

# 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

*Jesus died for us*



*Let's live for him*

EASTER SERVICES AROUND THE PARISH			
	Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	Easter Sunday
Kingaroy	7.00pm (HC)	9.30am	9.30am (HC)
Kumbia	No service	8.00am	8.00am (HC)
Murgon	No service	9.45am (Lay)	5.45am (HC) Combined at Guse's
Wondai	No service	7.45am (Lay)	
Yarraman	No service	3.00pm (HC)	8.00am (Lay)

*Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die; and all those who live and believe in me will never die.*

We talk a lot about the gospel in church and rightly so. Jesus preached and enacted the gospel. Paul preached the gospel as the power of salvation and as something not to be ashamed of. We stand for the gospel reading to mark its importance and because we recognise the presence of our risen Lord who continues to speak to us.

The word translated as 'gospel' in the Bible is *εὐαγγέλιον* (or euangelion), which literally means 'good news,' but it's not any old good news. This word was often used when referring to the good news of a battle won, which meant the people were now free from oppressors and could live in peace. When used as the good news (gospel) of Jesus Christ, it is the good news of his victory over sin, death, and the devil, which brings us forgiveness, peace, and life.

In the Lutheran Church, we have two main ways to speak of the gospel. The first is in a general or broad sense of the gospel. This would be the general good news of everything Jesus said and did. This understanding is based on Mark 1:1 which reads: **'The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God'** as well as Mark 1:15 where Jesus said: **"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."**

Therefore, everything which follows these verses would be the gospel of Jesus Christ, including Jesus' calls for repentance, his rebukes toward people of God, his calls for holy living, his miracles, his teachings, his cleansing of the temple, his cursing of the fig tree, his teachings about the end times, his suffering, his death, and his resurrection.

However, we Lutherans also speak of a more narrowly understood, or specific, gospel when distinguishing the gospel from the law. The law is often understood to be all those things God requires of us so we might live as his holy people. We use the law to guide us on how to love God and our neighbours, to expose how we fall short of God's expectations, and to increase our longing for the gospel of Jesus Christ. When the law strikes our consciences, the specific gospel of Jesus Christ is what comforts us the most. This gospel is most clearly defined by St Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4: **'Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you - unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.'**

So here we have a more narrowly defined gospel in contrast to the law: **the forgiveness of sins** through Jesus' death, which was confirmed by his burial; and **the promise of life** through Christ's resurrection, which was confirmed by the witnesses.

This is why Lutherans believe this most central article: **It is taught that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God through our merit, work, or satisfactions, but that we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God out of grace for Christ's sake through faith when we believe that Christ suffered for us and that for his sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us.** *Augsburg Confession, Article IV: 1-2*

We receive and believe this specific and comforting gospel of the forgiveness of sins and the promise of life eternal with through various means in the church:

1. Through the preaching the gospel in the sermon (when we hear our sins are forgiven through the death of Jesus and we believe the promise of eternal life with God in heaven through the resurrection of Christ)
2. Through our participation in baptism (which forgives our sins and joins us to Jesus who has already died and risen again)
3. Through our participation in holy communion (where we keep proclaiming the Lord's death until he comes, receive forgiveness of sins as promised, and commune with all the eternal inhabitants of heaven)
4. Through the public or private absolution of our sins (where our sins are declared to be forgiven and absolved)
5. Through the mutual sharing of the gospel in our conversations (when we share the good news of the forgiveness of sins and eternal life with each other to bring comfort and consolation)

In this sense, the gospel (the good news of Jesus' death for the forgiveness of our sin and his glorious resurrection which gives us the hope of eternal life) will always comfort and grant peace to our consciences, assure us we belong in heaven, and strengthen our faith in God.

As we prepare to say farewell to each other, I thank God that he gave us the opportunity to partner with each other for a while in the gospel. I thank God for the opportunities he gave me to proclaim the forgiveness of all your sins and reassure you of the promise of your life eternal with God. I pray you will also thank God for all the times you heard and believed this good news.

Peace be with you.

Pastor Stuart Kleinig



**"The very first Easter taught us this: that life never ends and love never dies."**

**- Kate McGahan**

## Peace Kumbia-Taabinga

Bruce and Daphne Cleaves would like to share their recent experience in overseas mission:

'In approximately 2019, while we were working fulltime in our small speech pathology practice, Bruce saw on a website a position available for a speech pathologist in peninsular Malaysia. Having been to Malaysia previously, we were enticed and agreed to 'file this possibility away in our brains' for when we were free of our business responsibilities.

