

Bethlehem Morley

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 29 Robinson Rd, Morley

Third Sunday in Lent February 28th, 2016

Welcome

We warmly welcome all of you here today for our worship. If you would like to talk further about faith in Christ or the Church, please contact our Pastor. After worship you are invited to stay for a cuppa and meet our members or Pastor. Please feel free to write your name and address in the visitor's book

Worship:

Sundays at 9.30am
Sunday School at 9:45am
fortnightly

Contact Details

Pastor:- Pastor Matthew Bishop
Email: matthew.bishop@lca.org.au



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 63:1-8

Leader: *O God, you are my God, and I long for you. My whole being desires you; like a dry, worn-out, and waterless land, my soul is thirsty for you.*

People: Let me see you in the sanctuary; let me see how mighty and glorious you are.

Your constant love is better than life itself, and so I will praise you.

I will give you thanks as long as I live; I will raise my hands to you in prayer.

My soul will feast and be satisfied, and I will sing glad songs of praise to you.

As I lie in bed, I remember you; all night long I think of you, because you have always been my help. In the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

I cling to you, and your hand keeps me safe.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray that we live repentant lives.

Holy and merciful God, we thank you for giving your Son Jesus to die on the cross for us sinners. Turn us away from our sins and back to a life of trust in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 55:1-9

Come to the Lord, who is merciful

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Do not take God's grace for granted

Luke 13:1-9

Repent or die!



Prayer Points

- ◆ Thanksgiving that God is merciful in giving us time and His help to repent and bear the fruits of repentance (Luke 13:8-9)
- ◆ That we may share Jesus' concern that we all people repent lest they perish (Luke 13:5).
- ◆ For the people of Fiji as they grieve their dead, recover from injury and rebuild after the devastation of Cyclone Winston
- ◆ For our Prime Minister Mr Turnbull and our Premier Mr Barnett, and their Cabinets and our Parliaments (1 Tim 2:1-2).
- ◆ For God's direction and grace at the LCA WA District forthcoming pastor's conference at Mundaring 2-4 March, and the mission and ministry conference at Hall's Head, 4-6 March
- ◆ For Rev Dr Steen Olsen and Bishop John Henderson as they present and participate in the WA district pastors and Mission and Ministry conferences
- ◆ That all our members who are sick and in need of healing, or who are dealing with difficult life circumstances, may cling to the Lord and be upheld by his right hand (Psalm 63:18)
- ◆ That all families experiencing grief and difficulty would in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present their requests to God (Phil 4:6-7)

Please specifically remember in your prayers this week:

- ◆ Those dealing with health issues: Hans Hornscheidt, Lisa Sitarz, Selma Hohol, Kalia Nosow, Jutta Chrulew, Klaus Hornscheidt, Lucinda's elderly parent's Joan and Peter
- ◆ For Gibson Yurisich who is having surgery on Thursday March 3rd
- ◆ Those facing challenging circumstances: Margaret and Ernest Klenner, Vickery Family, Amelia Chrulew and family, Elfrida Kaszanski and family, Roslyn, Lois and Jye, Carmen's daughter Rihi and family



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS



Monday 29th	Matthew 15:1-20
Tuesday March 1st	Matthew 15:21-28
Wednesday 2nd	Matthew 15:29-39
Thursday 3rd	Matthew 16:1-12
Friday 4th	Matthew 16:13-20
Saturday 5th	Psalms 32

COMING UP OVER THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

Sunday 28 th	9:30am Bethlehem Worship
March	
Sunday 6 th	9:30am Bethlehem Worship
Wednesday 9 th	7:00pm Mid Week Lenten Devotion
Sunday 13 th	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

Bookings—Other Events		
Sun 28th	February	1-5pm Chinese Methodist Church
Sun 6th	March	1-5pm Chinese Methodist Church
Sun 13th	March	1-5pm Chinese Methodist Church
Sun 20th	March	1-5pm Chinese Methodist Church

WORSHIP SERVICE – NEXT WEEK

Fourth Sunday in Lent — March 6th, (purple)

Readings: (Joshua 5:9-12, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21,
Luke 15:1-3,11b-32)

Flowers: Margrette K
Cleaners: Giersch Family

All Items, etc for the “Bethlehem Bulletin” should be given or emailed to
Pastor Matt by Wednesday afternoon



Holy Week Services

**Maundy Thursday 24th
March —7:00pm**

Good Friday 25th March 9:30am

Easter Sunday 27th March —9:30am



Food Drive



Food Hampers

Stocks are rather low again,  so if anyone can help out it would be greatly appreciated.

