

The Parish Poster



September, October, November 2026

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Freedom & Boundaries to Jesus and The Law

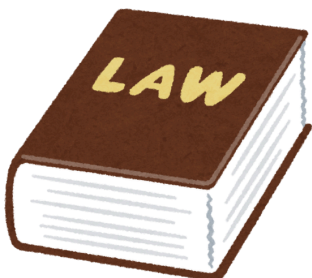
Over the past ten weeks, we have explored the Ten Commandments through the lens of **"Freedom and Boundaries in Jesus."**

Together, we discovered that God's commands are not arbitrary restrictions designed to limit our lives, making things more difficult for us. Rather, they are loving boundaries given by a good God who desires our freedom, flourishing, and joy.

We live in a culture that often equates freedom with the absence of limits; Scripture presents a completely different vision for us when we unpack it. True freedom in Christ is not found in doing whatever we want, flying by the seat of our pants, rebelling and creating challenges for God to prove himself to us, but in living as God intended. The commandments show us that God's boundaries create space for healthy relationships, meaningful worship, integrity, rest, contentment, and community life. They reveal both God's character and His heart for His people. Really, they reveal our need for Jesus.

Yet as important as the commandments are, they were never meant to be the final destination! The law points beyond itself and raises a deeper question for us to ponder:

How do we live as God's people when we so often fall short of His perfect standard?



That answer, my dear brothers and sisters,
is found in Jesus of Nazareth.



As we begin our new series, "**Jesus and the Law**," we will explore how Christ relates to everything we have been studying. Jesus did not come to discard God's law, nor did He simply repeat it. He came to fulfil it completely. In His life, teachings, death, and resurrection, we see the true purpose of the law revealed.

Over the coming weeks, we will consider how Jesus fulfils the law, uncovers the heart behind it, demonstrates God's preference for mercy over empty religion, summarises it through the commands to love God and neighbour, and empowers believers to live by the Spirit.

This journey is especially important for Christians today. We live in a world marked by uncertainty, division, and rapidly changing values. Many people are searching for stability, purpose, and hope. As followers of Jesus, we do not find our foundation in cultural trends or personal achievement. We find it in Christ.

The law shows us God's holiness. Jesus shows us God's grace. The Spirit enables us to live faithfully between the two.

As the body of Christ, we continue this journey together, learning what it means to be people who are both free and faithful, grounded not in our own efforts, but in the promises of God. In an uncertain world, His Word remains true, His Spirit remains present, and His promises remain secure.

So, we might ask ourselves: what could all of this look like personally for each one of us? How might Christ's fulfilment of the law shape the way we worship, speak, forgive, rest, serve, make decisions, and respond when we fall short? It invites us to move beyond simply knowing God's commands, and to consider how Jesus is forming His character in us by the Holy Spirit, in the ordinary places of our daily lives where God has placed us.

May this next series help us see Jesus more clearly and deepen our confidence that in Him we have both the freedom and the foundation we need for whatever lies ahead.

Pastor David Cherry



A Personal Note From Pastor David Cherry

I still remember being on the farm up near Birdwood in the Adelaide hills. I was getting things out of the back of my Ute when I got a phone call from Bishop Robert informing me of my placement in Wagga. From there he put me in touch with Malcolm who I rang to introduce myself. I won't forget that phone call, not because I was on the phone with Malcolm, but because I was fixing the outside toilet while I was on the phone to him. Not sure if he ever knew that. Haha, well he does now!

The day I came to Wagga for the first time to see around the place it was raining and a rather miserable day. It was also the day I was given the key to the church. It was kind of strange that day, because something so small like a key made me realise the responsibility I am trusted with as a pastor. A stranger for all purposes was given a key to everything the Bethlehem Community holds important. That was also the beginning of not only being let into the church but also being let into your community.

It took me a while to find my feet as a pastor, or identity, or *modus operandi*, however you want to phrase it. While I was learning and making mistakes, I just wanted to say thank you. It can't have been easy having a pastor who had no idea what he was doing at times. Thankfully God knew what He was doing, long before I got here and long before you knew me, Kayla, Esther or Eloise.

Over these past 5 years it has been a pleasure to be your Pastor. There have been fun times, where we celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. There have also been sad times where we buried people together. I still remember my first funeral, where I looked up my grandfather's sermons to see what I could write. I'm sure there have also been times where I have frustrated you, and for that I thank you for your patience.