In early 2025, after fully retiring, we contacted LCA International Mission and had our first contact with their Program Officer, Erin Kerber, whom we have since grown to know and value. About 12 months later, with Erin working behind the scenes and unbeknown to us, she found a need in Kota Kinabalu (KK), the capital of Sabah, a state of Malaysia, with the Basel Christian Church Malaysia Kota Kinabalu English (BCCM KK English). We were asked to consider an exploratory visit of three weeks in KK, Malaysia, for Daphne to support people with special needs and for Bruce to visit the church's Basel Garden complex to ascertain if he was able to help out from his plant pathology background.

This opportunity finally became a reality in January 2026 when we flew to KK and met our placement contact, Priscilla Chiu. Later we met Dean Renny Khoo and Pastor Lo Yi Ping, as well as many other congregational members.



*Bruce and Daphne with Priscilla Chiu, Dean Renny Khoo and Pr Lo Yi Ping*



*Basel Garden complex*

We enjoyed our three weeks, meeting the clients and their families, as well as the many volunteers from the Handprints programs which cover a toy library, the 'I'm Able' baking program and a café. We were stunned by the beauty of the scenery around the Basel Garden, it resembled a more tropical version of our own South Burnett landscape.

Throughout our stay we were very conscious of the presence of our Lord and how he continually cares for us. Being part of the proverbial 'baby boomer' and 'war effort' generation, we were aware of potential health hazards or dangers, but we both returned home in one piece. Not even a single band-aid was required. Thank you, Lord.

We found the people we met from the three main language groups (Malay, Chinese, and Kadazandusun) were extremely friendly, helpful, generous and polite. This included the congregational members, the families we supported, the church and agricultural staff at Basel Gardens, the retail shop assistants, the security officer at Likas Square where we stayed, and the many "Grab" drivers.

Thank you to Erin for taking the time and for making the effort to travel from Adelaide to Kumbia to be part of our commissioning service. Erin supported us continually through online contact, despite the time differences and varying internet connections. Our online conversations then turned into prayers for our time in KK as well as for our travel home.

Where to from here? We are not sure and will leave that decision to our Triune God and to any feedback that Erin receives from BCCM KK English.



*Erin Kerber with Daphne and Bruce at their commissioning service.*

**"I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth."**

**Job 19:25**

## St John's Kingaroy

We are grateful to the Lord for blessing us with a busy beginning to 2026, with numerous opportunities to come together in service, fellowship and learning.

On February 4th, St John's members provided 140 meals to homeless, financially challenged and vulnerable people as part of the SB Support Alliance's 'Community Feeding Community Meals Project'. Of these meals, 125 were served on the night, and 15 were frozen for use at Sunday lunchtime in O'Neill Square, where free meals are also provided to those in need. A huge thank you, once again, to all those who contributed in any way.



On the weekend of February 21st and 22nd, we hosted a visit from Pastor Matt Thiele and several visitors from the Nambour/Witta Lutheran Parish, with the theme of 'Our Missional Lives'. It was a wonderful weekend of learning from Pastor Matt and the other guest speakers – Vic Guse, Ralph Bowles and Christine Mallouhi from Nambour parish, and Pastor Jordan Bennett from Orana.



Each speaker touched on different aspects of mission, drawing from their own experiences and learnings. While considering how to describe the overarching message of the teachings over the weekend, I came across this musing from Pastor David Schmidt, which perfectly summed up much of what we had learned:

"Sometimes in the life of a church we sense that God is stirring something new. Not something flashy. Not a new program. But something deeper. What would it look like to be faithful here and now? That is where missional leadership and missional imagination begins. It does not begin with a clever plan. It begins with wonder. It begins with prayer. Growth is God's work. The Spirit is the one

who brings life. We cannot create mission. We can only join what God is already doing among us and around us. Leadership in the church is not about having all the answers. It is about learning to listen - to Scripture, to the Spirit, and to people. It is about discernment more than control." - Rev. David Schmidt

I have no doubt that all who joined in for the teaching sessions over the weekend left feeling positively challenged, and maybe even comforted, as we learned that being more missional may not necessarily mean doing more, trying harder, or even doing things differently. It may often mean doing less - becoming more reflective, quiet, and listening to the Spirit as we go about our everyday lives.

