

Congregation Reports and News

St Luke's Annual Picnic TODAY 25th March - from 12 noon

All Welcome - Come when you can and go when you must

Where? Barwon Valley Park, Barrabool Road, Belmont (opposite the Riverview Coffee House. Maps available from Pam.

Wet Weather venue - back at St Lukes

What to bring? BYO everything; seating, ground rugs, food etc. The Coffee House has good coffee and hamburgers

What is there to do? Take the opportunity to deepen friendships and/or meet someone new. The playground is close by and there are walking and cycling tracks areas for cricket, football or disc golf.

Maundy Thursday - 29th March - 5.30 to 7pm - with light dinner

Come along to join in an all age 'experience' of some of the last events of the days before Jesus was killed. This is a great time of fun and reflection. It is designed to help people of all ages prepare for the highlight of the Christian calendar; Easter. Please wear appropriate footwear so you can join in with the usual welcome to a Palestinian house in the first century - foot washing.

Good Friday Service - 30th March - 9.30am

Easter Sunday (includes Holy Communion) - 1st April - 9.30am

Church Directory, Calendar and Contact information

The Members Area of the St Luke's website is where you will find a list of key church contacts, the monthly roster, and the online calendar showing when the St Luke's Buildings are in use. This area is password protected, email info@stlukesuca.org.au or call the office to have it issued to you. Printed copies of this information can be obtained from the Church Office during open hours. The Church Directory is will be available at the end of March for those who consented to be included.

Lenten Offering 2018

This is an annual event in the life of congregation within the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. In response to God's love for all people and the giving of God's son to the world, an opportunity is provided for people of the church to make sacrificial offering to support important mission work. For 2018 the Lenten Offering will support the following projects:

- **Prevention of Blindness, Vanuatu** - staff, emergency patient transport, freight for essential equipment.
- **Covenanting, Community of Reconciliation** - for a part time indigenous staff member at Narana & provide leadership to pilot a project between the UCA and the Uniting Aboriginal & Islander Christian Congress, building a covenantal community of reconciliation.
- **Youth Engagement, Mt Eliza** - provide a part time youth worker to support the coordination of adventure-based learning programs for at risk young people in the community.
- **Regional Youth Ministry, Launceston Tasmania** - to bolster inclusion, participation through financial help with transport and assistance to attend user-pay activities, courses, accreditation and celebration to support leadership and retain older youth engagement.

The Mission Outreach Team support this 'Lenten Offering' conscious of people's financial situations

Mid-week Congregation celebrates 25 years of worship at St Lukes

In March, the Thursday mid-week congregation celebrated 25 years and in ongoing celebration, the present mid-week worship group have gifted a 'prayer candle cradle' to the wider congregation. Our hope and prayer is that in future years, the candles lit and placed in this 'cradle' will be a vehicle for prayerful reflection.

Requests and Appeals

From Jean Daw



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

More volunteers are needed for Uniting Barwon's Opportunity Shop in Porter Ave, Belmont. It would involve being there at the Op Shop one half day per month. If you are able to help, please call Elizabeth 0342101113.

From Rae Anderson, Mission Outreach Ministry Team

ST LUKE'S PILLOW BANK APRIL APPEAL

Pillow Bank Pledges introduced in 2017 has proved very successful. As we live out St Luke's Mission outreaching to Refugee, Asylum Seekers and other people in need, we provide new pillows. (Under strict health guidelines we can only provide 'new' pillows when needed). April and November are the months when we ask for your support when running these Appeals.

Will you pledge one (1) or two (2) pillows during our **April Pillow Bank Appeal**? \$10 buys 1 pillow, \$20 buys 2 pillows etc

Coming Events

Activity	Date
St Luke's Environment Action Group Next Meeting	26th Mar 7.30pm
Wildfire Chamber Choir - Easter Concert St Mary's Basilica, 136 Yarra Street, Geelong	28th Mar 8pm
Featuring fine Holy Week choral works including new work by Malcolm John OAM; 14 stations of the Cross. Conductor is Rick Prakhoff Adults \$35, Concession \$30 Students free. See www.trybooking.com/TNUY for more details	

Good Friday

'Way of the Cross' - a walk around the City of Geelong by Christian Faith Communities with the Easter Cross.

**30th Mar
10.45am**

Meet at Anam Cara (Hospice) Driveway on Myers Street.

Annual Windfire Music Festival - 10th Year

Mary's Basilica, 136 Yarra Street, Geelong

**4th May
8pm**

Malcolm John & Tom Healy conduct a choir of 200 voices from Geelong churches and community groups supported by Orchestra Geelong. Soloists are Sally Wilson, Lee Abramson and Manfred Pohlenz. All are welcome. Adults \$35, Concession \$30 Students free.

