

The Parish Poster



March, April & May 2026

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Serving Together: The Biblical Call for Every Family to Help Build the Church Community

The Church has always been more than a building or a weekly service. From the earliest pages of Scripture, God describes His people as a family, a community in which every person contributes to the life, mission, and fellowship of God's household. This design didn't begin in the New Testament, and it certainly hasn't changed today. By looking at the early church and comparing it with modern church life, we can rediscover the beautiful biblical truth that every family plays a vital role in helping the church thrive.

In the Book of Acts, we find the early Christian community deeply committed to one another and to the work of God. **Acts 2:42-47** shows a church where everyone participated. They devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship, prayer, hospitality, and caring for one another's needs. Their homes were open, their hearts were generous, and their lives were woven together. This was not a ministry model where a few did the work while others observed. It was a shared commitment, powered by the Holy Spirit, where the entire family of believers invested in the health of the community.

Acts 6:1-7 further highlights how shared responsibility protected the church. When needs arose that risked overwhelming the apostles, they empowered others to join in the work. This distribution of service prevented burnout and allowed the ministry of the Word to flourish. It reminds us that when



only a handful of people carry the load, the church suffers, but when everyone contributes, the church grows strong and effective.

Paul reinforces this idea in **1 Corinthians 12:12–27**, describing the Church as a body made of many parts. Each part is necessary and valuable, and no member can say they are unimportant or unnecessary. In the same way, every family and every believer has a God-appointed role in the life of the church. Likewise, **Ephesians 4:11–16** teaches that the Church matures and builds itself up “as each part does its work.” Growth and spiritual strength come not from leaders alone but from the whole community functioning together!

This expectation for families to serve the Lord didn’t start with the early church. In **Joshua 24:15**, Joshua boldly declares, “As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” Service was a family commitment. In **Nehemiah 3**, we see families, fathers, daughters, craftsmen, priests, goldsmiths, rebuilding the wall together. They took ownership of God’s mission and worked side by side. Their success came because everyone joined in.



When we compare this biblical model to the Church of today, we see that it’s easy for us to drift into a pattern where ministry is left to staff, pastors, or a small group of volunteers doing the same job for years on end. Churches can shift from being active communities to places where people come to receive rather than contribute. But this was never God’s design. The biblical vision invites every family to serve, support, encourage, and take responsibility for the mission of the church.

Healthy church communities thrive when families serve together, praying, welcoming, meeting needs, helping practically, and using their gifts. Serving is not about filling rosters but about growing in discipleship, building relationships, and becoming more like Christ. Small acts of service make a huge impact: children greeting at the door, teenagers helping with technology, adults supporting ministries, grandparents offering wisdom and prayer. Every generation plays a part.

Ultimately, the Bible shows us that serving together is both our duty and our joy. God has designed the Church to function like a family, where each person and each household helps carry the mission forward. Just as in Acts, Corinthians, and Nehemiah, today’s church becomes strong, loving, and effective when every family steps into the role God has given them. Serving isn’t a burden, it’s a privilege that brings the Church to life.

Pastor Dave

Midweek Lenten Devotions: A Shepherd Journey Through the Psalms

During Lent, we will be reflecting on God's word and taking time out of our busy days to pause and see what God is revealing in His word to us as we journey to the cross.

Please join us on this journey at the following devotional evenings, Wednesday nights at 7.30pm in the Community Room:

Ash Wednesday (18 Feb) — John 10:1–18 The Good Shepherd

Theme: Jesus the True Shepherd who calls us by name, lays down His life, and leads us in repentance and renewal.

Week 1 (25 Feb) — Psalm 23

Theme: The Shepherd Who Leads Us into Restoration

Key focus: Lent begins with returning. The Good Shepherd restores our souls.

Week 2 (4 Mar) — Psalm 95

Theme: Hearing the Shepherd's Voice and Not Hardening Our Hearts

Key focus: The Shepherd calls; disciples listen.

