

Newsletter for Sunday 23rd March 2025

Our Vision:

A dynamic influential Christ-devoted community

Our Mission:

Transforming lives to the way of Christ

Sunday Reading Luke16: 1-15

John Warner will be bringing us the word this morning.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

- Please continue to pray for ongoing healing and God's strength for Robbie, Carol, Gordon, Joy and the Martin family. Pray for the family and friends who lend support at these times. Give thanks for any improvement that is happening.
- Please pray for those known and unknown who are grieving, unwell, distressed and going through difficult times. Pray that they know that God will be with them to uplift them and give them comfort and strength.
- Please pray for the persecuted Christians around the world. They suffer and are tortured and killed for their faith in God. Pray for God's protection over them and that He has them in His hands.

- Please continue to pray for the safety and protection of the SES, Police and the CFS workers and volunteers, who are working to assist in the aftermath of cyclone Alfred. Pray for God's strength and encouragement for the many people who are dealing with this impact on their lives.

- Please continue to pray for our world and our society. Pray for our country and governments (Federal, State and Local). Pray for the world and that God will guide the leaders of the nations that meet to make decisions that will have an impact on us all.

- Continue to pray for our Church and congregation as we support and minister to each other. Give thanks for those who serve our Church in many ways while we are without a minister. Keep continuing to pray for the JNC committee as we continue to wait on God's timing in seeking a minister for our church. Give us patience and give thanks for those in our congregation who faithfully work to provide us with God's teaching.

- Please keep praying for Phil Galley for healing and strength.

Notices

Newsletter: Please let us know of **ANY** news to share with you as a church family so we may rejoice with you or assist in any way we can.

Roster for April, May & June: Will be available Sunday.

St. Johns ladies Fellowship invitation to a one-day retreat on Thursday 29th may. Please read attachment.

Congregational Meeting: Advanced Notice for the congregational meeting to be held after the church service on the 30th of March 2025. There is a notice on the noticeboard. There are positions that are needed to be filled.

Meeting Agenda : Please see attachment.

Regarding the Church Council restructure, Dylan Agnew will address this at the meeting on Sunday 30th March 2025 after the worship service. In the meantime, please give it some thought and pass on any comments or questions to the Church Council members (Trevor Barnett, Cherylie McConnell, Dylan Agnew, Helen Turner, Rod Hoare, Lyn Crosby, Stuart Martyn, Peter Lawrie)

Baptism: Nicholas Mills and Savannah Goddard will be baptized on the 30th of March at 12.30pm at the Naracoorte swimming lake.

All are welcome to celebrate this occasion. Please bring a plate to share and stay for lunch.

Pastoral Care Worker's Fundraiser:

Mwandi and Africa with John and Kerry Probert on Friday the 21st of March at 6.30pm at the Uniting Church.
Cost \$15 per person supper included. Everyone welcome. Enquiries 0457660529

Tenebrae Service:

There will be a **Tenebrae Service** at the Naracoorte Uniting Church on Thursday, 17th April at 7.30pm. Contact – Beth Ortlepp – 0408 849 545

The Purple Box: The Purple Box located at the back of the church is for donations to support mission work. This month it will support the Children of Mwandi OVC project.

Thank You: A big thank you to those who generously share their garden produce with us. It is very much appreciated. As you bless us with your generosity may you also be blessed.



Afternoon Church

We're seeking helpers for creche and sound desk operations. See Luke or Peta to help out once a month

STARTING MAY 18TH 2025

Name Tags and Update Information:

Please wear your name tags. If you need a new name tag or to update your details there is a form on the noticeboard to fill in and slide under the office door. As we have new people and visitors it makes it more friendly to approach and start a chat.

Congregational Events: **Could** you please let us know of any Life Groups, Study Groups, Prayer groups or fellowship gatherings that will be happening in 2025 so a list may be made available. There are members who are unaware of what is available and may really enjoy this outreach.

Prayer & Study Groups: Tuesday Prayer Group 9am

Wednesday study Group 9.45am

Men's Bible Study Group:

Wednesday mornings at 10am, a Bible study is held at 32 Federation Drive. The study will be on the book of Hebrews. All welcome.

Life Groups: Wednesday at 32 Federation Drive at Hoare's, at 3pm.

Wednesday at 7.30pm at Hogarth's. Contact 0417815678 for location.

Church Council: Meets every 2nd Sunday at 1pm

Attachments

Please find attached information for 1} Lessons for Le Chambon course

2} Congregation Meeting, Agenda

4} One Day retreat. Lutheran Church Invite

"Tithe a Tin Pray a Packet": Thank you to the congregation for your ongoing support for this outreach to those in difficult times. Your generosity and care are appreciated.

If you have any spare grocery bags to give to the pantry cupboard it would be gratefully appreciated.

Church Bank Details: Bank SA. BSB: 105-043. Account: 058035640.

Devotional:

If the Lord Wills

James 4:13-15

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit" — yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."

The people that James was addressing were merchants who travelled from town to town selling and trading goods. They presumed upon future times and things which were not in their power. Perhaps they thought they would live forever and had plenty of time. Their focus was entirely on worldly goods with no thought of such things for the glory of God.

"There are two great certainties about things that shall come to pass – one is that God knows, and the other is that we do not know. (Spurgeon)

James asks us to consider the fragility of human life and the fact that we live and move only at the permission of God. Life is a momentary vapour. James does not discourage us from planning and doing, only from planning and doing apart from reliance on God. Yet I hear so many making plans often long term without any reference to God and his kingdom.

Time is short. We should think about the story Jesus told of the rich man who had great plans for a future good life and lost it all when his soul was required of him (Luke12:16-21)

Procrastination, saying "when I get the time or have the money", or "after I have done this" or been there" are some of the many excuses we have for not seeking the kingdom above all else.

Paul knew and lived this principle: *I will return again to you, God willing (Acts 18:21). But I will come to you shortly if the Lord wills (1 Corinthians4:19). I hope to stay a while with you if the Lord permits (1 Corinthians16:7).*

James has already stated (James 4:6) that boasting about what you are going to do is in fact "a wicked, positive sin, and a specimen of ungodly haughtiness of which men should repent." (Moffat)

If we rely on God, including Him in all our plans and seek his kingdom first, we will be richly rewarded and finish our lives with great satisfaction to the glory of God.