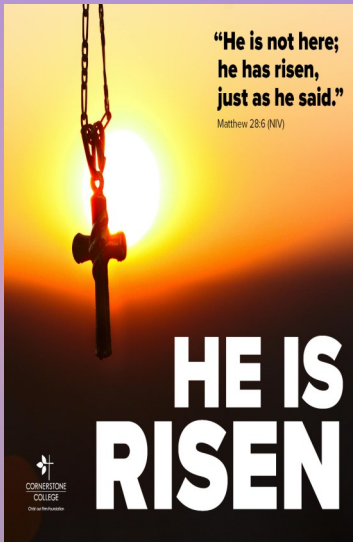




# St Mark's Matters



As I write this, the dust is still settling after a very busy but very fulfilling Lenten season and Easter weekend. Thank you all for your input, your attendance, and your feedback. I appreciate all your positive comments, but I must let you know that Janice and Sharon also worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make it all happen! Please thank them when you see them! From here we will traverse quite a long Easter season (due to the very early Easter this year) in preparation for the celebration of Jesus' ascension, Pentecost Day, and Holy Trinity in May.

Alongside that, Meredith and I will be continuing to help prepare a team of volunteers to present three SPARK programs to incarcerated youth in Kurlana Tapa – the detention centre at Cavan – during the April school holidays. SPARK is a one-day program that introduces participants to the basic concepts of Christianity. It is loosely based on the three-day KAIROS Torch program. We present to one unit/dormitory per day, so each program has 4 or 5 volunteers presenting to anything up to 12 participants. SPARK was so well received in April last year that the incarcerated youth have started their own church inside the detention centre. Praise God!

Pastor Greg

Published Quarterly  
in Interests of  
Members & Friends of  
St Mark's  
Lutheran  
Church  
Mount Barker

## JESUS IS ALIVE AT ST MARKS

We have been so blessed at our Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day services at St Marks. All services were uplifting and inspiring and focussed on Jesus and his love and grace towards us. All services were very well attended, with over 500 people attending worship. There were many visitors. There were also many youth and children. At least one young person was present each day. The church was beautifully adorned to help drive home the Easter message. The Good Friday service was very moving and many of us left saying it was the greatest service we had ever attended. I felt sad for anybody who was not able to be there.

In an Easter sermon in 1530 Martin Luther preached: "Whoever has no Good Friday and Easter Day has no good day in the year, that is, whoever does not believe that Jesus suffered and rose for them is without hope."

Thank you Pastor Greg for leading our worship so well, and thank you Sharon for helping to prepare such amazing services, and above all, thank you Jesus for giving your life so that we can live and celebrate you, now and forever.

David Christian



### PALM SUNDAY PRAYERS

On Palm Sunday, after worship, 12 St Marks members gathered to pray on the land, on the corner of Paech and Sims Roads. About 10 years ago this land was given to the church by the Liebelt family, for educational purposes. However, it has been unclear how it should be used. It seemed good to us to gather to pray for guidance to those who are seeking the way forward. We prayed blessings upon the land and the Aston Hills community. We prayed that this land be used for the glory of God, and to bless the people of Aston Hills and beyond.

## WHO IS THIS MAN UPON A TREE?

Who is this Man hanging next to us?

Cursed like us upon His tree

He isn't someone that I knew

From our thieves' and robbers' fraternity

Unlike us He barely struggled

Trying never to give into defeat

In fact, He was quite calm and controlled

As the hammer and nails struck hands and feet

He didn't drink their gift of drugged release

To numb pierced flesh and broken bone

It was like He wanted to feel our grief

And our agony to personally own

And while *we* cursed at all and sundry

Blaming them for the lives we had led

*He* raised His face up to the sky

"Forgive them" is what He said!

Forgive them, for all their injustice?

All the pain and suffering we went through!?

Forgive them, for all our troubles and strife

Oh, He would never, if only He knew!