This has been a time of change and growth for all of us. When I got here COVID had just finished, there were still spacings on the seats to separate us from each other for what was called 'social distancing'. There were no morning teas after church, and we would awkwardly stand around talking while trying not to get too close. So much has changed when I think about how far things have come since those days.

I remember there were times when I would come home and wonder how to keep it all together; after all, there isn't a manual for this kind of stuff. But somehow amongst everything, God knew what He was doing, and as things change, He still does!

I want to try my best to say this the best way I can. We both face some uncertain times ahead, for Wagga it will be a time without a pastor until God provides one in his time. For us as a family, it means moving interstate, taking Esther and Eloise away from what they can remember and the friends they have made. For me, it's facing uncertainty as I minister to a congregation and be a pastor to another group of God's people.

Wherever I go, God used you, the people of Wagga to help shape me into the pastor He wants me to be; warts and all. It's kind of scary to think that when I came here, I was a nervous graduate reading carefully from my notes to make sure I didn't make any mistakes, to now, where I have the confidence to tackle whatever happens and make the most of what occurs. On the other side of this coin, I know with absolute certainty that God has used me to help you along your journey, and he knows where you are going.

God knows where we are all going, and it's not just Wagga that is nervous about the future. Most of the worldwide church is worried about where we are going, and only God knows the truth. We are just along for the ride, gliding along with the Holy Spirit telling people about the Gospel of Jesus and the forgiveness He offers.

As I said in church that morning, this was a very hard decision to make, one of the hardest decisions I've needed to make. And I thank you for all the support and kindness you have shown us over the years. Bethlehem Wagga will forever be a chapter in our lives as a family that was part of shaping us the way God needed us.

I truly pray that all of you will know for absolute certainty that you are exactly where God needs you to be at this point in time. And if you're not, well, He has a way of getting you there; but I don't think that is the case.

To all of you that have spent time quietly listening to me as I complained about things or figured my way around ministry with God's people, I want to thank you. You know who you are and you helped me navigate the road of ministry until I could find my own way around.

To everyone who helps out behind the scenes on different boards, committees and ministry groups, you help the place continue. Don't underestimate your contribution to the ongoing ministry here in Wagga.

It truly is amazing to serve God's people among the mess of life. I have the blessing of seeing you at your best and worst. That is a gift that not a lot of people receive. So, thank you for allowing me to journey with you for a season as God continues His work in this marvellous creation in the world and within every single one of us, from the oldest to the youngest.

Pastor David Cherry.



A Message from Our Chairman

Let me begin by thanking Pastor Dave, Kayla and the girls for their time ministering to our congregation here in Wagga.

Since Pastor Dave announced after service a couple of weeks ago that he has accepted the call to Novar Gardens in Adelaide, several people have asked me what happens now and when do we start the call process? I recently spoke to Pastor Richard Schwedes, Bishop of the NSW District, and received some guidance.

The Church Council will soon be appointing a Call Committee and then, in the next couple of months, Bishop Richard will come to Wagga to hold a Pre-Call Meeting with us, during which he will give an explanation of the call process, help us reflect on the ministry of our congregation and identify the areas important to us for our future mission here in Wagga.

There will be more details to come but, in the meantime, there is one thing we can all do: Pray! Pray for Pastor Dave, Kayla and the girls. Pray for our congregation and for each other. And remember:

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”. (Philippians 4:6-7)

Brad Salzke



*This Congregational Prayer was led by Johanna Stanton
when the acceptance of the Call was announced:*

Gracious and loving Heavenly Father,

We give You thanks for the gift of Pastor Dave and for the years of faithful ministry, leadership, care and encouragement that he has shared with this congregation.

Today, we give thanks that You have opened a new door and called him to serve at Novar Gardens. While we may feel sadness at the thought of saying goodbye, we trust that You go before him and that his new call is part of Your purposes for his life and ministry.

Comfort us in our sadness, give us gratitude for the years we have shared, and guide us with confidence into the future knowing that You remain our Shepherd and that Your presence does not leave when a Pastor does.

