LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

SUNDAY 29/11/2026

1st Sunday of Advent

# ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

## CABOOLTURE AND BRIBIE ISLAND

## Making Room

The God Who Welcomes Us

# ROOM FOR LONGING

## Upcoming Worship Service Times @ St Paul's

### THIS WEEK

**Sunday, 29th November**

Caboolture @ 9am

**Monday, 30th November**

Aged Care @ 10am

### NEXT WEEK

**Sunday, 6th December**

Caboolture @ 9am

**Monday, 7th December**

Aged Care @ 10am



### Bible Readings

| This Sunday | Next Sunday |
|---|---|
| Isaiah 64:1-9 | Isaiah 40:1-11 |
| 1 Cornth 1:3-9 | 2 Peter 3:8-15a |
| Mark 13:24-37 | Mark 1:1-8 |

**What are you still hoping will change?**

Maybe there's a conversation you wish you could have, a relationship you'd love to see healed, or a prayer you've said so often you wonder whether to say it again. Christmas can bring those longings closer to the surface, even when there's plenty to look forward to.

This week's sermon asks what hope looks like when the thing we're longing for is still out of reach. We'll hear a prayer bold enough to ask God to come down and honest enough to ask for forgiveness. And we'll consider why the death and resurrection of Jesus give us reason to trust him with the parts of our lives that still feel unfinished.

The six daily devotions bring that hope into the ordinary moments of the week. What might happen if you told God what you really wished were different? How might his promise to hold you change the way you wait? And who might tell you a little more about what they're carrying if you gave them time to answer when you asked, How are you going?

# Celebrate CHRISTMAS at St Paul's



## CHRISTMAS EVE
## NO MESS TOO GREAT

**6:30PM • 24 DECEMBER**
**ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

## Christmas Day Service

**Friday 25 December • 9 am**

**St Paul's Caboolture**



## New Year's Eve
*Taizé-Style Service*

**Thursday 31 December • 5 pm**

**St Paul's Caboolture**

# Advent Celebrations

## THIS SUNDAY

## St Paul's Caboolture

**9am • Worship**



**10am • Morning Tea & Cross-generational Craft Activities**



**11am • Carol Singing**



**12pm • Advent Lunch**



**Bring a Christmas Salad and/or Dessert to Share.**

**Sausage Sizzle will be provided.**

## Come help us put up the Christmas Tree



## Gift and Giving - November

# Dorothee Orphanage

A celebration of joy. A reminder of belonging.



**Dorothee Orphanage children are learning recycling.** They are learning how to do hancraft as part of their holidays activities. The activity also aims at unlocking their full potential for future sustainability

### HOW TO GIVE

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**

*Let's help this work of hope and care continue.*

# Making Room:

## The God Who Welcomes Us



What would you make room for this Christmas if you knew you could bring your whole life with you? The longing you rarely put into words. The relationship you wish you could mend. The memories that make you smile and ache at the same time.

This Advent and Christmas, we'll follow the story of a God who makes room for us. As we light the candles of hope, peace, joy and love, we'll ask each week:
*What are we carrying, and what does Christ give us here?*

ADVENT 1 • *Hope*

### Room for Longing

What are you still waiting for? God welcomes our honest cries and holds us in the waiting. We look towards the day when Jesus will come again and make all things new.

ADVENT 2 • *Peace*

### Room for Change

What might change if you knew you were already forgiven? God's mercy gives us courage to face what we've got wrong and take a step towards reconciliation.

ADVENT 3 • *Joy*

### Room for the Brokenhearted

Can joy and grief sit together at Christmas? God's promise to restore what is broken gives us a joy that still has room for tears.

ADVENT 4 • *Love*

### Room for the Unexpected

Mary's plans took an unexpected turn when God sent her a promise. Her story invites us to wonder what it means to trust a love we could never earn.

CHRISTMAS EVE

### Room in Our Mess

As we light the Christ candle, we'll hear how Jesus came into a world as messy as ours. The child in the manger is the Saviour who comes to bear our sin and bring us home to God.

CHRISTMAS DAY

### Room in God's Family

Who is this child? The eternal Son of God has become one of us. In Jesus, we discover the wonder of being welcomed as God's own children.

Whether Christmas is something you look forward to or a season you find hard to get through, there's room for you here.

*Come as you are and hear what Christ has for you.*

CHRISTMAS EVE

# NO MESS TOO GREAT

*When Christmas Goes Off Script*



**6:30PM • 24 DECEMBER**
**ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

The first Christmas was not neat or easy. God entered the confusion of our world in Jesus—and still comes close with forgiveness, peace and hope.

*Come as you are for a warm intergenerational service with our Christmas skit and carols.*

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

## Join us for Christmas Day

**Friday 25 December • 9 am**

**St Paul's Caboolture**

# Room in God's Family

Christ makes us his own.

