboard in the gathering area. This list includes popular items and Christmassy items.

\*If you can make one of more of the 'suggested' items – please put your initials alongside the item(s)

\*If you would like to make something **not on the list**, please write the item and your initials at the bottom in the space provided.

\*Make as few or as many as you would like to/able to - every item is appreciated.

*We are trialling this whiteboard system to hopefully get a good variety of items to sell on the day*

- All home cooking is to be covered or wrapped
- Boxes, trays and cello bags are provided in the gathering area to take if you need them for packaging. Clean, leftover meat trays are also ideal to use.
- No items requiring refrigeration or with fresh cream are permitted by Bunnings (mock cream is ok).



Please drop your home cooking off to the church gathering area on **Friday, 29th November** between 9am and 12noon or between 2pm and 5.30pm.

- Please knock on the office door to see Katy for this.

All pricing will be done at 6pm on this day.

**Help is needed for this combined stall on Sat 30/11** (please see roster provided)

**8:30 -11:30** (includes set-up): **3 people**

**11:30 – 2:30** (includes pack-up of unsold homecrafts) **3 people**

### Homecrafts

**Some of the leftover homecrafts from previous carnivals and the Family Fun Day will be put onto this stall with a focus on useful items and items suitable for Christmas presents. Thank you to Alison Cleary for coordinating this part of the stall.**

And...

**Saturday 7th December**

**Bunnings BBQ - under a gazebo...**

**our 3<sup>rd</sup> one for the year**



**Next week** there will be a sign-up sheet for those who can help in one of roles on the day (morning or afternoon shift).

Any questions on either of these events – please contact Alison Gill  
0435 653 531.

Thanks for your support in the whole church fundraiser.

## 7 Update from the Community Garden

What's in the garden? ...We have celery, herbs of all kinds, corn, shallots, leeks, beans, tomatoes (a lot), spinach, kale, lemons, zucchini's, lettuce, beetroot's, cucumbers and so much more. Some we are harvesting and some ... we are still getting there, however, what a beautiful time of year to grow healthy and vitamin rich food for our community.

Also ... the team has placed a plant stand outside of the Community Centre. Plants have prices on them, however, they are a guideline only. There is a slot at the front left of the stand for money to go in. Our hope is that someone sees something they like (or as a last-minute gift) and buys one.

All proceeds will go towards purchases for the garden such as sugar cane mulch, potting mix for donated plants for the stand, garden beds for the preschool kids etc.



## 8 Christmas Eve Service

A meeting will be held at 11am on Sunday, 17th November to discuss (and start the initial planning of) St Luke's Christmas Eve service.

We would love for people to come along and offer suggestions, ideas etc or just be there in support.

Please let Greg Mc know if you can attend.



## 9 Floraville Walk

The walk through Floraville valley with Landcare volunteer Winsome Lambkin, which was cancelled previously, is now being held on Saturday 16th November at 9.00 am.



Meet in Cul de Sac in Coronet Close, Park Royal estate in Floraville.

Contact Jean Thirkettle if you wish to participate

Mobile: 0418 214 199

## 10 Invitation to an on line Forum

**Jon O'Brien** – the Uniting Social Justice Advocate invites all those interested to zoom into a Forum “ Shaping a Resilient Future – Community Solutions for Climate Adaptation” to find out how you and your community can respond to the changes and impacts of climate change. The guest speaker is Catherine Kerr from Adapt NSW. **Thursday 14th November from 7pm – 8.30pm.** You will need to register. For registration details and zoom link, please contact Jenny Mathieson: 4946 8143 or email: [jennyandray@bigpond.com](mailto:jennyandray@bigpond.com)

# Project Blessing

The Christmas we share the blessing to our community



## 11 Project Blessing 2024

It is that time again, when St Luke's will lovingly make life a little easier for individuals and families in our local area, through the donation of Christmas Hampers.

On the flyer in today's Together is ... "How you can help".

Here is the timeline for the project...

**\*Sunday, 10th November – Sunday, 8th December at 11am -**

Donations of money + suitable hamper items are collected.

