



Our mission:
**KNOWING
 CHRIST AND
 MAKING HIM
 KNOWN**

GOLDEN GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.gglf.org.au

Our goal:
**Care, Communicate,
 Connect so that people
 may know CHRIST.**

Pastor Leon Rosenberg

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24th, 25th & 28th December 2014

WELCOME to all worshipping with us at our Christmas services

Greetings to any visitors here with us. We are pleased to have you join us and we trust you have felt welcomed and pray you may experience fresh delight and wonder at the miracle of God's presence among us in Jesus this Christmas



Before worship

Christmas gifts come in all shapes and sizes, some we expect and some we would never even dream of receiving. Some are useful objects and some are very out of the ordinary. And we can appreciate the heart of the giver and the spirit of the giving even before we see what a gift contains. But while it is still wrapped up we have no idea of its usefulness or value.

Christmas celebrates God's gift giving - and it all begins with 'Christ.'

And this gift is one that begins as a baby and grows to a Saviour. To all appearances here was an ordinary everyday baby and yet He was extraordinary in who He was - God's own Son

Yet how will we know what is wrapped up in this gift unless we receive it and investigate for ourselves?

We will find love and joy and peace in Him. We will find hope and faith and grace through what He does for us. We will find everlasting life all wrapped up in this one gift of God, His Son our Saviour sent to redeem us and to set us free.

God's gift is the perfect size and shape to be a blessing for everyone.

So unexpected, so out of the ordinary, so amazing, so divine and yet so right for all people everywhere.

Thank You Abba - Father God for the gift of Christ that first Christmas and thank You for the blessings that You give us day by day as we unwrap this gift of love. In Jesus name Amen.

Margey Knapp



Readings for Christmas Day Sun 28th Dec

Isaiah 62:6-12	Is. 61:10-62:3
Titus 3:4-7	Gal. 4:4-7
Luke 2:1-20	Luke 2:22-40

Worship Opportunities

Christmas Eve 24 Dec	7.00 pm	Christmas drama " <i>The Busy Innkeeper</i> "
Christmas Day 25 Dec	9.30 am	Christmas Day worship with HC
Sun 28th Dec (one service only)	9.30 am	Contemporary worship
Sun 4th Jan 2015 (one service only)	9.30 am	Contemporary worship with HC
Sun 11th Jan 2015 (one service only)	9.30 am	Contemporary worship



Family Friendly Worship

At Golden Grove, we love **everybody** to be involved in worship.

Please encourage children and visitors to join in the singing and prayers, and to stand and sit at appropriate times when they are able. This is best done by leading by example!

For our 'little ones' - Quiet bags & busy books are available for worship time from the children's area inside the church.

The "*Kids at Heart*" team run a special time for children in the foyer area during the sermon. That way, the children have some time with their parents during the morning services, and also a little bit of time to learn about our God and what He means to us through artistic activities with their friends. All children are welcome to join in this time. It is not appropriate for unattended children to play in the foyer at any time during the service. Please ask an usher if you require assistance, or speak to a "Ministry Leader" if you would like to help young families during worship times.

Thank you for worshipping with us!



Pastor's Column

On behalf of Heidi and myself and the staff in our church office, Judith and Sarah, we wish all of you, **A VERY BLESSED CHRISTMAS.**

This Bulletin covers Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and the first Sunday after Christmas- the 4th Day of Christmas (28th December) and it's the last bulletin for this year.

If you are reading this on **Christmas Eve**, I hope you enjoy and get a lot from this year's play "**The Busy Inn keeper**". It asks a very pertinent question at this time of the year...

If you are reading this on **Christmas Day**, the theme for this morning's service is "**How do you respond to the unexpected**" based on part of the Gospel reading for today (**Luke 2:8-20**).

We'll look at how the shepherds responded to the unexpected- an angel appearing to them with that wonderful news of Christmas: 1. with shock and fear, then 2. taking it all in and 3. dealing with it, and how critical it is for us to respond in an appropriate way to the unexpected.

If you are reading this on **the Sunday after Christmas** you'll have the opportunity of hearing the second part of "**How do you respond to the unexpected**", based on the Gospel reading for that Sunday (**Luke 2:22-35**) and how God may come to us in "unexpected ways" during worship as well. Again the crucial factor is how we respond. We'll look at the old man Simeon's response to see what we can learn from that incident.

Next Sunday marks the conclusion of our **Christmas is Giving** campaign.

As I have been letting you know over the last few weeks, this offering is based on Christmas being a time of giving. God gave us our Lord Jesus, as **John 3:16** put it "*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son....*" And He invites us to respond to his gift to us with our giving.

The giving will go towards our ministry at Golden Grove Lutheran Church ("the Budget").

I have encouraged you to use an envelope that you have marked with "*Christmas is Giving*". (As I said last week, this is only for statistical purposes. *Give in whatever form you desire.*)

We have received over \$1000 in cash that we know of through this campaign. I am sure we shall receive more through REG and an increase in general giving to the congregation.

Also next Sunday we shall be celebrating **April Braun's baptism** and so remembering our own baptism. What a wonderful way to start this New Year.