## O Come, All Ye Faithful

The eternal Word becomes flesh and gives believers the right to become children of God.

**John 1:12–14**




# NO MESS TOO GREAT

Our Intergenerational Christmas Eve Skit

# WE NEED YOU!

## CAN YOU HELP?

**ADULTS AND CHILDREN**

ARE NEEDED FOR OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SKIT

## YOUNG SHEPHERDS, SHEEP AND ANGELS WANTED!

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

Contact Pastor James by **Thursday 3 December** if you would like to take part.

# New Year's Eve

## *Taizé-Style Service*

**Thursday 31 December • 5 pm**

**St Paul's Caboolture**

Come for a relaxed evening of prayer and reflection. Take time to look back on the year that's been and place the year ahead in God's arms.

**Stay for a BBQ dinner**

Bring your own drinks if you'd like, and enjoy time together over dinner.

*All welcome*

A CENTURY OF FAITH, PEOPLE & PLACE

# History book

## Now available

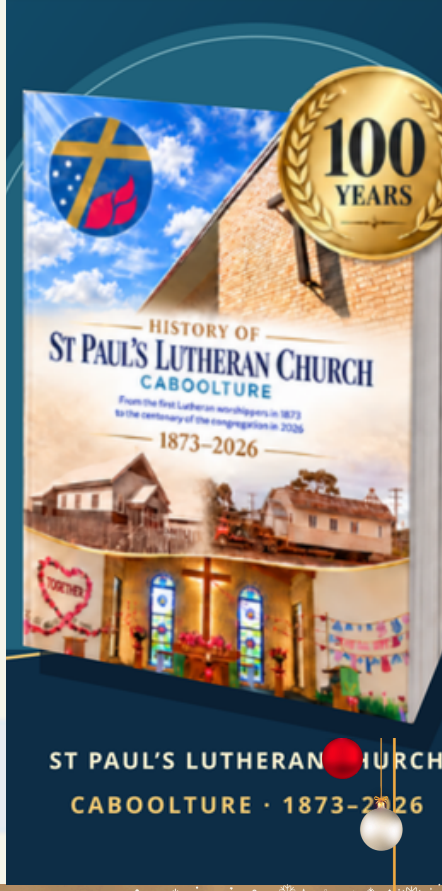
Take home the story of St Paul's Lutheran Church Caboolture—a richly illustrated journey from the first Lutheran worshippers in 1873 to the congregation's centenary in 2026.

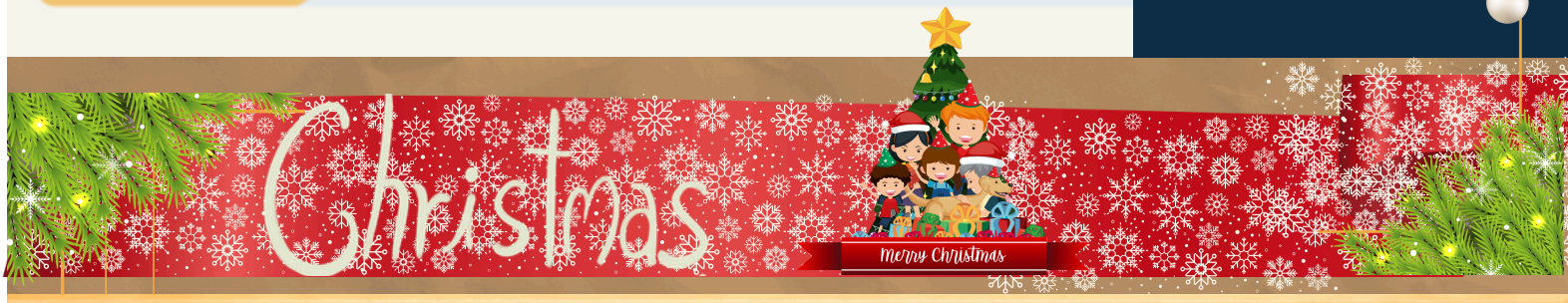
Through photographs, records and shared memories, meet the people, milestones, ministries and places that have shaped our life together.

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

**Available at the front desk at the church entrance**
Payment options: cash or bank transfer




## SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

# Room for Longing

## What does hope look like while we wait?

## Tuesday 1 December · 1pm

## Making Room: The God who welcomes us

## Everyone welcome

# 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 of 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**

## Bribie Island 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:**

**Recommences**
**Thursday 4-Feb-2027**

Black Dog Institute

# ONE FOOT FORWARD

## The walk for mental health




**Challenge Complete!**

**300 km DONE!** ✓

**$1,000+ RAISED!** ✓

| Swimming | Running / Walking | Cycling |
|---|---|---|
| 50 km of 50 km | 100 km of 100 km | 150 km of 150 km |

# Thank You!

*To everyone who supported me through the One Foot Forward Challenge—you've been incredible!*

Together we've not only completed the 300 km (a little later than planned!) and smashed our $1,000 fundraising goal, we've also helped shine a light on mental health, kept the conversation going, and created more space for honest and hope-filled discussions.

