

16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

CABOOLTURE AND BRIBIE ISLAND

When Mercy Cancels the Debt

Upcoming Worship Service
Times @ St Paul's
THIS WEEK

Sunday 13th September

Bribie Island @ 8am
Caboolture @ 9am

Monday, 14th September

Aged Care @ 10am

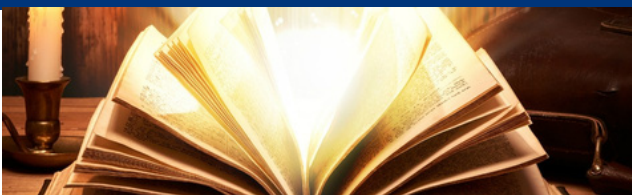
NEXT WEEK

Sunday 20th September

Caboolture @ 9am

Monday 21st September

Aged Care @ 10am



Bible Readings

This Sunday

Next Sunday

Genesis 50:15-21

Exodus 16:2-15

Romans 14:1-12

Phillippians 1:21-30

Matthew 18:21-35

Matthew 20:1-16

Some memories are precious. Others remain with us because they hurt—a careless word, a broken promise, a betrayal or a moment when someone we trusted let us down.

Without realising it, we can begin keeping an invisible account book: This is what they did. This is what it cost me. This is what they owe. In Genesis 50, Joseph's brothers fear that he has been keeping such a record. After everything they did to him, they expect revenge. Instead, Joseph weeps, speaks kindly to them and offers forgiveness. In Matthew 18, Jesus tells of a servant whose impossible debt is completely cancelled—yet who struggles to show the same mercy to someone else. These readings take us to the heart of the gospel. We cannot repay our debt to God, but Jesus has carried it to the cross. In him, we hear the liberating promise: You are forgiven. You are free. You belong to Christ.

This week's daily devotions invite us to explore what that forgiveness means for everyday life. We will consider how to stop keeping score, how forgiveness can include honest tears and wise boundaries, how to leave judgement with God, and how to trust that evil will never have the final word.

Forgiveness is not always quick or easy. Sometimes it means bringing the same wound back to Jesus again and again. Yet we do not make that journey alone. The One who has forgiven us walks beside us, gently loosening our grip on the debts we have carried.

This week come and discover how Christ's mercy can speak peace to your heart—and flow through you into the lives of others.

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



Replenish

Women's Retreat

...just breathe

A weekend just for you to relax, refresh and reconnect. ♥



Rest & Recharge



Connect & Enjoy



Reflect & Renew



Faith, Fellowship & Great Food



Beautiful Surroundings

Under 35?

Get up to \$100 off!



Thanks to the generosity of the LLL, women 18–35 years old can get up to \$100 off their booking.



9 – 11
October 2026



Luther Heights,
Coolum

Scan to register! →



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.

REGISTRATIONS OPEN

15 June –
27 September ♥

COST

- Full Price: \$320
- Under 35: Get up to \$100 off thanks to LLL generosity! (Discount applied at checkout)

QUESTIONS?

Contact your local church or visit lyq.org.au/events



“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28



Finance with a mission



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

QUEENSLAND DISTRICT

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

NEPAL FLOOD DISASTER

The Good News
*Your support is making
a difference*

Support from Australia is enabling direct action
across 8 municipalities in Rasuwa and Nuwakot.

Donate Now



HELP WHERE IT IS NEEDED MOST

Your support is prioritising:

- households who have lost homes
- people waiting for help in Holding Centres and temporary Centres
- isolated communities
- people with heightened vulnerabilities



HELPING PEOPLE THROUGH WINTER

As temperatures start to drop in the months
leading up to Christmas, your support is also
providing **winterisation items**.



CARE FOR BODY AND MIND

Alongside physical aid (tents, food, household essentials), **Psychosocial Counsellors** are providing psychological first aid to people who may be particularly vulnerable, including:

- older people
- people with disabilities
- children
- women
- people with health conditions



*Your support is bringing practical help
and compassion to people when they
need it most.*

Australian Lutheran
World Service



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.



St Paul's Lutheran Ladies Fellowship *Caboolture*



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



For more details please see Mavis Thamm.



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*



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.



Growing Together:

Daily Devotions to Help You

BELONG | GROW | CONNECT | THRIVE | SERVE

Monday: The Debt Is Cancelled

Matthew 18:27 “The servant’s master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go.”

