

CONNECTIONS

St. John's Kingaroy - Peace Kumbia-Taabinga - St Paul's Murgon

St John Trinity Wondai - Calvary Yarraman

St John's School Kingaroy - Orana Aged Care



God said, 'I will pour out my Spirit on everyone.

Your sons and daughters will proclaim my message;

your young men will see visions,

and your old men will have dreams.

And whoever calls out to the Lord for help will be saved.'

Acts 2:17, 21

PASTOR'S PAGE - SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

In John chapter 9, Jesus heals a man who had been born blind. When the Pharisees investigate the matter, Jesus exposes a different kind of blindness. I would encourage you to read the whole chapter, but particularly verses 13-41. I mean it. Do it now! Read it.

Now, most of us wouldn't like us to admit we're blind, but we're often more blind than we'd care to admit.

In my own reading, I found the following devotion by Paul David Tripp in his book "New Morning Mercies (Crossway, 2014) for the 4th of June quite insightful.

It's only in the mirror of God's Word that you see yourself accurately, and only in his grace that you find help for what you see.

I saw it again and again in counselling. Maybe it was a husband and wife, an angry teenager, a single person who had lost her way, or a pastor who had gotten himself into trouble. For all of the vast differences in the situations and struggles, they shared a common theme. All of these people thought they knew themselves, but they didn't. They all thought they saw themselves with accuracy, but they didn't. They all wanted me to agree with the assessments they had made of themselves, but I couldn't. They all suffered from the same disease, but they denied it. It didn't take long for me to realise that I was experiencing firsthand a universal human condition that the Bible talks about. It's called spiritual blindness.

Sin blinds, and because it does, the sin inside me keeps me from seeing me with clarity. Sin is self-excusing and self-aggrandizing. Sin is self-righteous and other-blaming. Sin is self-atoning; it easily rationalises away my wrongs. Sin allows me to feel all right about what God says is very wrong. The personal sight system that God wired into every human being has been terribly broken by sin. We just do not know ourselves well, and we just don't see ourselves with the clarity necessary to assess who we are and how well we are doing. We all suffer from spiritual blindness. But that is not all. We also suffer from the fact that we live most of the time blind to our blindness. We don't see ourselves with clarity, but we think we do, and we don't know ourselves with accuracy, but we are convinced we do. This is why we all tend to be offended when someone points out a sin, weakness, or failure. At the moment when we hear such an assessment, we struggle with the fact that what that person has said about us is so fundamentally different from the view of ourselves that we have been carrying around.

So we all need help. It comes to us in the gift of God's word. Empowered by the convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit, it is the universe's most accurate mirror. Stand in front of it and you will see yourself as you really are. The diagnostic accuracy of the Bible is perfect. And because its diagnosis of your true condition, your true need, is always accurate, the Word of God is able to offer the only reliable cure for your condition. And effective cure is always attached to an accurate diagnosis. And here's the good news. You don't need to be afraid of all the dark things you don't see in yourself but which Scripture reveals about you, because all of those dark things have been covered by and defeated by the powerful grace that is yours in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Now, it's possible most of us don't know how to use God's Word as a diagnosis tool so we can see ourselves accurately, after all, some of it's hard to understand, but I offer a couple of questions which might help:

In these words I've read (or heard), what is God revealing to me about the human condition (including my own condition)?

In these words I've read (or heard), what is God revealing to me about how he answers our human condition (including my own needs) in the work of Jesus Christ?

In this way we can see ourselves and our common human flaws and temptations in the Old Testament stories of Abraham, Jacob, Moses, and David. We can see ourselves and our life stories portrayed in the parables. We can see ourselves in the self-righteous words of the Pharisees. We can see ourselves in the struggling faith of the disciples. We can see ourselves and our human frailties in those Jesus healed and raised from the dead. We can see ourselves and our spiritual struggles described in the letters from St Paul. But we can also see how the promise and incarnation of our Saviour Jesus Christ is God's answer to our human needs.