Week 3 (11 Mar) — Psalm 80

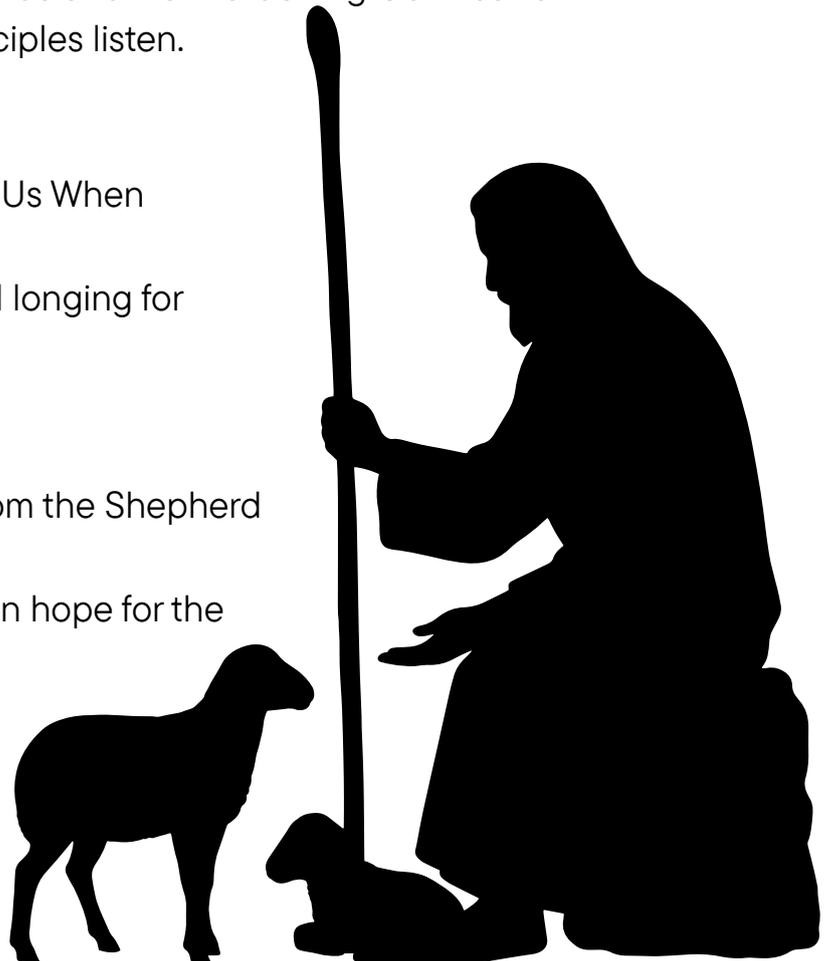
Theme: The Shepherd Who Seeks Us When We Are Lost

Key focus: Confession, lament, and longing for restoration.

Week 4 (18 Mar) — Psalm 130

Theme: Waiting for Redemption from the Shepherd Who Saves

Key focus: Lent teaches us to wait in hope for the Shepherd's redeeming mercy.



Wagga News

Can you believe how quickly the end of 2025 arrived? Before we knew it, the church and grounds were decked out in beautiful Christmas decorations, the Advent wreath was lit, and Pastor was guiding us through a wonderful series of Advent Bible studies to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ.

Continuing our Advent theme of Joy, our Sunday School children once again wowed us all with their very own presentation of the Christmas story at the Christmas Eve service. This year, with our little people being so young, they stepped into the roles of directors and set dressers — then they hand-picked adults from the congregation to deliver the speaking parts. The kids just loved shouting "Action!" at the start of each act. They were also delighted to receive their annual Christmas gifts from the congregation near the end of the service.



Ethan and Brad as Shepherds, Lauren, Carolyn and Margaret as Angels, and Dan, Andrea and Archer as Joseph, Mary and Jesus. (Michael graciously played Gabriel).



The real stars of the show!

January is always a time of new beginnings and so, on the 18th, we had the wonderful privilege of welcoming Archer Salzke into the family of God. The church was filled with the warmth of friends and family making it a truly joyful celebration. Just a few weeks later, we were so pleased to witness the blessing of the 2026 teachers of Lutheran School Wagga Wagga, along with the installation of Arnika Hitchenor as the new Year 6 teacher.



Exciting Updates to the Community Room

Have you popped into the Community Room recently? There have been some exciting updates! The air conditioner is working again (hallelujah!), a large meeting table has arrived, and the TV has found a new home in the room. The cosy couches are still there for those all-important chats, and the kitchenette is fully stocked with tea and coffee supplies, ready for any impromptu catch-up. Pastor Dave has also set up his desk and printer in the room at the back of the church to make himself more accessible. He would absolutely love a visit from you, so please feel free to pop in any time you're in the area!

Mark Your Calendars: AGM 15 March

Our Annual General Meeting is coming up on 15 March, and we want to see you there! The Book of Reports has been emailed to as many members as possible and printed copies are available in the Narthex. We encourage everyone to have a read through before the big day and come along with your thoughts and questions. The AGM is a great opportunity to catch up on all that's been happening in our church community and to have your say in shaping our future together.

