



THE MESSENGER

Edition: October 2024

Grace

FOR BY GRACE YOU
HAVE BEEN SAVED
THROUGH FAITH. AND THIS IS
NOT YOUR OWN DOING; IT IS
THE GIFT OF GOD.

— EPHESIANS 2:8 —



Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing!

“When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.” (Matthew 17:8)

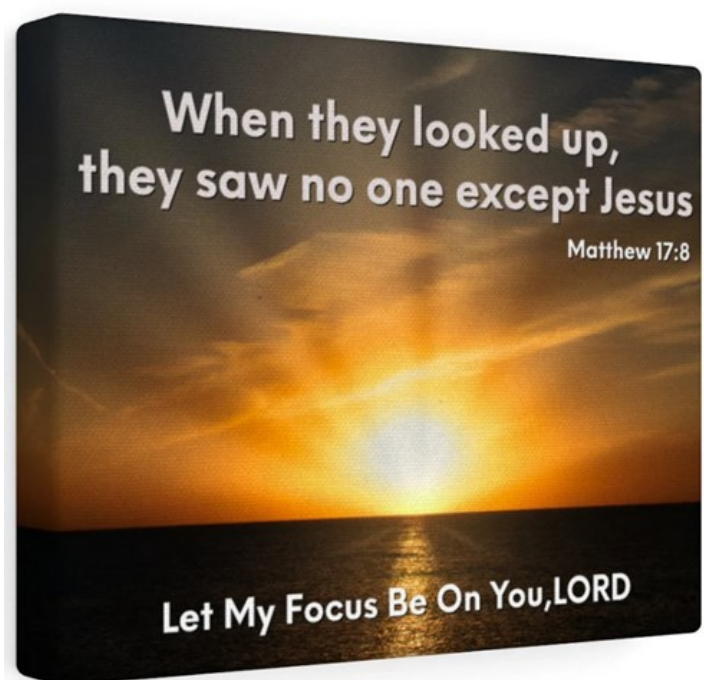
A while back as I talked with a person of senior years, he said some words I don't think I'll ever forget. I was probably a bit too focussed on a particular issue, not major in the scheme of things. And he said something like this: “The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.” I guess good common sense but quite profound. In other words you need to keep things in perspective – not get too hung up on details or the finer points until you've got the big picture.

Those details and finer points have their importance too and you need them, but they are not the main thing. They are not the big picture and if you get hung up on them you will go off on a tangent and lose your way. You need to keep the main thing the main thing. That main thing is like a compass that keeps you going in the right direction and stops you getting lost in the details.

Isn't this vital for anything you might be doing in life, any project you take on? If you're building a house you have to keep your eye on the overall design and not get hung up on designing and building one tiny part of it, or you'll end up with beautiful brass doorknobs but no roof! If you are working on a piece of writing, you have to keep in mind the overall point you're making and not get side-tracked – otherwise you will end up with a mess that people won't want to read because they cannot find that main point.

Keeping the main thing the main thing – that's a very important thing, and is critical for our faith and lives as Christians too. The Gospel writers and the apostles who wrote what we have in our New Testament had this very point so clearly in their minds. When you read the New Testament you find that there is a main point, a clear focus, a basic message that continually shines out. (And you even see this in the Old Testament continually as it foreshadows and points forward to the fulfilment of God's promise.)

