

# Together



Sunday 7 July 2024

**Minister**

Rev. Greg McConnell  
0404 046 697

**Website**

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**Email**

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**Administration Assistant**

Katy Burfield  
4945 4655 - office  
Tues 9am - 5.30pm  
Fri 9am - 5.30pm



*We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand. We pay our respects to them for their care of the land. May we walk gently and respectfully upon this land*

## Worship services

Sunday 7 July	8.00am	Rev Greg McConnell HC
	9.45am	Rev Greg McConnell HC
		<i>No Dinner Church this week</i>
Sunday 14 July	8.00am	Rev Tom Anderson
	9.45am	Rev Tom Anderson
		<i>No Dinner Church this week</i>

Narla Hostel services are held each Friday at 3.45pm



### Dinner Church—every Sunday at 5.30pm

Dinner Church will re-commence on Sunday 28 July for Term 3.

### Lectionary readings for the coming week

2 Sm 6:1-5,12b-19	Ps 24
Eph 1:3-14	Mk 6:14-29

**Onsite internet:** St Luke's Guest - no password required



## Welcome to St Luke's Uniting Church, Belmont



**A place for everyone**

**A church where you are welcome regardless of who you are, where you are from, and whom you love**

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**Pray for those known to you who are in hospital, not well or recuperating**

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### **Bank transfer option for your weekly offerings**

If you would like to transfer your offerings into the St Luke's Uniting Church giving account the details follow.

All transfers are anonymous.

BSB: 634 634

Account No. 100028307

Account name: St Luke's Uniting-Giving Acc

*Thank you for supporting the St Luke's Uniting Church!*



## Calendar

***Tuesday 9 July***

**Quirky Quilters meet from 10am**

**Thursday 11 July**

**Thursday Bible Study meet from 1.30pm**

***Please note that there is no Playgroup during school holidays.***

***It will resume on Friday 26th July***

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## Just Kids Term 2 dates

July 7



## Presbytery Prayer Diary

*The Hunter Presbytery has produced a Prayer Diary which includes prayer points for every congregation in the Hunter Presbytery over the next few months. Each Sunday every congregation will be praying for one of our other congregations. By praying together we can encourage one another in mission as we grow in faith and unity and develop understanding and relationships across our region.*

### **This week's Presbytery Prayer Point is Maitland - Maitland City Uniting Church**

The congregation at Maitland City Uniting Church is ageing and is becoming increasingly unable to undertake activities other than attending worship services. The MUNCH Program at Maitland City Uniting Church has been providing sit-down meals twice a week to disadvantaged people for going on thirty years. It is led by a member of the congregation and is staffed by volunteers drawn almost entirely from the community. The current leader is retiring after twelve years and there is an urgent need for a wider leadership team to be developed.

**Prayer:** We pray that God will raise up younger members to join the congregation but also that all members of the congregation, regardless of their personal circumstances, will have their spiritual needs met and enjoy the fellowship of fellow Christians. Amen. We pray that God will raise up someone to manage the MUNCH Program with a real heart for serving the homeless and disadvantaged people in the Maitland area. We also pray for others to join in leadership roles in support of the manager. Amen.

### **1 Community and Outreach Team**

The next meeting for St Luke's Community and Outreach Team will meet at 12 noon on Thursday, 11th July in the church. Everyone is invited to join us at these meetings. \*If it is your lunch time - BYO lunch. *Alison Gill - Convenor*

### **2 Community Garden: updated meeting times**

**Winter Season: Tuesdays 9.00 – 11.30 & Thursdays 9.00 – 11.30**

We would like you to save your coffee grounds, washed egg shells, garlic skins, fruit and vegetable scraps, tea bags without tags and string and grass clippings. There are labelled containers near our scarecrow Pumpkin Pie that was made by the Pre School children. Thanks!



### **3 Office Hours**

Please note that the office will be closed on Tuesday 9th July. It will re-open as usual on Friday 12th July.

### **4 The Friendly Foodies**



The next Friendly Foodies lunch will be at the Gunyah Hotel on Sunday, 14 July at 12 pm. Please let Alison Cleary know if you need a lift. See you there!



# ST LUKE'S COMMUNITY GARDEN



An enthusiastic community group has established a community garden at the St Luke's Uniting Church Belmont North. The aim is to grow produce which can be shared with the community.

**Winter Seasonal Meet Up Times:**  
**Tuesdays & Thursdays**  
**9.00am - 11.30am**



**MORNING TEA IS PROVIDED. PLEASE WEAR PROTECTIVE CLOTHES**

**Further information:-**  
**Kylie 0417 273 778 or**  
**Marilyn 0408 431 737**

## MONTHLY WORKING BEES

1st Saturday of each month



## 5 **Soup and Slice Sundays**



Our very popular Soup and Slice Sundays are back on Sunday 4th August and Sunday 18th August 2024 after each of our services when a great variety of soups and slices will be sold for \$5 each.

