



GOLDEN GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Life in the Vine

THE MAGAZINE OF GOLDEN GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Social Media Update - pg. 10

WELCOME TO THE LATEST EDITION OF LIFE IN THE VINE.

As the world finds itself in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, our community also experienced adversity and trials. Whilst COVID-19 has challenged us, God has also blessed us in as many surprising ways. Throughout this publication, there are many demonstrations and examples of how COVID-19 has changed Golden Grove Lutheran Church and the blessings that surprised everyone. Also, we meet new friends and family who through this crisis, have come to know our community via our online services and want to express their appreciation. Lastly, we see what is happening with our friends in Papua New Guinea and other local events in our community. Whilst we continue to experience times of uncertainty with the future unknown, we remember to turn to God and rely on his promises.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:6-7

May God bless and be with you, stay safe and enjoy!

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PASTOR GREG SHARES

BY PASTOR GREG FOWLER



“There is no way we could have imagined the blessing God would bring to us.”

God Sustains Us

*Yet this I call to mind
and therefore I have hope:
Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
Lamentations 3:21-23*

When COVID-19 first appeared and led to the cessation of our worship services and other in-person ministries, I was feeling a little downcast because I wondered how we would effectively minister to one another and how God's word would be proclaimed from our assembly. There was no way any of us could have seen this pandemic coming and no way we could have imagined the changes that we would experience. There is no way we could have imagined the blessing God would bring to us.

Once we made the decision to worship together via a live-stream to YouTube and Facebook, I knew God would honour our faithfulness. I knew that we would not be consumed but his blessing would be new and he would have some exciting things in store for us.

None of us could have imagined how the Lord would use our church to reach so many, in such distant places, with His word. Almost immediately, we saw hundreds of people tune in to our live worship and respond interactively. Even now, when most churches have resumed their physical worship services, many people are continuing to be blessed by the live worship we are able to stream.

God also prompted us to keep close to those in our community by Zoom meetings for youth and other groups, and to redouble our efforts in pastoral care. We initiated a new system of contact so that those in our community would know that God loves them and is with them during this time. Again we witnessed a blessing. The renewed emphasis on contact and visitation is like a new morning brought forth by God. As it turns out, COVID forced us to focus on the things that are the foundation of the church and not worry about the rest.

God's faithfulness has been more evident than ever in the last few months. The more we stretched ourselves to follow his call as a community, the more he blessed us. We have hope because his compassion never fails; great is his faithfulness!

“...COVID forced us to focus on the things that are the foundation of the church and not worry about the rest.”

Small Holy Communion



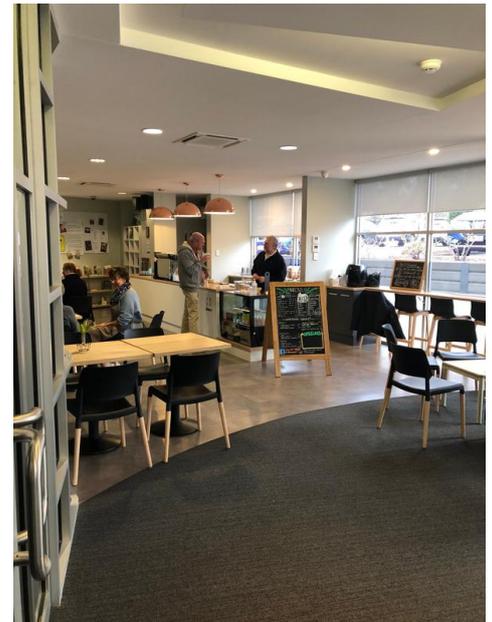


HIGHLIGHTS FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

BY JON SCHUTZ
GGLC CHAIRPERSON

- Since the previous edition of Life in the Vine which was published on March 20—coincident with the first restrictions that affected our worship (March 22)—we have gone from normal gathering for worship, to live-stream only (March 29), to small holy communion services (May 14), and back to COVID-safe physical gathering (July 5).
- Although we are gathering again, the live-streaming continues, as many people have indicated to us how this has been a blessing.
- I would like to extend a special thanks to those who have made this happen—notably Robert, Joel and Mark for delivering the technology, Greg for making it all look so easy in front of the camera, and Natasha for putting together the kid’s ministry segments. That we went from normal worship to live-stream in the space of a week, and Greg went from mild-mannered metropolitan Pastor to Super-YouTube-man without skipping a beat nor harming any public phone boxes, are striking achievements.
- Remarkably, after a few live-streams the church suddenly changed colour, probably leaving viewers wondering if they had the right channel. Thank you to Roger and Denise once again for their handiwork with the paintbrush and roller.
- In coming back to church, you may have noticed two new large screen TVs, two new cameras, five new monitors on the PA bar, a new defibrillator, a new printer, and very astute observers would have also picked up that we are running new presentation software. Most of the costs (and the installation labour) of all of this new equipment has been donated by individual members to support our live-stream (except the defibrillator of course, which was donated to protect our lives more than our live-stream, though the role of the defibrillator in the live-stream announcements should not be overlooked). I would like to thank everybody who has supported us in this way.
- Another thankyou goes to Joel for his dedication in maintaining our social media channels. Social media has been the backbone of our information sharing whilst physical gathering has not been an option. It has been pleasing to see the growth in subscriptions and activity in our channels, as that helps maintain our community in all those hours that we are not meeting together each week.