Items needed are.. Long life milk, rice, tinned fruit, tuna, processed cheese, tinned veg, tea, coffee, Milo, pasta sauce.

No pasta or tinned tomatoes please!

Thank you, Susan Kroeger





LENTEN TRADITIONS— RUSSIA

Burning scarecrows, eating pancakes, and fist fighting have been Russian traditions for centuries to prepare for Lent. Originally, the weeklong holiday preceding Lent called Maslenitsa (Pancake Week) celebrated the end of winter and the start of spring. When Russia accepted Christianity, the Russian Orthodox Church forbade all pagan rituals. Maslenitsa survived as a holiday however, for the people of Russia to prepare with family in feast and celebration for Lent.

Maslenitsa, derived from the Russian word butter, is celebrated with food. Traditionally foods such as pancakes, cookies, cheesecakes, and omelets which all symbolize the round shape of the sun and warmth are the preferred foods of the tradition.

Each day of the week has significance. On Monday, relatives are received and families build straw scarecrows and dress them with old ladies' clothes. Communities gather for entertainment by public concerts, songs, and performances.

On Tuesday, towns celebrate with outdoor games. Decorated sledges (horse drawn sleds/carriages) are rode for public display and acclaim. On Wednesday, families again gather together to feast on foods and fellowship. Hot tea is drunk from large samovars (elaborately decorated tea kettles) both outdoor and indoor. The following day, men gather for more outdoor games including fistfights, and conquering two-story snow fortresses.

Friday and Saturday are more cordially celebrated as sons-in-law and daughters-in-law greet their families for pancakes. The Maslenitsa celebration comes to an end on Sunday. That Sunday is known as Forgiveness Sunday. On this day, individuals ask each others to forgive them for their past wrong deeds and words. At the conclusion of the day, the straw scarecrows are lit on fire to symbolize the end of the past and a fresh start for the upcoming year.

Christians around the world celebrate Lent six weeks prior to Easter. For most Christians, Lent is a season of soul-searching, reflection, and repentance. Lent is observed Ash Wednesday to Easter by the Roman Catholic, Eastern, and some Protestant churches as a period of penitence and fasting. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, Christians imitate Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days (Matthew 4:1-11).



**God bless you as receive his blessings
in worship today!**

Today's sermon will be based on the Gospel text for this Sunday **Luke 13:1-8**. People often want to read divine judgment into events where bad things happen to 'innocent' people... even where bad things happen to the not so innocent. But here Jesus tells us instead just to focus on what we can know: our need for repentance! He then goes on to explain in the telling of the parable of the unfruitful fig tree that gets given a second chance, that God is merciful... indeed he gives us time and help to repent.

LCA WA District Mission and Ministry Conference, Living Water's Lutheran College, Hall's Head:

Pastor Matt has room for three people in his car on Saturday 5 March. We will leave Bethlehem Morley at 7:15am promptly. We will leave the conference after the final session at 4:30pm (not staying for dinner). Please advise if you wish to get a lift... it would be great to have a strong contingent from Morley present.

Next Sunday 6 March 2016 at Bethlehem Morley is 'business as usual' despite the Mission and Ministry Conference.

Reflecting the length of the recent vacancy at Morley, Pastor Matt has kindly been given leave by Bishop Greg from Sunday worship at the conference in Mandurah, so that he can conduct Divine Service here. See you then!

No mid-week Lenten devotion this week 2 March 2016 due to Pastor's conference. Our next mid-week Lenten devotion will be 9 March 2016. The reading from St Luke's Passion account will cover Luke 22:54-23:25.

The Parable of the Fig Tree

" 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.' "

Luke 13:8-9 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 13:6-9 (NIV).



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

YEARS

DOWN

PLANTED

FERTILIZE

THREE

FIND

USE

DIG

LOOK

VINEYARD

SOIL

PARABLE

LEAVE

MAN

ALONE

TREE

FRUIT

TOLD

FIG

CUT