



St James

L U T H E R A N

W H Y A L L A

ABIDE LOVE SHINE

**LET'S
GROW
TOGETHER**

You don't have to do this alone.



2018

Contents

Page 3

Chairman's Report

Page 6

The (Real) Shed Men

Page 4

Women's Fellowship
Home Communion

Page 7

Kid's Church
Church Camp

Page 5

Garage Sales
and Trading Tables

Page 8

Pride In The Park

Page 9

Christmas Play



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Chairman's Report

The theme of this year's magazine is 'Lets Grow Together' and is intended to focus us on growing in a number of different areas.

Verse 20 of Chapter 18 in Matthew's gospel, records Jesus saying that "where two or three are gathered, then I am there also."

Isn't it a fantastic reassurance to have Jesus with us when we cooperate together; to have Jesus as part of our group when we meet, whether it be in worship, in service or simply over a cuppa. I know many of you feel his presence in such circumstances.

Whenever we meet as a church council, church group or committee we actively invite Jesus and pray for his presence and that of the Holy Spirit to help us. Nobody has to do anything on their own. More is achieved when we are a team; and what a team we can be with Jesus.

At St. James, we have many teams. There are teams who look after the church cleaning, church grounds, ushers, lay-readers, musicians, hall-set-ups, morning tea supplies, bulletin, kitchen, worship set-up and resources, finance, prayer, general maintenance and repairs and there are heaps more. Much of this is not obvious and goes unrewarded but thank you one and all. God sees and God knows.

During September we said farewell to Pastor Tim, Lauren, Eve and Matthew. This was an extremely sad time for us, as it was saying goodbye to family. There were times when we needed each other and we were there for each other. As a Pastor and Spiritual Leader, Pastor Tim has few equals. He has a precious gift in delivering a sermon which both educated and uplifted us. Lauren of course was an integral part of our family always offering support and encouragement when needed and their two little treasures, Matthew and the effervescent Eve. We wish them every blessing in their new location at Hervey Bay.

One of the highlights for me was the Zone Fellowship Day held during March. This is our second year in the Eyre Peninsular Zone and to host the day was a real privilege and provided an opportunity for us to engage with other congregations and provide some special Whyalla hospitality.

Another highlight was our Annual Christmas Play which resumed this year. My sincere thanks to Chris Jaensch and Con Theologou who helped write, produce and stage the play. It is an absolute pleasure to share that creativity with you both. This year each of our church groups presented a scene under the title of 'Show Me The Money' where the Bethlehem Inn looked to capitalise on making money from the census and managed to completely overlook the birth of their promised Saviour until too late. A big thank you to the cast members, the Band and all of the support staff who made this a night to remember (along with all of the other productions).

These are just a couple of examples of a great deal of teamwork evident amongst the Women's Fellowship, Support Group, Prayer Team, Book Club, Shed Men, Bulletin Editors, Property Committee members, Spiritual Team Members and Church Council which keeps things running smoothly.

For this reason I am very confident that with Jesus with us and the help of the Holy Spirit we can keep the ship afloat.

So many contribute in so many ways but what we really need is a spiritual leader and mentor to enable us to take that next step in our spiritual journey. I am referring to a Pastor of course. We pray that soon our prayers will be answered and a pastor will answer our call. In the meantime, we must be patient and trust in God.

Keith Sichler.



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Women's Fellowship

The year that was.

If you bring together women who desire to serve their Saviour using gifts they have been given, a desire to help others and to enjoy fellowship with our Christian sisters then you have our Women's Fellowship.

There are eighteen women on our books and meetings are well attended. Thanks to the generosity of some of our members winter meetings are held in the warmth of their homes. We had our Christmas breakup at Roopena which was appreciated and enjoyed by those present.

Our bible studies were ably led by Pastor Tim who used devotions from Lutheran Women. We sadly said goodbye to Pastor Tim.

At our AGM we changed our meetings back to the last Wednesday of the month.

We always nominate a number of projects and for 2018 they were church maintenance and a Whyalla Project which went to our local Women's Shelter. Some ladies were busy knitting squares for blankets. The money raised from that went to Whyalla Aged Care to be able to buy equipment for various activities that are

organised for their residents.

