



We wish you a Holy Christmas, full of our Lord's blessings and pray that we will all have a very safe and happy New Year, living in the manner our God has decreed.

May our prayers for the New Year include our Church family and our commitment to each other.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Dave, Kayla, Esther and Eloise

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given... and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.*

*Isaiah 9:6 KJV*

# The Parish Poster

[www.waggawagga.lca.org.au](http://www.waggawagga.lca.org.au)



**LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**  
OF AUSTRALIA

**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

WAGGA WAGGA and MILBRULONG

December 2023, January & February 2024

## Advent and Christmas 2023

*Be Prepared* was the name of a song sung in Disney’s 1994 hit movie, *The Lion King*. The arch nemesis in the movie was singing telling people to be prepared for when he makes his move. One of the lines go like this: “Yeah! Be prepared. We'll be prepared! For what?”

The time leading up to Christmas can be absolutely crazy: teachers finishing off the year with end of year reports for all students, workplaces holding Christmas parties and figuring out how long they should close at Christmas, or if they should even close at all.

This year we are escaping the chaos of Christmas, as the world knows it, and getting ready to see what blessings Christ-Mas really brings.

We will be watching for Christ to come, asking ourselves how we prepare for Christ’s coming and learning what it means to bear fruit this Christmas season.

What joy does Jesus Christ bring to your life? Come and see for yourself the One who was born to set you free.



<u>Advent 1:</u> Sunday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	<b>Watch!</b> What are you watching and waiting for this Advent Season?
<u>Advent 2:</u> Sunday, 10 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Prepare!</b> What are you preparing for this Advent Season?
<u>Advent 3:</u> Sunday, 17 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Bear Fruit!</b> What does it mean to bear fruit during this Advent Season?
<u>Christmas Eve:</u> Sunday, 24 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Rejoice!</b> What of Christ brings joy to your life?
<u>Christmas Day:</u> Monday, 25 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Behold!</b> What does Christ-Mas mean to you?
<u>Christmas 1:</u> Sunday, 31 <sup>st</sup> December	<b>See!</b> What do you see in the One sent to set you free?

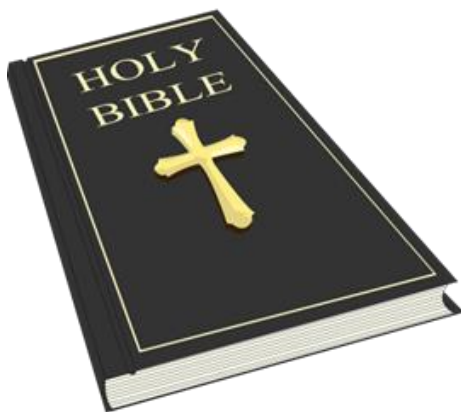
## FBI UNCOVERS HORRIFYING EXTREMIST READING MATERIAL IN MIKE JOHNSON'S HOME



Benton LA — The Federal Bureau of Investigation announced today that it had discovered terrifying extremist reading material in a raid on Speaker of the House Mike Johnson's Louisiana home.

"We were very troubled by what we found during our totally legal raid," said FBI Special Agent Curt Schampers. "When our tactical team breached the door of the home, one of our lead agents called our attention to a piece of reading material on the living room coffee table. The reading material appeared to be a thick, leather-bound book that had pages with gold-gilded edges. Clearly some type of radical religious text. This type of book is normally only found in the homes of truly dangerous individuals."

Eyewitnesses reported seeing FBI agents removing the book from the home in a sealed plastic bag for further investigation. "You could see the fear in their eyes," said Johnson's neighbour Darius Anderson. "I heard them talking to each other and saying that they knew people who read that book were radical, unhinged fanatics who believe crazy things and want to take over the world. To think Mike Johnson is a part of something like that ... it's pretty scary."



When asked to comment on what impact this discovery may have on Johnson's ability to serve effectively as Speaker of the House, Special Agent Schampers had only this to say: "This country would look a lot different if the kind of people who read that book were in charge of things."

