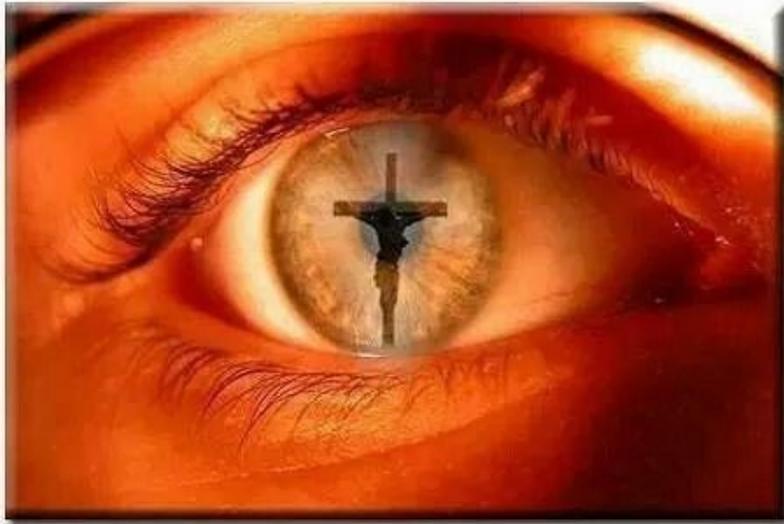


TURN YOUR
EYES UPON



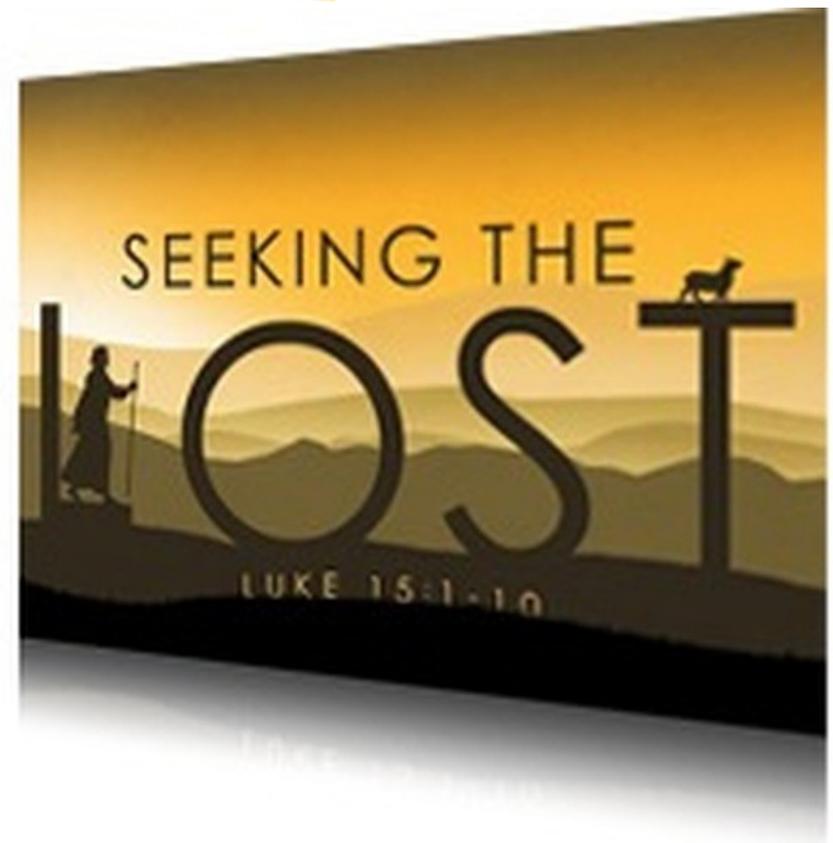
JESUS



Community News

St Johns Lutheran Church Corinda

Together in Christ—Caring, sharing and growing



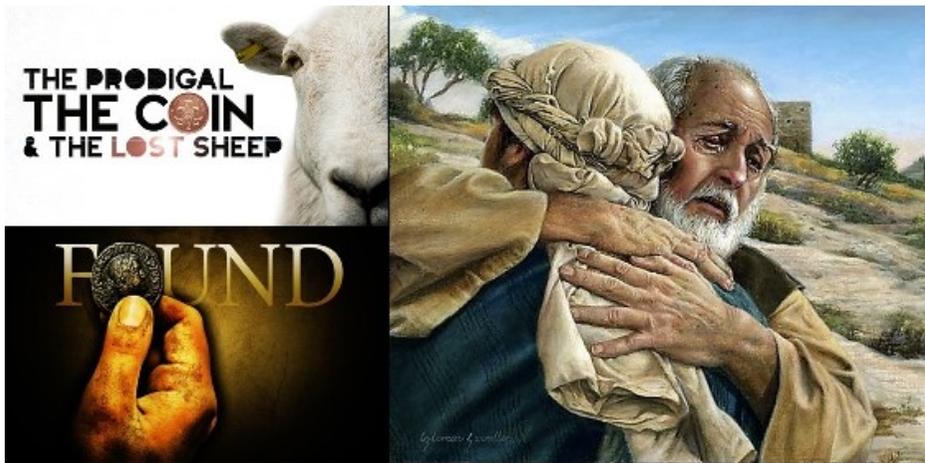
Contact us:

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The parable of the Lost Sheep, taught by Jesus Christ, is one of the most beloved stories in the Bible, a favourite for Sunday schoolclasses because of its simplicity and poignancy.

Speaking to a group of tax collectors, “sinners”, Pharisees, and teachers of the law, Jesus asks them to imagine that they had a hundred sheep and one of them strayed. A shepherd would leave the ninety-nine sheep and search for the lost one until he found it. Then he would put it on his shoulders with joy, take it home, and tell his friends and neighbors to rejoice with him, because he had found his lost sheep.

Jesus concludes that there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who do not need to repent.

But the lesson doesn’t end there. Jesus goes on to tell another parable of a woman who loses a coin and searches her home until she finds it (Luke 15:8-10). He follows with yet another parable, that of the lost or prodigal son, the stunning message that every repentant sinner is forgiven and welcomed home by God.

QUESTION FOR REFLECTION:

Have I realized yet that instead of going my own way, I need to closely follow Jesus, the Good Shepherd, to make it home to heaven?



**Growing
FAITH
at home**

25th September 2022
 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
 – PROPER 21
Secret of being content

Caring Conversations

 **SHARE**
 Share your highs and lows of the day, or respond to the following questions:

- 1

Share about a time when you were in need and someone helped you.
- 2

How does God meet your needs?
- 3

What are the needs of people in your local community? What help is available to them? In what ways could you be more involved?

