



The Third Sunday of Advent Sunday 12th December 2021

Christ Church Lutheran
31 Swanport Rd
Murray Bridge

Holy Cross Lutheran
31 Florence St
Murray Bridge

Zion Lutheran
427 Schenscher Rd
Monarto

We want everyone in the Murray Bridge regional communities to know the love of Jesus and be in a saving relationship with Him.

WELCOME... TO OUR BULLETIN. MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND LEAVE YOU STRENGTHENED FOR THE CHALLENGES AND JOYS OF THE COMING WEEK!

All Services and Events subject to COVID restrictions. *Due to the COVID 19 situation, the rules, restrictions and guidelines for our safety are changing. Sometimes this is very quick and late, there may not be enough notice to let everyone know, we thank you for your understanding.*

Please follow the directions of the people in charge at our services.

*****Masks are required until further notice*****

Sunday: 12th December - 3rd Sunday in Advent

NO Service at Holy Cross

9am Monarto – Lay Reading

9:30am Christ Church - JD Hall, Pastor Tim Koch, Holy Communion, 9am Cuppa and fellowship before worship.

Next Sunday: 19th December – 4th Sunday in Advent

9am Holy Cross – Holy Communion – Pastor Paul

9:30am Christ Church - JD Hall, Family Worship service led by Jeanette Mann, 9am Cuppa and fellowship before Worship.

10:30am Monarto – Lay Reading

11am Christ Church – Traditional Worship in the church, Holy Communion Led by Pastor Paul Calnan

Visitors most welcome to join any of our services

Christ Church Office hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9am-12noon – **Closed Wednesday.**

Ph 8532 6553 email: christchurch.murraybridge.sa@lca.org.au

Website: www.cclutheranmb.org.au Add: 5 Marchand St, Murray Bridge

After Hours please phone: Chairperson, Warren Doecke - 0417 804 663

Holy Cross office hours: Tues, Wed 10am-1pm; Thurs, Fri 9am-2pm – **Closed Monday.**

Ph 8532 4577 email: hcoffice@internode.on.net Add: 31 Florence St, Murray Bridge
Pastor Paul Calnan is available by phone Tues to Fri 9am to 6pm Mobile: 0417 466 611 or email: paul.calnan@lca.org.au *If you require pastoral care outside of these hours please contact Ministry Team Chair: David Schirmer or Council Chairperson: Jeff Henschke*

PASTOR PAUL ON LEAVE from 7th to 31st January if Holy Cross members require pastoral assistance please contact David Schirmer 0459 943 682 Ministry Team or Jeff Henschke Church Council chairperson 0428 519 252

Christmas Office Hours:

Both Offices: **Open** Fri 24th Dec; Tues 4th Jan - **Closed** from Mon 27th Dec to Mon 3rd Jan inclusive

****Please note that there will be no bulletin for the week of Sunday 2nd January'22****

General Notices

SHARED MINISTRY TASK GROUP:

***** NEW UPDATE *****

There will be a Joint meeting of the three Lutheran Murray Bridge/Monarto churches at JOHN DOHLER HALL on Sunday 12th DECEMBER, at 4pm.

The message from Bishop Altus - LCA District Office – is “That we formally call Pastor Paul Calnan as the 0.6 FTE associate Pastor to Murray Bridge/Monarto”.

***** We require quorums from all three churches to vote on this *****

The Task group has recommended proposals to the three church councils to also be discussed on that day these may include forming a combined Prayer Team, joint Pastor and Office accommodation, one name for shared mission; an account for congregations to pay their payroll contribution's into and ratify a joint website for all congregations

Shared Ministry Task Group members are **Holy Cross:** Greg Herrmann, Joanne Pfeiffer, Barry Stoddart; **Christ Church:** Warren Doecke, Yvonne Stiller, Trent Mueller; **Monarto:** Colin Wegener, Raelene Barolo.

SPIN Kids Camp is a Christian camp for children in Year 4 to 6, 11th – 14th January 2022 at Camp Kerdron – Barmera.

