



Spring 2023

Issue



# St Mark's Matters

## In This Issue

Changes Page 2/3  
Small Giveaway P 4  
Repair with Prayer P 5  
Devotion P 6  
Banquet p 8/9  
Alan Todd P 10  
Library P 11  
Conversation/  
Connection P 13/14  
St M School P 15  
Netball Club P 20

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Interests of  
Members &  
Friends of  
St Mark's  
Lutheran  
Church  
Mt Barker



## CHANGES

In 1971 David Bowie wrote a song called 'Changes' in which he lamented, "Time may change me, But I can't trace time" Change is inevitable, the sun rises, the sun sets, the flowers grow and then they wither and we are all born young and die older.

We also speak of a change of heart or mind where a conscious decision is made to stop doing something or going in a certain direction and do something completely different or go in a different direction.

Our society thrives on the fear change can instil in us. Many products feed on the fear of change and the uncertainty that change instils in the minds of people. The anti-aging sector feeds on the fear of getting old. The plethora of vitamins and minerals sold today feed on the fear of getting sick and the number of self-help, positive thinking, mind over-matter gurus feed on the fear of mental instability that change can cause.

Change causes uncertainty to our lives and therefore in order to cope with it we need to have a sure foundation to stand upon in the midst of change.

Malachi 3:6 "I the LORD do not change..."

James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

In the midst of change which is inevitable, whether it be because we choose to make a change or because it is thrust upon us by an unforeseen circumstance, it's important to know that God never changes and that He is always wanting to bless us and give us whatever we need to cope with change and the uncertainty that change can cause.

The Wednesday night bible study group have been studying John's gospel account. If ever there was a group of men and women who needed to cope with change it was the followers of Jesus.

When Jesus' ministry began, *everything* He said and did was in stark contrast to the norms and traditions of that time. If Jesus' followers were going to dedicate their lives to following Him then they had to accept that their lives had to change. He ate with sinners. (Mark 2:16) He healed on the Sabbath. (Luke 13:14) He questioned long held traditions like abstaining from certain foods. (Mark 7:9)

He made the boundaries of forgiveness wider than the accepted traditions. (Luke 6:27 & Matthew 18:21-22)

The disciples were forced to face the prospect of change every day but their willingness to accept change was ultimately tested on the night before Jesus was arrested.

The first change Jesus confronted His disciples with was that *He* would serve *them* in order to teach them how to serve one another and ultimately other people. He conveyed this profound lesson in the simple act of washing His disciples' feet. When Jesus came to the feet of Peter he balked, "No, you shall never wash my feet." (John 13:8)

Peter couldn't accept the change of roles this confronting act presented to him, but Jesus told him that he needed to change his mind if he wanted to receive the blessing Jesus was graciously giving him by performing this menial task.

Later Jesus told His disciples that He would be leaving them to go to somewhere that they couldn't follow Him to, at that time. This naturally troubled the disciples. They had been faithfully following Jesus, listening to Him and learning from Him, so why should things have to change?

Jesus went on to declare that He was going away for their benefit but all this talk of going away, even if it ultimately led the disciples to a greater understanding of who Jesus was and who His Father was, was too much for Philip and he told Jesus,

"Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." (John 14:8)

Philip verbally requested what was on the minds of all the disciples which was basically, "Why do things have to change?" It seems as if Philip's request to Jesus hurt Him for He responded,

"Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you for such a long time?" (John 14:9) He then declared to Philip that anyone who had seen Him has seen the Father.

With these words, Jesus allayed the fear of the disciples. The change they were afraid of wasn't really a change at all. All it would be was a greater revelation of the reality they had been living in.

But, Jesus went on to tell His disciples that without His *physical* presence in their lives some things would change and they would need to remain in the *spiritual* presence of Jesus and the Father in order to face the trials that would come their way. (John 15:1-17)

The main change that the disciples needed to prepare for was that they would be hated by the world, "... If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also ..." (John 15:20)

Without Jesus' physical presence, the anger the world feels towards God would become concentrated on the disciples and they needed to be ready for that change.

Jesus then declared they wouldn't face this harsh change on their own. They would be strengthened and encouraged by the Holy Spirit in their lives,

"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth." (John 16:13)

So, what can we learn from all of this to help us in our moments of change?

Firstly, and most importantly, when change comes, make sure you are standing firmly in the knowledge that God doesn't change. He is the same God yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Secondly, God never leaves us to cope with change with just our own resources but He richly blesses us with everything we need to cope with change.

Thirdly, humbly allow Jesus to serve you in the midst of change so that you can receive all the resources you need to not only cope with change but also give to others as they cope with their changes.

Fourthly, God alone knows the benefits of the changes that will occur in our lives and those benefits will be greater than we will ever imagine and can allay any fear that may try to overcome us when faced with change.

Finally, when change comes we don't face the trials that change can bring on our own for Jesus promised that He will send us the Holy Spirit to comfort and guide us so we can boldly step out into change knowing we don't go alone.

Mark Frost



The baptism of Ziggy and Megan. See page 17.