Devotions 

 **READ** Daily Bible Readings

S	Luke 16:19-31	Poor Lazarus and the rich man
M	1 Timothy 6: 6-19	Don't put your hope in wealth
T	Proverbs 22:1-9,16	The rich versus the poor
W	Proverbs 28:11-28	Helpers of the poor lack nothing
T	Ephesians 2:1-10	God is rich in mercy
F	Philippians 4:10-13	The secret of being content
S	Psalms 146	The Lord loves the righteous
S	Luke 17:5-10	Faith the size of a mustard seed

 **TALK** Talk about the Bible verse. What word or phrase was important to you as you read these verses?

Rituals and Traditions 

 PRAY

Lord Jesus, we are truly rich because of you. Help us to be generous to others. Amen.

 BLESS

May God fill you with the richness of his love.



Caring Conversations

SHARE

Share your highs and lows of the day, or respond to the following questions:

1

Share about something you saved for and bought. How did you feel buying it?

2

Money is a good gift from God. How do you think God wants us to use it? How can money cause problems in our relationship with God?

3

In what different ways can you use your money to serve God?

Devotions

READ Daily Bible Readings

S	Luke 16:1-13	Parable of the shrewd manager
M	Mark 12:38-44	A widow's offering
T	Matthew 19:16-23	The rich young man
W	Psalms 62	Don't set your heart on riches
T	1 Timothy 2: 1-7	Instructions on worship
F	1 Timothy 6:6-10	The dangers of loving money
S	Psalms 79:1-9	Help us, God our Saviour
S	Luke 16:19-31	Poor Lazarus and the rich man

TALK Talk about the Bible verse. What word or phrase was important to you as you read these verses?

Rituals and Traditions

PRAY

Lord, please bless all rulers and leaders today. Guide them to do what pleases you. Amen.

BLESS

May you love God and enjoy him forever.

A Reflection- Luke 16:19-31

In this passage, and in those that precede it, Jesus is challenging us to think about where we set our eyes.

