

Love is the key to freedom

Let's just admit that I am right – it will save a lot of time! What turns a discussion into an argument or even a fight? When both sides are convinced they are right. As Christians we are well aware of the consequences when people claim to have **“the Truth”** and accuse others of heresy. We have denominations. We have ‘denominations within denominations. And often those splits were not over the central teachings of the gospel, but over what the apostle Paul called “debatable matters”, such as playing cards, dancing, gambling, food, drink, traditions, pews, liturgical purity, music, etc. etc. In fact, we are capable of arguing over just about anything.

And those who reject Christianity always point to this fact and accuse us of double standards – if we can't love one another, how can we be sincere when we say that we love them because God loves them? In fact, the media in particular (apart from The Leader here in the Valley) love to portray Christians as intolerant, bigoted, racist, and totally out of

touch with reality.

But we know that is not true!! Of course we have our arguments, just like any other human beings. We can disagree on heaps of things - and we do. We all have our ‘pet’ likes and dislikes, and that shows at times in heated discussion. But the majority of Christians live together in communities in ways that no other group or organisation can do. Christians today can work together with all other Christian denominations. And that includes congregations who have a lot of different traditions and ways of doing things (and who even disagree on exactly how to understand some important doctrines), as long as the central teachings of the gospel are held according to Scripture.

“Tolerance” does not mean that we accept anything and everything – it means that we have the spiritual maturity to discern between what can be accepted in love, and what must be rejected in love.

And this is what Paul is talking about in our text today in Romans 14. You need to read the whole



chapter to get the full meaning of what the apostle is saying. And his words in **Ephesians 4:2-3** set the scene for Romans 14 -

Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

Ah, now his words in Romans 14:10 make sense ***So why do you condemn another believer? Why do you look down on another believer? Remember, we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.***

Love, genuine godly love, really is the key to freedom - for us, and for others!

Pastor Robert Voigt

Worship @ Home Order (website or dvd)

stpetri.org.au (Service order is in online in bulletin available on website)

HOME OR GROUP WORSHIP

Sunday 13th September, 2020

14A Pentecost

Pastor Robert Voigt

WELCOME

WE SHARE AN OPENING WORD

If we live, we live to the Lord,

and if we die, we die to the Lord;

so then, whether we live or whether we die,

we are the Lord's.

(Romans 14:7,8)

WE SING Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy one

Give thanks because He's given

Jesus Christ His Son

And now let the weak say I am strong

Let the poor say I am rich

Because of what the Lord has done for us

And now let the weak say I am strong

Let the poor say I am rich

Because of what the Lord has done for us

Give thanks

Henry Smith

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WE PRAY

WE PRAY, 'LORD, HAVE MERCY'

Lord Jesus, conqueror of death and giver of new life:

have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus, the giver of the free gift of acceptance and love:

have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus, welcoming of us and through us:

have mercy on us.

WE PRAY A PRAY FOR THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

GOD SPEAKS HIS WORD: WE LISTEN

Romans 14:1-12

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: ***Matthew 18:21-35***

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, Jesus.

WE CONFESS OUR SHARED FAITH (Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.**

The third day he rose again from the dead.

**He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,
from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

WE LISTEN TO THE MESSAGE

WE PRAY FOR THE CHURCH, THE WORLD AND EACH OTHER

WE PRAY THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen

WE SEEK GOD'S GRACE FOR OUR DAY

Thank you, Father in heaven,
for protecting me through the night from harm and danger.
Protect me today from all sin and evil,
so that everything I do will please you.
I put myself and all I have into your hands.
Send your holy angel to be with me,
so that the evil one will have no power over me. Amen.

