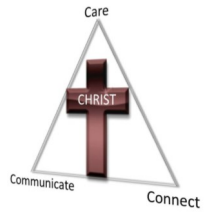


Our mission: "Making Christ known in the community so that all may worship Him and receive the gift of eternal life"

GOLDEN GROVE LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

www.gglf.org.au

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



Pastor Leon Rosenberg

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24th, 25th & 29th December 2013

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

And So This is Christmas...

Well that's done for another year! Now we can think about having a holiday, not hearing those irritating carols, and having to share a meal with people we don't like...

It saddens me when people think in this way about Christmas. Despite the busy-ness, I enjoy the build up to Christmas – the anticipation of something special coming. The familiar Christmas carols bring a tear to my eye – remembering fun times with family and friends, and spotting Christmas lights as we would drive to our grandparents' home on Christmas Eve.

But Christmas is much more than this. In Jim Strathdee's song, 'I am the Light of the World' we hear the words:

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds have found their way home,
the work of Christmas is begun.

These rhythmic words remind us that the cheer and goodwill of Christmas is not just for one day – but for always. WE ARE Christ's witness to the world: To sing out God's praises every day; To shine the Light of Christ in our lives, and share it with all others around; To share from our 'richness' with others less fortunate; To be welcoming to the outcasts and those different from us.

This IS the REAL Work of Christmas – and it's for us to do every day. And so this is Christmas? Thanks John Lennon, for reminding us that it's for more than one day, it's for every new day that begins.

Allyson Dutschke



Worship Opportunities

Readings for Christmas Day

Isaiah 62:6-12
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:1-20

Christmas Eve 24 Dec	7.00 pm	Christmas drama "The Night Before Christmas"
Christmas Day 25 Dec	9.30 am	Christmas Day worship with HC
Sunday 29th Dec (one service only)	9.30 am	Contemporary worship
Sunday 5th Jan 2014 (one service only)	9.30 am	Contemporary worship with HC
Sunday 12th Jan 2014 (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 **QUIET** craft table 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 be creative, to wriggle around and 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

If you are reading this on **Christmas Eve** I pray that you enjoy our drama and that God would inspire your imagination so that you too can get "into the Christmas story" and so see it in a new light, take it to heart in faith and rediscover its relevance for your life again this year.

If you are reading this on **Christmas Day** I would like to join with Heidi in wishing you God's blessings this Christmas. May you join with the angels in praising our savior born in a manger. May He give you depth to your Christmas Joy. May the "Advent candles of hope, peace, love and faith" light up not only your Christmas but the New Year ahead of you. Knowing that Jesus was born to live with you every day of your life, may you find the reassurance that you won't ever be on your own, no matter what you have to go through in life.

In the address on Christmas Day I bring up the topic of homes, being at home at Christmas and being at home *with* Christmas The theme of the address is "At home with Christmas".

*Talking about homes....*We bought a house. "YOU BOUGHT A HOUSE!"

Most of you know that. We moved in just over a week ago. (Isn't it busy enough for you!? Yes.) It was a Christmas present. We paid for it of course. But God was definitely involved in us getting it... people we hadn't even met were praying for "good people to buy the place", unexpected doors were opened, things just fell into place, there were many coincidences (people call these "God-incidences").

People have asked me Why? "Don't you like the manse we have provided for you?" (No they haven't said that.) But they have wondered why? I could give you a number of reasons but one will suffice. We don't own a home, we never have and with God's provision we thought it would be good to have a place we could call our own home.

Over the next month (and beyond) we'll be settling in our new home.

Of course, I'll be ministering right through the holidays. Judith is on holidays but the Office will be open at least most mornings (Office hours 9.30am-12.30pm) and I am available via my mobile 0432224721 and at home 72250581. (At the moment the Office number is being diverted to Graeme's mobile until the line is repaired.)

If you are reading this *on Sunday...* :this is the **first Sunday after Christmas** "The Festival of the Holy Innocents". This is a time when we consider suffering.

Are you aware that Christmas is a time of suffering for a lot of people? Perhaps you are hurting, worn out or feeling down at this time. There is good reason for this. We are going to explore that this Sunday and receive the consolation that only God can give.