**From Beth Allan, Pastoral Connections****PRISON EASTER BISCUIT BAKE**

A very big thank-you to all who baked biscuits over the past 2 weeks. The response was excellent, and 35 containers of biscuits were delivered to St. Johns, where they were sorted and packed ready for distribution by Prison Fellowship to all inmates of prisons in the greater Geelong area. We were a small part of a large army of biscuit-makers. The biscuit ministry certainly matters. It matters to the inmates who do recognise it as a message of care and concern (they are not forgotten), and it also matters because we get an opportunity to focus each prisoner (no matter how fleetingly) on what Easter is really about. It matters because it reminds us of God's goodness and his faithful provision.

From Jean Daw,

UNITING WORLD EVERYTHING IN COMMON GIFT CARDS

Easter the celebration of new life and new beginnings.

If you're not a fan of chocolate or just looking for an alternative ethical gift this Easter, look no further than the range of Uniting World Everything in Common gift cards. Each card represents a gift that goes directly towards a life-changing project. Buy a gift and dedicate it to a loved one and you'll help create the kind of world we'd all like to be part of this Easter! Cards will be on sale in the hall each Sunday until Easter or contact Jean Daw.



From Rae Anderson, Mission Outreach Ministry Team

TRADING TABLE

Our trading table is in the hall TODAY. It has collectable items for sale as well as food and preserves. Thank you to the many people who have expressed their sadness about the weekly table going into recess after 10 years. (it certainly was a great meeting place before and after worship!) However, all is not lost and you are encouraged to support the permanent trading in the foyer. People are encouraged to pop produce on the table for sale and shoppers can enjoy the new self service check-out.

Prayer points for this week

Prayers of Thanksgiving

- Give thanks for the many activities at St. Luke's that reach out to people with God's love, and for the involvement, energy and commitment of so many people.
- Give thanks for the gift of music, and especially for the choir's offering for Easter.
- Praise God for the opportunity to share the Easter message through worship and witness.
- Give thanks for fire-fighters and all those who helped save lives and property in the recent tragic fires.

Prayers for Others

- Pray for those who have lost homes, livestock and possessions in the fires in western Victoria and Tathra in NSW.
- Pray for people who may be burdened by the idea that they can never do enough to earn God's acceptance and love.
- Pray for the planning and preparation of the Easter services.
- Pray for safety on the roads during the Easter period.
- Pray for those undergoing chemo or radiotherapy.
- Continue to pray for those who are ill, facing surgery, recovering from surgery, frail aged, and those experiencing loss, loneliness, anxiety or depression.
- Pray for those in prison who receive the gift of home-made biscuits from the Christian community as a sign of God's love and forgiveness. May the message of Easter bring them hope and renewal.
- Pray for those who are suffering injustice around the world, and for all those who reach out to offer help. Pray for refugees who face no other option than to flee their homeland.
- Continue to pray for peace in the world.

What's On this coming week

What's on @stlukeschurchgeelong 26th Mar - 1st Apr 2018																		
Men's Shed Tue/Thu 9:30-12:30	Trekkies Fri 9:15am																	
Sunday Worship 9:30am 1st April		Lectionary Readings																
Worship Leader:	Rev Paul Stephens	Zeph 3:14-20																
Welcomer:	J MacRobbie	Ps 114																
Ushers:	H Swan & M Baum, M & M Batson	Rom 6:3-11 Mk16:1-8																
Sound:	I Lawrence	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Weekly Offering & Attendance</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Attendance</td> <td>78+2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Budget</td> <td>\$1,815</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Actual</td> <td>\$1,871</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Difference</td> <td>\$56</td> </tr> <tr> <td>YTD Budget</td> <td>\$19,965</td> </tr> <tr> <td>YTD Actual</td> <td>\$21,574</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Difference</td> <td>\$1,609</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Weekly Offering & Attendance		Attendance	78+2	Budget	\$1,815	Actual	\$1,871	Difference	\$56	YTD Budget	\$19,965	YTD Actual	\$21,574	Difference	\$1,609
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Powerpoint:	M Seller																	
Reader:	B Tattersall																	
Morning tea:	B Murphy & S Crowe																	
Connections:	I Tattersall																	
Drivers:	P Phelan & P Gill																	
Sharing the Journey:	Max Robertson 0439049716																	
Communion	A & F Safarejad & P & M Seller																	
Communion Set up	P Seller																	
Upcoming meetings																		
Mission Outreach	Monday 26th March	St Luke's Hall																
Environmental Gp	Monday 26th March	St Luke's Fellowship																
Coffee & Chat	Wednesday 28th March	Thyme Cafe																

Please note - The weekly bookings calendar is updated and displayed on the noticeboard facing the Sanctuary. Church volunteers can check online or on this noticeboard to see when spaces are available for setup etc.