Lenten Devotions: A Shepherd's Journey Through the Psalms

As we enter the season of Lent, Pastor Dave is inviting all of us to join him for a special series of devotions titled "A Shepherd's Journey Through the Psalms." These evenings of reflection will be held every Wednesday night in the Community Room, beginning 25 February at 7:30pm. It's a beautiful opportunity to slow down, open God's Word together, and journey through Lent as a community. We hope to see you there!

Milbrulong News

Milbrulong members celebrated Australia Day after our service on 25th January with a BBQ at Carol and Richard Smith's home.



The food was, to say the least, absolutely delicious and the conversation was wonderful. Thank you, Carol & Richard, for your warm hospitality.

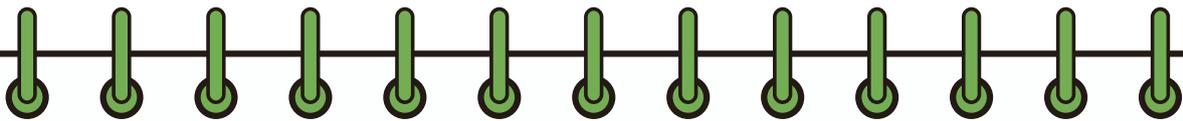
Congratulations to Zoe Bahr who has graduated from Primary School and Sunday School and now begins her secondary education.

Milbrulong AGM

The Milbrulong Congregation held their Annual General Meeting on Sunday, 22 February. All Office Bearers were returned and we sincerely thank them for their ongoing service to our church:

Chairman – Jenny Smith
Secretary – Colin Bahr
Treasurer – Carol Bahr
Elder – Graham Bahr

Lay Readers – Graham Bahr & Jenny Smith
LLL Rep – Sally Carn
Sunday School Teachers – Sally Carn & Carol Smith



Milbrulong Service Plan

March:

- 6th 10.30am World Day of Prayer at Catholic Church, Lockhart. Morning tea to follow.
- 8th 9am Lay Reading Service
- 22nd 9am Preaching Service with Pastor Dave.
- Wednesdays Lenten Devotional Evenings at Wagga Wagga at 7.30pm.

April:

- 3rd 3pm Good Friday Service with Pastor Dave. Holy Communion.
An afternoon tea of Hot Cross Buns will follow.
- 5th 9.30am Easter Sunday Service at Wagga Wagga.
- 12th 9am Lay Reading Service.
- 26th 9am Preaching Service with Pastor Dave. Holy Communion. Morning tea to follow.

May:

- 10th 9am Lay Reading Service (Mother's Day).
- 24th 9am Preaching Service with Pastor Dave. Holy Communion. Morning tea to follow.

Sunday School

After the highs of Christmas and our Christmas Eve Service Presentation, Sunday School is back for 2026. Term 1 has already begun and we are focusing on how we can apply God's love and forgiveness in our everyday lives.

Please note the dates for Term 1 and 2 this year:

Term 1: 8 February - 29 March

(No Sunday School on 5 April, 12 April or 19 April)

Term 2: 26 April - 28 June

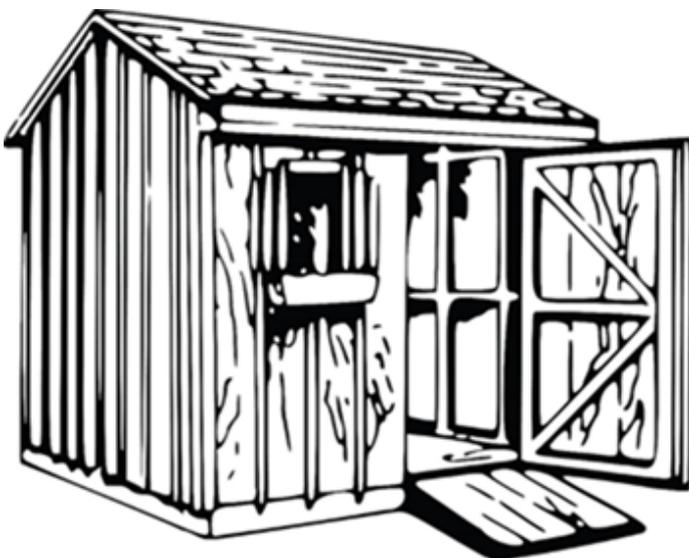
As part of our Child Safe Plan, we need all parents to fill in a short registration form on behalf of their children. If you haven't completed one this year, please see Leonie, Jill, or Ange.