On the Saturday evening, a gathering of around 50 people enjoyed a camp oven dinner provided by 'The Bait Layers' at Bjelke-Petersen's 'The Old Hangar'.



A big thank you to John and Karyn for hosting our dinner. The following morning, Pastor Matt brought an engaging message to our worship at Kingaroy.



Ron Knopke turned 90 in February and celebrated with family and friends at a morning tea in the church hall. We thank God for Ron and his faithful service to our congregation over many years, and pray God's continued blessings on him and Jeanette.

Throughout the season of Lent, we have once again been having a quiet guided prayer time before the service, to prepare our hearts for worship.

*Anna Doecke and Del Schwenke*

**Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? He isn't here! He is risen from the dead!**

**(Luke 24:5-6)**

Ten members were welcomed back for our first meeting of 2026. Pastor Stuart led the bible study, titled 'Misplaced Trust'.

This year we decided to have a slight change to our meeting setup. It was suggested that we have a new meeting leader each month (but only for those who are willing). Three ladies have so far stepped up for the challenge, all doing a fantastic job. Friendship Circle members attended the 2026 Kingaroy service of the World Day of Prayer hosted by the Salvation Army. The service order was written by people in Nigeria. Joan Yappa and Rosemary Coulson participated in the service as our representatives.

Our ladies are looking forward to welcoming the St John's Kindy kids, their teachers and parent helpers to our church on Tuesday, March 24th (Group 1), and Thursday March 26th (Group 2), for a look around the church, followed by morning tea in the rotunda.

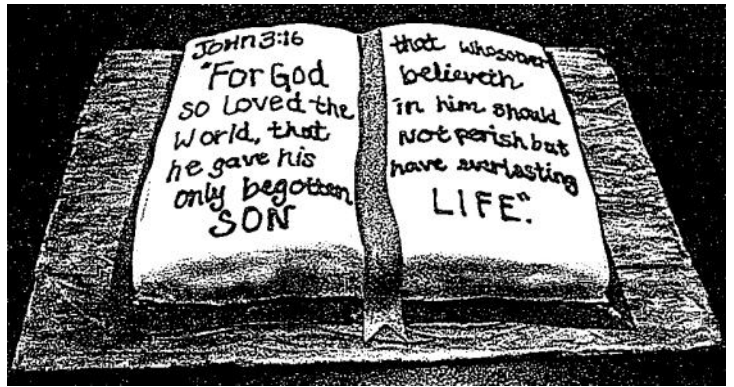
The LWQ Wide Bay Burnett Zone Rally Day is being held on Thursday April 23rd, at St James Lutheran Church, Hervey Bay, with the theme 'When Faith Feels Far Away'. Also coming up soon is the LWQ Retreat. This will be held from May 15th to 17th at Maroochy Waterfront Camp & Conference Centre. This year's theme is 'Women in the Wilderness' (Matthew 11:28-30) If you would like to attend, registration is required by April 21st. Full registration for Friday to Sunday, including all meals and accommodation, costs \$350.00. Registration forms are available in the Lutheran Women Magazine or see Joan Crumpton.

The April meeting will be the last meeting that Pastor Stuart will be in attendance. We thank and praise God for Pastor Stuart and Julie; their time with us has gone very quickly and we will miss them both. Thank you, Pastor Stuart, for the guidance and care shown to our Friendship Circle and we thank you for leading our very inspirational bible studies.

We wish all a happy, safe and blessed Easter.

Joan Crumpton

## Biblical Cake



From.....The Australian Lutheran Almanac, for the year 1923. Page 100.

Search for Ingredients.

Few people would look to the Bible for a recipe, yet here is one which will produce an excellent cake if the instructions are followed correctly (you will probably have to use the King James Version for this). At the same time, it will afford young and old an interesting few minutes seeking the solution.

