



Jesus said, "I am the vine,  
You are the branches."  
John 15.5

*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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19th December 2010—4th Sunday of ADVENT

## WELCOME to all worshipping with us today

Greetings to any visitors here with us. We are pleased to have you join us and we trust you have felt welcomed and pray the Holy Spirit may enlighten and empower us with the message shared with us today.



*Tea & coffee is available in the Fellowship Centre following morning service*

*Please feel welcome to join us.*

### TWO MINUTES

#### People of the Christmas story

*This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 1:18)*

The theme of this year's Christmas Eve play (dress rehearsal- for all those who can't make it on Christmas Eve or who want to know what they are inviting their friends to) is the theme that I have taken up for this morning's message.

How would people have responded to the episode above or any of the extraordinary events around Christmas?

A member of our congregation (who wishes to remain anonymous) shared with me an article the person wrote a while ago. It touched my heart. I share a portion of it. How do you respond to it?

*....There are always rumours, plots and conflicting points of view- not much different to these days. A man named John starts wandering around the place, calling for people to repent. Is he the one who will save us? Apparently not, he meets an untimely and unpleasant death at the hands of evil. Then something strange happens, an ordinary guy, just a carpenter, one of "us", starts wandering around the place - this guy, by the name of Jesus (well, his birth was not very respectable). Rumour has it that his mother was pregnant to another man when she married her husband and then someone tried to kill them after the baby was born (in a stable of all places).*

There are many ways we can receive a story. I pray that you may respond to Christmas with awe.

**Prayer:** Lord, thank you that you used ordinary people to reveal the extraordinary events around Christmas and so show us that it is for ordinary people like us. Touch us this Christmas and lead us to responding to Christmas with awe so that our lives are changed by the peace, joy and love of Christmas. Amen.

**Pastor Leon**



### Readings for today

**Isaiah 7:10-16**  
**Romans 1: 1- 7**  
**Matthew 1:18-25**

Readings for 25th Dec

Isaiah 62:6-12  
Titus 3:4- 7  
Luke 2:8-20

### Worship Opportunities

<b>Today 19th Dec</b>	<b>9.30 am</b> <b>6.30 pm</b>	Contemporary worship Christmas play full dress rehearsal
<b>Friday 24th Dec</b>	<b>7.00 pm</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Drama</b>
<b>Sat. 25th Dec</b>	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>Christmas Day worship with HC</b>
<b>Sunday 26th Dec</b>	<b>9.30 am</b>	Contemporary Worship with Carols
<b>Friday 31st Dec</b>	<b>7.30 pm</b>	New Year's Eve worship service at Schutz's place <i>(see Pastor's column for further details)</i>

### 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

In our Christmas Eve play this year, "**People of the Christmas story**" which you have opportunity to see tonight you will meet soldiers, an innkeeper and his wife, shepherds as well as Mary and Joseph and be able to ponder just how Christmas changed these peoples' lives.

Christmas is about *people* and God's interaction with them. It is meant to change people's lives. Change our life. Draw us back from going our own way - away from sin/selfishness into a close walk with God. (The second reading for Christmas Eve makes that very clear. (Titus 2:11-14). It teaches us to say "No...") I would like to introduce you to a couple of people of the Christmas story this morning in the address. Both have got a story to tell and both were changed....

I do hope you are planning to come to the **Christmas play dress rehearsal this evening**. Some of us are planning to come because we have something else planned for Christmas Eve. But I would encourage you to come to see just how good it is and so to have the confidence to bring a friend to the play on Christmas Eve - perhaps someone who wouldn't normally venture into our church.

With Christmas upon us, we plan to deck the **Christmas tree** after worship this morning and if you are available some of the props for the play need a coat of paint. Talking about getting ready we need some willing hands on Christmas Eve to transform the worship centre from the Christmas play stage to a place for our Christmas Day worship. Can you make yourself available?