The youngest member of our Sunday School, Archer Salzke, with some of the unsung heroes of our 2025 Christmas Eve Presentation.



Shed Men

Shed Men is back for 2026! The last Friday night of the month is a great chance to relax after a long week with a casual chat and a few stories with good blokes around a BBQ. Whether you like a scotch fillet, a chicken skewer or the humble old snag, all are welcome to join us.



27th Feb: Des Kohlhagen

27th Mar: Reg Miegel (airport hanger)

24th Apr: Rodney Lieschke

29th May: Malcolm Kohlhagen

No Shed Men in June or July.

Care and Share

Care and Share meets every Wednesday from 10am in the Church hall in Athol Street. The aim of our mornings are simple - to spend a short time together sharing a little bit of our lives with each other and caring for those less fortunate than us.

If you can knit, sew, or crochet, you are welcome to help out with any of our ongoing projects for Carevan. If you can do none of those, you are still very welcome to while away a few hours with us with a cuppa and a bikkie or two!

If you have any unwanted fabric in your possession that we can use to make toiletry bags for Carevan, we would greatly appreciate the donation.



To everyone who has contributed to our CareVan collection basket, CareVan would like to extend their thanks and let you know that every donation is greatly appreciated and used in appropriate ways to care for the less fortunate in our community.

There is a full list of the items that they constantly use in their kitchen to provide food for those in need, but we offer a summary of that list here:

Non-perishable items: canned food eg: tomatoes, tuna. Sauces eg: pasta sauce, tomato paste, liquid stock, gravy mix. Dried foods eg: pasta, rice, cooking salt and cornflour, plain and SR flour.

Bathroom items: motel samples, shampoo, conditioner, hand cream, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, sanitary products.

Consumables: kitchen towel, dishcloths, serviettes, handwash, detergent, scourers, washing detergent, toilet paper.

Vouchers: Coles, Woolworths and Aldi.

Please feel free to deliver your excess fresh garden produce to them directly at 2/159 Fernleigh Rd (near the corner of Pinaroo Drive). Also, any frozen vegetables can be delivered to them when they are open.

CareVan is a registered charity and can accept cash donations at their office, at the above address. Tax receipts will be issued.

WELCOME TO 2026

This year we welcomed 43 Kindergarten students to Lutheran School



2026 Swimming Carnival

Our Swimming Carnival was held on Tuesday 17th February with students from Years 3-6 participating. The day was filled with lots of colour, wonderful sportsmanship, fantastic competition and beautiful sunshine.



2026 Student Leaders

Our School Captains were recently installed and received their badges. Congratulations to Rosie Molineux, Jordan Tracey (School Captains), Indi Walker and Eli Poole (Vice-Captains). Congratulations also to our House Captains, Worship and Technology Leaders.