At publishing time, the FBI refused to comment on horrifying reports that framed passages of religious texts were found hanging on the walls of the home.

Pastor Dave. *(original author unknown)*

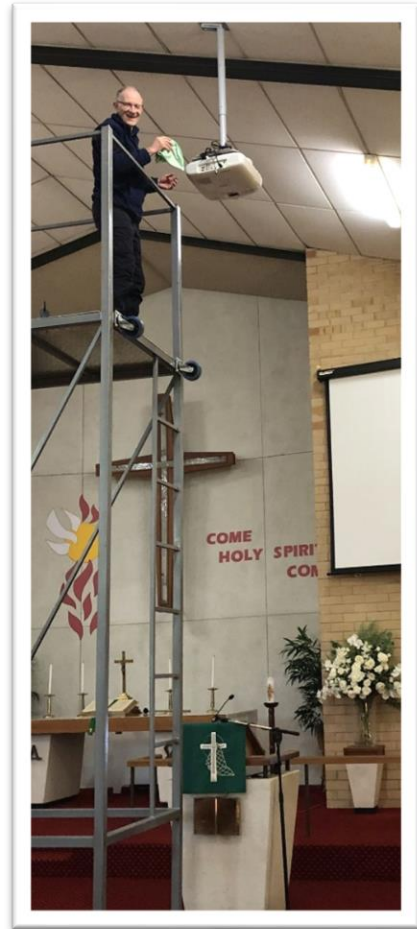
## Wagga Wagga News

A **spring working bee** was held at the church in September and was quite well attended. The carpark was re-gravelled, the gardens received a trim, and the church projector was cleaned and realigned. The cupboards in the room behind the church were cleared so they can store the flower arrangements. The furniture was also moved into a more inviting layout, the whole result leading to the room being used for more meetings and gatherings than it has seen in many years. The morning was also a great time of fellowship with a lovely morning tea, followed a little later by some sausages for lunch, with more than a few laughs along the way.

In October, we were invited out to **Bethlehem Milbrulong** to share in their worship service. We didn't quite fill the church, but the hymn singing and the opportunity to worship together in their little church was something special. If you haven't worshipped there before, please put it in your diary for next time. The service was followed by a lunch in the delightful bush setting surrounding the church. Everyone mixed and mingled and chatted, enjoyed the food and commented on how much they appreciated the effort our hosts had gone to. Thank you to Pastor Dave for encouraging this marvellous community opportunity.

Regino Caswell from **The Voice of the Martyrs** spent a week in Wagga Wagga in early November, which tied in with our All Saints worship service. On Saturday evening, VOTM screened a movie in the Church, entitled "Tortured for Christ," telling the story of Voice of the Martyrs founder, Pastor Richard Wurmbbrand, and how he spent fourteen years in prison for his beliefs. The movie was followed by prayer and pizza. The next day, Regino spoke to our congregation about the work of VOTM, and set up a display of their free resources, including devotionals, inspirational books, and DVDs.

The **Advent season** is now upon us. A Christmas Morning Tea will be held on Sunday, 10 December after the worship service. This is in lieu of the Christmas Lunch that the ladies of the Congregation normally provide. The Sunday School children will be busy working on their presentation for Christmas Eve, filming their speaking parts and practicing for the live portion on the night. And on 17 December, the teenagers of our congregation will be marking the end of their Confirmation Classes and the beginning of a new stage in their walk with their Lord.





## Shed Men

Ian W., Ian K., and Max L., were kind enough to host the September, October and November Shed Men gatherings, proving that you don't need to have a large shed or even a shed at all to host a Shed Men evening!

The last Friday night of the month has turned out to be a great chance to relax after a long week with a casual chat and a few stories with good blokes around a BBQ, and whether you like a scotch fillet, a chicken skewer or the humble old snag, you are more than welcome to join us.