## A Small Giveaway.

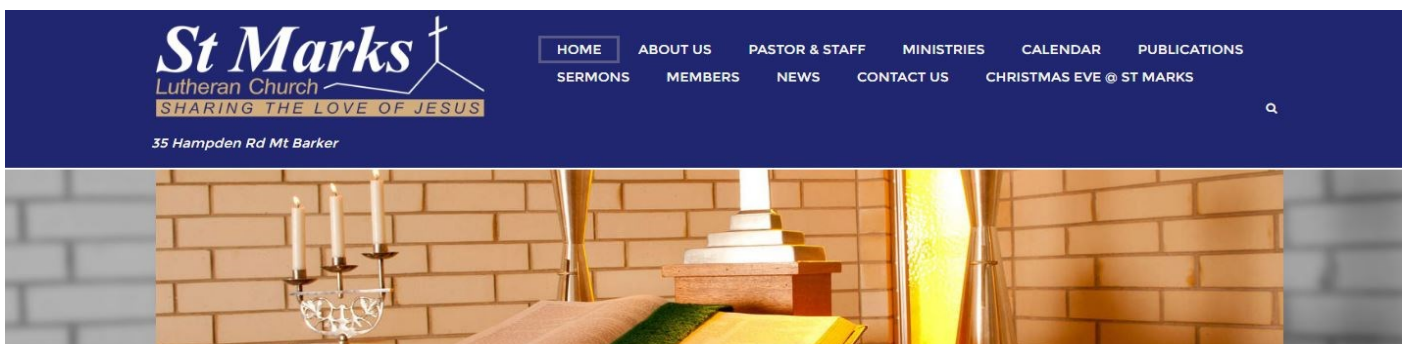
It caught my eye. It stood on a narrow wall bench partially hidden behind the photo of a man dressed in military uniform. It was not an object I had expected to see in this particular situation. Maybe that was why it was partially hidden. I wasn't sure that I should bring attention to it.

I decided to enjoy the meal before making that decision. Ling, a small, elderly, Chinese lady had prepared the meal. The small gas burner, steadied by pieces of wood, stood outside in the dingy alley. One of many alleyways that ran like rat warrens throughout this city area. Hundreds of one room dwellings opened their doors onto these alleys. A few privileged residents, cooking for tourist groups, earned extra money. The pungent aroma of rotting vegetables, stagnant water and crowded humanity affronted the nostrils. Temporarily, the aromatic smell of the meal cooking, overshadowed the stench. While Ling huddled over her outdoor gas cooker we sat talking to our guide. There were few ornaments in this room. A two cupboard kitchen bench, a small shower/laundry cubicle, a bed, a table and three shelves were crammed into this single room. The wooden floor was achingly worn and stained by many years of foot traffic. A single bed frame supported a sagging mattress and two thin blankets. A bare light bulb hung in the centre of the room.

The meal was testimony to the cooking skills of Ling. Chicken dumplings, stir fried vegetables and fried rice were spiced to perfection. We talked while we ate. Ling told us about her late husband, experiences of her early life and something of her life now. We told her about Australia and why we had found ourselves travelling in China. Our guide was kept busy interpreting the flow of conversation. Ling talked about her husband, his life in the navy and the pride in the uniform. From her conversation it was obvious she loved him.

When Ling brought the photo of her husband from the shelf it exposed the small object I had seen earlier. "I like that" Gary pointed as he saw the object too. Ling smiled and took the well-worn little cross lovingly off the shelf. "My husband and I have been Christians for many years. This cross reminds me of my husband and the faith we share," Ling mused. Ling's face lit up in wonder, tears glistened in her eyes, when we told her we too were Christians.

The three of us prayed together and hugged each other. We acknowledged that while we would not meet again on this earth, we would know each other in heaven. Our guide was amazed at the connection our shared faith had produced. Was it a coincidence that led us to that particular alley to be fed by that particular lady? Circumstances are not just chance. God works in mysterious ways. The three of us felt blessed and thankful that we had met. Janine Altmann



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## REPAIR WITH PRAYER

Repairs come in lots of forms. Some of you will remember clothes being patched and socks being darned. My widowed maternal grandmother would spend some weeks with us mending and darning farm clothing.

What repair nightmare story might you hear from a panel beater, a medical practitioner or someone going through a relationship breakdown? Repair conjures up words like fix, mend, overhaul, remedy, connect and more; If we break down the word repair, we see the word 'pair.' So repair is pairing parts that have somehow come apart. The 're' part of repair then is regarding the need to be put back together. For a vehicle it may involve a whole new panel or panels. For a person seeing a doctor its medication or surgery, or the worst case scenario; sorry, there's nothing more we can do! Dysfunction and relationship breakdowns hit hardest as so many others are caught up in the ripple effect.

All this and more involves repair or restoration in some form or another. As a denomination, the LCANZ, is in a season of prayer. This is prayer at all levels; personal, small group and corporate prayer. Mostly we've become too dependent on the pastor to pray. Our prayers in whatever form call on God the repairer of souls. The church is sick, if we're honest, because we have neglected serious, corporate, ongoing prayer for too long. It's too easy to look at our own resources instead of going to God who has all the resources we need. (there's another re word) So many people are broken and in need. Am I the only one who thinks we have lost the joy of our relationship with Jesus as we wrangle over who can be ordained in the LCANZ and other divisive issues? Jesus calls us to unity in him. If we are really in a heart to heart relationship with Jesus why is it so challenging to share Jesus love with others? Our greatest need is to be connected (paired with) God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It's our collective mission to reach out to people for Jesus. This then requires much prayer as an ongoing, self-sacrificial calling on the repair resources of the Almighty One.

