



THE MESSENGER

Edition: February 2025

DO NOT
FEAR

God has gone before you
and prepared the way.

KEEP
WALKING

A Never Before Lived Day

A happy new year of God's abounding grace to you and your loved ones!! Even though by the time you read this, we will be at least a month into 2025. This first issue of 'the Parish Messenger' for 2025 is a good opportunity to reflect on this new year we have been given. The day after New Year we worshipped at Aminya Residential Care. At that service for residents I shared a little rhyme I picked up somewhere. It goes like this:

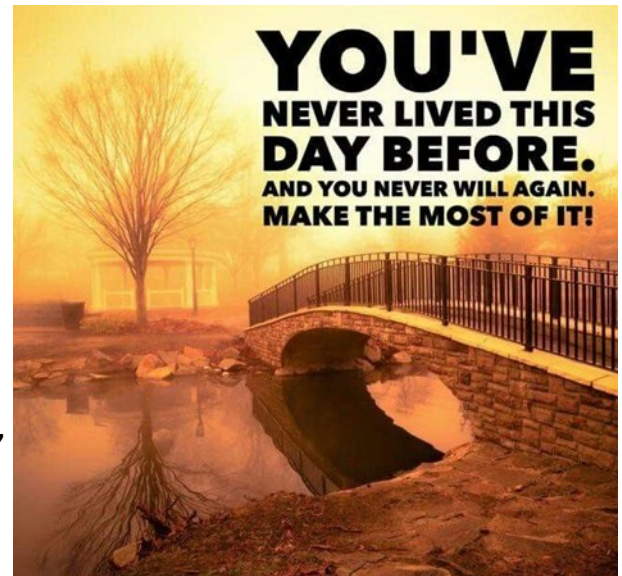
*Life is a book in chapters three:
The past, the present and 'yet-to-be'.
The first is written and laid away,
The second we're writing day by day.
The last but not least of these chapters three
Is locked from our sight – only God holds the key.*

I would like to reflect briefly on each of these three 'chapters' of life, asking the question of which chapter we can most positively live in.

Should we live in the past? One thing we are not good at is turning back time. We can't even turn back the clock one minute! But, ironically, it is easy to get stuck there, either because we idealise the past- those were the "good old days", or because of negative stuff that we just can't seem to get past. What has happened in the past is past. But what we can do is give the past to our heavenly Father, be thankful to him for the blessings, commend it to his forgiveness and mercy, and ask him to right what is wrong, to finish what is undone (asking him how we can be part of that), and to call upon him to renew us for today. Sometimes, even though we know God has forgiven us, and even when other people have forgiven us, we find it so hard to forgive ourselves. Yet that is where we can live, in that forgiveness. We can't change the past, but for Jesus' sake God will not hold us liable for any mistakes, any sins that we confess and give to him.

We do know how resentment, anger, or revenge over the past can poison our lives. Again, these things are in the past. Jesus died on the cross, and therefore God says, "Let that go, leave it to me, forgive, and go on".

As wider church we have faced difficult issues in the past year, and it has been a difficult year with its local ramifications, as some have rejoiced in and some have really wrestled with what decisions of the church mean for them. But as a church we cannot live in the past, being called to move forward in God's grace and take up the wonderful opportunities God lays before us to be his people where he has placed us.



What about living in the future? A counsellor tells about meeting a man who was living in the future. When this man was young, his wealthy father had said to him, “When I die all this will be yours”. The son lived his whole life planning for the future he was going to receive. He certainly didn’t plan for a career, or even worry about a job. He just went on day to day dreaming about what he was going to do. When this man shared this with the counsellor, he was nearly 80 years old and his father was still going strong. He was living for the future, and in the meantime he had more or less wasted his whole life.

We might like to tell ourselves that the future is an unrestricted account from which we can draw unlimited time reserves. But we have no authority over the future. We may worry and get anxious over what the future may bring, but the future belongs only to God. He who gave up his own Son for us, won’t he freely give us all that we need? (this is how Paul puts it in Romans 8). God takes care of us and provides for us. He knows us inside out. He knows the hairs on our heads. He holds the future in his hands, and he will be gracious and merciful then as he is now.

What about the present? The psalmist had it right: *“This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it”*.

This is your day. This is my day. This is the day that God gives us. Each day is his gift. It is good to remember with thankfulness wonderful days in the past, or to look forward with eagerness to future events, but **today** is the day that God gives, and he

fills it with his promise to watch over us and go with us even in the things that seem difficult or even impossible.

Maybe sometimes I’ve said, ‘That was the most important day of my life’ or ‘I can’t wait for next Tuesday’. But **today** is God’s new gift of a **never before lived day**. When we concentrate on this day and fill our hearts with thanksgiving to the Lord, then we take our focus off ourselves and we fix our focus on God himself. Today is our gift to enjoy, to live, to make count for Christ, who has redeemed all our days. Each day is a gift, not to be looked at as just a bridge to get us to some better day. Today is our gift - to enjoy, to live, to bless the lives of others.

In a real sense each day is your birthday. God gives you new life each day. Each day that you live, the power of God is in your life, just as it was on the day you were born, and just as it will be on the first day you enjoy heaven. Jesus promised you as a baptised child of God, “I **am** with you always”. Not “I was with you” or “I will be with you”.

Our gracious God promises to be with us in every present moment, empowering us and giving us joy in being his people where he has planted us in our family, our church and our community.