Now that we are coming toward the end of the year, we have decided to break for harvest and Christmas so there will be no Shed Men in December or January but we will start up again in February, giving you plenty of time to clean up the shed or the back yard (you don't actually need a "shed") and get ready to host your own Shed Men BBQ.

## Ladies Fellowship

Pastor Dave has led our Bible Studies this year, encouraging us in our faith in Christ to be there for us.

We would like to encourage ladies to come along to the Hall on the first Thursday morning of each month, at 9.30am. We have a Bible Study with Pastor, a little bit of business, and then lots of chat over a cuppa and morning tea.

We like to create a relaxed atmosphere, in a setting where we can get to know each other better. The Bible Study offers us a time when we can ask Pastor Dave the questions that are on our mind regarding our faith. It is a very supportive group of ladies, but we would love to see a few new faces, and as numbers are declining, we are keen to see it continue and grow. Would you like to come along? Please see Rhonda, Cheryl or Leonie if you would like some more information.



We would like to wish everyone in the congregations at Wagga Wagga and Milbrulong, a very happy and blessed Christmas, and a safe and faith-filled New Year.

## Milbrulong News



Congratulations to Dimity Carn and Andrew Smith who have completed their HSC. God bless you both as you move to the next phase in your young lives.

Thank you to all that helped to make the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday service at Milbrulong on 29<sup>th</sup> October, as we celebrated Reformation Day. It was a wonderful day, celebrated with lunch under the shade of the gum trees with a great spread of food and great fellowship enjoyed by us all.

### December 2023

10<sup>th</sup> Dec – 9am Lay Reading Service

24<sup>th</sup> Dec – 9am Christmas Service with Pastor Dave. Holy Communion.  
Christmas Morning Tea.

### January 2024

14<sup>th</sup> Jan – 9am Lay Reading Service

28<sup>th</sup> Jan – 9am Preaching Service with Pastor Dave. Holy Communion. Morning Tea.



### February 2024

11<sup>th</sup> Feb – 9am Lay Reading Service

25<sup>th</sup> Feb – 9am Preaching Service with Pastor Dave. Holy Communion. Morning Tea.





### Team 6 Market Stalls

Team 6 held street stalls on Tuesday 31 October as part of their service task. They raised \$1369 from the stalls which was donated to Kiva, an organization that helps people around the world access microloans to start small businesses, purchase farm equipment, access emergency care or attend school.



### 2024 Kindergarten transition

Over 4 Wednesdays in November around 46 children in our 2024 Kindergarten classes visited for a series of transition to school activities. They started with a Teddy Bear's Picnic.



### Book Week Parade

The Book Parade was held on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August. It was a great event with lots of families in attendance. Students dressed in a range of book characters to celebrate book week.



## Sunday School

As the end of the year draws near, Sunday school is going full steam ahead with lots of exciting things in the works. There is lots to celebrate with the upcoming confirmation service bringing joy as we watch and support those taking the next step in their faith journey. The preparations for the Sunday School Christmas presentation are well underway, and the children look forward to sharing with you all on Christmas Eve.

Meanwhile, the older children have been studying hard, learning lots and those attending confirmation classes are raising some great questions. The younger children are engaging in joyful chaos while trying to focus on God's love for them, the importance of prayer and anchoring their faith in Jesus.

Our last Sunday School day will be December 10, we are due to start again on Sunday 4th February.

Christmas blessings to everyone!



## Care & Share

We have continued to meet regularly this year and help the CareVan by providing hand crafted items that they greatly appreciate: bed sized rugs and quilts, face washers and towels, toiletry bags, beanies and gloves, and even tablecloths and some crockery. Our thanks to those who, when sorting through such items at home, and have an excess that they are willing to share and they leave them at the hall for us to deliver. Of course, you can always deliver clean items to them yourselves if you wish.

