



Connections

A Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - Issue 26 – October 2021



Rev. Mark C Hansen

Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church - Noosa

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Mark your
Calendar

Reformation Sunday
9:30am October 31

**Longest Lutheran
Lunch**
12pm October 31

Dedication Service
2pm November 28

**FAMfest
Advent Evening**
5:30pm December 3

Trust God One Day at a Time

(Adapted from Rick Warren)

Read Philippians 4:6-8 (NLT)

I don't know about you, but I am sensing that the world is unravelling a bit at the moment. There are many worries, stresses, anxieties and frustrations on many and different levels, mainly having to do with the pandemic we are in, but there are other things that cause us to worry about the future. Today's reading from Philippians, says, *"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done."* (Philippians 4:6-8 NLT).

This passage teaches four things we can do daily to trust God:

- 1. Worry about nothing.** *"Don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today"* (Matthew 6:34 NLT). Why is worry such a big deal? Because it's not just a bad habit—it's a sin, not trusting God. God keeps his promises, and you can trust that he will take care of you.
- 2. Pray about everything.** Prayer changes things. Romans 8:32 says, *"He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?"* (NIV) God solved your biggest problem—the sin that kept you from heaven—when he sent Jesus to die for you. If God loved you enough to send Jesus to die for you, don't you think he loves you enough to take care of all your other problems?
- 3. Thank God in all things.** No matter what happens, give thanks. The Bible doesn't say, *"For all things, give thanks."* It says, *"In all things, give thanks"* (1 Thessalonians 5:18 GNT). You don't have to be thankful for bad things in your life. You should never be thankful for evil. You don't have to be thankful for cancer or a car accident. But God says that *in* everything you can give thanks. Why? Because you know that God's going to take care of you. You know he's going to meet your needs. You know he's going to help you.
- 4. Think about the right things.** God has given you a list of things to think about—things that are *true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and worthy of praise.* (v 8) Where do you find things that are pure and lovely to think about? You won't find them watching TV or scrolling through social media. You will find pure, lovely, and honorable thoughts in the Word of God. Read it, study it, memorize it, and fill your mind with it. Isaiah 26:3 says, *"You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!"* (NLT).



Don't worry about anything;
instead, pray about everything.
Tell God what you need, and
thank him for all he has done.
PHILIPPIANS 4:6 NLT



gather - grow - send - serve

Complete the Vision

Fundraising Campaign

Our new facilities are coming to a completion! After a long wait and many hurdles, we are now finally at the end of this project. We are excited that these new facilities will help us deliver a balanced ministry of worship, fellowship, discipleship, evangelism, and ministry.

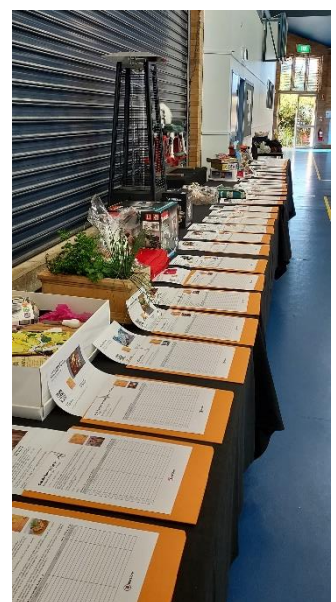
We have had a huge success in raising funds for our interior furniture and features which were off the main budget. The Team's task was to develop all that was required for the interior of the worship space. Over the last 2 years the Team, together with Church Council's support and approvals, have almost completed their tasks, which included;