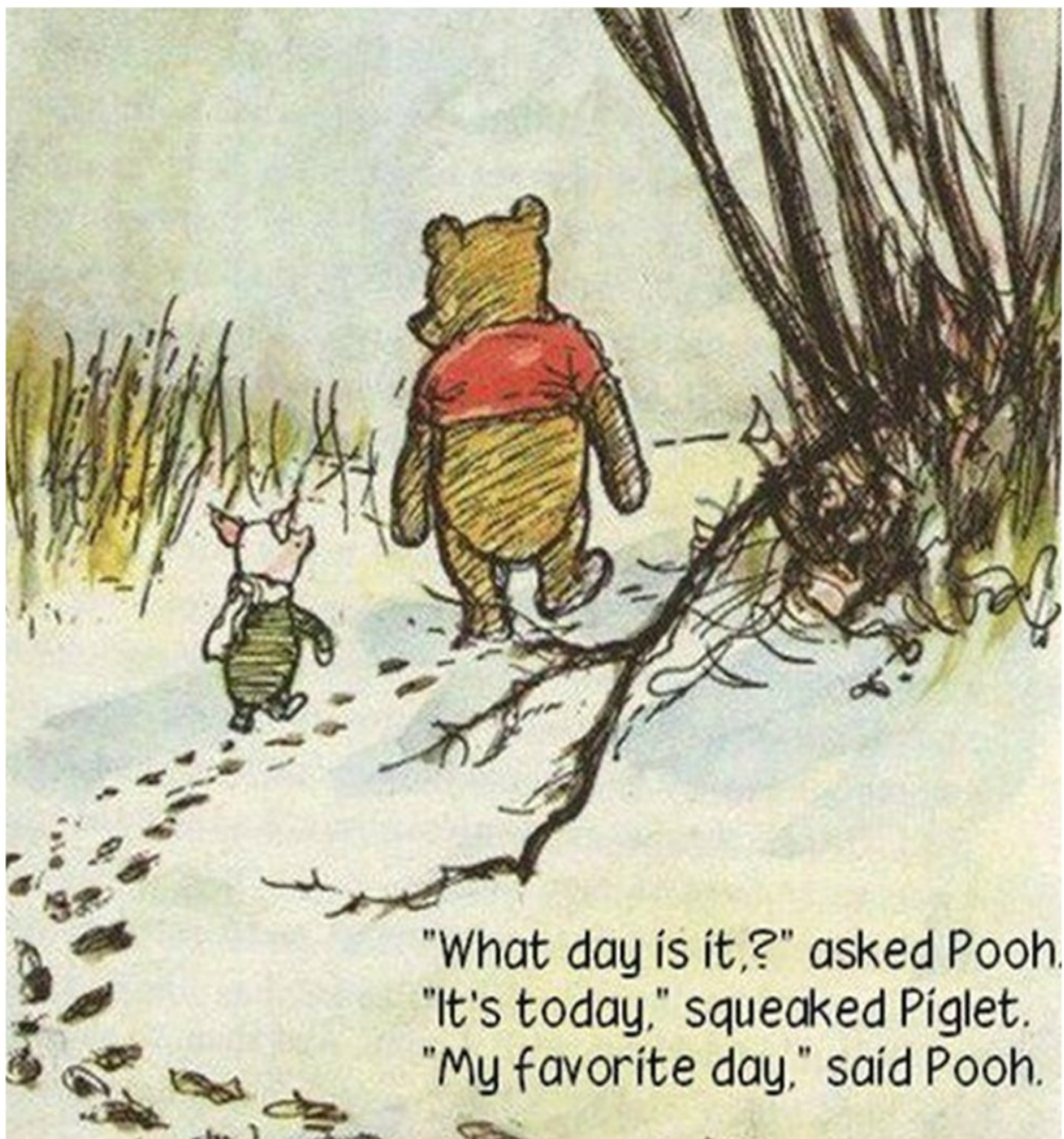


You can't live fruitfully in the past, though you can launch from it. It is forgiven. You can't live in the future, though God does. Live today and every day as God's child, rejoicing in it and helping to make the world a better place today.

The words of Psalm 118:24 make an excellent motto for life: ***"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it"***.

In these new days of 2025 that God has given to each of us personally, and also as church families of this parish, trust that he will lead, guide and give us joy in being his people who bring light and life to the families, communities and world where he has planted us.

Pastor John



"What day is it,?" asked Pooh.
"It's today," squeaked Piglet.
"My favorite day," said Pooh.



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

3rd November 2024

The service at Mannum was led by Pastor Peter Welke. Candles were lit by members or friends of families who had lost loved ones during the past twelve months.



Remembering
Kym Richard Pfitzner
22nd October 2023



Remembering
Dulcie Lorraine Pfeiffer
23rd November 2023



Remembering
Nancy Isobel Frances Wachtel
31st December 2023



Remembering
Erica Anna Temme
5th February 2024



Remembering
Conrad Melville James Harmer
24th July 2024





Remembering
Ervin Wilfred Nitschke
28th July 2024



Remembering
Dudley William Kubenk
16th July 2024



Remembering
Lois Claire Wegener
25th October 2024



LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES



Advent 1 – Candle of Hope
Lit by Patrick Eggers



Advent 2 – Candle of Peace
Lit by Thomas Sonntag



Advent 3 – Candle of Joy
Lit by Chase Male



Denise Frahn
Lighting the
Christ Candle
on Christmas Day



Advent 4 – Candle of Love
Lit by Russell Male



The Gift of Love

Why Is Jesus Better Than Santa Claus?

