

Welcoming  
Growing  
Sharing



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

Sunday 16 February 2025  
Deeds and words of power

## Scripture

[Luke 6:17-26](#)

## Reflection

God reveals himself through Jesus, not only in his deeds, but also in his words.

Here, we see a great crowd gathering because of the deeds. God had visited them through healing, and by releasing them from demonic spirits. The crowd was vast and had travelled a long way. News was spreading! Expectations were high. Jesus' power (i.e. that of the Holy Spirit) was flowing freely.

And yet, the deeds are not enough in themselves.

The Bible gives examples of seemingly miraculous events carried out through powers other than God's power. We might think of the magicians in Pharaoh's court who could (for a time) keep pace with the wonders performed through Moses and Aaron. Or we might have in mind those who profess to have done great deeds of power, but in the end are shown to be workers of iniquity (Matt 7:21-23).

The crucial question is, by whose power? What is the nature of the authority behind the deed? Is it truly in keeping with the character of the kingdom of God?

Here we see a common pattern in the New Testament. The deeds of power offer the opportunity to explain the nature of the person who does the deeds. The crowd gathers initially because of the miraculous works. But Jesus does not let them stay focussed on those. He teaches them about the meaning of the deeds. He explains what the kingdom of God is like. That phrase, 'the kingdom of God', means simply 'the reign and rule of God'. When Jesus says, 'The kingdom of God is like...' he is saying, 'The reign and rule of God is like this...'. In other words, 'This is how God really is! He is not like you imagine him to be.'

That's important because everyone wants a powerful God. We don't want a weak God. We have ideas of what an all-powerful God should do, or how he should act. Often, we carry deep resentments because we think God ought to have acted in a certain way but didn't. Here Jesus explains to the crowd the nature of the reign and rule of God by using a contrast. He speaks of those who are 'blessed' (Luke 6:20-23) and he compares those who are not (the 'woes' of Luke 6:24-26). And when we read those, we begin to understand that the reign and rule of God is not like our ideas of power and sovereignty. The blessings and the woes turn our expectations upside down.

by Rev Dr Noel Due

## Prayer

*Thank you, dear heavenly Father, that you have revealed yourself to us in your Son Jesus. Thank you that his words explain his deeds, and that your kingdom is not like our idea of power. So, we pray today, 'may your kingdom come, may your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven'.*



**WE PRAY**  
**16 February 2025**

**Loving God:**

- † We give you praise for all the ways that you provide for us. We thank you for Pastor Malcolm who leads us with your wisdom and grace. Fill him and Lyn with all joy and peace as they trust in you.
- † *We thank you for the gift of knowing you, and that we have been reconciled to you through the cross. With all of creation, we worship you.  
We pray that families will be restored, and that families and communities will be strengthened and supported.  
Guide all people into your heart of compassion and empower us to love with actions and in truth—from the Prayer for the Stolen Generations by Bianca Manning*
- † *We pray for those lives, made in your image, damaged by violence.  
We pray for those in authority that they may use their power to bind wounds, heal relationships and find common ground.  
We pray for a transforming peace, turning fear into trust, pain into hope and doubt into confidence for a better future.  
We pray for world leaders that they may establish structures for justice, protecting human dignity, enabling reconciliation and building God's kingdom.  
Comfort, O comfort your people—Prayer for peace by Sue Cooper/CAFOD*

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

- † The leaders you have appointed over the LCANZ, 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 LCANZ, especially those in our South West Metro zone.
- † Pastoral Care Workers of the South Western School Ministry Team. We give thanks and praise for Roxy McPeake and the Clovelly Park PS community. *How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news! (Romans 10:14-15)*
- † 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. Work your purposes through us as we set our eyes on you.
- † 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.

### **CALL MEETING**-Sunday 2 March

A call meeting is set for Sunday 2 March in the Chapel following a short morning tea after worship. The call committee is presenting four pastors for our consideration.

### **ILC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025**-Sunday 16 March 11:00

Reports providing comprehensive information on our activities at ILC in 2024 are due **no later than 28 February** to Ann and David B. A big thank you to all who contribute to the Book of Reports.

### **IMMANUEL COLLEGE BOARDER BARBECUES**-everyone's invited

Please contact Rob, as soon as you can, if you are willing to gather around the barbecue to support and care for Immanuel Boarders [rob.goodwin14@gmail.com](mailto:rob.goodwin14@gmail.com)

1. **Saturday 22 February 5:00pm**
2. **Saturday 15 March 5:00pm**
3. **Saturday 5 April 5:00pm**

### **FRIENDS OF LUTHERAN ARCHIVES (FoLA)**-Thursday 27 February 7.30pm

139 Archer Street, North Adelaide

Topic: Pastor Mads Christensen: A Danish Pastor in New Zealand

Speaker: David Hilliard

All welcome, supper included, \$5 Donation or LIVESTREAM on FoLA YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@friendsoflutheranarchives9644/live>

### **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.

### **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.

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR** is on leave and back in the office 2 March. During this time there won't be roster reminder emails, bulletins or Family News. For any urgent requests, please contact Chris on 0439 899 590.

### **QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ORDINATION OF BOTH WOMEN AND MEN**

Pastor Paul Smith, Bishop, Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand presents a series of videos "to help deepen the knowledge and study of the Scriptures and of the Lutheran Confessions amongst us" [Ordination Videos - Lutheran Church of Australia](#)

Because  
we bear  
your name

*Bishop's enews*



# PARISH VACANT

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## COMING UP at ILC

Sunday 16 February 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion-Pastor Malcolm Pech  
-6th Sunday after Epiphany

Thursday 20 February 9:00am Prayer in the Prayer Chapel-*all welcome*

Sunday 23 February 9:30am Worship without Holy Communion-7th Sunday after  
Epiphany  
3:30pm Messy Church-Immanuel PS Auditorium

### 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 17:5-10

Blessed are those who trust in God

Psalms 1

For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

The resurrection of the dead

Luke 6:17-26

Blessings and woes