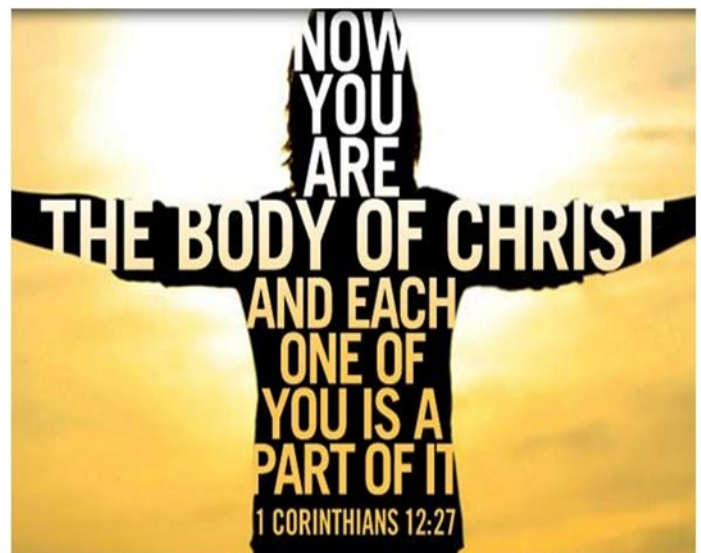
That same basic point is what literally shines out at the three disciples, Peter, James and John in Matthew's account of the Transfiguration (Please Read Matthew 17:1-9). It is the main point that comes out again and again in the Gospels and the letters of the New Testament. It gets repeated over and over so that the faith of the church all through the centuries, and our faith today, doesn't go off on a tangent and get lost but keeps this main thing at the centre. What is this main point?



It is in verse 5 from Matthew 17. We hear the voice of God the Father telling the disciples again who Jesus is – *“This is my Son”* – focusing the attention on Jesus, who is the main person, the main message, the central focus. *“This is my Son whom I love; with Him I am well pleased. Listen to Him.”*

Right from the birth announcement of the angel to Mary, to Jesus’ baptism, to Peter’s great confession – *“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”*, to the centurion at the foot of the cross, to the constant witness of the epistle writers, it is the same main point. This main point is what those three disciples were meant to hear on the mountain with Jesus, and it is the same point we need to see and hear as we read and study the Bible today too. It’s the main thing and we need to keep it the main thing. **Jesus, the Son of God is at the centre of all that we say and do as Christians.** That sounds pretty basic, you might say. Well, it’s the basics we so often get wrong in life, isn’t it? We get distracted from the main thing, and where we put our focus and our energies so often witness this.

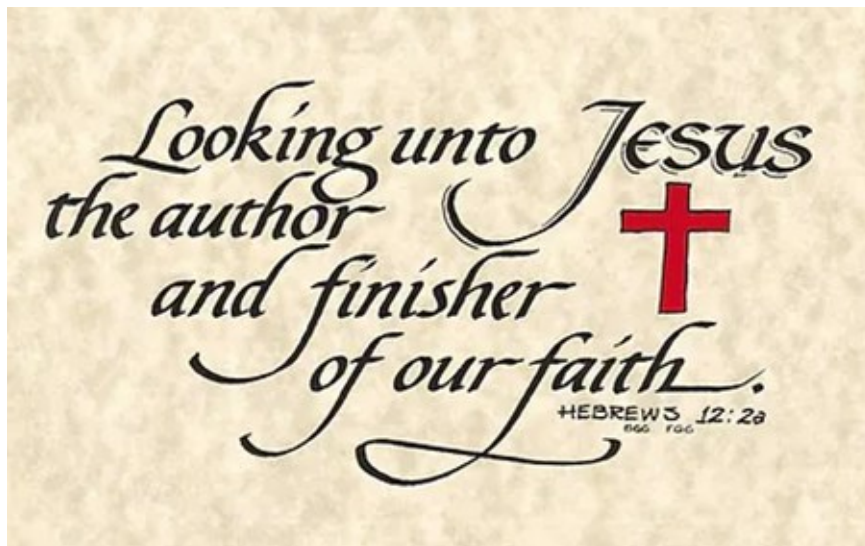
In the Church doctrinal details and points of teaching sometimes use up a lot of our energy and distract us from Jesus, becoming an end in themselves. Please don’t think I’m saying these details are unimportant – they are sometimes very important, and getting them right is important. But they are not the main thing. Jesus is the main doctrine – the main message. We need to listen to Him, speak to Him, live with Him, worship Him, and when we focus on Him, the doctrinal details stay in perspective and help us follow Jesus, rather than distract us from Him.



