

Welcoming  
Growing  
Sharing



**LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
OF AUSTRALIA  
*where love comes to life*

Sunday 14 January 2024

## Finders keepers

### Scripture

[John 1:43–51](#)

### Reflection

The day before Jesus called Philip, Philip had been with John the Baptist in Bethany beyond the Jordan. This was over a 24-hour walk from Philip's home, which was in the north. So, Philip must have been a long way from home. We don't know which way he was travelling. We don't know what occupied Philip's thoughts as he journeyed. Perhaps he was away from home for business or family matters. Maybe he wanted to see what all the fuss was concerning John the Baptist. When he woke that morning and slipped on his sandals, he had no idea that, within hours, his life would be turned upside down. Something profound would happen to him that God had been planning before the foundation of the world.

Strange things happen when God is in town – think about Moses walking in the desert, minding his own business, when he suddenly sees a bush on fire and meets God. Or Zechariah, going into the temple ('called up by lot' – like the throw of dice) just expecting to do his job, and, suddenly, God is there in all his terrifying presence. Think about that.

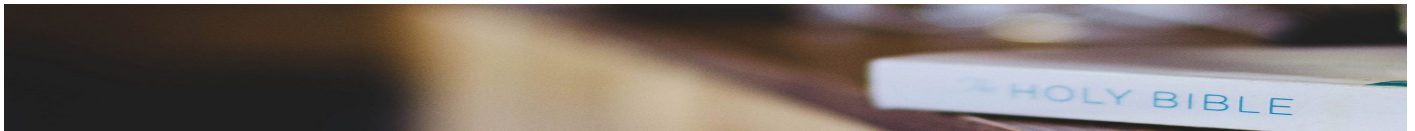
Imagine, today, a pastor goes into a church to set up for the morning service, turns on the lights, and actually sees God. He would come close to dying of fright. God in church! The poor bloke was just there trying to get the PowerPoint to work and find a replacement guitarist. God finds us.

God found Philip. He found Abraham. He found Zechariah and gave him good news. He finds prostitutes, prisoners, parishioners, pastors and sometimes even politicians. My husband says I'm a *keeper*. Well, let me tell you – God is a *finder*. That's what he does and who he is. Even when we don't know we are lost.

by Dr Kirsten Due

### Prayer

Thank you, Father, for meeting us where we are, whether we are near or far from home. Even before we call or know our needs, you come to us. Thank you for coming to this world to seek and save the lost. Amen



**WE PRAY**  
**Sunday 14 January 2024**

**Dear Lord, we pray:**

- † “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening! Give us ears that hear, Eyes that see, Wills to obey, Hearts that love, Then declare what You want, Reveal what You want, Command what You want, Change what you want! Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening!” – *Christina Rossetti 1830-1894AD*
- † Thank you that every day offers another chance to grow in faith, to learn more, love more, trust more, pray more. Source of all wisdom and understanding, we are depending on you to teach us to be humble and bold in sharing the good news of Jesus intentionally with those who don’t know you yet.
- † We pray for the world, for peace and hope to abound. Many are affected by natural disasters. Many are struggling with conflict, poverty and the global food crisis. Please give those in authority the patience, humility, wisdom and endurance to persevere in bringing about positive solutions for their nations.

**Guide us, Lord, as we pray for:**

- † The leaders you have appointed over the LCA/NZ, churchwide (LCA Bishop, Paul Smith, Assistant Bishop, Neville Otto, and the College of Bishops), and locally (District Bishop, Andrew Brook and Assistant Bishop for Mission, Stephen Schultz).
- † The pastors and parishes, principals and schools of the LCA in our South West Metro zone. This week we pray for Warradale Lutheran Church and Pastor Tim and Joy Klein and family.
- † The chaplains you have called to serve the defence forces, hospitals, Police, prisons, and universities in the SA/NT District and their coordinator, Heidi Smith.
- † The Pastoral Care Workers you have called to serve in our region. We pray for Sam Colley at St Leonards Primary. We pray for families experiencing hardship, may they feel supported by God’s love. For continued success and nurturing of the SmartPlay program.
- † The leaders you have appointed over our country: Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, State Premier, Peter Malinauskas and all our local government leaders.
- † Healing, strength and comfort as we pray alongside Avis R, Barb K, Chris W, John W, Tim S, their families and carers.
- † Start or finish each day in God’s word, with devotions written by LCA/NZ members specifically for these challenging times.  
[www.lca.org.au/category/daily-devotion/](http://www.lca.org.au/category/daily-devotion/)