In this way, learning to see ourselves more accurately through Scripture also teaches us to see Christ and his powerful work of forgiveness, life, and salvation more clearly through the same Scripture.

As John Newton said so meaningfully many years ago:

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see. (LHS 851)*

Shalom

Pastor Stuart

ST JOHN TRINITY WONDAI

Several changes have taken place within our congregation over past few months.

Our sincere thanks to Rowly Bendall who conducted his final lay reading service recently. We are very appreciative of all his time and efforts over the past years and we wish him well as he faces his health issues.

We recently sold the church house (the former manse), so now we have new neighbours. At present, the hall is being used by several organisations on a regular basis.

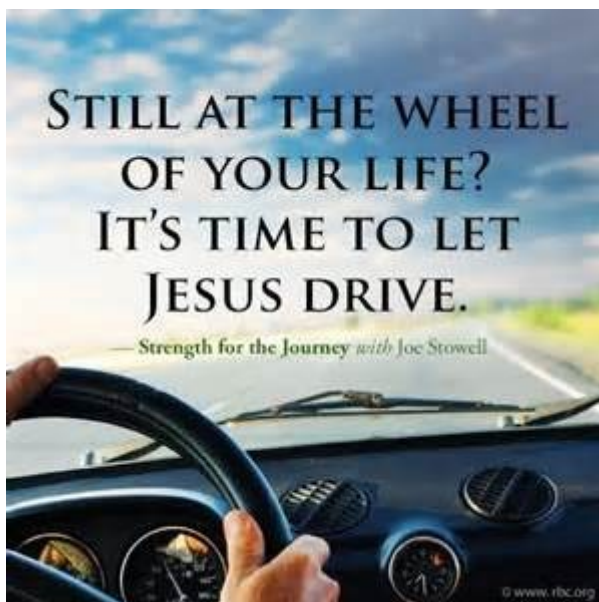
Plans are underway to paint the church hall and roof. This probably will not happen until the middle of next year. Finding a painter willing to paint such a building was not easy.

Judy Guse

CHRIST OUR DRIVER

The journey of life,	We are the passengers,
Takes us down many roads.	Stop wrestling the wheel.
Driving all different cars,	When we trust and let go,
Carrying all different loads,	His peace we will feel.

Christ is the driver,	Taking the wheel,
Of our heart and our soul.	Only leads to frustration,
When we gave Him our life,	For it's He who knows,
He took control.	Our destination.



PEACE KUMBIA/TAABINGA

On Sunday, June 29th, Peace congregation celebrated our Harvest Thanksgiving service. Each year, our members look forward to displaying the fruits of our labours in the church and thanking God for the many and varied gifts He has bestowed on us. Everyone is always amazed at the quantity of the donations and the enthusiasm with which they are given. All donations are "sold off" during morning tea after the worship service. All proceeds are given to the Kingaroy Pantry to assist in helping them meet the needs of our community.

Submitted by Janice Truss



Kumbia's Harvest Thanksgiving display - thanking God for all our many blessings.



CALVARY YARRAMAN

It's good to connect with our fellow parishioners every few months. It is surprising how quickly that time comes around.

Recently we have welcomed students from the Googa Camp who have come to worship with us in our church at Yarraman. We really enjoy having these young people along with their leader Max at our Sunday services and of course for morning tea. They are very well mannered and good to talk to, and we only hear positive comments about their stay at Googa. We ask God to bless this ministry at the Googa Outdoor Education Centre.

Keith and Doreen Sander had only just left us to go to a cottage at Orana, when Keith became unwell and died at the age of 93, on July 14th. His funeral was held in our Yarraman church, with Pastor Jordan Bennett taking the service.

Our Spring Celebration this year has been set for October 19th. An invitation is extended to all in the parish who would like to join us. The service will begin at 9.30 a.m. followed by a salad lunch and an auction of goods. We would love to see you there.

God's many blessings to you all as we face life with its many challenges. Jesus said, "Call on me in the day of trouble and I will deliver you."

