

Believing Thomas



And Thomas answered Him: 'My Lord and my God!' John 20:28

'Don't be such a doubting Thomas!' is an expression widely used when someone is being unreasonably cynical about a piece of news or a new idea. This is understandable as Thomas was the only disciple that wasn't present when Jesus first appeared and was, naturally, quite sceptical about Jesus rising from the dead. But Thomas has got a bad rap really. The news seemed so unbelievable that any sane person would want further proof. And further proof is what Jesus gave him.

I prefer to see how Thomas reacted when he saw the resurrected Jesus. He

didn't doubt himself then. He didn't try and rationalise it as a vision or some wishful thinking arising from profound grief. He didn't try and hang on to his doubt to prove a point. No, Thomas was filled with the Holy Spirit and declared that Jesus is his God. The scripture tells us that the other disciples were filled with joy but only Thomas' worship is ascribed to Jesus' presence. Thomas believed and Thomas worshipped.

Belief and worship always go together. When we passionately believe in something we are moved to action. Belief in something affects how we live. I love how Thomas responds to Jesus. There are many times when I wish I was as dedicated and passionate about Jesus as Thomas was. Thomas inspires me to be more than just a person who says they believe. His response inspires me to be a person who lives what they believe, both in worship and in everyday life.

Pastor Greg



Readings This Week:

Psalm 16:1, 5-8 Acts 2:14a, 22-32 John 20:19-31

You Can Now Download Weekly Readings!!



Online Worship Opportunities

Sunday 19th April	9.30 am
Sunday 26th April	9.30 am

Kids at Heart

During the service this week, we will be looking at "Jesus appears to Thomas" based on John 20:19-31

Check Out GGLC Website For Children Activities With This Weeks Theme!!





Remember to continue to send in your weekly artwork submissions. We love seeing what the children are creating! Please also share our webpage with family members to share your child's master pieces!



The Children's program operates under the ChildSafe LCA program which is a safety and risk management system with a focus on keeping children and young people safe in their programs and activities.

What's Happening In Our Community



GGLC LIVE STREAMING UPDATE

Thank you very much to everyone for tuning in to our live streams over the last three Sundays and Easter and thank you to those who have passed the



details on to other family members and friends. We encourage you to continue to share our information!

We are grateful for the responses and everyone's engagement with the services, whether that be sending in photos, sending in a comment or sending us a text. Thanks for also sending in feedback on the worship services.

In the first two weeks we estimate that on each Sunday we had well over 100 people joining us for the live streams, and to date YouTube is reporting over 300 views for each service. We have also added Facebook to our streaming services over Easter, resulting in a great response from viewers.

We have reports of people viewing the services from country Victoria, NSW, QLD and WA and as far as the United States.

Everyone is welcome and please do engage with the comments or SMS's, whether you are from our local Golden Grove Community or our boundless YouTube community!

If you know anyone who needs help or instruction on how to view our services, please contact the church office

Remember to check out Pastor Greg's Daily Devotion Videos.

https://www.gglc.org.au/church/ index.php/publications/bible-study-Pastor-Greg



Information On Using Zoom Meetings

Many of you may have seen warnings about **Zoom** meetings on the Internet or in the recent **70000** LCA eNews.



Zoom does have shortcomings but is generally safe if used according to best practice - for example, don't be like Boris Johnson and publish your Zoom meeting ID to the world. There are some good guidelines here to avoid having your meeting "zoom-bombed":

https://www.pcworld.com/article/3535213/how-to-preventzoom-bombing-by-being-smarter-than-boris-johnson.html and other useful advice about setting up conference calls here: https://blog.zoom.us/wordpress/2020/03/20/keep-the-partycrashers-from-crashing-your-zoom-event/

Concern has also been expressed about security and eavesdropping with Zoom, which is a valid concern for private and sensitive conversations. Zoom does not provide military grade security of group conversations. Just like the oldfashioned operator in the telephone exchange, Zoom acts as the middleman to hook up all the attendees together, so it theoretically has the means to monitor and record conversations and video - which it probably doesn't, but if you do have concerns about this, then don't use Zoom. Skype is simliar in this respect.

There are many other options, although it can be equally hard to work out which are really secure and which are not, and many have limitations on the number of video call participants. Those that are generally considered secure and good options include WhatsApp (subject to only allowing 4 participants). Facebook Messenger using "Secret Conversations", Google Hangouts (10 participants) and Cisco Webex Meetings free tier (also 10 participants).

Support your local community & us

Many local businesses and restaurants now doing takeaway need your support. Access these and many other offers on eGift Cards to help you save.



BONUS

3

2 months extra Membership FREE

Buy today and have 6 months to activate your Membership

Or activate today and continue to

save on gift cards, local takeaway

and essentials

on Single & Multi City Memberships*

Connecting Communities

There has never been a more important time to support us with our fundraising and local business at the same time.

20% of each Membership sale goes directly to supporting our cause.

Renew now



To purchase through GGLC - <u>https://</u>

www.entertainment.com.au/orderbooks/161k370

Please note: Entertainment book is now only available as a 100% digital version. To access the vouchers, the Entertainment App must be downloaded.

News from Friends of Asaroka



Photo is of departing chaplain Benson Samarapa and his wife.

Pastor Jacob Maso reports that they have been in lockdown.