The servant owed more than he could ever repay. His promise to “pay back everything” was sincere— but impossible. His only hope was the compassion of the king. Jesus uses this enormous debt to show us the extent of God’s mercy. Our sin cannot be erased by trying harder, becoming more religious or promising to do better. We cannot repay God. We can only receive what Christ freely gives. At the cross, Jesus took our debt upon himself. He carried our guilt, endured its judgement and opened the way to new life. God does not merely reduce what we owe or offer us a better repayment plan. For Christ’s sake, he cancels the debt completely. Today, you do not need to hide from God or prove that you deserve his love. Come with empty hands and receive his promise: you are forgiven, you are free, and you belong to Christ.

Is there something you are still trying to “make up for” before God?

How does it change your day to hear that Christ has cancelled your debt?

Merciful Jesus, I cannot repay what I owe, but you have given yourself for me. Help me receive your forgiveness with gratitude and live today in the freedom of your grace. Amen.

Faith in Action: Whenever guilt returns today, pause and say aloud: “Because of Jesus, I am forgiven.”

Tuesday: Put Down the Tally Sheet

Matthew 18:22 “Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.’”

Peter wanted to know when he had forgiven enough. Seven times sounded generous, but Peter was still counting. We often count too. We remember how many times someone has disappointed us, how often we have been overlooked or how long it has been since they apologised. Somewhere inside, we may keep a tally sheet of everything others owe us.

Jesus does not give Peter a larger number to record. He invites him to put the tally sheet away. Life in God’s kingdom is shaped by mercy rather than scorekeeping. Forgiveness does not mean pretending that hurtful behaviour is acceptable. Wise boundaries may still be needed, and trust may take time to rebuild. But we can release our desire to make another person suffer as we have suffered. We forgive not to earn God’s mercy, but because God has already shown immeasurable mercy to us in Christ.

Whose failures are you tempted to keep counting?

What might placing that tally sheet into Jesus’ hands look like today?

Jesus, you do not keep a record of my sins. When I begin keeping score against others, bring me back to your cross. Teach me to live from the mercy I have received. Amen.

Faith in Action: Write down one hurt you have been counting. Pray over it, then tear up the paper as a sign of placing it into God’s hands.

Wednesday: Tears Tell the Truth

Genesis 50:17 “When their message came to him, Joseph wept.”

Joseph was strong, faithful and wise—but he also wept. His brothers’ request for forgiveness touched a deep wound. Their betrayal had cost Joseph his freedom, his home and years with his family. Forgiving them did not mean that those losses suddenly stopped hurting. Tears are not evidence of weak faith. Sometimes tears are what truth looks like when words are not enough. Jesus also wept. He understands grief from the inside and does not ask us to pretend that everything is fine. God invites us to bring him our honest pain. We do not need to minimise what happened, hide our emotions or rush the healing process. Forgiveness can include tears, difficult conversations, wise boundaries and repeatedly placing the same wound into God’s hands. God meets us in that place. He holds our pain without condemnation and slowly keeps it from hardening our hearts.

Is there a grief or hurt that you have been trying not to feel?

How might honestly bringing that pain to Jesus help you begin to heal?

Compassionate Jesus, you know every wound and understand every tear. Meet me in my pain. Keep sorrow from hardening my heart, and gently lead me towards healing and peace. Amen.

Faith in Action: Find a quiet place and tell God honestly what has hurt you. Do not rush to fix it - simply allow yourself to be heard and held by him.



Growing Together:

Daily Devotions to Help You

BELONG | GROW | CONNECT | THRIVE | SERVE

Thursday: Leaving Judgement with God

Genesis 50:19 “But Joseph said to them, ‘Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God?’”

Joseph had power over his brothers. He could have punished them, imprisoned them or made them experience some of the suffering they had caused him. Instead, Joseph asked, “Am I in the place of God?” Forgiveness involves recognising that ultimate judgement belongs to God. We do not need to deny that something wrong has happened. We do not need to call evil good or abandon appropriate consequences. But neither do we need to carry the exhausting responsibility of personally settling every account. When we hold tightly to revenge, the person who hurt us continues to occupy space in our hearts. Entrusting judgement to God begins to loosen that grip. God sees the whole story. His judgement is wiser than ours, and his mercy is deeper than ours. We can place both the wrong and the wrongdoer into his hands.

Is there a situation in which you have been trying to take God’s place as judge?

What makes it difficult to entrust this person or situation to God?

Righteous and merciful God, you see what happened and know its true cost. Keep me from revenge. Give me wisdom, courage and safe boundaries, and help me entrust judgement to you. Amen.

Faith in Action: Pray: “Lord, this belongs to you.” Repeat these words whenever thoughts of revenge or resentment return today.