His eyes have somehow caught hold of mine

They pierce not just my body or my bones

But find their way into the very depths of my heart

With its cries of anguish and deep-felt groans

I feel Him speaking into my heart

So much deeper than anyone has ever been

I feel He sees the life I've lived

Unlike anyone else has ever seen

Something now wells up inside me

And flows out like a cleansing stream

To the robber who hangs on this Man's other side

I raise my voice and scream

"Stop all your cursing and swearing

And your railings against God and Mankind

And look upon this truly holy and innocent One

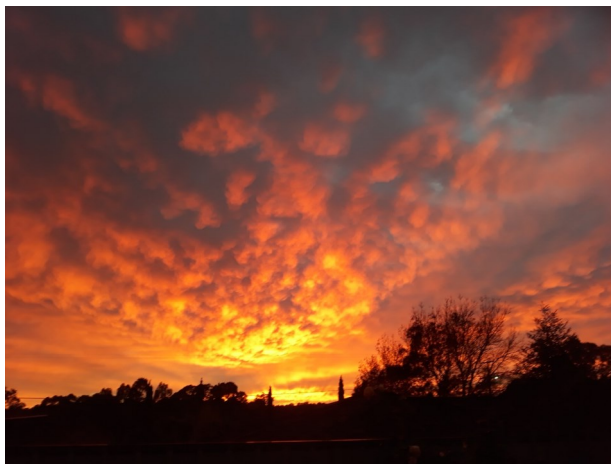
Stop being so deaf and so blind!"

I now turn to this Man in all humility

And plead for His unmerited grace

I look upon God's pure love

Reflected upon His blood stained face



### **WHO IS THIS MAN UPON A TREE? Continued**

**“Remember me” I cry out  
When in your kingdom you reign  
For from this moment ‘til the end of eternity  
My life will never be the same”**

**“For you are full of compassion and truth  
And the giver of grace upon grace  
And you will never abandon anyone  
Who seeks to know you face to face”**

**“Up until now my life has been empty  
I tried to fill it with anger and rage  
And for my sins and guilt I have received  
God’s just and holy wage”**

**“But even here on the edge of eternity  
I can find true peace and sacred joy  
And I trust that somehow, in some mysterious way  
The dross and rubbish of my life you’ll destroy”**

**“And in its place give me sanctuary  
And a place I will know as ‘Home’  
Where in your presence I will find the mercy and love  
That here on earth I have never known”**

**He now looks at me with all sincerity  
Through the pain and agony that is paying a price  
And gives me a gift beyond earthly wealth  
“Today you will be with me, in Paradise”**

**Mark Frost**

## Whose wedding was it?

I missed the wedding day! There's something special and exciting about a wedding. The family and friends gather to celebrate with the happy couple. A lot of work has gone into planning the day so it will go smoothly. The wedding I missed is like most weddings but not quite the same.

This was an arranged marriage. It all began some months before, as weddings do. There was a group of 'parents' managing the planning. They were referred to as the Call Committee. These people did a lot of behind the scenes work to seek out a 'bridegroom for the bride,' at St Marks. Everyone had an opportunity to have their say as to who the 'bridegroom' would be. Thus the call went out and the 'bridegroom' was selected.

So, after a few weeks for the 'bridegroom' to consider if this 'bride' was the one for him, there was great rejoicing when the 'bridegroom' said, 'Yes!' There was much anticipation as the congregational 'bride' waited for the wedding day to arrive. I was there that day!

The wedding ceremony took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 amid much joy and celebration. It was not quite the same as we know weddings. It was the day of mutual acceptance between Pastor Greg Page and St Marks congregation to work together as a team. The 'marriage' had begun! The wedding is one day; the marriage is ongoing...

In the marriage situation it's not just one person who holds all the roles or obligations within the relationship. Marriage is a team effort and in the case of Pastor Greg and St Marks it's also a team effort. It's all of us, 'bridegroom and bride' using the gifts and abilities to grow the congregation into a good marriage.

The call from God is to you and me to lend our support and encouragement for mutual wellbeing for the 'bride and bridegroom.' There's more than just the congregation; there's a community out there beyond the four walls of St Marks. A community in need of the love and grace of God that you and I are called to love with the love of Jesus.

'Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work... though one may be over-powered two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. Ecclesiastes 4:9,12.' God is the third and the important strand. Prayer is a vital communication in any marriage. It strengthens the relationship as we talk and listen to God and each other. Just think how much stronger the marriage could be if together we would commit to heartfelt prayer, care and love for one another and the community.

As a part of the 'Bride' of Christ, as a living stone built on Jesus the Cornerstone, consider how you can make this marriage be the best it can be, not just for those of us who make up St Marks, but for the lost souls in the community. Chances are you know someone to whom you can reach out to with the love of Jesus.

I love this line from a book called, 'The day I met Jesus' by Frank Viola and Mary Demuth... *'And that for which Jesus came to die was a woman... His woman, the very Bride of Christ.'* That's you, me and all those people out there who still need to meet Jesus.

Joy Christian.



# Christmas Eve



## Why a pastor faces 'east'.

At the consecration, some pastors face the altar (face 'east'), others face the people. Why the difference?