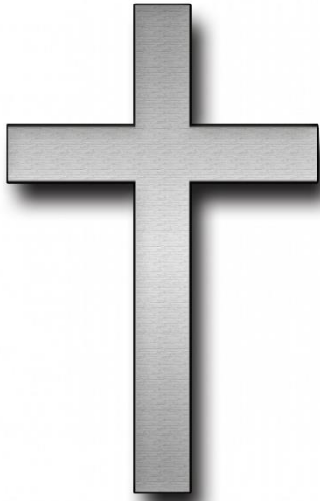
Despite our dwindled numbers this year, we have still created about 300 items for them and they are always grateful to receive what we have produced. They are also delighted to receive packaged or canned foods as they produce hundreds of meals each week for the homeless and those who are unable to cook healthy meals for themselves.

Our Wednesday mornings have continued through this year, and while we were saddened at the loss of Enid, we have been very blessed in many ways. Pastor Dave frequently comes along for coffee and joins in the chat, often with at least one of the children. The young girls enjoy copying us and play at sewing, playing with buttons and wool making their own creations. We enjoy encouraging them to be creative and listening to their stories.

Our last get-together for this year will be December 6th and we will start again on January 17.

We would like to wish everyone in the congregations at Wagga Wagga and Milbrulong, a very happy and blessed Christmas, and a safe and faith-filled New Year.





## Confirmation 2023

Please join our young people who will be celebrating their Confirmation on **Sunday, 17 December**.

Ethan, Daniel, Emmanuel, Carly, Cara, Bodhi and Spencer will be confessing their love and commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ, just as Christians have for centuries.

This is an important day in our congregation and it will be great for our young people to experience the magnificent love and support of their Church family.

## THE *open door* BOOKSHOP



*Specialising in: Christian Books, gifts and cards'*

**JANE FRANKE**

*Manager*

162 Hoskins Street  
TEMORA NSW 2666

Ph: (02) 6977 1779  
Email: [opendoortemora@gmail.com](mailto:opendoortemora@gmail.com)

'Reaching into the community with the gospel of Jesus Christ'

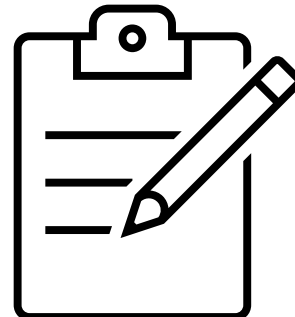
*- a ministry of Temora Lutheran Community Church*

## Annual General Meeting 2024

Church Council has set the date of next year's Annual General Meeting for the Congregation. Please add **3 March 2024** to your calendars.

Those of you who are on committees and in fellowship groups, reports are due to the Secretary one month prior on 3 February 2024.

Nominations for committees and special responsibilities will be accepted in the next couple of months. If you are not on a committee or a roster, please consider taking on a role. We are all part of this congregation and by sharing the load, we will all benefit.



## Things that can happen at church... aside from worship!

**Jane Lieschke had some memories of a few incidents from when she and Max worshipped at Milbrulong.**

*Carol Bahr and I were in the kitchen at the Milbrulong Hall. We were the only ones in the kitchen at the time. Milbrulong ladies were catering for a Lutheran Women's meeting and there were ministers and the hierarchy there. We were told to boil the water before anyone drank it; so there we were: trying to boil water and then cool it as quickly as we could.*

*One of the ladies had brought along a beautiful cut glass jug and I don't know what possessed us at the time but we thought it would be a good idea to put the hot water into the jug and then we would be able to cool it quicker.*

*Not a good idea!! We poured the water into the jug and it shattered with quite a significant bang. Both Carol and I got such a fright and we both yelled "s@%#!" at the same time. Suddenly realising the dignitaries were just in the next room, we both fell into fits of laughter, at the same time feeling a bit embarrassed.*

*Another morning we were in church at Milbrulong. All was going well, until we noticed a bad odour wafting around our pew. Jeff Gollasch was sitting behind us and commented on the bad smell.*

*No one could work out where the smell was coming from or what it was but it was foul. I told our kids to check their shoes to see if they had stepped in something and if they had not to lift their feet.*

