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*After hours please contact MVLC Council Chairperson:
Joanne Pfeiffer 0417 802 052 or
Pastoral Assistant John Pohl 0427 876 776*

Pastor Paul will be on leave from 15th - 29th January
And Janelle is away for most of January

SERVICES

Sunday 7th January

<i>Led by Pastor Paul with H/C</i>	<i>Led by Pastor David with H/C</i>
9am Monarto (morning tea)	9am Christ Church (in the church)
10:30am Holy Cross (no morning tea)	10:30am Christ Church (in the hall) (morning tea in hall from 10am)

Sunday 14th January

<i>Led by Pastor Paul with H/C</i>	<i>Lay Reading no H/C</i>
9am Holy Cross (morning tea)	10:30am Monarto
10:30am Christ Church (in the hall) (morning tea & Trading Table)	

**The Murray Valley Lutheran Community Annual
General Meeting will be held in the John Dohler Hall
on the 25th February at 1:30pm.**

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



Murray Valley Lutheran Community

Friday 5th January 2024

Christ Church

31 Swanport Rd
Murray Bridge

Holy Cross

31 Florence St
Murray Bridge

Zion Monarto

427 Schenscher Rd
Monarto

Welcome to all worshipping with us Today

On New Year Day we heard Nancy Sinatra sing *“These boots are made for walkin”*. I’m sure the church wasn’t her target audience – she sang for the Vietnam troops. Remarkably sexy Nancy provided the perfect segue into God’s will for his church. God is saying that he privileges us to be his eyes, ears, hands, and “boots” in our community. Let’s explore what it means to bless our community: *“As each one of you has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”* 1 Peter 4:10

Nancy also provided a real challenge in her song:
“You keep samin' when you oughta be a'changin”.

Of course, some things never change – but other things should. What do we need to change to be God’s people in this community. God bless your 2024.

PRAYER: Our heavenly Father has rescued us from darkness, and brought us into his wonderful light through his Son Jesus Christ. We pray to him that his light may shine in the darkness of our world.

All Welcome – come along to events organised by the MVLC and form a close relationship with fellow members.

Cut off for notices sent to either Office is Wednesday 10am for the Newsletter and midday on Thursdays for the Bulletin.

7th January Readings

Psalms 72:1-7,10-14; Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

Reopening after the New Year

Lutheran Care - 9th Jan

Teen Challenge - 15th Jan

HC Monday Bible Study - 29th Jan

Youth (TBA)

HC Crafty Capers - 10th Jan

Emerge Counselling - 16th Jan

CC Tues Bible Study - 6th Feb

Probus - February 2024

H/Cross Women's Guild Executive Committee meeting will be held in the Holy Cross Meeting room on Tuesday 16th January at 9.30am

Thank You! Many thanks for prayers, phone calls, visits and food which I received while laid up with my foot. I am doing very well now, and very much appreciate your kindness and love.

Eunice Wegener

Congratulations and God's blessings to

Annette and Gerry Korzeba who celebrated their 60th 'Diamond' Wedding Anniversary on Thursday 4th January!

Rob Denholm who celebrated his 80th on 25th December



Diary Dates:

NO 5G Longriders Men's Bible Study in January NO Time Out at Ten in January

Tues 9 1:30pm Romani Service by MVLC

Thurs 11 10:30am Lerwin Service by MVLC
1:30pm Romani Lutheran Service

Tues 16 9:30am HC Women's Guild Exec Meet

Thurs 18 1:30pm Resthaven Lutheran Service

REG:

Murray Valley Lutheran Community

BSB 704942

ACC# 101026587

MUSIC MINISTRY

MVLC Mission & Outreach

BSB 704942

ACC#101028369

Reference: Music Ministry

Baptismal Birthday Celebrations

7th Marlene Dunthorne

Tania Klemm

8th Sienna Hage

Trent Mueller

9th Greg Herrmann

10th Colin Schenscher

12th Maurice Wegener

14th Beverly Paech

Pray for:

Those affected by floods and other disasters. That God be with all who have suffered loss. For those who have lost homes, pray for shelter and community. For those who have lost livelihoods, ask for financial security.

Barb Kretschmer and families on the passing of Aub on 27th December. Funeral at Holy Cross on Tuesday 9th January

A new year filled with hope and opportunities to share the joy of the gospel with those around us.