Santa lives in the North Pole **Jesus** is everywhere.

Santa rides a sleigh **Jesus** rides on the wind and walks on the water.

Santa comes but once a year. **Jesus** is an ever-present help.

Santa fills your stockings with goodies.....**Jesus** supplies all your needs.

Santa comes down the chimney uninvited.....**Jesus** stands at your door and knocks, and enters your heart.

You have to wait in line to see **Santa**.....**Jesus** is as close as the mention of His name.

Santa lets you sleep on His lap..... **Jesus** lets you rest in His arms.

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi, little boy or girl, What is your name?"

Jesus knew your name before we did. Not only does he know your name but he knows our history and our future and he even knows our hearts and how many hairs we have on our heads.

Santa has a belly like a full bowl full of jelly..... **Jesus** has a heart full of love, grace, mercy and forgiveness.

Santa can offer a HO! HO! HO!..... **Jesus** says, "Cast your cares on me for I care for you."

Santa may chuckle but.....**Jesus** gives you joy that is your strength.

While **Santa** puts gifts under your tree.....**Jesus** became our gift and died on the tree, For you and me.

It is obvious there is no real comparison. We need to remember, Who Christmas is all about.

We need to put **Christ** back in **Christmas**. **Jesus** is the reason for the season.

Yes, **JESUS** is better, He is even better than **Santa Claus**.



Sunday 8th December
Hosted by
Mannum
Inter Church Council

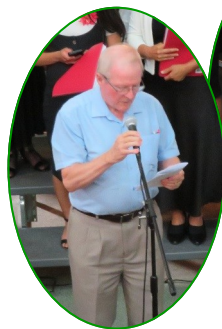


Pastor John
Gerhardy

Community Christmas
CAROLS EVENING



The Ambassadors:
Seventh Day Adventist Choir from Adelaide



Bible Readers:
Phil Wilksch, Joy Marks,
Taya Bormann, Colin Niess



Local Musicians: Alecia Bormann, Narelle Bormann,
Kym Furler, Phil Wilksch, Roger Ellul,
Mary Ann Marks, Angie Gerhardy



All Participants: Who provided an excellent
nights entertainment which was very well
attended and enjoyed by all



Nativity Participants:
Students of Mannum Community College

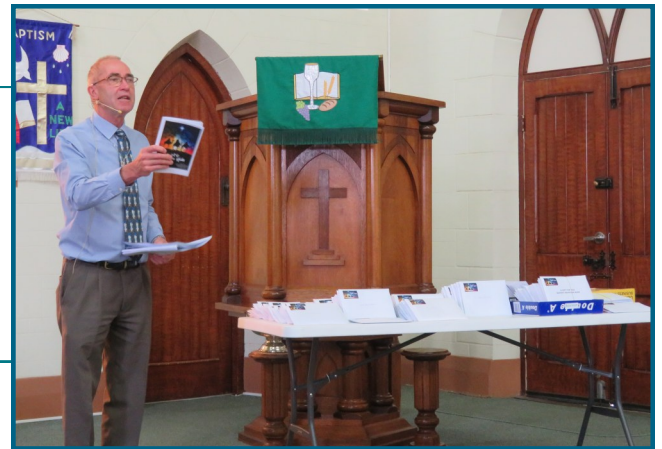
Blessings



Blessing of Shoe Boxes
20th October
\$500 in donations was also
received for Operation
Christmas Child



Blessing of Advent
Devotionals
17th November



Blessing of Prayer & Care
Directories
8th December



Blessing of
Backpacks
19th January



BOOKPURNONG ANNIVERSARY VISIT

On September 8th, Sedan & Cambrai members, including Pastor John & Angie, travelled to Pilgrims of Zion Bookpurnong for the Centenary of their Church. Bookpurnong had been part of John & Angie's first Parish. When the area was first settled & Lutheran services held from 1900, some of these families came from Sedan, hence we share a name. After the service, a lovely lunch & fellowship was enjoyed by all.



CEMETERY CLEAN UP

After some heavy rain in October, the Sedan Cemetery was looking rather overgrown with weeds, especially fleabane which is hard to kill. Mark, Peter & Sue spent several hours mowing, hand weeding & trimming as best they could. Huge thanks to Greg Schultz for arranging his workman Daniel to spray some very effective herbicide which has certainly made a difference.



STRAWBERRY FETE

We decided to host a free BBQ & Strawberry Fete for our local community in November.

Some big games from the Council were borrowed & Angie put together some gift bags for the kids. Unfortunately, it was a very hot windy day, so the attendance was small. We are not deterred though & hope to try again.



CHRISTMAS

Alison once again put together a program entitled "A Cross for Christmas". Mark entered the Church carrying a Cross. Peter asked why he had a Cross seeing it was Christmas? The Christmas Story was then re-told, interspersed with Carols, helping Peter see that getting to the Cross starts at Christmas. Thank you to Alison for putting it all together, Holly, Katie, Tilly, Toby & Chloe for taking part and the young & not so young members who were also involved. Thanks also to Pastor Peter Welke for his message too.



PRESENTATION

A small presentation was made to Kaye & Kevin & Warren & Elizabeth for all their assistance in making sure we get our Bulletin Box every week.



ADVENT

Pastor Alwin at Sedan during Advent

CAMBRAI

Service 3rd November - All Saint's
Followed by lunch of shared finger food and dessert.