In Matthew 7: 7-8 Jesus invites us to ask, seek and knock at the door of God's storehouse of plentiful blessings to help repair with prayer. Let's be realistic about the time and place in which we live; so many broken hearts and shattered lives desperately need pairing with the God who loves everyone and wants a grace-filled, joyful, relationship with them. Relationship breakdown has to be the ultimate reason for us as Jesus' followers to pray and go in Jesus' name.

Let's pray...

Father God, we come before you in great need. You have everything we need. Help us trust you as we ask, seek and knock for all we need to see a real difference in our own lives and to make a difference in the lives of others and in our denomination. Make us diligent in prayer as individuals, as groups and corporately. Send us from our congregation to the communities where we live. Turn our despondency to joy, our fear to faith and our prayer to praise for your faithfulness and love in Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen. Joy Christian



Media: *Unloved and discarded pieces*

Who doesn't love a dinner party?

It's an opportunity for hosting – with the excitement of the preparation knowing what can be offered to the chosen guests. You pull out your favourite recipes and plan a menu. How many courses are you going to offer? A list is made up of special people that you plan to invite. The date is set, the invitations are drawn up and eagerly sent out. You excitedly anticipate the day of their arrival – hoping all is ready in time but you know they are going to enjoy what you're offering because you're putting in your best effort. You've decided on the refreshments, and it's time to bring out the best crockery and glassware. Maybe you'll buy a few colourful serviettes to dress the table. A bunch of greenery and seasonal flowers from your garden will do nicely to place in the middle of the table ... with a couple candles to set the atmosphere.

Then there is the food preparation. A great variety of foods have been purchased to suit the menu. You start checking the recipes for anything that needs to be made ahead of time. A timeline is drawn up of your cooking plan so that it is all ready to serve at the right time. The bottles of wine are waiting to be opened. Maybe we'll even have some sweet Punch ready to drink.

Time to get dressed – it has to be that favourite piece you don't wear that often. And ... Yes, you are ready!

Now for the guests to arrive ... and who doesn't love to be invited to a dinner party?

But the phone rings ...

Ohh! They can't make it ... the date no longer suits them.

Another call ... They've been called in to work at the last minute ... priorities sorry!!

... and another call ... They've been so busy recently – maybe they'd better stay home and be with family.

God has prepared a place at His Banquet Table for us. And we can come as we are ... even with our imperfections and weaknesses - we are all welcome to be a part of God's chosen family. He asks us to be baptised and believe in Him. That is all. And in doing this we want to then dedicate our lives to serve him.

We may feel unworthy or we may choose not to partake. Heaven is the greatest final reward that God offers us. And he has done *so much* to prepare it for us – he even sent and sacrificed his only Son Jesus to pay for our sins. We now have a free and open invitation to partake of that heavenly feast when our time on earth is over. But we have to say Yes. There is no time to make excuses. We don't know when our last hour is coming. God wants us to follow him today! Now! Everyday!

And God wants His table to be filled. If we are too proud, too busy, too uninterested ... He will fill those empty seats with others. He tells his workers to fetch the poor and lowly, the sick and lame, the troubled and depressed, the lost and the forgotten. The needy are the most open to receive such a wonderful invitation.

God loves you all and invites you to be a part of His Banquet. Are you preparing yourself to say Yes to his invitation?

All these pieces  
Broken and scattered  
In mercy gathered  
Mended and whole

Empty-handed  
But not forsaken  
I've been set free  
I've been set free

Amazing grace  
How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me, ooh  
I once was lost  
But now I am found  
Was blind but now I see

Oh, I can see You now  
Oh, I can see the love in Your eyes  
Laying Yourself down  
Raising up the broken to life

You take our failure  
You take our weakness  
You set Your treasure  
In jars of clay

So take this heart Lord  
I'll be Your vessel  
The world to see  
Your life in me, oh

Amazing grace  
How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me, ooh  
I once was lost  
But now I am found  
Was blind but now I see

Songwriters: Jonas Myrin / Joel Timothy Houston  
Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace) lyrics © Hillsong Music Publishing Australia



## COME TO THE BANQUET EXHIBITION

In August 2023, St Mark's played host for the LCA annual Simultaneous Art Exhibition. With the support of the Evangelism and Welfare committee, Annette Cavies and Jenny Curtis took on the role of planning, and decided it might be a good opportunity to incorporate the Lutheran Churches of the Adelaide Hills as a combined effort. Jan Kaesler from St Michaels, Hahndorf then joined our small team and we started advertising for artists to participate. Schools, Retirement centres and Churches were all asked, eventuating in enough interest to deem it possible to proceed.

In the meantime, St Mark's Ladies group MnM's had planned an event in August to learn the art of Mosaic. As Annette was going to be leading this event, a quick bit of thought and rescheduling opened up an opportunity for MnM's to work together on a combined piece as a contribution to the Exhibition.

