

Welcoming

Growing

Sharing



**LUTHERAN CHURCH**

OF AUSTRALIA

*where love comes to life*

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church

26th September 2021

Watch your feet!

## Scripture

Read Mark 9:38-50

## Reflection

As we age, the risk of stumbling and falling becomes more significant. We work hard to improve our balance, and, indeed, the exercise regime that my husband and I enjoy includes significant balance work. As we walk around the neighbourhood, we don't see many stumbling blocks, but we have lots of uneven paving that can prove treacherous.

I am familiar with millstones because, on our farm, there was a rather large, old millstone in the yard. Now, my father was a big man and very strong. But even he could not lift this stone. If you had one of those hanging around your neck and were tossed into the sea, there is no way you could escape drowning.

Jesus' desire is for all people - even the little ones - to believe in him. And woe be-tides anyone who puts a stumbling block in their way! The outcome is not just a skinned knee, gravel rash on your palms or even a broken pelvis. We are to do what-ever needs to be done to ensure we enter the kingdom of God.

So what stumbling blocks are in our way? Or more importantly, what stumbling blocks are we putting in the way of others? Is our collective behaviour as a church a deter-rent for people joining us? Do we as individuals present a less than winsome example of Christian life to our family, friends or neighbours?

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse highlighted some terrible examples of power being misused against children. Our church was not guilt-free in this. As a church, we can guard against further abuses by people with power and authority. One of the strategies for this is learning about what misuse of power looks like to vulnerable people and how we can prevent it.

Hands, feet and eyes are mentioned in the reading today, but what about spoken and written words? In our times, social media allows our voices to be heard more widely than ever before. May we use these opportunities to draw people to Jesus rather than becoming a stumbling block that could result in consequences quite contrary to our expectations.

Colleen Fitzpatrick (LCA Devotions)

## Prayer

Dear Jesus, we know that all people are precious to you, particularly children.  
We are all your children.

Help us to encourage one another in our faith and strive to encourage and support the faith of others, rather than being stumbling blocks to the growth of your kingdom.

Forgive us where we have got it wrong,  
and help us to be a reflection of your love in our lives. Amen.



## WE PRAY

26th September 2021

Dear Lord, we pray:

- † Our many, many thanks for blessing Tanya and Andrew with such a beautifully peaceful and memorable wedding day last weekend.
- † For compassion, wisdom, respect, and common sense to reign at every level and to every corner of our country as we all wrestle with what it will take to steer Australia out of our current lockdowns. We can't achieve a COVID-19 free country but we pray, Lord, you help us achieve a COVID-19 safe country.
- † Your unmistakable peace, love and courage on all those around the globe who are suffering as a result of all manner of disasters - some natural, some manmade - some accidental, some premeditated. Guide, bless, and protect those endeavouring to help the helpless.
- † Your peace, courage, and guidance over Margaret F and Barb S, and their families. May their new treatment regimes bless them with favourable results. Please bless us at ILC with the insight and compassion to support them as they need.
- † As both the Voluntary Assisted Dying bill and the Abortion bill make their way to becoming law in South Australia, we pray you would ensure sufficient checks and balances are put in place to protect the innocent, the defenceless, and those who cannot speak for themselves.
- † Thanks and praise to you for your guidance and protection over Pastors John Henderson and Andrew Pfeiffer throughout their terms as churchwide Bishop and Assistant Bishop. Continue to guide them in their final days in office. Prepare John for a peaceful retirement. Please guide the election of our new churchwide Bishop and Assistant Bishop at General Convention of Synod this week. Please begin preparing our new Bishop now to take up his role in just a few days' time.

Guide us, Lord, as we pray for:

- † The leaders you have appointed over our country: Prime Minister Scott Morrison, State Premier Steven Marshall, and all our local government leaders.
- † The Pastoral Care Workers you have called to serve in our region. In particular, we pray for Emma Clarke at Warradale Primary School. We praise you for the Breakfast Club volunteers. We pray for Emma as she supports the new students, staff and families as they settle into the school.
- † The pastors and parishes, principals, and schools of the LCA in our South West Metro zone. This week we pray for St Peter's Blackwood congregation and Pastor, Kevin Wood, and for St Peter's Lutheran School and their Principal, Bronwyn Wilson.
- † The teachers, staff, students, and families of Immanuel Primary School and Immanuel College and their Principals Bec Clements and Kevin Richardson.
- † The sick, the frail and the distressed in our congregation. We pray for Avis R, Barb K, Barb S, Jason W, Margaret F, Mavis W, and their families and carers.

## Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance and Healing Service

A memorial service for all those touched by the death of a baby during pregnancy and infancy.

Friday October 15th, 7.00pm  
St John's Lutheran Church,  
15 Marlborough St Unley

All are welcome to remember their own grief or to remember others whose baby has died. Supper provided.



See, I will not forget you..  
I have carved you on the  
palm of my hand.  
Isaiah 49:16

## Lutheran Nurses Association of Australia (LNAA)

All Healthcare workers, members and visitors are invited to attend our meeting on **Monday 27th September** 2021, with Dr Michelle Stone speaking on 'Current Trends in Dentistry, at 7.30pm at 137 Archer Street, North Adelaide, at LCA/SA District Office. Entry through rear door with 2 hour CDP evidence provided.



**LUTHERAN  
CARE**

**Lutheran Care** invite you to replenish their  
Emergency Relief pantry with:

**jam and peanut butter (small jars only) | small cans  
beetroot | cans mixed vegetables**

Please leave your donations in the yellow tub in the foyer.

*(Due to health and safety reasons, all donations must be sealed and in its original packaging.  
Thank you for your understanding)*

## Congregational visit to Warradale – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

Pastor Greg is taking some annual leave over the next two weeks so the ILC leaders felt it would be a great opportunity to visit a neighbouring congregation on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Let's gather at Faith Lutheran Church, Warradale, for their 10:45am worship service (with Holy Communion). There is also a 9:00am worship service (also with Holy Communion) if you prefer an earlier time. Faith Lutheran Church is at [2 Ailsa Ave, Warradale SA 5046](https://www.fairfaxlutheran.org.au/).

The adjacent painting was painted by Janet Pfeiffer to decorate the College prayer chapel when Greg Pfeiffer was our Pastor. The painting was no longer required when the prayer chapel was refurbished and redecorated by the college.

If any member of ILC would like this painting, please contact Max Joyce or a member of Church Council.



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## COMING UP

Sunday 26 September	9:30am	Worship with Holy Communion
Thursday 30 September	9:00am	Prayer Group in Prayer Chapel
Sunday 3 October	9:30am 10:45am	No Worship Service at ILC Worship with Holy Communion at Warradale

### REGULAR ELECTRONIC GIVING (REG)

To use 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: 2522351 For donations and offerings from an account at the LLL  
Account No: 100100643 for donations and offerings from an account with a Bank or Credit Union etc.



Scan the QR code  
to see what we're  
doing in worship today.



### THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READINGS

Esther 7:1-6,9-10; 9:20-22 The Jews celebrate victory over enemies

Psalm 124

James 5:13-20 Prayer offered in faith

Mark 9:38-50 Acting in Jesus' name; temptations to sin