



THE MESSENGER

A COMMUNITY IN CHRIST FOR ALL GENERATIONS



SEPTEMBER 2020

WEIRD WISDOM

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Old Testament: **Isaiah 2:1-5**

New Testament: **Ephesians 3:1-13**

Someone once said—rightly I believe—that where you choose to stand will determine what you see. This maxim is particularly true concerning the meaning of life. Without God, and without a true revelation of who he is and what he is doing, we will be left standing in a place that will only give us a restricted view and thus an incomplete sense of meaning. The view we have might be interesting and seem noble, but it won't be ultimately true.

You might remember the famous 'Lion King' movie in which there was an interaction between the young Simba and his father Mufasa in which Simba is musing about his place in the world. To this Mufasa says,

"Everything you see exists together in a delicate balance. As king, you need to understand that balance, and respect all the creatures, from the crawling ant to the leaping antelope."

Simba replies, "But, Dad, don't we eat the antelope?"

"Yes, Simba, but let me explain. When we die, our bodies become the grass, and the antelope eat the grass. And so, we are all connected in the great Circle of Life."

Then there is a whole lot of singing and dancing on the theme of the 'Circle of Life.'

All this sounds kind of profound and meaningful, but you'll have to forgive me if I don't get that excited about becoming food for worms. Life is a whole lot more interesting and meaningful than that — no matter how true this might be on a purely biological level. Life is a whole lot more important than biology. However, if we choose to stand in a purely materialistic position then we will only be capable of seeing a limited view.

WEIRD WISDOM CONT.

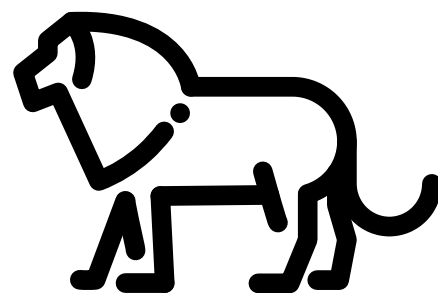
In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul invites us to see the world from an entirely different position in Christ and there to have a revelation of the greatest mystery and the most profound truth. Paul himself recognises that he too had once been blind to the reality of the truth until, “the mystery” was made known by “revelation.” (Ephesians 3: 4). This truth can only be revealed and can never be merely discovered.

Paul goes on to explain that through the gospel the mystery of God’s plan is revealed and how God has always been at work to fulfil the promises he made to the Jewish people in Christ, with the ultimate intent of bringing peace between all people and to restore creation to its original purpose—through the church. (Ephesians 3: 6-11). The gospel is not just about getting individuals into heaven; its about the restoration of all creation. The first sign of that restoration is to bring peace between Jew and Gentile in the church. We have front row seats to the biggest story on earth.

And the best is yet to come.

In faith

David Kowalick



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK 30 AUGUST - 5 SEPTEMBER

- **Seniors Exercise** *Tuesday 1st September* 10.30am in Hall 1
- **Men's Munch** *Tuesday 1st September* 12noon Walkers Arms
- **Bible Study** *Wednesday 2nd September* 10am in Hall 2
- **Prayer Group** *Wednesday 2nd September* 11.15am in Vestry
- **Playgroup** *Thursday 3rd September* 9.30am

MEN'S MUNCH

Men's Munch meeting Tuesday 1st September, 12 noon at Walker's Arms. Let John Laubsch know if you plan to attend. Phone: 8262 6214

HIKING GROUP

September 13 - meeting at 1.30pm, St Kilda Mangrove Trail. Easy rated hike. Contact Preston's for more info

MEN'S GROUP

Meeting Thursday 16th September, 7pm at the church.

Topic: Wood carving/whittling

Speaker: John Laubsch

ALL CHURCH QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday September 19th, 7pm

Bring a white elephant gift to make up the prizes, some nibbles & soft drinks

Sign up sheet available on Sundays.



NEW COVID-19 ARRANGEMENTS

Recently, I spoke about how privileged we are at Walkerville (and in South Australia) to be able to gather for in-person worship. However, I also said how concerned I have become about complacency creeping into our greeting of one another, in our seating in church and at morning tea time.