As Pastor Dave prepares to leave for Novar Gardens, send him with our love, our prayers and our blessing. May he know that he goes with the prayers of those who have walked alongside him, and may he carry with him the knowledge that his ministry here has made a difference.

We place Pastor Dave, his family, Novar Gardens, and this congregation into Your loving hands. May Your peace go with us, Your wisdom guide us, and Your Holy Spirit strengthen us all.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour,
Amen.

Milbrulong News

There will be no Worship Service at Milbrulong on 27 September. Instead, we are all invited to attend the 100th Birthday celebrations of Pastor Clem Zanker at Bethlehem Wagga. There will be the 9.30am Service, followed by a celebratory morning tea.

We wish God's Blessings on Anna Carn and Millie Bahr as they prepare to sit their HSC exams.



Milbrulong Service Plan

September:

13th 9am Lay Reading Service

27th 9.30am No Service at Milbrulong (Pastor Clem Zanker's 100th in Wagga)

October:

11th 9am Lay Reading Service

25th 9am Preaching Service with Pastor Dave. Holy Communion.
Morning tea to follow.

November:

8th 9am Lay Reading Service

22nd 9am Preaching Service with Pastor Dave. Holy Communion.
Morning tea to follow.



Care and Share

Care and Share have been busy as always, making blankets and other items for CareVan and Ronald McDonald House. Food donations for CareVan continue to be very much appreciated.



Gayle Moloney made this bed blanket from scraps of fabric donated by generous people.



Carol Bahr's knitted rug was donated to CareVan and will be cherished by someone less fortunate.



Most of us contributed these knitted diamonds made from scraps of wool or acrylic yarn.

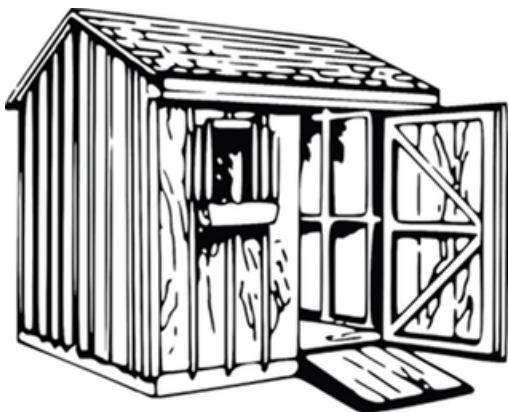
Ladies Fellowship Coffee Morning

The Ladies Fellowship recently held a Coffee Morning in our Hall. About 60 ladies and men were present and, apart from enjoying the fabulous food, Craig Meyers from Mission Australia talked about his work.

Mission Australia is a national, independent, non-denominational Christian charity founded by Christians more than 165 years ago. Their founding purpose is: 'Inspired by Jesus Christ, Mission Australia exists to meet human need and to spread the knowledge of the love of God'.

They work with and support people of all backgrounds, ages and beliefs while providing holistic help to those who seek it, supporting people's physical and spiritual needs through their services and housing.

This includes support for people of all ages, including younger people through a variety of services for mental illness, domestic violence, social and housing issues.



Shed Men

The winter nights have lost their sting and soon enough it will be spring. Shed Men have returned after their winter hiatus!

28th August: Pastor David Cherry
25th September: Max Chamberlain
30th October: Ian Kleidon
27th November: Michael Moloney

Sunday Lunches

Over the last few months, following a Sunday worship service, a group of us have been gathering for lunch at one of Wagga Wagga's pubs. Each person covers the cost of their own meal and drinks, and, of course, the company is always great.

These lunches are open to everyone, and so far up to 20 of us have joined in, taking the opportunity to continue conversations and build friendships. We'd love to see even more of you join us.

Our thanks to Gayle and Michael Moloney for organising the venue and collecting numbers to book us a table.

Keep an eye on the bulletin for details about the next Sunday lunch.



Half Yearly Meeting



Please mark Sunday, 20th September in your calendar and join us for our Half Yearly Meeting following the worship service. It's a great opportunity to hear how our congregation is going.

We'll be heading out for one of our regular Sunday Lunches shortly after the meeting so do come along!

Pastor Clem's 100th Birthday

This year, Pastor Clem Zanker celebrates an amazing milestone — his 100th birthday! His family have kindly invited the congregation to share in this joyous occasion on Sunday, 27th September, during our normal morning tea in the church hall.