With the theme 'Come to the Banquet', Annette visualised a mosaiced vessel flowing to a banquet table and asked the ladies to start collecting old crockery that was no longer wanted and able to be broken. To add a 'Royal' look to the table, the colour theme was to be of Golds and yellows. This created a bit of fun for them all to search for such an item. Some pieces seemed too precious to break – but once the hammering started there was no going back. Work began in June and continued over the next two months with ladies returning several times to continue the cutting and sticking. The design of the table evolved over the period until the table was covered. The piece was then grouted and cleaned for presentation. The group is to be commended for their persistence to the project and can be very proud of the achievement.

A name "Banquet for Broken Vessels" was chosen for the Art piece.

### Art piece participants:

Annette Cavies (Art Director), Angela Strauss, Bev Paech, Erica Stevenson, Jan Hodgson, Jane Hill, Janice Cecil, Marg Miller, Sharon Heyne, Sharon Steven, Vicki McNeil - Ladies of the MnM's Group, St Mark's Lutheran Church Mt Barker

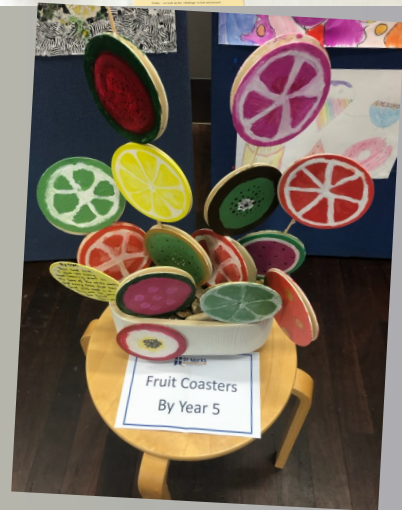
The event itself continued to be planned - Jenny and Jan made contact with artists, and by the end there were about 20 contributors including two schools. The group also made some shadow figures to hang in the foyer on entry – representing the excuses that people make for not wanting to participate in God's Banquet. This created quite a conversation for some. To mirror this, a shadow figure of Jesus was also made and shown on entry to the hall, welcoming the visitors.

The setup of the final exhibition exceeded expectations. The hall was filled and presented a very good and very interesting display of a very wide variety of art pieces in many media. Credit is given to the ladies for the work they put in and the way the event was structured. St Marks school groups came through, students brought their families, a strong following of contributing artists brought through a few visitors and several others came from other churches. St Marks members got their own opportunity to view it after a church service on the Sunday. A highlight for the committee was a special event held on Friday night where the key contributors were invited to come together and enjoy wine and nibbles, while Sam and Steph Curtis and David Heyne kindly played some background music through the venue. A special thankyou to them, to everyone who donated food for the event and others for their support. Money was also raised – mainly covering the costs, but a donation was made to ALWS on behalf of the event.

This event is held annually by the LCA. Keep your eye out for it in oncoming years. St Marks won't always participate but we certainly learnt a lot about the event and can use our knowledge for ongoing opportunities. Practice up those art skills!!



COME TO THE BANQUET EXHIBITION





**Allan Robert TODD**

**6.5.1946 – 21.8.2023**

It is with sadness that I write this notice on the passing of our Property Committee member Allan.

Allan first joined the Property Committee in 2018. He had chaired the committee since 2020. Many issues were handled under Allan's leadership. The installation of the external blinds in the courtyard, a working bee to instal the rear ramp to the school car park, and the school bin enclosure, just to name a few. New blinds were installed at the front windows of the manse, and a defibrillator was acquired. The shed storage was always an agenda item during Allan's tenure which we can happily report is now more orderly and manageable.

Another significant job was when Allan asked his whole family to come up to Mount Barker on the morning of 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021 to get stuck into the new stone retaining wall around the front garden entrance of our church property. What an amazing morning that was. Not only did Allan's sons come up, but Allan's lovely granddaughters, accompanied their dads to lend a hand that day. The saying, 'Many hands make light work', was surely evident that day. We also thank Bev sincerely for supporting Allan with beautiful morning teas at our working bees.

We give thanks to God for the life of Allan Todd, for all he meant to us as a friend and fellow believer, for the leadership he showed as chair of the Property Committee, inspiring and including others in the upkeep of St Marks church property.

To God be the Glory!

Val Schild



## Church Library — New Additions

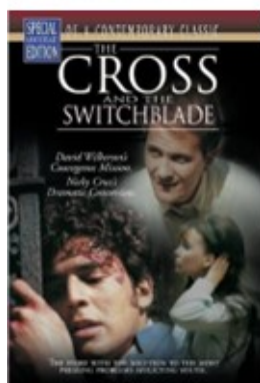


### ***Fireproof***

**Found on the Audio Visual racks**

**Accompanying book, *The Love Dare* found on the 'Family' shelf**

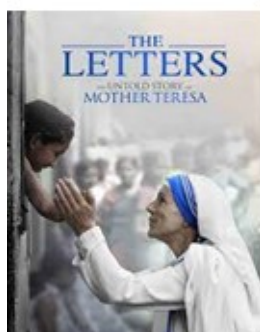
Caleb Holt is a heroic fire captain who values dedication and service to others above all else, but the most important partnership in his life, his marriage, is about to go up in smoke. The film follows one man's desire to transform his life and marriage through the healing power of faith and fully embrace the firefighter's code: Never Leave Your Partner Behind.