Advance Notice: Next Year

- Worship on 5th January "Come and see what the Lord has done" (Epiphany)
- Introduction of the school staff Sunday 2nd February
- The Journey (confirmation) course meeting Tuesday 4th February
- Harvest Thanksgiving 9th February
- Witnessing Workshop "Tell it like it is" 9th February
- Longest Lutheran Lunch 2nd March
- Lenten theme The smell of Lent (beginning 5th March)

WHAT'S COMING UP DURING THE WEEK?

This week:

This Friday (27/12/13)	Working Bee at the manse
Sunday (29/12/13)	9.30am Worship

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

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

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.

Christmas messages and video link

Our District Bishop David Altus has posted a Christmas message on my Bishop's page on the District website.

The direct link is

https://www.dropbox.com/s/cvpa3awqfsbpbzb/D_Altus_Xmas_2013_3.mp4

This year Bishop John Henderson has been asked to write the column in the Advertiser on Christmas Eve, so look out for that.

Manse Working Bee

A small working bee will be held at the Manse on Fri 27th Dec to prepare for the new tenant.

For any people available on that day, your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Tasks will be cleaning, yard/garden tidy up, gutter cleaning, etc.

It's proposed to commence at 8:30am and wind up at 1:00pm, but feel free to come and go as you choose.

If you have any queries please contact Simon Ahrens (0421 910 604).



HELP NEEDED—On Sunday Dec 29 help would be appreciated in moving back and stacking the chairs in preparation for the annual steam cleaning of the carpets in the Worship Centre & Fellowship Centre planned for 2nd & 3rd January 2014.

Worship times for post Christmas & January 2014

Please note that on Sunday 29th December and during January there will only be **ONE SERVICE** held at 9.30 am.



RosTers for 29th December

PA + Opening/Closing up	Power-point	Music Group	Greeters/ Ushers	Readers 9.30 am only	Children's Address ----- Kids Craft 9.30 am	Prayers 9.30 am only	Assistants with HC	Flowers	Church Cleaning	Salt Factory Catering
Joel Schiller	Judith Whaites	CDs	Hoklas	Andrew Schmidt	K Appelt ----- S Williams	Pastor Leon	-	Dawn Rutter	Kloeden Knapp	NO SALT FACTORY SERVICE

Youth News!

GG youth is finished for another year! Our youth team and I have thoroughly enjoyed this year as we saw God at work in many of the youth. We had a great group of youth throughout who loved to have fun but didn't mind getting into the serious discussion (with some distractions, of course).

For Awakening, we had 47 different youth in attendance over the year, averaging 15 each night. Revival had 26 different youth across the year, with 8 per night. I would like to remind you that for a lot of these guys and girls, this is the only **CHURCH** that they have in their lives. Our younger youth have certainly awakened in their faith journey and we wish the 2013 Year 7s a smooth transition into high school. The older youth has sensed a revival and we pray this continues into 2014.

The youth would like to extend a massive thank you to the congregation for their prayer support (and general support) throughout the year. We hope that you have a wonderful time over Summer as you remember Jesus' birth and the reason He came. "To look back and think that this baby would one day save me. In the hope of what You did: that you were born so I might live" – I Celebrate the Day (Relient K).



THANKSGIVING SERVICE

For the 60th ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION of PASTOR LEN TSCHARKE

To be held at
Langmeil Lutheran Church, Tanunda

Sunday 29th December 2013

Two services— 8.45 am Traditional
10.30 am Modern

Lunch to follow at 12 noon

For anyone attending please bring a
plate of food to share

Offering Envelopes for 2014



Sets of offering envelopes are available from the entrance table for GGLF members 18 years and over. For married couples only one set has been allocated per couple. We also remind you of the opportunity of giving electronically via the REG (Regular Electronic Giving) system. Forms and information about this method of giving are available from the Church Foyer. If you decide you would like to take up this option details on the form for our congregation are Golden Grove Congregation REG Account No 28190 S1 GOL at the LLL (BSB No 704-942). For members who already use the REG system for giving please consider using a specially printed card (available from the entrance table in Church Foyer) to place in the offering plate rather than taking a set of envelopes.

2014 Aust Christian Diary

One copy of this diary is still available for sale for \$10 They are a great size to carry and have the daily bible readings for each day. Contact Pastor Leon by phone or email if you would like to purchase this.

"Time Out—

Australian devotions for a year
There is one copy of the new 2014 devotional book available in the Admin Office at a cost of \$22. If anyone would like to purchase this please contact Ps Leon.

