

Weekly Pew Sheet

The Uniting Church in Australia

St Luke's Congregation, Highton

Sunday 17th March, 2019



Worship Leader: Rev. Paul Stephens

Dreaming Big Sessions 1 - 'The Church and Culture'



Are you new to St Luke's?

If you would like to connect with us, complete a pew card or please let one of the pastoral connections team know (they're the ones wearing a flower on their lapel) so that you can be included in our contact list and invited to join in.

The monthly newsletter, St Luke's Link, is published on the first Sunday of the month. The deadline for submissions is the last Wednesday of the month. Brief, interim notices are published in a single page weekly bulletin, deadline Thursday 9:00 am, and announced prior to services.

e-mail items to news@stlukesuca.org.au

Congregation News

Kinder Pancake Days

Last Tuesday and Wednesday Rev. Paul, Barbara Murphy, Mark and Pam Seller served pancakes to 41 little 4-year old's and their teachers at St. Luke's Kinder. Kinder staff encouraged the children to part with their donation before making choices between maple syrup, lemon & sugar, jam, honey plus rainbow or chocolate sprinkles. 1st round choices were mostly a combined mixture of rainbow AND chocolate sprinkles. For their second-round choice they were a little more adventuresome trying maple syrup or jam & sprinkles. It was a delight as always to serve the children at the Kinder. They contributed \$80.50 to the Uniting Day Fundraiser appeal. Thank you to the parents, children and staff at St. Luke's Kinder.

Midweek Service & Pancakes

Following our March midweek service on Thursday, a special afternoon tea of pancakes was served. There was a wide range of toppings however surprisingly no one asked for sprinkles, even though they held a high profile spot on the table. Thank you to all of those present who contributed \$54.00 towards the 2019 Share appeal. With thanks, Pam

Reminders and Appeals

Lenten Studies: Dreaming Big - where is God calling us now?

Our first whole church Lenten studies for a long time will commence in the week beginning 10th of March. If you or your group would like to explore this 5 week series, email info@stlukesuca.org.au or phone the office on 5244 5227 to register.

The Chapel Room open TODAY Sunday 17th - After Worship

Interested in viewing the work of the Mission Outreach Ministry Team? The room is set up with access for Refugees, Asylum Seekers and others in need. Material items such as bedding, linen, towels, crockery and cutlery are received from generous donations. Do you have any spare saucepans in your cupboard? Please see Rae if you can help.

Prayer Station

During Lent and in the lead up to Easter, remember that our Prayer Station open for reflective and silent prayer. It's open Tuesday and Thursday morning b/w 9:30 & 11.00am. Arrive when you can and leave when you must. See Rae for details

Prayer Requests

Pastoral Connections team would love you to know that if you would like a dedicated group of “pray-ers” to uphold your needs to God in prayer, you can fill out a pew sheet and pass this to Beth Allen or anyone on Connections duty in the foyer (they’re the ones wearing a flower). Confidentiality is respected by the team.

Lenten Devotions for families

Families with children are invited to express their interest in printed copies of the "Illustrated Lent for Families: Reflections on Prayer (2019)" resource. This resource is designed for families to reflect on their lives as a household with children, and includes many activities that children can participate in. If you would like a copy of this resource for your household, please contact Robyn at the church office.

Trading Table - Mission Outreach Ministry Team

Our Sunday trading table is in action again after a couple of families offered produce for sale. Firstly, Joan and Doug donated their plum tree of fruit to be made into jams, preserves and sold as fresh. Followed closely by Val who donates 6 dozen farm fresh eggs each week. This is another great way to raise funds for St Luke’s. We raised \$308.00 during February. For our trading table to continue we ask that from time to time people bring items of food, cakes, biscuits, vegetables and other treasures for sale.

New supplies of Fair-Trade Tea and Coffee products arrived this week. By supporting Fair-Trade you know that farmers in third world countries receive a guaranteed fair price. We sell Fair-Trade at cost price thus aiming to stimulate shoppers towards consistently buying Fair-Trade – whether at St Luke’s or in the marketplace. Rae Anderson – For Mission Outreach.