Take 4½ cups of 1 Kings chapter 4 verse 22  
1½ cups of Judges chapter 5 verse 25 (last clause)  
2 cups of Jeremiah chapter 6 verse 20  
2 cups of 1 Samuel chapter 30 verse 12  
2 cups of Nahum chapter 3 verse 12  
1 cup of Numbers chapter 17 verse 8  
½ cup of Judges chapter 4 verse 19 (last clause)  
2 tablespoons of 1 Samuel chapter 14 verse 25  
6 of Jeremiah chapter 17 verse 11  
A pinch of Leviticus chapter 2 verse 13  
2 tablespoons of Amos chapter 4 verse 5

Season to taste with 2 Chronicles chapter 9 verse 9.  
Follow the advice of Solomon for making a good boy (Proverbs chapter 23 verse 14). Bake in a moderate oven for about 2 hours, and you will have a good cake



**Home Group:** As is our custom, we commenced this year with a Potluck Dinner and an evening of wonderful fellowship. This year, we are continuing to use the Studies provided in The Lutheran, found in the section entitled, 'Dwelling in God's Word'.

**Women's Guild:** The theme of the Bible Studies in Lutheran Women magazine this year is 'Love Letters from Paul'. I for one am looking forward to delving deeper into the letters of the Apostle Paul to Christian congregations of his time and how they are so helpful to us today.

Our ladies attended the World Day of Prayer hosted by the Church of Christ. The service was prepared by women in Nigeria, basing their message on Matthew 11:28-30. It was a very uplifting time of worship, with women from across the churches.

**Friends:** Some weeks ago, Bruce and Veronica Sommerfeld set off on more travels and headed for Tasmania. On March 6th, a group of five friends flew to Tasmania to join Veronica for a week of walking. Veronica's sister, Kathryn Bird, her cousin, Bronwyn Watson, and her friend, Naomi Kotzur, all grew up in Murgon. Shoni, nee Philpot, met these girls at school, while her father was the Uniting Church minister in Murgon, and Shoni and Veronica have remained close friends to this day. Sue Rewald became a relative by her marriage to Brad, and a friend to Veronica and Naomi. All six of these girls have a strong faith and trust in their Lord and Saviour. I'm sure their time together to share and support each other in their quiet times, as well as seeing new places and walking some long trails where they could appreciate God's creation, will remain in their hearts and memories for many years to come. May God bless each of them and their families now and always.

While the girls had their week together, Bruce found a potato farmer who needed help with his harvest which Bruce was able to provide. We pray God will watch over Bruce and Veronica as they continue their travels.

*L-R. Naomi, Sue, Kathryn, Shoni, Bronwyn, and Veronica hiking in Tasmania.*



**In Memoriam.** Carolyn Lee Muller, 25 March 1946 – 20 February 2026. We extend our sympathy to her husband John and their entire family. Carolyn will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. Take comfort in knowing Carolyn is now with her Lord and Saviour.

**Castra Aged Care Home:** Our congregation continues to provide a Lutheran Service with Holy Communion in the chapel at Castra on the third Thursday of every month. We are also on a roster organised by the Barambah Ministers Association to provide a Sunday service without Holy Communion once a month. Both these services are led by one of our pastoral assistants. The services are 30 minutes in length and include a confession and absolution, a psalm, the Apostle's Creed, prayers, a short Bible reading relating to the devotion chosen, the Lord's Prayer and a blessing, as well as two hymns.

**Morning Tea** following Sunday service is always a special time of fellowship for those who choose to stay.



*Marie Klibbe, Oriel Black, Beryl Waldron, and Pam Dowdle enjoying morning tea after Sunday service.*

Easter greetings to all readers. As we enter Holy Week, may we acknowledge with sincere hearts, how much God loves each one of us, in that he sent his only son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross, taking the punishment for all our sins upon himself, so we can receive full forgiveness for our sins, and look forward to eternal life with God in heaven.

**Combined Wondai-Murgon Easter Services:**

**Good Friday Service 9.30am at Murgon.**

**Easter Sunday Dawn Service 5.45am at the home of Ken and Judy Guse, 141 Rex Schultz Road, Wondai.**

*Nola Zerner*

**Jesus' resurrection is the ground and basis of all true love, hope, and joy; for if Jesus is still in the grave then all of humanity will remain in the grave too. But he is not in the grave, and this makes all the difference. (G. K. Chesterton)**

A new year means new beginnings. Our annual meeting was held in early February with only one change to the executive. Ken Guse remains chairperson, Rachel Cooper is vice chair, Felicity Jorgensen was elected as secretary, and Glenn Kerkow continues as treasurer.