As a pastor I find that sometimes I just need to stop and reprioritise what I’m doing. In a parish community like this there are a thousand details and organisational stuff and different demands. I am really thankful for those who help share it around. But as I reflect, I realise that in my ministry here with you, I need to make sure I keep the main thing the main thing. I need to make more time available for listening to Jesus, studying and immersing myself in His Word so that I can better proclaim and teach it – *“This is my Son. Listen to Him”*.

In the church we so often get hung up on side issues like finances, buildings, music styles, ordination questions and structures, administrative issues – they are all important and needed, but they are not the main thing. Jesus is – to worship Him listen to Him and His Word and together to receive Him as he comes to us in Holy Communion. And this is actually what empowers and energises us to keep loving and caring for each other, embracing each other in the love of Jesus, even and especially when we may not agree with each other on some of these issues.

I want to encourage you as people of God's church here in the Mid Murray. Whatever the outcome of the general convention of the LCANZ in early October regarding the Way Forward proposal on ordination of both men and women, God still continues to go with his church and work through his church. Despite our fussing around and blundering about, despite our fears and failures,



God still continues His work in and through us, constantly reminding us to *“keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.”*

In the big picture of the history of God's Church through the ages, this issue which seems to have so consumed us over recent decades, is but a minor blip, but a blip which maybe has taken much of our energy and diverted us from keeping the main thing the main thing. And isn't that focusing on Jesus and sharing His love and grace with a community and world so much in need of seeing the love of Christ in us? Let us pray that as a church we find God's way forward to refocus our eyes together with the disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration – *“when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.”*

As we keep the main thing the main thing, all these other very important parts of our lives and our church find their proper place and perspective. As we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, He actually draws us into serving and loving in our families, our communities and our church, using the gifts of all in the Body of the ultimate servant, Jesus Christ. And His love enables us to keep on loving, caring, serving and embracing those who may see some things differently to us. We together with all God's people are His Church. For Christ's sake and His mission, let us act like it, living out His love and compassion.

**Keeping the main thing the main thing.
To be His, to know Him and His salvation,
His grace and mercy,
to live this message and to share this with others –
this is the main thing.**

Pastor John

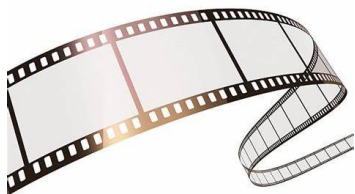


THANK YOU

to everyone that attended the games afternoon on the 21st!

There were **21 people** who attended the event and a total of **\$305 dollars** was raised for the ALWS.

Thank you to everyone who made baked goods and contributed to organising the event.



A small group of the youth had a movie night in August and watched the movie "A Week Away" about a troubled teen who had a run-in with the law that put him at an important crossroad: go to juvenile detention or attend a Christian summer camp. At first a fish-out-of-water, he opens his heart, discovers love with a camp regular, and sense of belonging in the last place he expected to find it.

It was great to see our youth bringing their friends along. Thanks to the Wittwer family for organising dinner for the youth.



Live Streaming

Adam has continued to facilitate this when he is available. We are hoping to train some other people to help. Tania came recently to see what happens & take notes.

Swap Meet

Cambrai & Sedan Churches combined again to run the catering at the Sedan Swap Meet in June. Saturday night teas were offered and thanks to Bronwyn, Max, Meg, Christine, Faye, Charmaine & Jan for helping on the night & those who donated soup & apple crumble. Sunday was once again an early start (5am) and Peter, Charmaine, Bronwyn & Faye were the organisers. Several shifts of volunteers then worked, with over 4 dozen Church & community members helping on the day. It's great to see everyone chipping in to make this a successful fundraiser. Profits were on par with last year.

A few people questioned us about missing our Sunday service when they saw we were a Church group.

We replied
"We had Church Friday night"
All bases covered!