Mark Schultz & Granddaughter lighting a remembrance candle



Children's Address



Getting to be a habit doing the dishes



Don't worry boys, we'll do them



CAMBRAI

18th December Decorating Christmas Tree



5th January, 2025 - Epiphany



CAMBRAI MANSE

IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS, THE CAMBRAI MANSE HAS HAD A BIT OF A FACELIFT. THE GUTTERS WERE REPLACED, AND THE OUTSIDE HAS BEEN PAINTED.



CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S SERVICE



A beautiful balmy evening was the perfect setting for our outdoor Christmas Eve children's service at Cambrai.

The children's story was set in the busy household of the Prancer family on Christmas eve day as members of their family returned home for Christmas.

The Prancer family showed us how they opened their hearts and home to share the true meaning of Christmas with some lonely characters that they had found on their way home. And how important it is to show kindness to others not just at Christmas but throughout the whole year.

Thanks to our Sunday school children: Charli, Darren, Felicity, Archie, Eddie, Amity, Ollie, Makala, Ava, Megan and Max for a great performance.



Cambrai and Sedan Carols by Candlelight



Cambrai and Sedan churches combined to host the community carols by candlelight on Sunday 15 December 2024. The event was held at the Cambrai Sportsground, and moved indoors with the air conditioners blasting as the evening was still well over 35 degrees!

Before the carols began, a BBQ tea was enjoyed.

Thanks to funding from Livestock SA's Beyond the Paddock drought support program, the BBQ tea was able to be provided free of charge.

Proceeds from the night will be donated to Aussie Hay Runners, who supported local drought affected farmers with a hay drop.

Around 90 people gathered together to join in an evening of carol singing, jokes, a skit, musical performances and a Christmas message from Pastor John.

We were even lucky enough to have a surprise visit from Santa himself!!

Thank you to everyone who pitched in to bring some Christmas cheer to our community and spread the good news:

Jesus, the best gift that could ever be given!



MC: Andrew Wilson



Address: Pastor John



Felicity & Liz



Singers: Anita, Julianne, Chantelle



Peter & Pastor John



Musicians: Kimberly, Liz & Megan



Deb Wilson



Sue Grieger



Eric, Allan, Rex



Chris & David



Shed Men's Choir





CAMBRAI/MILENDELLA



Ladies Guild



8th November, 2024



Honey Biscuit Baking Day in the Cambrai Hall.
Biscuits were baked and iced for Lutheran Care; Cambrai School;
Cambrai, Sedan and Milendella Christmas Eve.
Approx. 700 biscuits in all. Huge thank you to those who helped.

Honey Biscuit: The Christmas Story Found in the Bookshop (as told by cookie cutters!)

The rolling pin has done its work, the oven's set to go; it's time the cookie cutters work their wonder on the dough!
Before the smell of tasty Christmas cookies fills the air, these shiny little shapes have got a story yet to share...

The angel Christmas cookies are the first to reach the pan, for Gabriel told Mary of the Lord's amazing plan:
A precious baby boy, the Son of God, was on His way, and so began the miracle we know as Christmas Day.

The donkey cookie-cutter that is resting on the table reminds us of the one who carried Mary to the stable;
And there inside the humble barn among the cows and sheep, she rocked the baby Jesus as He gently fell asleep.

You'll see we have a candy cane beside the mixing bowl - do you think you can guess this cookie cutter's special role?
A shepherd's hook, for on the night of Christ the Saviour's birth, the shepherds heard the angels sing of peace for all the earth!

These pretty, pointy cookies tell the story of the star that sparkled in the sky and led the wise men from afar.
They followed it to Bethlehem, as Scripture had foretold, and took the baby gifts of myrrh and frankincense and gold.

This dough will be a Christmas tree with needles bright and green, it keeps its colour all year long...whatever could this mean?
The promise of eternal life is seen within its leaves - a life of love with Jesus for the person who believes.

The final cookie cutter plays the most important part - the reason we have Christmastime...the symbol of the heart.
For God so loved the world, He sent us Jesus from above to guide us with His truth and grace, and lead us in His love.

These simple cookie cutters, like so many other things, can point us back to Jesus and the happiness He brings.
Their cookies will remind us all with every tasty bite the story of our Saviour's birth that oh, so holy night.



CAMBRAI/MILENDELLA

Ladies Guild



13th November, 2024

The AGM was held in the Mannum Church Hall with Bible Study led by Pastor John. The men joined us and offered to do the dishes while we had our AGM. Lunch was then combined with the Mannum Women's Fellowship at the Pretoria Hotel. An enjoyable day was had by all.

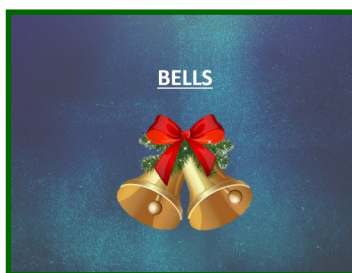


THE TRUTH BEHIND THE TREE

Presented by the Mannum Sunday School Children with members of the congregation assisting with the reader parts. The program focused on the meaning behind the Christmas Tree and all it's different decorations.