Easter Biscuit Bake

You are again invited to participate in the Easter Biscuit Bake, to support Prison Fellowship's aim to present every prisoner in Victoria with a pack of 10 home-made biscuits. Each pack of biscuits will contain a card explaining the true message of Easter – of God's love for all, forgiveness and the possibility of new beginnings.

This year there are 1,300 prisoners in the Geelong area, amounting to 13,000 biscuits required! We will be joining with other churches and Christian groups, sharing in this wonderful opportunity to bring a message of hope and compassion. The biscuits will be packed at St. John's, Highton and distributed in the week leading up to Easter. Details:

- All biscuits to be home-made
- please pack in sealed disposable containers such as ice-cream containers with ingredients clearly marked.
- No nuts or peanut butter.
- Please place containers in the box marked Easter Biscuit Bake in the foyer.

LAST SUNDAY TO BRING BISCUITS: 7TH APRIL.

For any enquiries, please ring Beth Allen (Pastoral Connections on 52436874.

You have to be critical and see the world and persons with your own judgment, and Christians must learn to sharpen their distinctive Christian judgement.

*The rich must be critical amid their own surroundings of affluence: why they are wealthy and why next door there are so many poor. A wealthy Christian will find there the beginning of conversion, in a personal questioning:
Why am I rich and all around me so many that hunger?*

Oscar Romero, The Violence of Love (Imaging the Word - Lent 2)

Dreaming Big Lenten Studies - available for all to join!!!

St Luke's is embarking on a journey of discernment this Lent, seeking to understand where God is calling us now.

Below is a timetable of the groups which have formed to undertake the studies - please contact the leaders in order to join a particular group.

<p>Praise and Worship Day: Sunday, 7-9pm Where: Joy Hicks' Home Frequency: Monthly Leader: Barry Tattersall Contact Number: 5244 8585 Commencing: 7th April</p>	<p>Trekkies Day: Friday, 9:15-11:00am Where: Fellowship Room Frequency: Weekly Leader: Paul Stephens Contact Number: 5244 2997 Commenced: 15th March</p>
<p>Day 41 Day: Monday, 10-11:15am Where: Joan Jackson's Home Frequency: Weekly Leader: Bob McLellend/Joan Jackson Contact Number: 5243 2407 Commenced: 11th March</p>	<p>Seekers Day: Wednesday, 7:30-9pm Where: Homes Frequency: Fortnightly Leader: Mark Seller Contact Number: 5243 9575 Commenced: February</p>
<p>Dreaming Big 1 Day: Sunday, 5:30-7:00pm Where: Fellowship Room Frequency: TBC Leader: Ken Anderson Contact Number: 0412 118 554 Commenced: 10th March</p>	<p>Family Friendly Dreaming Big Group Day: Sunday, 4:30-6:30pm Where: Hall Frequency: Weekly Leader: Robyn Hodge/Lloyd Walker Contact Number: 0427 571 453 Commencing: 17th March</p>
<p>SLUGY Day: TBC Where: Paul & Jenny Stephens' Home Frequency: TBC Leader: Paul Stephens Contact Number: 52442997 Commencing: TBC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">If you would like to attend a group, please contact the leader to let them know!</p>

Wider Church News

Common Dreams Conference 11-14 July 2019

Visit Sydney this July for Common Dreams 2019, a conference for advocates of spirituality and social change. Chief among those advocates will be keynote speaker Matthew Fox, exponent of Creation Spirituality, activist and prophetic witness for social, environmental and gender justice.

He will be joined by speakers including Joel McKerrow on *The Poetics of the Sacred Imagination* and Rod Bower on *Common Home and a Just Society*.

Electives range from post colonialism and Aboriginal reconciliation to religious naturalism.

Artists include Heather Price, Rachel Collis, Alex Sangster and the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Choir.