Sunrise at the swap meet



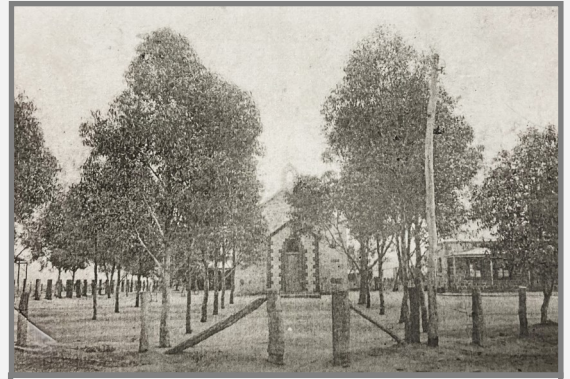
Saturday night tea

Tree Trimming

Every 8-10 years the Sugar Gums around Sedan Church are cut back. It's been longer than this since the last trim, so they were long overdue.

These trees predate the current Church so are worth preserving. We hired some professionals to do the job at the end of May as Autumn is the most suitable time.

They left us the big branches & mulched the rest. Terry Burgy, Peter & Sue G moved the wood and Burgy is benching it to sell it as firewood next winter. The Mulch is composting & will be utilized as well.



For interest's sake this is an old photo from c1915 showing the first Church with the trees.



Going..



Going..



Going..



Gone.



Loading Wood



The trees are already starting to re shoot again.

Maintenance Jobs

Other maintenance jobs attended to recently were getting our water tank cleaned. It hasn't made much difference to the water quality, so we are looking at replacing the old (galvanized) pipes. The vestry & back-room lights have been finally fixed. A power point was also installed out back as there has never been one. This helps with hot water for the Pastoral Assistants/cleaners & recharging the stick Vac. We are looking at upgrades to the Hall power as well and hope to complete this in the next few months.



Volunteer opportunities now available

If you are interested in volunteering in an op shop or have a specific skill set you can offer, please contact Lutheran Care and we can discuss opportunities.

For more information about volunteering contact our Volunteer Coordinator (volunteer@lutherancare.org.au or 0437 836 134).

Op Shops are situated at:

Lutheran Care Blair Athol Op Shop and Donation Distribution Centre (307 Prospect Road)

Elcies Norwood (43-45 The Parade)

Elcies Semaphore (231 Military Road)

Elcies Tanunda (Shop 4, 46 Murray Street).

We have received many donations over the past months so have had two packing days, the first in June and another in August. Thank you to all who support this worthy cause.



June Packers: Lyn Wegener, Judith Quast, Faye Schache, Lois Quast, Coral Ramm



August Packers: Coral Ramm, Lois Quast, Joan Male

I would like to thank you and your congregation, the Lutheran Ladies Fellowship and all the workers who work so hard to get the donations to Blair Athol and into our lovely stores.

A massive thank you to Barry and Joy who make the trip to us, loading and unloading the boxes, in extreme heat or rain, they never cease to amaze me.

Please forward my gratitude and appreciation for all the work you all put into supporting Lutheran Care Emergency Relief program.

I hope to be able to offer the service of our new truck in the future to help with the deliveries.

Thanking you kindly,

Elizabeth, Manager of Distribution & Op Shop

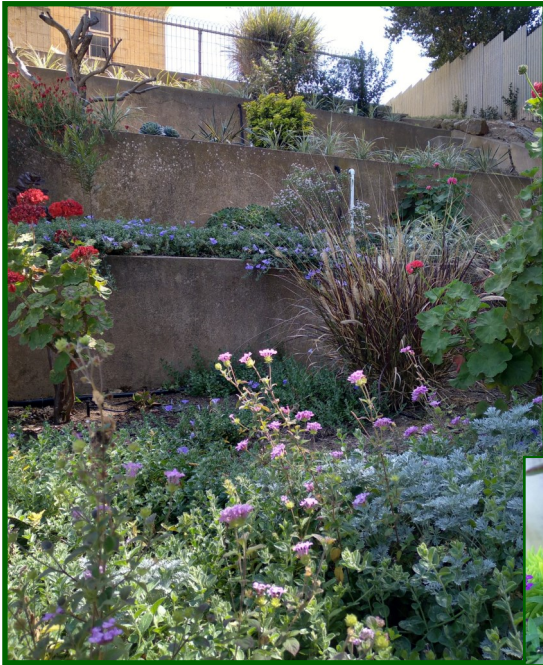
SAY CHEESE!