Audrey Frohloff



The latest group of Googa students worshipping with us at Calvary

ST JOHN'S KINGAROY

What a privilege it was in May, for St John's congregation to provide the venue for the 2025 Lutheran Women of Qld convention and retreat, which was hosted by WBB Zone. Around 80 women enjoyed a weekend of fun, bible study, listening to interesting speakers, singing, food, lots of chatting and renewing of friendships, and of course - worship. Quite a few men also accompanied their wives, and a special programme was provided for them by the men of St John's congregation.

A youth service was held on June 22nd, where 4 young people were actively involved in leading the worship service. The three older ones were asked to reflect on given Bible passages and present their thoughts and a prayer. We were amazed at the christian maturity and understanding these young people showed. We were indeed very blessed by their insights. Thank you to Grace, Briah, Levi and Yvette.

In response to God's goodness to us, a Thanksgiving service was held on June 29th, led by Pastor Noel. Produce, preserves and some knitted items were given by members of the congregation, and these were all donated to South Burnett Support Alliance for people in need.

At the end of July, our congregation once again was able to provide meals for those doing it tough, in conjunction with SBSA. We supplied and served about 125 hot nourishing meals. This involved 22 people doing planning, shopping, cooking, transporting meals, serving, talking to diners, and cleaning up. Also, a number of people who weren't able to physically help were generous with their financial contributions. A huge team effort! Thanks again everyone. Many thanks also to George and Linda for donating potatoes, some of which were used in the meals, and the rest were donated to SBSA.

It was with great sadness that we farewelled our dear brother, John Larsen, whose funeral was held at Virgo's Chapel on June 22nd. Our deepest sympathies to Audrey and family.

As God took one home, he also brought two into His Kingdom with the baptism of Chaz and Indi Savage on July 13th. Chaz and Indi are the children of Ashlee (nee Tessmann) and Brodie Savage. We welcome these precious little ones into our midst.

Congregation members have been encouraged to share their favourite bible verses and hymns or songs, which were put in the Chairman's notes each week. Now we are asked to share 'God Moments'. It is indeed good that we tell of the goodness of God, and how he works in our lives each and every day. There is so much for us to give thanks for. What an AWESOME God we have!

Del Schwenke



LWQ husbands and Kingaroy hosts at Bethany



Ready to serve meals at SBSA



Thanks service goods donated to SBSA

"OH, BLEST THE HOUSE"

Welcome to this issue of the South Burnett Lutheran Parish CONNECTIONS magazine.

As Parish chairman, it gives me pleasure to recount this devotion from Lutheran Hour Ministries for your consideration. Once in a while I am really drawn to articles and devotions from different sources. There is a folder in my computer where they are stored. This devotion really struck me as very topical in this day and age. May the content and thoughts for reflection be something you may like to share as a family in your home. May we always share God's grace with all those we have around us.

This Daily Devotion was written by Dr. Carol Geisler. It is based on the hymn, "Oh, Blest the House."

*"Oh, blest the house, whate'er befall,
where Jesus Christ is all in all!
A home that is not wholly His—
how sad and poor and dark it is!*

*Then here will I and mine today
a solemn promise make and say:
Though all the world forsake His Word,
I and my house will serve the Lord!"*

Most parents want to give all they can to their children, providing them with a loving home, food and clothing, a good education, and so much more. These things are necessary and important, but our hymn points out something that is sadly missing in so many households. No matter how much parents give to their children, a home that does not belong entirely to Jesus Christ, a home where the Savior is not "all in all," will be "sad and poor and dark."

The psalmist declares, "Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labour in vain" (Psalm 127:1a). Only households built on the solid foundation of Jesus Christ have lasting joy, true wealth, and enduring hope. Such a home has the joy and peace found in the forgiveness and life that Jesus alone brings to us. Material possessions may satisfy nearly every earthly need, but true wealth is found in the riches of God's grace. When a household suffers trouble and grief, only hope in Jesus can lead a family out of the darkness. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, christian parents help their children to grow in grace and faith. Children learn to love Jesus, their best friend and the saviour who died to save them. In households built by the Lord, families pray and read bible stories together so their children, from a young age, learn to love the scriptures. Parents and children attend church together so that worship becomes a good and lifelong habit, just as it was for our Lord, who attended weekly worship according to his usual custom (see Luke 4:16).