Some meetings were a Bible study, others had guest speakers who were all interesting and a few meetings were informal chats.

In November we hosted an Advent Service for all of the local Women's Fellowship's.

It was a busy year and despite the ages of some of our members we achieved a lot being mindful of the blessings that we received from our Heavenly Father that enabled us to do what we did.

Pauline Jones



Good times at the Christmas Break-up Meeting.

Home Communion

Visits to our members who are unable to attend worship services have been carried out faithfully on a monthly basis. The team consists of Jim Havelberg, Anne Schuppan, Des Theologou, Dianne Zimmermann and Judith Murphy. Visits have continued despite Pastor Tim leaving during September.

Presently, there are five members who receive Communion this way. It is a pleasure to visit these people and it brings a good feeling to share Holy Communion with them and talk about everyday things that fill their day. It is a commitment I am very happy to do as long as the Lord allows me.

Jim Havelberg

After many years, the volunteers have aged and finally worn out and after much deliberation, the Garage Sale finally met its demise. As a fundraising measure, the event was still worthwhile, but there was just too much physical work in setting up for those involved.



Above: The church hall filled with the many items of pre-loved treasures .



So its goodbye to the Garage Sale and goodbye to the Sausage Sizzle that kept everyone entertained and happy as they waited for the doors to open.

The fellowship and camaraderie will be missed of course, as will the opportunity to engage with the local community but we will find other ways and means of achieving this objective.

Left: BBQ Chef's Bob and Trevor at the ready.

Trading Tables



There is no doubt about it. Our ladies love to bake and the community loves to taste and buy. The Trading Tables we run periodically are now held on the verandah outside Little Woollies.

Much more than a fundraiser for Women's Fellowship projects, they provide for that special added ingredient - Love!

The ladies, donate all of their ingredients and time, adding that special ingredient to everything they do. Sometimes even the husbands help out by buying some of the goods themselves to take home!



The (Real) Shed Men

The time had come for the old shed by the C.E.C. to go.

It was in poor condition, full of white ants, wood rot, damaged sheeting and had a leaking roof, so the search was on for a second hand replacement.

Thanks to the generosity of Beryl Hoffmann, who was to move home, who allowed her shed to become available. Thank you Beryl. This meant work, because the shed had to be shifted ASAP. This was achieved by a group of energetic men who dismantled and shifted sections to the church yard in a single day with the help of Kym Ghad's trailer.

Our old shed was dismantled. (It did not take much - it almost fell down). And the rubbish was removed by Page Scrap Metal free of charge.

Work then commenced on repairs to the second-hand framework, the old footings etc. The new larger footings were marked out and dug, and the framework erected, but picking out the old sheeting to re-install became a problem. Again, out of the blue, brand new sheeting, ridge capping, bolts, screws, etc. simply appeared. Thank you Michael Simpfordorfer for your generous donation. This made things a lot easier, but it still needed manpower.

The sheeting was installed by a small group of capable personnel and when finished, boy did the shed stand out - brand new! Then the concrete floor was poured and finished off by Symon Concrete.

Then doors were installed and ridge capping put in place which nearly completed the job. The shed was re-wired by an old fella which enabled it to become operational.

We held a men's breakfast in the shed and dedicated it on completion. Thank you also to the ladies who supplied the morning teas.



Above: Peter, Jim, Bob, Brian and Rodney at the early stages



Above: The dedication of the shed at the Men's Breakfast.

Thanks to the labour force: If I have missed anyone (poor memory), please accept my sincere apologies.

Bob Freund (Coordinator), J. Havelberg, R. Waters, T. Zimmermann, C. Theologou, G. Carter, A. Jones, S. Jones, C. Barratt, A. Schwenke, B. Breton, K. Sichler, P. Schmidt, M. Simpfordorfer & Pastor Tim.

Morning Teas were supplied by A. Waters, C. Ronan, M. Barratt, S Freund & D. Zimmermann.

WHAT A SHED!

Jim Havelberg.

In 2018 we experienced a year of both joy and sadness.

It is so wonderful to see the effort that our dedicated parents and grand parents' put into getting their children to Kids Church.

In today's times more and more parents are finding it hard to bring their children to worship so as a leader it's great to see their commitment.