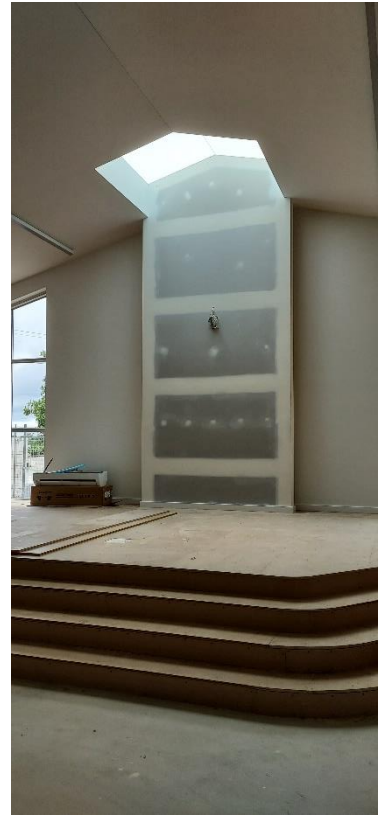
- Working with the architect on the design of the Chancel area.
- Choosing and purchasing 250 chairs
- Selecting carpet and paint colours
- Choosing designs for the Lead-light windows.
- Choosing designs for the Altar, Lectern, Baptism stand & font, 2 small tables, a PA Desk, Ushers' table, the main interior cross, candle holders and candles for the Altar and a Paschal candle, an Altar Bible and stand, and interior front wall battens.

Almost all of these items have been purchased or are being constructed by local Qld or Sunshine Coast businesses and should be completed and installed in time for the opening of the new Worship Centre.

In addition to this work the Team also then initiated and launched the '**Complete the Vision**' Campaign, inviting members and the local Good Shepherd community to help with the cost of the above items, which were not all included in the Building Contract. The Campaign was launched on October 25th, 2020, with the target of raising \$100,000, and will finish when the building is complete.

Due to the generosity of members and friends the amount raised up to the end of August 2021 is **\$55,458.65**. We thank everyone for their support and thank God for being with us and blessing our work. This campaign has been a success and I want to thank everyone for their contributions and financial help in completing the vision of our building campaign. I commend this project to you and ask for your continued prayer, support, and encouragement for all involved.







Dedication and Opening for new 'Worship and Ministry Centre'

Our next step is to start focusing on moving into our new space and preparing it for the Dedication and Opening Service. This will be held on **Sunday, November 28 @ 2pm**. In order to have 100% compacity, we are making this a ticketed event. The tickets are "free", but you need to reserve your seats which will be allocated. We hope everyone who wishes to join us on this day will be able to do so.

The worship time will include a Rite of Blessing from the LCAQD Bishop Mark Vainikka. The planning team is also planning a time of fellowship with an afternoon tea. We are asking that each Good Shepherd member who comes to please bring a plate of afternoon tea, savoury or sweet. The College hospitality department will help in organizing and running the afternoon tea, but we are asking the Congregation to help provide some food. Thank you for your generosity! We are excited to celebrate this milestone in the life of Good Shepherd and to move into the next phase of furthering our mission and ministry of sharing the Gospel of Jesus to our community.



You are invited to attend the

Opening Dedication Service

of GSLC Worship
and Ministry Centre



2pm Sunday November 28, 2021

115 Eumundi Rd, Noosaville Qld, 4566

Please RSVP and reserve tickets at <https://www.trybooking.com/BURKJ>



Notes from Church Council

Congregational letter – Budget update Oct 2021

As we enter the festive (silly) season and look forward to not only the Christmas cheer but also the opening of our new worship facilities, it is prudent to focus on one of the more mundane aspects of Church life. At the AGM in September the congregation approved the 2021/22 budget and was informed that the offerings would need to increase to cover the expected costs. Unfortunately, we are now approximately \$8000 behind in projected giving.

Giving through the offering remains the main source of income for the congregation, accounting for over 80% of income. At the same time the congregation's main expense is employing our wonderful Pastor and office assistant. These wages combined with our contribution to the larger church through the LCA and LCAQD, account for over 80% of expenses.

There are, no doubt many aspects that impact congregational finances. At a Church council level an awareness of where money can be saved as well as why we may be down on our expected giving are discussed regularly. Several key aspects have been identified as impacting our budget, not the least of which has been Covid. The mask wearing mandate has affected our weekly attendance numbers but more importantly the uncertainty surrounding work, finances and lifestyle has also understandingly had an effect on confidence.

Our amazing and generous response to the future facility fundraising drive, which has seen over \$50,000 raised in a six-month period has shown how involved and passionate the congregation is at supporting the church and its continuing work. It is understandable that the capacity of the congregation to respond to a call for financial contributions may be muted because of this recent generosity.

