

This Sunday's message is by Dr Noel Due

Authority: we hate it, but we need it.

We love it if we think it's on our side, but
rankle under it if not. We ridicule
'them' (politicians, police, civic and religious
leaders, the boss) if we disagree with their
policies, actions or ideas, but we still have to
live under their authority somehow.



Often that's done with grumbling; occasionally it's done with violence.

Our fantasy world might be an authority-free zone, but in reality we're under
multiple layers of authority every day. Even the simple experience of coming to
church is a multi-tiered authority exercise: road rules on the way; ushers at the
door; a COVID marshal; appointed governance council and ministry team at the
church; various health and safety directives around the property; a building code
for the structure itself; and so on.

Questions of authority hung in the air around Jesus continually.

On the one hand his authority was real: he could cast out demons, heal diseases
and preach with power, "as one having authority". But on the other hand he had
none of the normal societal validations. He was born on the wrong side of the
tracks. He wasn't a political player. He didn't come from landed aristocracy. He
wasn't formally educated. He had sprung up, seemingly out of nowhere, and no
one quite knew what to make of him. He puzzled his opponents, perplexed his
disciples and pinned his authority to a completely different set of principles.

Matthew's gospel ends with Jesus declaring "all authority in heaven and on earth
has been given to me" (Matt. 28:18). In the long journey from Matthew 1 to
Matthew 28 Jesus' authority has been either demonstrated or denied at pivotal
points in the narrative, but by the end of the gospel he has shown he has authority
over *all* things, including death itself.

The question his opponents raised was the *legitimacy* of his authority. And that
was especially important now, because Jesus had effectively laid claim to the
Temple and occupied it! It was an insoluble dilemma.

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That's the point at which today's gospel reading kicks in. At last the question is in the open: where does Jesus' authority come from? To believe that it was from God would re-calibrate *everything*. There were too many vested interests for that! So, no matter what, he had to be opposed.

But Jesus pressed on. Both John and Jesus' authority had the same sign: "For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him." (Matt. 21:32 ESV)

What was the evidence that John's authority was from God? Changed lives.

Through John, God brought people repentance and forgiveness.

That's exactly what was happening in Jesus' ministry, except on a grander scale.

They (the people changed by grace) were the obedient children of the Father, not the authorised and validated religious leaders.

Actions really do speak louder than words. They (the formal authorities) may have cast doubt on his birth, family of origin, or credentials, but their world was marked by endless theological disputes and formal religion. Jesus' world was marked by changed lives. And so it is today. The authority of Jesus is made plain through lives changed by grace. All the rest is peripheral.

Dr Noel Due



SUNDAY MORNINGS	9.30 AM	Worship (service of the word)
WEDNESDAY MORNING	10.00 AM	Holy Communion Service 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.

At the Wednesday evening worship starting 14th October we will be offering Holy Communion at the end of the filming service. This will be every 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month.

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!

Worship @ Home Order (website or dvd)

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

HOME OR GROUP WORSHIP

Sunday 27th September, 2020 16 Pentecost

Pastor Noel Due & Pastor Adrian Kitson

WELCOME

WE SHARE AN OPENING WORD (from "Miriam's song", Exodus 15)

My people, hear my teaching;
listen to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth with a parable;
I will utter hidden things, things from of old -
**things we have heard and known,
things our ancestors have told us.**
We will not hide them from their descendants;
we will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD,
his power, and the wonders he has done.
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
Amen.

