

November 11th 2018

welcome!

Our regular services are:

8 am at St. Paul's
Classic Anglican service

10 am at St. Paul's
All age service with children's
programs

3 pm at St. Stephen's
All age service with children's
programs

ministry contacts

Senior Minister
Mark Smith 0430 393 414
mark.smith@lpachurch.org.au
Not available Thursdays

Children's & Youth Minister
John Young 6352 4347
john.young@lpachurch.org.au
Not available Wednesdays

Community Pastor
Terry Smith 0449233862
terry.smith@lpachurch.org.au
On Leave unavailable

Wardens
Robert Hookham 0403506693
John Stevens 6355 1337
Eric Young
0429664436

Office Administration
Corinne Ogg 6351 3070
office@lpachurch.org.au
Wednesday & Friday 9 - 2

for children and youth



Youth Group
for yrs 6- 12
During School
Term Fridays
7:00 – 9 pm

.....
K – yr 6



During School Term
Fridays 5pm – 6:30 pm

growth groups

Small groups for adults to
grow in Christ.
*details on back of bulletin or
phone office.*



Knowing Jesus • Serving Jesus • Proclaiming Jesus

Dear friends,

Welcome to church! Gathering this Sunday at the one time & one place is a special treat. A combined service allows us to leave to one side our preferences for style, location & timing - & celebrate together all Jesus has done to make us one.

Today, we not only remember who we are in Jesus, but also to consider how Jesus himself might look upon us. In Revelation 2&3, Christ's assessment of 7 churches is given. Some receive high praise. Smyrna is rich through persecution. Philadelphia have endured patiently & will soon be rescued. As we gather in the name of Jesus, His words are an assurance that no loss or difficulty for His sake is wasted.

For others, the praise is mixed. Ephesus has persevered, but lost their first love. Pergamum didn't abandon Christ, but are compromised. Thyatira have great love & deeds, but don't take holiness seriously. Sardis have a reputation for life – but are dead. As for Laodicea... 'I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth' (Rev 3:15-16).

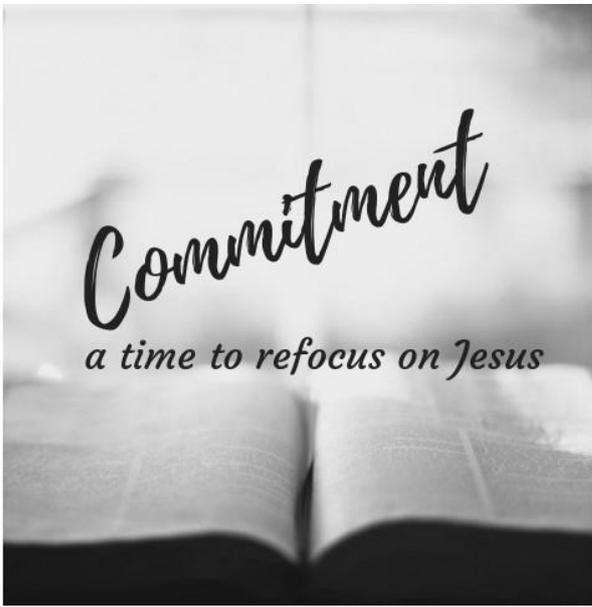
As individuals, we look forward to one day Jesus saying: 'Well done my good & faithful servant... come share your master's happiness' (Matthew 25v31). As a church, we also want to bring Him pleasure. His pleasure won't come from us being half-hearted – but sharing a single-minded passion (just as Christ had for us). John Stott writes a great encouragement for us all:

"The idea of being on fire for Christ will strike some people as dangerous emotionalism. 'Surely,' they will say, 'we are not meant to go to extremes? You are not asking us to become hot-gospel fanatics?' Well, wait a minute. It depends what you mean. If by 'fanaticism' you really mean 'wholeheartedness,' then Christianity is a fanatical religion and every Christian should be a fanatic. But fanaticism is not wholeheartedness, nor is wholeheartedness fanaticism. Fanaticism is an unreasoning and unintelligent wholeheartedness. It is the running away of the heart with the head. At the end of a statement prepared for a conference on science, philosophy and religion at Princeton University in 1940 came these words: 'Commitment without reflection is fanaticism in action; but reflection without commitment is the paralysis of all action.' What Jesus Christ desires and deserves is the reflection which leads to commitment and the commitment which is born of reflection. This is the meaning of wholeheartedness, of being aflame for God.

One longs today to see robust and virile men and women bringing to Jesus Christ their thoughtful and their total commitment. Jesus Christ asks for this. He even says that if we will not be hot, he would prefer us cold to lukewarm. Better be frigid than tepid, he implies. His meaning is not far to seek. If he is true, if he is the Son of God who died for the sins of men, if Christmas Day, Good Friday and Easter Day are more than meaningless anniversaries, then nothing less than our wholehearted commitment to Christ will do. I must put him first in my private and public life, seeking his glory and obeying his will. Better be icy in my indifference or go into active opposition to him than insult him with an insipid compromise which nauseates him!" (Stott, *What Christ Thinks of the Church*)

As we enjoy this time together, may it be a time of 'nothing less than wholehearted commitment to Christ'.

In Him, Mark Smith



readings

ot Deuteronomy 8 (page 131)

nt Luke 22:7 – 27 (page 746)

Responding to God's Word in Practice:

1. HEAD: What did you learn?
2. HEART: What did God say to you?
3. HANDS: What will you do?

What's your story?

This is the name of a new segment that will shortly appear in the bulletin, with a focus on the story of one of our church family members.

