

Welcoming  
Growing  
Sharing



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

Sunday 23 March 2025

Where's your focus?

### Scripture

[Luke 13:1-9](#)

### Reflection

We don't know the backstory of why Pilate had some Galileans killed while they were offering sacrifices at the temple. When there's a tragedy, people often ask, 'Why did God allow that to happen?' Was God punishing them? Likewise with the tower of Siloam that fell and killed 18 people. Does that indicate they were more guilty than others in Jerusalem?

Jesus replied with an emphatic, 'No!'. It's as though he said, 'You are doing the human thing of wanting to apportion blame'. 'Why?' is often our favourite question. We like to understand things. Things are meant to make sense. But Jesus directs them to a deeper question: 'Are you ready if you were to suddenly die? Would you be separated from God and perish? Live your life ready. Repent!'

Jesus calls all of us to repentance – to repent of our own efforts, our limited perception, and our willingness to blame others. We live in a broken world, and each of us messes up somehow, including through our pride and unbelief. Perhaps we need to ask ourselves: Am I living as a follower of Jesus, moved from darkness to light, placing my confidence in God? Am I submitting to the lordship of Jesus?

Depending on the variety, a fig tree typically starts bearing fruit three to five years after planting. This man (verse 6) had a fig tree planted in the care of his vineyard keeper. For three years, he came looking for fruit but found none. We don't know how long it's been there, but the expectation is for the tree to bear fruit. If it doesn't, then the time will come to replace it.

In effect, don't postpone repentance! Do we realise that God's kindness leads us to repentance (Romans 2:1-4)? Are you willing for the Holy Spirit to dig around you, your roots, to fertilise your life? For it is there that we learn to trust God at work in us and bear fruit accordingly.

by Ruth Olsen

### Prayer

***Father, teach me your ways. Help me walk in repentance daily. Thank you for your patience and perseverance with us. Amen.***



**WE PRAY**  
**23 March 2025**

**Loving God:**

- † Thank you for the Pastors you have given our churches. We ask that Pastor Peter Bean and his family experience your grace and peace in their daily lives and your wisdom and discernment for Pastor Lee Kroehn as he trusts in your leading. We pray for unity, forgiveness, and a spirit of service within our church family.
- † Inspire us, loving God, to mirror your care and compassion for all. We pray for:
  - all affected by storm and flood damage in New South Wales and Queensland
  - all affected by drought in South Australia. We ask that you send rain to all areas that need it.
  - the Whyalla community facing challenges impacting livelihoods, the city's economy and the steelwork's future.
  - peace and stability in the world, that your healing touch may bring comfort and hope to those who are suffering.

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

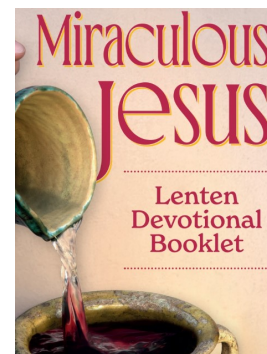
- † The leaders you have appointed over the LCANZ, churchwide: LCA Bishop, Paul Smith, Assistant Bishop, Stephen Schultz, and the College of Bishops and locally District Bishop, Andrew Brook.
- † All pastors and parishes, principals and schools of the LCANZ, especially those in our South West Metro zone.
- † Pastoral Care Workers of the South Western School Ministry Team. We give thanks and praise for Denys Chew and the Marion Primary and Paringa Park Primary School communities. *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, David B's uncle recovering from eye surgery, Elle E, Tim S, Virginia K, their families and carers. You have the power to move in our lives and through our circumstances.

**LENTEN WORSHIP**—Wednesdays 7:00pm

*St Paul's LC, 48–50 Brighton Road, Glenelg*

'Lost and found' is a reflection on the Parable of the prodigal son. Everyone is welcome to journey with Jesus into the Father's arms.

**FREE LENT DEVOTIONAL**—'Miraculous Jesus' is available on Lutheran Tract Mission's website at [www.ltm.org.au/flipbkjenten-2025](http://www.ltm.org.au/flipbkjenten-2025) and can be downloaded, printed or used as a digital flipbook.



**FRIENDS OF LUTHERAN ARCHIVES**—Thursday 27 March 7:00pm

*Immanuel LC, 139 Archer Street, North Adelaide*

Geoff Saegenshitter, Chairman of FoLA, will present his published research of The Biar family divided: Emigrants to two continents. All welcome, supper included, \$5 Donation. LIVESTREAM on FoLA YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/@friendsoflutheranarchives9644/live>

**SAVE  
THE  
DATES**

**IMMANUEL COLLEGE BOARDER BARBECUES**—Saturday 5 April 5:00pm

Please let Rob know (for catering) if you'd like to join in for the last BBQ of Term 1!

**MESSY CHURCH**—Sunday 6 April 3:30pm

*Immanuel Primary School Auditorium*

**JOIN ALWS IN CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF SERVICE**—Saturday 3 May

*Walk My Way @ ALC, North Adelaide*

Together, let's give thanks to God for 75 years of Lutheran service through ALWS and commit to changing the future for 75,000 vulnerable children impacted by poverty and war. ALWS Walk My Way Registrations are essential. Register now at [www.alws75.org.au](http://www.alws75.org.au) or call 1300 763 407.

**51st LCA SA-NT DISTRICT CONVENTION OF SYNOD**—17&18 May

Convention of Synod is a coming together of congregational lay delegates, church leaders, officials and clergy, primarily to conduct the business of the Lutheran Church of Australia, South Australia – Northern Territory District. It is the District's Annual General Meeting. Thank you, Trevor, for generously volunteering your time as ILCs rep.

**LUTHERAN CARE 2025 LENTEN APPEAL**—40 Days: Kindness in Action

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 <https://www.lutherancare.org.au/lenten-appeal/>

**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**

LCANZ Bishop Paul Smith has provided a dozen video clips of 2 minutes or less on key questions regarding the ordination decision of our recent General Synod. You can access them at <https://www.lca.org.au/bishop/ordination-videos/> If you haven't already, I suggest you have a look. They are excellent! - Steen Olsen

**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.

**ILC OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR**, Ann Goodwin, is on annual leave from 24 March to 7 April. Please collect a roster from the Welcome Table as reminder emails, the Bulletin and Family News will be put on hold while the ILC Office is closed. For any urgent pastoral care needs, please contact Chris Schutz on 0439 899 590.

## 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 at ILC

Sunday 23 March	9:30am	Worship with Holy Communion-Pastor Peter Bean- 3rd Sunday in Lent
Thursday 27 March	9:00am	Prayer in the Prayer Chapel- <i>all welcome</i>
Sunday 30 March	9:30am	Worship with Holy Communion-Pastor Malcolm Pech -Baptism of Archer Koch-4th 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**

**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

**Isaiah 55:1-9**

**Psalms 63:1-8**

**1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

**Luke 13:1-9**

**Come to the Lord, who is merciful**

**When David was in the wilderness of Judah**

**Do not take God's grace for granted**

**Repent or die!**