For me, this challenge has been a powerful reminder that life can feel like a marathon at times, especially when the Black Dog is barking loudly.

But I'm still here, and that tells me something important: no matter how heavy today might feel,

***there is always hope for tomorrow.***

## A few important reminders...

- ✓ *You are not alone.*
- ✓ *There are people who will listen.*
- ✓ *Reaching out for help isn't a weakness – it's a sign of strength.*
- ✓ *Talk to someone you trust about how you're going.*
- ✓ *Seek professional help when you need it.*






## Monday: Open the Drawer Isaiah 64:1–4.

When visitors are on their way, it's amazing how much washing can disappear behind a closed door. We can do something similar at Christmas. We put the cheerful things where people can see them and tuck away the worry we can't settle or the disappointment we hardly dare name. Isaiah opens the drawer. He asks God to tear open the heavens and come down. There is urgency in his prayer because what the people need is God himself. If you've ever found yourself saying, "Lord, please do something," you're already closer to Isaiah's prayer than you might think. Jesus came into a world full of grief and trouble. He knows what it is to suffer and cry out. You can begin your prayer with the very thing you were going to leave out. He hears you there.

- What have you been trying to tuck away as Christmas approaches?
- Which part of Isaiah's prayer sounds like something you long to say?
- What difference does it make that Jesus knows what it is to cry out?

***Come, Lord Jesus. You know the longing I've kept to myself. Hear me as I bring it to you, and keep me close to you as I wait. Amen.***

## Tuesday: Clay in the Father's Hands: Isaiah 64:5–9.

It's easier to name what we wish would change around us than to notice where we need God to change us. Isaiah's prayer makes room for both. The people long for God to act, and they admit how readily they've turned away from him. Then Isaiah still dares to call God "our Father". Perhaps there's a conversation you keep replaying because you wish the other person had handled it differently. As you bring it to God, there may also be something of your own to confess. You can name it plainly. The Father you're speaking to is the one who sent Jesus for you. Christ carried your sin to the cross. When he speaks forgiveness, you can take him at his word. Like clay in the potter's hands, you're in the care of the one who made you and is still at work in you.

- Where are you longing for change in a situation you're facing?
- What is yours to confess within that situation?
- How does calling God "Father" help you bring that confession to him?

***Father, forgive me for the ways I've turned from you and hurt others. Thank you that Jesus has carried my sin. By your Spirit, soften my heart and shape the way I respond today. Amen.***

## Wednesday: Let Your Face Shine on Us Psalm 80:1–7.

When someone who loves you catches your eye across a crowded room, their face can tell you a great deal. They've seen you. There's a place for you beside them. Psalm 80 longs for God to turn towards his people like that. The psalm asks him to restore them and let his face shine on them, then returns to the same plea again. Some prayers need repeating. You may have asked for help so often that you wonder what there is left to say. The psalm gives you words to borrow. It gives you the word us, too. When your own words are hard to find, God's people can help carry the prayer with you. In Jesus, we see the face of the God we're asking to turn towards us. He hears the cry you can barely get out. You can pray it again today.

- What prayer have you found yourself repeating lately?
- What is different when you pray "restore us" with others in mind?
- Who could pray with you about something you've been carrying alone?

***Lord Jesus, let your face shine on us. Hear those who are weary of asking for help. Give us words when prayer is hard and people who will pray beside us. Amen.***




## Thursday: The Promise That Holds 1 Corinthians 1:3–9.

It can be hard to hear "Stay hopeful" when you've already spent a long time waiting. What if tomorrow still looks much like today? Paul writes to a church with real troubles. He tells them that the Lord will keep them firm to the end. The reason he gives is simple. God is faithful. The Jesus who will come again is the same Jesus who has already given himself for you. At the cross he carried your sin, and in his resurrection he broke death's hold. Even on a day when you have little confidence to spare, his promise still stands. Think of the words spoken to you in Holy Communion, "given for you". Christ puts his promise into your hands. Whatever you're still waiting for, you can go into this day knowing whose hands hold you.

- Where are you feeling weary from waiting?
- How do Jesus' death and resurrection shape what you can hope for?
- What do the words "given for you" mean for you today?