Lastly and perhaps the least obvious, is the effect of our increased Regular Electronic Giving. Church Council will always encourage the increased use of REG as the benefits including consistent giving throughout the year are very helpful. However, the 'set and forget' nature of regular giving can also mean that if we do not review that giving over time, its value decreases. This is especially true when our budgeted giving needs to increase to meet the new year's costs.

Moving forward Church Council strongly encourages all members to consider how they may help meet the collectively agreed budget. A strong healthy budget allows forward planning for programmes and enhances the congregation's ability to have a greater impact within our community. We will soon be enjoying a wonderful new worship space, as well as offices and social areas, the impact of these new facilities can only be enhanced knowing we are moving forward in a strong financial position.

At the heart of all Congregational issues is a relationship with God. I ask that we take time to specifically contemplate and pray about these matters as part of our regular personal worship life. Life is busy and there are plenty of issues much more pressing or emotive than finances, however they are an important part of Church life just as community and worship are.

God's Blessings

Matt Bartholomaeus

Chair, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Noosa



Worship @ HOME Resources

For your Spiritual needs to keep you fed during this time of pandemic, you will find worship material sent to you each week via e-mail. We will continue this service until the pandemic is removed and/or we resume back to normal circumstances.

We wish everyone to be able to come back to Worship and meet face-to-face for encouragement, community and engagement with other brothers and sisters in Christ. This may be as soon as the new year 2022.



Reformation Sunday – October 31, 2021

An insignificant monk stood up against the powers of church and state to tell them they had it wrong. You didn't need good works for salvation. God's "righteousness" was a free gift given to be accepted by undeserving sinners through Christ.

Reformation Sunday marks the anniversary of Martin Luther making a stand and speaking up for truth by posting his 95 Theses on Oct 31st, 1517. This action sparked a reform in the church which is known as the Reformation. During the time of the Reformation, people like Martin Luther took a strong stand on three basic tenets of theology, namely that it is by *Grace Alone* that we are saved, it is from *Scripture Alone* that the church receives its doctrine, and that it is by *Faith Alone* in God's grace, not by good works, that we are justified before God.

This Gospel is at the heart of what it means to be a Lutheran: *Grace Alone, Word Alone, Faith Alone*. Because this is the heart of our faith we're going to reclaim or perhaps restore our Lutheran identity.



KINGDOM LIFE: More or Less

Abundant life. That's what disciples of Jesus are promised. So why do so many of us seem to experience less? Talk shows and the self-help section of every bookstore offer a thousand trendy ways to get more out of life, but those who drink from those fountains often find themselves every bit as thirsty as before. Jesus' Sermon on the Mount not only describes a life of joy, peace and contentment, it also illuminates the way. Jesus calls us to repent, to turn our lives and align them with God's Kingdom movement. In doing so, we experience less of those things that drain us of life, and more of the abundance that Jesus promises.

November 7: **MORE FORGIVENESS, LESS BITTERNESS** MATTHEW 5:38

Anger is often the fire that burns the bridges between us. Revenge may taste sweet, but it quickly turns to bitterness. Disciples are empowered to love and forgive others, building bridges between enemies.

