



## A surprising God- Don't Be A Copy

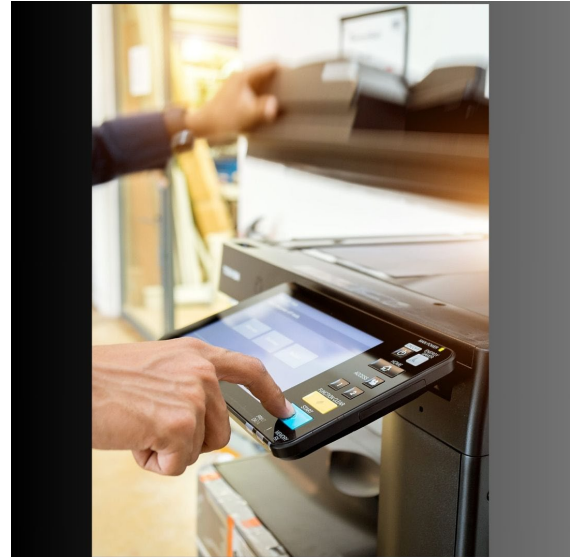
Come and hear Jim Patterson's encouraging and inspiring story of faith.

**Bible Readings:** Romans 12:2, Isaiah 7:14 14, Micah 5:2-4a (NLT)

Podcasts of weekly messages are available at [www.paravista.org.au](http://www.paravista.org.au)

### Prayer Requests

Please forward all prayer requests to the church office via [churchenquiries@paravista.org.au](mailto:churchenquiries@paravista.org.au) or phone 8263 5087. If you know or have spoken to anyone who does not have access to a computer, please assist them to submit their request and offer to pray with them.



*You're invited to 'A Season of New Hope'*

### CHRISTMAS EVE 24/12/24

5:30pm Family Service ~ Holding Hope  
7:30pm Christmas Drama ~ No Ordinary Hope  
9:30pm Carol Service ~ A Season of New Hope

### CHRISTMAS DAY 25/12/24

9:30am Service ~ Hope Realised



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
388 Montague Road Para Vista

## December

24<sup>th</sup> Dec Church Office Open till 12.30pm

## Christmas Service Times

### Christmas Eve

5:30pm Holding Hope- Family Service

7:30pm No Ordinary Hope- Christmas Drama

9:30pm A New Season of Hope- Carol Service

### Christmas Day

9:30am Hope Realised

## January

3<sup>rd</sup> Jan Free Safety Emergency Response/Consultation Training 7.30pm

7<sup>th</sup> Jan Church Office Reopens 9am- 3pm

14<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> Jan Spin Camp

## [GS Church Office Closure over Christmas](#)

The office will be open/closed over the following dates:

- 24<sup>th</sup> December 2024 - office open till 12.30pm
- **25<sup>th</sup> December 2024 to 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 - CLOSED**
- 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025 onwards (Tuesday- Friday) - OPEN from 9am - 3pm

For urgent contact please call 8263 5087 and leave a message. Messages will be retrieved by staff as available while the office is shut.

## [GS Weekly News](#)

The last Weekly News for 2024 will be published on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** and the **first edition for 2025 will be published on 10<sup>th</sup> January.**

## [Christmas Is Coming And We Need You!](#)

We are looking forward to our 3 Christmas Eve services... an opportunity to hear again the joyous news of our Saviour's birth and share His love with others through gifts of service. There are many ways for you to contribute!

- Set up Nativity scene (22/12/24 after service)
- Request for men who could remain after the 10.30 am service to help with setting up the scenery for the Christmas services. (Merv)
- Baking honey biscuits (See Julie F for recipe)
- Serving coffee, car park attendants, being a welcomer (see Helen)

If you are able to help out, please see these people for more information or contact the church office.

Thank you for being a blessing!

*The Christmas Worship Planning Team*

## Christmas Whirlwind

This year it's happening on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December commencing at 8.30am. This year many hands will blow the leaves away, cobweb the building and give the facility a good spruce up. Please bring along your personal safety equipment ( earmuffs and dust mask), best leaf blower and join the group to create an inviting appearance to our church facility for Christmas. Don't have a blower? There will be a few spares you can test with free training. Don't want to use a machine? Compete for the biggest spiderweb ball as cobwebbing will also be completed and you can create a web ball worthy of a Guinness record. If you have long cobweb brush, bring it as well. Bring your children or grandies and supervise them while they learn.

## Special Meeting

At our Special Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> December, we decided to empower the Call Committee to proceed with changing the call documents to align with the Shepherding Model (perhaps a better name is Partnership Model). This describes that the Pastor will partnership with the congregation to: Equip and enable us for effective ministry and build capacity to be 'disciples making disciples'.

This is very much the model that Good Shepherd has been working with during the vacancy and we want this to continue. The objective is that we ensure that the call documents make this clear to the Pastor being called. For clarity, this does not change our call process in that we are still calling a full time pastor.

What the future holds, only God knows, and the leading of Holy Spirit is essential. This model builds capacity within us to reach out to others around us and work with other churches in our area.

*Lindsay Freund (Chairperson)*

## AED Device

A Defibrillator (AED) is located rear school alcove next to the Café playground. A key is on an orange tag next to the security keypad in the café (small entry exit door). All members holding keys to the complex are to add to their security procedure the visibility of this key and if it is not hanging on the hook to advise either the church or school office as soon as possible of its absence. **First Aiders**, please note where the unit and key are located, in case of emergency.