***Faithful God, thank you for calling me into fellowship with your Son. When I'm weary and my faith feels small, strengthen me through your Word and keep me in Christ to the end. Amen.***

## Friday: Stay Awake to Today Mark 13:24–37.

Jesus tells of a man who goes away and gives his servants work to do. The doorkeeper is to keep watch. Nobody knows when the master will return. If you're someone who likes to have the dates in the diary and the details settled, this is an uncomfortable way to wait. Jesus gives us something to hold on to. His words will endure when the things we count on give way. The one who is coming is the Saviour who knows us and has given himself for us. We can trust the future to him and give our attention to the work he's put in front of us. That may mean keeping a promise you made, listening carefully to someone you usually hurry past or doing a small task that makes life easier for another person. There's room for faithfulness in an ordinary day.

- What part of the future are you tempted to manage into certainty?
- Which promise of Jesus helps you trust him with that uncertainty?
- What work or person has God entrusted to your care today?

***Come, Lord Jesus. Keep me awake to your Word and attentive to the people around me. Give me patience with what I can't see and faithfulness in the work you've given me today. Amen.***

## Saturday: A Place Beside Someone 1 Thessalonians 5:9–11.

Someone mentions in passing that Christmas will feel different this year. It's easy to hear that sentence and move on to the next thing. There may be a whole story behind it. A gentle "What will you miss most?" or "How are you going with that?" might give them room to tell you a little more. Paul's call to encourage one another grows out of a promise. Jesus died for us so that we may live with him. Christ has made room for us with all we carry. His care frees us to sit beside someone else and hear what they're carrying. They may need a cuppa and a quiet half-hour. They may need a lift, a meal or someone to remember a difficult date. As the Advent candle burns, pray "Come, Lord Jesus" for them too. Ask him for the grace to notice what would help and to follow through.

- Who might be carrying a longing that's easy for others to miss?
- What helps you feel heard when you're the one who is waiting?
- What small act of care could you follow through on this week?

***Come, Lord Jesus. Thank you for making room for us and hearing our prayers. Open my ears to another person's longing. Show me how to offer care they can receive, and keep us both in your hope. Amen.***



# Growing FAITH @ Home

**ADVENT 1**

**HOPE**

## Room for Longing

Jesus has come to save us. He will keep us as we wait for him to come again.

**MAKING ROOM**

The God Who Welcomes Us

St Paul's Lutheran Church

Sunday
29 November 2026

## CONVERSATIONS

**Share a high and a low from your day. Then choose a question to talk about.**

1. What are you looking forward to this Christmas? Is there something you wish were different?
2. If you could tell Jesus one thing you're waiting for, what would you say? What does he promise us while we wait?

*What are you carrying, and what does Christ give you here?*

## BIBLE READINGS

**Read a little each day. What word or promise stands out?**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Sun** | **Psalm 80:1–7, 16–18** | Restore us, O God |
| **Mon** | **Isaiah 64:1–4** | Open the Drawer |
| **Tue** | **Isaiah 64:5–9** | Clay in the Father's Hands |
| **Wed** | **Psalm 80:1–7** | Let Your Face Shine on Us |
| **Thu** | **1 Corinthians 1:3–9** | The Promise That Holds |
| **Fri** | **Mark 13:24–37** | Stay Awake to Today |
| **Sat** | **1 Thessalonians 5:9–11** | A Place Beside Someone |

## VERSE OF THE WEEK

**"God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."**

**1 CORINTHIANS 1:9 · NIV**

## CREATIVE RESPONSE

### Make room for hope

Fold a piece of paper into an Advent card. On the front, draw a candle and write "Hope". Inside, write or draw one thing you're waiting for. You can keep it private.

Put the card near your Advent wreath or on the table. If you have a hope candle or an LED candle, light or switch it on together. Keep a little silence and remember that Jesus hears your prayer.

**Together pray**
**Come, Lord Jesus. Keep us in your hope. Amen.**

## ACTION RESPONSE

### Make room for someone

Think of someone who might find the wait for Christmas hard. Make time to ask how they're going and listen to what they want to share.

**Ask what would help. Could you share a cuppa, bring a meal, offer a lift or check in again later in the week? Choose one thing you can follow through on.**

At the end of the week, pray for them by name.

## MEALTIME PRAYER

Thank you, Jesus, for this food and the people who prepared it. Be near to those who are hungry or lonely today. Help us share what you've given us. Amen.

## PRAYER

Come, Lord Jesus. You know what we're waiting for, even when we can't find the words. Thank you for forgiving us and holding us close. Help us listen to one another. Keep us in your hope. Amen.

## BLESSING

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May his face shine on you, and may Jesus keep you in his hope as you wait. Amen.




**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**




**Stir up your power, Lord, and come.**
**Protect us, so that we may be rescued**
**from the threatening dangers of our sins,**
**and saved by your deliverance.**
**For you live and reign with the Father**
**and the Holy Spirit,**
**one God, now and forever. Amen.**



## *Please pray for...*

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