Children of all backgrounds are welcome, from people who have been regularly worshipping members of a church community for many years to those who have never set foot in a church before. In fact, SPIN is a great way for young people to experience a little of what a Christian faith is all about, and start their journey with God! **CLOSES 12TH DECEMBER**

For more information head to <https://www.blueprintministries.org.au/camps/spin/>.



RENEW Young Adults Camp

4 - 7 February 2022, Ankara Campsite, Walker Flat. \$190 Full Camp | \$160 Two Nights - \$130 One Night. 50% off for 2021 School Leavers. Registrations close 23 January

ROSTERS:

Christ Church: Roster is out, please pick up your copy

Holy Cross: Rosters for next year are being drawn up – please let the office or Trudy Gogel know if there are dates you are unavailable. Many thanks.

2022 - DEVOTION BOOK FOR A YEAR - “Time Out to Reconnect” - \$25 each if you would like one please contact: **Christ Church** - Dennis Pfeiffer (0437 506 345)

Holy Cross - Trudy Gogel (0407 600 529)

OFFERING ENVELOPES: - if you ordered envelopes for 2022 then they are available to collect from Christ Church and Holy Cross Offices and after services.

THURSDAY COMMUNION: 23rd December, 1:30pm in Concordia Hall, Holy Cross. All Welcome.

CATERING HELP: Can you help with donating food and/or assisting on the day for Funerals? If you can, please contact; **CHRIST CHURCH** – Julie Mueller 0407 045 149 or Joyce Stiller 8532 1116.

HOLY CROSS – Service Guild Velma Zerk 0438 325 611 or Rhonda Packer 8532 2876.

ANDRE RIEU'S AUSTRALIAN CHRISTMAS: Sunday Dec 12th, 1pm, JDH. Come along and enjoy the screening of **Christmas Down Under**, the concert that Andre Rieu and his orchestra performed in the Sydney Town Hall in November 2018. Tea, coffee & biscuits provided. Donation entrance, with all proceeds going to the Myanmar Damadi Children's Home. Enquiries to Dianne Kluge on 0408807008.



REG – Regular Electronic Giving: Have you considered using REG for your weekly offerings? Forms are available from either church office to set up with your LLL account or use the following details:

Christ Church: BSB 704942 Acc # 100311504

Holy Cross: BSB 704942 Acc # 51176

WANTED: Artificial Lawn: 1.2 x 1metre piece of artificial lawn to be used for Nativity Scene display in Holy Cross Church. If you are able to help out; please speak to Alan Packer 85322876 or Cynthia Dutschke 0400 046 052



CHRISTMAS EVE – CHRIST CHURCH ON THE LAWNs: Can you help with setting up and packing up on the night? Also looking for people to be involved with the Christmas Eve program. If you can be involved in any of the above please contact Jeanette Mann 0431 791 423 or Cheryl Miegel 0407 185 995. Many thanks

HOLY CROSS

Retiring offering at Holy Cross Christmas Eve service 2021 to be donated to Lutheran Care. Pastor Richard Fox will preach at Holy Cross on 30th January 2022, retiring offering to Lutheran Media

FAMILY AND RELATIONSHIP COUNSELLOR available at Holy Cross Church office Murray Bridge on Tues or Thurs by appointment for a range of issues for example: - individual counselling – grief and loss, life transitions, relationships, trauma and relationship issues - couple counselling.

0460 321 334 | 08 8351 3644 | bhannaford@lutherancare.org.au

CHRISTMAS CLOSURES ETC:

Church Offices closed from 24th Dec'21 re-open 4th Jan'22

Lutheran Care counsellor closed from 23rd Dec'21 re-open on 4th Jan'22

Emerge Counselling closed from 19th Dec'21 re-open on 10th Jan'22

Christ Church Tuesday morning Bible Study in recess, recommences 1st Feb'22

Holy Cross Monday Morning Bible Study in recess, recommences 31st Jan'22

Holy Cross Cards break from 18th Dec'21 and return on 8th Jan'22

Crafty Capers in recess, recommences 2nd Feb'22

Holy Cross Recycling Shed: closed from 23rd Dec'21 re-open on 4th Jan'22

DVD MINISTRY DISTRIBUTION: Helpers are needed to distribute the Holy Cross Service DVD's to the Swanport Village, Murray Heights and house bound in Murray Bridge if you can assist please speak to Bob Eggers or ring him on 85311207

LUTHERAN MEN OF AUSTRALIA Newsletter: The latest LMA Newsletter (Dec21-Feb22) is available from the office or halls.

