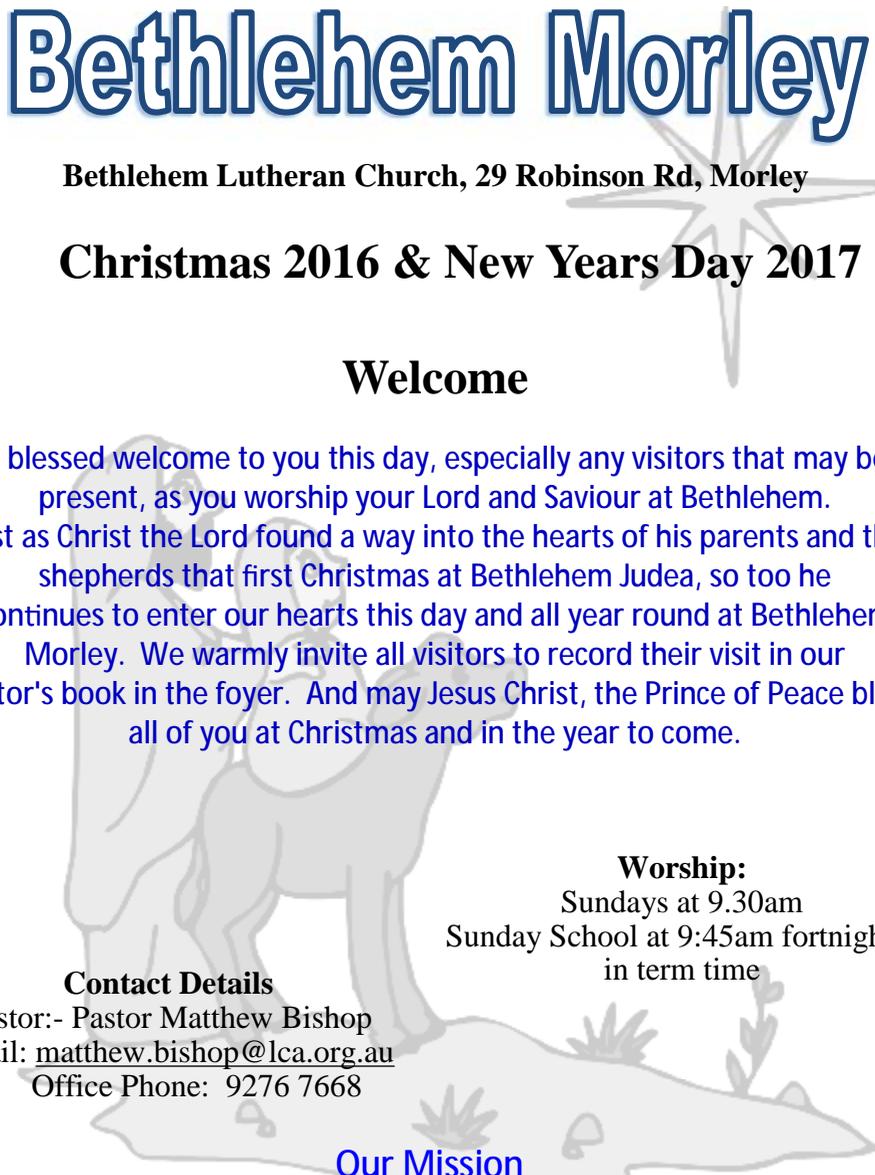


Bethlehem Morley



Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 29 Robinson Rd, Morley

Christmas 2016 & New Years Day 2017

Welcome

A blessed welcome to you this day, especially any visitors that may be present, as you worship your Lord and Saviour at Bethlehem. Just as Christ the Lord found a way into the hearts of his parents and the shepherds that first Christmas at Bethlehem Judea, so too he continues to enter our hearts this day and all year round at Bethlehem Morley. We warmly invite all visitors to record their visit in our visitor's book in the foyer. And may Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace bless all of you at Christmas and in the year to come.

Worship:

Sundays at 9.30am

Sunday School at 9:45am fortnightly
in term time

Contact Details

Pastor:- Pastor Matthew Bishop

Email: matthew.bishop@lca.org.au

Office Phone: 9276 7668

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

As this bulletin covers several services, please retain



**LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
OF AUSTRALIA

where love comes to life

Christmas Eve

Responsive Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Leader: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

People: on those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned.