### CHATLINE-**Due Sunday 28 January**

Valerie is going to Tasmania so please send all material, including information for 'Chapel Chat' personal column, as soon as possible to [vjvolk@gmail.com](mailto:vjvolk@gmail.com)

### **BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS AND FAREWELL LUNCH**-Sunday 28 January 12:00

*Marion Club, 262 Sturt Road, Marion*

All members and friends of ILC are invited to celebrate Bruce, Phil, and Virginia's 70th Birthdays. This will also be a Farewell lunch for Helen and Darryl.

Please write your name on the sheet in the foyer by 14th January Please no gifts...just an opportunity for fellowship.



### **INSTALLATION SERVICE OF PASTOR GREG PAGE**

Sunday 4 February 2:00

*St Mark's Lutheran Church, 35 Hampden Road, Mt Barker*

We invite you to celebrate with us in worship, followed by fellowship and afternoon tea. RSVP January 26th 2024 to Janice Cecil, Office Administrator [janice@stmarksmtbarker.org.au](mailto:janice@stmarksmtbarker.org.au)

Please identify yourself with a name tag on the day and make yourself known to the ushers on arrival.

### **ILC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**-**Due Sunday 4 February**

Please send reports to [agoodwin@immanuel.sa.edu.au](mailto:agoodwin@immanuel.sa.edu.au) as soon as you can.

### **MESSY CHURCH**-Sunday 11 February 3:30

*Immanuel Primary School Auditorium*

We look forward to welcoming you to our first Messy Church for 2024.



### **AUSTRALIAN LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE**

GOOD NEWS: The Australian Government is offering 5:1 grant for our Lutheran Church's ALWS ministry to children with disabilities in Somalia. Donations are fully tax deductible, thank you. Please collect an envelope from your pigeon hole or the Welcome Table. This Appeal closes Wednesday 31 January.

### **ST PAUL'S COMMUNITY CARE CENTRE**-Monday and Wednesday 11:00-2:00

*St Paul's LC, 48 Brighton Road, Glenelg*

Emergency food relief, basic toiletries and volunteers needed : **pasta / meal sauces / toiletries**



### **PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES**-All welcome.

*ILC Prayer Chapel*-Thursdays & Sundays 9:00

During vacancy, when you have prayer requests, please contact Virginia Klemm

[mvklemm@hotmail.com](mailto:mvklemm@hotmail.com)

### **CHURCH OFFICE**

Our Office Administrator, Ann, will be working from home one day a week and in the office, usually on Fridays, preparing for worship services. Please phone 8375 1755 before you visit.



## PARISH VACANT

Ann Goodwin - ILC Office Administrator  
Email: [agoodwin@immanuel.sa.edu.au](mailto:agoodwin@immanuel.sa.edu.au)  
Phone: 8375 1755

Chris Schutz—Nurture Team Leader  
[christine.r.schutz@gmail.com](mailto:christine.r.schutz@gmail.com)  
Phone: 0439 899 590

### COMING UP

Sunday 14 January	9:00am 9:30am	Meet for prayer in the Prayer Chapel Worship without Holy Communion-Second Sunday after Epiphany
Thursday 18 January	9:00am	Prayer Group in the Prayer Chapel
Sunday 21 January	9:30am	Worship without Holy Communion-Third Sunday after Epiphany

### REGULAR ELECTRONIC GIVING (REG)

Fill and lodge a Direct Debit Request Form (available from the office), giving the LLL authority to transfer a specific amount from your bank account to ILC's REG account.

#### Bank Account Details

**Account Name:** NOVAR GARDENS IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH REG A/C

**BSB:** 704942

**Account No:** 25223S1 For donations from an account at the LLL

**Account No:** 100100643 For donations from an account other than the LLL



### LCA Child Safety Standards for Congregations

What does ILC do to keep our children and vulnerable people safe?

**LCA Child Safety Standards for Congregations:**

<https://www.lca.org.au/ministry-support/child-safety-standards/>

LCA Policies and Procedures:

<https://www.lca.org.au/services-resources-training/policies/>

### THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READINGS

**1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)**

**Psalm**

**1 Corinthians 6:12-20**

**John 1:43-51**

**The Lord reveals himself to Samuel**

**Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18**

**Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit**

**We have found the Messiah**