At this time of the year many people are **hurting**. If there is something in particular that you are finding it hard to come to grips with, we are able to put you in contact with counsellors. Please see Pastor Leon for details.

Are you wondering what we are doing for **New Year's Eve** this year? If you are I am happy to inform you that Jon & Jacqui Schutz and family have kindly offered their backyard (and swimming pool) for New Year's Eve service and fellowship at **7.30 pm**. (Please see mud map below for directions to Schutz's home.) We are celebrating a "Fiji New year's Eve": ie we are going to mark the New Year when it hits Fiji, which is 9.30pm our time - then we don't have to have such a late night. So you are invited to wear your loud Hawaiian shirts, bathers, grass skirts... bring drinks chairs and nibbles, celebrate the past year and look forward to the new with worship and stick around for an hour or so to welcome in the (Fiji) new year. Join us.

Last year we held what seemed to be a most successful "**Open Christmas Dinner**" for those people who wanted to have Christmas lunch in the Fellowship Centre with other people. This was aimed at that those who would otherwise be spending a lonely Christmas Day. This year we are encouraging all those who expect to be lonely on Christmas Day and would like to have **Christmas lunch with a family** to let one of the Pastoral Carers know. We will organize a family to cater for you on the day. (On the other hand if you would like to "welcome a stranger" into your midst on Christmas Day also please speak to a Pastoral Carer. (For your information the Pastoral Carers are: Ken Campbell, Marty Seidel, Elnora Schmocker, Dave and Liz Shrowder, Don Warren, Judith Whaites, Pastor Len and Claire Tucharke)

**Care, Communicate and Connect so that people know Christ?** Opening our homes is one way we care. We are mixing with people who we may not normally mix with and that's connecting but how do people know of this unless we communicate this as well! It all fits together and by doing it we are being involved with our goal/ our vision for our Fellowship- and isn't this for all of us?

Pastor Leon

## This Week

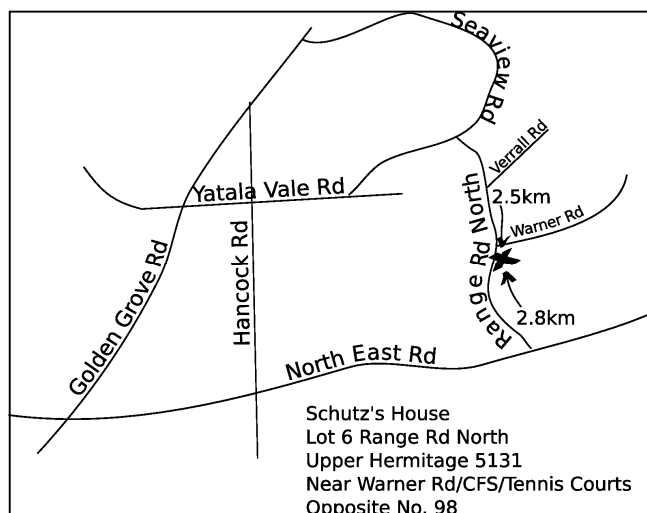
Tonight (19/12/10): 6.30pm Christmas play- dress rehearsal.

Friday (24/12/10): 7pm Christmas Eve play

## The following week:

Friday (31/12/10): New Year's Eve service, fellowship and welcoming in the Fijian New Year.

*All meetings start at 7.30pm unless otherwise indicated.*



**In lieu of Salt Factory worship tonight come along to the dress rehearsal for our Christmas Eve drama**

**Tonight: 6.30 pm**

**PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO Salt Factory catering through to end of January 2011 due to school holidays.**

## Christmas Card Packs for Sale

Budget Packs \$2.50 (6 cards)

Value Packs \$3.50 (8 cards)

Last opportunity to support Asia Focus.  
See Jenny Canavese.



## KIDS AT HEART

Mark 10: 14... "Let the little children come to me"

Welcome to everyone, especially the children!