WE SING (organ) O That Will be Glory (The Glory Song)

When all my labours and trials are o'er
And I am safe on that beautiful shore
Just to be near the dear Lord I adore
Will through the ages be glory for me

O that will be glory for me
Glory for me glory for me
When by His grace I shall look on His face
That will be glory be glory for me

When by the gift of His infinite grace
I am accorded in heaven a place
Just to be there and to look on His face
Will through the ages be glory for me

Friends will be there I have loved long ago
Joy like a river around me will flow
Yet just a smile from my Saviour I know
Will through the ages be glory for me



NEW WORSHIP OPTIONS

BEGINNING AUGUST 2

SUNDAY MORNINGS	9.30 AM	Worship (service of the word)
WEDNESDAY MORNING	10.00 AM	Holy Communion Service Fortnightly 1st & Third Wednesday In the Church
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS	7.00 PM	Worship Service - Will be filmed Welcome to attend as congregation.
WORSHIP AT HOME		Recorded worship service available across the weekend. Holy Communion for small groups available upon request.

For worship in the St Petri building on Sundays and Wednesdays you need to tell us that you are coming!

Let us know if you would like to be on the “every Sunday” or “every fortnight Wednesday HC” list.

Register at www.stpetri.org.au
Or ring the office 8562 1011

IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT RETURNING TO WORSHIP, PLEASE DO NOT FEEL OBLIGED, ONLY DO WHAT IS OK BY YOU, BUT WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU!

Lutheran Community Care need our help

Emergency relief is a programme that supports a large number of local families and individuals with food, bedding and toiletries.

They really appreciate our help with replenishing their pantry.

Items like:

🌀 Tinned Ham 🌀 Tinned Mixed Vegetables 🌀 Hand Sanitizer

All donations can be dropped off at Lutheran Community Care, 26 Second Street. Please ring the doorbell and place donated items on the door step, someone from the office will collect it from there. Thank you 😊





Choosing the road to life

Read this week's story at www.lca.org.au/sow

Peter McGuinness

It's amazing how intuitive young kids are about their parents' feelings. Early in 2015 my six-year-old daughter, Kitty, climbed into my lap when I was sitting alone silently. 'Don't worry Daddy, we'll all see each other again in heaven.'

I was missing my son, Jordan.

On 8 December 2012, my wife Melissa and I were reflecting on how pleased we were with the young man Jordan had become.

The door buzzer interrupted us. It was the police. At 18, Jordan was dead.

He'd chosen to drive from Brisbane to the Gold Coast after a Christmas party. He was speeding and under the influence of alcohol and cannabis when he collided with a stationary vehicle. Four people in that car were killed, as was Jordan.

Life was a blur as we strove to be functional for Kitty and our elder daughter Montana.

In 2015, Kitty started school at St Andrews Lutheran College Tallebudgera. We sent her there because of its reputation – not its Christian values. The importance of those values would change the day Kitty reassured me with her pure faith.

She invited me to church. So, we walked into worship and into the loving arms of the Father who had never given up on us.

We've found a sense of peace and mission doing whatever we can to spare other families what Jordan's victims' families and our own have endured.

Since 2017, Melissa has shared with young people messages about love, family and choice in driving behaviours. In 2019, we founded YOU CHOOSE Youth Road Safety (www.youchooseyrs.org.au).

We've been blessed with opportunities to connect with young drivers. One life saved will be enough.

Tricia Townsend—

Meet the Local Author

Last Saturday 9 people met up with local author Tricia Townsend in The Cottage over two sessions.

She talked about, and read from, her recently published book 'My Rhyme My Reason'.

This book is a collection of poems she wrote which helped in her journey of coping and healing with the loss of her parents.

Participants had a good time of sharing, laughter and connection, both with each-other and with the author.

We look forward to hosting the next opportunity where we can meet another Christian author, artist or designer in The Cottage.



The Cottage ... working towards Christmas 2020!

We are currently investigating what it will take to establish a simple online shop-front for The Cottage.

The aim of this on-line shop will be to promote and sell a range of products that are available exclusively through The Cottage.

We have started to gather these unique items.

We are open to consider other potentially suitable lines.