For this to be successful we need cooks for both soup and slice. Any variety that you wish to make. Please write your name on the sheets on the back table with your name and variety of soup or slice. Thank you for your help. It is appreciated. Any questions to Jean Thirkettle or Jenny Mathieson. Soup containers and slice boxes will be available.

## 6 **Naidoc Week: Sunday 7 – Sunday 14 July 2024**

The theme for this year is “Keep the Fire burning Blak, Loud and Proud” which honours and recognises the strength, vitality and enduring nature of First Nations culture.

Throughout Naidoc Week we honour the traditions, achievements and voices of Aboriginal & Torres Islander people. It is a time to recognise the contribution of our First Nations people to our shared history, culture and ideals.



## 7 Uniting Church National Assembly

The triennial meeting of The National Assembly will be held in Sydney from 11 – 16 July 2024. The new National President, Rev Charissa Suli will be inducted on Thursday night at 7pm. You can access this service via the Synod Facebook page. The Hunter Presbytery will be represented by Rev Graham Perry and Ms Liz Nicol. The theme for the Assembly is 'Threads of Love – Weaving Christ's love across Cultures and Boundaries'. Pray for the meetings of the Assembly this week.

## 8 Safe Church Workshops



Information has been received about two workshops to be held in The Hunter Presbytery this year. One at Garden Suburb Uniting Church on Saturday 24th August and then at Morpeth Uniting Church on Saturday 12th October 2024. It is a Uniting Church requirement that all leaders attend one of these workshops every three years. If you are in any leadership position or involved in any work with children and either have not ever attended a workshop or have not done so for three years, then we ask that you attend one of these. Information is available on the back table for you to take and register. Note: The Garden Suburb workshop has now reached its capacity of 50 people and all you can do is contact the Safe Church Unit and ask to be put on a waiting list, but that does not guarantee you a spot. Any questions to Jenny Mathieson.

## 9 Margaret Jurd College Food Pantry Appeal

Margaret Jurd College is a Uniting Church School at Shortland for students with special needs who cannot attend main stream schools. They have a food pantry that can be accessed by students and their families. Last year St Luke's had a food appeal and our donations were much appreciated by the College. Over the next two Sundays – 14th and 21st July donations of non perishable food items may be placed in the box provided. If you would prefer, a cash donation may be made by placing it in an envelope clearly marking it and placing it in the offering bag. We will then buy food to go into our food basket. There can be no glass containers or tins with ring pulls or sharps and no aerosols. Suggested suitable items are: **Food** - soup, pasta, noodles, biscuits, rice, sauces, cereals, UHT milk, ready pantry/microwave meals. **Personal hygiene items** – roll on deodorants, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste and toothbrushes, female sanitary items, washing-up liquid, toilet rolls. Thank you for your support.



## 10 St Luke's Leadership Team: July Update

The Leadership team met on Tuesday night and had a fruitful meeting. Devotions were centred around "Creating empty spaces and reorganising our lives for prayer and reflection".

Our Treasurer, Greg Anderson gave an overview of our current financial Situation. Greg also reported that the Budget for 2024-2025 is currently being prepared. A draft of St Luke's new Mission Plan is underway but still needs work to be completed. We were advised by the Hunter Presbytery that Rev Greg McConnell's two-yearly Vital Ministry Consultation is now due (this is a requirement for every Minister, every two years). Rev Stephen de Plater and Mrs June Cameron (representing the Hunter Presbytery) will lead the consultation with six members of St Luke's to be a part of this team.

Alison Gill reported on our recent, and current fund raising activities. A very successful Bunnings BBQ and Trivia night have been held and our always popular Soup and Slice Sundays will be held in August. A Family Fun Day will be held on Saturday 7 September.

Information was received about the Safe Church Workshops for this year. These will be advertised and Information sent out to members of the congregation. It is a requirement for all leaders to complete this every three years. It was agreed that we would have a food drive for the Food Pantry at Margaret Jurd College in July. Details of how to participate in this will be in Together. It was also agreed that we would have a Fundraising BBQ for Frontier Services on Sunday 3 November. More details closer to the time.

It was a decision that St Luke's will start a recycling corner where members of the congregation can bring in recyclable goods and they will be collected and taken to collection centres. Keep an eye out in Together for details of this new exciting venture.

*Jenny Mathieson – Secretary*

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Members of the Activity centre on Monday, enjoying a Road Rules Talk with Warren James



## **2 Samuel 5:1-5,9-10 NIV**

### **David Becomes King Over Israel**

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, “We are your own flesh and blood. In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the Lord said to you, ‘You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.’”

When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, the king made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel.

David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years. In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.

David then took up residence in the fortress and called it the City of David. He built up the area around it, from the terraces inward. And he became more and more powerful, because the Lord God Almighty was with him.

## **Mark 6:1-13 NIV**

### **A Prophet Without Honor**

Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed.

“Where did this man get these things?” they asked. “What’s this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing? Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.

Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honour except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.” He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

### **Jesus Sends Out the Twelve**

Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits.

These were his instructions: “Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.”

They went out and preached that people should repent. 13 They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.