PRINTED SERVICE ORDERS: Holy Cross members who have vision impairment and are having trouble seeing the service on the screen please let Annette at the office know if you would like a printed order of service.

TEEN CHALLENGE: Are planning their Christmas Hamper program as well as their regular on going emergency food. They are seeking help in providing Christmas treats to those families and individuals who are struggling and unable to afford them, everyone deserves to eat a Christmas meal!

Below is a list you may find helpful:

Christmas Puddings	Soft Drinks or juices	Cans of Beetroot	Cans of Peas and corn
Custard & Jellies	Cans of Fruit Salad	Short Bread biscuits	Christmas Lollies
Christmas Cakes-any size	Cans of Ham or Turkey	Fresh carrots and potatoes can be helpful	

TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE WANTED: Jim Poole's operation went very well; he is hoping to be transferred to Lerwin for respite care this weekend and will remain there until he and Marion are able return home. Transport assistance is no longer required. Thank you to everyone who offered to take Marion to see Jim at Murray Bridge Hospital.

Prayers:

Prayer of the day: Lord, listen to our prayers. Come to us in your kindness, and lighten the darkness of our hearts. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Also pray....

- ✚ Pray for all students, teachers/workers/volunteers for the end of the school year and for the safety of those who are travelling over the holiday break.
- ✚ Pray that the power of Christ's love would bring lasting transformation throughout our communities as we continue our journey of working together
- ✚ Pray for Pastor David Kuss, his wife Ilona and their family on his acceptance of the Lead Pastor call to the combined shared ministry at Holy Cross, Christ Church and Zion Monarto.

Please Pray for... (Please note, before visiting check with family for any visitation allowances and/or restrictions)

Christ Church: Martha Aartsen, Jasmine & Winston Dance, Loes Frahn, Audrey Jaensch, Irene Kuchel, Margaret Kuchel, Bryan Lees, Joy Lienert, Andy & Colleen Nicholls, Oscar, Amelia & Josh Noye, Joyce Pope, Leo Schulz, Vena Shinnick, Sandra Thiele, June Walker & their Carers.

Holy Cross: Ian & Fay Baxter, Judy Brereton, Olga Burgemeister, Lila Grocke, Maxine Gogler & Vicki Gollasch and family, Trevor, Christabel and Kyle Hage, Bert & Nita Hyam, Elizabeth Klitscher, Leila Koehler, Glen Koop, Matt Kruschel, Joy Leighton, Erin, Travis, Cooper, Brady & Taylor Lienert, Brenda O'Reilly, Jim & Marion Poole, Erwin Rohrlach, David Schirmer, Neil Schubert, Reg Schwartz, Barb Taylor, Clarita Venn & their Carers.

Resthaven: Joyce Ahrns (CC), Norm Bensch (HC), Lorna Burrett (HC), Doris Hein (Mon), Margaret Koop (CC), Dot Noller (CC), Murray Piltz (CC)

Lerwin: Phylis Courtney (HC), Glad Hausler (CC), Stewart Jaensch (CC), Dorothy Klitscher (HC), Eric Kuss (CC), Alice Kowald (HC), Betty Paech (HC)

Craigmore Resthaven: Ivy Roennfeldt (CC) **Golden Grove Helping Hand:** Joyleen Rosenzweig (CC)

Meningie Hospital Aged Care: Kurt Unger (HC), Felicity Woods (HC)

St Paul's Aged Care, Hahndorf: Margaret Pfeiffer (HC) **Warner Close, M/Bridge:** Colleen Fawcett (CC)

Tailem Bend Hospital: Pat Gogel, Phyllis Koop, Bevan Schulz (All HC)



Our deepest condolences to Bev Paech, family and friends on the passing of her husband, Peter, on Monday 6th December. Peter's funeral service will be held on Tuesday 14th December, 10:30am at Holy Cross. (Internment at Bremer Road Cemetery followed by refreshments at Concordia Hall)

Jesus says: Don't be afraid! I am the first, the last, and the living one. I died, but now I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys to death and the world of the dead.