- Church Council meetings held during this period were conducted using Zoom conferencing. Church Council started meeting again in person on July 20. The strategic planning that had been on the top of our agenda has been temporarily set aside whilst we deal with the more immediate problems and try to work out what the parameters of a future strategic plan might be.
- For the first time ever, our AGM was also held over Zoom, with 40 people attending. Key business was the passing of an updated budget for 2020 due to the many changes thrust upon us by COVID-19. Thank you to all for your support in running the business of the congregation.
- The early impact of the restrictions was a drop in April income of 17%. Cafe income was substantially impacted and anticipated income from fundraising activities went to zero. However, through to the end of July our net offerings from all sources (including the online donations introduced during the period of restrictions) have ended up being reasonably steady, and I would like to thank everyone in our community for your ongoing support through giving. Because our predicted (and actual) turnover dropped below the threshold to claim JobKeeper payments, we have been able to pass on the government support to our staff. The Federal Government has also provided extra support through Boosting Cashflow program payments. The net of all of these factors is that our bottom line is, for the moment, in a reasonably healthy situation despite the turmoil.
- We do not expect to continue to qualify for JobKeeper after September, which also coincides with the last of the Boosting Cashflow payments, so October onwards into next year holds a whole new set of financial challenges.
- We continue to plan towards holding our Fete on Sunday October 18, both as a fundraiser and a celebration of not having restrictions on our ability to gather...if, of course, we still have no restrictions at that stage.



“...Greg went from mild-mannered metropolitan Pastor to Super-YouTube-man without skipping a beat...”



NEWS FROM GGLPS

BY SHANE PATERSON
PRINCIPAL



“It is a joy to be able to do this again and the enthusiasm of the students is a delight to behold.”

Before writing this article, I revisited my article from the March edition of ‘Life in the Vine’. It was full of hope for the year ahead - how things changed quickly from that time.

From the middle of March families began to self-isolate, while we attempted to run as normal a program as possible. Unfortunately during this time our large corporate events, Worship and Assembly were suspended, parents were not allowed to enter classrooms and we began to focus on offering our curriculum on an online basis.

Second term was definitely better than we anticipated—with a full return to face to face teaching in the second week. We had expected to run an online program for at least half the term but thankfully this wasn’t the case.

However, we had to be innovative with our corporate events. Assembly was not held for most of the term but towards the end of the term we began to live-stream into classrooms. Worship, an important part of our school fabric, was pre-recorded and several classes worshipped together (as per regulations). To maintain a sense of worshipping as a school we all worshipped with the pre-recorded service at the same time on a Friday morning. We had begun discussions about live-streaming Friday worship into classrooms (since we have great facilities to do this), but since the start of term 3 we have been able to worship as a whole school again (and have parents there as well!). It is a joy to be able to do this again and the enthusiasm of the students is a delight to behold.

While we could not worship together we never lost sight of the importance of continuing worship in some form to thank and praise God. It added to the workload of Mrs Zadow and a number of others, however, it was undertaken because of their desire and understanding of the call to worship which we have.

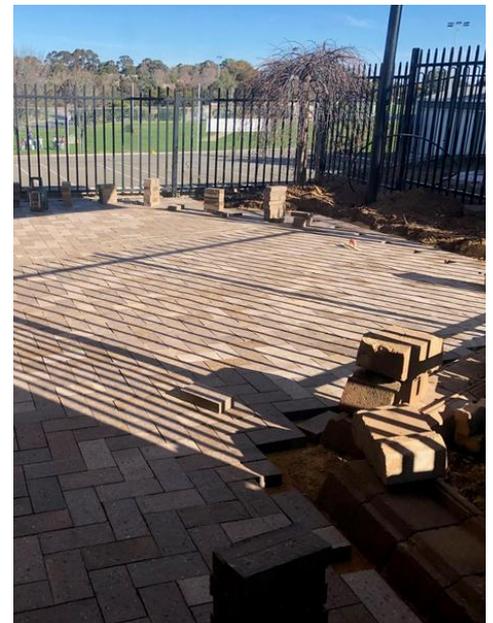
Unfortunately we have decided to suspend our Holy Communion practice for now. While this decision was difficult to make, a balance had to be found on the preparation time, the inability to touch for a blessing and the wearing of gloves and the student's interpretation of this. Hopefully we will be able to recommence this practice in the coming months.

When compared to other countries and even in Australia, we can be thankful for the mercies given to us in South Australia. We have been able to run a near 'normal' program (especially with teaching and learning) as possible. Some of our large school events eg. Special Persons Afternoon and Carols night have been cancelled for the year and we look forward to their return next year.

May God continue to look favourably on us.

A few highlights around the school in the last few weeks have been: replacement and addition of new flags in the courtyard which celebrate the various cultures in the school (38), a refurbishment of the Reception area and the construction of an outdoor learning area (funded by the State government).

“...we can be thankful for the mercies given to us in South Australia.”





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

BY RUTH ZIMMERMANN



The Christian Education Team have decided to postpone Mainly Music sessions for Term 3 this year. At this stage it is hoped that Mainly Music can resume on a Friday once again in Term 4. In relation to Playgroup, which is usually held on a Wednesday morning, sessions will begin August 12 for a trial period. Currently a lack of volunteers is holding us back. Please contact Natasha if you can help her on a Wednesday morning from 9am - 11.30am.

Future events

Church Library

The library team are gearing up to begin the process of adding the Church library resources to the new Bookmark Library system that has recently been set up on the laptop that was purchased as part of the TTG Council grant for the café area. This will enable everyone to search for various items, as well as being able to borrow using a scanner during café hours as well as during various Church ministry times and services.

Prayer month in September

During the month of September Pastor Greg will be focussing on the theme of prayer. Natasha will also be using this theme for her weekly activities with the children. Keep an eye on the website as there will also be a variety of resources about prayer that you may find useful for personal devotions or Connect Group gatherings!



GGLC FIREWOOD FUNDRAISER BEE

JULY 18 & 25, 2020



By the numbers:
 -75 man-hours
 -20 trips from the forest
 -16 trailer-loads sold
 -16 helpers
 -10 saw-hours
 -7 tonnes of wood
 -5 splitter-hours





SOCIAL MEDIA

BY JOEL SCHILLER



Who knew that a church like ours would be broadcasting to the world? We have new content uploaded almost daily through our weekly live-streams, through *Bible Study with Pastor Greg*, Pastor Greg's latest messages and the *God's Power at Work at Golden Grove Testimony* series.