Visit <https://2019.commondreams.org.au> online for more information.

Progressive Christian Network of Victoria (PCNV)

The PCNV invites you to 'Possibilities for the future of Christianity in Australia' with a panel of speakers on March 24th looking ahead 20-30 years to options for the future.

Three speakers in the program offer three 15-20 minute presentations which will be followed by opportunities to explore two option of interest. The presenters are:

- Rev. Dr. Philip Hughes - Spiritual not religious
- Rev. Dr. Coralie Ling - Vive la difference - Friendship models for a future church
- Rev. Dr. David Merrit - Living the wisdom of Jesus in secular society

When: Sunday 24th March - 3:00 to 5:00 pm

Where: Ewing Memorial Centre of Stonnington Uniting Church, Corner of Burke Road and Coppin Streets, Malvern East.

All presenters have been asked to provide a two page summary of their description of future 'churches'. These are intended to made available.

Prayer for the week

With thanks to members of the Trekkies small group for these prayer points

Thanksgiving and Praise

- For Messy Church and its wonderful multicultural nature
- For our English classes and our new teacher Jenny
- For the opportunity to gather and learn and share through our Lenten studies
- For the safe return of the hikers missing at Mt Buffalo and for all who searched for them
- Thanks and praise for our upcoming baptisms, confirmations and ordinations as we celebrate the journeys of discipleship, formation and ministry our people are on - Aphra, Eli, Lillian, Abigail and Kathryn

Prayers for others

- For the new expressions of church we are exploring at St Luke's
- For our Catholic brothers and sisters as they deal with betrayal of trust
- For all churches as we struggle to clearly communicate and share the life giving, transforming grace of Jesus to a community now deeply suspicious of religious institutions
- For members of our faith community who are experiencing ill health and undergoing surgeries - may they be healed and comforted
- For people who share the Christian faith and the bible to people from places who are longing to hear God's message of grace, forgiveness and freedom
- For peace - between families, communities and nations
- For the politicians leading in turbulent times - may they have wisdom and compassion
- For the students participating the school strikes for climate - may the leaders and decisionmakers of today hear and respond to the voices of the leaders of the future
- For Mansour, Azi, Farhad, Amin and their families as they deal with the loss of their wife, sister, aunt and mother
- For the people of Sydney currently enduring unpredictable weather including dangerous hailstones

What's On this coming week

What's on @stlukeschurchgeelong 18th - 24th March 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekend
10am Day 41 Dreaming Big Study Group (Private Home)	9:30-12:00pm Men's Shed Prayer Space Open (Sanctuary)	8-9am Worship & Education Team Meeting (Fellowship Room)	9:30-12:00pm Men's Shed Prayer Space Open (Sanctuary)	9-10am Walking Group (Barwon Edge)	Saturday Tai Chi Level 2 9-10:30am (Hall)
	5:30-7:30pm English Classes (Fellowship Room)	12-4pm Messy Church Gathering (Fellowship Room, Foyer, Kitchen, Sanctuary)		9:15-10:45am Trekkies (Fellowship Hall)	Sunday 9:30am Worship - Baptisms and Confirmations
			4-5pm Choir Practise (Jenny's House)	12:30-3pm Sewing Group & Playgroup	2pm Ordination Service for Kathryn Stoel
					5:30-7pm Dreaming Big Study Group 1 (Fellowship Room)

Sunday Worship 24th March

Worship Leader:

Welcomer:

Ushers:

Sound:

Powerpoint:

Reader:

Morning tea:

Connections:

Driver/s:

Sharing the Journey:

Vestry Prayer:

Flowers:

Rev. Paul Stephens

J Hines

P Gill & I Speare

R Hodge & M Baum

P Phelan

I Pooley

C Findley

A & F Safarnejad

A Lyons

I Petersen

A Lyons

52412353

B McLelland

M Baird

Lectionary Readings

Lent 3

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalm 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

Liturgical Colour: **Purple**