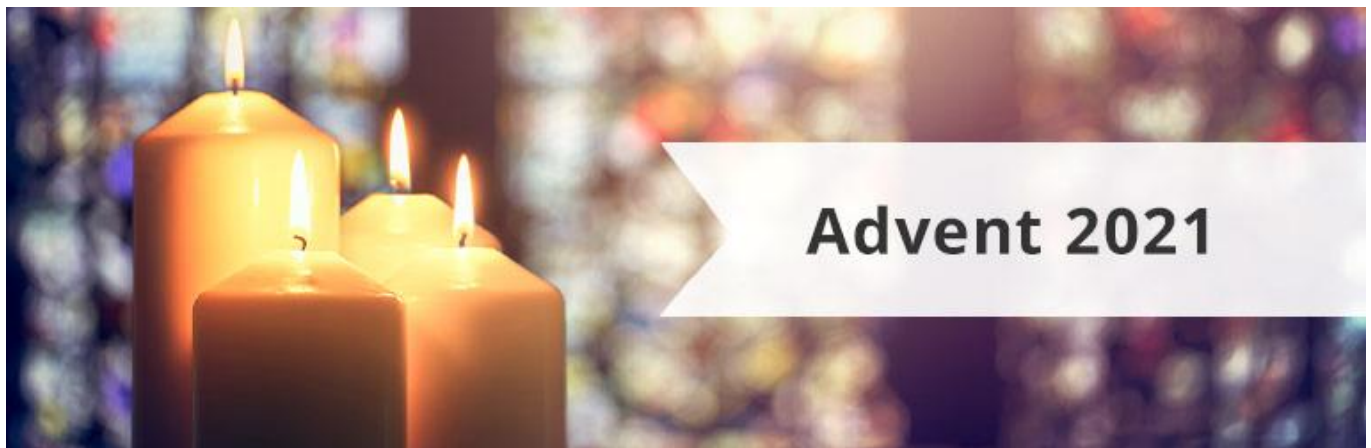
November 14: **MORE CONFIDENCE, LESS WORRY** MATTHEW 6:25-34

Faith is daring to hope that God is as good as the cross of Christ proclaims. That kind of confidence is the antidote to the worry that too often drains the joy out of life.

November 21: **MORE INTEGRITY, LESS HYPOCRISY** MATTHEW 7:15-29

Disciples are called an empowered for a life of integrity – when our insides and our outsides, our words and our actions, match. Others will judge us by our integrity. So will Jesus.

November 28: **Dedication and Opening Service** Sunday, November 28 @ 2pm.



Again and again, long before we're ready for it to arrive, Christmas is here. And then it's over. But Christmas is more than a date on the calendar. It's a person, and He is here. Right here, with us and among us. It's called incarnation, God with us, in Jesus Christ. What if we open our eyes to see Christ all around us? What if we look at people, not through them, in this season? What if every encounter is a meeting with the divine? What if we believe in our hearts that the presence of Christ is all around us, and then live like it? That is grace. That is love. That is Christmas, and it's here.

ADVENT 2 ... HEAR THE VOICE!

DECEMBER 5 | LUKE 3:1-6

Hear the voice of one crying out in the wilderness. How can we listen for the voice of God in this busy season? What voices distract us from hearing what Jesus is saying to us?

ADVENT 3 ... EXPECT A SAVIOR!

DECEMBER 12 | LUKE 3:7-18

The people are filled with expectation. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. How can this Christmas possibly meet our expectations? Can our expectations change because we know that Jesus is already with us?

ADVENT 4 ... FEEL THE JOY!

DECEMBER 19 | LUKE 1:39-45

The child in Elizabeth's womb leaps for joy. Are these days filled with joy, or will we be overwhelmed with busyness, anxiety, and worry? How can the presence of Jesus make a difference in how we live our lives from day to day?

CHRISTMAS IS HERE ... HEAR THE ANGELS!

DECEMBER 24 | LUKE 2:8-20

Suddenly there is with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host. How can we more clearly hear the voices of the heavenly hosts that are saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those whom he favors?" Can the presence of Jesus change how we hear this message today?

CHRISTMAS IS HERE ... SENSE THE WONDER!

DECEMBER 25 | LUKE 2:8-20

All who hear it wonder at what the shepherds tell them. Can we glorify and praise God for all that we've seen and heard? Are we filled with wonder because God has come among us in Jesus Christ?

CHRISTMAS IS HERE ... SEE JESUS!

DECEMBER 26 | LUKE 2:41-52

After three days, they find him in the temple. Are we willing to sit at Jesus' feet, to listen to him and ask questions? Do we see Jesus in and around us?



REGULAR ELECTRONIC GIVING

REG is a convenient, safe and confidential *way of giving a regular offering to your congregation.*

REG is facilitated by using the LLL direct debit system. LLL Australia administers REG free of charge as a service to the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA).

To use REG, an LLL **Direct Debit Request Form** must be completed and lodged with the LLL. Also read the **Service Agreement** before you send the completed form to the LLL. This form gives the LLL authority to deduct the amount you specify from your LLL account or your account with a financial institution and transfer it to an LLL REG account held by the organisation to which you are giving.