Before the Coronavirus came to our shores our YouTube channel had steadily been ticking over with the Sunday messages being uploaded and every so often a new video was added to the testimony series. We had 34 subscribers in March this year; now we have an incredible 132 subscribers who see our videos uploaded (as long as they click the bell notification). Many people from across Australia have been tuning in, including from the Gold Coast, Canberra, and the Barossa Valley. It has been awesome hearing all the positive feedback about what people have been enjoying, and to see the various places they have been watching from. People have been making the most of the live-stream by tuning in from their holiday location, whether that is on the Yorke Peninsula or those who were in Belair for the Women's Retreat. There are also a lot of people who watch our live-stream on YouTube who have not subscribed—if that's you, be sure to do it so you can stay up-to-date.

“Who knew that a church like ours would be broadcasting to the world?”

While YouTube is where we started our live-stream, not too long after we also began streaming to Facebook, which has roughly doubled the number of people seeing our stream. Our church page *likes* have also increased, similar to our YouTube subscribers—327 as of March 22 is now 356, and our followers are up from 330 to 372.

I view our Facebook page as a very unique way we can spread the Good News to our Facebook friends. The way the posts have been structured is to mainly be encouraging, scripture based posts; ones you can easily share to your Facebook profile. For those who may or may not have been seeing Pastor Greg's latest messages, there is a post that goes up on Wednesdays to remind you of what the key points in Pastor Greg's message were.

The more you share or *like* our posts, more people will see our content.

“The more you share or like our posts, more people will see our content.”





Len Tscharkie Memorial



ASAROKA NEWS

BY ROSALIE HOKLAS
ON BEHALF OF FRIENDS OF ASAROKA



Water Taps For Covid
Hand Washing



Rice Ready To Harvest



Rice Field

Snippets of information and photos as received from Teacher Dan Sippon and Pastor Jacob Maso

- The first time COVID-19 was said to come, we all panicked and had to close for some weeks. However, social distancing and precaution were not strictly taken. We shared and continued to share beetul nut, smoke and socialise and did not take it seriously. But now we hear COVID has arrived at Pt Moresby. But we are not serious at all. Dan (teacher) is unsure how this is going to work for them but we are praying that God will take care of us. But we are also taking precaution. The Primary and the High school took preventive measures at the first outbreak. These facilities are still in place.
- Farm work is progressing well. As you know a new tractor was bought and is being used. Rice was planted and first plots have been harvested and rice is being milled. The rice will become a staple food at the school. The drying of the rice is happening in an area behind the principal's house.
- The rice launching has been postponed until September due to a COVID-19 outbreak at Port Moresby. A portion of the rice crop has been left and that will be used in a demonstration during the launch. Officers from the Prime Minister's Office are expected to attend.
- The tractor is being well used and is now ploughing the large farm behind the girl's dormitory. The Government authorities are showing a keen interest in this area for agriculture.

- A new double classroom will be built (2 on top and 2 at the bottom). The prisoners from Biuthe Prison are going to build it. They are residing at the school in a secure house and fenced area. They are doing other small jobs while waiting for materials from Lae. The classroom is a set design and pre-built by the company Atlast Steel Metal Manufacturing. It is a pilot project for the Eastern Highlands Provincial Government and is funded by the government.
- Internet is working. A small medium disk is set up at the staff room facing a mountain called Kiss. It's a Telikom setting and the school is paying 1000 Kina per month (about A\$400). Hope we continue with this arrangement. Wifi is on for students with smart phones and also connected to the student's computer lab and also the staff room. Sometimes the internet is down.
- We have a new Chaplain, Pastor Jack Kagamino. Installation was done and teachers and students have settled in for teaching and studies. The chaplain is very serious about his calling to Asaroka. The reach Out team are doing fine.
- The Len Tscharke Monument is up and a building is erected over it. It is progressing.



Taking Down Old Classroom



Teacher Using Wifi

Please continue to keep Asaroka staff, students and community in your prayers. God is at work in the community and we need to continue thank God for these small improvements. Also pray that the COVID-19 doesn't spread to the school and that its threat is taken seriously by all. Thank God for the communication that both Dan and Jacob provide to us to keep us informed of what is happening. This is such a wonderful link.



Drying Rice



Students



Preparing Installation



Chaplain, Pastor Jack Kagamino

“Please continue to keep Asaroka staff, students and community in your prayers.”



BAND ON THE RUN

BY ALLYSON DUTSCHKE

There's nothing new in saying we've all been affected by the whole COVID-19 situation, however as a worship band we've found it an interesting time.

Initially there was some level of panic, as we all tried to understand what the social distancing and physical isolation would mean for our worship services—could we/couldn't we, yes/no/maybe—I don't know...

So, we did the best with the information we had available—and it's still a work in progress.

Stage 1—rather than use straight recordings, Jacquie and Liz, and Ken and myself got together and recorded a handful of songs—not really knowing what the outcome would be and how long the lockdown situation would persist.

Stage 2—EASTER! One of the most significant festivals of the Christian year. Again, being really careful of the restrictions and individual's health and work situations, a few members of each band individually recorded a bracket of songs for their primary Easter service—Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. There was also some additional recording of other worship songs so Robert and Greg had a reasonable portfolio to draw from, when preparing for the weekly live stream.



“So, we did the best with the information we had available – and it's still a work in progress.”

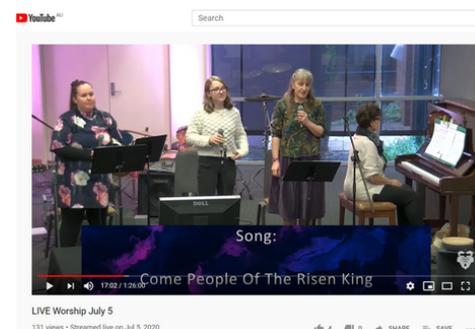
Stage 3—Stepping into the light... As tight restrictions began to ease, each band was able to get together and do more recordings. I know for my band, this was very welcome and an important way to reconnect with each other, especially as our lives routinely run in different directions. It felt so good to be able to worship together through our music again. It was also a chance to speak directly with each other and find out how each one of us had been affected by the pandemic situation. By this time (it's now May!), the live-stream worship team had developed their expertise in recording, mixing and producing what was needed for the services—to a very high level of professionalism, and the recordings flowed quite quickly (10 songs in two hours!!)