**\*Tuesday, 10th December at 7pm** (time to be confirmed) - Packing of hampers by Community team, Mission team and congregational members

**\*Wednesday, 11th December at 10am** - Delivery of hampers to schools and individuals from the Community Centre (Laxton end).

We will once again be approaching our local schools to receive names of families needing a hamper.

If you know of an individual, couple or family that is doing it tough (financial, emotional etc) and would appreciate a hamper, please fill out a nomination slip (provided in the gathering area) and place into the box.

*Thanks, from St Luke's Community and Outreach team*



## REACHING OUT TO OUR COMMUNITY WITH CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

LOCAL FAMILIES (INCL.SCHOOLS) AND INDIVIDUALS

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- **DONATE CASH FOR THE PURCHASE OF ITEMS**
  - **IN AN ENVELOPE, CLEARLY MARKED "PROJECT BLESSING" & CAN BE PUT INTO THE OFFERING BAG.**
  - **GIVE TO JEAN, JENNY OR MARJ**
  - **DIRECTLY CREDITED INTO THE CHURCH BANK ACCOUNT. BSB: 634 634 ACCOUNT: 100028307**
  - **\*ENTER "PB" AS THE REFERENCE**
- **DONATE 'CHRISTMAS' FOOD ITEMS AND PLACE THEM IN THE PROJECT BLESSING BOXES PROVIDED NEAR ENTRY TABLE**
  - **ITEM SUGGESTIONS: CHOCOLATES, SHORTBREAD, LOLLIES, BISCUITS & PUDDINGS**
- **HELP WITH DELIVERING OF HAMPERS TO SCHOOLS**  
**WEDNESDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 10AM**  
**(FROM COMMUNITY CENTRE)**



THIS PROJECT IS BEING CONDUCTED BY ST LUKE'S COMMUNITY AND OUTREACH TEAM. NEED MORE INFORMATION? PLEASE SEE OR CALL ALISON GILL 0435653531

## 12 Annual Elections

### Annual Elections of members of St Luke's Leadership Team and of a St Luke's representative to the Hunter Presbytery meeting.

The annual general meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday 8th December at 9.15am (between the two morning services). Nominations are called for ten elected members of the Leadership Team (Church Council). To be nominated, a person must be a Member or Member in Association of the Uniting Church and either have, or be willing to obtain, a Working With Children Check number. We are in need of new nominations. Those who are current members can be re-nominated if they are prepared to continue. We also need a nomination for a Presbytery representative as Eldrene March has served in this position for a number of years and will be moving away early next year. Presbytery meets four times a year. Nominations close on Sunday 24th November. Nomination forms are available on the back table and are to be returned to the box. Please prayerfully consider making a nomination. Contact Jenny Mathieson for any further information.

## 13 Needed!

### Are you someone who shops in Belmont?

We are looking for someone who would be willing to collect the foil and plastic blister packs from the recycling centre table (in the gathering area) once per month and drop them into a Blooms Chemist in Belmont. There are 2, one in Belmont Citi Centre and one in Belmont Central Shopping Centre.

All other items that we are recycling are taken care of.

# St Luke's Recycling Station

Our recycling station is set up ready for you to collect and bring in your:



- \* **Household Batteries**
- \* **Medicinal Blister Packs (foil or plastic)**
- \* **Soft Plastics (please see laminated sheet near container for details)**
- \* **Aluminium and steel bottle tops**
- \* **Mobile Phones**
- \* **Printer Cartridges.**



PLUS - Return and Earn Recycling - **Eligible glass bottles, plastic bottles and aluminium cans.**

To see if the bottles you have are eligible: have a look on the back of the bottle – in small print, it should tell you if it is eligible for a 10c refund.

Thanks for your support in reducing landfill!





### **Hebrews 9:24-28 NIV**

For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

### **Mark 12:38-44 NIV**

#### **Warning Against the Teachers of the Law**

As he taught, Jesus said, "Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets. They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely."

#### **The Widow's Offering**

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."