We've had the parables of the lost and found coin / son / sheep, and then a parable addressed to the 'lost' people (the tax collectors and sinners). Now we have a story directed at those who considered themselves the 'found' – the rich, respected and religious.

Riches, then, were considered a sure sign of God's favour – and that distortion is still perpetuated on many 'prosperity gospel' TV shows. But in the stories Jesus told, it is almost always the poor person who is seen as closer to God. Perhaps this is because they know their need and so have their eyes fixed beyond their own resources. Self sufficiency is the spiritual cancer of our age.

So here we have the poor person Lazarus and the rich person. Some translations call him Dives, but that's not a name, it's just Latin for 'the rich man'.

The differences in their lives are clear, but the differences in their deaths even more so. Lazarus dies and is carried by angels to Abraham's side.

Dives dies and is buried. And that's it. End of story. YOLO, as they say (You Only Live Once) Or so he thought.

Now clearly, Dives knew the Hebrew Scriptures. He would have been brought up with them from childhood, but the reality of the afterlife seems to have taken him by surprise.

Abraham explains it all in verse 25. Like Jesus also said in Matthew 6 to those who liked to be seen praying and giving and fasting – they had already received their good things. They had had their treasure on earth – there was nothing left for heaven.

Lazarus and Dives are pictures of the two groups of people Jesus was addressing. We can see them at the start of this section, in Luke 15:1. 'The Pharisees and the scribes' were like Dives – confident, assured, the good guys – those who could look at themselves and be confident that they were on their way to Abraham's side. They were so confident that they were the 'found' that they could not see that they were really lost.

'The tax collectors and sinners' on the other hand, knew they were lost and needed help. Like Lazarus, they looked to God to do for them what they could not do for themselves.

As Jesus said – "It is the sick people who need a doctor, not those who are healthy. I did not come to invite good people. I came to invite sinners." (Mark 2:17)

Here I Am. Lord Send Me!

THEN I HEARD THE VOICE OF THE LORD SAYING,
"WHOM SHALL I SEND? AND WHO WILL GO FOR US?"
AND I SAID, "HERE AM I. SEND ME!"
ISAIAH 6:8

HERE I AM, LORD

Dan Schutte, the hymn's author, never assumed the tune would become so well-known. Mr. Schutte was a Jesuit in his early thirties learning theology in Berkeley, California when one of his friends requested him to compose a song for a forthcoming ordaining Mass of deacons.

Schutte has stated that he frequently used Scripture as the foundation of his songs, so as he thought about the concept of being called for the ordaining Mass, he looked to the stories of the prophets, like Jeremiah, who asked God to bestow him with the best words to use.

Schutte describes his inspiration of the chorus as, "In all those stories, all of those people God was calling to be prophets have expressed in one way or another their humanness or their self-doubt."

Its lyrics are inspired by the Bible verses Isaiah 6:8 and 1 Samuel 3 as this powerful song is a testament to Schutte's Godly devotion. The chorus speaks of his dedication stating, "I will go, Lord, if you lead me" emphasizing the motives of humility and a willingness to act in accordance with the Lord's will.

The hymn begins with the verse:

*I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save*



Growing
FAITH
at home

11th September 2022
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST – PROPER 19
The lost are found

Caring Conversations



SHARE

Share your highs and lows of the day, or respond to the following questions:

1

Share about a time when you lost something really special. How did you react?

2

Read the parable of the lost sheep (Luke 15:3-7). How do people get "lost" from God? How does God respond?

3

What does it mean to repent? How does God treat those who repent?

Devotions



READ Daily Bible Readings

S	Luke 15:1-10	The lost sheep and the lost coin
M	John 10:11-18	Jesus, the good shepherd
T	1 Timothy 1: 12-17	The Lord's grace
W	Ezra 9:1-5, 10:1-12	The people of Israel confess
T	Romans 5:1-11	Christ died for sinners
F	2 Peter 3:8-13	That all may come to repentance
S	Psalms 85	Restore us again, O God
S	Luke 16:1-13	Parable of the shrewd manager



TALK

Talk about the Bible verse. What word or phrase was important to you as you read these verses?

Rituals and Traditions



PRAY

Lord Jesus, thank you for looking for us when we are lost and for carrying us home. Amen.



BLESS

(Name) You are God's treasured possession.



