

Welcoming  
Growing  
Sharing



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

Sunday 9 March 2025

Do you believe?

## Scripture

[Matthew 9:27–31](#)

## Reflection

Magic defies reason. When a magician does a trick, even though you may be watching ever so carefully, you do not see the sleight of hand that makes the trick appear magic. Our eyes see one thing, but another occurs. Is it real? Our reason says no, but we cannot prove it! A magician wants people to marvel at their gifts. What if we could not see it? Would it still be magic? There are the idioms ‘I’ll believe it when I see it’ or ‘Seeing is believing’. But what if you can’t see it, yet you believe? Is this a stronger faith?

The two blind men in the story above in Matthew obviously believed that Jesus could heal them from their blindness. Their faith came not from seeing Jesus perform miracles but from hearing the stories about what Jesus had done. These two wanted the mercy of Jesus and so believed in his power to be able to open the eyes of the blind. It seems their faith was the one condition that granted their healing request. It is interesting that this healing happened inside and out of sight of the public – for ‘they went right into the house’. After they were healed, Jesus also told them, ‘See that no-one knows about this’.

While Jesus is all-powerful, his power was used to show his compassion and care and not to show off as a magician would do. He didn’t want to gain notoriety with people who just wanted to see his miracles. In the Gospel of Matthew, we are reminded over and over that following Jesus is about following his commands and words that bring life, health and healing to body, mind and spirit. Jesus, as God, is all about teaching about the kingdom of God and showing compassion to all. This is something we can all do this Lenten season – share about Jesus’ love and care for those around us!

Jesus’ act of forgiveness is not magic – it is a gift of love and grace!

by Anne Hansen

## Prayer

*My loving Jesus, you showed me the need for my healing from the wrongs I do. Your forgiveness and love are all I need. I trust you and have faith that you hold me in your hands. Amen.*



**WE PRAY**  
**9 March 2025**

**Loving God:**

† ***You're the God who stands  
With wide open arms  
And you tell us  
Nothing we have ever done can separate our hearts  
From the God who stays—CalChristianCollege.edu***

Lord, give us the strength and courage to look within ourselves to see the areas that need repairing. We welcome your forgiveness and ask you to lead us through this season of Lent.

† Inspire us, loving God, to mirror your care and compassion for all, and seek the way of peace and justice:  
- In Queensland and New South Wales we see the impact of Tropical Cyclone Alfred.  
- In Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine we see ruined buildings and hungry, homeless, wounded people.

***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 Deborah Jeanes and the Darlington Primary 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.

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

We'd love to see as many members as possible attend the AGM after worship and a cuppa. If you haven't provided a written report please let David Boschma know that you'll be giving a verbal report.

## IMMANUEL COLLEGE BOARDER BARBECUES-everyone's invited

- Saturday 15 March 5:00pm
- Saturday 5 April 5:00pm



## LUTHERAN CARE 2025 LENTEN APPEAL

With a rapidly increasing number of people needing support right now, we are hoping the local SA community can rally around their neighbours to help break the cycle of hardship and give hope to families who need it the most. Envelopes available from the Welcome Table or visit the website for more information [website](#)

## 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*

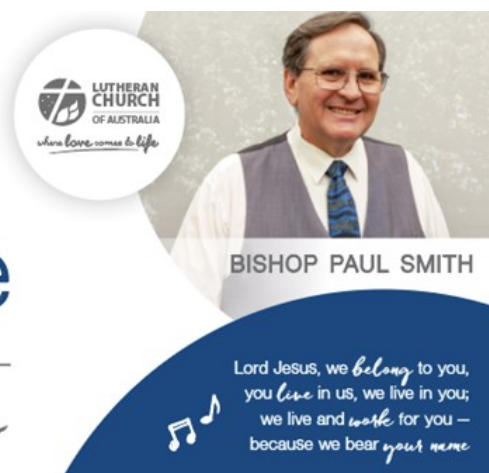
Non-perishable food, bathroom, kitchen and laundry items as well as volunteers urgently needed.

## 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*



FIND US ON FACEBOOK ... like, comment, share us on Facebook to help spread the Word! [www.facebook.com/ilcnovargardens](http://www.facebook.com/ilcnovargardens)

## PARISH VACANT

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### COMING UP at ILC

|                   |        |  |
|-------------------|--------|--|
| Wednesday 5 March | 7:00pm | Worship without Holy Communion-Ash Wednesday                           |
| Sunday 9 March    | 9:30am | Worship without Holy Communion-1st Sunday in Lent                      |
| Thursday 13 March | 9:00am | Prayer in the Prayer Chapel- <i>all welcome</i>                        |
| Sunday 16 March   | 9:30am | Worship with Holy Communion-Pastor Malcolm Pech<br>-2nd Sunday in Lent |

### 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**



### 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

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Deuteronomy 26:1-11 | Thank-offering for the mighty acts of God |
| Psalms 91:1,2,9-16  |   |
| Romans 10:8b-13     | The Christian confession: Jesus is Lord   |
| Luke 4:1-13         | Jesus tempted                             |