After waiting for some time for quotes, planning for the painting of the church is in hand and work should commence next month. Our sunrise Easter Sunday service will again be held at the Guse residence on the hill at 141 Rex Schultz Road, Greenview, commencing at 5.45am, with Pastor Stuart leading the service. Everyone is most welcome.

Wishing everyone a very blessed Easter time remembering what God has provided for us - salvation through the death and resurrection of his own dear son, Jesus Christ.

*Judy Guse*



### THE SPIRIT

When Jesus Christ left this earth,  
He gave us a mighty teacher.  
To lead us and to guide us,  
So the devil won't defeat us.

He came a day called Pentecost,  
Fulfilled Christ's promised word.  
His Spirit came and filled each one,  
Many languages were heard.

He dispenses gifts to all who ask,  
Gives guidance from within.  
He strengthens and empowers us,  
To live life free from sin.

He shows us truths in scripture,  
And brings His Word to life.  
He watches out for danger,  
Forewarns impending strife.

He's the voice when our words fail us,  
He's our eyes in the unseen realm.  
We can overcome all trials in life,  
With Christ's Spirit at the helm.

The most valued natural resource,  
It remains there to be used.  
For all who confess that Christ is Lord,  
No one will be refused.

(Peter Spink)

**“On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’” Luke 24: 1-7**

As we come to the period of Easter, we contemplate the suffering of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ and what it really means for us. I encourage you with these thoughts taken from a Vince Gerhardy sermon titled 'One of Us'.

"No two people have the same experiences. Our genetic makeup, our upbringing, the culture we live in, our understanding of religion, the confidence that we have in our abilities, our friendships, the conflict we face, the differences in each of us to tolerate stress, worry and pain all end up making us all unique individuals.

All this may lead us to ask – how much does Jesus understand what is happening in our lives? We acknowledge that he is God; that he was there at the creation of the world and is now ascended to heaven where he rules with all power and authority. As Paul wrote, *'Christ rules above all heavenly rulers, authorities, powers, and lords; he has a title superior to all titles of authority in this world and in the next. God put all things under Christ's feet and gave him to the church as supreme lord over all things.'* (Eph 2:21-22).

Was he truly human; one of us? Did he find some things easy, some hard, some pleasures intense and some less intense, was he pulled this way, pulled that way? Did he have to painstakingly grow and develop, bit by bit, as we do? Or was his personality, his character, his ability to cope and endure, his patience, his understanding and compassion so perfect from the moment he was born because he was God.

The answer we give is crucial. Among the things Christians believe is that through the life and death of Christ, God became a part of what it means to be human. He didn't stand aloof from our pain and trouble. He came right into the middle of all that causes suffering, sadness, depression, sin, rebellion and death. We are reminded each time we say the Nicene Creed: ***'For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.'***

Because of Jesus, God can identify with us. He actually cares for us as one who personally knows us from the inside out and the outside in. He knows what is really happening inside of us and the causes of the trauma and drama in our lives better than we know ourselves. He knows all this because he has lived here amongst it all and experienced it all himself.

He experienced life in much the same way as we do. He suffered all kinds of pain - verbal and physical abuse, rejection by both those who were close to him and those who were in positions of authority, hurt feelings, disappointment, sadness, frustration, anger, confusion and the fear of dying.

We shy away from that suffering stuff. Not surprisingly, we dislike hard discipline and pain. We would like a trouble free, painless existence. Yet we need to face the unpalatable truth that we often learn more through suffering than we do through comfortable times.

Think what it meant for Jesus, who loved God totally, to be accused and condemned for blasphemy against God, by the highest religious authority in the land. Imagine what it was like to be treated like scum by the soldiers. Think of how he must have felt when Pilate gave the crowd the choice between releasing Jesus or setting free a murderer named Barabbas, and they chose the killer. Guilt was thrust on Jesus from every direction, and he had to bear it: *'He was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities.'*

In every way, Jesus is one of us. He knows in a very real way what kinds of things are happening in our lives. He assures us of his help in our times of need. He knows how to answer our prayers. He understands our needs. He is ready to give us the strength, help and comfort that we need. The God we praise is the one who is *'our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. We have nothing to fear'* (Psalm 46:1)."

Prayer: We thank you, almighty God, that you willingly sent your dear son into this world as a real man to be a human sacrifice as an atonement for the whole of humanity. Lord, teach us to fully appreciate what this sacrifice has achieved for us and make us truly thankful. For the sake of Jesus, Amen.

