

# Together



Sunday 17 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 17 November	8.00am	Rev Greg McConnell
	9.45am	Rev Greg McConnell
	5.30pm	Rev Greg McConnell
Sunday 24 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

---

### 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 Greg McConnell will be giving the message, Alison will be sharing and Greg Anderson and Eldrene will be catering.

### Lectionary readings for the coming week

2 Sm 23:1-7	Ps 132:1-18
Rv 1:4b-8	Jn 18:33-37

---

**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 18 November***

**Activity Centre** meet from 9.30am with Book Club this week

### ***Tuesday 19 November***

**Quirky Quilters** meet from 10am

### ***Thursday 21 November***

**Thursday Bible Study** meet from 1.30pm

### ***Friday 22 November***

**Friday Plus Bible Study** meet from 9.30am

**Playgroup** meet from 10am

---

## **Just Kids Term 4 dates**

November 17  
December 1 & 15



## 1 **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) **today**, Sunday 17 November.

## 2 **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.



## 3 **Friday Plus Bible Study**

Friday Plus Bible study group will meet again on the 22nd November at 9.30 in the gathering area for morning tea. Our sharing, prayer and study time will begin at 10am and finish at 11.30. We will be following Paul and Barnabas's experiences in chapter 14 of Acts as they continue their journey through Asia minor. You will be welcome at any time to join us in these studies. Enquiries to Julie Killeen 0427 505 874 or Jan Kellahan 0424 139 100.

## 4 **Bunnings - Boxing Day**

For over 20 years, Bunnings at Belmont (now Bennetts Green) has been supporting our church by ...

- \* Donating numerous gift cards and items to use for prizes at fundraisers (or to purchase items) and
- \* Donating all the cleaning items and supplies for the community centre when it was built.

This week, we were asked if we could help them out by running a BBQ on Boxing Day.

It is one of the busiest days in the shopping calendar due to Christmas present returns/exchanges, people off work to garden, build etc ... and people spending their gift cards etc ...

So far, we have 6-7 people who are available and willing to help (if we go ahead with this).

Depending on response to this blurb - we will decide if we go ahead and how long we will host the BBQ on the day.

There are various roles in which you can help in so ...

If you have a few hours free on Boxing day, please contact me (Alison) by Monday with your availability on the

number below. Thanks,

Alison Gill 0435 653 531.

Thanks for your support in these whole church fundraisers at Bunnings.



5

## 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 home cooking/homecrafts 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**



TODAY there is a sign-up sheet for those who can help in one of roles on the day (morning or afternoon shift).

As you will see, we already have some names including our team leader for the day, Greg Anderson. Thankyou Greg!

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

Thanks for your support in the whole church fundraiser.

## 6 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.



## 7 Christmas Eve Service Meeting TODAY at 11am!

A meeting will be held **today**, 17th November, at **11am** 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.



## 8 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.



## 9 **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*



## 10 **Unite / All Families**

### **Reaching Out To Everyone in Their 30's—60's**

#### **Saturday 14th - 6pm - Christmas Party at the Gills**

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

Secret Santa: Bring along one present per person (\$5 value, the more interesting the better!). Clearly label present before coming e.g. adult/male, child/female etc. 34 Helen St, Mount Hutton. \*RSVP via text to Alison by 9/12 on 0435 653 531.



## 11 **Hunter Presbytery Invitation**

At the next meeting of the Hunter Presbytery on Tuesday 26th November at 5.30pm at Toronto Uniting Church, there is an open invitation to members of congregations to attend and hear about the Proposal that will be presented to the Synod meeting next year regarding proposed changes to Presbytery boundaries across the Synod and how that will work. If you would like some more information about this please talk to Greg McConnell, Eldrene or Jenny. If you would like to attend the Presbytery meeting, please let Jenny know.

## 12 St Luke's Recycling Station

Thank you to everyone for bringing in their items to the recycling station.

### Did you know?

Once the foil and plastic blister packs are collected from the participating pharmacies, they are transported to the "Pharmacycle's" processing facilities. There, specialised machinery separates the materials. The aluminium is sent to Weston Aluminium in the Hunter Valley NSW, where it is reprocessed into aluminium de-oxidant packs, which are then used in the steelmaking process. The plastic is sent to "Think Fencing" in Portarlington, where it is used to create fencing products such as PVC decking and fencing.

**Return & Earn ...** we have now made almost \$50 from the return and earn items - every 10c counts!

## 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 10:11-25 NIV

Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says:

The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says:

“This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.” Then he adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.” And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.

### **A Call to Persevere in Faith**

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

## Mark 13:1-8 NIV

### **The Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times**

As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!”

“Do you see all these great buildings?” replied Jesus. “Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.”

As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, “Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?”

Jesus said to them: “Watch out that no one deceives you. Many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and will deceive many. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.