With regard to our seating during worship, please stagger your seating. It is impractical to totally re-arrange our seating because obviously members of the same household can sit together, but others do need to spread out. Please be aware that some of your friends may not be comfortable sitting or chatting in close proximity.

We are now encouraging you to be seated at morning tea, and chairs will be arranged in both the foyer and Hall 2 to allow for social distancing while enjoying your morning tea. Obviously, you are not confined to one group and I imagine some of you will move around, but please minimise standing in groups. In addition, as we have returned to using our espresso machine, those of you who order the barista coffee will have your coffee delivered to you wherever you are sitting. We are fortunate at Walkerville that our commercial grade dishwasher ensures a high temperature wash so that we are able to gather for morning tea and coffee.

You have probably seen the announcement by the SA Premier regarding the introduction of the compulsory role of 'marshal' for restaurants, gyms, licensed venues, shopping centres, supermarkets, and places of worship. The designated 'marshal' is required to undergo a simple, free on-line training course. Marshals will be expected to remind people of their obligations, direct them to sit down if necessary and to observe social distancing. This role came into operation on Sunday 23rd August, and I'm pleased to announce that Carolyn Andrew, Sue Clark and David Kowalick have agreed to act as marshals for our congregation.

We are so fortunate in South Australia to enjoy the freedoms that we do. Confronting news reports show us how easily community transmission can occur, including church clusters in NSW. We appreciate that some of our friends are in the vulnerable category, and others just do not feel comfortable attending public gatherings. Please be aware of others' feelings in your social interactions.

Sue Farrant
Chairman of the Congregation



If you want to make an offering to the church using an electronic transfer, our banking details are:

BSB: 704 095 Acc: 188610

Ref: Offering (include your name if you wish)

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

Day/ Date	Time	Activity	Contact
Tuesdays	10.30am	Seniors Exercise	Mia 0404 368 318
Wednesdays	9.45 am	Bible Study	David K 0413 098 965
Wednesdays	11.15 am	Prayer Group	Tina
Thursdays	9.30am	Playgroup	Sue Clark 8344 1155
Sundays (excluding msg@5)	5.00 pm	Youth Group	David K 0413 098 965
Tuesday 1st September	12.00 noon	Men's Munch (at Walker's Arms)	John Laubsch 0475 563 130
Tuesday 8th September	10.00am	Craft Group	Helen 0407 830 640
Sunday 13th September	1.30 pm	Hike Group	Sue Clark 8344 1155
Thursday 16th September	7.00pm	Men's Group	Graham Slater 0479 014 105
Saturday 19th September	7.00pm	Quiz Night hosted by WOW - Women's Group	Janis 0437 527 771
Sunday 20th September	5.00pm	msg@5	Merilee 8269 3256
Tuesday 22nd September	10.00am	Craft Group	Helen 0407 830 640
Thursday 29th September	1.00 pm	Ladies Chat Group	Kay Graham 8269 5538

ROSTERS

Date	Prayers	Bible Reader	Welcomer	Flowers
September 6th	H Baker	N Andrew	J Wiseman	S Farrant
September 13th	J Everett	J Iles	J Wiseman	R Whitehead
September 20th	C Andrew	R Whitehead	J Wiseman	P Morrison
September 27th	R Smedley	C Preston	J Wiseman	T Jew
October 4th	J Magee	H Baker	P Morrison	T Jew

Date	Children's Chat, & Godly Play	Morning Tea	Stewards & Counters	Sound Desk
September 6th	Carolyn/ Merilee	Smedley	J Everett & K Gray	R Jew
September 13th	Merilee/ Fran	Morrison	J Everett & K Gray	C Preston
September 20th	Children stay in Church	Farrant/tbc msg@5	J Everett & K Gray	S Nethala /msg@5
September 27th	Tina/Lyn	Preston/Joy	J Everett & K Gray	L Preston
October 4th	School Holidays	Colwell	J Magee & J Laubsch	R Jew

Psalm 37:23-24 "The LORD makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with his hand."