### ***The Cross and the Switchblade***

**Found on the Audio Visual racks**

David Wilkerson was a young preacher in Pennsylvania when he was stunned by a new calling from God: go to New York City to speak to seven young gang members on trial for murder. But something much greater was to come. Once in New York, David was inspired to stay for a lifetime of helping troubled teenagers get free of drugs and crime. With the word of God in his ears, he founded an inner-city ministry still known as the Teen Challenge to change their paths and alter thousands of lives forever.



### ***Letters from Mother Teresa***

**Found on the Audio Visual racks**

Mother Teresa receives a message from God that tells her to help the poor, the sick and the downtrodden. Her new purpose initially causes conflict with the Roman Catholic Church and the Indian government. After her death, a Vatican priest recounts her life's work, oppression and unbreakable spirit. As her story unfolds through 40 years of personal letters, she is remembered as one of the greatest humanitarians.



### ***A Step Further***

**by Joni Eareckson Tada & Steve Estes**

**Found on the 'Inspirational' shelf**

Personal answers to the difficult "whys" of suffering. *A Step Further* is Joni Eareckson Tada's response to thousands of letters she received from people puzzled about the "whys" of suffering. Joni answers these questions by taking a personal look at how God has used circumstances, people, and events in her own and other's lives.



### ***Joni & Ken***

**by Joni Eareckson Tada, Ken Tada & Larry Libby**

**Found on the 'Inspirational' shelf**

For Ken and Joni Eareckson Tada, enduring quadriplegia, chronic pain, cancer, and depression only made their love more vibrant through thirty years of marriage. Discover God's immeasurable grace along the way, as their story inspires and enriches your own relationships.

**Copies of *Lutheran Women* bimonthly magazines have been placed in a folder found on the 'Meditations' shelf.**

## CONVERSATION CAN LEAD TO CONNECTION

At mainly music each Monday, our morning is made up of music, eat, chat and play.

I marvel each week how easily the chat happens. Even when we have new families start, the atmosphere is such that all are welcomed and connections start forming. I'm guessing the common link is the children. There's always something to talk about with children around.

What is conversation? A talk, especially an informal one, between two or more people, in which ideas and news are exchanged. Questions are asked and can be answered.

What is connection? Human connection is the sense of closeness and belongingness a person can experience when having supportive relationships with those around them.

This is such an important thing that we as mainly music leaders aim for each week. We aim to interact with those we see each week so that each person feels valued, seen and heard.

I'm thinking that's what all of us as Christians would be wanting with anyone we come in contact with.

As our numbers grow at mainly music, it is a concern that we do see and hear each mum, dad and grandparent that comes through our door. That's why it's so important that we have suitable numbers in our team. We would be so disappointed if someone went home feeling uncared for.

Last week I was thinking that I didn't speak to a particular mum but was encouraged to see one of the other leaders engaging in conversation with her.

Thinking more on this I thought how I didn't get to speak to her but I did

- \* talk to a mum about a new treatment for hay fever I was trying. She was away from mm last week with hay fever.

- \* talk to a mum about a Christian discipline method I've observed to be effective

- \* get to compare an apple slice recipe that the kitchen helper had made for morning tea that day

- \* talk to a mum about how her child is struggling to separate from her since a new bubs has been born.

There must be so many conversations all our leaders are having each week. I asked some others to share what they talked about that day too.

- \* a mum shared her struggle with being away from her daughter when she had her first anaphylactic reaction to peanuts

- \* another mum shared about her experiences as a newly qualified teacher in the APY lands and how that shaped who she is and how she teaches.

Jesus provides the best model doesn't He on how to communicate with people.

He spent time with people.

Sometimes we just need that time to say HELLO and the conversation and connection begins. Hello is a small word, but it says to someone 'I see you'.

Like the wind, we do not know where the Spirit might blow on our ordinary days (John 3:8) ----- and that is exciting. Could it be that our conversations have meant that the Spirit is already at work in the lives of the



## ***Here and there***

**Congratulations..**

**To Emma Van de Meulengraaf**

**Emma was named one of the top 20 technicians in SA and SA Trainee Apprentice of the year for august. She is a refrigeration mechanic and will go to Sydney in November to compete in the national awards.**

### **PAECH'S FARM ACTIVITY**

Every other month we are privileged to be able to travel out to the Paech Family homestead to enjoy some real Christian fellowship, fun and lots of banter.

Bev provides all the lovely food, including a choice of desserts which is really appreciated. Bev and Steve have been hosting these Saturdays now several times this year for the enjoyment of the men at St Marks.

Last Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> September other than the meal, we had a devotion and an interactive time where David Kuchel, led discussions which involved everyone present. Interesting topics like what was your first car, what is your wife's maiden name, how come you moved to Mt Barker and many other angles came to light. We all agreed that it was a most interesting occasion where we all had an opportunity to have our say.

The next outing and the last one for the year will be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> November.