Friday: Evil Does Not Have the Final Word

Genesis 50:20 “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”

Joseph does not pretend that his brothers had good intentions. He tells them plainly: “You intended to harm me.” What they did was evil. Yet their evil was not strong enough to defeat God’s saving purpose. Through circumstances Joseph could not understand at the time, God brought life and hope from a story filled with betrayal, slavery and imprisonment. This does not mean every painful event is good or that we will understand every tragedy in this life. It means that no part of our story lies beyond God’s redeeming love. We see this most clearly at the cross. Human beings intended to silence and destroy Jesus. Yet through that very cross, God brought forgiveness, reconciliation and life to the world. What has happened to us may shape our story, but it does not have to define its ending. In the hands of the risen Christ, evil never receives the final word.

Where do you need the hope that God is still at work?

How does the resurrection change the way you view a painful chapter of your life?

God of resurrection, some parts of my story remain painful and confusing. Help me trust that nothing is beyond your redeeming love. Bring hope, healing and new life where I cannot yet see a way forward. Amen.

Faith in Action: Look for one small sign of God bringing life, kindness or hope from a difficult situation. Give thanks for it.

Saturday: Spoken Close to the Heart

Genesis 50:21 “So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.’ And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.”

Joseph did more than promise not to punish his brothers. He reassured them, provided for them and spoke kindly to them. The original expression carries the sense that Joseph “spoke to their hearts.” His brothers were still living in fear. They expected revenge because they could hardly believe that forgiveness was real. Joseph wanted them to live not as frightened slaves, but as forgiven family. Jesus speaks to our hearts in the same way. He does not want us to spend our lives wondering whether God is secretly waiting to punish us. At the cross, Jesus has dealt with our guilt. Through his Word, Baptism and Holy Communion, he continues to reassure us: “Do not be afraid. You are forgiven. You belong to me.” Secure in that promise, we can speak grace into the fearful and wounded hearts around us. God’s forgiveness reaches others through our patient presence, gentle words and practical care.

What fear or guilt does Jesus need to speak into your heart today?

Who might need to hear a reassuring or gracious word from you?

Lord Jesus, speak your forgiveness close to my heart. Free me from fear and help me trust your promise. Use my words and actions to bring reassurance, kindness and grace to others. Amen.

Faith in Action: Contact someone who may be carrying fear, regret or loneliness. Offer a simple word of kindness and remind them that they are not alone.



Growing FAITH at home

PROPER 16

YEAR A

Jesus is God's Son



growministries
LCA CHILD YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



www.growministries.org.au

Sunday between
August 21 and August 27



CONVERSATIONS

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

1. Share about a time when you had a different view from someone else.
2. What are some of the different ideas people have about Jesus? Who do you say Jesus is?



BIBLE READINGS

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

S	Matthew 16:13-20	Peter's confession of Christ
M	Exodus 1:8-2:10	Birth of Moses
T	John 11:17-27	Martha's confession of Christ
W	Matthew 27:50-54	The confession of soldiers
T	Acts 9:20-31	Saul's confession of Christ
F	Romans 12:1-8	A living sacrifice
S	Psalms 138	The Lord will vindicate me

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Then Jesus asked them, "But who do you say I am?" Simon Peter spoke up, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

MATTHEW 16:15-16



CREATIVE RESPONSE

In Romans 12:1 Paul encourages Christians to offer their whole bodies in service to God.

As part of your home devotions this week, draw a large outline of a body (or trace around someone).

Talk about how we can use different parts of our bodies to serve God and confess our faith in Jesus.

Write your ideas onto the paper and hang your body drawing up somewhere to use it as a focal point for action and prayer during the week.



ACTION RESPONSE

Romans 12:6-8 lists a number of different gifts that God gives to his people: telling others the gospel and Bible stories, helping others, teaching, encouraging, sharing or giving, leading, and showing kindness to others.

Name the gifts you see at work in different members of your family. Talk about ways you can use these gifts to serve God in your church, family and community.



MEALTIME PRAYER

Son of God, come be our guest, our thanks to receive and these gifts to bless. Amen.



PRAYER

Lord Jesus, help us to show that we believe you are God's Son through what we think, say and do today. Amen.



BLESSING

May the Lord make you strong and brave to speak up for him.



St Paul's Lutheran Church

Pastor James Leach

65 Smiths Rd, Caboolture 4510

Mob: 0473 461 506

Email: stpaulscab@gmail.com

Email: james.leach@lca.org.au

Ph: 5330 3353

www.youtube.com/@StPaulsCaboolture

www.stpaulscaboolture.org.au

www.facebook.com/SPLCCaboolture



Lord, let your loving kindness
always go before us and follow us,
and lead us continually to do good.

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 Ansell, 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