You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;
**they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.**

For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them,

the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning,

will be fuel for the fire.

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.*

And he will be called:

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,

establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Epistle reading: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel Reading: To be given through the children's telling of the Nativity story - Luke 1-2, Matthew 2, various verses and paraphrases.

Prayer points: Tonight's prayer will be a call for the peace of the Christ child to be in the hearts of all - from each person to every nation and their leaders

For our Christmas Eve service tonight thanks be to God for:

Nativity play: The Bethlehem Sunday School, led by Mrs Elissa Farr, Mrs Carol Schmeiss, Mrs Yvonne Giersch

Nativity play script: Scripture chosen and paraphrased by Mrs Elissa Farr with Pastor Matt

Musicians: Mrs Kath Kowald, Mrs Melissa Bishop, Mr Mike Yurisich, Mr Luke Kroeger

Set up: Mr Mike Yurisich, Mrs Susan Kroeger, Pastor Matt Bishop

Sound: Mr Mike Yurisich

From Heaven above to earth I come

The song of the angels to the shepherds was the first song of Christmas. Ever since then, many beautiful carols have been written and sung telling the good news about which the angels sang. Martin Luther also has given the Christian Church one of its favourite Christmas hymns: "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come".

The story goes that Christmas Eve 1534, Martin Luther was at home with his children studying his sermon for Christmas Day. As he rocked the cradle of his baby son, the words of the Christmas angel went through his mind: "Be not afraid . . . I bring you good news . . . to you is born a Saviour ... Glory to God in the highest". The steady rhythm of the rocking cradle and the words of the angel moved Luther to write a beautiful Christmas carol for his children - "**FROM HEAVEN ABOVE TO EARTH I COME**". (This intro abridged and taken from the LCA Worship planning page).



- 1 *From heaven above to earth I come.
I have good news for everyone.
This story that I come to bring
is wonderful, and makes me sing:*
- 2 *To you this night a child is born,
a chosen virgin's little son.
This tiny helpless baby boy
will be your great delight and joy.*
- 3 *This is the Christ, our God most high,
who hears your sad and troubled cry;
for he will be your Saviour here,
to set you free from sin and fear.*
- 4 *Let's look inside this cattle shed.
Who lies there in that manger-bed?
Who is that lovely little one?
The baby Jesus, God's dear Son.*
- 5 *We welcome you, O noble Guest!
Through you our sinful world is blest.
And my poor life you enter, too:
how can I give my thanks to you?*
- 6 *For you, O Lord, created all,
and yet you have become so small
that you lie in a cattle shed
on straw, where cows and donkeys fed.*
- 7 *Ah, dearest Jesus, little one,
prepare a bed to lie upon,
a soft clean bed within my heart,
that you and I may never part.*
- 8 *For joy, then, let me jump and sing
and join the praise the angels bring,
the only fitting lullaby,
the sweetest song they sang on high:*
- 9 *'Glory to God on his high throne
for he has given us his Son!
And so the angels bring us cheer,
to everyone a glad new year.*

*Vom Himmel hoch da komm ich her
Martin Luther 1483-1546 tr David Schubert*

Christmas Day

Entry Psalm: Psalm 97

Leader: The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice.

People: Clouds and thick darkness surround him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

Fire goes before him and consumes his foes on every side.

His lightning lights up the world; the earth sees and trembles.

The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth.

The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory.

All who worship images are put to shame, those who boast in idols— worship him, all you gods!

Zion hears and rejoices and the villages of Judah are glad because of your judgments, O LORD.

For you, O LORD, are the Most High over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

Let those who love the LORD hate evil, for he guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

Light is shed upon the righteous and joy on the upright in heart.

Rejoice in the LORD, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray that we shine as lights in the world.

Thank you, loving Father, for filling the world with the new light of your Word who became a human being. Keep the flame of faith and love burning in our hearts and shining in our lives.