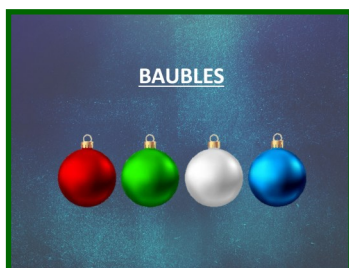
Lacey Wittwer -
Shepherd, reading
about the lights



Shaylee Marks - Mary and
Hugh Waterman - Joseph



All the children ringing and
adding bells to the tree



Angie Gerhardy with Angels Kischel
Klose, Poppy Marks & Alyssa Sonntag



Readers Daniel Bormann,
Lachlan and Tessa Sonntag

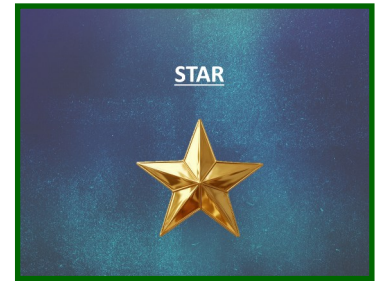


Thomas Sonntag -
Wiseman





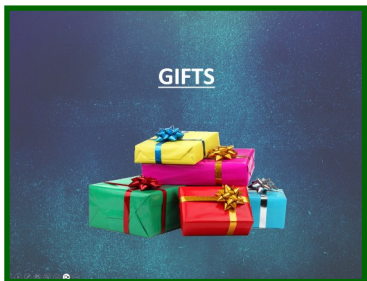
Shepherds Elisha Woods and Lacey Wittwer



Congregation members and children decorating the Christmas Tree together



Wisemen Thomas Sonntag, Isla and Eadie Wittwer



The greatest gift of all - Baby Jesus



Pastor John and the children during the Children's Address/Sermon



Sunday School teachers Kerry Sonntag and Faye Frahn

MANNUM CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



Packing



On 1st December packing goodie bags for the Christmas Pageant was proof that many hands make light work. 600 bags were packed in approximately one hour, thanks to the many helpers who stayed back after the service to help with the packing.

On pageant day those 600 bags were not sufficient for the children attending the pageant.

(Could have had another 150) How many do we do next year??



The same could be applied for the packing for Lutheran Care on 16th October. Many hands did make light work of the large amount of items to be sorted. Thanks to all helpers the packing shelves were all emptied.

Packers: Barry Burdett, Lorna Bormann, Lois Quast, Angie Gerhardy, Lyn Wegener, Joan Male, Bev Marks, Faye Schache, Coral Roesler, Coral Ramm, Joy Burdett, Yvonne Haby.

Packing Honey Biscuits for Lutheran Care after Women's Fellowship Meeting on 19th November.

Coral Roesler, Faye Schache, Jean Minge, Coral Ramm, Lorna Bormann, Anne de Jong



BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

At Mannum, as a reminder of our Baptism we are encouraged to light our Baptismal candle during the Family Service which is held on the third Sunday of each month.



October

Sue Male, Joan Male,
Jaxon Male, Lorna Bretag,
Terry Schutz



November

Barry Burdett
Barry Ramm



December

Brett Sonntag, Lyall Rochow, Kath
Marks, Lois Newton, Chris Marks,
Emily Mueller, Caitlin Mueller,
Art Wangler



January

Pastor John
Mary Ann Marks, Ronda Rochow,
Athalae Jericho, Bev Marks

Bowhill Family Christmas Service



God's Son...
A Present for everyone
John 3:16



O come, O come, Immanuel

An All-Age Nativity by Debbie Smith



Lighting the Christ Candle – Marilyn Schmidt



Our Narrator: Roslyn Ackland – "At Christmas, we think about presents – presents we give and presents we receive."



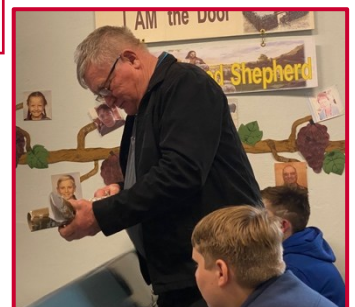
Unwrapping the first of 16+ presents – Graeme Kluge



The unwrapping revealed a Holy Bible opened to John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son..."



This was a reminder that the story we would hear is from the Bible.



Ian Kluge unwrapped the present song "Jesus loves me, this I know for the Bible tells me so"





Brett and Louise Bowden unwrapped a mobile phone. We use a mobile to communicate and send text messages. All through the Bible there are messages from God that tell us about God's special person who was coming.



Marilyn read God's message to us in Isaiah chapter 9



Melissa Kluge unwrapped the song, "For unto us a child is born"

Sandra Herrmann read God's message in Luke chapter 1



Gloria McDonald unwrapped an engagement ring for the Virgin Mary.



Cameron Hawkes unwrapped an Aussie Tax Return – just as the Baby is due, Joseph has a summons from the Roman tax office to go and register at Bethlehem.



Jodie Hawkes read God's message beginning in Luke 2



Edna Welke unwrapped the carol "O little town of Bethlehem"



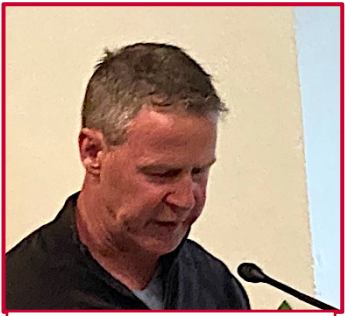
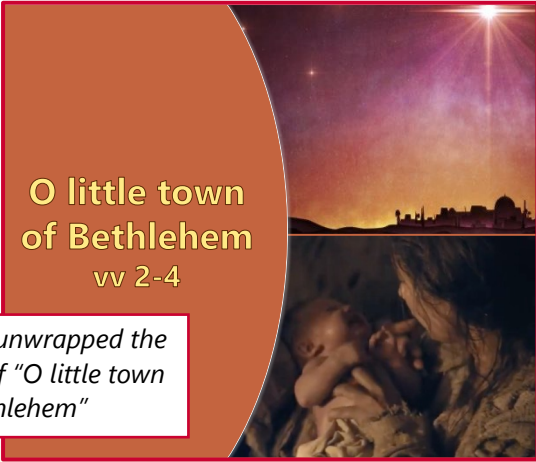
Toby Delany unwrapped a "No Vacancies" sign



