LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

SUNDAY
08/11/2026

24th Sunday After Pentecost

ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

CABOOLTURE AND BRIBIE ISLAND

What Is Holding Your Heart ?



Upcoming Worship Service Times @ St Paul's

THIS WEEK

Sunday, 8th November

Bribie Island @ 8am

Caboolture @ 9am

Monday, 9th November

Aged Care @ 10am

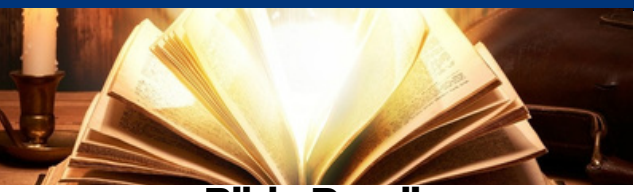
NEXT WEEK

Sunday, 15th November

Caboolture @ 9am

Monday, 16th November

Aged Care @10am



Bible Readings

This Sunday

Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25

Next Sunday

Zephniah 1:7,12-18

1 Thesslnns 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

Often, we discover what we rely upon when something unsettles us. An unexpected expense, a difficult conversation, or a change we cannot control can reveal how deeply our sense of security rests on things we usually take for granted.

"You shall have no other gods." We might think this commandment concerns ancient statues and forgotten religions. Yet Luther's explanation in the Small Catechism brings it close to home: "We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things." Even good gifts: family, work, financial security, familiar traditions, can become things that we ask to carry more than they can bear.

In this week's reading, Joshua calls God's people to consider whom they will serve. His words invite an honest examination of the distance between the faith we confess and the trust we practise.

But before the people make their promises, they remember God's faithfulness. That is where our reflection begins too. Beneath our divided loyalties and uncertain faith stands the love of Christ, who gave himself for us. This week we explore that deeply personal question: What is holding my heart — and what might it mean to entrust it again to God?

What's On at St Paul's



UPCOMING MONTH

Heavenly Father, bless every gathering this month and draw us closer to You and to one another.

Each Tuesday From 1pm
Bible Study
Exploring the previous Sunday's readings and sermon in depth.

Tuesday 10th November
Ladies Fellowship Caboolture
A regular time of encouragement and sharing

Thursday 26th November 1:30pm
Bribie Island Bible Study
Led by Pastor Michael Braunberger. Study is on the book of John

Wednesday 2nd December 6:30pm
W.I.P.
An evening of craft, games and chatting for women of all ages

Thursday 3rd December 9:30am
Ladies Fellowship Bribie Island
A regular gathering for women featuring faith, fellowship, friendship and encouragement.

