



LUTHERAN
CHURCH

OF AUSTRALIA

SUNDAY

20/09/2026

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17th Sunday After Pentecost

ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

CABOOLTURE AND BRIBIE ISLAND

The Scandal of Grace



Upcoming Worship Service
Times @ St Paul's
THIS WEEK

Sunday 20th September

Caboolture @ 9am

Monday, 21st September

Aged Care @ 10am

NEXT WEEK

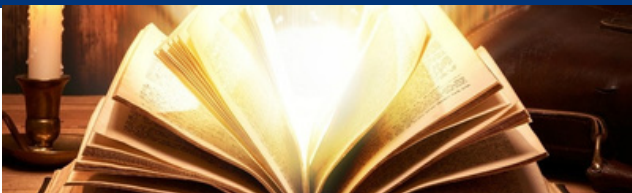
Sunday 27th September

Bribie Island @ 8am

Caboolture @ 9am

Monday 28th September

Aged Care @ 10am



Bible Readings

This Sunday

Exodus 16:2-15

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

Next Sunday

Exodus 17:1-7

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32

We love hearing that God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love—especially when that grace is offered to us. But what happens when God shows the same generosity to someone we believe does not deserve it?

Jonah was grateful when God rescued him from the sea, but furious when God spared the people of Nineveh. In Jesus' parable, the workers hired first received everything they had been promised, yet grumbled when those hired last were given the same wage. In both stories, God's generosity reached people others thought should have received less.

This week's daily devotions invite us to confront an uncomfortable question: Who is our Nineveh? Who is the person whose forgiveness is difficult for us to celebrate? Whose blessing feels unfair? Who have we reduced to an enemy, a problem or a label?

Across six days, we will explore God's mercy towards Nineveh, Jonah's anger, the landowner's surprising generosity and Christ's invitation to labour in his vineyard. We will discover that grace does not pretend sin is harmless.

It confronts sin, forgives sinners and creates a new beginning.

Most importantly, we will return to the cross, where Jesus received what we deserved so that we might receive what belongs to him: forgiveness, life and a place in God's kingdom.

Read along this week and discover why God's "unfair" generosity is not a problem to be solved—it is the wonderfully good news of our salvation. There is grace enough for them, and thanks be to God, there is grace enough for us

Belonging to Christ • We grow, connect, and thrive • To serve others

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.



**Wednesday
23rd September
from 9:30am**

**Lutheran Women of Qld
Brisbane Nth & Sunshine Coast
Fellowship Day**



**Thursday
24th September
1:30pm**

Bribie Island Bible Study

Led by Pastor Michael Braunberger.
Study is on the book of John



**Thursday
1st October
9:30am**

Ladies Fellowship Bribie Island

A regular gathering for women featuring faith, fellowship, friendship and encouragement.



**Wednesday
7th October
6:30pm**

W.I.P.

An evening of craft, games and chatting for women of all ages



**Thursday
9th-11th October
9:30am**

Replenish Women's Retreat

LCAQD and LYQ led weekend retreat for women of all ages.



**Sunday
18th October
9am**

100th Anniversary Service

Communion Service with
Thanksgiving to God for His Church
and guest speakers.



**Sunday
25th October
10am**

100th Anniversary Family Celebration

Longest Lutheran Lunch with singing, games, activities and more.

LOOKING AHEAD



**9-11 OCTOBER
Replenish
Women's Retreat**



**18TH OCTOBER
100TH FORMAL
ANNIVERSARY SERVICE**



**25TH OCTOBER
100TH ANNIVERSARY
INFORMAL FAMILY
SERVICE CELEBRATION**

**Lord, may everything we do
together bring glory to You
and blessing to others.**

PASTOR JAMES WILL BE ON LEAVE

Monday 14 September until Tuesday 22 September



GOOGA CAMP 2026

GROW • GO • GLOW

Faith • Fellowship • Fun

Stronger
People
Brighter
Tomorrows

A place
to belong

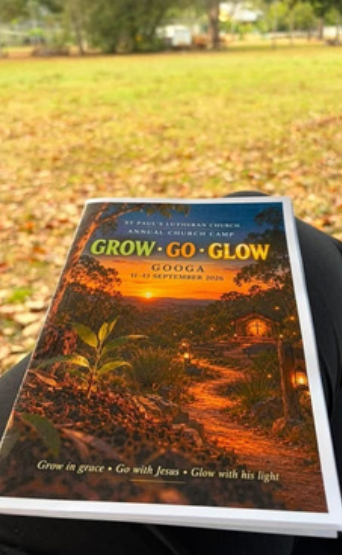


Googa Camp was a wonderful weekend of faith, fellowship and fun centred on our theme, Grow, Go, Glow. We shared devotions, games, crafts, meals and adventures, including the Blackbutt Parkrun and Avocado Festival.

