

Welcoming  
Growing  
Sharing



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

Sunday 20 October 2024  
Stupid questions

### Scripture

[Mark 10:35–45](#)

### Reflection

Have you ever asked a stupid question and then really wished you'd kept your mouth closed? I can think of a few times when I just wanted the ground to swallow me up.

Today's reading includes one of the most stupid requests in the Bible. James and John start off with, 'Do whatever we ask'. Really?! What on earth were they thinking? Then they follow it up with, 'Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory'. What kind of a request is that?

James and John were already in Jesus' inner circle with Peter. Maybe that gave them big heads or an inflated sense of importance. They weren't even being secretive about this – the other disciples all heard. Again, what were they thinking?! Had they learnt nothing from all their time with Jesus and his teaching and example?

Three times, Jesus had predicted that he would suffer and die in Jerusalem. In Mark 8:31–33, 9:30–32 and just before today's text in 10:32–34. Somehow, these two disciples made it all about them and completely missed what Jesus was saying.

Of course, Jesus knew what was in their hearts, but he still asked them anyway. If it were me, I'd be rolling my eyes and not even bothering to keep the sarcasm out of my voice. Jesus probably just sighed internally and lovingly prepared to use it as a teaching moment for the whole group.

Teach them he did. Again. Christians have called the way Jesus described his kingdom 'the great reverse'. Jesus turned everything upside-down or backwards. The last shall be first and the first last. To be great, you've got to become a servant or slave of all.

Forget James and John for a moment. What about you and me? We can also struggle with our own sense of importance in wanting recognition, power, position, influence and even glory. We struggle with living the great reverse and being last or being servants. Serving ourselves instead of Jesus or others comes naturally to us.

Thank Jesus that he 'didn't come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many'. Thanks to the ransom he paid, we can be forgiven, like James and John, for our ungodly desires and actions, our daily stuff-ups, and even our stupidest questions.

by Verena Johnson

### Prayer

***Jesus, thank you that you came to serve and give your life as a ransom for me. Forgive me when I fail to serve you and others and instead serve myself. Help me to live today in service to you and those you send into my life. Amen.***

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**WE PRAY**  
**20 October 2024**

**Dear Heavenly Father:**

† *Wrap your arms of love, comfort and care around all the people of our LCA NZ. As we reflect on our church's decision at the October Convention regarding our changed teaching on ordination. Give us wisdom and peace that our hearts and minds are kept safe in Jesus Christ our Lord. Lift our eyes to his cross, so that our trust would be in you alone for you are our strength and our shield. Fill us all with compassion and kindness for one another and help us all to be wounded healers for one another, as we follow our gracious Wounded Healer, Jesus. Amen.*

*(Adapted from a prayer written by Maria Rudolph)*

† We give thanks for the people and organisations who work tirelessly to create a better world for those who are suffering in mind, body, and spirit. Give us courage to give ourselves, as you do, for the good of all people and all of your creation.

† We pray for your provision, peace and protection on those affected by natural disasters or struggling with conflict, poverty and the global food crisis. Inspire us all to do more for those who have less.

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

† The leaders you have appointed over the LCA NZ, churchwide: LCA Bishop, Paul Smith, Assistant Bishop, Stephen Schultz, and the College of Bishops and locally District Bishop, Andrew Brook.

† All pastors and parishes, principals and schools of the LCA NZ, especially those in our South West Metro zone.

† Pastoral Care Workers of the South Western School Ministry Team. We give you thanks and praise for Denys Chew who supports the students, staff and families of Marion Primary School.

† The students, families, teachers and staff of Immanuel Primary and Immanuel College. Bless the interim College Principal, Paul Wright, Principal IPS, Bec Clements, College Chaplain, Pastor Simon Cooper and Director of Boarding, Ujith Perera, as they reach out, in Term 4, with the good news that Jesus came to give us love, hope and joy.

† 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 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 Barb K, Elle E, Joseph M, John W, Max J, Tim S, their families and carers. You have the power to move in our lives and through our circumstances.

# ChatLine

## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER ISSUE

Please provide material and news for Chapel Chat to [vjvok@bigpond.net.au](mailto:vjvok@bigpond.net.au) by **Sunday 3 November**

### POPULAR REPORT

The Popular Report for the 21st Regular Convention of General Synod is now available; [click here](#) to go to the Convention page – Popular Report.



### PRAYER AND PASTORAL CARE REQUESTS

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

ILC has a small group of people who regularly pray for the needs of ILC and the wider community. If you have a prayer request for this group please contact Virginia

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

You can also leave a written prayer request in the gold box on the Welcome Table.

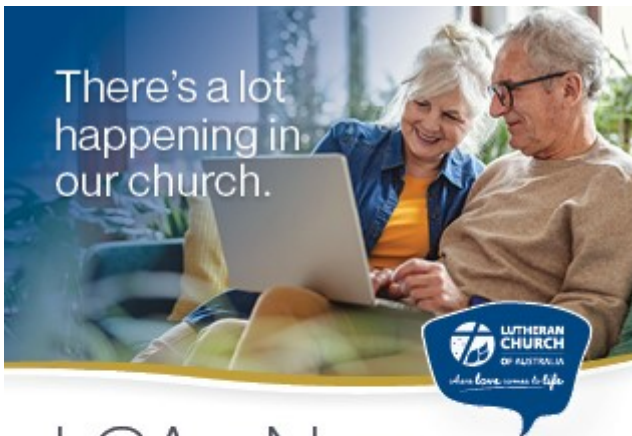


A churchwide **network of carers** has been trained and are available for you, particularly if you are seeking care for issues around the resolution at our Convention of General Synod regarding the ordination of women and men. You may make contact by email [pastoralcare@lca.org.au](mailto:pastoralcare@lca.org.au) and a pastoral carer will be provided for you.

### ST PAUL'S COMMUNITY CARE CENTRE—Mondays and Wednesdays 11:00-2:00

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

Non-perishable food, bathroom, kitchen and laundry items as well as volunteers urgently needed.



LCA eNews  
**KEEPS US CONNECTED**

YES PLEASE,  
SIGN ME UP!



SIGN UP AT  
[www.lca.org.au/  
lcaenews-signmeup](http://www.lca.org.au/lcaenews-signmeup)



## 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 @ ILC

Sunday 20 October	9:00am	Prayer in the Prayer Chapel- <i>all welcome</i>
	9:30am	Worship without Holy Communion-22nd Sunday after Pentecost
Thursday 24 October	9:00am	Prayer in the Prayer Chapel- <i>all welcome</i>
Sunday 27 October	9:30am	Family Worship without Holy Communion-23rd Sunday after Pentecost

### 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:** 100100643



### 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

**Job 38:1-7 (34-41)**

**Psalms**

**Hebrews 5:1-10**

**Mark 10:35-45**

**The Lord challenges Job**

**Psalms 104:1-9,24,35c**

**Jesus our great high priest**

**The request of James and John**