At times during the year we wondered where we were going to fit all of the children. What a joy! Too many children! Plans were starting to be made to divide the children into two groups, however we know what often happens to the best laid plans of men and mice.

And then the sadness, we lost our beautiful Eve and then our excitable Darius, thoughtful Julian and determined Louisa also left Whyalla. I know that all of these children of God will be a blessing to their new Kids Church and congregation. We pray that they will be blessed.

The confidence to pray out loud and in a meaningful way has been a real point of growth of our children.



Kid's Church Kids demonstrate their signing skills to the congregation who had a lot of fun trying to emulate them.

Thank you to Maralyn Barratt and to our other support people who help us out each week. If you feel the call to our Children's Ministry please let me know.

We pray that what we do at Kid's Church will make a difference in the children's lives and we thank God for the difference that they make in our lives.

Yours in Christ – Chris Jaensch

This years Trinity Haven weekend saw the usual suspects plus some first timers together with some who first attended as children, return with their children. There is certainly something about this place and the relaxed family atmosphere that keeps bringing people back.

People spent time walking the sand hills, canoeing, looking for crabs, reading the paper and playing cards and games.

If you haven't been - you should. It is a low-cost, weekend away and there is another opportunity in 2019.

Church Camp



Pride in the Park

Pride In The Park is one of those rare events that enables us to unashamedly fly the flag for Jesus, engage with young parents and have a lot of fun ourselves.

The kid's activities are a mix of craft and messy fun which keeps them entertained and gives mum and dad a chance to sit back and have a well deserved break.

Each year we order some 150 Happyland Showbags from Lutheran Media Ministry to distribute amongst these who visit. One of the standard ingredients is a blue balloon with a printed Christian message which we fill with helium and attach to each showbag. After a while, there are many blue balloons to be seen dotted around the park, each one taking a Christian message back home..

A lot of preparation however goes into making this day a success and one must acknowledge the efforts of Chris Jaensch who prepares the craft materials, gloop, bubbles and what ever that other stuff is that the kids enjoy playing in so much. There is also the cast of helpers who start early to set up and then take part in the activities and ensure there is always a showbag and flying blue balloon at the ready as the children leave. Thanks to Leanne Simpfordorfer who makes sure the big tent is available and to Michael who helps us erect it and pack it away. We get support during the day from Di & Trevor Zimmermann, Maralyn Barratt and Marilyn Sichler, Jeff Taylor and Angela Kroschel, not to mention Con Theologou who picked up the showbags from Lutheran Media Ministry. God bless you all.



Christmas Play

If you think miracles don't happen any more, you should take part in our annual Christmas Play! Despite a lot of creative effort writing the script and planning the staging together with the odd rehearsal, it's always a miracle that it happens at all.

However, everyone tries their hardest, puts in a lot of effort and of course everyone wants it to succeed. There are always three objectives when we set out on this annual journey. Firstly it must be fun. Secondly there must be humour and thirdly and most importantly it must always point to the importance of birth of our Saviour Jesus as the reason for our joy.

This year we looked at the Christmas Story from the point of view of the Bethlehem Star Inn who hoped to cash in on the census as the descendants of King David arrived, only to lose all of their profits to the Romans and completely overlook the birth of Jesus until it had passed.



A shepherd tends her flock.



Above: The Wise Men visit Herod.

Many thanks to all of our church groups for participating as they took on their scene, rehearsed it and acted it out. The Church Council took the part of the management of the Bethlehem Star. The Women's Fellowship were the Bethlehem Action Group (B.A.G.'s), Book Club studied Isaiah Chapter 9 and the Kid's Church filled in as angels, shepherds, sheep, narrators, Roman guards, a wise man or two and of course Mary & Joseph. Thanks to all our helpers, roadies, sound techies and parents for supporting this. We rocked along with the Band who adapted some old 60's tunes to suit and a good time was had by all. A big effort from Con, Chris and Keith who wrote the script, did the casting and screenplay. Con & Chris directed and produced whilst Keith arranged the music. We also had special help from David Jaensch who did the filming and editing for the Angels scene. As we said at the start, "It's a miracle!"



Shepherds Mel & Darren with their flock.



Our Band. Keith, Peg, Steve and Bec at the back with Ali and Nette up front.



St James Lutheran Church

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