We're back!!! Hearing that face to face worship would be returning in July was a joyous event, although tinged with some apprehension... especially as the Live Stream service would be occurring simultaneously. What can the 'audience' see? Is the sound balanced? Is the sound the same online as we would hear it in the worship centre? What do we wear? What if we make a mistake? However, despite these trepidations, it has been SO GOOD to be able to worship together again and praise God through our music, and to see the joy of worship of the faces of those attending the service.

Are things the same as before? NO. The phrase *new normal* doesn't really capture it yet, as society is still evolving, recovering and working through what 'normal' will look like—and this could still be a long way off.

So, looking forward, we pray South Australia will be able to keep safe and healthy, so we can continue to worship together. And it's an awesome feeling to know our worship is allowing people across Adelaide, Australia and even overseas, to celebrate worship with us each week. And THANKYOU!!!! to Robert, Joel, Mark and Pastor Greg for all that you have done (and continue to do) so our worship services can run seamlessly each week.

For now, there's just one person missing—but hopefully sometime soon, our #1 groupie—Claire Tucharke—will be recovered and healthy to celebrate worship with us again.



“...it has been SO GOOD to be able to worship together again and praise God through our music...”



PASTORAL CARE

BY DAVE SHROWDER



Wow! How things have changed in 2020! In the previous edition of Life in the Vine in March I reported that:

1. The Visiting Team will be officially installed at a service in the near future.
2. As part of becoming a Welcoming Church, new roles have been developed for Greeters and Morning Tea people.
3. Grant Hampel has been appointed as the Fellowship Event Coordinator and is preparing to hold several events during 2020.

Well thanks to COVID-19 restrictions:

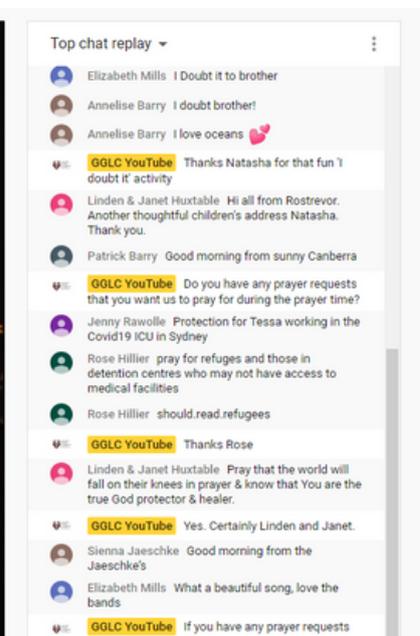
1. Worship services were cancelled so the Visiting Team installation has yet to be held. Plus, the Team were unable to physically visit members! *However*, there was a definite blessing in the Team being assembled just in time to be able to ring those members who were more isolated or vulnerable.
2. With regard to the Welcoming Church the planned training workshops for the new roles had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. And since worship services were cancelled anyway, there was no role to be undertaken! Once we knew services could resume, the roles were completely redefined (along with the roles for Communion Assistants) and training workshops were finally held. These new roles will probably remain in place until a COVID-19 vaccine is available.
3. Obviously, Grant has been unable to hold any events to date. His first involvement will be assisting with the Fete in October.

COVID-19 has caused havoc in so many areas, but it also provided surprising opportunities in several areas that we haven't previously recognised as a congregation, such as:

- The opportunity, as mentioned above, for the Visiting Team members to phone or email other members to maintain contact is something that can be developed further in addition to physical visits.
- Zoom meetings also open up opportunities to maintain contact when physical visiting is not possible.
- Streaming of our worship services is something that would probably never have been on the priority list for Golden Grove Lutheran Church. But God has blessed us with many dedicated and creative people who enabled us to stream our services right from the first Sunday—with only 1 week's notice! While streaming services is not specifically an area under the Pastoral Care Team, I do believe it provided (and continues to do so) a tremendous method for members to continue to feel connected and as such I am very grateful for those dedicated people involved.

COVID-19 has been, and still is, a horrible world-wide pandemic, but we need to remember that no matter how bad it is across the world, it can never be bigger than our amazing God who created that world in the first place! May God bless us all as we continue to find creative ways to ensure His Word is still spread to as many people as possible, and as we find creative ways to care for each other—especially in times of crisis.

“...we need to remember that no matter how bad it is across the world, it can never be bigger than our amazing God who created that world in the first place!”





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

BY NATASHA JAESCHKE



“My ministry is about face to face interaction and then it was gone.....”

The decision to close Playgroup was the first to be made on 17th March due to the sudden outbreak and restrictions due to COVID-19 in our community.

This was a very sad time for me. Playgroup attracts many adults and children from our school and wider community and we love seeing them each Wednesday and Friday. They come and we sing, dance and have fun and the Worship Centre is alive and happy. Then suddenly with the closure of Playgroup, the Worship Centre was dark, the screen was not lit up, the toys and instruments were away and volunteers were all safe at home. But I personally felt lost. My ministry is about face to face interaction and then it was gone.....

I decided to develop *Natasha's Story Time* as an opportunity to reach out to families each fortnight to share how much we missed them. I filmed it in various parts of the church and surrounds showing how lonely and empty we are without them. I then read a story and a nursery rhyme and uploaded an activity for children and families to do at home. This followed the format and theme of our regular Playgroup. I had great feedback from many families and children that they felt so happy to see me. However, I was still left with the feeling of loss. I missed my interaction. Filming in an empty space for kids at home is not the same as interacting with 30 kids in front of me. Sadly I am no actor, I am not a Playschool presenter. I liked what I did and I had fun but it “didn't fill my cup”.

After Playgroup was cancelled due to COVID the next of my ministry areas to be cancelled was Kids@Heart. Prior to COVID-19 I was presenting the children's address at the front of the church following the lectionary, naturally—like my teaching background entails—interacting with the kids in the front row, joking, bouncing ideas off each other and sharing some YouTubes. Then came COVID-19—kids were at home and I was to present online. This involved me coming into an empty church once a week and recording a children's message and trying to make it as interactive as possible with no children to interact with. I came up with the idea of having a regular craft segment and each week I would present some possible craft ideas children can make at home, then they can send a photo of it into me and I will share it as part of my address. I remember seeing this on TV shows as a child and I would wait in anticipation to see my work so I thought this would really engage our children.

