

Welcoming  
Growing  
Sharing



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

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Sunday 23 January 2022  
Christ as the interpretation and sense of God's instruction

**Scripture**

Read Nehemiah 8:1-3,5,6,8-10

**Reflection**

Last year, a good friend gave me his spare whipper snipper. No less than a Stihl. It hadn't been used for a little while. As he handed it over, he pointed out the instruction book. Then he added what I really needed to know: I will need to buy a new spark plug and douse the spark plug housing with an engine starter before I try to get it going. A trip later to the auto parts supplier, and I was ready to go.

Having returned to Jerusalem and rebuilt the walls, the former exiles gathered on 'the festival of trumpets', a day of rest. Thank the Lord for his law! They then asked that the law of Moses, think 'God's instruction', be brought for them to hear. The priest Ezra duly obliged, and from early morning until midday, everyone listened. God's appointed priests (verse 7) were faithful in that task to the point of helping the people understand through 'interpretation' and 'giving the sense'. Just like the way my friend added how to really apply my whipper snipper instructions.

Applying God's instruction is something I'm pretty convinced that all Christians struggle with. Too much, and wow, look at how good I am! Or bad! Alternatively, too little, not often enough - are we really taking the word of God seriously, and do we ask whether this idea in front of us originated in the word of God or the world?

In today's gospel, Luke 4:14-21, Jesus gives the 'interpretation' and 'sense' of how to apply it all. Picture him in the centre of the synagogue, having just read from the scroll of Isaiah (Isaiah 61:1,2a) with its promise of deliverance from all that binds and its gift of entry into the Lord's favour. Jesus proclaims, 'Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing' (Luke 4:21). Jesus' little sentence is a power-packed Christocentric 'interpretation' and 'sense' of how to understand all of God's instructions. Christ fulfilled God's instructions because we couldn't. That's release for the captive! Yet in his gift of new life to us, he also asks us to be devoted to him by sacrificially loving God and neighbour - the basis of Christ's instruction being the Ten Commandments (Luke 18:18-30; Mark 12:28-34).

You can probably use too much engine starter. But we can never use enough Jesus in remembering our forgiven state before God through him. Then in Christocentric devotion, apply his command of sacrificial love to God and neighbour in all we do.

by Pastor Matthew Bishop

**Prayer**

*Thank you, Holy Spirit, that you make Christ known to us (John 14:25-27). Keep us Christ-centred: free from both self-condemnation and self-congratulation and free to serve in sacrificial love of you and our neighbour. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



## WE PRAY

23rd January 2022

### Dear Lord, we pray:

- † Your love, peace, courage, and hope would be felt by all those affected by the volcanic eruption and tsunami near Tonga. Protect all those rushing to the area to provide essential supplies and assistance.
- † The new Novavax vaccine is accepted by those unable/unwilling to receive the current COVID-19 vaccines.
- † For your guidance and protection over ILC throughout 2022. Thank you for those ILC leaders prepared to offer their time in attending the Leadership Retreat. Speak clearly to them before, during, and after the Retreat, that we might know and follow your will for us. Guide us to be what our surrounding communities need us to be in order for you to draw them closer to yourself.
- † Your wisdom and resilience over all school principals, teachers, and staff across South Australia as they follow SA Health directions to offer a hybrid model of teaching for the commencement of the 2022 school year.
- † Your patience and courage over all school students and their parents/families - especial those of essential workers - as they negotiate the messy start to the year.
- † Your protection over the old, the young, and the vulnerable during these hotter days. Lead us to reach out and serve those we know who may be at risk.
- † For emergency services personnel who monitor the bush-fire threat, and for members of the metropolitan and country fire services.
- † For ambulance officers, and for doctors and nurses in hospitals and hospices as they continue their medical work under relentless conditions.
- † Your all-encompassing 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. Protect, strengthen, and guide all those endeavouring to bring aid and comfort to those affected.
- † Those nations that resist your plan for peace, and we remember especially those who are persecuted for their faith, or who are in distress.