11-13 September 2026

LIGHT, LAUGHTER & LIFE TOGETHER

Googa
Camp
2026



Our colourful glow activities brought plenty of laughter before we gathered at the bush chapel on Sunday for Holy Communion.



Across the weekend, new friendships were made, old friendships were deepened, and together we grew in grace, went with Jesus and allowed his light to shine through us.

GROW IN GRACE • GO WITH JESUS • GLOW WITH HIS LIGHT



St Paul's Lutheran Ladies Fellowship *Caboolture*



Our next get together is on
Tuesday, 13th Oct @ 9am



For more details please see Mavis Thamm.



Ladies 
FELLOWSHIP
Bribie Island 



Come for
FAITH



Come for
FELLOWSHIP



Come for
FRIENDSHIP

Meets on the
first Thursday
of every month.

For address please
contact Linda on
0431 570 299

*All women
welcome!*

Next fellowship time
to be held on:
1st Oct 9:30am

Bible Study
AT BRIBIE ISLAND



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



**ON THE 4TH
THURSDAY**
OF EVERY MONTH



**LED BY
PASTOR MICHAEL
BRAUNBERGER**
Currently studying
the Gospel of John



ALL WELCOME!
Come as you are.
Everyone belongs.

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



AT 3 ELIZABETH BATTS COURT, BANKSIA BEACH

NEXT BIBLE STUDY TO BE HELD ON:
24th September 2026



Replenish

Women's Retreat

... just breathe

9 - 11 October 2026

Luther Heights, Coolumb



REGISTRATIONS CLOSE 27 SEPTEMBER

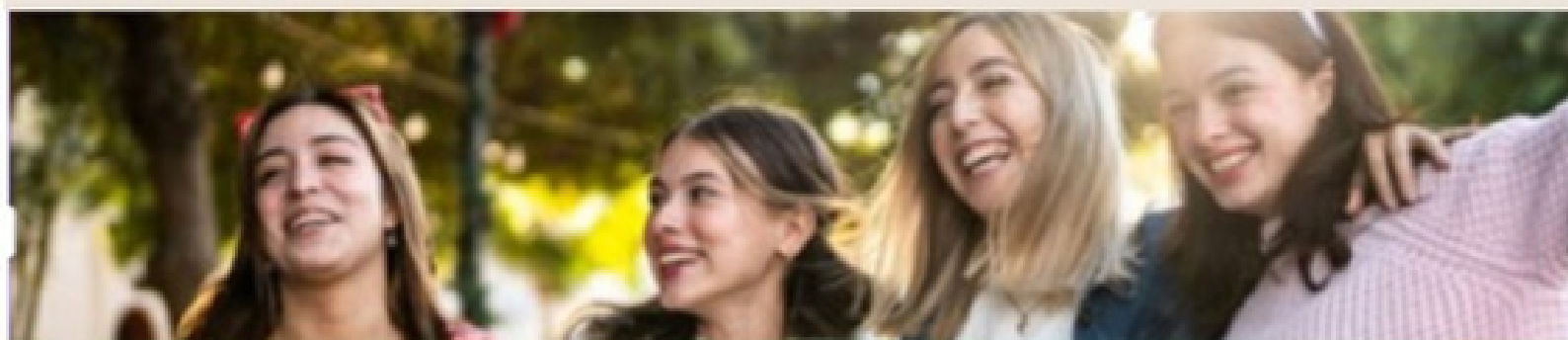
Ladies 18+

Come, join us for a weekend to rest and enjoy chilling out with a group of like-minded ladies! Enjoy the serene atmosphere of Luther Heights. If you're aged 18-35 you qualify for \$100 off registration costs!

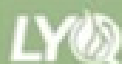
WHAT TO EXPECT

-  No cooking, no cleaning, no pressure – just time for you.
-  Space to connect, relax, explore, or simply be still.
-  Great food, beautiful surroundings, and meaningful conversations.

