Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Sutherland NSW
www.gslcs.com

Lutheran Church of Australia

Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Please join us for a morning tea after our worship service.

If you are new to the church and would like to find out more information about worship and other activities, please speak to Pastor Luke.

Holy Communion at our church is for all

- baptised believers
- who know their need for forgiveness
- who believe Jesus himself is present with his body and blood in this meal with the bread and wine.

Church Address:
12 Kurrajong Street
Sutherland, NSW 2232

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6TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
12TH FEBRUARY 2012

Bible Readings

2 Kings 5:1-14
1 Corinthians 3:6-11
Mark 1:40-45

1 Corinthians 3:6-11 is part of Paul's response to the factions that have sprung up like weeds in the Corinthian church. The Corinthian Christians are aligning themselves with different leaders, like Paul and Apollos, and claiming that their "team" is better than the others. Paul reminds the Corinthians that all human leaders are merely servants on a single team, Team Jesus. Each has a role to play, but all have a single objective: to grow the body of Christ.

Like Jesus (see Mark 4:1ff), Paul uses the analogy of planting to describe what we would call evangelism. The core question here is this: "To whom are you aligned?" How quickly we align ourselves with those we see as brilliant, powerful, connected, or helpful to us and our cause! Paul tells them - and us - that we are all servants on the same team.

As we go about scattering seeds of God's love, and nurturing faith, we realize that the growing is beyond our control. Our job is to continue planting! Keep identifying people with whom you can establish a genuine relationship for the sake of the gospel. Be patient, and know that God is at work in their lives, even when you can't see it.

Sexual abuse is totally unacceptable to the church and to society as a whole. The **LCA Safe Place** Committee has established a confidential service for responding to complaints of sexual abuse/harassment by church employees and leaders. Trained advisors are available to help.

PHONE FREECALL NUMBER 1800 644 628 or write to: The Supervisor, PO Box 519, Marden SA 5070 or email: report.abuse@safeplace.lca.org.au

Announcements

1. **Safe Church Training.** The four modules will be covered in two session. Session 1: Sun, 26th Feb 10:30am - 12:30pm **AND** Session 2: Sun, 11th March, 10:30am - 12:30am. It is hoped that we can offer child-minding, so that all who are involved in our BibleSong ministry will be able to attend.
2. **John Grantins new address**. If you are keen to drop in to visit John, or give him a call on the telephone, John will be temporarily staying at 'Banks Lodge' 93 Baumans Road, Peakhurst. Phone 9534 6655.
3. **Ash Wednesday Service.** The season of Lent commences on Ash Wednesday. You are invited to join with the community as we come in repentance before the Lord at a worship service at 7:00pm 22nd February.
4. **Pastoral Visits.** Pastor Luke and members of our pastoral care team continue to regularly visit the sick and shut-ins, however, if you would like a general visit to talk, receive prayer and to be blessed, please email or talk to Pastor Luke or Ann Robertson to arrange a visit.

UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

20th Feb - Ladies Fellowship
22nd Feb - Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm
26th Feb - Safe Church Training (Session One)
2nd March - World Day of Prayer
9th - 11th March - LWNSW Retreat
11th March - Safe Church Training (Session Two)

Prayer Points

- **That during this Epiphany Season we would come and see Jesus, follow him and make him known to others.**
- that we would have patience as we continue to plant seeds of God's love in the lives of many.
- for all those who work to promote the Gospel.
- for parents whose children have turned away from a living relationship with Jesus Christ.
- for those who are affected by the flooding in QLD and NSW. Prayers also for our Emergency Services who come to the aid of those in need.
- Members and friends of our community: **John Grantins, Karl Haessler, Wolfgang Grollmus, Powell Heuer (and family), David Harris, Steve Turcsanyi, Shirley Tullock, Sam & Anneli Skippari, George Gaidos, Daniel Liptak, Tania Kaiser.**

Date	Holy Comm	Prayers	Cleaning	Morning Tea/ Flowers	Bible Readings	Musician
12 Feb	Poljak	Pastor Luke	Haessler	Haessler	Pastor	Wiley
19 Feb	Brooks	Brooks	Zids	Zids	Zids	Tullock
26 Feb	Robertson	Pastor Luke	N/A	Behrens	Witt	Raelene

Ash Wednesday Day and the Season of Lent

Lent is the season of preparation for Easter. It is a time for repentance and renewal, discipleship and walking the way of the cross. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 40 days before Easter. These 40 days exclude the Sundays, which still retain something of the Easter character belonging to every Sunday. However, at the same time they have some of the restraint of Lent, shown, for example, in the omission of the alleluias, the hymn of adoration, and flowers in the church.

Lent reaches its climax in Holy Week, focusing specifically on our Lord's suffering and death. The season has a sombre character, marked by austerity and restraint. Traditional emphases have been prayer, fasting, and giving for the needs of others. Lent has also included study and meditation in preparation for baptism.

Ash Wednesday is named for the practice of imposing ashes, a practice which many Lutheran congregations have found to be a very meaningful part of the Ash Wednesday liturgy.

Using ashes as a sign of repentance is an ancient practice, often mentioned in the Bible (e.g., Jonah 3:5-9; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; Matthew 11:21). The early Christians adopted the use of ashes from Jewish practice as an external mark of penitence.

Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human existence:

- Ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin, as God said to Adam, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).
- Ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. They were used anciently in the absence of soap. On Ash Wednesday ashes are a penitential substitute for water as a reminder of our baptism.
- Ashes remind us of the shortness of human life, for it is said as we are buried: "earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust."
- Ashes are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins, and return to God.

FEBRUARY ISSUE OUT NOW

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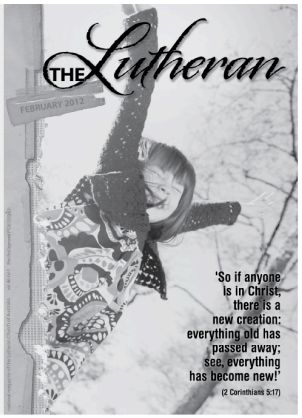

February 2012

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2	3	4	5th Sunday of Epiphany 5 Children's Ministry Meeting
6 Mission & Ministry Conference	7 Mission & Ministry Conference	8 Mission & Ministry Conference	9 Pastor's Day Off	10 Pastoral Visiting Pm	11 CYFM Meeting 9:30am District Office	6th Sunday of Epiphany 12 **Children's Ministry**
13 Pastor's Day Off	14	15 *Young @ Heart 10:30 - Lunch*	16 Pastoral Visiting Pm	17 Pastoral Visiting Pm	18	Transfiguration 19 Ladies Fellowship
20 Pastor's Day Off	21 Church Council Meets 8:00pm	22 **Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm**	23 Pastoral Visiting Pm	24 Pastoral Visiting Pm	25	1 Sunday of Lent 26 **Church Safe Training Session 1 (10:30-12:30)**
27 Pastor's Day Off	28	29				