- 1. School closed due to Governments discussion as of 23^{rd} March due to corona virus.
- 2. Tractor is fine. Has recently ploughed rice field just below the southern cross. Rice has been planted and it's growing.
- 3. Internet connection is temporarily on hold due to the cost of more than K10,000.00. Principal said we will wait for a better business deal for reconnection.
- 4. Late Rev Tscharke's monument still needs some more work to complete before ready to unveil.
- 5. Please pray for a new chaplain, which the head office in Lae will send. Chaplain Benson Samarapa's term has expired.
- 6. The family of the late Mr Nendo have been allowed to stay at the school for the year by the governing body, while they wait for their entitlements from the government through the Education Department.

We have also been advised that Sonia head of Nursing at the Goroka Hospital is unwell and has been in the Pt Moresby Hospital.

Please remember the Asaroka community. Continue to keep our sisters and brothers in PNG in your prayers as they too experience a time of challenges and hardships!

Life in the Vine Publication

The March 2020 edition of our community magazine is available NOW.



Order your copy at <u>office@gglc.org.au</u> or view/download from our website.

Click Here to Read

Looking For Something To Do While Social Distancing?

Remember GGLC Library has many books for borrowing! Come on in for a quick browse.

You might be surprised on what you find!!





Also available Christian music in CD format!!

"Cant get to church to give your offering money? Want to be more organised with your giving?"

REG is the ANSWER!!

Regular Electronic Giving (REG) is a convenient, safe and confidential way of giving to our congregation and the wider Lutheran Church. If you are away from church for any reason, your offering is still made. REG has a positive effect on our cash flow. Visit the LCA REG page <u>www.lca.org.au/REG</u> for more information.



To check out the benefits of REG and to register: www.lca.org.au/REG

The LLL Account No. for GGLC Regular Electronic Giving is 28190/S1/GOL

(use this for transfers from your LLL account to the REG account). To transfer money into the LLL Golden Grove Lutheran Church REG Account from another bank please use BSB 704942 Account 100118259

ONE-OFF DONATIONS

During this time of shutdown due to COVID-19, please consider how you can continue to make your free-will offering. GGLC can now accept one-off donations through our website. For more information visit <u>https://www.gglc.org.au/church/index.php/</u> products/offeringdonation

or click button below



Do you have a need? any need? Home Bible Studies have been cancelled until further notice.

Gods blessing to you all in this challenging time. If you needing prayer 24/7 feel free to contact me 0424 186 149 (John) or e-mail (jschiller@iaa.net.au) me for things like anxiety, fear, symptoms of the flue, anything at all. <u>Remember:</u> We know when we trust in Gods word the prayer of faith will cut through anything. Gods word is sharper than a two edge sword. Jesus name is above all Names including the name of this current virus. Jesus wants you well!

We have been part of couple thousand healings/miracles— God's glory & power at work. If you or anyone that you know has been effected by the virus **please ring us** and we have 100% confidence in God that when we pray that this virus will die and fall of you.

This is only a small sample of testimonies of the many Hundreds/Thousands of Healings and miracles that occurring in our midst and wider community. Thankyou Jesus !!

CLICK HERE

https://www.youtube.com/playlist? list=PLFeEL5FGigpDKnE3qRjeAtP3jkdvr5Vs4 (Small sample of testimonies from Golden Grove Lutheran Church Youtube site)

Contact Jon: 0424 186 149 or Paul: 0413 604 000

Short Prayer: "God, You alone are worthy of honor, glory, and praise. With You, we can overcome every storm including the global impact COVID-19 is having on our world. Right now, we are asking You to: Heal those who are sick and protect those who are not. Give our leaders extra wisdom as they navigate this pandemic and economic uncertainty. Strengthen Your global Church. Reveal to us how we can partner together to reach the needs of those around us. Calm our fears. Fill us with Your hope, joy, and peace as we continue to trust in You. Use this pandemic to pave the way for spiritual renewal. We want Your glory, power, and healing to be on display. Come, Lord Jesus, come. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

Videos of Pastor Greg's messages can be viewed on our website or YouTube, and announcements are made on Facebook as soon as new items become available.

If you choose to give the video posts a Like/Share on Facebook, you're helping to increase the number of people that might see Pastor Greg's message. A seemingly trivial click - it may be the easiest act of ministry you ever do!

Website: <u>http://www.gglc.org.au/</u>, go to "For Members" and select "Pastor's Messages" Facebook: <u>https://www.facebook.com/gglc.lca/</u> Looking for resources to help keep faith alive at home, connect with our community, and stay safe, during this time of physical isolation?



<u>Church@Home</u> is a central repository for such resources to help us keep the faith alive! New resources are being added all the time.

<u>Click here</u> or on the above image to go to the Church@Home landing page. https://www.lca.org.au/churchhome/



Support for the work and ministry of Lutheran Community Care is ongoing and encouraged.

During the month of **April** LCC invite you to replenish their Emergency Relief shelves with donations of **Cereals, Coffee, Pasta Sauce & Tin Harvest Meals.**



Boxes are always in the Foyer waiting to be filled!

Last week GGLC celebrate birthdays with Sue Fielke Isaac Jaeschke Elizabeth Mills

This week GGLC celebrate birthdays with Elaine Baldock Jesse Hahn Alexandra Schmocker Nadia Napier

We hope your special day is blessed with God's love & grace!

GGLC OFFERINGS

Members are offered the opportunity of Regular Electronic Giving (REG) which provides a way to give regularly and consistently without having to remember to bring money for the offering plate every Sunday. More information about REG can be found in the

Giving section of the LLL website.

The LLL Account No. for GGLC Regular Electronic Giving is 28190/S1/GOL (use this for transfers from your LLL account to the REG account). To transfer money into the LLL Golden Grove Lutheran Church REG Account from another bank please use BSB 704942 Account 100118259