LOOKING AHEAD

Advent Celebrations

from 9am Sunday, 29th November



HISTORY BOOK NOW AVAILABLE

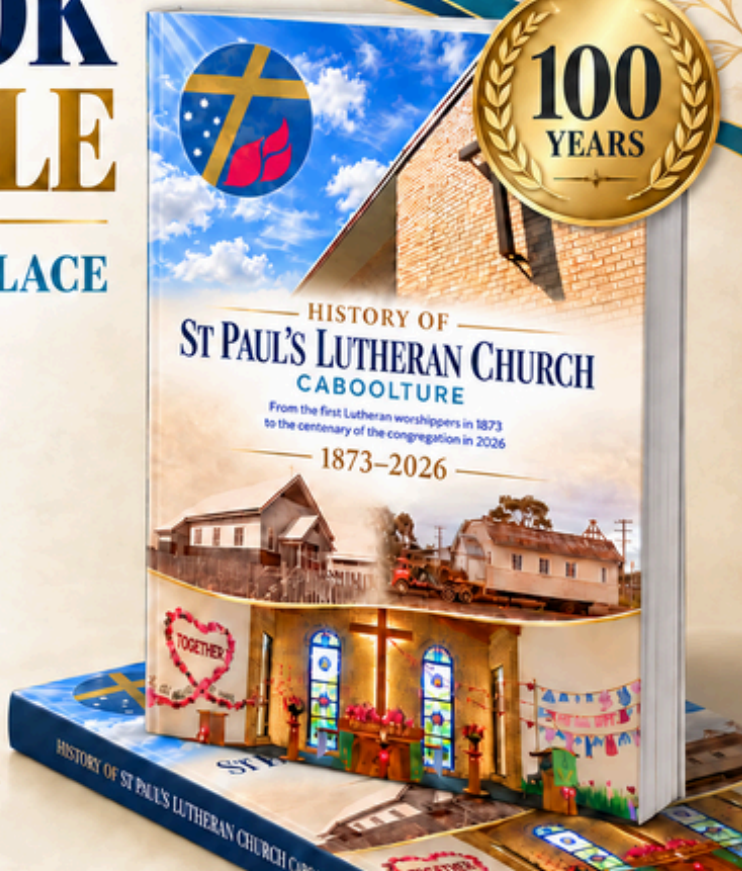
A CENTURY OF FAITH, PEOPLE & PLACE

Take home the story of St Paul's Lutheran Church Caboolture—a richly illustrated journey from the first Lutheran worshippers in 1873 to the congregation's centenary in 2026.

Through photographs, records and shared memories, meet the people, milestones, ministries and places that have shaped our life together.

A meaningful keepsake for members, families, former members and friends—honouring the past, giving thanks to God and carrying the story into the future.

$15 EACH



CASTING CALL!

NO MESS TOO GREAT

Our Intergenerational Christmas Eve Skit



WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Would you like to join us in this year's Christmas Eve skit?
Contact Pastor James if you would like to take part.

We need people of all ages who know that families can be messy—especially over the Christmas season—and who would love to speak hope into that mess for others.

YOUNG SHEPHERDS, SHEEP & ANGELS WANTED!

Help fill out the nativity and lead the singing of a couple of carols.

Come and be part of the story!

SAVE THE DATE

Advent Celebrations

From 9am Sunday the 29th of November

St Paul's Caboolture



St Paul's Caboolture

Ladies Fellowship

Faith. Friendship. Fellowship.

A welcoming place for women of all ages to connect, share life and grow in faith together.

Come as you are—whether you're a familiar face or joining us for the first time. There's a place for you.



Our next gathering is on
10th of November

For more details, please see Adele Leach.

Work in Progress



An evening of creativity, conversation and connection.

Whether you're halfway through a knitting project, have a scrapbook gathering dust, enjoy sewing, painting, puzzles, or simply want to spend time with others, **Work in Progress** is for you.

Bring along an unfinished project, learn a new skill from someone else, play a game, or just come for a chat and a cuppa. There's no pressure—just a welcoming space to encourage one another and enjoy good company.

For women of all ages.

1st Wednesday of every month

Create. Connect. Encourage.

Next get-together: **Wednesday 2nd December @ 6:30pm**

Bribie Island Ladies Fellowship

Faith • Fellowship • Friendship

First Thursday of every month

All women welcome!

For the address, please contact Linda
0431 570 299

Next fellowship time:

3rd December @ 9:30am

Bible Study

Fourth Thursday of every month

A relaxed, friendly group for **all ages** to explore the Bible, grow in faith and discover **God's great love** for you.

Led by
Pastor Michael Braunberger
Currently studying
the **Gospel of John**

3 Elizabeth Batts Court,
Banksia Beach

All welcome!
Come as you are.
Everyone belongs.

Hear. Learn. Grow. Together in God's Word.

Next Bible Study to be held on:

26th November @ 1:30pm

FINAL Study for 2026

GIFT AND GIVING • NOVEMBER

Dorothee Orphanage

Panzi, Bukavu • Democratic Republic of the Congo





Learning today. Growing for tomorrow.

Through recycling and holiday craft activities, the children are developing practical skills, exploring their creativity and building confidence for a more sustainable future.

TABITHA HOME OF HOPE & PEACE | Tabitha Home of Hope and Peace

Your gift can make a difference

Place your donation in the Gift & Giving bag at the front of the church, or give by online banking.

Westpac
BSB: 034-640
Account: 169299
Reference: GandG

tabithahomeofhopeandpeace.org

POWER OUTAGE NOTICE

Saturday 14 November

From 6:30am

The Main Switchboard (MSB) will be connected.
Works are booked for 12 hours, but we hope to complete them in about 8 hours.

Manse • Church • School
Without power during these works



NCLS research | 2026 National Church Life Survey

LIFE TO The Full

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

St Paul's Lutheran Church • Caboolture & Bribie Island

BRIBIE ISLAND

THIS SUNDAY • 8 NOVEMBER

After our normal church service

CABOOLTURE

NEXT SUNDAY • 15 NOVEMBER

After our normal church service

Please allow about 20 minutes.

CAN'T ATTEND EITHER SUNDAY?

Please request a survey form, fill it in and return it to the Church Office.