We grow warmer through fellowship.

At Good Shepherd there is a heavy emphasis on relationships. We gather on the weekend to celebrate, but then we gather all week long in small groups where biblical community takes place. We relate to one another, our neighbours, and our community letting the Light of Jesus shine through us in our relationships.



LONGEST LUTHERAN LUNCH

Reformation Sunday,
October 31, 2021

BBQ Community Lunch

German Sausages will be provided
Please bring salad and sweet to share.

Ladies Coffee Morning

Come join us for a coffee and chat.

We would love to see you there.

Feel free to bring a friend.

3rd Wednesday of each Month

@ 9:30am

Noosa River next to Pelican

Please bring a chair and either BYO coffee/tea or buy one from the nearby shop (they make great coffee and will lend you a chair if you don't have one). Liz 0412590900





Family Advent Evening

Friday December 3 @ 5:30pm

Come along for an evening full of family fellowship,
fun and faith building in our new facilities.

- Shared Meal (Please bring a savoury and sweet to share)
- Christmas Tree Decorating
- Craft
- Lighting of Advent Candles Devotion

All are welcome. 5:30pm with meal starting @ 6:00pm



grow: DISCIPLESHIP

We grow deeper through discipleship.

We were created to become like Christ, and the local church is God's instrument of choice to establish a process through which Jesus' followers can grow spiritually. Growing churches are filled with growing believers. Growing is an essential part of being a Christian. From the moment we become a Christian, we start growing in our faith, and growing never stops. It energizes and challenges us to fulfil God's purpose in each of us and as a body of Christ. Growth can happen in many and various ways, but we mainly focus on our spiritual growth through programs, services and opportunities from which we can better understand the love of God and show our appreciation for that love. At Good Shepherd we help people develop spiritual growth habits, especially the 6 basic spiritual habits of prayer, worship, Biblical reading/study, serving, fellowship with other Christians, and generous giving.

- Pastor's CLASS,
- Baptism,
- First Communion,
- Confirmation,
- Bible Studies,
- Small Group Ministry,
- Youth & Family Ministry,
- Playgroup,
- BibleSong,
- Head to the Heart (H2H),
- 4U,
- Mother's Prayers.



BibleSong



H2H



4U



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

In order to provide these faith nurturing programs, we need your help. Please consider how you can participate in any or all of our youth ministries.



Gathered to Grow – Sent to Serve

GROW GROUPS

"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together...but encouraging one another..."

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

Life is not meant to be lived alone. In fact, God hates loneliness. You were created to experience life with other people, and that's why at Good Shepherd we encourage you to get into a small group.

A small group is a group of three or more people who gather each week in a home, workplace, or online. In a group you'll hang out, study the Word, and pray together. Groups come in all shapes and sizes — married couples, singles, men, women, kids, no kids, workplace, under 20, over 40 — the list goes on. No matter where you are in life, there's a group for you.

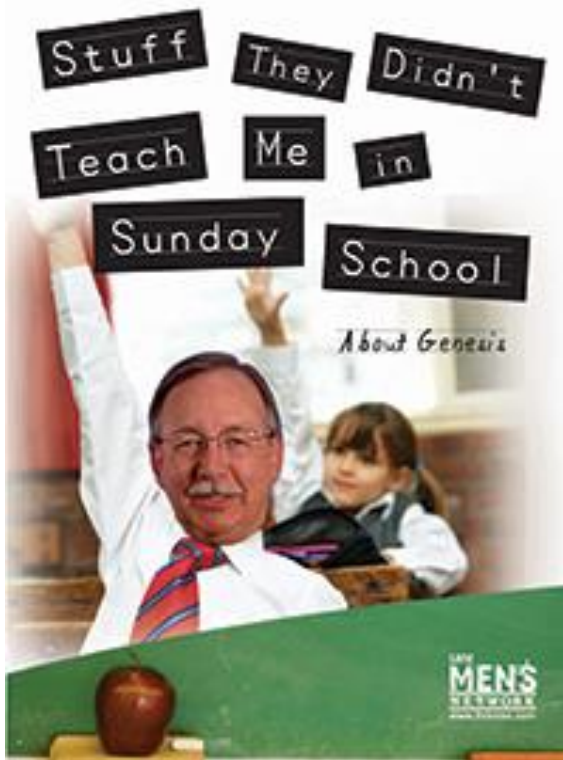
At Good Shepherd we encourage everyone to be part of a Grow Group. Grow Groups help each other to fulfil our God given purposes of:

- Be Loved
- Belong
- Become
- Be Blessed

Join a Grow Group today.