(Revelation 1:17,18 CEV)

Birthday Congratulations 📢:

Happy 80th Birthday to Marlene Schubert for 10th December

Happy 80th Birthday to Sabine Jericho for 12th December

If you would like to be included in our Prayers or have your Birthday, Anniversary or any other special occasion announced, please email or call your church office.

Baptismal Birthday Celebrations This Week

12th Pat Jenke (HC)

Charlotte Pahl (Mon)

Ashley Roocke (CC)

15th Sandra Gates (HC)

Adele Watt (CC)

Loes Frahn (CC)

16th Alex Hein (CC)

Shirley Lutze (CC)

17th Bill Dunthorne (CC)

Cooper Hampel (CC)

Shirley Kramer (HC)

James Waltrovitz (HC)

18th Emily Mueller (CC)

COMING EVENTS – Subject to COVID restrictions (Please advise the offices of any changes)

Sun 12th

NO SERVICE AT HOLY CROSS

9am

Monarto Service

9.30am

Christ Church Service in JDH

1pm

Andre Rieu concert

4pm

Joint meeting of the three Lutheran Murray Bridge/Monarto churches, JD Hall

Mon 13th

10am

Holy Cross Musicians Meeting in meeting room

7:30pm

Special Finance Leadership meeting, Ed Cen

Thurs 16th

3pm

Resthaven Communion (by HC)

COMING EVENTS cont...

Sun 19th	9am	Holy Cross, Holy Communion
	9:30am	Christ Church Family Worship in JDH
	10:30am	Monarto Service – Lay Reading
	11:00am	Christ Church Service in Church, Holy Communion
Mon 20th	7:30pm	Leadership Team, Ed Cen (bring nibbles to share)
Fri 24th	Christmas Eve	
	6:30pm	On the lawns at Christ Church
	7:30pm	Carols & Lessons at Holy Cross
	7pm	Monarto, 6pm Tea
Fri 25th	Christmas Day	
	9am	Holy Cross – Holy Communion-Pastor Paul
	9am	Monarto
	9:30am	Christ Church, Holy Communion in the church



CELEBRATING *Christ* **join us in Celebrating Christ's Birth this Christmas**

Holy Cross Lutheran, cnr Charles & Florence St. Murray Bridge
Christmas Eve 7:30pm Carols & Lessons
Christmas Day 9:00am Worship, Holy Communion Service

Christ Church Lutheran, Swanport Rd. Murray Bridge
Christmas Eve 6:30pm Family Service on the Church Lawn
"Come to the Manger"
Christmas Day 9:30am Worship in the Church, Holy Communion Service

Zion Lutheran, Schenscher Rd. Monarto
Christmas Eve 6:00pm for Tea with 7:00pm Worship
Christmas Day 9:00am Worship, Holy Communion Service

Murray Bridge
&
Monarto
Lutheran Community

*may the Peace,
Love, Joy & Hope
of Jesus
be with you!*

CHRISTMAS 2021

THIS WEEKS READINGS & HYMNS/SONGS:

- ✠ **Christ Church (JDH) Readings:** Zephaniah 3:14-20; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18.
Songs: Resurrection Shout; He came down that we might have love; Lord of all hopefulness; Hymn of Joy.
- ✠ **Monarto: Readings:** Psalm: Isaiah 12:12-6; Zephaniah 3:14-20; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18. **Songs:** On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's cry; God's Son came to bless us; Eternal Ruler of the ceaseless round; Lord of all hopefulness.