### 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 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, David Altus, and Assistant Bishop for Mission, Stephen Schultz).
- † The Pastoral Care Workers you have called to serve in our region. Please bless them all with a safe and refreshing break.
- † The pastors and parishes, principals, and schools of the LCA in our South West Metro zone. This week we pray for Trinity Lutheran Church, Pasadena, and Pastor Matt Huckel, and the staff and residents of Trinity Place Retirement Village.
- † The chaplains you have called to serve in SA's universities, prisons, and hospitals.
- † The sick, the frail and the distressed in our congregation. We pray for Avis R, Barb K, Grace K, Jason W, John B, Margaret F, Roma T (Brian's mum), and their families and carers.

## AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST—Wednesday 26th January

Hope you, your family & friends can join us on the lawns in front of the Immanuel Primary School Auditorium, 32 Morphett Road, Novar Gardens, from 8.30am to 11.30am.

Cost \$15 per adult, \$7.50 per child. (Price negotiable for families with small children)

We appreciate your valued support with OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD. All profits and donations from the day will go to shoebox gifts for 2022.

Numbers attending required ASAP or by Sunday 23rd January at the latest for catering purposes

R.S.V.P. Nannette HARTMANN [nannette.hartmann1@gmail.com](mailto:nannette.hartmann1@gmail.com) or Text 0403840350

Chris KELLER [keller\\_chris@hotmail.com](mailto:keller_chris@hotmail.com) or Text 0407399797.

**PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS,** preferably with legs that won't sink into the grass.

## ST PAUL'S COMMUNITY CARE

Op-Shop and Food Care are open again for 2022—Monday and Wednesday 11:00am to 2:00pm. This month the following donations would be really appreciated:

1 litre of long-life milk | small jars of jam | toilet paper

## PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### 1 ILC Novar Gardens-Ministry Support Officer

Part-time (flexible, one day per week, 0.2 FTE). Work from home is encouraged.

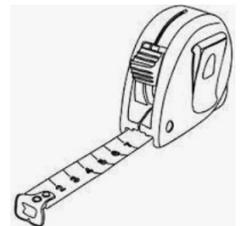
More information and Position Description is available at <http://www.ilc.org.au/employment> Applications to the Chairperson Ben Noll [bendavnol@gmail.com](mailto:bendavnol@gmail.com) and close 28 January 2022.

### 2 Lutheran Disability Services—Unique Chaplaincy Opportunity

An exciting opportunity for a chaplain to provide pastoral support to LDS clients and staff. Salaried up to 1 day per week. If this calling resonates with you please contact Darren Anderson [danderson@ldssa.org.au](mailto:danderson@ldssa.org.au) or 0422 647 128.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Donations of old metal tape measures needed for OCC volunteers to make spring form closures. Will be used for storage bags for games being made for OCC boxes.



## ACCOMMODATION NEEDED

St Mark's Underdale are seeking 3 months accommodation for Pastor Guntars and family whilst they await vacation of the manse. Contact Phil 0468626136.

## THANK YOU to all our volunteers

March, April, May's Worship Roster is being prepared. Please let the office know [agoodwin@immanuel.sa.edu.au](mailto:agoodwin@immanuel.sa.edu.au) by 6th February:

- Dates that you are not available or
- If you would like to join this roster

## Save the Date—Friday 4th March

A WORLD DAY OF PRAYER service, based on Jeremiah 29:11, "I know the plans I have for you", has been prepared by the WDP committee of Northern Ireland, England and Wales, and will be in Our Lady of Victories Church in High Street, Glenelg.

Supper or a light meal will be organised. Donations to the WDP project (to be confirmed) could include a small portion for the meal.

Pastor Greg Page  
Email: gpage@immanuel.sa.edu.au  
Phone: 0413 584 978

Chris Schutz—Nurture Team Leader  
christine.r.schutz@gmail.com  
Phone: 0439 899 590

Ann Goodwin - ILC Office Administrator  
Email: agoodwin@immanuel.sa.edu.au  
Phone: 8375 1755

## COMING UP

Sunday 23 January	9:30am	Worship with Holy Communion-Holy Baptism of Orlando Francis Hambook
Thursday 27 January	9:00am	Prayer Group in Prayer Chapel
Sunday 30 January	9:30am	Worship with Holy Communion

### 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:** 25223S1 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.



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to see what we're  
doing in worship today.



### THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READINGS

**Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10**

**Psalms**

**1 Corinthians 12:12-31a**

**Luke 4:14-21**

**Ezra reads the law to the people**

**Psalms 19**

**You are the body of Christ**

**Jesus proclaims God's word at Nazareth**