This Easter, may you truly be uplifted and share the good news of Christ's atoning sacrifice for all.

Rodney Patch,  
Chairman.

### The Power of Prayer?

A bar opened near a church!

The church prayed daily against the business.

A few weeks later the bar was struck  
by lightning and burned to ashes.

The bar owner sued the church because  
he said the fire was a result of prayers.

The church denied all responsibility.

The judge commented:

This is difficult to decide this case  
because here we have a bar owner  
who clearly believes in the power of prayer  
and an entire church who doesn't!!

Where do we even start? 2026 has started with a bang for Orana, with more activities and fun than we can keep track of. The big news, of course, is we have a new site manager, Kelly Roberts, who has already made an impression on our community. With many beautification projects underway, renovations, initiatives, and renewed focus, Orana is busier than ever. We are going from strength to strength as we strive to deliver the best possible experience for our residents and staff. Things may look a little different each time you visit!



So far in 2026, we have had visits from magicians and musicians, family and friends, and even a random baby from time to time! We celebrated Australia Day with our first ever water fight, with site manager Kelly and Pastor Jordan getting thoroughly drenched at the hands of gleeful residents. It was such a hit that I think we'll be signing on for round two next year!

We were blessed to have two of our staff members, Dan and Sylvia, share their Romanian culture with us, by cooking us a traditional feast and sharing about their home.



Valentine's Day was celebrated with a high tea and all things red and pink, and the residents shared advice from a lifetime of relationships.



As always, we've had our crafts, cooking, bingo, bocce, garden club, and worship services. We also had excursions to the art gallery to see the latest exhibit.



There were birthdays and happy hours, reading clubs and morning walks, and even our very own version of Ready, Steady, Cook! So much to remember and share, but the central theme across all our adventures is relationships. We have a wonderful community here at Orana, and we all feel blessed to be able to share this time together. We invite you all to come join us! Come and have a cuppa, play some bingo, come to a worship service, play some bocce, we'd love to see you!



**It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. (1 Peter 1:3-4)**

Time rolls along and it is almost Easter. Thank you, Jesus, for coming to earth, and dying and coming alive again for our salvation. We can come before the throne of God with pure and clean hearts, because we are forgiven.

On Good Friday at 10.00am, we will walk in faith again, carrying the cross and banner through the streets of Yarraman, walking from church to church, where we have bible readings (from Mark's gospel this time), a song or hymn and close with prayer. Sadly, the Catholic Church has had to close, so we won't be going there this year. Everyone is welcome to join us.

A Good Friday service will be held at 3pm with Pastor Stuart, and the Easter Service will be at 8.00am on Sunday.

A long-standing member, Roy Wrembeck, has left us and gone to live at Orana Rest Home. He has been a dedicated member of our church for many a year, serving in many areas. So, at 97, it was time to move on, after living with his daughter, Debbie, for the past twelve months or so.

One day recently, when Allan and I were having lunch at Frohlies Grill, I talked to a lady who gave me a tract. I would like to share it with you. It is titled "THANK AN AUSSIE FARMER" by Vince Wall.

*Will you thank the Aussie farmers who rise before the dawn?*

*For without them there'd be no spuds or chooks or corn.*

*From Tassie to the Territory and in all the other states,  
The faithful farmer farms the food for all our dinner plates.*

*Will you thank an Aussie farmer who puts the clothes upon our backs?*

*For without them there'd be no wool or cotton and fewer clothing racks.*

*From Gunnedah to Murwillumbah our farmers work the soil,*

*So city folk from Wollongong to Woolstencroft should remember the farmer's toil.*

*Now let's teach our children that those who farm have made this country great,*

*And all the food does not come from the supermarkets, but through the farmer's gate.*