Martin Luther wrote in his preface to *The German Mass and Order of Service* (1526), "In the true mass ... of real Christians, the altar should not remain where it is, and the priest should always face the people as Christ undoubtedly did in the Last Supper". Strangely enough, however, it wasn't until Roman Catholics (in the 1970 Missal of Pope Paul VI) in effect adopted what Luther advocated, that many Lutheran pastors also made the change.

Apart from evoking togetherness, there's a good reason for a pastor to face the congregation during the consecration. (In some congregations, such as Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne [[Redeemer Fort Wayne - YouTube](#)] church architecture enables it to be done well. Placement of the crucifix centrally on the wall behind, makes it possible for the celebrant to stand centrally at the altar.) The good reason is that the celebrant doesn't offer up the body and blood of Christ in sacrifice to God the Father, as Roman Catholics believe. Instead, the words of Jesus ("this is my body ... this is my blood ...") while spoken over the bread and wine, are at the same time good news that is addressed to the congregation.

Yet there's also a good reason, though not as obvious, for a pastor to face the altar. The temple in Jerusalem faced west. Yet when the prophet Ezekiel was given a vision of a new temple (chs 40-47), he was shown "the Glory of the God of Israel ... coming from the east" to fill the temple (43:2-5). In his commentary on Ezekiel, Horace Hummel compares these verses with Rev 21:23 and regards 'the Glory' as being a description of Christ prior to His incarnation.

Also significant is the prophecy of Zechariah, given after the birth of his son John the Baptist. His words conclude with mention of the "Sunrise" coming by God's mercy, "to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, /to guide our feet into the way of peace" (Lk 1:78-79). Interestingly, in the Greek translation of the Old Testament, the Greek word for 'sunrise' is used to translate the Hebrew word 'Branch' in Jer 23:5 and Zech 3:8. In Jeremiah 23:5, the "righteous Branch" is clearly a reference to Jesus, the King from the house of David who saves those under His just and righteous reign. He is the 'Sunrise' who brings light to those in darkness and subject to death.

It's interesting, too, that the Greek word for 'sunrise' is the same as the word for 'east'. Early on the third day after His crucifixion, Jesus rose from the dead like sunrise from the east. This is one reason why, from the fourth century, churches were often built facing east. (When Veronica and I lived at Kelso, NSW, on a hill across from our back fence was Holy Trinity Anglican Church, consecrated in 1836. It faced due east.) Even if a building doesn't face east, its altar is still regarded as being in an easterly direction.

When a celebrant faces the altar for the words of consecration, the thought is that Jesus comes from the east, like the sunrise, to give His most holy body and blood to His holy people. For some it's also a reminder of Jesus' coming at the last Day, because of His words in Mt 24:27, "For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man".

Pastor David Buck



**The Installation**

**The first service**



**The teachers luncheon**



**Remember when? A camp in the 80s**





# SHARING MINISTRY WITH THE CONGREGATION.

The ministry of mainly music at St Marks is flourishing with a regular core of 30 children attending each Monday. We have 32 families registered. The children come with mums, dads, grandmas and grandpas. The families connect very easily with the team and with each other.

As a team we serve. It was Jesus who came, not to be served but to serve . Mark 10:45  
It is because we love Him that we obey His command to serve like He served. We serve others because in doing so we are serving the God who loves us and whom we love.

Annette and I as team leaders encourage our other team members but we also want to encourage and thank you, our supporting church team for all you do. You are all part of the fruitfulness of this mission.

It is a wonderful way as a frontline ministry to build relationships and reach the lost. This term we have seen Pastor Greg attending with Meredith and Meredith's daughter and her two sons. We as a team have been encouraged by that.

As I look around the room this morning after set up, I snapped some photos that show the many ways you partner with us.

- \* Our team members who serve come from the congregation and other members have been added as we connect to our families.
- \*Volunteering in the kitchen with a delicious morning tea being supplied each week
- \* Love bags of biscuits are baked to randomly give to families that may be struggling that day with the weariness of life.
- \*A family library is offered using resources from our own church library.
- \* Help with our theme this term of butterflies and transformation of lives. Swan plants and 'swans' and seeds. The children have been mesmerised seeing the changes each week.
- \* In general the whole set up that is provided just in the physical space alone is conducive to a very welcoming environment. We use the Link, the hall and the outside area.

We are all truly blessed to be part of this ministry of mainly music and continue to look for ways to show Jesus' love through social events and generosity.