Every response helps us understand our church life and better serve our communities.

Belonging to Christ; we grow, connect and thrive; to serve others. | **2026ncls.org.au**

A visit, a chat, a moment of prayer

†

You don't have to walk alone.

Would you appreciate a home visit, a listening ear, prayer or Holy Communion? Whether you're going through a difficult time or would simply enjoy a friendly chat, we'd love to hear from you.

We have a caring team ready to visit and support those in need, and anyone who would simply welcome a visit.

Home visits • Pastoral support
Prayer • Holy Communion

If you would like a visit, or know someone who would welcome one, please get in touch.

Contact Pastor James

0473 461 506

You are always welcome to reach out.



ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

GROW GROUP

BIG QUESTIONS. REAL FAITH. GROWING TOGETHER.

For young people in Years 6–12 and their parents & grandparents

TEENS

- Got questions about God?
- Wondering what faith has to do with your life?
- Bring your questions. Explore what Christians believe.

PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS

- Want to help your children or grandchildren explore the Christian faith?
- Share what faith means to you and grow together.

Discover the great things God has done for us in Jesus.

A place to ask, learn and grow together.

FORTNIGHTLY SESSIONS • BEGINNING IN 2027

Not your traditional "Confirmation Class"!

These sessions replace the "Confirmation courses" of the past and previous "Step Up to Communion" lessons. If you would like to prepare for baptism, confirm your faith, receive Communion for the frst time, or simply learn more about the Christian faith and God's love, this is for you.

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

Please provide the young person's name, school year and a parent or carer's contact number.

Complete the registration form on our church website, or email Pastor James Leach: james.leach@lca.org.au

Learning together. Growing together.

LYQ

Lutheran Youth of Queensland

YOUR SUMMER STARTS HERE!

LYQ Holiday Camps • Summer 2026–27

Make new friends. Find adventure. Grow in faith.

JUNIOR BLAST

14–18 December 2026

Years 3–6

SENIOR BLAST

14–18 December 2026

Years 7–11

SUMMER KIDS

11–15 January 2027

Years 3–6

SUMMER CLW

Christian Life Week

11–15 January 2027

Years 7–11

All four camps: Luther Heights Youth Camp, Coolum

School years are based on 2026.

Outdoor fun, team challenges and space to explore Christian faith — with caring leaders and a place to belong.

Come along for an unforgettable summer!

Explore camps & book:

lyq.org.au/holiday-camps/

Scan to find your camp



Monday — Before We Make a Promise: God's grace comes first

Read: Joshua 24:1–3a, 16–18

Sometimes we approach God as though we need to bring something impressive: a stronger faith, a better attitude, or a promise that this time we really will change. We imagine that once we have something worth offering, we can come closer. Joshua begins somewhere else. Before asking the people to serve the Lord, he reminds them of what the Lord has already done. God called Abraham. God rescued his people from slavery. God protected them along the way. Their life together began with God's generosity. That order matters for us too. God's love does not begin when we finally get ourselves organised. Jesus came for us while we were still sinners. Through the gospel, the Holy Spirit creates the faith that receives his gifts. We do not have to make ourselves worthy before coming to him. Perhaps today you feel disappointed with yourself. There is something you said, something you neglected, or a familiar weakness you thought you had overcome. You can bring that honestly to Jesus. His mercy is for people who need it. Serving God begins with receiving what he gives. Before you make another promise, remember his promise to you. In Baptism, he placed his name upon you. Your life with him rests on his grace.

- When do you feel that you need to earn God's approval?
- How might remembering what God has already done change the way you approach today?

Heavenly Father, thank you for loving me before I had anything to offer.
Forgive my attempts to earn what you freely give, and help me live today as your beloved child. Amen.

Tuesday: The Things We Lean On: Recognising what holds our hearts

Read: Joshua 24:14–15; Matthew 6:24

We often discover what we depend upon when it is threatened. An unexpected expense unsettles us. A critical comment stays with us all day. A change of plans leaves us feeling helpless. Those reactions deserve gentle, honest attention. They can reveal where we have placed more trust than we realised. Joshua tells the people to put away their other gods. For us, an idol may be something quite ordinary—even something good. Money helps provide for our families. Relationships bring joy. Planning helps us act responsibly. But these gifts cannot carry the weight of being our ultimate security. We ask too much of money when we expect it to remove every uncertainty. We ask too much of others when their approval determines our worth. We ask too much of ourselves when we believe everything depends upon staying in control. The First Commandment brings these misplaced hopes into the light. God knows how exhausting it is to depend upon things that cannot finally save us. Jesus meets us there with forgiveness. Our worth is held in his love; our future is held in his hands. We can receive good things gratefully without asking them to become our god. What are you leaning on today? Bring that answer to Jesus without pretending. He already knows your heart, and he invites you to trust him with it.