OTHER WAYS TO WORSHIP:

FACEBOOK: Holy Cross Lutheran Church Murray Bridge / Christ Church Lutheran Murray Bridge / Music Ministry Online

YOUTUBE Holy Cross Lutheran Church Murray Bridge / Christ Church Lutheran Murray Bridge / Music Ministry Online

Christ Church Web Page: <http://www.cclutheranmb.org.au/>

Holy Cross Service on 5th Dec'21: <https://youtu.be/p5T25Ncr0NY>

Music Ministry email: musicministrymb@gmail.com

Christian radio now live! – Murray Bridge 87.6 FM SA

Other Livestreamed Services etc – Go to LCA Church@Home:

<https://www.lca.org.au/worship/wpp/churchhome/>

click on View@Home to see services online, Pray@Home for prayer resources and Faith@Home for other options.

Sermons4Kids- Stories of the Bible: <https://sermons4kids.com/>

ROSTERS

Holy Cross

	12 Dec No Service	19 DEC 9AM
Sign In/ Greeters		T Gogel Kathy Pfeiffer
LS Server		Rick Paech
Lector		A Pearce
PA/MM		B Kuchel
Video		J Kuchel
Marshal		T Budarick
Ushers		R & D Paech B Gerlach
Bell Ringer		Rick Paech
Altar Guild		L Rosenzweig
Flowers		C Schache
Musicians		E Paech M Gogler
Morning Tea		V Zerk F & J Henschke
Ministry Team	M Woitd	P & E Welke

Christ Church

	9:30am JDH 19-Dec	11AM Church 19-Dec
COVID Marshal	Carl B'hall	D Schmerl
Elder Assist	D Pech	D Doecke ♥ I Kluge
Wardens	D Lienert	S Kuchel K Franklin
Greeters	G&M Schultz	C Coulter J Bahr
Tea/Coffee	S Jericho J Herrmann	
PA	R Hampel	W Taylor
Data Projector	C Doecke	J Irvine
Reader		D Doecke
Flowers	T Lees	
Video	R Jericho	
Counter	B Schubert	V Jaensch
Grounds Roster	T&Y Koch	T&Y Koch
Water & Care	J Schirmer	

Monarto

12th Dec: **Wardens:** Maxine P. **Reader:** Barolo. **Cuppa:** Maxine P.
19th Dec: **Wardens:** Robert T. **Reader:** Robert T.

Monarto Congregation Contacts

Elders Haydn Hein 0428 898 639 Maurice Wegener 8531 1060
Chairman Trevor Hilton 0439 839 022
Treasurer Colin Wegener 0407 030 241
Secretary Jan Brodde 8532 5050

Christ Church Congregation Contacts

Elders: Dawn Hampel 8532 4138 Denise Lohmeyer 8531 0935
David Pech 0420 849 344 Janelle Traeger 8535 4290
Graham Schubert 0408 848 920 Ian Kluge 0427 313 537, 8531 3449
Chairman Warren Doecke 0417 804 663, 8572 6019
Cong. Secretary Cheryl Doecke 0427 804 663, 8572 6019
Treasurer Carlien Hohls 0415 919 043
Church Secretary Yvonne Stiller 8532 3445
Prop. & Maintenance: Nathanael Mann 0439 506 826

Holy Cross Congregation Contacts

Chairperson: Jeff Henschke 0428 519 252
Ministry Team David Schirmer 0459 943 682
Treasurer Barry Stoddart email: hctreasurer@internode.on.net
Property Chair Greg Herrmann 0438 785 040

"LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



IS CHRISTMAS ONLY – PT.1

MARY AND ELIZABETH

The Christmas story starts with God and an old lady called Elizabeth. Actually, it started a long time before that. You see, God (well, most people don't SEE God, but through the years, he told people what happened, they told others, and then others wrote it all down so we could read and learn what happened) Any way, God made two people. They were to be his particular friends, and He was to be their special friend – forever. Sadly they said, "No! We don't need a "special friend" – we don't need God – ever!" And that was that – or so they thought. God had other ideas. He still loved them and wanted to be their friend, but He let them go. Despite their turning Him down, God did make a promise that one day He would send His Son (and people would call him "JESUS") to make a way for people and God to be friends again.