Molly Hawkes further read God's message in Luke 2



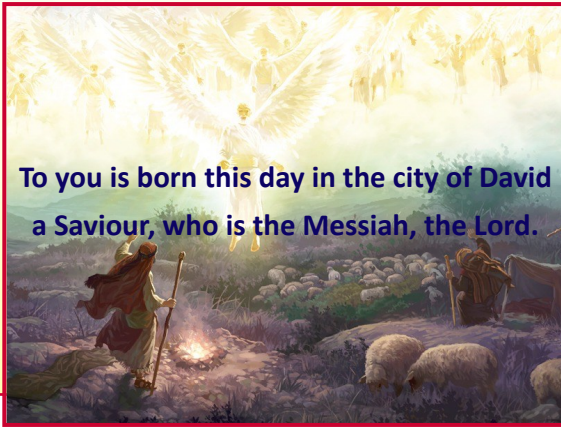
Chris Weber unwrapped the final verses of "O little town of Bethlehem"



Jeremy Hawkes completed God's message in Luke 2



Ros and Hamilton Ackland



Zoe Hawkes

The rustling of many presents being unwrapped revealed just what these shepherds could have done with that wonderful night!



Cameron Hawkes and Dad



Ana McDonald



Braden and Elise Herrmann



Craig Smith



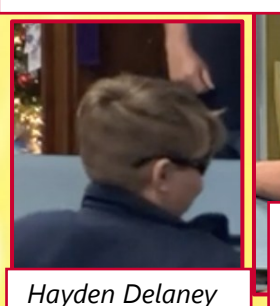
Hamilton Ackland



Demi Herrmann



Hayden Delaney



Pastor Peter Welke and Graeme



Pastor Peter Welke and Graeme



Hamilton Ackland



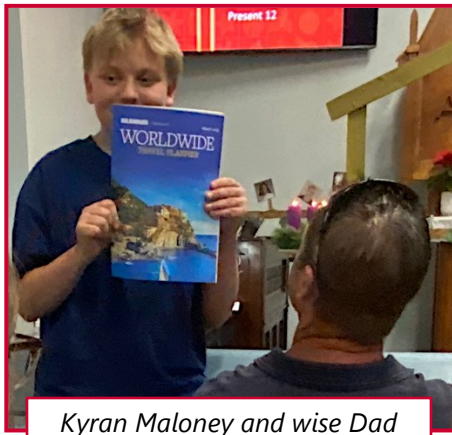
Molly Hawkes unwrapped the Carol "Angels we have heard on high"



Heaven's choir came down to sing when Heaven's King came down to save!



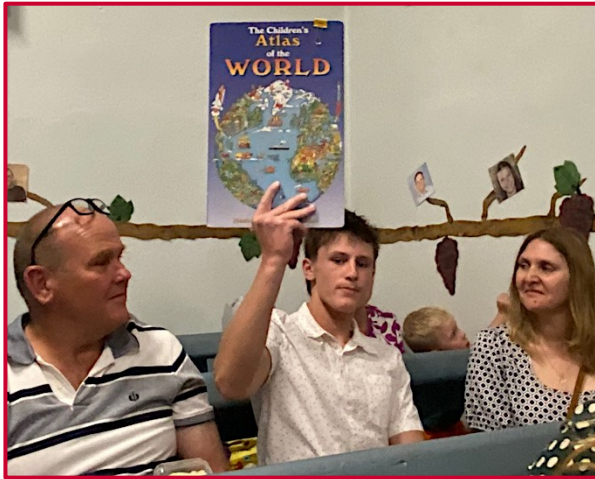
Others came to visit the Baby Jesus too.
How are they to decide where to go?



Kyran Maloney and wise Dad
Justin consider a travel
brochure



Lucy Kluge unwrapped a
horoscope page



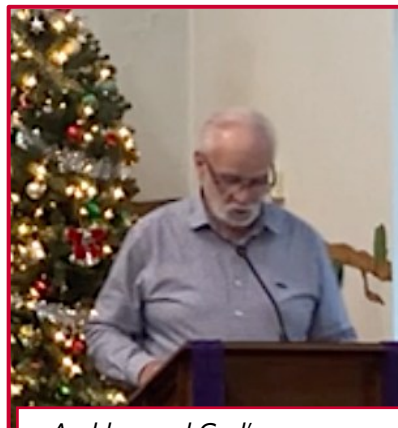
Finnlay McDonald unwrapped a map to
consider with wise parents Jason and Ana



ShayLee Maloney unwrapped the star to the delight of Mum
Jodie and all around



Terry Schmidt placed the star where
it came to rest.



And he read God's message
in Matthew 1.
**It was only when the Wise
Men studied God's Word
that they got back on
track.**



Merle Herrmann unwrapped the
Carol "The First Nowell"



Sue Smith unwrapped a rubbish
bag – something we needed for all
the used wrapping paper!

*But something was
missing! ...*

The real gift was there all the time! It is too big to put in a box and has already been given to us. **It is Jesus, the Son of God, given at that first Christmas.** We will use a doll to represent Jesus in a manger here.



