

Welcoming
Growing
Sharing



LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF AUSTRALIA
where love comes to life

Sunday 28 April 2024

Source of sustenance

Scripture

[John 15:1-8](#)

Reflection

Jesus used many examples and stories (parables) to help us understand how he wants to live in relationship with us (shepherd/sheep; farmer/produce; vine/branches). All of these rely on a very close connection between us and him. Any of us who have done some gardening will realise how quickly a branch withers and dies when not connected to a source of sustenance. We can maintain life in the cut branch for some time if we place the cut end in water, such as placing cut flowers in a vase. Or we can place a cutting in a special soil mixture to get it to send out its own roots and commence a new plant of its own. And there is the option to graft the cutting into a living plant so that it becomes part of that living plant. But without that source of sustenance, the cut branch will very quickly die. Jesus uses this example to teach us an important truth about how we remain alive as children of his Father and live out his purpose for us. Since Jesus is the source of all the sustenance we need to stay alive and be productive, we need to maintain that intimate connection with him. We generally know what this means: regular systematic Bible reading, times of intimate prayer, spending time with other Christians. These all help us to focus on God's will for us, help us find answers to the challenges we face and give us encouragement when we lose energy and focus. But we also get to know God in a very personal way, feel safe and loved in his presence, and excited enough about our relationship with him that others observe his impact on our lives.

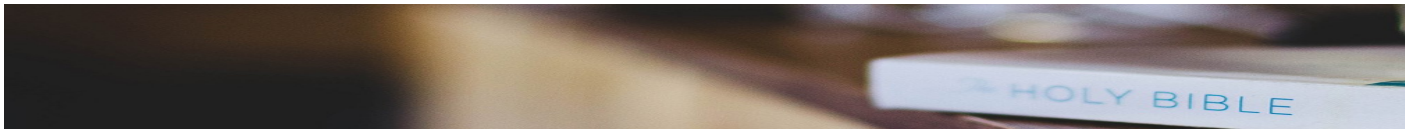
When we are feeling ineffectual in our Christian witness or we feel discouraged about the lack of impact our church community is having on the wider community, maybe all we need to do is go back to the source of our sustenance, the Jesus vine, and review how much we are utilising the resources he makes available to us. Are we immersing ourselves in his word? Are we spending intimate time with Jesus and his Father in talking about our life and the issues we face? Are we finding encouragement in worshipping God in the company of other Christians? Are we focusing on all that God has done for us and is continuing to do for us?

Being connected to the Jesus vine and receiving all the sustenance it provides will result in us producing fruit – fruit that others will see as being sourced from God himself, stimulating their curiosity as to the source of this fruit.

by Charles Bertelsmeier

Prayer

Heavenly Father, many of us have been trying to produce fruit for you, relying on our own efforts and ideas, and producing very little. Thank you for reminding us that we can only produce fruit for you if we are connected to the Jesus vine. We surrender our lives to you, for you to achieve your will and purpose in us. Amen



WE PRAY
Sunday 28 April 2024

Risen Lord Jesus, we pray:

- † You laid down your life so that we might live. We remember those who died serving in the armed forces of our nation. Preserve our nation in peace, and in times of war give your people strength and courage to defend the cause of justice even if it may cost us our lives. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. *(LCA Bishop Paul Smith)*
- † We give thanks with St John's LC Unley that Pastor John Strelan has accepted their call. We remember St Stephen's community as they prepare to farewell Pastor John and his family and prepare to call another pastor.
- † We look forward to celebrating who you are and praying as the Holy Spirit leads with the LCA International Mission [Pray through May](#) *You make known to me the path of life; in your presence, there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11*
- † At this time we especially pray for world leaders who have difficult decisions to make regarding national defence and the deployment of service men and women. We pray for peace in countries afflicted by war—both in places well-known and places often forgotten.

Guide us, Lord, as we pray for:

- † The leaders you have appointed over the LCA/NZ, churchwide (LCA Bishop, Paul Smith, Assistant Bishop, Neville Otto, and the College of Bishops), and locally (District Bishop, Andrew Brook and Assistant Bishop for Mission, Stephen Schultz).
- † All pastors and parishes, principals and schools of the LCA in our South West Metro zone.
- † The Pastoral Care Workers of the South Western School Ministry Team. We pray for Coralie Sebestyen who supports students and families as well as the staff at SA Hospital Schools FMC Campus.
- † God filled relationships between Immanuel Church, College and Primary School. Be present with Paul Wright, Interim Principal IC, Bec Clements, Principal IPS and Pastor Simon Cooper, College Chaplain, motivating them by your love so that they may extend it to others.
- † The chaplains you have called to serve the defence forces, hospitals, Police, prisons, and universities in the SA/NT District and their coordinator, Heidi Smith.
- † The leaders you have appointed over our country: Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, State Premier, Peter Malinauskas and all our local government leaders.
- † Healing, strength and comfort as we pray alongside Avis R, Barb K, Elle E, Keith E, Max J, Nannette H, John W, Tim S, their families and carers. You have the power to move in our lives and through our circumstances.

