

# Together



Sunday 1 September 2024

## Minister

Rev. Greg McConnell  
0404 046 697

## Website

[www.stlukesbelmont.com.au](http://www.stlukesbelmont.com.au)

## Email

[belmontuca@gmail.com](mailto:belmontuca@gmail.com)

## 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 1 September	8.00am	Rev Greg McConnell HC
	9.45am	Rev Greg McConnell HC
<b><i>There is no Dinner Church this week</i></b>		
Sunday 8 September	8.00am	Rev Greg McConnell
	9.45am	Rev Greg McConnell
	5.30pm	Rev Greg McConnell

Narla Hostel services are held each Friday at 3.45pm

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### **Dinner Church—every Sunday at 5.30pm**

Dinner Church is a casual service for all ages with a message, a catered meal, prayer, discussion and more.

***There will be no Dinner Church this week***

### **Lectionary readings for the coming week**

Prv 22:1-2,8-9,22-23	Ps 125
Jas 2:1-17	Mk 7:24-37

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**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

### ***Monday 2 September***

**Activity Centre** meet from 9.30am with a discussion this week

### ***Tuesday 3 September***

**Quirky Quilters** meet from 10am

### ***Wednesday 4 September***

**Fellowship** meet from 9.30am

### ***Thursday 5 September***

**Thursday Bible Study** meet from 1.30pm

### ***Friday 6 September***

**Playgroup** meet from 10am

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## **Just Kids Term 3 dates**

Sept 8 & 22



## 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 Port Stephens Uniting Church**

Port Stephens is situated in a beautiful and growing region. The congregation is involved in mission planning and looking for new ways to be present in their community. They give thanks for the visitors at the church for the Christmas services and the contribution of the Port Harmony singers.

**Prayer:** We pray for the development of a new mission plan and the energy to reach out to the community in new and relevant ways. We pray for the expo that we are working on with the community centre, may it help to build our relationship with the broader community. Amen.

### **1 Invitation**

Invitation to attend a 'New Ventures Gathering' with Rev Dr Karina Kreminski on Thursday 5th September from 9.30am to 12 midday at Adamstown Uniting Church for those from all congregations in The Hunter Presbytery who are interested in exploring Fresh Expressions of the Church in the Synod and in developing new forms of mission and worship. Karina has been an innovator and pathfinder in doing things differently. Register with Rev Dr Rod Pattenden: [Pattenden@bigpond.com](mailto:Pattenden@bigpond.com)

### **2 Fellowship**



The next Fellowship meeting will take place on Wednesday 4th September, commencing about 9.30 with morning tea followed by the meeting at 10am. We are pleased to have Julie Killeen from our congregation to be our speaker who will relate her years working at Andamooka with Frontier Services. If you would like to hear Julie's story, come along, as visitors are always welcome.

### **3 Important information for those who are working at the Family Fun Day next Saturday**

To cover insurance requirements, everyone working next Saturday in any capacity on a St Luke's activity/stall etc must sign a **Volunteer form**. These are available in the gathering area today. **Please sign one and return it in the box provided.**



4

## Family Fun Day & Markets in The Trees

Saturday 7th September 9-2pm - A St Luke's Fundraiser

A **huge** thankyou to the 40+ people who have offered to help on the day. A full list of stalls/areas and names - is available to look at in the gathering area. Please check it and see Jenny or Alison know if you have any questions.

### Stalls - Donations

**Home Cooking:** This popular stall will sell any home-cooking... suggestions are as follows

\* Full sized cakes or loaves, iced or filled cupcakes, scones, muffins, slices, biscuits, sweets (coconut ice, rocky road, jellies, chocolate crackles, toffees, honeycomb), desserts etc

Packaging is available in the gathering area to take today and all cooking can be dropped to the community centre between 1pm - 5pm on Friday 6/9 (preferred) or before 8:30am on the day- 7/9.

**Plants:** Our Community Garden will be setting up a plant stall at the Family Fun Day with all funds raised to go back into maintaining the garden.

If you have plants to donate, please drop them at the garden this week clearly marked "FFD Stall" or contact Marilyn Deas if you need help with them - marilyndeas@bigpond.com

### In General

**BBQ:** One of our busiest stalls on the day and a big thanks to Cathy Turner for stepping in to manage the team on the day.