-  Christian reflection and prayer available if you wish.
-  All women welcome – come as you are.



Sometimes you need to take a moment...or a weekend...
to stop. to unwind. to step away from routine.



Partner
with a
purpose



QUEENSLAND
DISTRICT



REGISTER

NOW



NEPAL

FLOOD DISASTER

*Helping bring
love to life* ❤️

The generosity of ALWS supporters is making a real difference as we respond to the devastating Nepal Flood Disaster.



When the disaster first happened, ALWS committed **\$100,000** for emergency aid.



Thanks to the incredible generosity of the ALWS family, together with support through the Emergency Action Alliance (EAA) and the Australian Government, that commitment grew to **\$250,000** of ALWS-supported aid.

Donate Now



**Australian
Lutheran**
World Service

**NOW, ALWS IS INCREASING ITS
EMERGENCY AID COMMITMENT TO**

=\$500,000=



PLUS

ALWS will continue its ongoing, long-term development work in other parts of Nepal.



I thank God for such an outpouring of kindness, as people like you bring love to life for those who have lost everything.



alws
CHRISTIANS CARING
FOR COMMUNITIES

LUTHERAN

WOMEN *of* QUEENSLAND

Brisbane North & Sunshine Coast Zone Fellowship Day



23rd September 2026

• from 9:30am



St Paul's Lutheran Church
Smiths Road, Caboolture



Please wear your name tag
and bring lunch to share.

THEME

*Bind Us
Together*



WHAT'S HAPPENING



Fellowship over
morning tea and lunch



Worship together



GUEST SPEAKERS

Leanne Maroske

Her organ transplant experience

Joanne Corney

Hospital Chaplaincy



A special offering will be received for
Lutheran Services Hospital Chaplaincy
and Transplant Australia.

MORE THAN A LESSON

CHRISTIAN RI IS ACTIVE,
AGE-APPROPRIATE LEARNING

A TYPICAL RI LESSON MAY INCLUDE



STORYTELLING



MUSIC



DRAMA



CRAFT



GAMES



QUIZZES



VIDEO CLIPS



PUPPET SHOWS



Authorised program resources are written by professional educators and designed to be age-appropriate.



TYPICALLY
30 MINUTES
PER WEEK



Students learn about the basic beliefs of the Christian faith from a non-denominational perspective.

GIFT & GIVING PROJECT

CHRISTIAN RI

HOW TO GIVE



Gift & Giving Basket
at the church entrance desk

OR



Direct Deposit

BSB: 034 640
Account: 169299
Reference: GandG

If you are interested in helping teach Christian RI please get in contact with Pastor James.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Intercept's Trivia Night

Support our young people

20 Years of Intercept.
10 Years of Trivia.
One Night to Celebrate.



Trivia



Raffles



Great Prizes



Good Times

Funds raised go towards **bursaries** to help young people get ahead.



Intercept
Youth & Family Program

Grab your friends for a fun night out for a great cause!



WHEN:
Friday 23 October 2026
6-10pm



WHERE:
Redcliffe Leagues Club, Redcliffe



Interested in donating a raffle prize or becoming a benefactor?
Please email: intercept.fundraising@lutheranservices.org.au



Tickets available here



Growing Together:

Daily Devotions to Help You

BELONG | GROW | CONNECT | THRIVE | SERVE

Monday: When God Relents

Jonah 3:10: “When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented.”

Nineveh was known for violence and cruelty. Yet when its people heard God’s warning, they turned away from their evil ways. God saw their repentance and withheld the destruction he had threatened. God’s mercy does not mean that sin is unimportant. God confronted Nineveh’s evil and called its people to turn around. But God’s purpose was not simply to punish them. He wanted to rescue them. Sometimes we imagine that God is eager to condemn and must be persuaded to show mercy. Jonah reveals the opposite. God sends his word because he wants sinners to turn from death towards life. We see this desire most clearly in Jesus. Christ came into the world not to excuse our sin, but to carry it to the cross. There he received its judgement and opened the way to forgiveness and new life. No one is beyond the reach of God’s mercy. No past is too dark, no failure too great and no person too far away for God to call them home.

Is there something from your past that you struggle to believe God has completely forgiven?

Gracious God, thank you for calling sinners away from death and into life. Help me trust that, because of Jesus, my sins are forgiven. Lead me in the new beginning you freely give. Amen.