Growing
FAITH
at home

4th September 2022
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST – PROPER 18
Choose life

Caring Conversations



SHARE

Share your highs and lows of the day, or respond to the following questions:

1

What is the best thing about being a follower of Jesus?

2

What is the most difficult thing?

3

Jesus said that we must "give up everything" to be his disciples. How do you understand his words? What has Jesus given up for you?



Devotions 



READ Daily Bible Readings

S	Luke 14:25-33	The cost of being a disciple
M	Matthew 10:34-42	The cost of discipleship
T	Matthew 16:21-28	Taking up our cross
W	Deut 30: 15-20	Choose life
T	Philemon 1: 1-21	Paul's plea for Onesimus
F	1 Peter 4:12-19	Suffering as Christians
S	Psalms 101	Choosing God's law
S	Luke 15:1-10	The lost sheep and the lost coin



TALK

Talk about the Bible verse. What word or phrase was important to you as you read these verses?

Rituals and Traditions 



PRAY

Lord Jesus, teach us to put you ahead of everything else. Please give us the real life that only you can give. Amen.



BLESS

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I will go Lord,
if You lead me.
I will hold
Your people in my heart.

What a powerful reminder of God's power! There is so much truth in the opening to this song. The Bible tells us that God *is* the Lord over the seas and sky:

The chorus is a response to the Lord's calling us into action! It is not enough to simply hear the word of God. He wants us to act! He wants us to serve Him and each other.

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart*

The next verse speaks to God's might and His promises. He is so powerful that he made the stars in the Heavens. So we can trust when He says He will make the darkness bright.

*I, who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?*

The final verse speaks to the resurrection. Only our Father who loves us so much would send His son to earth to sacrifice His very life so that we may live. He truly did bear our pain! In the shortest verse in the Bible it is simply written, Jesus wept. ([John 11:35](#))

*I, the Lord of snow and rain
I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them
They turn away*



PNG EVANGELIST CARRIES ON 50-YEAR MISSION

By Pastor Matt Anker

In the 1970s seven men from the Morobe province in Papua New Guinea (PNG) left their homes to take up government positions in Vanimo, the capital of the northernmost province of PNG, West Sepik, which is now known as Sanduan Province. In addition to their shared cultural heritage, these men – like most Morobeans – were Lutherans. By contrast, West Sepik was a place where mission had largely been left to the Roman Catholics.

In their first months in Vanimo, these ‘foreigners’ scaled the mountain overlooking the town every weekend, seeking solace in one another’s company – and in beer. Reflecting back, one of those men recently said: ‘It wasn’t long before we said to each other, “We are Lutherans!” and we turned that weekly drinking party into a prayer group.’

These first Lutherans in Vanimo approached the government for land on that same mountain and built a church, naming it Calvary congregation. It is from this ‘mama’-congregation that the Lutheran mission in West Sepik has grown, as many congregations have been planted throughout the province.

September 2022		Outside	Lance U			
	Date	4	Meeri V, Sue C	Wendy S & Bosokol	Petra K & Fay T	Erna B & Ruth B
	Music Leader	Praise				
	HC Assistant	Allan B				
	Readings	Tom B				
	Prayers	Tom B				
Data Proj PA	Andy B Mitchell B	David H Wendy D	Ena B Tom B	Eispeth P Sunthara T		
Ushers	Stuart B Ruth B	Andrew B Natisha S	Brian K Carly H	Lance U Mitchell B		
Childrens Address	Michelle B	Kay L	School Holidays	School Holidays		
Flowers						
Morning Tea						

Who What How When

Coffee Morning

Everyone Welcome



Saturday 3 September
10am at Café 63
296 Oxley Road Graceville
Contact Joy Brown to reserve a
seat 0418 725894

meeting

Church Council—21 Sept @ 7pm

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In April I visited our brothers and sisters in PNG. And what a joy it was to hear Bishop Jack Urame of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in PNG (ELC-PNG) share this story. Bishop Jack had just returned to Lae from West Sepik where he had commissioned a young man to serve as an evangelist in the rugged country west of Vanimo, bordering West Papua.