Joshua, who led the people of Israel after Moses' death, issued a challenge to God's people. Would they serve the false gods of the nations around them or would they worship and serve the God of Israel? The Israelites responded with a promise to serve the Lord who had saved them from slavery in Egypt.


Each Christian family today faces the same choice. Will our households follow the empty values and sinful behaviours of the world in which we live? Or will our families, led by the Holy Spirit, worship the Lord Jesus and walk in his ways? We pray that every family will remain firm in faith and trust in the grace of God as they raise their children to live for his glory. We pray that every christian household—whether home to many people or to one person—will boldly declare, "I and my house will serve the Lord!"

WE PRAY: Lord, I and my house will serve You alone!
Amen.

Reflection Questions:

What's one improvement you can make to your family's home life that wouldn't cost a cent?

How does God's foundation for a happy and healthy home differ from the world's ideas on this?



For those who
are led by
the Spirit of
God are the
children of
God.

- Romans 8:14 NIV -

ST JOHN'S KINGAROY LADIES FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE NEWS

Members continue to meet monthly on the first Thursday of the month at 9.30am beginning with Bible Study led by Pastor Stuart. Latest study titles have been 'Careless Talk' and 'Fear, Cravings, & Misplaced Trust'.

Four of our ladies were able to attend the Lutheran Women Qld Wide Bay Burnett Zone rally day held on April 10th at St Pauls Lutheran Church, Murgon. Thank you, Murgon, for your ninety years of christian hospitality, and how wonderful it was that Gladys Sippel and Gladys Birch had the honour of cutting your 90th Anniversary cake.

May 16th-18th was a great weekend of Christian fellowship as the Lutheran Women of Qld Wide Bay Burnett Zone hosted the Lutheran Women of Qld combined retreat and convention at St John's. A varied program, that included praise singing, devotions and quizzes, was enjoyed by all. Popular local country singer Dean Perrett entertained us with some country gospel music. Delicious breakfasts, lunches and dinners were prepared and served by JC Catering. We listened to some fabulous guest speakers. Karyn Bjelke-Petersen spoke about St John's School from the beginning to the present, Joanne Miller spoke about the Hamlin Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia, and Lynda Lange from Systas in Sync spoke about the various ways that this group of local christian women help other women and girls in our area. Elsa Mathias spoke about her work with LCA Missions and her involvement as a LCA NZ overseas youth representative. Elsa is also a talented singer, and we were fortunate to have her sing for us. The speakers were all inspiring and wonderful christian role models. Two highlights of the weekend for some were the installation of the LWQ Executive by Pastor Jordan and the installation of the LWA Executive by Pastor Stuart during a special communion service on Saturday. The weekend concluded with our church full for the Sunday holy communion service. Thanks to the WBBZ members and St John's congregation members who contributed in many ways to the success of LWQ Retreat/Convention 2025.

Friendship Circle members made their way up to The Hub at Orana for the July meeting. It's always a great opportunity for us to connect with Orana residents, including former members of our guild/friendship circle, when we meet there. Pastor Jordan led us in bible study and we enjoyed a time of fellowship over a cuppa.

During August, we assembled eighteen birthing kits. Many thanks to all who donated items for these kits and to Pastor Stuart for transporting the kits to Adelaide LCA International Mission. From there they are forwarded to PNG for distribution to rural and remote areas lacking in medical supplies. Various items were also sent to Immanuel Lutheran Church Buderim for inclusion in hygiene kits for their project to support girls living in poverty in Uganda.

Please continue to collect used stamps. These can be left in the Kingaroy church foyer or given to any Kingaroy member, as money raised from the sale of these stamps is used to support mission work. Thank you to the many people who support this worthy cause.