Tuesday: Angry About Grace

Jonah 4:1-4: “But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry.”

The people of Nineveh repented, God showed mercy—and Jonah became angry. Jonah had already received extraordinary mercy himself. When he ran from God, God rescued him from the sea and gave him another opportunity. Jonah was thankful when grace saved him, but furious when it saved his enemies. We can recognise something of Jonah in ourselves. We rejoice that God forgives our failures, yet wonder whether another person deserves the same kindness. We remember the hurt they caused and fear that forgiveness somehow declares their actions acceptable. But grace does not call evil good. Nineveh was required to turn from its violence. God’s forgiveness does not erase truth, consequences, boundaries or accountability. Grace means that sin and failure need not have the final word. God asked Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry?” He asks us to look honestly at what is happening in our own hearts. Has someone else’s blessing become a source of resentment? Does another person’s forgiveness feel like something has been taken from us? God’s mercy towards them does not diminish his mercy towards us. His grace is not a limited supply.

Whose experience of forgiveness or blessing is difficult for you to celebrate?

Merciful Father, forgive me when I welcome grace for myself but resent it for others. Soften my heart and teach me to rejoice whenever someone is drawn into your mercy. Amen.

Wednesday: Who Is Your Nineveh?

Jonah 4:5-11: “Should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh?”

Jonah looked at Nineveh and saw an enemy. God looked at Nineveh and saw people. Jonah knew the city’s violent history. God knew it too. But God also saw thousands of people who were confused, lost and trapped in destructive ways. They were people he had made and did not want to lose. Who is your Nineveh? It may be a person who betrayed you, someone whose behaviour angers you or a group whose beliefs seem completely opposed to yours. It might be someone you have reduced to a label rather than seeing as a person. God’s question to Jonah is also addressed to us: “Should I not have concern for them?” This does not mean ignoring evil or remaining in unsafe relationships. Christian love can require clear boundaries and courageous truth-telling. But God calls us to desire a person’s redemption rather than their destruction. Before we become too certain about who belongs in Nineveh, we should also remember that we may be Nineveh to somebody else. There may be someone who wonders how God could forgive us. Yet, because of Jesus, God does. Today, bring your Nineveh before God. Ask him God to help you see the people involved not merely through the lens of what they have done, but through the eyes of Christ.

Who have you begun to see only as an enemy, a problem or a label?

Lord Jesus, you looked upon sinners with compassion. Help me see others through your eyes. Protect those who are vulnerable, confront what is evil and lead us all into repentance, healing and life. Amen.



Growing Together:

Daily Devotions to Help You

BELONG | GROW | CONNECT | THRIVE | SERVE

Thursday: Called into the Vineyard

Matthew 20:1-7: “You also go and work in my vineyard.”

Throughout the day, the landowner continued going out to find workers. He called some early in the morning, others at noon and still others when the working day was almost finished. Why were the later workers still waiting? When the landowner asked, they answered, “Because no one has hired us.” They had not necessarily spent the day refusing to work. They had been overlooked. Yet the landowner saw them, invited them and gave them a place in his vineyard. God continues to seek people whom others have overlooked. He calls the young and the old, those who have known him for decades and those only beginning to discover faith. No one is too late to hear Christ say, “Come with me.” God’s invitation also gives dignity and purpose. We are not saved by our service, but those whom Christ saves are invited to participate in his work. In our homes, congregation, school, workplace and community, God gives us opportunities to love, encourage, serve and share the hope of Jesus. Perhaps you feel that your best years have passed, or that you have little to offer. The landowner is still calling. Whatever the hour, there is a place for you in his vineyard.

Where might God be inviting you to serve with the time, abilities and relationships he has given you?

Lord of the harvest, thank you for seeing me, calling me and giving me a place in your work. Show me how I can serve others and share the hope of Christ today. Amen.

Friday: Are You Envious Because I Am Generous?

Matthew 20:8-15: “Are you envious because I am generous?”