Mannum Snapshots



Beacon Friendship Group, Birthday celebrations at the Palmer Hotel
Rae Clifford, Anne de Jong, Russell Male, Joan Male, Joan Lindner, Joan Lindner



AKA Bev



Thankyou! to the little garden fairy who has been busy in our front garden lately.



Chatting - Ray & Lois and Graham & Diny



We are so blessed to share fellowship with Pastor Peter and Mrs. Welke after services.



Pastor John brought his "salted" biscuits to share.



Dishes - the Haby girls



Anne spending up big at the trading table with Barry & Coral



Lining up for Cuppas after service

FORSTER SNAPSHOTS



23rd June, 2024

Pastor David Christian,
Children's talk at Forster

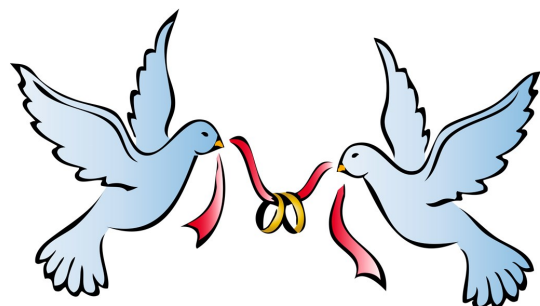


Children's
Message

Dot Haby
celebrated her 70th
birthday in July



Congratulations to
Andrew Gassner & Jill Kennett
on their recent wedding,
held in our quaint little Church
in front of the cliffs
by the River Murray.



CAMBRAI

Cambrai congregation recently had an access ramp installed at our church hall.

This was made possible thanks to the Mid Murray Council's 'Community Grants Program'. Receiving this grant assisted us greatly.

We would like to thank Leon and Janice Andretzke from Angcon Pty Ltd for the construction and installation of this ramp and to the church volunteers who helped.



*Thank
You*

CAMBRAI

June 2nd

Luncheon and Fellowship followed service with men volunteering to do the dishes.



Pastor John with Darren & Felicity.





September 11th Ladies Guild



September 15th Morning coffee following service



An energetic crew finally located the water leak in the yard at **St. John's, Cambrai.** Thanks also to Peter Pohl and Ivan Bormann for their water divining skills.



COMMUNITY OUTDOOR CHURCH SERVICE

29th September
at Meldanda



The Lord blessed us with a beautiful day for our annual outdoor service at Meldanda. We had approx. 100 in attendance coming from Cambrai, Sedan, Palmer, Mannum, Barossa and 40 from the Onkaparinga Parish.

Pastor John led the informal service. He had a children's address titled "God has Big Ears".

Morning tea was served prior to the service. Lunch consisting of BBQ & Salad and apple crumble and cream was enjoyed by all.

A wonderful day was had by all. A big Thank You to all who contributed towards the day.

The day was also a token of appreciation to the Onkaparinga Parish for their love and support to our congregation.





“Aches and Plains”



was the theme for the 2024 LWSA-NT Barossa Zone Fellowship Day hosted by St. John Lutheran Women’s Guild at Cambrai on Friday 20th September.

In Pastor John Gerhardy’s opening service, from Matthew 17:1-9, he detailed that we are privileged to share in a mountain top experience, a glimpse of God’s glory. This glimpse of God’s glory comes in His word we hear and in the precious meal we share. These enable us to renew and strengthen our lives through the aches on the plains of this world.

The offering from the day will be allocated to Lutheran Care, Lutheran Media, Arthritis Research and Lutheran Tract Mission.

President Faye Jenke welcomed 78 people who enjoyed the informative presentations that the speakers delivered.