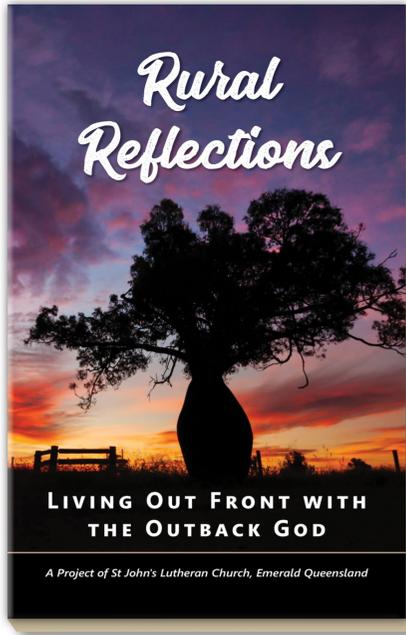
Bishop Jack is excited about the continuing mission to reach people with the good news of forgiveness in Jesus' name. He says, 'Many people in the jungle there have never heard about Jesus and even when they have, many have become Lutheran because of our theology'.

Evangelist Bosco Tangi arrived at his commissioning service in the traditional dress of his tribe and, as he was commissioned to carry the good news to the people he serves, his traditional dress was removed, and he was clothed in a white gown with a cross placed around his neck. No longer bound by tribal bonds, he was now ready to serve people of every tribe, language and nation with the good news of our Lord Jesus.

In the ELC-PNG, evangelists like Bosco continue to remain the pillar of the church through their volunteer engagement in the work of God. Since its earliest days in PNG, the church has grown through the work of evangelists. Bosco's father joyfully offered his son to the church, expressing his gratitude for all the Lord had done for him and his family. Father and son now look forward to seeing how the Lord uses the ELC-PNG's newest evangelist in reaching people with the comfort and peace that Lutherans have become known for.

From a drinking party to a prayer group, to a sending congregation. Who could've imagined what God would do through those seven men who arrived as 'foreigners' in Vanimo all those years ago?

Many of our partner churches are working in new territory for the kingdom of God; therefore, spiritual attack is their everyday reality. As a member of a congregation, school, or family, or a couple or individual, you are invited to commit to praying for our partners in mission. For regular prayer point updates, go to www.lca.org.au/international-mission/act-now/pray



Rural Reflections Devotion Book

by St John's Emerald

The “Rural Reflections” Devotion book, produced by St John’s Lutheran Church in Emerald, has been a great encouragement and a wonderful blessing to readers across Australia since it was published mid last year.

The book, which was initially intended to be a small home-printed resource for use in the Emerald congregation, grew to feature 118 short devotional reflections after St John’s realised its ministry potential.

“With so much having happened in our world over the past couple of years, we realised this devotion book could be a source of encouragement, support and inspiration that reaches people far beyond our congregation,” explains St John’s Pastor, Stephen Jaensch.

“We were fortunate enough to receive a grant from the LCAQD Mission and Ministry Department, which helped us to have the books professionally printed.”

With all devotions having been written by Christians from across Central and Western Queensland, the book gives readers the opportunity to hear the

voice of some of God’s faithful people living in rural Queensland. The devotions are also enhanced by a stunning compilation of rural photographs taken by congregational members.

Over 700 copies of the book have been sold or distributed to date, reaching homes, schools, and churches across the country and positively impacting readers of all ages.

“I’m so glad Rural Reflections has been brought to full fruition as the articles are spot on and make good reading at any time,” says a reader from Brisbane. “The photography is also nothing short of magnificent. Country people will feel ownership of this book, but I’m sure it will have its place in the city as well.”

Readers from Minlaton, South Australia, have also commended the book’s quality and message. “It’s the most beautiful book we’ve seen, the quality is remarkably high, and it does indeed glorify God.”

“I appreciated that it is written by Australians, is uniquely Australian, and so very easy to read. It has such a powerful and comforting message,” reflects another reader from Beaudesert.

St John’s Lutheran Church thanks God for this mission opportunity the book has provided and continues to pray that it inspires readers to give thanks and glorify God.

If you’re yet to get a copy (or three), it is available for purchase through the church website, or Colin and Christine Pukallus from Emerald:
<https://emerald.lutheran.org.au/product/rural-reflections-devotion-book/>

We encourage you to take this journey together with us, wherever you may be. If you are out in the bush like us, you are welcome. If you are some of our urban cousins you are welcome too. Together, let’s *‘grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ’ (2 Peter 3:18 NLT)*.

God bless you on your journey. It is a pleasure to have your companionship and fellowship as we travel through God’s word together. May he touch the hearts of all of us, uplifting our spirits and enlarging our vision!