God bless you all and the work that you do.

St John's Lutheran Ladies Friendship Circle.

Joan Crumpton



Councillor Danita Potter with Joan Yappa. The South Burnett Regional Council gave us a \$500 grant towards costs for the weekend.



Elsa Mathias



Dean Perrett

ST PAUL'S MURGON

In WBB Zone Rally, held on 10th April, was hosted by Murgon Women's Guild. The theme was 'Perseverance and Persistence' based on Romans 5:1-5. This was explored deeply through the bible study and worship, and in the closing devotion led by Pastor Stuart. The afternoon devotion, 'Persist in Prayer' by Judy Guse, also offered encouragement to all. The guest speaker, Simone Taylor, having met Ahmed Kelly, the Iraqi-born Australian Paralympic swimmer, shared how she had been inspired by the life of this young man and his adoptive mother, Moira Kelly. The offering of the day was given to the Moira Kelly Creating Hope Foundation. This year our guild is celebrating its ninetieth anniversary. Members Gladys Birch (101) and Gladys Sippel (90) joined us for lunch and the afternoon session, and had the honour of cutting the anniversary cake.

Four ladies from our congregation attended the LWQ retreat/convention, held in May at the Kingaroy church complex. The theme for the weekend was 'Looking Forward, Looking Back' based on Isaiah 46:3-5. This time together provided opportunities to hear excellent guest speakers, experience spiritual growth through bible studies and worship led by Pastor Jordan (who is the Spiritual Advisor to LWQ), as well as time for wonderful fellowship and lots of fun. A total of seventy-seven ladies attended the weekend and many joined the St. John's congregation for worship on Sunday. We are reminded to look back and thank God, and look forward and trust God.

We mourn the loss of Dorothy May Eisenmenger (September 3rd 1929 - May 8th 2025) and Vivian Graham Sippel (July 15th 1934 - July 14th 2025) and extend Christian sympathies to the members of their families. Dorothy and Vivian are deeply missed.

The annual ALWS Walk my Way was held in Brisbane on May 10th. At the conclusion of the 12km walk, my daughter, Ruth, sent me a text saying, 'Guess who I've found? My godfather!' (Keith Hatchett)

Members who have been away include Bruce and Veronica Sommerfeld who are still helping on a cattle property in Central Queensland, Keith and Florence Hatchett who visited them and did some touring on their way home, Penny Ruthenberg who went to Canada with a friend, Oriel Black who visited her daughter Kym and husband Warren in Bundaberg, and myself. Together with my daughter Ruth and son-in-law Gunnar, I flew to Boston, USA, to visit my brother & sister-in-law, John & Alixe Day. We thank God for the safe travel all experienced.

Nola Zerner



Gladys Sippel and Gladys Birch cut the anniversary cake



Penny Ruthenberg enjoying Canada



Keith Hatchett and Ruth Zerner - Walk My Way



Nola Zerner and brother John Day on a ferry off the coast of Maine, USA.

ST JOHN'S SCHOOL

There's been plenty happening at St John's this term as we continue to grow, celebrate, and learn together as a school community.

Our new upper primary building is well underway, with the roof going on this week. This exciting development will provide even more opportunities for students moving into their final years of primary school.

At the end of August, we celebrated our annual Book Week. This event continues to be a favourite for both students and staff, who dressed up in creative costumes and engaged in conversations about the importance of reading.

This coming Friday, 12th September, we are delighted to host the Year 12 Formal for our graduating class of 2025. We warmly invite all congregation members to join us at 4:00pm for the special red-carpet arrivals.

Prep interviews for 2026 are still taking place. If you know of any families considering sending their children to St John's, please encourage them to submit an enrolment application as soon as possible, as limited places are still available.

We held a wonderful Dads and Lads (and Lasses) Breakfast on Thursday, September 4th. Fathers and father figures in our school community enjoyed a hearty breakfast together with students, celebrating the important role they play in the lives of our students.