Tom Craig, Health Educator from The Hospital Research Foundation Group – Arthritis, spoke on the topic of “Creaky Knees & Achy Joints, Understanding Arthritis”.

Angie Gerhardy, a volunteer from Good Samaritan Bookshop Mannum, explained that the wide range of Christian books, Bibles and giftware available in the shop relies on face to face shoppers to purchase these goods. The continued operation of this shop is a physical and visible presence of Christ in the Mannum community.

Local historian Susan Grieger selected snippets from her book “The Plains Capital Sedan” and referred to buildings and churches in Sedan and Cambrai. She displayed accompanying photographs in a power point presentation.

Helen Walker, Operations Manager, Family and Community Services, detailed the various departments of support, care and compassion that Lutheran Care provides for individuals and families in need.

In their brief reports, the LWSA-NT President Josie Hunt drew our attention to 2025 LWSA-NT State Convention to be held at Langmeil Lutheran Church, Tanunda on Saturday 3rd May and the LWA President Grace Kroehn spoke about the upcoming LWA Convention in Murray Bridge on 2nd and 3rd October 2024.

Gillian Schubert read “He Deserves Our Compassion”, a humorous narrative about a man’s persistent and at times frustrating search for a gift for a loved one. It concluded that we are most like God when we are giving.

During the lunch break there were brisk sales at the well stocked Trading Table, the proceeds of which will be allocated to Barossa Lutheran Disability.





Josie Hunt - LWSA/NT President



Tom Craig - Health Educator



Gillian Schubert & Tom Craig



Lap Lunch in Church Hall



Joan Schiller



Sue Grieger - Local Historian



Pastor John Gerhardy -
Opening Devotion



Trading Table



Faye Jenke - President
Charmaine Pietsch - Secretary



Good Samaritan Bookshop -
Pastor John, Angie Gerhardy & Anne de Jong



How Great Thou Art

was the theme for the LWA
19th General Convention
held at Unity College,
MURRAY BRIDGE

**Wednesday 2nd & Thursday 3rd
October, 2024.**



Pastor John led Bible Study
Wednesday afternoon.



Members from Mannum Fellowship
& Cambrai-Milendella Guild attended.

Back: Joan Male, Athalae Jericho, Charmaine Pietsch,
Dawn Bormann, Pastor John
Front: Lorna Bormann, Cynthia Strauss,
Angie Gerhardy, Faye Jenke



Attendance was approximately 200 each day and collections amounted \$19,213.00

Pastor John conducted the opening and closing services.

The closing service included Holy Communion and the Installation of the
Caretaker Executive Committee which will serve until the end of December 2024.





THE GIFT OF GOD
– it's grace that unites us

21st Convention of General Synod 2024

4-7 October at Concordia College

Here are a few Snapshots from Synod. A more detailed report will be distributed through the bulletin.



The business sessions were held in the newly built Gymnasium.



Opening Worship on Friday in the chapel at Concordia College. Bishop Richard Schwedes (NSW/ACT) preached at the service, reminding us that God's grace is our foundation and focus as a church.

Catching up with Pastor Phil Joppich is a tradition of ours to see each other at Conventions both on a District & National level. Pastor Phil sends his greetings to our Parish. Pastor Phil served the old Mannum Parish from 1996 - 2004.



Standing in line for our food, I heard my name being said and there in front of me was Pastor Mark Blackwell. What a pleasure it was to catch up with him. Pastor Mark sends his greetings to us all from himself and family. Pastor Mark served the old Mannum Parish from 2005 - 2009.



Sunday Worship in the chapel at Concordia College. Bishop Paul Smith preached on: Gift. Grace. Gathered. Good (works) - These simple G words are 'the four Gs' of our Gospel life as the church of Jesus Christ. He then added a fifth which taps into the call to action of the Great Commission – Go.

At the closing service, Pastor Stephen Schultz was installed as Assistant to the Bishop of the LCA NZ. As the role of Assistant Bishop is a volunteer role, Pastor Schultz will continue to serve in his current role with the SA-NT District.