School Captains



Technology Leaders



House Captains

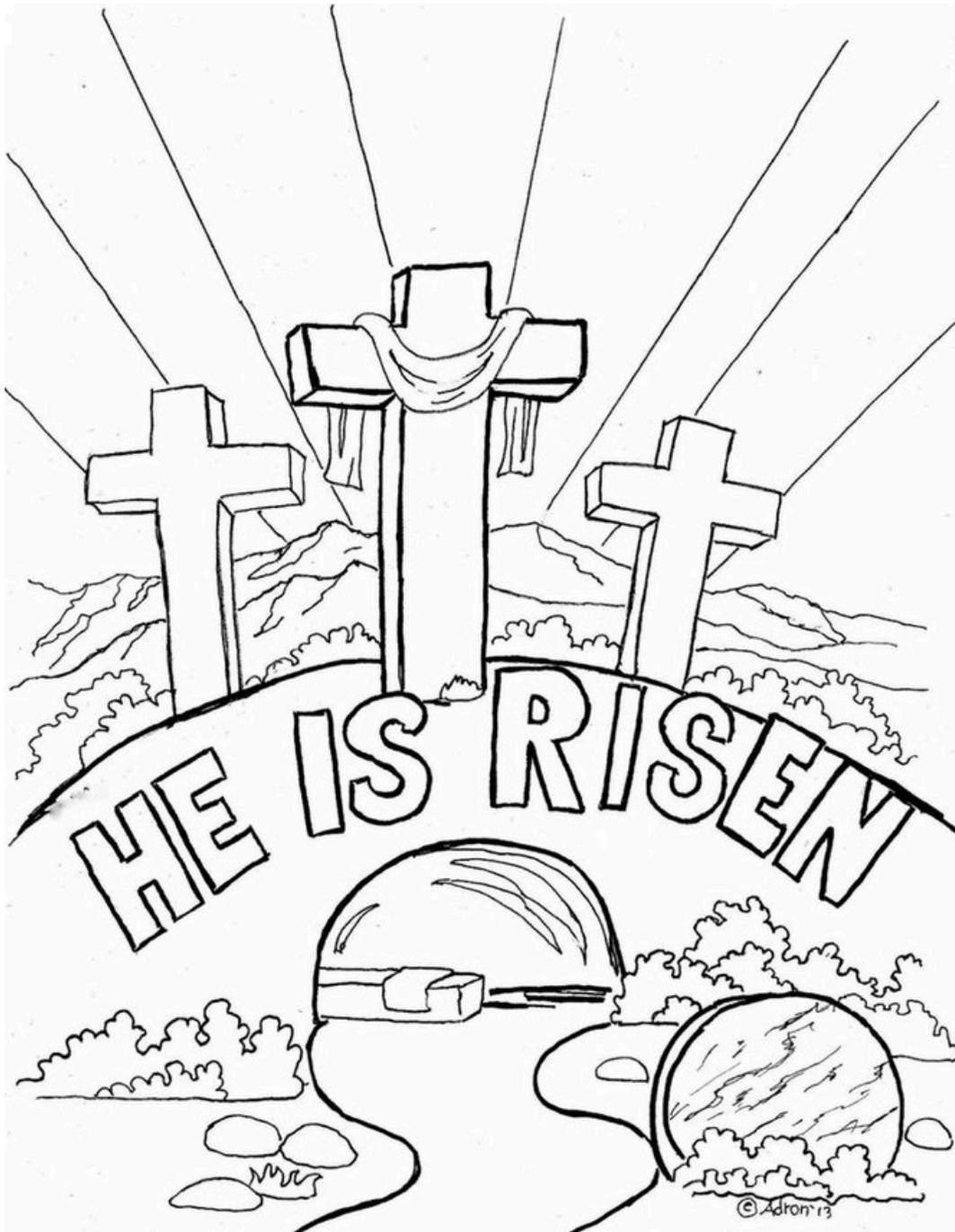


Worship Leaders

PANCAKE MONDAY

On Monday 16th February our wonderful chefs from Bethlehem Lutheran Church cooked up 350+ pancakes to mark the beginning of the Lenten season.





Start or finish each day in God's word

Daily Devotion

delivered to your inbox every morning

Sign up today – it's free!

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Easter Week Services

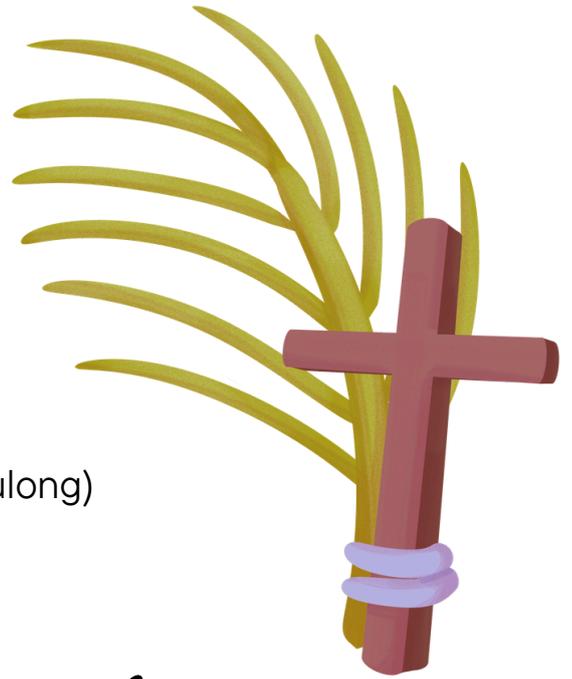
29 Mar 10am Palm Sunday Service

2 April 7.30pm Maundy Thursday Service

3 April 9.30am Good Friday Service

3 April 3pm Good Friday Service (Milbrulong)

5 April 9.30am Easter Sunday Service



Easter is often woven into our most treasured memories – of family, of faith, of tradition. What is your most cherished Easter memory, and why does it stay with you?