**Still needed** - someone to take some photos on the day. Would only need to be there for 1.5 hrs and no pressure on being professional. Let Jenny know if interested.

### **Please continue to ...**

- Advertise the day to anyone you are in contact with. Take some flyers and do some letterbox drops in the street if you are in the Belmont areas or have neighbours you think would be interested.
- Donate any unwanted toys, puzzles, books etc for the Kids Biz stall – tub provided in gathering area

**Setting up on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> :** We are looking for a few more helpers to be at the Community centre from 1pm onwards to help various tasks.

- Putting items onto stalls
- setting up tables & chairs & 1 gazebo,
- buttering bread etc.

**Please add your name to the sign-up sheet if available to help.**

### **The Family Fun Day is an event for all ages to enjoy...**

**For the adults:** church stalls, market stalls (20 or so), Café & BBQ, Community Garden stall & entertainment!

**For the kids:** Games, a toy stall, lucky dips, preschool stall and lots of activities!

*We hope to see you, your friends and family all there!*

If you have any questions regarding this day, please email Alison Gill: a.gill@optusnet.com.au or Jenny Mathieson: jennyandray@bigpond.com



## Family Fun Day Prayer

### Reflection...

Imagine the day, the atmosphere, the families arriving, the markets under the trees, the music and our church complex being used for stalls, games and activities

### Thanksgiving...

For the many people who are willing and able to help  
For the gifts that God has given each one of them  
For the Community and Outreach team members

### Praying for...

The Family Fun Day to be a wonderful outreach to all that attend

That those who are working on the day will have an open and welcoming heart that reflects our God  
That the funds raised will benefit our church and community.

That the day that is safe for all those attending  
For those who will visit and entertain (Marching Koalas Band & Page Power from NSW Guide Dogs)

# FAMILY FUN DAY

ALL AGE  
EVENT!

## & MARKETS IN THE TREES

SATURDAY 7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

9AM-2PM



ST LUKE'S UNITING CHURCH COMPLEX - NARLA RD BELMONT NORTH



### HOME COOKING

Cakes, Biscuits, Slices,  
Sweets, Jams, Pickles  
& more

### DON'T MISS

11am - Marching Koalas

KIDS: *\*bring your teddy\** &  
march with the band  
(followed by Teddy Time with Meri)

12pm - Guide Dog Puppies

1pm - Kids Gardening Workshop  
& meet our giant walking  
veggies!



### KIDS ZONE

\$2 Games  
Plaster Painting  
Lucky Dips  
Face Painting



### FOOD & DRINKS

including "Bluey" inspired treats!



### HOMECRAFTS

including bargain priced  
original paintings



### TOYS

Pre-loved & lots to  
choose from!



## MARKET STALLS

"Only markets in  
the Belmont area!"

Lots of stalls selling both new  
& second-hand items



Grab a bargain wandering through our large,  
grassy reserve area!

STALL BOOKINGS AT: [www.trybooking.com/CTXGC](http://www.trybooking.com/CTXGC)



## St Luke's Uniting Church 2024/2025 Budget

### Introduction

The outcome of the 2023/2024 Financial year is a deficit of \$10,563 or \$6,727 more than the budgeted deficit of \$3,836. As of the 30.6.2024, the bank balance was \$179,578 compared with \$189,955 in June 2023. While the balance has dropped by \$10,377, in December 2023, the bank balance had dropped to \$172,392. Over the 5 intervening months, the balance has recovered by \$7,186. It should be noted that there are always variables which cannot be predicted with certainty e.g. Insurance claims or grant income which may not fall within the same period as the expenditure e.g. Quilting grants.

### 2023/24 Budget Outcome

2023/24	Budget	Actual	Result	Variation
Income	\$259,600	\$262,288	+\$2,688	+1.04%
Expenditure	\$263,436	\$272,851	-\$9,415	+4.57%
Result (Loss)	-\$ 3,836	-\$ 10,563	-\$6,727	-175.3%

**Income** was slightly **above** target by 1.04%.

- Rental income (+0.5%), Interest earnings (+73.5%) and Sundry Income (+230.6%) which included reimbursement of Greg McConnell's Long Service Leave from Synod and an insurance claim, were **above target**. Sundry Income also includes money collected by the Quilting, Activity Centre and Unite Groups.
- Offerings (-2.5%) and Grants (-12.2%) were **below target** with Fundraising down by 63.8%. The 2023/24 target was based on the previous Financial Year when \$35,000 was raised. In 2023/24 fundraising started to recover in April 2024.