Synod delegate, Alison Eggers and Pastor John Gerhardy, catching up at Synod. (Proof that we were there!)



BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS



June 16th
Officiating
Pastor,
Peter Welke



Yannike Schutz
Faye Schache
Rae Bottroff
Steven Marks

July 21st
Officiating
Pastor,
Graham Harms



Alecia Bormann
Rex Bormann
Erna Wiebrecht
Coral Roesler

August 18th
Officiating
Pastor,
Alwin Schirmer



Raeleen Schache
Lois Quast
Ari Schutz
Jean Minge
Lachlan Sonntag
Lyn Wegener
Bill Schwertfeger

September 15th Officiating Pastor, John Gerhardy



Emma, Joel & Harper Gerhardy,
Anne de Jong, Pauline Ernst,
Christine Wilksch,
Robert Wiebrecht, Ray Quast,
Andrew Ludwig

Congratulations



GRDC
GRAINS RESEARCH
& DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION



2 STOCK JOURNAL Thursday September 12, 2024

NEWS

Starick selected to lead GRDC

MURRAYLANDS farmer Sharon Starick has been appointed to the head of grains body GRDC.

Already a GRDC director since 2018, she will take on the role of chairperson from October 1 for a three-year term.

Mrs Starick farms at Punthari with husband Mark, running a cropping and pig-

gery operation.

Also appointed to the board was Spalding farmer Natalie Sommerville.

Federal Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Minister Julie Collins was excited to welcome Mrs Starick into her new role.

"Mrs Starick has extensive board experience and will use this to continue leading

organisational change and strategy renewal within the GRDC," she said.

"Mrs Starick's passion is clear in every aspect of her life, she has a strong interest in the grains industry and has dryland cropping on her family farm. This passion, and new term, will be vital in the further development of Australia's grains industry."

Mid Murray Parish Shed Men



June Meeting: Simon Cockrum's



July Meeting: Barry Burdett's



The August meeting was held at David Wilkinson's

Guest Speaker:
Pastor Ken Pfitzner



September: Peter Grieger's
Special guest, Bishop Andrew Brook

BAPTISM AT BOWHILL

Elise Rae Herrmann

Born 26 May 2024



Loving Heavenly Father,
thank You for Elise
and for listening to our prayers.



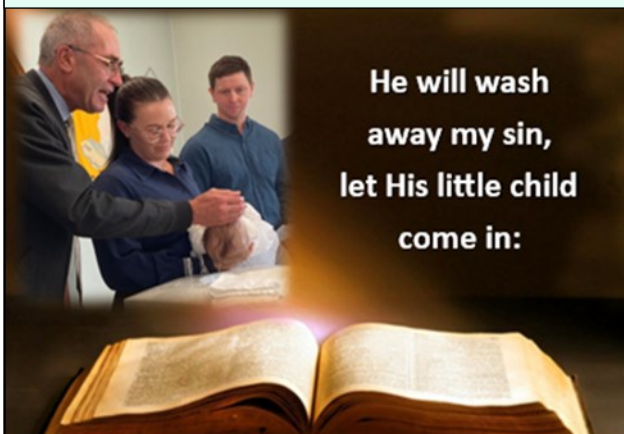
Pastor John, Elise, Demi & Braden

In the gospel according to St Mark 10:14, our Lord Jesus Christ says: Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.



Braden, Demi & Elise Herrmann
Sponsors: Kristen Herrmann & Guy Jackson

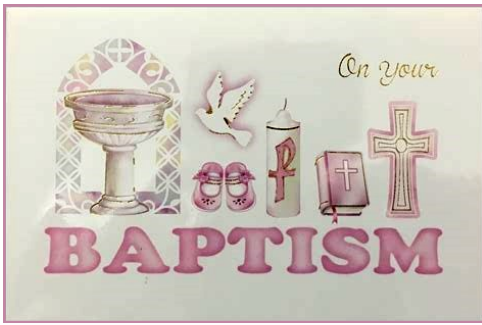
Heavenly Father, look with favour on Elise. Set her free from the power of Satan, rescue her from the kingdom of darkness and death, and receive her into your kingdom of light and life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



He will wash away my sin,
let His little child come in:

Family and friends of Elise and members and friends of Bowhill congregation; would you please show your welcome to Elise whom God has given to us as our sister in Christ.