Visitors may like to know that we regularly have some very popular children's activities here at GGLF—a quiet craft table for the children run during the service and a special children's time twice per month.

If you would like to know more, please ask an usher to point out a member of the "Kids at heart team":

Pastor Leon, Lesley Friedrich, Leanne Solomou, Dave Shrowder, Emi Schutz and Jane Swansson.

As we head towards the end of the year, we are preparing new rosters for the running of the children's program. If any new volunteers would like to participate in the roster for either craft or Kids at Heart time, please see Lesley or Jane. Even if it's only once per year, it is great to have new ideas presented to the children and it helps the team tremendously.

Finally if any families have any feedback or suggestions about the children's programs, please pass it on—we are always open to your ideas or concerns.

Cheers,  
Lesley

### Child Safe information

Those who have attended the Child Safe Team Member training during 2010 – please ensure you complete the necessary paperwork for your approval, and forward to Allyson Dutschke **urgently!** If new copies are needed, please contact Allyson.

**Child Safe Training at the start of 2011 is:**  
**Saturday, February 5 – 9am to 4pm at Salisbury Lutheran Church – Team Member training. Contact Salisbury church office to book.**  
**Sunday, February 6 – 12 to 5.30pm at Tea Tree Gully Lutheran Church – Team Leader training. Contact TTG church office to book.**

All training is \$20 per session.

Note: There is also Team Member training at Birdwood during late January – date and time to be confirmed.

Without this training and completed approval you will not be able to assist with any of the Children's and Youth Ministries of the Lutheran Church in 2011, and beyond.

Thank you,  
Allyson Dutschke  
Child Safe Coordinator.

### Christmas Greeting

**Australian Lutheran College** thanks you all for your support and encouragement throughout 2010 and wishes you every blessing for the Christmas season.



**MEDIA UPDATE** – Now available  
The Christmas Update is here.  
Read the latest media ministry news.  
Make sure you get a copy.  
We rely on your prayers and your support.

## CHRISTMAS GIVING

The offerings received at our Christmas services will be given to support the work 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.

### Rental Accommodation Needed

We are a family (2 adults +3 children) looking for a rental property in the northern suburbs. We are returning to Adelaide after spending 12 months living on campus at the Bible College of Victoria preparing for Mission Aviation. If you know of any properties that may meet our need please contact Patrick 0413563233 or Tracy 0435415161.

### A special last minute gift to your loved one

Can't think of anything special as a last minute give to buy this Christmas?

This year, why not give a gift that will make a difference in the life of someone doing it tough. Sharing a little with someone who hasn't got much can make a big change to the way they view the world. Imagine the joy and hope your gift will bring to their lives...

Lutheran Community Care is offering *Care Kits* on their website. You can give a \$10 *Care Kit* to help a newly-arrived refugees attend a community event or a \$20 *Care Kit* to buy underwear or socks for someone struggling financially or perhaps you would like to give a \$30 *Care Kit* of a pamper pack to spoil someone and remind her/him that there are people in the community who want to make their life easier.

You will be sent a beautiful Christmas card for your loved one with information about the *Care Kit* gift chosen for them ... while your actual gift provides care and support to a South Aussie in need.

Your *Care Kits* donation is tax-deductible, and there are THIRTEEN to choose from – something perfect for every one this Christmas!

Go to our website, [www.lccare.org.au](http://www.lccare.org.au) to select your gift or telephone **08 82699333** for assistance. Payment may be made electronically from our website.

To receive your Christmas card by Christmas you will need to ensure we receive your *Care Kit* selection by **Wednesday 2.00pm**.

## Good for you..

**become a host family to a child with a disability.**

**Families for Families** provides respite for parents and an opportunity for children with disabilities to meet new people and learn new skills.

- Spend quality family time together
- Volunteer as a family in your own home
- Support a person with a disability and their family
- Give back to your community

Find out what other Host Families have to say at [www.cara.asn.au](http://www.cara.asn.au) or call Families for Families on **8347 4588**.