The products must be **made in Australia**, created by **Christian artists** and relatively easy to manage including meeting an unknown demand.

This manageability also includes being **relatively easy to post / freight** around Australia.

At the end of the day, all product is available 'while stocks last' - so we do have flexibility.

You may know of someone who is **tinkering** away at an item in their shed ...

I would also love to meet up with a Christian **cartoonist!**

Do you know anyone who loves to create and/or solve **funny crosswords?**

If you can help with any of these possibilities or contacts, please let me know, or encourage your friends to come and see me as soon as possible

With thanks, Chris
The Cottage
Bookshop Manager

Lutheran Community Care

We are asking for donations of disposable and cloth face mask's – 3 layered to provide to our clients. You may like to buy, make or donate money for us to buy. If this is something you would like to do can you please get in touch with us at Barossa Lutheran Community Care on 8562 2688.

Get free help with your tax return from a Tax Help volunteer.

Are your tax affairs simple?

Do you earn around \$60,000 or less?

To find out more, contact Barossa Lutheran Community Care 8562 2688 for an appointment.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE - Operation Christmas Child

The COVID-19 global pandemic has disrupted everyday life in some way for nearly everyone on the planet. Yet, Samaritan's Purse continues to share the eternal hope of the gospel and to serve in Jesus' Name.

Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, is a practical way for Australians to bless children in need around the world by filling shoebox gifts with toys, hygiene items, school supplies and other fun gifts. Through a volunteer network across the country, the project plans to collect shoebox gifts during National Collection Month, October 2020.



Looking forward to the coming season, the ministry is monitoring local, state, and national guidelines and making adjustments to help protect the health of everyone involved in collecting and processing shoebox gifts.

In 2019, over 273,000 shoeboxes were packed in Australia and New Zealand, and over 10 million packed worldwide. The shoebox gifts were delivered to over 100 countries across the world, including our 2019 focus countries of the Philippines, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Cambodia.

To start packing, individuals and families can use a shoebox from home or pick up pre-printed Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes at St Petri Lutheran Church, Nuriootpa or the Christian Community Hub, Tanunda. For any inquiries, please call 1300 884 468 or contact the OCC local representative Karina Schaefer 0417816272. This year, Operation Christmas Child is also launching an exciting opportunity to pack a shoebox online. Visit OperationChristmasChild.org.au to find out more about this convenient and personal way to give shoebox gifts directly from home.

Pack a shoebox today and be a part of this life-changing project.

RECHARGE



YOUTH SERVICE | SEPTEMBER 20

Come along for a night of energetic praise with our Youth Band & Speaker Pastor Damien Martin.

Recharge is for Youth, Families & all Young at Heart.

6:00pm - Hamburgers
6:30pm - Youth Service
7:30pm - Hot Chocolates & Marshmallows
small cost for food

Location-

Strait Gate Lutheran Church,
412 Light Pass Road,
Light Pass.

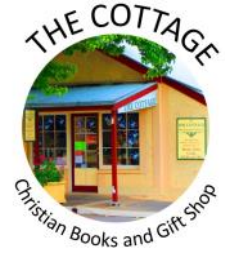


Recharge is held on the 3rd Sunday of Every Month

Want more info? Contact Kayla: 0421 978 925 or find us on Facebook

The Cottage Christian Books and Gift Shop

47 Murray Street
Nuriootpa SA 5355
T+ 08 8562 4631
Email: cottage@stpetri.org.au



Have you considered volunteering in The Cottage?

Now is a great time to consider being a part of The Cottage team as we gear up for Christmas trade 2020!

We are planning a number of interesting promotional activities that will help St Petri engage with our local and wider community.

So, if you've **had a break** and would like to come back on the roster, or would like to explore this as a **new opportunity**, please give me a call.

We can happily accommodate another 4 to 6 volunteers through to Christmas 2020.