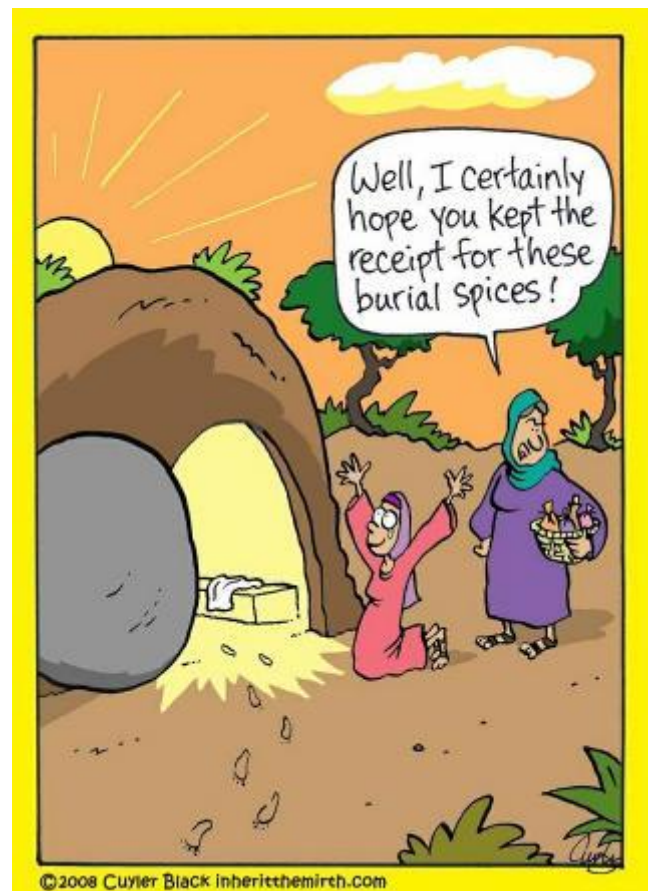
*Every Aussie farmer looks forward to a crop when they sow their seeds for a future harvest. The joy of sowing and reaping and rejoicing in the harvest is an integral part of every farming family's life.*

*When Jesus was on earth, he observed the fields and said to his disciples 'Lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest.' John 4:35.*

*When Jesus saw people, he saw a harvest field of souls that needed to know the love and forgiveness we need. Jesus Christ himself died on a cross for all our sins some 2000 years ago.*

*The Bible says, 'Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures. And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day' 1Cor. 15:3-4. The word of God also indicates that there will be a future harvest of joy in heaven for believers in Jesus and that their bodies will be like seeds sown in the ground at death but raised to life again, 'It is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption, it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power, it is sown in a natural body, it is raised in a spiritual body.' 1 Cor. 15:42-44.*

Audrey Frohloff



The central Christian belief is that Christ's death has put us right with God and given us a fresh start.

(C. S. Lewis)

## St John's School News

Term One has begun with great energy and enthusiasm at St John's Lutheran School, with students and staff settling in quickly and embracing the year ahead.

One of the standout moments so far has been our annual Inter-House Swimming Carnival. After several years of weather interruptions, it was a joy to finally see the event run from start to finish in Term One as planned. Even though a few light showers passed through, nothing could dampen the spirit of our students. Their participation, encouragement of their house teams, and genuine sportsmanship were wonderful to witness. Our senior students also stepped up beautifully, supporting staff and helping the day run smoothly - an effort we deeply appreciate.



Another exciting milestone for our community is the completion of our new building. Our Year 6 students and teachers are already enjoying their fresh learning spaces, and the addition of a dedicated STEAM room will be a fantastic resource for all year levels. This new space will enrich learning across Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics, and we can't wait to see the creativity and innovation it inspires. We look forward to officially opening the building later in the year.



The recent rain has also been a blessing. It has refreshed our grounds, revived our gardens, and brought a welcome burst of green back to our campus - an encouraging reminder of how much the South Burnett needed it.

Later this term, we will hold our parent-teacher interviews. These conversations are always valuable opportunities to discuss each child's progress and strengthen the partnership between home and school.



Several year levels have already headed off on camp, with Year 10 at Emu Gully, Year 9 at the Barambah Environmental Education Centre, and Year 8 at Luther Heights Youth Camp at Cooloom. Camps are always a highlight, offering students the chance to grow in independence, teamwork and resilience, while creating memories they'll carry with them for years.



As part of our Free to Flourish focus this term, our school community is embracing what it means to be adventurous, trying new things, and growing in confidence. It has truly been a wonderful start to the year, and we look forward to all that Term One still has in store.

Thank you for keeping our school community in your prayers. Your support means more than you know.

**“Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.” Romans 6:8-11**

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**"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.  
He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth.  
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.  
He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.'  
The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.  
Psalm 46: 1, 9-11**

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