So for 14 weeks I came in and presented and pre-recorded a children's message that related directly to Pastor Greg's sermon and was interactive for the children. It was challenging, it involved lots of computer animation, bible verses, interactive games, stories, laughter, and dance. It had its weekly challenges, and for now I am personally very glad it's over.

I love personally interacting with children and their families away from a camera and I am very excited to say the Wednesday Playgroup is recommencing August 12th.





WORSHIP TEAM

BY JACQUIE SCHUTZ



“God has opened many doors during the past few months during this curious time of the pandemic.”

God has opened many doors during the past few months during this curious time of the pandemic.

The Worship Team, and those involved in the technology side of things in particular, have had to develop new skills, be innovative and put in many hours in order to enable us to present a worship service each week.

God has blessed us with members who have had:

- the ability to interpret the Government advice and regulations, understanding how each new restriction would affect what we could and could not do, in our worship services;
- the ability to rapidly research how to set up live-stream worship services, including the pre-recording of music, children’s talks and bible readings, and the integration of other available media such as videos and clips;
- the ability to rapidly acquire cameraman skills and presentation skills;
- the ability to imaginatively explore ways to present the notices at the end of the service;
- the ability to negotiate the laws around copyright, concerning song clips etc;
- the ability to stay calm and troubleshoot when the inevitable hitches occurred.

Thank you for all your hard work.

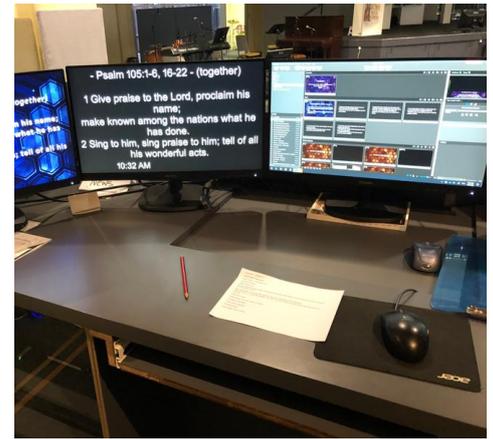
From my point of view, as Worship Team leader, we had to rapidly revise our planned services, as more lockdowns occurred, and plan as much support as possible for those carrying out the work for the live-streamed services. All of this was undergirded by a determination to hold worship services of some description, throughout the entire period. We were not going to be beaten by a microscopic virus.

The positives that have come from our endeavours have been:

- the ability to present the word of God, Christian music and Pastor's message during a time of great stress and uncertainty;
- the ability to reach worshippers from far-off places, and those who find it hard to get to church, particularly in cold or wet weather;
- the ability for members to experience the service at other times if they were busy at 9:30 on a Sunday;
- the transition to ProPresenter—a programme for setting up the slides for the service that we had been considering for some time but hadn't had the time to look at in depth;
- the development of Pastor Greg's online daily bible studies;
- the generous donation of equipment and programmes that will enable us to continue to provide live-streamed services for as long as needed.

Now that restrictions have eased, we have felt the joy of getting back together in person again, as we navigate through how the current rules affect the way we do things. We are also in the process of working out what is needed to continue live-stream services into the future.

Worship Team is due to meet again next week, when we will review the past 6 weeks of services and plan for how we can sustain live-streaming and live services in the long term.



**“...we have felt the joy
of getting back
together in person
again...”**

CHURCH @ HOME

My wife, Gerda and myself are former members of Golden Grove Lutheran Church. We are currently members of Trinity at Hope Valley which supplied us with written copies of the sermon and the order of service during the COVID-19 lockdown. Our age and disabilities preclude us from physically attending services. We have very much appreciated the live-streaming of the sermon, lessons and announcements from Golden Grove Lutheran. Thank you. We hope you are able to continue to provide this live-streaming service as we find hearing and seeing the Word of God is more meaningful than reading it.

God's richest blessings - *Maurice Rawolle*

HERE WE HAVE INVITED SOME VIEWERS OUTSIDE OUR GGLC COMMUNITY TO SHARE WITH US HOW COVID HAS AFFECTED THEM AND HOW THEY HAVE EXPERIENCED OUR LIVE-STREAM SERVICES.

**“...we have felt the joy
of getting back
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Greetings to members of Golden Grove Lutheran Church.

It's been a real blessing for us to be able to view and be a part of your services with your online streaming services. We have not missed one since we have not been able to attend our own church services at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Horsham. You have a wonderful pastor in Pastor Greg being able to get the message across without any notes as a reminder, his addresses are very easily understood. We feel as though we are a part of your congregation as we have attended your church with our son and his family in the past. Now with an average of 130 to 150 views on YouTube you have created a mission into the community of perhaps up to 300 people. It would be nice if you could continue this outreach mission because Victoria and New South Wales are still struggling with COVID-19 and cannot attend church services. May we encourage you to continue to online stream through YouTube until we are all able to worship in our own congregations. May God bless you and your Pastor Greg.

Gordon and Lorna Mills - Longerenong, Horsham, Vic

Hello From Tyrendarra Victoria.

I am Tania Cattell, Rose Hillier who is a member of your church family at GGLC is my wonderful mother. My family has been joining you all online each Sunday since COVID-19 started impacting our world.

So I would love to introduce our family to you.

Andrew my husband and I live with two of our three children, Amy (17) and Ben (15) in a little town in Victoria called Tyrendarra. Our eldest daughter

Bethany (23) lives with her partner Blake in a town 71km north called Merino.

Tyrendarra is about 100km east of Mount Gambier. It is a farming community right on the coast.

The only place in town is our Football club. Our main town is Portland 35km away.

We are blessed to live in a friend's house on 100 acres of dairy farmland with a private beach for our backyard (not a bad place to be in lockdown at).

