



Welcome to...

Good Shepherd

Lutheran Church - Noosa

Gathered to Grow - Sent to Serve





WELCOME TO GOOD SHEPHERD!

Introduction

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - Noosa has been actively caring for the spiritual needs of this community since 1985. We believe in and trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. We believe that every church exists to give glory to God and to make disciples (followers of Jesus) (Matthew 28:19-20). We are a part of the Lutheran presence in Noosa and, as a Christian congregation, are here to serve the local community.

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 are at different places in our journeys and are 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. Good Shepherd is not foremost a building or an institution. We are a group of people whom God has brought together to receive life in Him, to worship Him, and to serve one another and the community around us.

Good Shepherd provides programs, services and opportunities from which we can better understand the love of God and show our appreciation for that love. We are here to help people develop spiritual growth habits, especially the 6 basic spiritual habits of worship, Biblical reading/study, prayer, generous giving, sharing, and fellowship with other Christians.

This charter seeks to outline our mission and ministry as well as our strategy for fulfilling this mission.

If you would like to seek more information, please contact us on 07 5455 8645 or goodshepherd.noosa.qld@lca.org.au

Our Heritage



The Lutheran Church dates back to the Reformation in sixteenth century Europe. A German monk by the name of Martin Luther staged a protest about abuses in the church by posting ninety-five theses or statements on a church door in Wittenberg in 1517. This was one of the first steps in a movement that resulted in the formation of a number of Protestant churches which followed leaders like Luther, Calvin, Zwingli and Knox.

The Lutheran Church which grew out of this period based its teachings on the Bible and wrote them down in a collection of documents known as the Lutheran Confessions.

The catchcry of the Lutheran Reformation was threefold:

- **Word Alone** - the only authority for Christians in matters of faith and doctrine is the Bible;
- **Grace Alone** - forgiveness and reconciliation with God are not earned but are free gifts;
- **Faith Alone** - salvation with God is obtained not on the basis of what we do but available to all through Christ alone.



The Lutheran Church grew to be a major Protestant denomination.

European migrations spread the Lutheran faith to America, Africa and Australia. Currently the Lutheran Church comprises around eighty million members worldwide, making it the largest Protestant denomination in the world.

There have been Lutherans in Australia since the beginning of European settlement. From 1838 a series of major religious migrations of Lutherans to South Australia took place as the result of persecution of Lutherans in Prussia.

In modern times there are around 100,000 Australians who have official membership in the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) as well as many more who claim affiliation through our schools, nursing homes, and retirement villages.



LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF AUSTRALIA
where love comes to life

Our Story



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Noosa started in 1985. Until then Noosa Lutherans formed part of the Gympie parish which included a congregation in Cooroy. Neil Berlin, a Lutheran lay mission worker, did some groundwork in the Noosa area in the early 1980s and found that there was support for the establishment of a Christian school in the area.

In 1985 the former Noosa drive-in theatre on Eumundi Road in Noosaville came up for sale and was purchased by the Lutheran Church as the centre for a church and a school.

A new Cooroy-Noosa Lutheran parish was formed and the drive-in kiosk converted to a preaching place. Good Shepherd Lutheran Primary School opened in 1986, added a classroom block and shared the existing facilities with the congregation.

Pastor Keith Stiller served as the first pastor to the Noosa and Cooroy congregations. He was succeeded in due course by Pastor Chris Bartholomaeus, Pastor Mark Nitschke, and currently Pastor Mark Hansen.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is separate from, but has a close working relationship with Good Shepherd Lutheran College, in which we share in our mission and ministry to the wider community, as well as share a campus, facilities and resources.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Noosa belongs to the **Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA)**. It is also part of the regional organisation known as the **Lutheran Church of Australia, Queensland District (LCAQD)**.

It financially supports both the national and regional entities of the Church and accepts and co-operates with their initiatives in areas like missions, education and welfare.

Good Shepherd also has considerable local autonomy, calling its own pastors, electing its own officers, establishing its own committees, setting its own budget and establishing its own program.

The congregation works under a constitution.

The Church Council has oversight of the work of the congregation, which includes a chair, treasurer and secretary. Various committees are formed to provide for areas of purpose including; worship, fellowship, discipleship, evangelism and ministry (pastoral care).





Our Values

The values of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - Noosa align with the values of the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA), and LCA Queensland District.

Our values are derived from our Lutheran identity: ‘grace alone, faith alone, word alone’, all summed up in ‘Christ alone’. They are grounded in God’s saving work through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are freed by God’s grace to participate in his vision and mission for the world.