At the end of the day, every worker received a full day’s wage. Those who had worked from the early morning were not cheated; they received exactly what they had been promised. Their dissatisfaction began when they compared their payment with what others received. Comparison has a way of turning gifts into grievances. We can be thankful for what God has given us—until we notice someone who appears to have received more. Then gratitude gives way to resentment. The workers protested, “You have made them equal to us.” That was the true offence. They wanted their longer service to place them above the others. But in God’s kingdom, we stand together as people who live entirely by grace. Long years of faithful service are a blessing, not a bargaining chip. We do not earn a greater share of God’s forgiveness by praying more often, serving on more rosters or belonging to the Church for longer. Eternal life remains God’s undeserved gift. There is no need to compete for grace. Another person’s blessing does not reduce ours. The Father’s generosity is greater than our comparisons.

Where has comparison made it difficult for you to recognise and enjoy God’s gifts?

Generous God, forgive me when I compare myself with others and become resentful. Give me a grateful heart that receives your gifts with joy and celebrates your goodness towards others. Amen.

Saturday: Grace Enough for Them—and for Us

Matthew 20:16: “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

God’s kingdom overturns our usual ways of measuring worth. We tend to rank people according to achievement, reputation, usefulness or length of service. But nobody enters God’s kingdom because they have earned a higher position than someone else. We enter because of Jesus. At the cross, Jesus received what we deserved so that we could receive what belongs to him. The sinless Son of God carried our guilt, while we received his righteousness, forgiveness and life. Jesus endured the burden we could never carry. When his saving work was finished, he placed the reward into our empty hands. This grace welcomes the lifelong Christian and the person who turns to Christ in life’s final hour. It welcomes Jonah and the people of Nineveh. It welcomes the first workers and the last. It welcomes the person you find hardest to forgive. And, thanks be to God, it welcomes you. When someone who was lost is found, we can rejoice. When a sinner receives forgiveness, we can rejoice. When someone we never expected is welcomed into God’s family, we can rejoice. The grace that welcomes them is the same grace that welcomes us. Christ’s forgiveness is full and free, and his mercy is not exhausted by the number of people receiving it. There is grace enough for them—and grace enough for us.

How could you celebrate or share God’s generous grace today?

Lord Jesus, thank you for taking my place and giving me the life I could never earn. Fill me with joy whenever your grace reaches another person, and use me to share that grace freely with others. Amen.



Growing FAITH at home

PROPER 17

YEAR A

**Taking up your
cross and
following Jesus**



GrowMinistries
LCA CHILD YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



www.growministries.org.au

Sunday between
August 28 and
September 3



CONVERSATIONS

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

1. What is something you find difficult to do? What makes it so?
2. Jesus says "if you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it" (Matthew 16:25). What do you think he means by this?



BIBLE READINGS

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

S	Matthew 16:21-28	Take up your cross and follow
M	Matthew 10:32-39	Losing life to find it
T	Matthew 20:17-28	Jesus again predicts his death
W	Luke 9:57-62	The cost of following Jesus
T	Exodus 3:1-15	Moses and the burning bush
F	Romans 12:9-21	Love in action
S	Psalms 26:1-8	Vindicate me, Lord

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Then Jesus said to his disciples,
"If any of you wants to be my follower,
you must turn from your selfish ways,
take up your cross, and follow me."

MATTHEW 16:24



CREATIVE RESPONSE

Look together at Romans 12:9-21.

Brainstorm a list of all the things these verses encourage Christians to do (e.g. love others, honour others, be joyful, pray, bless).

Record these in your personal or family journal and ask God to show you how you can live these things this week.



MEALTIME PRAYER

Thank you for
all we eat and
all we wear, for
daily bread and
nightly care.
Amen.



PRAYER

Lord Jesus, help
us to never give
up on you. Keep
us excited about
serving God.
Amen.



ACTION RESPONSE

Work together as a household to make small crosses out of card or popsicle sticks.

Write the words 'Take up your cross and follow me' on each cross.

Commit to carrying your crosses with you this week as a reminder of Jesus' call to follow him in all things.



BLESSING

May God keep your
faith in Jesus alive
and strong.



St Paul's Lutheran Church

65 Smiths Rd, Caboolture 4510

Email: stpaulscab@gmail.com

Ph: 5330 3353

www.stpaulscaboolture.org.au

Pastor James Leach

Mob: 0473 461 506

Email: james.leach@lca.org.au

www.youtube.com/@StPaulsCaboolture

www.facebook.com/SPLCCaboolture



Lord, help your people
to avoid all contamination of the devil,
and to follow you, the only Lord,
with pure hearts and minds.
We ask this 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, Eileen Lattimer, 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