I am a School Chaplain at Heywood Consolidated School and at Heywood & District Secondary College. Heywood is a town 17km north of Tyrendarra on the road to Mount Gambier. In my spare time I am a community chaplain volunteer for VCC EM (Victorian Council of Churches Emergencies Ministry) which is very interesting work. Andrew works for a local trucking company in Portland. Due to COVID work has slowed for Andrew, so he is also falling back on his trade as a gardener. He loves playing his guitars in his spare time.

Bethany works for the Bendigo bank in Heywood and Blake is a tyre fitter in a town called Casterton. They have both been blessed with jobs that are essential service with COVID. Amy and Ben attend a Christian College in Portland called Bayview. Remote learning was a very interesting time for us. We had 8 weeks of it (we may be going back in to it in the coming days). Amy who is in year 12 is find the time very challenging. Ben who is in year 9 found it very frustrating. We have trouble with internet at the best of times so with three of us working from home at once it was near impossible. Amy works for Woolworths in Portland and does dance once a week at a local dance studio. Ben plays the drums for the school and church. He plays football for the Darra Roos. They both love riding horses on the farm.

We worship at two local churches Portland Christian Church and Tyrendarra Anglican Church, both of which are closed at the moment due to COVID-19. A lot of the churches in the area are small and don't have the technology that city churches have. That's why it has been lovely to join you all on Sundays live online. It is comforting to know that I can be worshipping with Mum, when we can't see each other. There was one Sunday, early in the lock down when we couldn't see each other—Mum in Adelaide, Bethany and Blake in Merino, and my Dad and his wife Lesley in Heywood, us in Tyrendarra—all worshipping together thanks to you all at GGLC. Wow!

Thank you for sharing your worship time with us, we are longing for the day when our borders are safe to open again and we can come and praise and worship our Heavenly Father together in person. You are all welcome to pop in for a coffee if you are in this part of the country.

God's Blessings and love from your church family in Tyrendarra Vic.

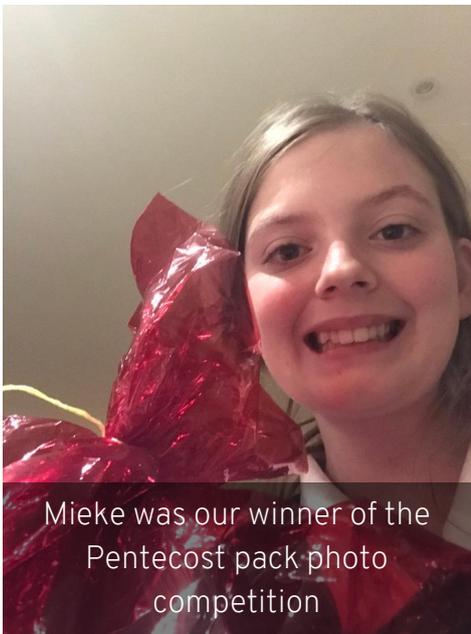
PS miss you Mum xx





YOUTH REPORT

BY JOEL SCHILLER
YOUTH COORDINATOR



Mieke was our winner of the Pentecost pack photo competition

Well that didn't go as planned...

The last time I wrote to you I spoke about A Night to Remember which we hold every year after the Maundy Thursday service until the Good Friday service. When COVID hit we had to think on our feet a bit as to how we would provide one of our most memorable nights of the year. That's when I stumbled across gift packs. The United States was impacted by COVID before we were, on Facebook I saw that youth groups over there were handing out gift packs. That's when our creative juices began to flow. The other hurdle we had to get over was deciding how we would meet up, it was done over Zoom. A Night to Remember was based around an Easter bucket we gave each of our youth. It featured items that would be used in the Stations of the Cross, a Bible reading plan and of course Easter eggs. Though the night didn't go anywhere near as long as it would normally it still provided an opportunity for our youth and leaders to stop and reflect on the Easter story.

We still held our regular fortnightly gatherings via Zoom. A couple leaders would prepare either some games or a devotion. In the devotions we have continued to look at our theme of being called and have covered topics such as loving your enemies, Pentecost, being Salt and Light plus more.

The Easter buckets were liked so much that we gave another gift pack at Pentecost. We included items that related to Pentecost such as Dove soap, a KitKat and a candle. I would love to thank Luke, Geordie, Noah and Lauren for the assistance in assembling and distributing the gift packs. Unlike the Easter packs (which we wanted to be a surprise) we made the effort to have a conversation with the youth to check in and see how they were going. We also put out the challenge for youth to send in photos with their Pentecost Pack. Those that sent photos in went in the draw to win \$20 worth of cans. Our winner was Mieke!

When the restrictions were being relieved we planned a date for us as a youth group to come back together. We called the event ‘GGLC Youth Back Together’. It was a relaxed night where we played games, table tennis or just sat down and chatted to one another. It was super exciting for us to be back together once again.

Term 3 started off with a bang with our Game Show Night. Many laughs were had and we left thinking how we can unconditionally love those we come in contact with, without expecting anything in return. We have an exciting Golden Grove Lutheran Community event coming up on September 18/19, which is the Ping-Pong-A-Thon. Keep your eyes peeled as more information will be coming out very soon.

“It was super exciting for us to be back together once again.”





Sharing Media Attention With Colleagues

OSCAR ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

BY JON SCHUTZ



It was a surprise and honour to receive an Oscar on the day of our return to gathering together for worship, so much so that I was rendered more-or-less speechless—a poor condition to be in when one is called on to give an acceptance speech. All Academy Award winners are given 90 seconds to thank their mum and wife and kids and director and the Academy and address climate change and animal cruelty and racial or gender imbalances, and so on - I will take my 90 seconds now...

The ambush organised by the Academy (not that *Academy*, the other one—an Illuminati-like organisation rumoured to comprise Greg, Joel, Mark and Robert but nobody really knows—apparently even their wives and close family are oblivious to their clandestine enterprise) was most unexpected and I do appreciate the time and effort they put into creating the tribute video, which was worthy of an award in itself. Thanks Academy!