## Spill Kits

Reminder two spill kits are available for use in emergency cases where someone has vomited or perhaps become incontinent resulting in involuntary soiling of an area. The kits are in a black bucket with 'Spill Kit' clearly marked in white on the bucket and lid. Buckets are located in the ladies' air locker first cupboard to the right on entry and in the very rear store wooden shelving on the left behind the kitchen. Please notify the office if you have used one of the kits so they can be replenished and returned to use.



## Merry Christmas!!

John 3:16 (NLT) says: "...For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

Praying that our Good Shepherd Church Family have a very Merry Christmas filled with His gifts of Love, Joy, Peace and Hope.

*GS Office Team*



## Family Zone - 2024 Recap

2024 has been a big year at Family Zone, Lutheran Care - in the last 6 months alone we have seen over 1300 community members walk through our doors.

Family Zone has directly supported 253 clients in 2024 - through both home visiting and parenting programs, the team has delivered 42 parenting programs.

While a lot of our programs are funded by the government - every donation you make to Lutheran Care Family Zone, goes to keeping our doors open

This time of year, is even more special - as a result of your generosity we are able to help out a number of families with toys and food this Christmas.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your generosity and kindness, every donation makes such a difference to the lives of the families we support.



## Free Safety - Emergency Response - Consultation Training

Do you really know what to do in an emergency? To ensure leaders and members of our community are kept safe in all situations a free Safety - Emergency Response training session will be conducted at the church on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January commencing at 7.30pm.**

This is essential training is for all Worship Hosts, Worship Leaders, Social Club and Event Leaders, and any group team leader that maybe involved in running any group at the church. The training will cover what actions are to be taken in a range of scenarios and emergency situations. Please do not take this lightly and mark your diaries accordingly so you feel comfortable dealing with what may be a lifesaving situation. Please contact the office, Stephen Zanker or Merv Thiele should you have any questions.

## Caring Conversations

Christmas is all about good news... the best news in fact. How does 'the news' of Jesus' birth impact your life today? Here are some conversation starters to try out with your friends and family!

## Grow Ministries Resource

How have you been finding the Advent resources that we have been sharing for the last few weeks? I'd love to hear from you... Here are a couple for you to explore as a family. (I'll pop hard copies on the pin up board in the café area for you to see there too.) There is one more Advent resource and some Christmas thoughts as well. Great ideas for you to use as you nurture your child's/ grandchildren's faith at home!

WHAT DO YOU THINK THE ANGELS WERE THINKING WHEN JESUS WAS BORN?

IF YOU WERE IN BETHLEHEM AT THE TIME, HOW DO YOU THINK YOU MIGHT HAVE RESPONDED WHEN YOU HEARD THE SHEPHERD'S NEWS?



HOW DOES THE NEWS OF JESUS' BIRTH IMPACT YOUR LIFE TODAY?



## GLSC - January 2025 Service Times

We will be having only one service at 9.30am throughout the month of January.

## [Jobs Available - Gawler Lutheran Church](#)

Gawler Lutheran Church are seeking applicants for two church office positions:

- Office Administrator - 20 hrs/week, permanent part-time
- Office Support Worker - 15 hrs/week, limited tenure of one year, funded by New Life Church grant, focusing on New Life Church activities.

We are open to the possibility of these positions being filled by the same person.

Please find attached full advertisement & position description, also available from [gawler.secretary@lca.org.au](mailto:gawler.secretary@lca.org.au)

Closing date Monday 13 January 2025.

Any queries, please contact [gawler.secretary@lca.org.au](mailto:gawler.secretary@lca.org.au)

## Office News



### [Café Time!!](#)

Tea and coffee are available after Sunday services, and you are most welcome to come and enjoy!!

### [Name Badge Request](#)

The cost for a replacement name badge is \$14. If you would like to order one, contact the church office on 8263 5087 or send an email to: [churchenquiries@paravista.org.au](mailto:churchenquiries@paravista.org.au)

### [Connect Cards](#)

Connect Cards are available as you enter worship. Please complete the card using pencils which are available from holders on the side of chairs in the worship centre. They may be placed in the offering boxes provided at exits as you leave. Connect Cards may be used for comments, small group or prayer requests or to communicate with office or Pastoral Care staff.

“...But be sure to fear the Lord and **faithfully** serve him. Think of all the wonderful things he has done for you.”

1 Samuel 18:13 (NLT)

### **Safe Church**

In observing Christ's command to love one another, we are to treat each other with respect and dignity. In honouring people, we are also fulfilling our responsibility under the law of the land. The LCA and Good Shepherd Para Vista is committed to ensure the church is a safe place. If anyone feels they have been subjected to sexual abuse or harassment in any form by anyone who holds a position of trust in the church, please contact:

P: 1800 644 628 E: [report.abuse@safeplace.lca.org.au](mailto:report.abuse@safeplace.lca.org.au)

Weekly News submissions should be made by the Wed prior to Friday publication.

**Regular Electronic Giving (REG): BSB 704 942 Acc. 100 354 939**

**Church Office Hours: Tues-Fri 9am-3pm (closed 12:30pm-1:30pm for lunch).**

**Church Website: [www.paravista.org.au](http://www.paravista.org.au)**

**Email: [churchenquiries@paravista.org.au](mailto:churchenquiries@paravista.org.au)**

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