This term has also seen our Year Four and Year Five students head off to camp. Senior camps are still to come next term. Camps are such valuable experiences, building resilience, teamwork, and lifelong memories.

Our theme for the year, 'Breathe', continues to flow through our classrooms and community. The LEQ 'Free to Flourish' themes are woven into class devotions, reminding us daily to pause, reflect, and spend time in God's presence. Our foyer displays beautiful artwork, created by students alongside our art teacher, that visually captures this theme. Staff have also been engaging in spiritual retreats, providing opportunities to connect with one another and explore faith from a christian perspective.

We thank God for the blessings of this term and ask that you continue to keep our students, families, and staff in your prayers.



Progress on the new upper primary building



Dressing up for Bokk Week





Dads and Lads (and Lasses) Breakfast for Fathers' Day

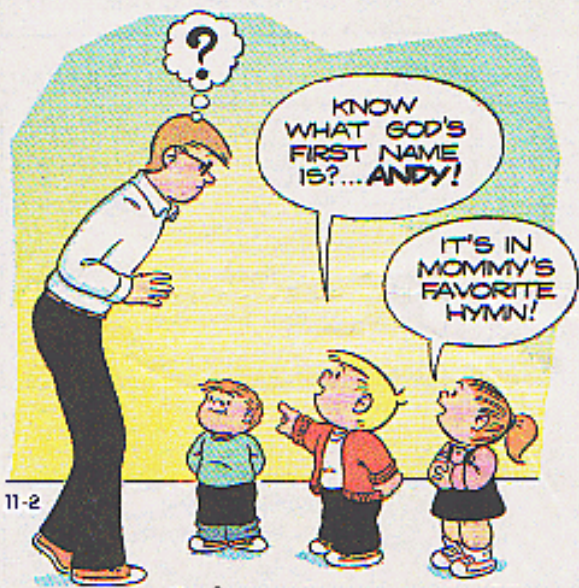


A Year Five camp activity



Staff enjoying the spiritual retreat at the Bunyas

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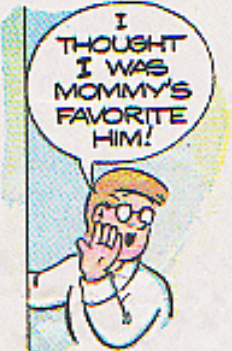
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"IN THE GARDEN" by C.A. WILSON

By Bil Keane



JEFF AND THE KEANE

ORANA NEWS

As always, it has been a busy time at Orana, with lots of activities and fun to be had! As BaconFest was on its way, many of our craft activities centred around piggies, with windows decorated, headbands created, various bacon muffins baked, and even our very own Troy Cassar-Daley!

We also had visits from various musicians as well as the Wooroolin choir, and a road trip out to the Bell Biblical Gardens. We visited St Mary's Catholic College where we were entertained by their concert band. We baked, cooked, played, painted, sung, reminisced, gardened, celebrated birthdays, and learnt about the weird and wonderful creatures that share this planet with us. Asking us what we've been up to is not a simple question!

In terms of news of the site, Bruce Bryan has been appointed as our new site manager. Hailing from Bundaberg, Bruce has a long history in the care industry, including time spent at Gayndah and at Castra in Murgon. Next time you visit, feel free to come and meet Bruce.

There are always works and maintenance being carried out on site. Several rooms in Noller Wing are being renovated, along with major renovations and repairs to some of the older independent units. We can't ever really say 'when it's done', because there is always something to be done next!

We're all looking forward to warmer weather, when the gardens will burst back into life and the birds start singing in the trees again. But until then, we'll have a hot chocolate, snuggle into our blankets, and enjoy some fun and games!



Chaplain Jordan sharing time with Jasmine Court residents including Kaye and John Bochmann in their dining room.

Residents of Schmidt Lodge enjoy a meal in their bright airy dining room



Out and about on an excursion to Bell Biblical Gardens



Entertainment from the Wooroolin choir

Keeping warm and enjoying a cuppa together