- Which threatened loss tends to shake your sense of security most deeply?
- What would it look like to receive that good thing as God's gift while entrusting your life to him?

Lord Jesus, show me where I have placed my deepest trust. Forgive me,
and teach me to receive your gifts without giving them your place in my heart. Amen.

Wednesday — Faith Can Tremble: Trusting God when we feel afraid

Read: Joshua 24:17; Psalm 56:3–4

Have you ever felt guilty for being afraid? Perhaps you have thought, "If I really trusted God, I wouldn't feel like this." Yet the psalmist prays, "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you." Fear is present, and so is faith. The Israelites remember that God protected them throughout their journey. That journey included uncertainty, waiting, hunger, and danger. God's presence did not mean every day felt safe or every question had an immediate answer. We know something of that experience. We wait for results, worry about someone we love, or wonder what the coming months will bring. Trusting God does not require us to pretend these things are easy. To fear God above all things means taking him and his word seriously. It does not mean that his children must live terrified of approaching him. Through Jesus, we come to our Father knowing that we are loved. Jesus himself prayed in deep anguish in Gethsemane. He understands distress. The Saviour who died and rose for you will not turn you away because your voice shakes when you pray. You can ask for help. You can receive support from others. You can take the next sensible step while leaving the outcome with God. Faith can sound very simple: "Father, I am frightened. Please hold me and help me through today." He hears that prayer.

- What fear would you like to bring honestly to God today?
- Through which people or promises might God be supporting you in that fear?

Loving Father, you know what frightens me. Hold me close to Jesus,
help me receive the support you provide, and give me courage for the next step. Amen.



Thursday — When Our Promises Fail: Resting in the faithfulness of Jesus

Read: Joshua 24:19–22; 1 John 1:8–9

"I won't do that again." We have probably all said it sincerely. Then the same sharp words escape our mouths, the same resentment returns, or the same temptation catches us. Israel confidently promises to serve the Lord. Joshua's reply is startling: "You cannot serve the Lord." He confronts their easy confidence with the holiness of God. They cannot treat loyalty lightly or assume that religious words make continuing rebellion harmless. We need that warning too. Forgiveness is never permission to settle comfortably into sin. God's command reaches our whole heart, including the parts we would prefer to keep hidden. But where can we go when we recognise how deeply we have failed? We go to Jesus. He lived the faithful life we have not lived. He loved and trusted his Father perfectly. At the cross, he carried the guilt of our divided hearts. His resurrection assures us that sin and death do not have the final word. We do not need to disguise our failure or produce a more impressive promise before confessing it. We can tell the truth because our Saviour is merciful. God calls us to repentance: to turn from sin and receive his forgiveness. Then, strengthened by his Spirit, we begin again. Today's hope rests in Jesus' faithfulness. His forgiveness gives us courage to face what needs to change.

- Is there something you need to confess rather than excuse or minimise?
- How does Jesus' faithfulness give you courage to be honest about your failure?

Jesus, I confess that my heart is divided and my promises fail.
Thank you for carrying my sin; forgive me and lead me into a new beginning. Amen.

Friday — Beyond the Words on the Wall: Serving God in ordinary life

Read: Joshua 24:15, 23–24; Colossians 3:17

"As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." These words are easy to admire. Living them brings us into the ordinary details of a day: how we speak when we are tired, how we use our money, and whether we notice someone who needs care. Joshua calls the people to put away their foreign gods and turn their hearts towards the Lord. Their confession is to take shape in their lives. For us, that may involve a quiet but costly choice. We apologise without defending ourselves. We tell the truth when dishonesty would be convenient. We make room to hear God's word. We serve someone who cannot repay us. Such actions grow from grace. Jesus has already served us through his life, death, and resurrection. His Spirit works within us, teaching us to love the people placed alongside us. Our households will never be perfect examples of faith. Some of us live alone; some share homes with people who do not share our beliefs. We cannot manufacture faith in another person or control their response to God. We can pray, speak gently, forgive, and bear patient witness to Christ's love. God is at work through these ordinary acts. Serving the Lord begins where you are, among the people already part of your life.