But I thought I might take my 90 seconds to add a little bit of non-fiction to the story of the production of the announcements during the COVID-19 restrictions—particularly since (this will be hard for many to believe) I was accused of bias in that final episode with the interview of the man behind the announcements.

“...I was rendered more-or-less speechless...”

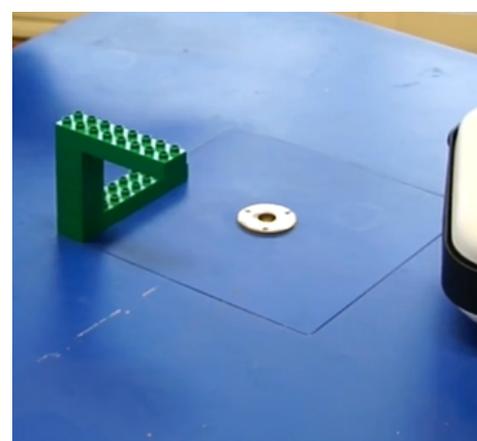
Undertaking to do the kid's craft each week was a spur of the moment decision—a case of “seemed like a good idea at the time” whilst having no appreciation of what it would lead to. Looking back, I would have put in many more hours than any of the kids did for their craft; in particular, the animations such as the prayer hand from dominoes and Abraham dancing Gangnam style turned out to be quite time consuming. Sometimes the motivation was just to try out some video production ideas/tricks; other times it was just a simple idea that, having formed, needed to be realised.

On more than one occasion, lofty ambitions crashed dramatically to the earth. That happened literally in the The Way, the Truth and the Life craft where the drone—that was supposed to take the footage that would dramatically reveal the whole scene of the timber arrow and cross—slammed sideways into the ground and went all the way to drone heaven instead of just a few metres up in the air where it needed to be. The Pentecost scene of flame descending from the sky turned to Plan B using a fireplace when computer-generated flames failed to be generated by the computer. Keeping Abraham's clothes on to any degree during his dance of celebration was a herculean struggle, given that Hercules never wore much, and having the announcements bounced into an adult time slot was only “barely” avoided.

People have been kind and given feedback on various parts - the “Father, Son and Holly Ghost” cameo received much attention though it was probably lost on many viewers from outside that the person under the sheet was Holly and my ability to spell is not really that suspect. Personally the most satisfying was the optical illusion of the impossible triangle in lego, just in terms of the outcome per minute invested.

The sequel is rarely as good as the original, so let's hope we don't have a sequel as that would also imply another period of stay-at-home restrictions.

Thanks again to the Academy for this prestigious award.



“...seemed like a good idea at the time...”



PAPER, COFFEE, COVID

BY ROBERT MILLS



Since March, Golden Grove Lutheran Church, Café Connect and office administration has seen many changes. Life in the church office has been quite different since COVID-19 came to visit Australia. With the onset of new restrictions and the daily updates and continuous changes, keeping ahead in all areas became quite a challenge.

The first area of ministry that experienced change was the cancellation of Wednesday playgroup and Friday Mainly Music sessions. This was quickly followed by the restrictions on all Church services set by Government, Health Departments and LCA authority. We immediately began planning for live-streamed services and resolving the challenges this presented.

One area that challenged us was copyright restrictions. This was clearly seen during our Easter Sunday service, where the live-stream was taken down due to an infringement from rebroadcasting a YouTube video. Obtaining a live-stream licence through CCLI allowed us to broadcast songs and lyrics after bands came in through the weeks recording for services. Thank you to all the band members for their commitment and cooperation, as we now have a library of over forty songs that we can use in times of need.

Another area we found challenging was producing a high-quality live-stream service. The main issue that we encountered was that our camera equipment was outdated and inadequate for this purpose. Initially borrowing a digital SLR to overcome this problem, we were blessed with the donation/purchase of new cameras. Software for live-streaming was found and quickly learnt with better processes becoming evident as services continued.

One area I personally found myself quickly learning was video producing/editing, which proved to be quite time consuming and exhausting. This included all areas of service from recording bands, Natasha's weekly children's messages, bible readings, prayers and various other segments, then editing them into the finished product that was viewed each Sunday. One area that was enjoyable was producing the "opening" video, introducing a creative element to the service based on the theme of the week—especially the use of a drone to produce a different perspective.

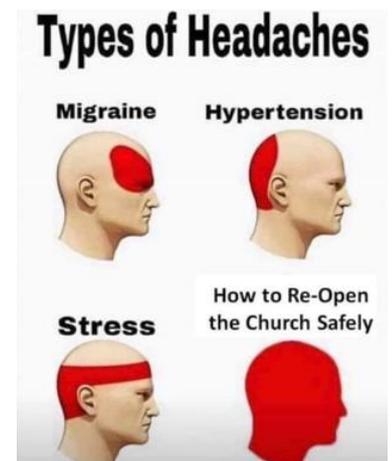
An interesting point that evolved from editing was the amount of time needed to record, edit and complete each recorded segment. On average, it has been calculated that YouTubers take up to 30+ minutes for basic video editing for each minute of video, which I can fully understand. For example—Maundy Thursday devotion video (35 minutes) took over 10 hours to complete from start to finish. Another example is song recording taking on average 1 hour per song to record, edit and add lyrics. This saw the majority of time being consumed in this new area, putting pressure on other areas for the office.

One area of pressure came from Café Connect with the onset of restrictions and new practices. Trade became takeaway only due to Government regulations and saw the introduction of online ordering through a new café website. As sales reduced, stock control became quite important in areas of use-by dates and availability of takeaway products. Restrictions in purchasing quantities also became challenging especially in milk products—at times only being able to purchase from day to day. Lockdown restrictions also saw vacancies in volunteers with Pastor Greg and myself filling in most days. As restrictions relax, sales have slowly increased with new volunteers coming on board which we are truly thankful for.