Gloria McDonald places Baby Jesus in the manger.

What will we do with the real Jesus?

Will we clear Him away with all the boxes in the end?

Will He just be put out with the rubbish when Christmas is over?



Joseph and Mary, the poor shepherds and the rich wise men, all recognised who He was. What about us?

Pastor Peter:
A long time ago, long before Christmas, God was deciding what He wanted to give us for Christmas. He decided that He wanted to give something that would show that He is with us and that He loves us.



MESSAGE
Pastor Peter Welke
God unwraps His Christmas Gift for you

Luke 2:9-18

So, He decided to give Himself to us for Christmas. You might wonder how would He go about giving Himself to us for Christmas...what size box would He need? How would He wrap it up? He wanted to be with us and help us as no one else could ever help us. So, He decided He would come to us, not in all His power and glory, but He came to us in the person of Jesus, when He was born as a baby. ...That's a long time ago, 2000 years, how does God unwrap His gift for you today? ...**Mary wrapped Jesus in some strips of cloth. Today God wraps Jesus up in here (Pastor Peter pointed to his Bible).**

Gloria, wise men Boaz and Benjamin Bowden, angels Louise and Annabelle Bowden and Toby and Hayden Delaney watch the Christmas contemporary song, "Because of Bethlehem" by Matthew West with a re-enactment of the Bible story of Jesus birth, His death and resurrection:

"That night the world forever changed..
Love is born...Hope is here...
From a child in a cradle
to a King upon a cross...
When no other arms could carry the
weight of all our sin
He took the fall, and it happened all...
Because of Bethlehem."



"Mary wrapped Jesus in some strips of cloth. Today God wraps Jesus up in here".

That's why He wants us to read what He says ...so that as we read this we

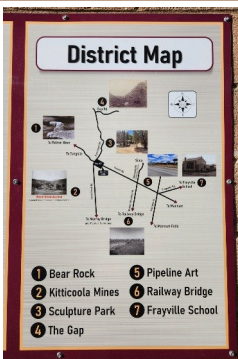


can get to know Jesus. And if we get to know Jesus, then we know what God is like – that He loves us and cares about us. So, it's through this Word (the Bible) that God wants to unwrap His gift. So, we wouldn't read it only at Christmas, but every day. So that He can tell us more and more about the wonderful gift He has given and how much He loves us. Because He didn't just send Jesus to be born but He sent Him to die on the cross so that we could be forgiven and have life with Him.

And we find out about all of that as we read God's Word and as the Holy Spirit uses those Words to lead us to believe in Jesus to know that He's our Saviour. When we know that, then really God has unwrapped His gift for us, and we can unwrap it for other people.

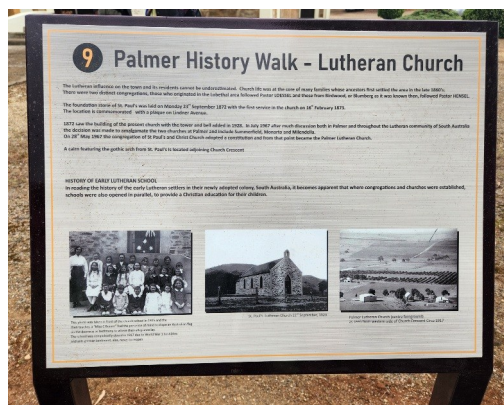
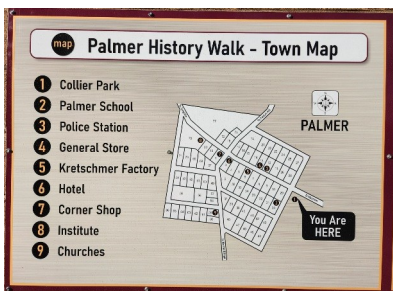
PALMER HAPPENINGS

Reformation Sunday



The Palmer Collier Park Community have erected signs around the township for a Palmer History Walk. Palmer church and it's history have been included in the walk.

If you have the chance one day take a stroll around the lovely little township of Palmer.



1st December -
Lighting of the
1st Advent candle



15th December -
Lighting of the
3rd Advent Candle

Thankful for Sue
Grieger coming
to play -
15th December



22nd December -
Lighting of the
4th Advent candle

Christmas Eve at Palmer

We were blessed to have Pastor John share the Christmas message for Christmas Eve with us this year. Joanne Wagenknecht organised the Christmas Eve service which saw the congregation introduced to the colours of Christmas with the help of different members of the Parish.

Ellen Paech played for us and her playing was very much appreciated. At 80 years young it's wonderful that she is happy to return to her old congregation to play on occasion.



Pastor Peter Welke lead us in worship for Christmas Day at Palmer





The last youth event for the year was a Regressive Dinner which gave our youth the opportunity to get to know our hosts: Kevin & Kaye Falkenberg; Carl & Tammy Haby and Steven & Bev Marks. The youth were left guessing as where we were headed each time.

Before each meal, a mealtime prayer was said and while gathered around the table, the youth asked various questions to our hosts to get to know them better.

It was a great night enjoyed by all and the youth loved having dessert first!

ONE OF THE MEALTIME PRAYERS

Lord, we come before You with grateful hearts, thankful for the gift of this day and the opportunity to gather together. As we share this meal, we ask for Your continued grace and protection over each of us. Bless this food to nourish our bodies and strengthen our spirits. Help us to be mindful of the joy and comfort we find in these moments spent together.