For more information and to join a group, please contact
Pr Chris Bartholomaeus.
04 12747253





Wednesday Night Bible Study

Bible based video lessons from
Lutheran Hour Ministries.

Each Wednesday Night @ 7pm

Via ZOOM.

Please email for link:
mark.hansen@lca.org.au

Wednesday Morning Bible Study



Exploring
EPHESIANS

EACH WEDNESDAY MORNING
11AM @ THE MANSE

Pastor's C.L.A.S.S.



Our Pastor's Class Seminars help provide a pathway to move toward spiritual growth and transformation.

Why a pathway?

All of us are on a journey through life, a journey that involves us learning more about God, ourselves, and the life God has given us in Jesus. Each of us is at a different place in our journey and is constantly growing and changing. That's what makes life exciting!!

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is also on a journey. We are constantly changing and growing. We have not arrived at our destination, but we are ever open to God's direction for us and are constantly working at becoming more and more what God made us to be.

Our **Christian Life And Service Seminars** (CLASS) teach you all about what it looks like to follow Christ and gives you the tools you need for each step of the journey.

CLASS 101: Living Lutheran is the basic introduction to life in our church family. We will discover who we are and what the Lutheran Church is all about.

CLASS 201: Living Faith. We will share what we believe and how we encounter God's Means of Grace: Baptism, Holy Communion, Word and Worship.

CLASS 301: Living on Purpose. We will discover our purpose and direction Good Shepherd is heading in order to grow as God's people.

CLASS 401: Living Discipleship. We will discover the basic habits every Christian needs to become spiritually mature and be equipped with the skills to grow daily.

CLASS 501: Living Ministry. We will discover God's vision for your life through discovering your spiritual gifts.

These CLASS's will be offered on occasion throughout the year, or by request to the Pastor. If you would like to know more information or attend one of these seminars, please speak to Pr Mark.

C.L.A.S.S.

(Christian Life And Service Seminars)