Now! This is where Elizabeth comes into God's plan. Elizabeth and her husband Zechariah (His mates probably called him "Zeck") didn't have any kids and never would. They were old, old, old! Too old to have children, and they and they were sad about this. They did pray and talk to God about it. At the same time, like everyone else in their country, they kept waiting and wondering when God would keep His promise to send His Son, so they could again be God's special friends. However, one day, suddenly, there was an angel. WOW! Imagine how scared Zeck felt. To his surprise, the angel said, "Don't be scared. God has heard your prayers! Elizabeth will have a baby boy. Call him John. God has got a most important job for him. When he grows up, he is to tell people all over the country to get themselves ready to make God's Son welcome." Guess what? No surprise! God kept His promise, and Elizabeth became pregnant.

Mary, who lived in another town, Nazareth, was a very young cousin of Elizabeth. Being very young, Mary was not married but was engaged to the local carpenter, Joseph. One day when she was busy in her house, she looked up and standing right there was a stranger. She was scared witless! The stranger said, "Hey! No need to be scared. I'm the angel Gabriel with a message from God. He has "blessed you" ("blessed" is like God giving you an extra special lot of His love) He has picked you to be the mother of His Son. When He grows up He will make a way for people to be friends with God". Mary wasn't sure about this, so the angel explained, "God has it all worked out." Mary got down on her knees and said, "Well, I don't get it, but if that is what God wants,

OK!" Then she went to visit her cousin Elizabeth and tell her about the message from the angel.



Here a strange thing happened. When Mary got to Elizabeth's house, before she could tell Elizabeth about the angel, Elizabeth said, "I know! I know! Just as you got here, my baby inside me jumped around as if he knew your baby was special" (I don't know how the baby inside Elizabeth knew that. Probably God let him know.)

See Pt. 2 next week.

"LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



IS CHRISTMAS ONLY? – PT.2 THE ROAD TRIP

Meanwhile, Joseph heard about Mary being pregnant. He thought, "Uh Oh! Mary hasn't slept with me. Maybe she's got a new bloke. I still love her and don't want to embarrass her. I'll quietly break off the engagement." But again, God steps in. He sends an angel to mess with Joseph's dreams with a message that Mary's pregnancy is part of His plans and not break off the engagement. The next morning a bleary-eyed Joseph said to himself (and to God), "OK! If that is what God wants, I'll marry Mary and look after the little bloke like he was my own."



Now we go on a road trip of about 111 Km with Joseph, a pregnant Mary and a non-pregnant donkey. To understand this, we need to back up a bit. About six hundred years before, God let it be known that this specially planned birth would happen in Bethlehem. But! How to get Joseph and a pregnant Mary to go to Bethlehem?

Governments may not know it or believe it, but God can use them too to make his plans happen. Well, the government decided (actually put the idea in their mind) that everyone in the country had to be counted and make it easier for the "Counters"; everyone had to go to the town from which their great grandfathers, grandfathers, etc. came. Guess where Joseph's relations had lived? Right! Bethlehem!



So, end of the road trip. Worn out, cold (not hot and dusty -remember this was wintertime in their country) footsore, tired; Joseph, pregnant Mary and a non-pregnant donkey arrived in Bethlehem, along with a mob of other travellers all coming to be counted.

Imagine an exhausted Joseph and clod and pregnant Mary knocking on Inn doors (inns are like old-time motels) and the Inn-keepers all saying, "Bad luck mate! No rooms left". But! Again God swings his plan into action. Finally, after saying, "Sorry mate. Full up", one bloke takes a closer look and sees the tired and pregnant Mary, sighs and says, "Well mate, I guess you and the missus could stay in the stable out the back." And so that is where this special baby, the Son of God was born. His mother wrapped him in some cloths and gently laid him on some straw in a feeding manger. People think stables are smelly, dirty and cold places. Believe me! That is not true. I grew up on a farm with a stable where my dad kept his horses for pulling ploughs. On cold, windy nights, it was so warm from those big animals and cuddly in the straw; quiet and peaceful. It would have been the best place ever to be born. Especially when you know it is God's idea!