### **LCA SEASON OF PRAYER.**

**From 10-24<sup>th</sup> September St Marks joined in the LCA Season of Prayer. Every Friday people gathered at St Mark's for prayer, and every Sunday people gathered for prayer before each service. Every Sunday pastors were asked to focus on prayer in the services. The LCA Bishops have called for a DAY OF PRAYER on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October. This will be one year out from the 2024 Synod of the LCA. We are called to pray for Unity, Renewal, Revival and Joy in the LCA. Of course the season of prayer, never ends. God calls us to pray without ceasing. In a recently published book I read: "It is a remarkable fact of history that the Protestant missionary movement – was born during a Lutheran Communion service in the backwaters of Germany. Count Zinzendorf and the Moravians had no idea at the time, but their "Baptism of love" was just the first stirrings of a movement so explosive that it would alter the trajectory of both England and America forever." This led to a prayer revival that continued for 100 years, and out of it thousands of missionaries were sent to the ends of the earth, including Bethel, near Kapunda. "God doesn't expect the impossible from us. He wants us to expect the impossible from Him." Dwight L. Moody.**

# CONVERSATION CAN LEAD TO CONNECTION

Sometimes we just need that time to say HELLO and the conversation and connection begins. Hello is a small word, but it says to someone 'I see you'.

Like the wind, we do not know where the Spirit might blow on our ordinary days (John 3:8) ----- and that is exciting. Could it be that our conversations have meant that the Spirit is already at work in the lives of the people we have met at mm?

We rely on prayer at the beginning of our morning at mainly music. Prayer is that special conversation with God that builds connection. How honoured our team of leaders feel that we can turn to God for all our needs during the session.

He is in turn allowing this ministry to grow. We love each family that comes and we have formed connection with them.

But it is in our praying that we long for them to find connection to God.

For *hello* to pass over our vocal cords, it requires only a mustard seed of faith in our great God. This is true too for those simple everyday conversations to go deeper. Bold we must be to bring Jesus into our conversations.

In addition to our faithful prayers that God would open a door for His word, the gospel, we need to ask Him to give us everything we need to have those conversations and to be a blessing to anyone He puts in our path. God's invitation is for us to live with Him. CONNECTED. And we want others to have that too.

As humans, God created us to build connections through healthy communication and shared experiences. This is what we try to do at mm.

So, it makes sense that we would build a relationship with Him in the same way.

No relationship grows if we only repeat the same conversation from the last time and the time before that. God wants to hang out with us. This SEASON OF PRAYER draws us closer to God and makes us think how important prayer is and how we need to talk continuously to God. Otherwise, connection will be superficial. He doesn't want us to drift apart.

Stay connected. Keep in conversation. Get to know each other.

**HAVE A GOOD TALK.**

If anyone is interested in talking and connecting to others come join us on Mondays at mainly music. (And if you're keen to be on the kitchen roster please speak to Val. There certainly is plenty of people to chat with and you can do it while gaining calories. Our beautiful team of kitchen helpers provide us each Monday with the most delicious treats for which we are grateful. ).

Speak to Jane or Annette .



# We Celebrate!



At St Mark's our Junior Primary concert was certainly one of the highlights of Term 3. This year's concert was entitled 'You Are Special'...a magical narrative that unfolded through songs, dance and inspiring lines. The overall message certainly resonates with our core message here at St Mark's - Jesus' love for ALL children, ALL people, His endless grace and the ultimate peace and joy this brings through faith.

Another highlight was the wonderful performance of our Choir and Band students at the Cornerstone College Cabaret evening! The choir's energetic performance of Sunshine was definitely a showstopper.

Our School Captains Saphira and Isaac spent some time interviewing students across year levels seeking other highlights of Term 3.