- Overall donations were slightly below target of \$10,500 with \$9,622 donated which is still a very pleasing result. \$11,408 was donated to external bodies and the Quilters' Group. The outgoings include the \$4,000 allocated to the Local and Global Mission Team which are coded to a number of categories including Sundry Expenses.

**Expenditure** was **over target** by 3.5% or \$9,415.

- Areas which exceeded the budget allocation included Social Activities (Quilting Group expenditure from Grant and other income).
- Consulting Fees of \$9,853 associated with the Preschool Roof work which had not been included in the 2023/24 budget.
- Utilities (Electricity etc) has also exceeded the budget with \$7,182 spent against an allocation of \$5,600.
- We also had a large increase in our insurance premium of several thousand dollars from \$8,686 in 2022/23 to \$11,283 in 2023/24.

Savings achieved across several categories including Fundraising Expenses (-84.7%), Property (-11.8%), and Wages (-0.48%).

### 2024/2025 Budget

2024/25	Budget
Income	\$271,940
Expenditure	\$271,798
Result (Profit)	\$ 142

The draft 2024/25 Budget has been constructed following close examination of the performance of the 2023/24 Budget and consideration of other factors associated with the financial position of St Luke's in July/August 2024.

Areas of note for **Income** include:-

- Fundraising has been reduced from \$28,000 in 23/24 to \$15,000 in 2024/25.
- Grants have been increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000 with \$10,000 already received in July for the new air-conditioners.
- Rental income for the Preschool includes a rent increase plus CPI of \$7,840 to \$63,440.
- Hire income from the Centre has been increased by \$500 to \$23,000.
- Sundry income of \$20,500 includes reimbursement of Greg McConnell's 2025 LSL.
- Wider Work donations from the congregation have been reduced to \$5,200 from \$8,000.

#### **Expenditure**

- Insurance allocation has increased from \$8,500 in 2023/24 to \$12,000 in 2024/25 due to a large increase in our premium in 2024.
- Fundraising Expenses have increased from \$2,000 to \$5,000.
- Property Expenses have decreased from \$35,000 to \$25,000.
- Salaries have increased by \$4,539 to \$148,406.
- Social Activities has been increased from \$7,000 to \$10,000.
- An allocation of \$5,000 is allowed for consultancy services.

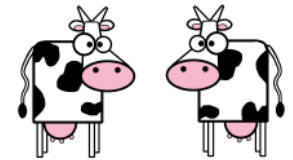
While our finances have been under pressure due to above CPI increases for energy, salaries, insurance and other costs we are blessed by a generous and faithful congregation. I would like to thank Robyn Lockwood and Debbie Hardy who continue to work hard behind the scenes processing our accounts and managing the budget.

Also, to members of the Property and Finance Team for their contributions and to all the others people who participate in the maintenance of our property, in particular Michael Turner and Peter Hudson.

The 2024/25 was approved by the Leadership Team at the August Leadership meeting.

**Greg Anderson**

**Treasurer**



#### **6 Cows For Cambodia Lunch**

You're invited to come to a simple lunch to hear the latest news and support the charity Cows for Cambodia. Cathy & Michael T volunteered with the charity last year and will be returning again later this year.

During the lunch you will hear about some of the great work that this Australian charity performs in Cambodia.

**When:** Friday 20th September at 12:30pm

**Where:** Gathering Area of the church.

**Cost:** \$20 per person (any extra donations for the charity will also be gratefully received).

If you wish to attend, please add your name to the sign up sheet at the back of the church or contact Jean T on 0418 214 199 or Cathy T on 0402 432 522.

The final day for booking into the lunch will be Sunday 15th September.

## **James 1:17-27 NIV**

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created.

### **Listening and Doing**

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

## **Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23 NIV**

### **That Which Defiles**

The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.

So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?”

He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

“These people honour me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me.

They worship me in vain;

their teachings are merely human rules.’

You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.”

For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”