We haven't normally been holding **New Year's Eve services** at GGLF, over the last few years (FYI we did in 2007, 2009, 2010), but I encourage you to worship on New Year's Eve. **St John's Lutheran Church TTG** is holding a Holy Communion service at **7pm on New Year's Eve**.

Remember **no Salt Factory Services, Sunday evening dinners** or "**Reaching Out Through prayer**" through the month of January.

On the **Sunday 4th January 2015** we shall be having an **exchange of pulpits with Balaklava Parish**.

Pastor Jim Bryan will be leading here at GGLC and I shall be leading services at Auburn and Balaklava. (This is the 3rd time (in the last 4 years) that we have had this particular exchange.)

If you haven't heard, I have received **CALLS from Carlsruhe-Saddleworth Parish (3/12/14) and** (most recently) **from Berri parish (13/12/14)**.

Please pray for me as I deliberate on whether I should accept either of these calls (and leave our congregation at Golden Grove) or continue here.

Of course I am open to you talking to me about these calls and my current call here to Golden Grove.

Pastor Leon

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Our Christmas offerings will go to support the work and ministry of Australian Lutheran World Service .

Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible. If you wish your offering to be tax deductible you will need to enclose your donation in an envelope clearly marked with your name.

Worship times for post Christmas & January 2015

Please note that on Sunday 28th December and during January there will only be ONE SERVICE held at 9.30 am.

Food for thought over the holiday period

For a number of people the coming weeks offer an opportunity of taking a break from work/study and with it a time to hopefully unwind . We would like to encourage folk to use some of this time in thinking of ideas for Salt Factory in 2015. Perhaps sharing your story or you may know of someone who has a story they are willing to share, contributing to music, creating powerpoint.

These are just some basic ideas to start your thinking—there's sure to be many many more. So if would give some time to this and get those thoughts buzzing let's see what amazing things God might have in store for Salt Factory worship for 2015.

Talk with Ivan Schmocker or James Norrey if something is speaking to your heart.

GGLF Office hours

Judith will be taking leave from Christmas and will return to the office on 21st January. Pastor Leon will be available in the office—unless he is called away— 9.30am-12.30pm (except public holidays) Pastor Leon is always available on his mobile 0432224721 (when he has signal) and/or home number 7225 0581.

RosTers for Next Sunday : 28th December

PA + Opening/Closing up	Power-point	Music Group	Greeters / Ushers	Readers	Children's Address ----- Kid's Craft	Devotion for Bulletin ----- Prayers	Assistants with HC	Flowers	Church Cleaning
	Judith Whaites	Hybrid band	Davidson Dabinett	Fielke	Ps Leon ----- L Friedrich	M Knapp ----- Ps Leon		Barbara Robertson	Shrowder Thiel

Christmas message from our Bishop

"Life in our world during 2014 was unpredictable and at times frightening.

Passengers on two aircraft never reach their destination and one plane simply vanishes. The Ebola virus threatens. Innocent people suffer unspeakable cruelty and terror. That threat touches our previously safe shores in the Sydney siege. And a young man loses his life playing our national game.....

We long for life to be manageable and under our control but it rarely is. How many times this year were we beyond our capacity to deal with what was happening in the world out there and in our own personal lives? "Our thoughts and prayers are with them" were words and sentiments uttered even by people who aren't known for praying.

Christmas says the one we call out to when life is out of control is not far away. He is as close as a baby, the baby called Jesus, a name meaning "Saviour", and Immanuel, meaning "God with us".

In a time of uncertainty and fear someone recently tweeted #I'll ride with you - to assure those who were afraid that they are with them and willing to walk with them. In Jesus, God came to earth to walk with us in, and through life. His first sound would have been a cry, just like ours. His last sound was also a cry when he gave his life for the world. He is near, he understands better than anyone, and he was born to help and save us. That's why Christians turn to him and we pray in his name.

Christmas is precisely for anyone who struggles with life, whose heart is crying over things and people they have lost, over regrets and guilt, over what their life has been or could have been, and for anyone who fears the future. Christmas is about God joining us in the struggles and joys of life, here to give us a future none of us could ever deserve.

"Peace on earth....." the angels cried out in the dark at Christmas. Despite our best efforts, world peace and inner peace will always elude us. Ultimately peace comes from outside ourselves, it is a gift from God that resides in a person, someone who promises "I am with you always". May you know his presence and his peace at Christmas and in all of life, whatever it may bring in 2015."

Rev David Altus

Graham Pfeffer's Installation in Biloela QLD

At this stage Graham Pfeffer's Installation at Biloela will be happening on 8th Feb 2015. If anyone is intending to travel up there for this occasion, please let Daniel Dutschke know ASAP in case there is opportunity to pool/share travel arrangements with interested parties.

"Time Out... God calls" —

Australian devotions for a year. There is one copy of the new 2015 devotional book available in the Admin Office at a cost of \$22. If anyone would like to purchase this please contact Judith. Of course more can be ordered if required.

HappyLand
A world of discovery for children

Come and explore **HappyLand** these holidays for lots of fun activities. Enjoy the game at www.happyland.com.au and the Larry the Lamb App.

The online Advent Calendar is full of ideas for the school holidays too! HappyLand Stories DVDs are available for you for \$10. Five stories with cartoons.

Lutheran Media Ministry
www.lutheranmedia.org.au



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