NO OTHER GOOD ENOUGH

The hymn, "There is a green hill far away," is rich with meaning, in particular the words of the fourth verse "There was no other good enough to pay the price of sin."

Jesus is the only person who has ever lived a full and perfect life and is therefore the only one who has the ability to take on the weight of sin in another. You and I have our own debts to deal with, but Jesus, being free of that weight, was able to substitute himself in our place to take on the consequences of our debts and face the penalty of death in our place. The enormity of what our Lord has done for us is overwhelming. Because he loved us all so much, he took our penalty so that we could enjoy eternity with him, and as the old hymn has it, "He died to make us good." There isn't a single thing we can do to make ourselves good enough: we need a saviour.

So, what does our Lord expect from us? To believe in him, to trust what he has done for us. As Paul writes, "By grace you are saved through faith". We need to understand what he has done for us on the cross and to know that only he can make us 'good enough.'

This is why he has commanded us to participate in the communion service. By doing this we are confessing our sinfulness before God and our need of Christ who is the only one who can make us good enough. If we were perfect already then Christ needn't have sacrificed himself for us on that terrible cross.

The same truth applies if we think we can gradually work to pay off our debt before God. The truth is that we can't – and that is such a relief, knowing that we can trust Christ completely for our salvation. All praise to our wonderful Lord.

Feeling so grateful, love and blessings to you all.

Jan Lines

FOR IT IS BY *grace*
YOU HAVE BEEN *saved*
THROUGH *faith*
Ephesians 2:8



ARE YOU A FAN OF 'THE BLOCK'?

Perhaps you've noticed that the South Australian contestants this year are Daniel and Jade Joyce of Wandearah. Daniel is the brother of 'our' Emma D'Agostino, and uncle of Oscar, Ava and Isaac.

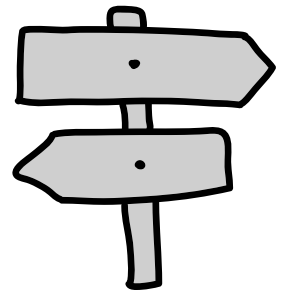
WHAT'S HAPPENING...

Your Church Council has met twice in the past month, following a workshop with the Joint Nominating Committee last month, to discuss ministries at Walkerville in the short to medium term. You will recall that at our last congregational meeting, we confirmed that David's ministry would continue for the foreseeable future; and, at about the same time, we also said a reluctant 'farewell' to Kylie. Throwing in the uncertainties of COVID-19, there were decisions to be made regarding our ministry programmes.

On behalf of the Council, I am happy to inform you that all our current children, family and youth programmes will continue with the support of our fantastic volunteer teams...

- The Sunday morning children's program will continue with children's talks in church, children's stories and crafts with various storytellers, and regular Godly Play with Tina – thank you to Robyn S for co-ordinating this roster.
- msg@5 will continue, thanks to the strong support of the volunteers. David will be increasingly involved in the worship segment now.
- Tina and David will continue to offer the youth their regular gathering on non-msg@5 Sunday afternoons.
- The Playgroup team will continue to offer their thriving activity on Thursday mornings.

Sue Farrant



IN ADDITION.... NEW DIRECTIONS

We have been discussing how we might redirect our energy to realise our stated aims, which include:

- To become a truly multi-generational church
- To reach out to the community, sharing the good news in truth and love.
- To foster a vibrant children's and youth ministry

One of the ways we hope to see these aims being fulfilled is by initiating a new music ministry among our older children and youth. Noel Tiver has proposed a regular music coaching gathering for the young people to discover their talents on drums, guitar, and keyboards. The long-term goal is to see these talents being utilised in the formation of new worship.

We are hoping that this ministry will catch the attention of young people beyond the influence of our church community.

David Kowalick

Photo Bomb



msg@5



A special dress birthday celebration at Playgroup



The burning bush

WALKERVILLE UNITING CHURCH

Office Hours: Tue & Thur 9am - 12pm

E: admin@walkerville.unitingchurch.org.au P: 8342 5875 W: www.walkerville.unitingchurch.org.au