WE SING (Band) Desert Song

This is my prayer in the desert
When all that's within me feels dry
This is my prayer in my hunger and need
My God is the God who provides

This is my prayer in the fire
In weakness or trial or pain
There is a faith proved of more worth than gold
So refine me Lord through the flame

*I will bring praise
I will bring praise
No weapon formed against me shall remain
I will rejoice
I will declare
God is my victory and He is here*

This is my prayer in the battle
When triumph is still on its way
I am a conqueror and co-heir with Christ
So firm on His promise I'll stand

*I will bring praise
I will bring praise
No weapon formed against me shall remain
I will rejoice
I will declare
God is my victory and He is here*

All of my life in ev'ry season
You are still God
I have a reason to sing
I have a reason to worship

This is my prayer in the harvest
When favour and providence flow
I know I'm filled to be emptied again
The seed I've received I will sow

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WE CONFESS OUR SIN: GOD FORGIVES

**Lord, we confess to you,
before the whole company of heaven,
and to each other,
that we have sinned against you and each other
in thought, word and deed.
Have mercy on us, for Jesus' sake,
forgive us all our sins,
and bring us back to life. Amen.**

People of God, the peace of Christ be with you
And also with you.

WE PRAY A PRAYER FOR THIS DAY:

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

GOD SPEAKS: WE LISTEN:

Philippians 2:1-13
The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Matthew 21:23-32 THE GOSPEL
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, Jesus.

WE LISTEN TO THE MESSAGE

WE PRAY FOR THE CHURCH, THE WORLD AND EACH OTHER

WE SING You Servants of God LHS454

**You servants of God,
your master proclaim,
and publish abroad
his wonderful name;
the name all-victorious
of Jesus extol;
his kingdom is glorious,
and rules over all.**

**Our God rules on high,
almighty to save;
and still He is nigh,
his presence we have;
the great congregation
his triumph shall sing,
ascribing salvation
to Jesus our King.**

**Salvation to God,
who sits on the throne!
let all cry aloud,
and honour the Son:
the praises of Jesus
the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces,
and worship the Lamb.**



Candles light a fire for ministry

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

By Helen Beringen

It was a baptism of fire that sparked Elisabeth Clarke's unique ministry almost a decade ago.

Well, it was actually a box of about 50 cardboard candles falling from a box that caused her (pre-) light bulb moment.

Then it hit her – the box of candles. The decorations had fallen from a cupboard in her small church office. Thankfully, no damage was done. But it got her thinking. The decorations appeared just in time for Pentecost Sunday.

'I thought "Holy smoke, I might just use these candles somehow"', she says. They went up around the church foyer, becoming her first display. So began a ministry that has created inviting and interesting spaces in foyers – areas which Elisabeth says are often relegated to being busy, cluttered storage spaces.

Her displays have ranged from seasonal wall-mounted decorations and bright posters, to inviting displays of tracts for people to take. In her current congregation of Immanuel, North Adelaide, in South Australia, Elisabeth has made a large wooden cross the centrepiece of her displays. 'I made Christ the centre of everything I did', she says.

The concept of presenting a peaceful entrance space is a way of blessing everyone who walks through the church doors', Elisabeth says. Her prayer is that foyers will be used to share welcoming messages about the church and its seasons.

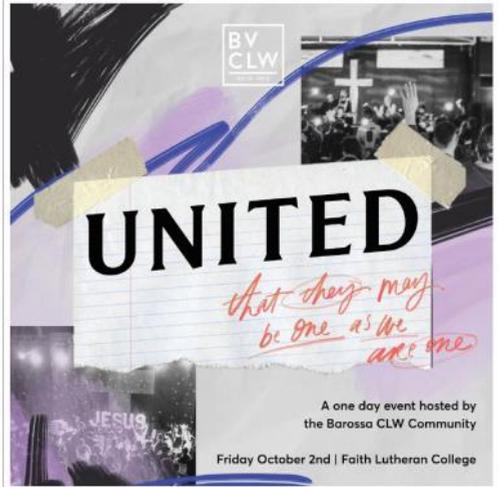
And now, as some congregations slowly reopen their doors, the challenge will be how to ensure church entries become inviting, peaceful spaces again. 'We are inviting people into a place of peace', she says. 'It comes back to God being in the heart of this.'

