

Bethlehem Morley

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 29 Robinson Rd, Morley

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18th, 2016

Welcome

Worship blessings in Christ as you gather here today to receive God's good things. If you would like to talk further concerning faith in Christ or about the Church, please contact our Pastor or one of our lay-assistants. Visitors are warmly invited to stay after worship for a cuppa with our members, and also to sign our visitor's book in the foyer

Worship:

Sundays at 9.30am

Sunday School at 9:45am fortnightly
in term time

ON TODAY

Contact Details

Pastor:- Pastor Matthew Bishop

Email: matthew.bishop@lca.org.au

Office Phone: 9276 7668



**LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
OF AUSTRALIA

where love comes to life

Our Mission

Being fed with the grace of the Triune God through His Word and Sacraments, Bethlehem Lutheran Church is called to share this Bread of Life with the spiritually hungry of our community

Entry Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7,17-19

Leader: *Listen to us, O Shepherd of Israel; hear us, leader of your flock. Seated on your throne above the winged creatures,*

People: *Reveal yourself to the tribes of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh. Show us your strength; come and save us!*

Bring us back, O God! Show us your mercy, and we will be saved! How much longer, Lord God Almighty, will you be angry with your people's prayers?

You have given us sorrow to eat, a large cup of tears to drink.

You let the surrounding nations fight over our land; our enemies insult us.

Bring us back, Almighty God! Show us your mercy, and we will be saved!

Preserve and protect the people you have chosen, the nation you made so strong.

We will never turn away from you again; keep us alive, and we will praise you.

Bring us back, Lord God Almighty. Show us your mercy, and we will be saved.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray for God to be with us.

Thank you, loving heavenly Father, for coming with power to the Virgin Mary and making her the mother of our Lord. Come to us with your Holy Spirit, so that we receive your saving word and rejoice in our Saviour. For he lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 7:10-16

A virgin will conceive

Romans 1:1-7

*Jesus, son of David,
Son of God*

Matthew 1:18-25

God's call to Joseph





Sleep for action: Being the fourth week of advent (already) it means we are getting close to celebrating the birth of Christ. Our gospel and sermon text today brings us up to the final stages of the time before Jesus' birth where his earthly father Joseph receives some angelic Godly guidance in a dream. Upon his waking there is much action. This text has much to appreciate:

another example of the unprecedented level of angelic activity around the time of Jesus' birth; what it is to be righteous as Joseph is (Matthew 1:19); and how God's definition of righteousness (Matthew 1:20) will challenge ours. But also sitting within this account is the way grace and response work together. What a great text in which to thank God through his Son for the gift of his righteousness, and to reflect on the difference that makes in our lives.

Confirmation today: We thank God for the Holy Spirit's teaching of Lucinda Ridgway and Alex Osborne in which they have grown in faith and been prepared for greater responsibility and service within the Lutheran Church of Australia. Their confirmation instruction has included accelerated teaching outside of our usual confirmation class which is due to finish after Easter - hence clearing the way for confirmation today. Please keep Lucinda and Alex in your prayers.

God's blessed farewell: Today we farewell the Ridgway Osborne family. The history of God's people has often been one of movement as they follow his callings in life and vocation (Deuteronomy 26:5) ... and so it continues. We pray God's richest blessing and abundant assistance in this time of transition for Nigel, Lucinda, Alex and Charlotte. And we thank God for the deep commitment and strong support of our congregation over the time they have been here. 'The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forever more' (Psalm 121:8).

Matthew chapters 5-9: Last week you were all challenged to read what Jesus said and did in Matthew 5-9 as we too join with John the Baptist and ask of Christ, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" (Matthew 11:2). What did you find? Where was Jesus different to what you expected? What questions do you have? Drop me a line or chat to me about it.

Pastor's pen cont....

Latest newsletters: In the narthex (foyer) you will find the latest newsletter from the LCA's Central Australia Finke River Mission (it contains many inspiring stories, especially concerning the growth of faith in young people; there are copies for you to take) and the *Right to Life Association of Western Australia* (just one copy - it will stay on the noticeboard until 8/01/17).

Letterbox drop: Bethlehem will be dropping a Christmas greeting into our local households early this week. Apart from wishing a blessed Christmas and containing a short Gospel message, it also invites our neighbourhood to our Christmas, New Year and January services and gives the service times. Thanks to St Michael's Hahndorf for the design help and to Mike Yurisich for the printing. ***If you can help with some 'letter boxing'*** please see Pastor Matt or a lay-assistant. Examples of the flyer are on the noticeboard.

New Year's Day: Being a Sunday there will be a service as usual on New Years Day, and at the usual time of 9:30am. What a great way to greet the new calendar year! There will not be a service New Year's Eve, but I am open to conducting one in the future should Bethlehem members and friends desire to worship God at this time.

Prayers for Christmas Services at Bethlehem: Please keep all involved in our Christmas services in your prayers - including our children, their teachers, our musicians, pastor, overhead operators, ushers, cleaners, members, friends and visitors. 'And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus' (Philippians 4:19)

Australian Lutheran World Service's 2016 Christmas Action Appeal focuses on a range of education support and welfare initiatives in PNG conducted by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of PNG. Brochures and details on how to give are in the narthex.



Gabriel Visits Mary

Matthew 1:18-25



God sent the angel Gabriel to visit a young woman named Mary in the city of Nazareth.