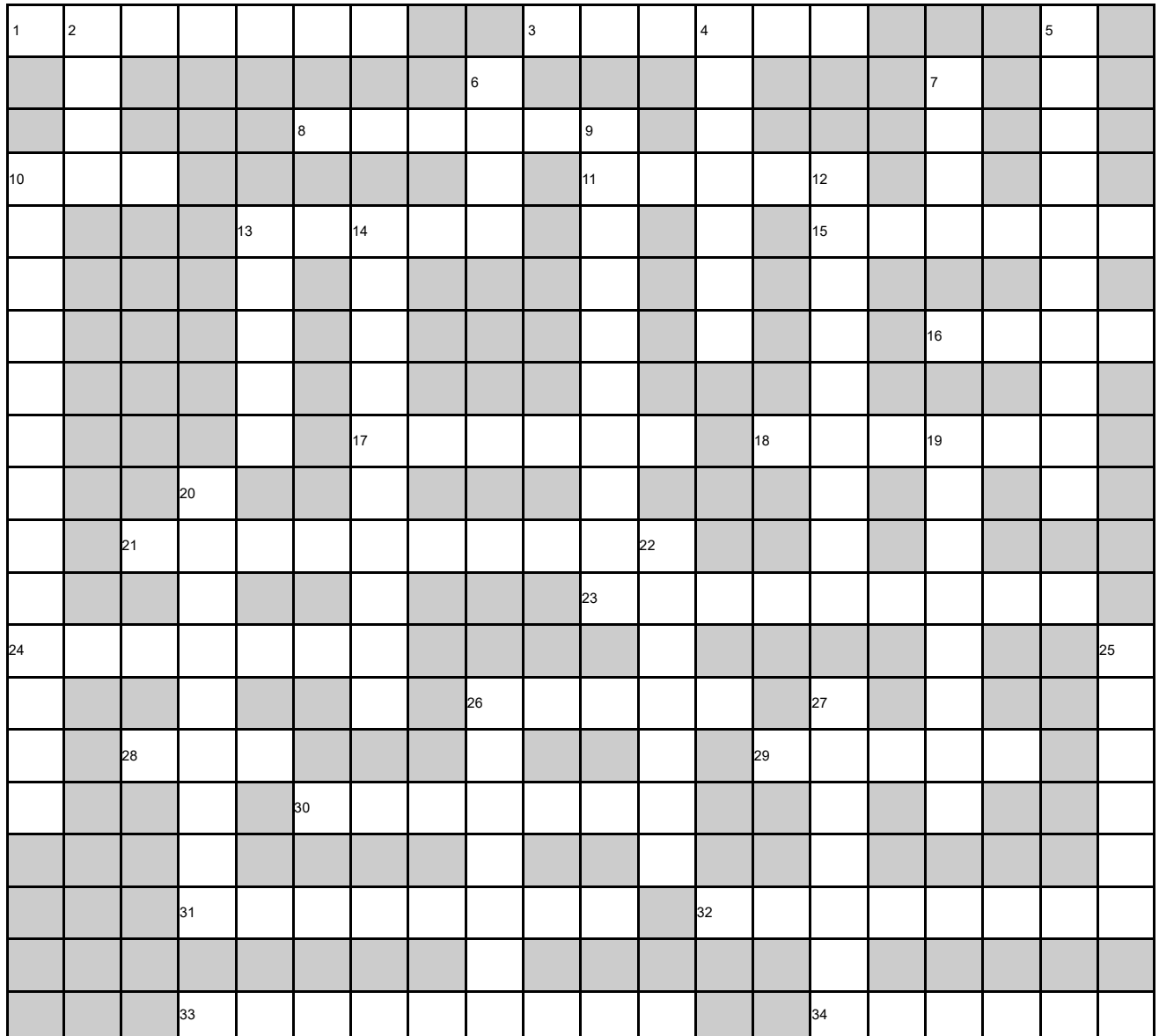
Student responses included...

- Lightening sporting carnival
- Playing different games with my friends
- Our PE lessons with Mr Scott
- Dress rehearsal for concert
- Lunch clubs including dodgeball club
- Nifty knitters club and the ladies from the church who come and help us learn how to knit
- The warmer weather... I love the sun!
- Dance club on Friday – just love it!
- Learning lots about the world and our God
- Coding club in the Library
- Learning about shapes in Maths
- Writing narratives in English using similes and metaphors
- Working with the SRC to make St Mark's not just a good school but a GREAT school
- I loved being with my buddy
- The Student Representative playground excursion to learn about new equipment and spaces for our playground at St Mark's
- Having lots of fun with my friends
- Going on fun excursions like Science day at Cornerstone College
- A new student in our class
- The P&F Father's Day stall
- Making cereal boxes for a school project and then creating a TV commercial
- Everything has been great!
- Getting to spend time with my friends
- Having the last lovely days with Mrs Le Gallez before she has her baby
- Playing on the flying fox with my friends
- Enjoying lunch orders
- Dressing up for the Book Week parade

There's certainly lots to celebrate at St Mark's! We are truly blessed.

Loredana Saracini

## St Marks Matters Crossword No. 1



### Our Pastor—

**Chairman: Ian Pfeiffer**

**Church Secretary: Janice Cecil 8391 1695  
(office)**

**Worship Coordinator: Sharon Heyne**

**School Principal: James Heyne 8391 0444  
(School )**

**POSTAL ADDRESS: St Mark's Lutheran  
Church,**

**PO Box 836, Mt Barker SA 5251**

**Web address: [stmarksmtbarker.org.au](http://stmarksmtbarker.org.au)**

**Email St Marks Matters: [fifer@adam.com.au](mailto:fifer@adam.com.au)**

### Asia Focus Australia

As one of our mission projects this year (AFA), the following story came through to Pastor David Christian which highlights the importance of prayer in our lives. In a country where Christianity is mostly forbidden, what a beautiful and heart warming story from this little girl of God's bountiful goodness to us all. We share it with you.

*"Last week while I was in Ho Chi Minh City, a little girl I cared for called me and told me; 'God just saved me from a fire. When the house caught fire the girl and her friends inside still, had no time to escape. The girl held another girl's hand and prayed, then the fire immediately went out.'"*



## BAPTISM

I have called you by name, you are mine. Isaiah 43:1

At mainly music we were delighted when one of our families approached us with the question "How can my son Ziggy and I be baptised?"

I have to admit I went weak at the knees. We long for the families we meet each Monday to encounter Jesus in some way through this ministry. We actually pray for it in our leader's prayer time before the families arrive.

And it happened all in a flurry and a matter of 5 days thanks to the quick counselling from Pastor David Christian and his helper the Holy Spirit. As David reminded me, all through the New Testament we see believers being baptised on the spot through their faith they believed and were baptised. Only the preparation of their hearts through the Holy Spirit was needed.

That was a comforting thought as I wondered if you were rushing this. Ziggy's grandmother Sandra was to be returning to Ireland Monday 1 October. There were many tears of rejoicing that Ziggy and his mum could be baptised on Sat 30 September with Sandra as a witness.

Baptism is for everyone, young and old. Baptism gives us power for Christian living.