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/>



LISTENING

and responding to God's Voice

16-18 OCTOBER 2020

AN ADVENTUROUS DISCIPLESHIP CONFERENCE
HOSTED BY BETHANY TABOR LUTHERAN PARISH
77 MURRAY STREET, TANUNDA
SA 5352

PRESENTED BY MICHAEL DUTSCHKE
PASTOR AND DISCIPLER

TICKETS - \$40
(INCLUDES LUNCH AND MORNING TEA)
ONLY 50 TICKETS AVAILABLE
UNFORTUNATELY NO CHILD-MINDING IS
AVAILABLE AT THE CONFERENCE

FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER
OPEN NIGHT
7.00PM DOORS OPEN
7.30PM START
FREE PUBLIC EVENT

SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER
WORKSHOP
8.30AM REGISTRATION
9.00AM START
4.30PM CLOSE
ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY

SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER
WORSHIP SERVICE
8.30AM BETHANY
9.45AM TABOR
11.00AM BETHANY
FREE PUBLIC EVENT

Details and Bookings
www.trybooking.com/blltk
MICHAEL.DUTSCHKE@LCA.ORG.AU



Local event hosted by Bethany Tabor Lutheran Parish, Tanunda - we are invited!
Presented by Michael Dutschke
For bookings and more information go to
www.trybooking.com/blltk or contact michael.dutschke@lca.org.au

Blueprint Ministries (Lutheran Church of Australia) have opened up registrations for this October's camp on-line.

28th September - 2nd October

- Free Event sponsored by the LLL
- Year 4-12 (Juniors (year 4-6) provided with a Faith at Home pack. Seniors (Year 7-12) provided small group sessions on Zoom, all participants provided online streamed daily worship, all participants provided opportunity to participate in afternoon activity sessions)

Registrations: <https://www.blueprintministries.org.au/camps/all-registrations/>

More info: admin@blueprintministries.org.au

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.

Barossa Elcies Opening 1 October 2020

Exciting news! Lutheran Community Care is opening an Elcies op shop in the Barossa. Following the success of Elcies Norwood, Elcies Barossa is set to open on Thu 1 October. Located at Shop 4, 46 Murray Street, Tanunda, Elcies will stock high-quality donated items,

including clothing, shoes and accessories. All proceeds will stay in the Barossa and will enable us to help more people who present to our office in Nuriootpa. Donation bins for clothes can now be found at our Nuriootpa site office.



(left) Sandy Schuster (Lutheran Community Care) and the clothing bin at the front of LCC. There is another at the back of the building if this one is full!

Special Birthday Celebrations for Yvonne Angove

On the 27th September, 80 years ago God created a miracle in the birth of Yvonne.

Not everyone would agree with her choice of football Team but there is no doubt in Yvonne's mind which one that is!

We thank God for her and the blessing that she is to many with her coffee ministry, her ability to share frankly her life and faith journey and inspire many. Happy Birthday and God's blessings Yvonne!



Dried Apricots for Sale (in the St Petri Office)

to support Compassionate Ministries Overseas.

\$14 per 500g packet

Apricots grown and processed in the Riverland for the Trinity Lutheran Church New Residence Lutheran Parish Apricot Fund Raising Project.

Yields were down this year and once the box full is sold there will be no more for this season.

What's on at St Petri

Sunday 27th September

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

Wednesday 23rd September

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

Thursday 24th September

1.15 pm Hand in Hand Management Team Meeting

Saturday 3rd/Sunday 4th October **Daylight Saving change** clocks forward 1 hour

Sunday 4th October

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

No longer a need to register! - but we do still need to take attendance records

We feel that we have a fairly comprehensive list of who is likely to be coming on Sunday and will just tick names already on the list and add those names and phone numbers that we don't have down.

The only down side to this is that if we do have more than 183 turn up for worship, we will need to ask people to come to one of the alternative worship times. That is our building's limit for social distancing requirements.

Please note: No mid-week Wednesday Holy Communion on Wed 30th September as it is a 5th Wednesday. This will be on 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month. Next one will be Wednesday 7th October.