THANK YOU Pastor David Christian for blessing us through Worship with Holy Communion on Sunday 28 April.

We are also continually thankful to all our Lay Leaders and Guest Pastors for their time and talents enabling us to worship weekly. To enable us to serve well together at ILC, the Church Council has developed brief job descriptions for each of our key areas of formal service in the congregation [ILC Volunteer Handbook](#) Everyone is encouraged to be involved and play a role in the life of our community.



HIGH AFTERNOON TEA & TRADING TABLE—Saturday 4 May 2:00

The Corner Uniting Church cnr Diagonal & Oaklands Roads, Warradale



Fundraiser for our School Chaplains to support families that need help in difficult times. To reserve tickets or more information please see Margie Menz asap. Please bring donations of personal products for women, men, children and babies from the list below:

Deodorant | Soap | Body wash | Body lotion | Shampoo | Conditioner | Tooth paste | Tooth brush | Disposable razors | No other items please

MOTHER'S DAY FAMILY SERVICE & MORNING TEA—Sunday 12 May

Guest pastor, Immanuel College Chaplain, Pastor Simon Cooper.

If you can provide scones, jam or cream please let Virginia know. It would also be greatly appreciated if some of the gentlemen could help serve tea and coffee that day. Margie can give you a quick lesson this Sunday as we have our coffee after Worship Service.

CHATLINE

Please email all your valued contributions for the next edition no later than **Sunday 12 May**. Chatline, the quarterly magazine of ILC, is an important part of communication and fellowship for our members. The Chatline Committee would very much welcome new volunteers.

CHANGES TO LUTHERAN LAYPEOPLE'S LEAGUE (LLL) BANKING SYSTEM

All customers have been sent information on the next steps in this transition and are asked to complete the Customer Nomination form by June.

Forms will be available at church on Sundays from Heather or Pia.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD...

...needs metal tape measures for making gifts for the shoebox collections.

Please leave donations of unused metal tapes in the Hartmann's pigeon hole in the ILC Room asap.

ST PAUL'S COMMUNITY CARE CENTRE—Mondays and Wednesdays 11:00–2:00

St Paul's LC, 48 Brighton Road, Glenelg

Emergency food relief, basic toiletries and volunteers needed. Donation options are also available at <https://www.lutherancare.org.au/make-a-donation/>



WAY FORWARD UPDATE

In October 2024 General Synod delegates will be voting on a proposal to allow for the LCA NZ to function as 'one church with two different practices of ordination.' Sign up to Way Forward eNews for updates www.lca.org.au/wf-signmeup

PRAY THROUGH MAY with LCA International Mission

You are invited to join in God's mission by praying for (and with) our partners in mission, month by month <https://lcamission.org.au/join-gods-mission/> Email erin.kerber@lca.org.au to register.

ILC WORSHIP ROSTER JUNE–AUGUST 2024

Please note there will be **no roster reminders** emailed during May.

The June to August roster is now available. Please make any changes promptly and inform the Lay Leader for the day you've swapped with another volunteer.

The office will reopen on Wednesday 1 June. Thank you for your understanding.



PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES—All welcome.

ILC Prayer Chapel—Thursdays & Sundays 9:00

During vacancy, when you have prayer requests, please contact Virginia mvklemm@hotmail.com

FIND US ON FACEBOOK ... like, comment, share us on Facebook to help spread the Word!

www.facebook.com/ilcnovgardens

Ann Goodwin - ILC Office Administrator
 Email: agoodwin@immanuel.sa.edu.au
 Phone: 8375 1755

Chris Schutz—Nurture Team Leader
christine.r.schutz@gmail.com
 Phone: 0439 899 590

COMING UP

Sunday 28 April	9:00am 9:30am	Prayer in the Prayer Chapel- <i>all welcome</i> Worship with Holy Communion-Pastor David Christian-5th Sunday of Easter
Thursday 2 May		Prayer in the Prayer Chapel
Sunday 5 May	9:30am	Worship without Holy Communion-6th Sunday of Easter

REGULAR ELECTRONIC GIVING (REG)

Fill and lodge a Direct Debit Request Form (available from the office), giving the LLL authority to transfer a specific amount from your bank account to ILC’s REG account.

Bank Account Details

Account Name: NOVAR GARDENS IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH REG A/C
BSB: 704942
Account No: 100100643 For donations from an account other than the LLL



LCA Child Safety Standards for Congregations

What does ILC do to keep our children and vulnerable people safe?

LCA Child Safety Standards for Congregations:

<https://www.lca.org.au/ministry-support/child-safety-standards/>

LCA Policies and Procedures:

<https://www.lca.org.au/services-resources-training/policies/>

THIS WEEK’S BIBLE READINGS

Acts 8:26-40	Philip and the Ethiopian
Psalms	Psalms 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21	Love one another, as God loved us
John 15:1-8	The true vine and the fruitful branches