Through faith in Christ, but the work of the Holy Spirit we are a church:

Shaped by the Gospel of Grace

The love of God in Christ is an undeserved gift from God. It is the transforming agent and motivation for all we do in ministry and mission (2 Cor 5:14). We humbly come before God, who alone strengthens and equips us for our tasks. We gather with fellow believers, feed on God’s word and receive together at the Lord’s table in order to grow in love for God and for one another as we go out into our daily lives.

United in Christ

We are blessed by God with diverse backgrounds, talents, skills and opportunities. The Spirit brings us together as members of the body of Christ through one baptism. We declare our unity in our confessions, as contained in the Book of Concord. We live out our unity as the LCA.

Blessed by Relationships

We acknowledge that God’s love is often seen and experienced most clearly within relationships. So, we support and respect one another. We listen to and learn from one another, to sustain and build up one another and our communities in the bond of love.

Inspired by Compassion

We are called to love in actions as well as by words. We strive to serve with the heart of Christ, and we serve with the gifts of the Spirit. We join with Jesus in especially serving those people who are suffering, disadvantaged and marginalized.

Marked by Integrity

As faithful stewards of God’s blessings, we strive for excellence in all we do. We use effectively and efficiently the gifts we have been given, knowing that to whom much is given, much is required. We are accountable to the people we serve, to each other, to our wider communities and to those who have entrusted resources to us.

Our Purpose



Through the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19) and the Great Commandment, Jesus makes our purpose abundantly clear. We discover that we exist for the five Biblical purposes of *worship, fellowship, discipleship, evangelism, and ministry*.

Therefore, we believe that Good Shepherd Lutheran Church exists to be “*a worshipping community - graciously forgiven and sent out by Jesus Christ to serve, love and witness to the world*”. In other words, our mission and purpose are “to give glory to God and to make disciples”.

Our Vision

Gathered to Grow, Sent to Serve!

In order to fulfil our mission to give glory to God and to make disciples; we need a basic strategy for making disciples.

We desire for our church to be a **gathering** place where individuals and families meet our God in worship and develop Christian relationships through fellowship, have opportunities to **grow** in faith and love for others, and are **sent** out to witness about the love of Christ by how we care for and **serve** one another in word and deed.

This is a life-long process of faith formation that we describe simply as:

Gathered to Grow...Sent to Serve!

This is our vision. And everything we do at Good Shepherd is focused on this faith formation process.

It is our way of helping one another become the disciple Jesus is calling us to be.



Our Strategic Priorities



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WORSHIP

At Good Shepherd we believe that life is not about us, but Jesus - the One who gave His life for us as He suffered and died and rose again. Because of what Christ has done for us, we join together each week around His Word and Sacraments (Baptism and Lord's Supper) to worship as a community of believers, giving praise to our one true God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We also believe that worship is meant to be part of our everyday life. And so, making the most of the opportunities God gives us each day to love Him and others, we also desire to live a lifestyle of worship among our family, friends, neighbours, and co-workers.

8.00am– Traditional worship service

Holy Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sundays

9.30am– Contemporary worship service

Holy Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays

FIRST and FIFTH SUNDAY's—Combined @ 9.30am

This is a blended service using the best of both the old and the new to celebrate the unity we have in our diversity.

Additional Services:

Regular involvement of School Chapels at Good Shepherd Lutheran College at various times during School terms.



FELLOWSHIP

At Good Shepherd we embrace growing together in Christ's love. It's why we encourage God's people to look for opportunities to fellowship together, to eat together, to pray together, to play together, and to spend time in God's Word together.

- FamFEST
- Men's Fellowship
- Women's Fellowship
- Playgroup
- Craft Group

Our Strategic Priorities



grow DISCIPLESHIP

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 different ways. Here are some of the opportunities.

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

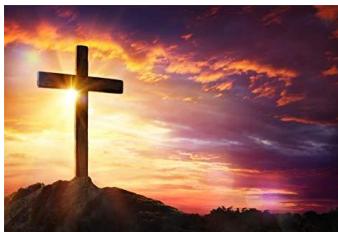


Our Strategic Priorities



send EVANGELISM

A missional life participates in the shared life of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Therefore, we are transformed to be a community where God's love comes to life. The same love that transforms us is drawing our families, neighbors and friends into new life in Christ, thus we are urged by the Holy Spirit to include and invite all people to belong to Gods 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)



Our Strategic Priorities



serve

MINISTRY

At Good Shepherd we believe that 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. For just as Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve, we too look for ways to put the needs of others before our own as we put our faith into action. That means, then, that instead of waiting for people who don't know Jesus to come to us, we need to first go to them, reaching out as His disciples. And when we do, we know that by God's grace, lives are changed.

- Pastoral Care
- Counselling
- Weddings
- Funerals





Good Shepherd

Lutheran Church – Noosa

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