We give thanks to God for Pastor Clem's life of faithful dedication, and for the very great influence he has had on so many, drawing them closer to our Lord Jesus Christ. We hope you'll join us as we celebrate this wonderful occasion together.





Lutheran School Wagga Wagga

Learn and grow in Christ

To serve in a Christ-centred community, connected with families, nurturing students to grow in a love of learning and flourish in every part of life.

100 Days of Kindergarten!

On July 30, we celebrated 100 days of Kindergarten. From learning letters and numbers to making new friends and growing in confidence, these first 100 days have been filled with learning, laughter and fun.



National Tree Planting Day

Our Year 5 students got their hands dirty for a great cause on National Tree Day. Thank you to the City of Wagga Wagga for donating the plants.





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Book Week Parade

Our Book Week Parade was held on August 3rd.

It was wonderful to see our students bring enthusiasm, creativity and imagination.



Friday Afternoon Club Activities



Sewing Club



Board Games Club



Card Making Club



Lego Club

Reformation Day

31 October

Throughout the world, Lutherans celebrate Reformation Day in remembrance of the time 509 years ago when Martin Luther wrote out 95 Theses challenging the Catholic Church's practice of selling indulgences (certificates that reduced punishment for sins in purgatory).



Luther argued that “true repentance comes from a lifelong inward change, not monetary payment, and questioned the Pope’s financial authority over purgatory.” In 1517, Luther nailed the paper he had written the 95 Theses on to the door of the church at Wittenberg, in Germany.

At the time, Luther was employed at the Wittenberg University as the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology, and ordinary lecturer at Wittenberg. His challenge gained a lot of attention from other educated men who were questioning some of the practices of the church but also brought him to the attention of the authorities.



Johannes Gutenberg had developed his moveable-type printing press less than one hundred years previously, and this enabled Luther's Theses to not only be discussed at Wittenberg, but his words could now be reproduced quickly. Prior to the press being invented, written material could only be copied by hand. Gutenberg's presses spread across Europe, increasing the production of books and the literacy rate of the population.

While Luther triggered a mass querying of the Catholic practices, he did not plan to have a Christian denomination named after him. However, his followers did become known as Lutherans.

This is the door of Castle Church, Wittenberg, today. Luther's 95 Theses are now inscribed in bronze on the door itself. In Luther's day, it was wooden and used as a notice board.

All of this happened a long time ago in Germany.
So how do we come to have a Lutheran Church in Wagga Wagga?

In the late 1830's, there were a group of "Old Lutherans" in Prussia (near today's German-Polish border) who were required to merge into the 'Unified State Church'. Pastor August Kavel and other pastors were conducting worship in secret because those who had not merged and were using the state authorised liturgy, were not permitted to have worship services.



The Zebra, one of the ships that brought the earliest Lutheran settlers to Adelaide. Artist unknown.

Pastor Kavel travelled to London to see Mr George Fife Angus, a wealthy man who decided to provide financial loans to Kavel to bring hundreds of these Prussian Lutherans to South Australia. It is believed that Mr Angus personally advanced 8,000 pounds for the ships *Prince George* and *Zebra*. Thus the "Old Lutherans" left their homes and extended families in Europe to travel to the other side of the world and settled at Klemzig (now an Adelaide suburb), at Hahndorf, and in the Barossa Valley. Many of us have direct ancestors who travelled on the *Prince George* and the *Zebra* to come to a new land.

600 Lutheran settlers arrived in Adelaide in 1838 and 1839. Mr Angus purchased land in the Barossa Valley area that he then sold to the settlers with repayment terms they could manage. As the following generations needed land, they again left their families and moved to Victoria and southern New South Wales. The pattern repeated again, with the next generation spreading further afield through New South Wales.

As our Lutheran ancestors continued to settle in new places, they brought with them their faith in God and a desire to build churches in their new villages and towns. The Milbrulong Lutherans, for example, built a church in 1901, after worshipping together in their homes for 10 years.

Lutherans who were moving to Wagga Wagga came together to start a congregation in 1925. They finally built their own church in Athol Street in 1951 and just a few months later another Wagga congregation built a church on the corner of Forsyth and Peter Streets. Following the amalgamation of these two congregations, our own Bethlehem Lutheran Church came into being in 1969.