Use this chart to decode the message below.

<u>A</u> 5	<u>B</u> 13	<u>C</u> 24	<u>D</u> 1	<u>E</u> 4	<u>F</u> 18	<u>G</u> 2	<u>H</u> 12
<u>I</u> 14	<u>J</u> 11	<u>K</u> 15	<u>L</u> 17	<u>M</u> 10	<u>N</u> 6	<u>O</u> 25	<u>P</u> 23
	<u>Q</u> 16	<u>R</u> 9	<u>S</u> 7	<u>T</u> 26	<u>U</u> 20	<u>V</u> 19	
		<u>W</u> 8	<u>X</u> 21	<u>Y</u> 3	<u>Z</u> 22		

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Calvary Kids Pages



LLL Interest Rate:

The interest rate on savings accounts will be 2.5% from 1st December 2016.

Bassendean Church of Christ in Association
with the Town of Bassendean presents

Carols by

FREE
FAMILY
EVENT

Candlelight

2016 

7.30pm , Sunday

December 18th 2016

NEW
VENUE

Steel Blue Oval, Bassendean

Main entrance at Rosetta Gates
on Old Perth Road
Parking available at the Oval

Featuring:

- Combined Districts Concert Band
- Southern Cross Bush Band
- Puppets
- Choirs performing

Programs, candles, soft-drinks,
ice-creams, hot food, tea,
coffee & cake available

Proudly supported
by the Town of Bassendean

This is a smoke free, alcohol free and pet free event.



JAN CAMP

LYWA Jan Camp is fun! This year's camp will be held from Friday 27 to Monday 30 January at Alfred Hines Seaside Camp (1 Hymus St. Rockingham). If LYWA has not already contacted you or your child, email Pastor Matt for a registration form which includes further details. If registering before Christmas the rate is only \$85. Moreover, don't let finances prevent your child's attendance - let Pastor Matt or one of the LYWA committee know if some help is needed to make this important time of faith development and encouragement possible.



Prayer Points



- .. Thanksgiving for the grace of Christ through which he enacted the miracle of Christ's incarnation (Matthew 1:20-21)
- .. For hearts to serve Christ in obedience (Matthew 1:24-25; 2:14; 2:21)
- .. That God will touch conscience of all our leaders so that goodness prospers (Micah 6:8)
- .. Thanksgiving for all who protect us from trouble and adversity, and grace for our emergency services over the Christmas season (Psalm 28:9).
- .. That all families and friends and associates would be bound together in mutual affection (Gal 6:2)
- .. That our neighbourhood would feel welcome at Bethlehem this Christmas and experience God's gracious hospitality (Matthew 1:21).
- .. For all practicing and preparing for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services (Luke 2:17).
- .. That all who are ill, dying, grieving, suffering, struggling, lonely and feeling flat, including those in our own congregation, would receive God's joy to lift their spirits and know of his love (Phil 4:4-7)
- .. Prayers for today's confirmees Lucinda Ridgway and Alex Osborne will be offered during the rite of confirmation.
- .. Prayers for the Ridgway Osborne family as they move to Adelaide over the summer will be offered during a rite of farewell.

Please remember in your prayers this week:

- .. **Those dealing with health issues:** Elfrida Kaszanski and her son Bruce, Lisa Sitarz, Jutta Chrulew, Carmen Lawson, Roslyn Zadow and Tristram Van Rooyen.
- .. **Those facing challenging circumstances:** Margaret and Ernst Klenner, Amalia Chrulew and family, Roslyn, Lois and Jye, Carmen's daughter Rihi and family, and Joanna Arkoi

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Monday 19th	Isaiah 9:2-7
Tuesday 20th	Isaiah 62:6-12
Wednesday 21st	Isaiah 40:1-14
Thursday 22nd	Isaiah 40:15-31
Friday 23rd	Isaiah 41:1-16
Saturday 24th	Psalms 148

JESUS
THE
STAR
OF
CHRISTMAS

Questions about attending Holy Communion in the Lutheran Church?

'Holy Communion is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ given with bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us Christians to eat and drink.'

Come to this sacrament:

- as a sinner who wants God's forgiveness;
- as a baptised believer who trusts that Jesus died for the forgiveness of sin;
- as a guest who humbly accepts what Jesus gives — his true body and blood with the bread and wine ;
- as a witness who gladly joins in this public confession of the death of Christ.

Should you not wish to receive Holy Communion, you may remain in your pew or come to the altar to receive a blessing - crossing your arms to signify your intention.

COMING UP OVER THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

Sunday 18th 9:30am Bethlehem Worship

Christmas Services at Bethlehem

Sat 24th Dec, Christmas Eve—7:00pm

Family Christmas Program

Sun 25th Dec, Christmas Day—9:30am

Christmas Liturgy with Lord's Supper



2017

Sunday 1st 9:30am Bethlehem Worship

Bookings: Visit us on the Web at www.morley.wa.lca.org.au or email us at bookings@morley.wa.lca.org.au

WORSHIP SERVICE – NEXT WEEK

Christmas Day— December 25th, (White)

Readings: Is 62:6-12, Titus 3:4-7 and Luke 2:8-20

Flowers: Roslyn

Cleaners: Styants Family

All Items for the "Bethlehem Bulletin", please email to Lorraine (lschutz99@gmail.com) by Wednesday afternoon.