**A pathway to move
toward growth and
transformation**

101:
Living
Lutheran

**Discovering
our Church
Family**

201:
Living
Faith

**Discovering
the Means
of Grace**

301:
Living on
Purpose

**Discovering
who God made
me to be.**

401:
Living
Discipleship

**Discovering
the Six Marks
of Discipleship**

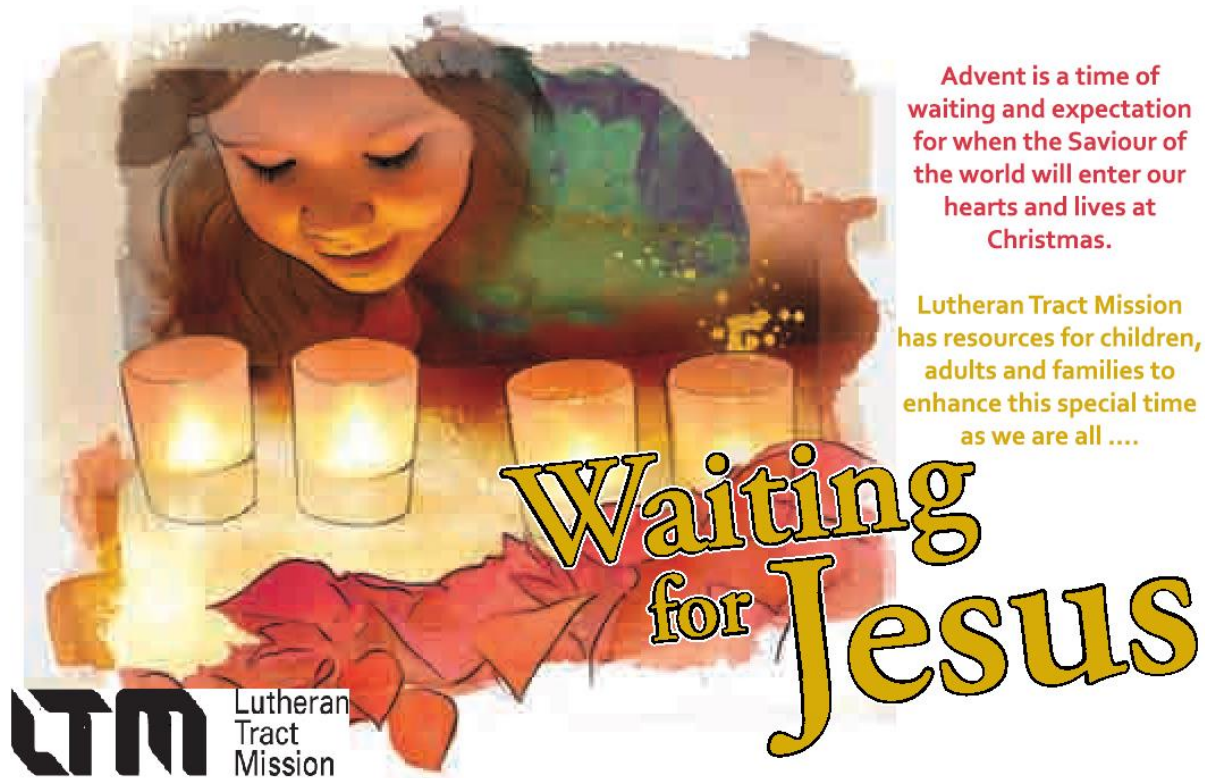
501:
Living
Ministry

**Discovering
God's
Spiritual Gifts**



Gathered to Grow - Sent to Serve

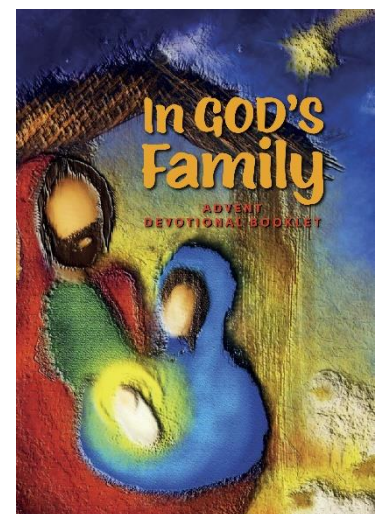
We grow larger through evangelism. That is, we put our focus on reaching the next unreached person in our community. And we think beyond our immediate community to the entire world. Growing churches are sending churches that join Jesus on mission to seek and to save the lost, and participates in the shared life of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. As a consequence, we are transformed to be a community where God's love comes to life. The same love that transforms us is drawing our families, neighbours and friends into new life in Christ, thus we are urged by the Holy Spirit to include and invite all people to belong to God's family. This is *why we go* and *make disciples* of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28.19 NLT)



Lutheran Tract Mission has just recently produced a new Advent Devotional for congregations to download and print (Like the Lenten one!)

It is now available on the LTM website and can also be used as a flip book on their device: [In God's Family Advent Devotional \(ltn.org.au\)](http://In God's Family Advent Devotional (ltn.org.au))

Visit www.ltm.org.au to view and order any of the tracts.





serve: MINISTRY

We grow broader through ministry. We are saved to serve each other, so God has given every believer a unique shape – a mixture of spiritual gifts, passions, abilities, personality, and experiences – to serve God by serving others. At Good Shepherd we believe that every member is a minister. We are gifted by God and we are to use those gifts for the common good of others, whether it's those living in our neighbourhoods and communities, or in another country, and especially in our own family of faith. And so, we encourage God's people to discover their God-given gifts and abilities in order that they might serve God and others where He has placed us.



On September 25th the Ministry & Care Team and Church Council put on a Morning Tea for the Construction workers of our new facilities. This was a wonderful morning filled with generosity, food and thankfulness. It was a good opportunity to say "Thank You" to the workers and show our appreciation for all their hard work. This was also greatly received on behalf of the workers.