Please join us, the leaders at mm, in praying for this family now seeing Jesus and His mercy and grace so much more clearly. Thank You Lord.

The Bible says God saved us because of His mercy.....God washed us by the power of the Holy Spirit. He gave us new birth and a fresh beginning. Titus 3:5

### St Marks Matters Crossword No. 1

	<u>Across</u>		<u>Down</u>
1	CHURCH DECORATION (7)	2	SHARING THE .... OF JESUS (4)
3	...MUSIC (6)	4	LADIES CLUB (7)
8	LLL REP (6)	5	PERSONAL BOX (10)
10	FORMER PASTORS NAME (3)	6	EDITOR OF THE MATTERS (4)
11	RECENT FLOODS (5)	7	SECRETARY (4)
13	WORSHIP CHAIR PERSON (5)	9	REGULAR ... GIVING (10)
15	WORSHIP COORDINATOR (6)	10	BRIANS SURNAME (13)
16	ELDER MARKS NAME (4)	12	MISSION TARGET (9)
17	ALTERNATIVE GIVING METHOD (6)	13	CHILDRENS MINISTRY (5)
18	NEW TESTAMENT (6)	14	LUTHERAN ..... L (10)
21	3RD PERSON OF TRINITY (10)	19	CHAIRMAN'S SURNAME (8)
23	EX WA BISHOP (9)	20	HOLY .... (9)
24	ELDER GARY (7)	22	BETWEEN CHURCH & HALL (7)
26	GODS WORD (5)	25	LLL REP (6)
28	ACRONIM FOR MEALS FOR THE POOR (3)	26	WATER SACRAMENT (7)
29	SCHOOL COUNCIL CHIR (5)	27	ST MARKS ..... (7)
30	CHURCH STREET (7)		
31	LIVING ... AT LOBETHAL (8)		
32	CALLED PASTORS NAME (8)		
33	FUND TO HELP TRAINING (9)		
34	WORSHIP DAY (6)		

## Young Adults Bible study

In our walk of faith with Christ, it is so important that we come together with other Christians both to grow our friendships and relationships while also growing closer to God. It's especially special when coming together in fellowship with those around your age.

Recently, a young adults bible study has been started here at St Mark's that has so far been wonderfully led by Emma Graetz and Andy Traeger on the occasional Sunday after the 10:30am church services.

The bible study has provided a great opportunity for the young adults (and young at heart) of St Mark's to dive into the bible and our faith, and to discuss some interesting and intriguing topics that we don't usually discuss. The study has even provided an opportunity to connect with young adults from other surrounding communities.

Assisted by the bible study material produced by Blueprint Ministries, we've so far been able to discuss a variety of interesting topics including 'Discernment' and 'Science and Christianity'.

If you're a young adult (which in our minds really just means young at heart ☺), we encourage all to come along to meet others and to grow in Faith through fellowship and the Word. Look out for the dates in the bulletin, we'd love to see you there.

- Austin and Ruby Gogel

On Sunday 24th September it was announced that Pastor Greg Page has accepted the call to lead the congregation. He has requested that he remain with Immanuel Congregation until the end of the year. We pray for Pastor Greg and Immanuel as they begin this transition. Our heartfelt thanks to the work of the call committee.

### Church Register

#### Baptisms

7.5.23 Francesca Forbes  
19.8.23 Edward Cooper  
17.9.23 Charlotte Reeves  
30.9.23 Ziggy Parnell  
30.9.23 Mgean Pannell  
1.10.23 Henry Parker

#### Funerals

22.8.23 Fayleen Fiora  
28.8.23 Allan Todd



## KEEP GOING FOR GOD

### Psalm 92

They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green. Verse 14.

Our Care group seems to have had a run of birthdays lately to celebrate. Hence at our last lunch together we celebrated Garry and Jan's, whose birthdays are one day after the other. Birthdays are a reminder of God's goodness to us as we reach another year of life but are also a reminder of the frailty of life. We recently said goodbye to Allan Todd, also a member of our Care group. We certainly missed him at the lunch.

A familiar saying goes something like this: "Old age is a matter of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter!"

People in their later years who accomplish amazing feats are a great reminder to each of us that we must stay active as long as we can.

Far too many folk hit middle age and put the body into neutral. And Christians too often put their service for Jesus in the same inactive mode. I believe each of us has a responsibility to God, as long as He gives us physical and mental strength, to work heartily "as working for the Lord" Colossians 3:23

We are never called to retire from life and coast home to heaven. The psalmist says that the righteous "will still bear fruit in old age" Psalm 92:14.

For those who are physically able, that means contributing in active service. For those who can no longer move about, that means being active in prayer and in quiet service, even in the way we are generous with our possessions.

Let's make sure old age doesn't stop us from bearing fruit. We need to keep going for God.

To stay youthful, stay useful. Jane Hill



**The Ladies fellowship  
recently visited the St.  
Pauls Home in Hahndorf**





**Mt Barker Lutheran Netball Club embraced a fabulous 2023 Season with many successes along the way! With over 100 players the "Flames" are an inclusive family friendly Club that pride themselves on their ethos and playing the game they all love in good spirit Presentations on Sunday 10 September 2023 were well attended in the St Mark's Link with dinner to follow at the Oak and Iron Tavern**