HARPER KATE GERHARDY
 BAPTIZED INTO GOD'S FAMILY AT
 ST MARTIN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH MANNUM
 15TH SEPTEMBER 2024



Pastor John
 and Grand Daughter, Harper



Pastor John, Emma, Joel & Harper



Coral Ramm presenting
 Harper's Baptismal candle to Emma



Pastor John, Joel, Emma and Harper
 with God Parents:
 Matthew Nisbet and Hannah Lord



Pastor John's children's address



THE LORD WHO CREATED
 YOU SAYS,
 'I HAVE CALLED YOU BY
 NAME YOU ARE MINE'.
 (ISAIAH 43:1 TEV)



Neville & Coral Roesler
celebrated their
60th Wedding Anniversary
on 6th June.



Jean Minge
90 years young
on 7th August
2024

Jean celebrated her
90th birthday with family
at her daughter Pricilla's home
in Adelaide
on 10th August.



DEATHS



Dudley William Kubenk

8th September 1933 - 16th July 2024

Dudley's funeral service was held on
Friday 9th August, 2024 at
St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Mannum.

Conrad Melville James Harmer

19th May, 1936 - 24th July, 2024

Conrad's funeral service was held on
Monday, 5th August, 2024 at
St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Mannum.



Ervin Wilfred Nitschke

21st April, 1926 - 28th July, 2024

Ervin's funeral service was held on
Tuesday, 6th August, 2024 at
St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Mannum.



Patricia Wilson

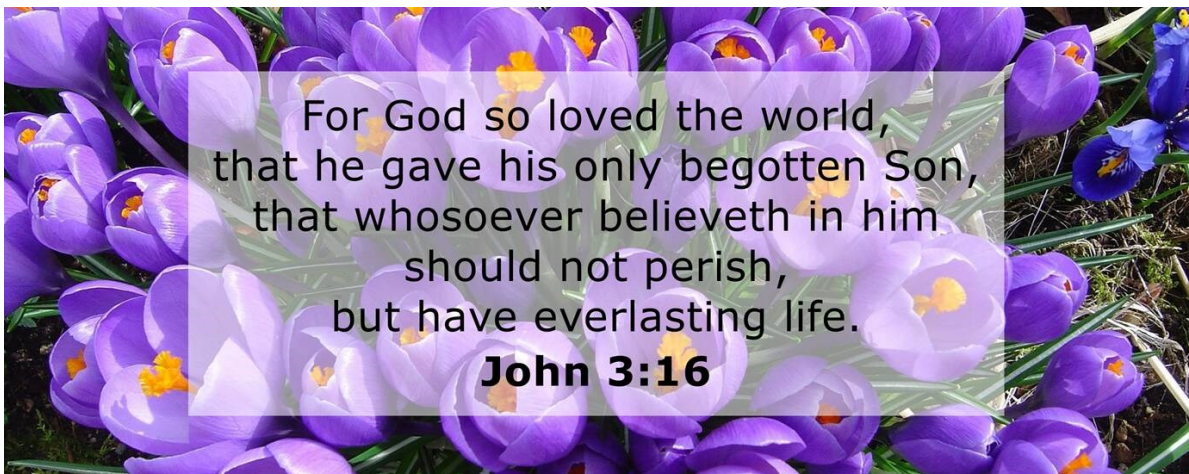
17th November 1941 - 15th September, 2024

Pat's funeral service was held on
Friday, 27th September, 2024 at
St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Mannum
followed by the committal at the Cambrai Cemetery.



For God so loved the world,
that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him
should not perish,
but have everlasting life.

John 3:16





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

