

Welcoming
Growing
Sharing



LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF AUSTRALIA
where love comes to life

Sunday 2 February 2025

Are you sure you want to follow Jesus?

Scripture

[Luke 4:21–30](#)

Reflection

Throughout this week of devotions, we shall look at what these passages tell us about being a follower of Jesus. Our faith comes down to trusting in Jesus and following where he leads. Scripture is where we discover Jesus and what he wants us to do.

In today's passage, which picks up after Jesus has preached in his hometown (Nazareth), we see in verse 22 how delighted the people were at his words. This was a fine preacher. Here was someone they could follow. However, they then are reminded who this preacher is – and notice that this is in the same verse (verse 22). Seeing Jesus' words that follow, the question they propose is akin to 'How could we possibly follow this man who grew up here – the son of the carpenter, Joseph?'

Following Jesus' rebuke (verses 23 to 28), they got so mad that they were prepared to kill him (verses 28 and 29)! But it was not the time nor place for that, so Jesus walked away (verse 31).

Did you see how quickly things changed? Are you sure you want to follow this Jesus? He is a divisive person (Luke 12:51–53). As we will see throughout this week, his commands are tough.

As a follower of Jesus, we need to be like Peter after Jesus delivered some hard teachings and many stopped following him: Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God' (John 6:68,69). We may struggle with who Jesus is – and the challenging things he says – but he is our Lord and our God; where else can we go?

by Pastor Glenn Crouch

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for the wonderful gift of your dear Son, our Lord Jesus. I thank you for his life, death and resurrection. I thank you for the Scriptures through which I continue to find more about him. Help me, through your Holy Spirit, to be better at following my Lord Jesus. In his name, I pray. Amen.



WE PRAY
2 February 2025

Dear Heavenly Father:

- † We praise you for the dedicated people you have given our college, school and church, and ask for your grace and wisdom to be upon them as they navigate their roles and responsibilities serving your people. *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.* Psalm 32:8 (NIV) Father, we pray that your Holy Spirit will protect and strengthen John Thompson, IC Principal, filling him with a deep sense of your presence. May his life and leadership reflect your grace and love. Bless the entire Immanuel community enabling us to work together, cooperatively, respectfully and harmoniously, to impact lives for your glory.
- † We pray for peace and unity among all nations and peoples. Give wisdom and guidance to world leaders that they make decisions that promote peace and justice for all. We ask that you protect refugees and displaced people affected by natural disasters and war. Help us to;
- see the people of the world as our neighbours so that hatred and despair don't win over love and hope
 - have compassion for those in need and respond in love with acts of generosity

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 thanks and praise for school chaplaincy reaching people in our community. Together we pray that the SA Government will make up the short fall in the Federal Government funding for the next 4 years as the previous Government did.
- † The students, families, teachers and staff of Immanuel Primary and Immanuel College. We pray your blessings over College Principal, John Thompson, Principal IPS, Bec Clements, College Chaplain, Pastor Simon Cooper and Director of Boarding, Ujith Perera. Together, may we build meaningful connections and support our local community.
- † 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, Tim S, their families and carers. You have the power to move in our lives and through our circumstances.

PRINCIPAL INSTALLATION SERVICE-Sunday 2 February 11:30

There will be no worship at 9:30am instead join us in the Chapel to welcome Immanuel College's new Principal, John Thompson.

CHATLINE-Due Sunday 2 February

Christmas is over, New Year has come and gone, and Epiphany is now another special memory - but Chatline is always with us. Please send any information that you're willing to share to either address; vjvolk@gmail.com or vjvolk@bigpond.net.au

VOLUNTEERING AT ILC-March to May 2025

Please let the office know, by **Sunday 2 February**, if you have a few spare hours each week or fortnight to help with *Lay Assisting, Stewarding, Flowers, Coffee, Sound, Power-Point, Children's Addresses and/or Children's Church.*

ILC PRAYER GROUP-Thursdays & Sundays 9:00

You're invited to join in prayer on Thursdays and/or Sundays before worship in the Prayer Chapel. Please leave any **prayer requests** in the gold box on the Welcome Table. If you have any **feedback**, you can leave a note in the locked wooden box on the Welcome Table. Paper and pens provided, and your message can be anonymous.

IMMANUEL COLLEGE BOARDER BARBECUES-everyone's invited

Please contact Rob, as soon as you can, if you are willing to come together around the barbecue to support and care for Immanuel Boarders rob.goodwin14@gmail.com

1. **Saturday 22 February** (*Rob and Ann on annual leave*)
2. **Saturday 15 March**
3. **Saturday 5 April**

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.

ILC 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING-Sunday 16 March

Following on from the encouragement that Bishop Andrew gave to Max and me when obtaining our Sacramental Licences, that we should as a congregation make more available the Common Cup, the following was documented at last year's AGM.

5.1 Return to the common communion cup

Ben Noll explained, as per the minutes of last year's ILC AGM, that the matter of the "Common cup for communion" to be discussed at this AGM. Therefore, Ben asked at this meeting (21 April 2024) for a discussion on a return to the common commune cup for holy communion, noting that individual cups will still be offered and noting dipping of the wafer into the common commune cup is an option.

Asked from the floor does LCA have a position on the Common cup for communion or individual cups, Ben explained that the LCA allows congregations to choose.

There was a general discussion and broad agreement to continue to have individual cups still being offered as sensible. Mentioned that there could be a table with the individual cups rather than handed out.

After it was mentioned from the floor, there was broad agreement that ILC trial and monitor for a few weeks a return to the common commune cup for holy communion with individual cups still offered.

Commencing late February the trial will commence. Lay Assistants will get together to ensure all are aware and the process is the same with distribution.—David Schutz

PARISH VACANT

Ann Goodwin - ILC Office Administrator

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Chris Schutz—Nurture Team Leader

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COMING UP at ILC

Sunday 2 February 11:30am Principal Installation Service in the Chapel—Pastor Simon Cooper

Thursday 6 February 9:00am Prayer in the Prayer Chapel—*all welcome*

Sunday 9 February 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion—5th 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.

Account Name: **NOVAR GARDENS IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH REG A/C**
BSB: **704942**



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

Jeremiah 1:4-10 God appoints Jeremiah as a prophet to the nations
Psalms 71:1-6 In you Lord I have taken refuge
1 Corinthians 13 The way of love
Luke 4:21-30 Jesus is rejected by his hometown