These opportunities will ideally suit those (male OR female) who are happy to meet new people, help build relationships, have a chat, strike up a conversation if appropriate

You will be trained and supported in the ministry of the Cottage.

Give me a call, or pop in for a chat.
Chris,
Bookshop Manager

Trading Hours
Monday - Friday
9.30 am - 5.00 pm
Saturday
9.30 am - 12 noon

What's on at St Petri

Sunday 13th September

9.30 am Worship in St Petri Church, Service of the Word *

Tuesday 15th September Coffee & Friendship Group (Jenny Wood's Group)

9.30 am Venue: East Room (Meeting Room complex, closest to road)
Study: continue 10 Commandments - Pastor Vernon Kleinig

10.00 am Coffee Talk - St Petri Hall

5.30 pm Child Youth Family Ministry Meeting in Sharon's office.

Wednesday 16th September

10.00 am Mid Week Holy Communion - St Petri Church

7.00 pm Filming of St Petri Worship Small resource
Worship open to all to attend.*

Thursday 17th September Confirmation Class - Meeting Room

6.45 pm Theme: "Faith" How can I have faith?

Sunday 20th September

9.30 am Worship in St Petri Church, Service of the Word *

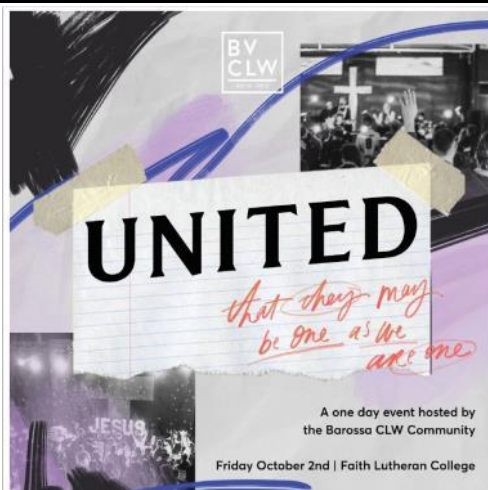
* You will need to register to attend these worship services. Just go on to our website stpetri.org.au and click on the round "Register to Worship" button on the front page. Thank you for your understanding and help with this.

UNITED X BVCLW

A one day event by the Barossa Christian Life Week team for highschool aged young people. Featuring all of the things you know and love about camp packed into one COVID safe day. Worship. Games. Hangs.

UNITED will be held on the 2nd of October at the Faith Lutheran College Middle & Senior School campus, running from 9am—9pm.

Registrations are now open online!
<https://www.blueprintministries.org.au/camps/all-registrations/>



We Pray

- **We thank you Heavenly Father** that you have placed us in relationships with each other as the body of Christ. Help us in these relationships to forgive as we wish to be forgiven and to accept and reject in love.
- **We ask for your spirit to lift our spirits** with your promises through Jesus so that we live in trust, confidence and assurance that Jesus has won the victory.
- **We pray for all those who grieve the loss of loved ones.** We bring before you family and friends of Marnie Renner and Verdun Elix. Comfort them in their loss.

I tell you for certain that everyone who has faith in me has eternal life. John 6:47

- **We thank you God for our Cottage Community.** Bless Chris as he works to keep things humming along and give all of the volunteer staff joy to share your love and hope with our Community as they serve.
- **We pray for God's healing and peace for all those of our church family who are ill, facing medical treatment or recovering from surgery** - and those who care for them: Les Harnath (Lyel MacEwen), Roma Bray, Hedy Stanley, Ruth Rathjen, Margaret Kleinig, Barb Doecke, Rosemary Angel and Helen Thiele.
- **We pray for others of our St Petri family and friends by name:** Rob & Lyn Albrecht, Tony & Josie Gerlach, Zac, Jessica and Ezekiel Osborne, Kym, Carolyn, Fallon & Beth Roocke.

Please email any prayer points or messages of what God is up to in your life. Send them to admin@stpetri.org.au. Or drop a note in the letterbox at the office.