This term, the MnM's group is hosting a young mums event on Tuesday 16 April.  
There will be no cost as we invite our mm mums. We will also provide dinner for them. If you want to be part of this or invite someone yourself, please let Jane or Annette know.

Also, after the great success of our big Shepherd's pie cook up last year, we plan to do this again in May to celebrate Mother's Day. Please look out for these 2 events coming up in the Bulletin soon

Blessings to you all as we serve Him TOGETHER as a team. Jane Hill



Here and there

Congratulations to Sue Kupke who is the new Director of Formation for LEA (Lutheran Education Australia). Sue has taught in Lutheran schools across three states. She looks forward to strengthening the Lutheran identity through the staff, families and governing bodies in Lutheran Schools and Early Learning Services.



St Mark's **Mary's** and **Martha's** Ladies Group present a  
**Young Mum's evening**  
Featuring a talk by a **Naturopath**  
*Main topic - Food Intolerances and Better Eating*  
**Tuesday 16th April 2024**  
**6.30pm - 9.00pm.**  
*Dinner supplied by MnM ladies*  
*Please let us know you're coming:*  
*Jane 0417 008 133 or Annette 0427 181 471*



Congratulations to Simon Work who has won the award for his superb lawn. Well done!



Mainly Music



Bible presentation to students

St Marks School

On Friday, 10th of May, we have our annual House Sports competition. The Junior Primary (Foundation – Year 3) will be participating in a number of novelty relay events and the Senior Primary (Year 4 – 6) will be competing in a round robin competition of Netball, Soccer or Football- students can choose the sport they would like to be involved in.



## Men's Group Report

The Men's group of St. Marks met on March 16<sup>th</sup> at an historic farm near Wistow with an attendance of 12. Discussion for the luncheon centred around a personal item that you treasure and the reasons why it is of value to you.

Early discussion involved issues happening within St. Marks including the changes to the LLL banking system. This was followed by a quiche and salad lunch. Then followed many stories of items that had been brought along with most men going over their allotted speaking time.

Items included,

Stephen Paech's mounted cricket bat from the 1950's, signed by the whole touring West Indies team.

Trevor Lifebelt's trophy from the 1999 Mount Barker Show for the best display of produce from one farm, a trophy won by his family farm several times.

Des Schild displayed his original Luther Small Catechism from the 1950's, bound by sticky tape.

Colin Schultz gave us a history of Nixon's Mill where he used to play as a lad. He showed a Heysen painting/print of the Mill given to him by Roy and Enice Schroeder, former members of our congregation.

Greg Lockwood showed us a plate presented to his maternal great great grandfather, Missionary Clam-or Schurmann in the mid 1800's, by the Henty Bros., pioneers Victorian farming.

Brian Bart brought along several photos ( and stories)of his life including Buses and an old restored truck, driven by himself and Jean in many Bay to Birdwood rallies.

Garry Hodgson showed us his Cup displaying his whole graduating class in Company C in the Army.

Bernie Jackson had a prism presented to him for involvement in fighting the horrendous fires in NSW in 1994 that burned 224 homes and 2 million acres.

Ken Herbig displayed some of his exquisite woodworking he does in his "spare time".

Please ask these gentleman more about their presentations as I don't profess to be 100% accurate on most things. We thank our hosts for providing us with a venue and meal, allowing a group of old men the chance to "chew the fat" over times, places and memories that are part of our many stories.

Ian Pfeiffer



## Bible translation

Sound easy? At this month's meeting of Women's Fellowship, we were delighted to welcome Hanna Schulz.

Personally, I was blown away by this young woman's tenacity and love for sharing God's Word to others who do not have the same ability as we do to pick a bible from maybe a selection of 5 on our shelves, blow off the dust and read it whenever we like and yes, it's in our own language!!

Hanna is a translation advisor to the Kope translation project and team leader for the Gulf Delta Cluster project, Papua New Guinea.

She has been working in this role since 2012.

She is under the Wycliffe Bible translators umbrella.

She and her team have now completed the book of Luke and are drafting Acts and Genesis as well as working on literacy materials and a dictionary.

She also mentioned several building projects she's had a hand in. A building where people from far away come to help carry out the translations and with this, they also needed toilets, a kitchen and a dormitory. Add in flooding and a lack of supplies over the COVID period and it's been a little tricky!!

Hanna is committed to being part of the team helping people to gain a greater access to God's word in a language that speaks to their hearts.

Is where she lives comfortable and easy? I think not after listening to several of her stories that have led to her going into her room and sobbing.

It's tough in so many ways, least of all being a single woman.

But God is good she says and pulls her through in His ever caring way. She is full of gratitude, even in the hard times.