Coffee & Friendship Group (Jenny Wood's Group)

Venue: East Room (Meeting Room complex, closest to road)

Will be taking a break for School holidays and resuming on 13th October to complete study of 10 commandments and then study Hebrews.

Diary Dates:

All of October Shoebox drop off month. St Petri office is a drop off point for your shoe boxes and fillers for Samaritan's Purse.
You can pick up printed boxes and info pamphlets from the office.

Wed 14 October St Petri Women's Fellowship

16-18 October Listening and responding to God's Voice weekend
Hosted by Bethany Tabor Parish, Tanunda (see ad)

Sunday 22nd November

St Petri Annual General Meeting - St Petri Church

We Pray

- **Heavenly Father, we join in with the National Council of Churches and all Christians everywhere in praying Sept 26 & 27** for all who are suffering because of the pandemic, the social and economic dislocation, the difficulty getting the virus under control and the level of many people's anxiety.
- We are praying for "times of refreshing" and for the "healing of the land" as the scripture says in Acts 3:19. This is what Australia needs. We are praying that Australia will get a revelation of the love of God through Jesus Christ.
- **We thank you God for your grace in the gift of Baptism** for Leo Niutta last Saturday. We pray for Leo and his Mum Kelly and Dad Tony.
- **We ask you heavenly Father to protect those travelling**, especially now that many borders are open. We ask you to be with our school families and teachers enjoying a little break.
- **Thank you God for the soaking rain for farmers others who need it.**
- **We celebrate with Yvonne Angove, who will be 80 years old on 27 September.** Please bless her!
- **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: Glen Schultz, Les Harnath (Modbury), Roma Bray, Pat Scholz, Joan Pollard, Margaret Wolfenden, Hedy Stanley, Ruth Rathjen, Margaret Kleinig, Barb Doecke, Rosemary Angel, Mark Steinert and Helen Thiele.
- **We pray for others of our St Petri family and friends by name:** Barbara & John Alexander, Florian & Yvonne Watitsch, Keith Semmler, Glenda Schultz, Howard Schulz, Pastor Ken & Joan Pfitzner, Dean Hampel & David & Christine Mitchell.

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.

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

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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

NEWS from the Cottage

As I write, The Cottage is seizing an opportunity to establish a simple **online shop** to capture some extra trade and exposure as we lead up and into Christmas 2020.

This possibility is not a new thought for The Cottage or St Petri leadership. However, just recently an amazing opportunity came our way - and quite unexpectedly. As a result, The Cottage online shop is under construction right now!

An online shop is part of our marketing strategy. We will be able to add and remove product as needed, including progressively adding more of the core items that we stock - Bibles, books, Baptismal items, etc.

In the first instant however, and just to get started, we are keen to promote a range of more exclusive and uniquely hand-crafted lines for Christmas 2020. We have commenced this collection of items from Christian artists, designers and creatives that we know. At any rate, **we are learning as we go and as we do.**

A REALLY IMPORTANT ELEMENT of this online shop strategy is for ...
... The Cottage to **have a facebook presence that is alive and well!**

So, if you know of anyone who has a reasonable feel for *facebook*, maybe someone who lives and breathes *facebook* so that it is as good as second nature to them, please encourage them to come and have a chat with me - and sooner rather than later. This is a significant ministry / mission opportunity.

Without a doubt, we need to freshen up and revitalise our *facebook* presence. With approximately 60% of Australia having some connection with *facebook*, this medium becomes an important link and reference point to and for our online shop.

I'm sure with the right person or two co-working our *facebook* presence, we will be heading in the right direction, part of which will be increased exposure of the online shop throughout Australia.

The Cottage website will help us to keep fulfilling the mission of St Petri ... "to share the love and hope of Jesus with everyone".

We are looking forward to receiving some **of our Christmas stock** from mid to late October. Don't forget ... we can look at ordering that special book in for you! Why not pop in and see whether our **Customer Order Service** can help you?

Have a great week.

Chris

The Cottage, Bookshop Manager cottage@stpetri.org.au