- Where is God giving you an opportunity to express your faith through ordinary care?
- What small change could help your home become a place of prayer, forgiveness, or welcome?

Lord Jesus, let your love shape the way I live with others. Give me patience, courage, and a willing heart to serve you in today's ordinary moments. Amen.

Saturday — A Heart That Keeps Returning: Living each day in God's grace

Read: Joshua 24:25; Romans 6:3–4

Some lessons need to be learned again and again. Trust is one of them. We may surrender a worry to God in the morning and find ourselves gripping it tightly by lunchtime. We may recognise an idol, turn away from it, and later discover that it has quietly regained our attention. The Christian life includes this daily return to God. Luther's teaching about Baptism helps us understand it: each day we turn from sin and rise to live the new life God gives us in Christ. We begin again because Jesus continues to meet us with forgiveness. Our baptism directs us back to his death and resurrection, where our life with God is firmly grounded. The First Commandment becomes a daily prayer: "Father, teach me to fear, love, and trust you above all things." That prayer matters for our congregation too. Buildings, traditions, plans, and ministries are gifts to steward. Our deepest confidence belongs to the Lord who gathers us through his word and feeds us at his table. We can thank him for the past while trusting him with the future. We can listen, learn, and serve without needing to know every outcome. As this week ends, you do not need to measure whether your faith has become impressive enough. Bring your heart to Jesus again—its gratitude, its fears, its failures, and its hopes. The One who gave himself for you remains worthy of your trust.

- What has God helped you recognise about your heart this week?
- What part of your future, or your congregation's future, do you need to entrust to him?

Faithful God, thank you for meeting me with mercy each day. Keep drawing my heart back to Jesus, and teach us together to trust you as we serve. Amen.

Growing FAITH at home

PROPER 27

YEAR A

Always be ready for Jesus' return

GrowMinistries
LCA CHILD YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA
Here love comes to life

www.growministries.org.au

Sunday between November 6 and November 12



CONVERSATIONS

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

1. How does it feel to be running late for an appointment or an event? Share about an experience you have had of being late.
2. Jesus says that we don't know when he will return, so we need to be ready for him. What do you think it means to be ready?



BIBLE READINGS

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

S	**Matthew 25:1-13**	Parable of wise and foolish girls
M	**Matthew 24:36-44**	Keep watch
T	**Joshua 24:1-25**	The covenant renewed
W	**Micah 7:1-7**	Watching in hope for the Lord
T	**Luke 21:29-36**	Be always on the watch
F	**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**	Believers who have died
S	**Psalm 70**	Hasten, O God, to save me

VERSE OF THE WEEK

So always be ready, because you don't know the day or the hour the Son of Man will come.

MATTHEW 25:13



CREATIVE RESPONSE

Draw or print off a picture of an oil lamp.

Read the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Girls and talk about what is involved in keeping our 'spiritual lamps' burning until Jesus returns.

Write your ideas onto the picture and display it in your home (if you have an actual oil lamp, set this up too).

As a related craft project, make paper lanterns – visit the website **www.instructables.com/id/How-to-make-a-paper-lantern-in-6-easy-steps/** for simple instructions.



ACTION RESPONSE

Plan and prepare a family service activity. Think about the way each person in your family can contribute together.

Some examples might be:

- Serve morning tea after church
- Plant flowers, pull weeds and mow the lawn as a surprise for a family who is in crisis.
- Attend a community working bee.
- Do another family members' daily chore.



MEALTIME PRAYER

For this meal and all God's gifts, let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God! Amen.



PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we are waiting for you to come again. Take us to be with you forever. Amen.



BLESSING

May God watch over you. May he keep your faith strong until Jesus comes again.



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Email: james.leach@lca.org.au

www.youtube.com/@StPaulsCaboolture

www.facebook.com/SPLCCaboolture



O Lord, the crown and reward of all your saints:
Grant us grace that, as we follow their steps,
we may walk in your ways and live with you in eternal joy;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.



Please pray for...

Health & Wellbeing, Recovery: Sue Ancell, Glenys Creevey, Clare Dopking, Marie Nicholson, Cynthia Schulz, Peter Thamm, Leanne Maroske, Geoff Stapleton, Ross Krieg, Wendy Riekstins, Ann Diment, John Smout, Dianne Kleidon, Gwen Horsfield, Robert Keller, Jan Maroske, Val Siegle, Sean Giblin, Ann De Berg, Leslie Smith