Barbara McLean is now well enough to be out of respite and has moved to be closer to family. Her new address is: Unit 50/4 Britha Avenue, EVANSTON 5116

Contact Us ...

Office Rosie Edwards
admin@stpetri.org.au
21 Second Street, Nuriootpa

Hours Tue-Fri 9AM - 5pm
Closed for lunch 12.30pm-1.30pm

Phone 08 8562 1011

Pastor Adrian Kitson	pastor@stpetri.org.au
Greg Schubert	chair@stpetri.org.au
Peter Lange	businessmanager@stpetri.org.au
Rannane Zanker	familycentre@stpetri.org.au
Sharon Green	childyouthfamily@stpetri.org.au
The Cottage	cottage@stpetri.org.au
	St Petri Lutheran Church
Website	stpetri.org.au

In Touch

CHILDREN'S CHATS: As I write this article, I am getting ready for this afternoon's recording of the weekly 'Children's Chat' for all. I say 'for all' because I think all age groups enjoy watching a children's talk. I have enjoyed putting the chats together over the last 5-6 months. (and thanks to Brian M for many hours of videoing!) At this stage we are keen to continue bringing Children's chats to our community. I've had Messy Church mums share that they watch the children's chats with their kids as often as they can. Quite often when I am in the Co-op mall, various local people tell me they are watching the children's talks - either as individuals, or with their families. I hope that the gospel message found in these talks will touch hearts for Jesus, knowing that he is the author and perfecter of our faith. I thank Libby Krahlung for taking on the role of sharing messages too, and for a couple of our St Petri 'fellas' who have shared their story through interviews. I would like to keep interviewing one person every 6-8 weeks, so we can look forward to that. Wonderful to hear how God is working in each of our lives – we all have a 'God Story', that is for sure.

FIRST COMMUNION DAY: It was a beautiful afternoon shared together on Sunday August 16, when eight young people had their First Communion in St Petri Church. Families, Godparents and special friends were invited too. Pastor Adrian and I agreed that it was a very special afternoon, as our focus was on eight young people partaking in the body and blood of Jesus for the first time. So very precious. We had seventy people attend that day. One lady who was a 'special friend' to one of our First Communion children, shared that she was so blessed to partake in Communion for the first time since COVID, and it was her baptismal birthday too! She was full of joy and said that the First Communion celebration was 'just-amazing' to be a part of.

CONFIRMATION: Three weeks ago, we began Confirmation and have nine young people in our group. We will meet from early term three, to early term four this year and after Christmas/Jan holidays we will meet for term one, with Confirmation Day close to Easter. The last three weeks have been a great experience, as we embark on the 'Youth Alpha' journey. It is such an excellent resource for exploring our faith and asking the deeper questions and talking them through together. So far, we've done the topics, Life: Is this it? – Jesus: Who is He? – Cross: Why did Jesus die? The conversation has been brilliant and our group seems to be gelling well!

MESSY CHURCH: Messy Church at Home (on-line) is on Friday Oct 2nd. Our theme is 'A Super Wonderful Story' and we will be sharing some of 'our story' and 'God's story'. This is based on the bible verse John 3:16-17. God loved the world SO much, that he gave his son Jesus, to die for our sin, so that we can live forever with him. He came not to condemn people, but to save! Wow, a powerful theme. Hope you can join us on-line from Oct 2nd onwards. You can watch it anytime on our St Petri Website. Go to 'Ministries' tab, then 'Youth and Family'. We are still waiting for the green light to gather as Messy Church face-to-face, but for this year we will continue our on-line presence, and for our Christmas Messy Church will put together 'Messy Christmas Bags'. It will be great to get our team involved in this and I know that the Easter Bags were such a blessing. It's so important for us to keep sharing the love and hope of Jesus.

Sharon Green – childyouthfamily@stpetri.org.au