Hanna is here in Australia for a year's regrouping and much needed break.

If you wish to encourage her in prayer, financial support and encouragement you can go online [wycliffe.au/hanna](http://wycliffe.au/hanna) or email her [hanna\\_schulz@wycliffe.org.au](mailto:hanna_schulz@wycliffe.org.au)

Jane Hill



# ASANTE Evening – 16 March 2024

St Mark's hosted a dinner recently for invited supporters of ALWS (Australian Lutheran World Service) from around the Adelaide Hills. The evening was led by Julie and Jonathan Krause, presenting a Thank You event (*Asante* in Swahili) as an opportunity to explain a portion of the work that ALWS do.

The lead up to this event started in Perth in 2023 where Jenny and Adrian Curtis had attended another Asante function with Julie and Jonathan and Robin and Dorothy Mann. They were looking to hold more functions throughout South Australia so Jenny offered our facility.

The result of which being that Jenny, with the help of and on behalf of St Marks, offered to supply a dinner to support the event which was paid for through a generous donation from St Mark's Catering Funds.

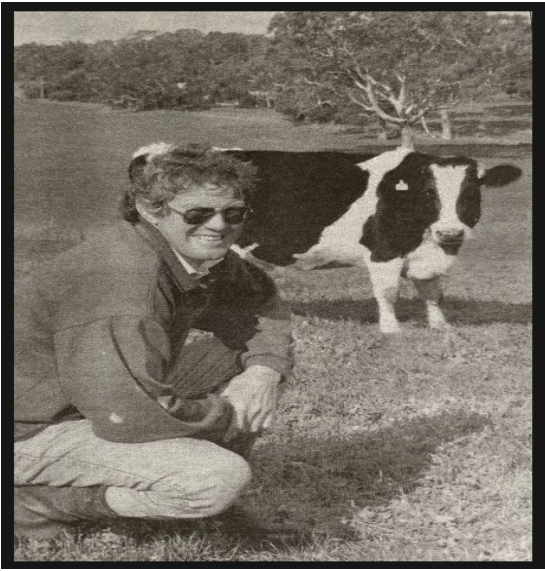
The event, held in the Link, had 120 supporters and helpers there on the night which was an evening full of information about ALWS, entertainment by Dorothy and Robin Mann and also guests from Victor Harbor who propagate plants for sale to raise money for the cause. The evening was interspersed with a three course dinner with cheese and nibbles, a salad and hot roast meat dinner (meat cooked by Lowe's Butcher, Mt Barker) and a choice of desserts.

Thankfully the weather was perfect for an overflow of tables into the courtyard to cater for the numbers, but the whole event was well received by all who attended, and Julie and Jonathan were very grateful for the support they received. The ALWS cause is ongoing with many varied opportunities to donate to the many mission needs.

To read more on the event see <https://www.alws.org.au/news-and-stories/hope-spot-11/>  
Remember in your prayers, the 100's of thousands of people that are assisted through ALWS. Your donations go a long way.

Annette Cavies





Dave Kuchel

FARMER'S CORNER



Ian Pfeiffer

Wanted: Farmhand. Part time job. Only 80 hours per week.

# Chapel, Coffee & Chat

Members of the **St Mark's congregation** – you are warmly invited to...

**Friday Chapel**  
at  
**St Mark's** together with our students & staff.

After **Chapel**, please join us for  
**Coffee & Chat!**

**REG**  
REGULAR ELECTRONIC GIVING

WHEN YOU CAN'T  
**REG CAN**

I CAN'T GET TO CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY

I CAN'T FIND ANY CASH FOR THE OFFERING

I CAN'T GET INTO A PATTERN OF REGULAR GIVING

To check out the benefits of REG and to register:  
[www.lca.org.au/REG](http://www.lca.org.au/REG)

See your treasurer for more information

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA  
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Pastoral Acts from Jan – March 2024

**Baptisms**

Date	Name	Born	Parents
2/3/24	Hendrix Paech	5/10/23	Simon Paech & Ruby Thomson

**Membership In**

Date	Name	From
5/2/24	Greg & Meredith Page	Novar Gardens

**Membership Out**

Date	Name	To
11/2/24	Hayden, Rachel & Ernie Kemp	Horsham

**Funerals**

Date	Name	Died
25/1/24	Greta Schultz	11/1/24
13/2/24	Jean Bartholomaeus	2/2/24

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**Photographer: Sharon Heyne**

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**News flash: The Lutheran Church is selling some of its assets in North Adelaide.**