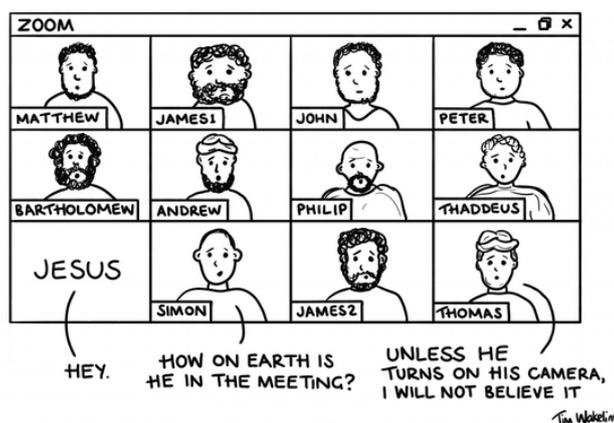
There were many other areas in the office that saw change. This included how we communicated to our members each week by a new format of weekly newsletter, updating our new website to include children’s ministry artwork and weekly readings and more content released through social media. As restrictions eased, new practices were investigated and implemented for small communion services whilst still social distancing and contact tracing. As live church services resumed, new practices in morning tea, greeting/ushering and holy communion were investigated and implemented whilst keeping in line with government restrictions.

Although we did experience difficult and stressful situations, we did encounter many blessings. Live-streaming has opened many opportunities of ministering to many different audiences from new viewers, shut-ins, interstate viewers and our own travelling members being able to join us on Sunday mornings. This has led to many donating to new equipment with the encouragement to keep this service active. Although COVID-19 has thrown up many challenges, there are also many blessings that we can be thankful for.

“Live-streaming has opened many opportunities of ministering...”



Jesus Appears to his Disciples



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY?



GGLPS and GGLC Annual General Meeting - May 24



First service back - July 5 (Also our 33rd birthday as a church)



Women's Retreat - July 24-26



Junior Youth Games Rotation - July 31



TIGHT LINES

GOLDEN GROVE AMATEUR FISHING

Mission Statement: Giving all people opportunities to fish in a Christ centred environment

GGAF has been impacted by COVID-19 as have all other areas of GGLC life. Very soon after our cockling event at Goolwa in March, restrictions in SA occurred resulting in cancellation of West Lakes (April), Waitpinga (May) and Tackle Night (June). The GGAF Committee is pleased that SA has been in a position to relax restrictions and we were able to resume our 2020 program with a trip to Kingston. The Tackle Night has been rescheduled in August. GGAF will continue to be very vigilant regarding the maintenance of COVID-19 guidelines including social distancing, sanitation and gathering numbers for meetings and meals.

KINGSTON SOUTH EAST FISHING TRIP:

10-13 July at Kingston Foreshore Caravan Park

24 fishers and friends ventured to Kingston in the South East – this being the first GGAF event to this location. The weather was surprisingly pleasant (although cold) when compared to the forecast cloud and showers for the weekend. Spots visited included Kingston Jetty, Cape Jaffa Marina and The Granites (beach/surf). Unfamiliarity with these locations resulted in few quality fish being caught on both days – perhaps the fish are also social distancing! Allan Hasler however did catch an undersize mulloway (approx. 45cm) at The Granites. Also amongst the many puffer fish a mixture of tommy ruff and garfish were hooked at the jetty & marina. The bakery, Bliss café and Larry the Giant Lobster were other attractions visited. A hotel meal at the Crown was enjoyed by all on the Saturday night.

Events Program for 2020

17th August (Monday):

Tackle Night 7.30pm

12th September (Saturday):

Walker Flat—River Murray 10am

9th—11th October (Fri-Sun):

Annual Camp - Lake Albert

Caravan Park, Meningie

18th October (Sunday):

Community Fete at Wynn Vale

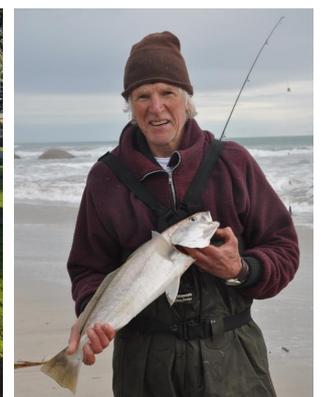
8th November (Sunday):

Warren Reservoir 9am

21st November (Saturday):

Presentation Night 7pm

Note: Events and times may be subject to change



Community Fete

Corner of Richardson Drive & Sunnybrook Drive, Wynn Vale
Supported by the Golden Grove Lutheran Community

Sunday 18th October

11.00 am to 3.00 pm

- Children's Books, Toys & Clothes
- Kid's Side Show Alley
- Plants & Produce
- Jumping Castle
- Cake Stall
- Entertainment



- Children's Art Display
- Pony Rides
- Market Stalls
- Face Painting
- Devonshire Tea
- Food & More!!!



GOLDEN GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Knowing Christ and Making Him Known

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5



gglc.org.au



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(08) 7200 0090



GGLC YouTube



Need a coffee?

Pop into Cafe Connect

weekdays between 8 and 11am

Bible Study with Pastor Greg

Join Pastor Greg for an insightful look into scripture

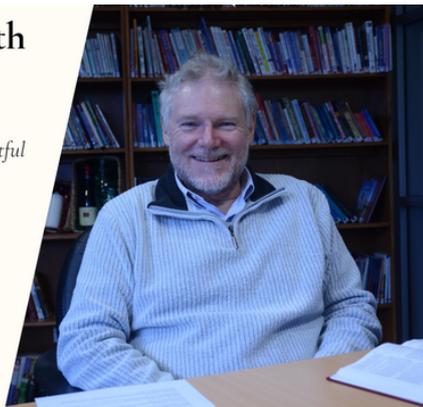
Available from 6am
Monday - Friday



GGLC YouTube



gglc.org.au



Help bring an end to the injustice of human trafficking with table tennis! Engage your family and friends to sponsor your play, and together you can provide freedom and hope to a young person who is being exploited today.

Golden Grove Community Pong 2020

Golden Grove Lutheran Church
Worship Centre

Starts: September 18 3:30 pm
Ends: September 19 3:30 pm

Stay as long as you like!

If you have any questions contact
Grant Hampel 0435 804 003
Joel Schiller 0411 084 071

For more information or to register, visit:
pingpongathon.com

ping.pong.a.th