Those in need, those who are struggling because of domestic violence and break-down, those who are suffering from harmful behaviour and hurting relationships. Pray God heals, restores, and renews.

"LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



*Photo courtesy of
"Leader of The Pack"*

GOPHER WHEELIES AND FOLLOWING JESUS

"Well, a new year. What are your plans?" How often have you heard that in the past days? Think about its effect if the answer were, "I'm going to see what Jesus has in store and have a BLAST!"

Many think following Jesus is dull. A "pain in the neck" full of "Do this" and "Don't do that." "Don't experiment with life." And don't have fun",

Who would think of a "Personal Mobility Scooter" as a "FUN MACHINE"?

Well, some young men in a country town each bought themselves a one-hundred-dollar gopher on eBay. They removed the rear stabiliser wheels so they could do "Wheelies". Why? Because they could. It's fun and sends a message: life is to be lived – even on gophers. They discovered there was more to do with their gophers than wheelies. Riding as a group is fun, and turning up at the local "Farmers Market" tends to bring good cheer and smiles. It is possibly the only town with its own "Bikie", I mean "Gophie" group, and it has been suggested they get some "leathers".

I reckon If they met Jesus on their travels, he would pull them up and say, "What a great idea, fellas! Can I have a go? I meant something like this when I said, I have come so you can have life in its fullness. **(John 10:10) Be sure to trust in me and my great, forgiving love first.** Then, who knows what adventure we might have as we explore life as I meant it to be. Trust me to develop new skills and bring a new focus to your life. Be prepared to let me lead you into the unexpected and to make a lasting, optimistic and joyful difference in your life and the lives of others.

Of course, letting Jesus impact your life could mean taking chances, making changes, not always knowing what is coming next, or even if **your** plans will come unstuck.

On the other hand, you could let life continue as before and never know the challenges, the sometimes sadness replaced with unimaginable joy and contentment that comes with sharing your life with the God who loves you and has planned only the absolute best for you.

You may never do wheelies on a gopher, but you will never know what adventures God has in mind for you. Remember, "You will never never know if you never never go!"

Your first big adventure for 2024 could be talking to God about his plans for your life. Don't waste time thinking up fancy words. He's not into fancy words. He's more into words from the heart. He can't wait for you to start talking and listening. Give it a try. You have nothing to lose. Praying you have a great 2024.

Kevin



Growing FAITH at home

EPIPHANY

YEAR B

Come to worship Jesus the King.



Grow Ministries
LCA CHILD YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



www.growministries.org.au



CONVERSATIONS

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

1. Share about a memorable trip you were part of.
2. Wise men travelled from the far east to visit the child Jesus, guided by a star. What can you remember about their adventure?
3. The wise men brought special gifts to give to Jesus. What gifts would you have taken?



BIBLE READINGS

Read the following Bible readings throughout this week.
Talk about what words or phrases stand out for you.

- S** **Matthew 2:1-12** The visit of the Wise Men
- M** **1 Kings 10:1-13** The queen of Sheba visits Solomon
- T** **Isaiah 60:1-6** Nations will come to your light
- W** **Matthew 2:13-18** The escape to Egypt
- T** **Matthew 2:19-23** The return to Nazareth
- F** **John 19:38-42** Nicodemus brings myrrh
- S** **Psalms 72** Kings will present him gifts

VERSE OF THE WEEK

They came to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.

MATTHEW 2:11



CREATIVE RESPONSE

The wise men were guided by a star in their search for Jesus, the newborn King.

As Christians, we are “stars” God uses to point other people to Jesus (see Philipians 2:15-16).

Cut out star shapes from yellow or gold paper. Write onto these different ways you can “shine” for Jesus before others. Attach these stars to the ceiling of your home. Pray together that God may use you to draw others to know and worship Jesus as their King.



MEALTIME PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you light our path and make bright our days; receive our gifts of thanks and praise. Amen.



PRAYER

Lord Jesus, like the star that guided the wise men to you, guide us to worship you each and every day. Amen.



ACTION RESPONSE

A bright star guided the wise men to the home of Jesus. Bake star-shaped cookies to give away as gifts to children in your church or local community.



BLESSING

May God lead you to see and worship Jesus. May he fill you with great joy.