God bless, Kevin. See Pt. 3 next week.

The amazing Christmas Story always gets my attention whenever I stop and take the time to listen to it's message.



Where else in the whole world will you ever get such GOOD news that the Saviour is born in such humble circumstance to set me free from the bondage of sin.

He gives me HOPE and shows me how to live for Him with all the precious years He has given me.

Last Sunday at the Christmas Carols by the River our support group met and joined with some 1000 spectators to provide a BBQ for all. We had 9 helpers in all and by the evening end had almost sold out. In total we raised \$1282 for the support of our Chaplains for 2022. What a wonderful effort and on behalf of Meg, I would like to thank all of these people for such an amazing effort.

We give thanks for all the wonderful work that our PCW's do during the year and together with the support group want to wish you the Blessings of the Christ child as He comes to live in you.

Blessed Christmas to you all, Murray Bridge Inter Church Council, Ministry In Schools Task Group





Growing FAITH at home

12th December 2021

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

One more powerful is coming



SHARE

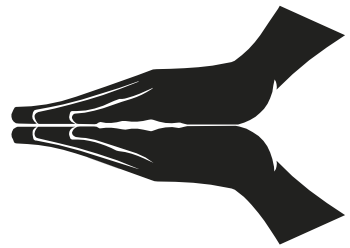
share your highs and lows of the day, or respond to the following questions:

1

What makes you anxious? What are you worried about?

2

What is God's promise to us in Philippians 4:6-7? How does this reassure us?



Devotions



READ Daily Bible Readings

S	Luke 3:7-18	One more powerful is coming
M	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Restoration of Israel's remnant
T	Philippians 4:4-7	Rejoice in the Lord always
W	Acts 13:16-31,38-39	Paul preaches about John
T	Acts 17:22-31	Paul speaks of repentance
F	John 15:1-8	Producing fruit in Christ
S	Isaiah 12:2-6	Songs of praise
S	Luke 1:39-55	Mary visits Elizabeth



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, bless us with the Holy Spirit. Make our hearts burn with love for you. Amen.



BLESS

May the Lord Jesus watch over your heart and your mind and give you his peace.

Advent

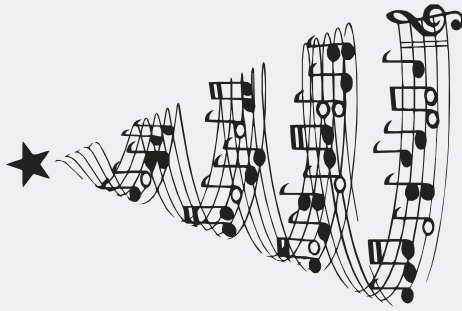
Advent is a time for preparing, a time of waiting and watching. We celebrate Advent with the colour BLUE as this communicates the message of hope. Our Christian faith rests on the hope that one day Jesus will come again.

Creative Response

As a household set aside time during this week to read one or two favourite Christmas stories, share past Christmas memories, and sing Christmas carols.

sit around your meal table or Christmas tree, light a candle and play Christmas music.

You might also enjoy a cup of hot chocolate and some Christmas treats.



mealtime prayer

Lord Jesus, bless our home with hope this Advent. As we enjoy your gifts, make us ready for your coming again. Amen.

verse for the week
Do not worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks. And God's peace, which is so great we cannot understand it, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

Service



Make the gift of service one of your Christmas gifts this year.

Talk together about acts of service that could be offered to different household members. For example, doing the dishes, making a bed, helping prepare a meal, giving a massage, time spent gardening. Have each person select an act of service they could offer to each household member (these don't need to be the same). Write these down on index cards and collate booklets of redeemable 'service vouchers' to give to members of the household at Christmas time.



GROWING MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA
LIFE IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT