

Welcoming
Growing
Sharing



LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF AUSTRALIA
where love comes to life

Sunday 4 May 2025
Friends, even in failure

Scripture

[John 21:1–19](#)

Reflection

Simon Peter had failed. He swore he would never deny Jesus. He had promised unwavering loyalty. Yet, when the pressure came, he crumbled. Not once, but three times, he denied Jesus.

After Jesus' resurrection, Peter was back in a boat, fishing. Was he trying to return to the life he knew before? Was he wondering if he still had a place in Jesus' mission? Or in Jesus' heart?

Then, from the shore, Jesus called out, 'Friends, haven't you any fish?'

Friends. Not failures, not cowards, not traitors, but friends.

Jesus knew Peter's denial. He knew Peter's guilt. And yet, his first words were not of rebuke but of relationship. In that moment, Jesus reminded Peter – and us – that our failures do not define us. His love does.

How often do we, like Peter, fall short? How often do we betray our convictions or turn away when our faith becomes costly? Yet Jesus still calls us his friend. His grace reaches beyond our failures, inviting us back into fellowship with him.

Later in today's passage, Jesus restores Peter fully, reminding him that his calling was never based on perfection but on love. The same is true for you. Jesus does not abandon you when you fall short. Instead, he calls you back, offering forgiveness, purpose and friendship.

No matter how many times you fail, Jesus still stands on the shore, beckoning to you, his friend. Will you answer?

by Jane Mueller

Prayer

Lord Jesus, I fail you. Knowingly and unknowingly, time and time again, I fail you. Yet you still call me your friend. Help me to receive your grace and walk in the love you so freely give. Let my life be a reflection of your grace and love. Amen.



WE PRAY
4 May 2025

Almighty God:

to know you is eternal life. Teach us to know your Son as the way, the truth and the life; and guide us along the way of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.-LCA Festival of Saints Philip & James (1 May)

† *"Lord Jesus, we thank you for your love and for the opportunity to follow you. We ask for your strength and guidance as we navigate the challenges of life. Help us to be obedient to your commandments, to live a life of love and service, and to remain steadfast in our faith. Grant us wisdom, courage, and a heart to share your love with others. May we always remember that you are our source of hope and strength."*-an online prayer for all who follow Jesus

† *"Lord, we pray for our world. May peace prevail, and may your light shine on all who are suffering. Grant wisdom to leaders and compassion to all people. Heal the wounds of conflict and bring unity in diversity. Guide the members of the Australian government with wisdom and discernment as they lead our nation. May they be inspired to make decisions that promote justice, fairness, and the well-being of all Australians, especially those who are most vulnerable."*-an online prayer for our world and leaders

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. *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 them as they set their 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 S, Elle E, Tim S, Trevor H their families and carers. You have the power to move in our lives and through our circumstances.

CHATLINE-due date Sunday 4 May

Please send all contributions; family events, travel news, photos, recipes, etc, to vjvolk@gmail.com as soon as you can.

DEDICATION OF PARAMENTS-Sunday 1 May 9:30

Pastor Simon will dedicate a new set of altar, pulpit, and lectern paraments and pastors' stoles to set them apart for use in God's house, to his glory.

Please bring a plate of morning tea to share after the service.

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, Margie, for generously volunteering your time as ILCs rep.

HIGH AFTERNOON TEA-Saturday 24 May 2:00

The Corner Uniting Church, cnr Diagonal & Oaklands Roads, Warradale

Please let Margie or Nannette know if you can attend this fundraiser for School Chaplains to support families in difficult times, as ILC has done in previous years. Also advise dietary requirements, plus transport needs.

LUTHERAN MEDIA

⇒ **Messages of Hope**-2026 Calendar Competition

Whether you're a casual clicker or a full-time nature lover, if you've snapped the perfect image of nature you'd like to share with the world, enter our 2026 Lutheran Media Calendar competition. Cash prizes are awarded to the top 3 entries. Hurry - entries close 31 May 2025. lutheranmedia.org.au/calendar-competition/

⇒ **Join us for lunch in the Barossa**-Saturday 21 June 12:00

Kies Family Winds, Lyndoch

Please note that tickets are limited, so get in quickly! <https://lutheranmedia.org.au/about-us/events/>

⇒ **Worship service of celebration**-Sunday 2 November

St Michael's LC, 6 Balhannah Road, Hahndorf

9.30am service for a celebration of 80 years of Lutheran Media followed by light lunch

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 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.



THE LUTHERAN

Members of our Lutheran family are taking up God's call to share his love with people right under their noses – those in their backyards, so to speak. Be inspired by reading their stories – all excellent reminders of what 'church' can be to its local community. Digital edition available www.thelutheran.com.au Subscribe today [luther-](mailto:lutheran.subs@lca.org.au)

[an.subs@lca.org.au](mailto:lutheran.subs@lca.org.au)

FIND US ON FACEBOOK ... like, comment, share us on Facebook to help spread the Word! www.facebook.com/ilcnovargardens

PARISH VACANT

Ann Goodwin - ILC Office Administrator

Email: agoodwin@immanuel.sa.edu.au

Phone: 8375 1755

Chris Schutz—Nurture Team Leader

christine.r.schutz@gmail.com

Phone: 0439 899 590

COMING UP at ILC

Sunday 4 May	9:30am	Worship with Holy Communion-Pastor Malcolm Pech- 3rd Sunday of Easter
Thursday 8 May	9:00am	Prayer in the Prayer Chapel- <i>all welcome</i>
Sunday 11 May	9:30am	Worship with Holy Communion-Pastor Mark Welke - Good Shepherd Sunday – Mother's Day morning tea

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

Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)

The conversion of Saul

Psalms 30

A song. For the dedication of the temple

Revelation 5:11-14

Worthy is the Lamb that was killed

John 21:1-19

Jesus and the miraculous catch of fish