For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 62:6-12 Your Saviour comes

Titus 3:4-7 Saved by God's love

Luke 2: 8-20 The shepherds hear the good news of the birth of Christ

Prayer Points—Christmas Day



- “ Thankfulness for the birth of Jesus and the promises made through him (John 1:14)
- “ That each one of us would rejoice in his promise that whomever believes in him will not die but have eternal life (John 11:25-26)
- “ That the whole world may come to worship and love Jesus Christ the prince of peace (Luke 2:17-28/ Isaiah 9:6), thereby penetrating the darkness 'that has not understood' God's light (John 1:5)
- “ Grace for all our emergency services and those who protect us from trouble and adversity (28:9)
- “ That we might keep all pleasure in earthly gifts in proper balance with the wonder of the gift of Jesus (Luke 12:15)
- “ That God would look with and use his church to deliver compassion to all in need this day (Mark 6:34)..... the hungry, poor, lonely, forsaken, sick, troubled, grieving and dying... .. and help them remember he is the deliverer of all in need (Psalm 18:2)

Please remember in your prayers this week

- “ **Those dealing with health issues.** Gabbi Bishop, Elfreida Kaszanski and her son Bruce, Lisa Sitarz, Jutta Chrulew, Carmen Lawson, Roslyn Zadow and Tristram Van Rooyen.
- “ **Those facing challenging circumstances.** Bishop Family, Margaret and Ernst Klenner, Amalia Chrulew and family, Roslyn, Lois and Jye,

JESUS
THE
STAR
OF
CHRISTMAS

New Years Day

Entry Psalm: Psalm 8

Leader: *LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

People: **You have set your glory in the heavens.**

Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?

You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honour.

You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet:

all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild,

the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, heavenly Father, you have given your dear Son for our salvation. Help us to begin the new year in the name of Jesus, and praise you, our Father, in all that we do. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Numbers 6:22-27

The priestly blessing

Galatians 4:4-7

God's son, born of woman under the law.

Luke 2:15-21

The naming and circumcision of Jesus

Prayer Points—New Years Day

- .. Thanksgiving for the blessing of God by which he causes his face to shine upon us (Numbers 6:22-27)
- .. Praise for Jesus who saves, as his name says he will (Matthew 1:21)
- .. For God's help that we may keep holy the name of Jesus (Matthew 6:9)
- .. Thanksgiving for God's blessing upon his creation this past year (1Tim 4:4-5)
- .. For God's blessing upon the rest, toil, service, worship and love of the year ahead (Numbers 6:22-27)
- .. That the Lord would bless us with local, national and global leaders who seek his will and govern for peace (1 Tim 2:1-3)
- .. For all missionaries, especially those serving in remote or difficult places including Hannah Schulz and Michael Hauser
- .. For God's protection and redemption of the innocent, suffering, dying, recovering, addicted and angry (Ps 46:1)



Please remember in your prayers this week

- .. **Those dealing with health issues.** Gabbi Bishop, Elfrieda Kaszanski and her son Bruce, Lisa Sitarz, Jutta Chrulew, Carmen Lawson, Roslyn Zadow and Tristram Van Rooyen.
- .. **Those facing challenging circumstances.** Bishop Family, Margaret and Ernst Klenner, Amalia Chrulew and family, Roslyn, Lois and Jye



Christmas 2016



*Joint letter from the Chairman and Pastor,
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Morley*

*'Taste and see that the Lord is good;
Blessed is the one who takes refuge in him'*

Psalm 34:8.

Dear members and friends,

Much has happened over the past year at Bethlehem. As the end of the year approaches, it seems right to reflect on the Lord's blessings past and present (Psalm 118:1) and indicate a little of where it seems Council and congregation have discerned God is directing us.

In January Pastor Matt and his family arrived to take up residence in the newly renovated manse. The manse renovation was a huge project, which has set us up well for the future. Pastor Matt was installed on 7 February. Word is the Bishop family are 'mostly' settled, and are extremely grateful for the 'as new' manse!!!

Easter was a wonderful time of drawing near to God, including through our Ash Wednesday, mid week Lenten and Maundy Thursday services. Over October and November we had a number of special services. These included celebrating 50 years of the Lutheran Church of Australia, commemorating 499 years since the reformation commenced, hosting the renowned Bridge Children's Choir (which practise at Bethlehem each Saturday afternoon) and holding a special Advent Tea.

Since mid year God graciously built on the work Bethlehem Community Care continues to do by leading us to help at a weekly Breakfast at Hampton High. Bethlehem's donations of labour, goods and money have helped make it a success. Our Ladies Fellowship has continued their monthly meetings, supporting a number of worthy mission projects along the way.

Teaching the faith to our young people has been a high priority. Sunday School has continued each fortnight and has seen strong attendance. Among the many highlights was the special bulb garden planted on Easter Sunday that reminded our children of new life as the plants gradually sprouted and flowered. 10 young people completed 'Step up to Communion' in June and a confirmation class of 8 students and their parents/carers has been running since September. A LYWA young adults Bible study was conducted each fortnight at Bethlehem. A good number of Bethlehem youth attended the LYWA YAC camp mid year (with Bethlehem supplying the pastor and the catering). And two of our youth won the LCA-wide national competition to tell their congregation's history. Check out their winning entry on Bethlehem's webpage (see address below).

Some people can't get enough stats! God has blessed us through average weekly worship attendance growing from 42 in 2015 to over 60 in 2016. There have been two baptisms, two confirmations and, along with the many new and returning friends we regularly see at worship, four new families formally joined Bethlehem. We thank God that year to date we are also more than meeting our budget, such is the response of Bethlehem's attendees to what God has first generously given us. And on a similar theme, we keep praising God for our new Roland digital piano that he blessed us with in April through an anonymous gift... indeed: '*Shout for joy to the Lord all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music!*' (Psalm 98:4).

You might have noticed a few visual changes. For example, a cross on the south elevation of the church, a more streamlined foyer and freshly painted toilets. This is all part of planned wider improvements over 2017 and beyond to key ministry areas, including our children's and outdoor fellowship facilities (see separate bulletin notice).

Just as with Christ's glory this side of his return, the greatest blessing has been in what is unseen: the regular feeding of his saints here at Bethlehem in Word and Sacrament. Going hand in hand is the associated care and love of each other in response. And to this end, Bethlehem's seven lay-assistants and pastor have recently commenced systematically praying for each person in our congregation.

We thank the many who have done so much for Bethlehem this year all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. God-willing, the year ahead offers much opportunity to deepen our study of God's Word, enjoy his gift of each other and serve our wider community with his love and peace.

We invite you to contact us should you desire more information about Bethlehem or your participation in this little corner of God's kingdom.

A blessed Christmas to you all, for:

'A Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord' (Luke 2:11).

To God be the Glory,

Fred Styants
Chairman

Rev Matthew Bishop
Pastor

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Morley
9276 7668

matt.bishop@lca.org.au
morley.wa.lca.org.au



Christmas Eve message - Luke 2:1-14.

Inn's and angels: I've always found the Christmas Story a lot easier to stomach than Easter, especially Good Friday. Indeed, it surprised me some years ago when at a Bible Study a friend nominated being at the piercing of Jesus' side during his crucifixion as the moment in the Bible he most wanted to travel back in time

to. I thought that at least macabre! (I'd nominated the wedding at Cana... no guesses why!) Yet as we hear from Luke's account of Jesus birth this evening, we see some really big pointers to that big weekend on Calvary's cross many years later. It's for freedom from sin that Christ was born. Let's keep that in mind the whole year through...

Christmas Day message (Luke 2:14):

Glorify to God! It's easy to sing and say, but harder to do, or is it? Today, we will look at what it is in the angel's song, that brings the Gospel to life in us and teaches us for life in Christ.

New years day message: Numbers 6:22-27:

What's in a number? The book of Numbers in the Old Testament is mostly about... well numbers! Censuses, procedures and instructions abound. Sounds a bit bland doesn't it, although maybe not if you are a public servant! (Actually, with talking donkeys, water from the rock and the Bronze Snake it certainly delivers more than just figures!) Yet surprisingly, it's also arguably one of the most quoted books each week in our services - at least when we use the famous end of service 'Blessing' that starts with the words '**The Lord bless you and keep you...**' (Num 6:24). For amongst Israel's national stats and accounting is this beautiful life-giving and protecting word directly from the Lord.... a word directly from Christ the high Priest that continues to serve us each time he serves us with these words at Bethlehem.

Cont over page.....



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 notice board until 8/01/17).

Also available, is the latest edition of **Border Crossings**, which is the newsletter of LCA International Mission (see the story on page 6 about Mick Hauser who we supported during Lent this year), and *VoxLink*, which is the Newsletter of **Family Voice Australia** (both will be up until 15 January 2017).

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 and January Services at Bethlehem: Please keep all involved in our Christmas and January services in your prayers as relevant - 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.

Office hours between Christmas and New Year: Like a lot of the rest of the country, I'll enjoy some of the statutory public holidays at this time as well as my usual Tuesday recoup day, but be back in the office Thursday 29 December and taking the Lord's Supper Divine Service New Years Day. As usual, I am contactable for pastoral emergencies throughout this week.

Special thanks for their help throughout the year to Ms Lorraine Schutz with the bulletin and Mr Phil Schmeiss and Mrs Christa Kempin for the worship slides



Bethlehem Ministry Facilities Improvement Project update

'O Lord, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells' (Psalm 26:8)

In early December the congregation agreed to commence a range of works to improve the ministry facilities at Bethlehem. Some, such as painting the toilets and grinding the stump near the office, have already been completed or are close to completion.

The scope of agreed works prioritise:

- .. *improved safety for children and access to the office (including better fencing and gates);*
- .. *enhanced children's ministry facilities (including an all-seasons outdoor learning area);*
- .. *improvements to facilitate better fellowship in the shared area*
- .. *between the manse and church (including a door directly to the outside from within the church, a shade sail and outdoor seating);*
- .. *essential plumbing; and*
- .. *improvements to external appearance, including church information signage on Robinson Road.*

Pictures of the proposed ministry facility improvements are in the foyer. Moreover, a full scope of works is on the Notice Board with indicative costings (in total \$35,900). Work will be completed as funding allows.

To date, some **\$6,750** has been given/pledged, which gets us well into stage 2.

Donations to this project, the Bethlehem Ministry Facilities Improvement Project, can be made directly to a specially set-aside account at the LLL, either by direct debit LLL: BSB: 704-942 Account: 100049125 (Morley Bethlehem Lutheran Church), or through accessing the online link to the same account at <https://donation.lca.org.au/project?id=P35074>

Questions? Speak with Mike Yurisich or Amanda Gargett of the Property Committee, Chairman Fred Styants, Pastor Matt or a council member.

Thank you for your consideration.

Proposed shared area improvements



God of grace and mercy
Looked down from up above
To see a world in chaos
Without hope and love
He saw the only way
Is to send His precious son
To be born of a woman
Bringing hope to everyone
He came into the world
Just a babe in swaddling cloth
Who one day grew to be
The saviour of the lost



The Birth of Jesus

Luke Chapters 1 and 2

Answer the questions below, then find the answers in the puzzle.

S	F	A	W	B	C	Y	I	J	O	K
H	A	S	I	X	N	P	S	O	D	T
E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	G	L
P	Y	M	Y	U	M	C	H	N	Q	U
H	T	E	J	G	A	B	R	I	E	L
E	D	O	E	U	R	K	E	R	T	D
R	Z	N	D	S	Y	R	E	L	S	N
D	K	B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M
S	Y	O	R	U	P	R	H	S	N	M
R	G	J	O	S	E	P	H	O	T	A

1. The people living in the fields nearby, watching their flocks. (Luke 2:8)
2. Jesus' mother. (Luke 2:5-7)
3. The angel who brought messages from God. (Luke 1:19&26)
4. The wife of Zechariah the priest. (Luke 1:13)
5. The caesar that issued a decree that a census should be taken. (Luke 2:1)
6. A righteous man who was waiting for the consolation of Israel. (Luke 2:25)
7. Zechariah's son, a relative of Jesus. (Luke 1:59-60)
8. The man Jesus' mother was pledged to. (Luke 1:27)
9. How many months did Mary stay with Elizabeth? (Luke 1:56)
10. The town of David where Joseph and Mary went to be counted. (Luke 2:4)



The Lutheran Youth of WA present...

JAN CAMP 2017

**SAME
SAME...
BUT DIFFERENT!**
LUTHERAN 101



WHEN: Friday 27th - Monday 30th of January
(NOTE: PUBLIC HOLIDAY FALLS ON THURSDAY 26th of JAN)

TIMES: 5pm on Friday until 1pm on Monday
DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED ON FRIDAY NIGHT.

WHERE: Alfred Hines Seaside Camp – Map Attached
1 Hymus St (Cnr Esplanade), Rockingham

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.

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

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

Sunday 8th 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

Baptism of Jesus— January 1st, 2017 (White)

Flowers: Roslyn

Cleaners: Zadow Family

First Sunday after Epiphany— January 8th, 2017 (White)

Readings: Isaiah 42:1-9, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17

Flowers: Susan

Cleaners: Zadow Family

All Items for the “Bethlehem Bulletin”, please email to Lorraine (Ischutz99@gmail.com) by Wednesday afternoon.