May we cherish the laughter, the conversations, and the connections we make, and may we always remember to appreciate these precious times. Guide us to support and uplift one another, and let this meal be a reminder of Your unwavering love. Amen.

Second stop: Carl & Tammy Haby's
Main meal was a delicious Spaghetti Bolognese with cheese on top. Pastor John also gave a devotion for the youth.



First stop: Kevin & Kaye Falkenberg's
An amazing spread for dessert - pancakes with all the toppings imaginable: variety of fruit, ice cream, chocolate, lollies, sprinkles, cream, jams and toppings. Even child's dream (and adults!)



GET TO KNOW OUR HOST QUESTIONS

- How long have you lived in Mannum?
- What is/was your occupation?
- How many people are in your family?
- What is your favourite meal?
- Have you always been a Christian?
- Did you ever go to youth group as a child? If so, what are some of the best memories you made?
- What is your favourite verse, character, message or book of the bible and why?
- What is one piece of advice or something you would like to see from the next generations in the church?
- What do you see as your 'biggest achievements' in life?
- What are you most looking forward to in the next few years of your life?

Last stop:
Steven & Bev Marks'
Even though the youth had enjoyed two delicious filling meals they still had room for yummy soup, bread, dips and crackers nibbles plate.



Thank you to all who have contributed, organised, attended youth this past year.

MID MURRAY PARISH SHED MEN



September meeting was held at Peter Grieger's at Sedan.

October meeting was held at Geoff Ollrich's at Sedan



Shed Men gathered at Viv Eichler's at Punthari for the November meeting.

December meeting was held at Chris Marks at Purnong



FORSTER SNAPSHOTS

JESUS
the best
present ever!



Our Christmas service at Forster was a celebration of “Jesus the best present ever.”

With everyone getting involved, bringing gifts to the front of our gathering to be opened. These gifts included a Bible to show God’s word is a gift to us, a telephone to show we can communicate with Jesus all the time through prayer. Some sunglasses, because the light from the angels was so bright when they announced Jesus’ birth. Also a manger which was where our Saviour was laid and then the best present ever was baby Jesus wrapped in a beautiful way, and also wrapped in the humble swaddling cloth to be “the best present ever.”

It was great to see everyone get excited about unwrapping the gifts. The shepherds were the first people on earth to accept Jesus and I pray you will take Jesus into your heart to be your saviour and comforter.



Forster’s pulpit was decommissioned many years ago and put in a members shed for storage.

The time had come to move it on
and was donated to the
Mannum Men’s Shed
who will put the timber to good use.





Children's Messages

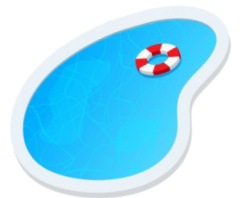


A time during the service where Pastor shares God's Word in a very special way to the children of the congregation.



Coffee & Chat
CHRISTMAS LUNCH
 THURSDAY, 5TH DECEMBER
 Denis & Athalae Jericho's home

The lunch was enjoyed by all on this 40 degree hot day. The shade of the 🌲 tree helped. After lunch the pool came handy to cool off. Paster John braved the hot weather and visited. Thank you Pastor John. The girls enjoy your catch up.



PARISH SERVICE & AGM 2ND FEBRUARY 2025

HELD AT ST MARTIN'S , MANNUM



Sound Desk
Chris, Philip & Andrew



Organist for the Service
Sue Grieger



Announcements by
Rex Bormann



Parish Chairperson
Mark Schultz



Chairperson of
Pastoral Assistants
Peter Grieger



Parish Minute Secretary
Julianne Fiebig



Joan was thanked and wished a happy retirement for her many years of service working in the Parish Office both paid and volunteering. She was presented with a beautiful bunch of native flowers and a Travel Auction voucher so she can enjoy some holidaying together with Russell.



Kath Marks went for a ride in the header when the last barley was being reapt at Caurnamont Farms.



Steven Marks was the first to deliver grain to Appamurra for the 2024 harvest and the first time in Marks' history to do so.



The last ever load was delivered to Taillem Bend for Caurnamont Farms.

End of an era.



Marks' 3 day clearing sale was a well organised event. Barry and his band of helpers did a fantastic job feeding everyone. All the best to the Marks' family, for the next stage in life.



DEATHS

Mary Grace Underwood

22nd July, 1944 - 24th November, 2024

Mary's funeral service was held on Wednesday, 4th December, 2024 at St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Mannum.





Contact Details

Parish Office

80 Cliff Street, Mannum

Ph: 0475 417 872

Email: admin@midmurraylp.org.au

Web: www.midmurraylp.org.au

Office Hours:

Tue, Thu & Fri Mornings: 9am - 12 noon

Pastor John Gerhardy

Ph: 0418 354 424 or Home: 8510 6283

Email: john.gerhardy@lca.org.au

Pastor's day off: Monday

Good Samaritan Bookshop

61 Randell Street, Mannum

Ph: 8569 2710

Opening Hours:

Mon, Tue, Fri 10am - 4pm;

Thu & Sat 10am - 1pm



**DON'T FORGET TO
CHECK THE
WORSHIP SCHEDULE
IN THE BULLETIN FOR
SERVICE DETAILS.**

*St. John
BOWHILL*



St. John FORSTER



St. John's CAMBRAI



*St. Martin's
MANNUM*



Zion MILENDELLA



PALMER

*Pilgrims
of Zion
SEDAN*



St. Paul's SUMMERFIELD