The name for the segment came from a Christian friend who would open conversation with strangers using this question – and then go on to talk about faith in Christ.

The segment is intended to be an encouragement for our church family, on many levels:

- The stories are written by a friend who spends time interviewing their chosen person about their life. This way two of God's family will be spending time together getting to know each other better.
- All church family members who read the story have the opportunity to get to know others better, in their living years.
- The stories may lead to further conversations with a wider group of friends and so build on relationships.
- Self-reflection as we contribute to our story is a time of growth.

Watch this space in the near future for the first 'What's your story'.
Billinda (Coordinator)

Commitment Sunday daily prayer:

This week, reflect on our commitment Sunday service. Pray the following prayer for yourself & one another person in our church family (choose a different person each day):

Lord God Almighty, I understand that I am unable to do anything without your help, so I ask you to enable me by your grace to fulfil your will. Give me grace to do whatever brings most glory and honour to you, pleasure and profit to me, and life and love to others. Help me to number my days, spending my time wisely, living my life with all my might while I still have breath. Humble me in the knowledge that I am chief of sinners; when I hear of the sins of others, help me to not look upon them with pride, but to look upon myself with shame, confessing my own sins to you. When I go through difficulties and trials, remind me of the pains of hell from which you have already delivered me. Place people in my path who need my help, and give me a compassionate and generous spirit. Fill my heart with such love that I would never do anything out of a spirit of revenge, nor lose my temper with those around me. Hold my tongue when I am tempted to speak evil of others. Thank you for the gospel and for the hope of glory. Help me to live in light of these truths every day of my life, so that when the time of my death arrives, I will rest assuredly in you, and you will be most glorified in me. In Christ's name, Amen

News to share or point for prayer?

If you would like the church family to hear of recent news, or request prayer for yourself, please contact the office by phone or email. *Due to privacy laws we can only publish names with permission of those people.*

11th Nov Lord, we pray, absolve your people from their offences; that through your bountiful goodness we may be set free from the chains of those sins which in our frailty we have committed: grant this, heavenly father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen

12th Nov Mindful of Remembrance Day, give thanks for those who've sacrificed for our nation's peace. Ask God to comfort soldiers who've survived war & the families left at home. Pray also for those suffering in the current theatres of war – soldiers & civilians. Pray for peace to reign & God's kingdom to come.

13th Nov As Christmas draws near, give thanks in light of John 1v14: *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

14th Nov Pray for all Christians reflecting on the hymn-lyrics:
Be thou my battleshield, my sword for the fight; be thou my dignity, thou my delight; Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower: Raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

15th Nov Recalling Hebrews 10v10 ('we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all'), boldly confess your sins – both the intentional & unintentional – confident in the grace of Christ.

16th Nov Pray for our mission partners in the Philippines: Howard & Michelle (with Katelyn, Joshua & Caleb); as well as the Staines (currently back in Australia)

17th Nov Reflect gratefully on the glories of Christ's Kingdom. Recalling the final words of the Bible, pray 'Come, Lord Jesus'.

18th Nov God our Father, whose will is to bring all things to order and unity in our Lord Jesus Christ; grant that all the peoples of the world, now divided and torn apart by sin, may be brought together in his kingdom of love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

roster reminders for next week

bible readings

Removed for Privacy

ot Lamentations 3:19 - 24

nt 1 Peter 1:1 - 9

Thank you for serving.

If you are unable to fulfil your rostered duty please organise a swap and let the service leader and the office know

Growth Groups

Mon	pm Senior teens	Lithgow
Tues	am mixed	Lithgow
	pm mixed	Lithgow
Wed	pm Women's	Lithgow
	pm Men's	Lithgow
	pm Mixed	Wallerawang
Thu	am Women's	Lithgow
	pm mixed	Lithgow
	pm mixed	Portland
Fri	am women's	Lithgow
	pm Mixed	Lithgow



Find us on
Facebook

notices

Women's Fellowship – 15th November

Christmas Luncheon – contact Doreen Hart
meet at Church at 12

Confirmation & Baptism service - 18th November:

Our Bishop will join us & several members publicly express their faith in Christ.

There is still time to join them in declaring yours.

Speak with Mark Smith to be involved

Hampers for Farmers

In partnership with Anglicare, we have hampers of food & toiletry essentials ready to give to those affected by drought. Contact Terry Smith to get these hampers to those you know who are in need.

Christmas Carols 2018: 6:30pm Friday 21st December

A service of classic carols and the timeless Christmas Story

Our annual Carols are a great celebration of Christ's coming, open to all the community.

This year we are holding them on a Friday night at St Paul's (rather than Sunday).

Followed by family fun with face-painting, balloons, a bouncy castle, activities & food.

Christmas services 2018

6pm Christmas Eve BBQ Carols at Portland

8am Christmas Day at St Paul's

10am Christmas Day at St Paul's

ONE - YUM t4

6pm - 10pm Friday 23rd Nov \$5 per person for the bus. **Meeting at-** Lithgow Baptist church
Corner of Lee st and Great Western Hwy
Please have dinner before you turn up.

Contacts: Lise Hodgkinson – 0411351244

John Young – 0418610655,

end of year chocolate fountain/movie night on the 14th Dec more details to follow

Our community Pastor, Terry Smith, is on leave for the next 2 weeks

Direct Giving details

Account Name - ANGLICAN PARISH Of LITHGOW DIRECT GIVING

BSB - 062591

Account No. - 10085204

please return bibles to the back of church at the end of the service. thank you!