*After the service, we were chatting outside and Max noticed that Jeff had something stuck on the side of his shoe. The Grand Discovery was that Jeff was the culprit. He had stepped in Doggy Doo. Mystery solved. We didn't need Sherlock.*

*Milbrulong decided that the ancient toilets (which simply consisted of long drops and sheets of tin blowing in the breeze) needed to be replaced. So, with a few donations of toilet furnishings and various other donations we got to work.*

*With a lack of finance on our part and knowing that approval from local government sources would be very slow and painful, a new toilet suddenly materialised one day in amongst the wattles. If anyone wanted to know how this miracle had occurred, the answer was, "The Toilet Fairy had appeared."*



**Brad Salzke also had a story for us:**

*This goes back quite a few years now, to a very hot and dry summer at Gerogery. We were attending a Sunday service at St Peter's on a rather hot and windy day. During one of the quieter moments early in the service, a beeping noise cut through the air. This jarring noise was followed by another, then another. The sound grew in pitch, frequency and volume as more beeps joined the chorus.*

*The beeps were in fact the Rural Fire Service pagers attached to the many farmers' belts throughout the congregation, alerting us to a fire started by a header that had hit some low-lying power lines while harvesting only a few kilometers down the road.*



*What followed can only be described as a mass exodus. About 30% of the congregation muttered quickly under their breath to wives and children and then stood and left the church in a bit of a rush.*

*After a short discussion outside, the decision was made to carpool to the fire shed as much as possible so as to leave enough vehicles at the church for the families staying behind.*

*As I was one of those that left the service and attended the fire, I can tell you it was quickly brought under control thanks to slightly favorable conditions, a quick response and a crop that had been cut quite short.*

*What I did not witness was what had happened back at the church. After the service ended and the remaining congregation exited the church, there was a sudden realisation that there was now a logistical issue: most of the men had been kind enough to leave vehicles for their families. What they had not thought to do was leave their keys!!*

*After some negotiations and probably quite a bit of laughter, it was decided that a cuppa, followed by a few trips around the district by the lucky few to still have car keys, would see everyone safely back at home.*



**Leonie Kohlhagen remembered a church and fire story from the Wagga congregation:**

*One Christmas Eve a few years ago, someone had the bright idea of putting real candles on our real tree in the Church. The rest of that bright idea was to light them with real fire!*

*A good portion of the congregation spent the entire service envisaging not only the tree going up in flames, but the whole church! As one farmer reported later, he was ready to race out and find a hose.*

*It did look very pretty though.*

If you have a "funny" church story, please send it in for the next Poster.

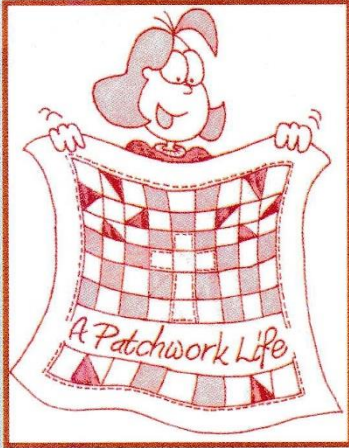


## Lutheran Women of NSW & ACT Retreat

15 – 17 March 2024

Warrambui Retreat & Conference Centre  
The Village [en-suite accommodation]  
322 Greenwood Rd, Murrumbateman NSW 2582

*Theme: A Patchwork Life*



*I am sure that God,  
who began the good  
work with you, will  
continue his work un-  
til it is finally finished  
on that day when  
Christ Jesus comes  
back. Philippians 1:6  
(NLT)*

### RETREAT TEAM:

Jane Franke, Naomi Steinhardt, Meryl Packer and  
Tanna Mackenzie

RETREAT PASTOR: Pastor Darren Kupke, Temora  
Lutheran Community Congregation

WHEN: From Friday 15 March 2024 – registration  
5pm, dinner 6pm, to Sunday 17 March, 2pm.

BRING: Towel, 2 sheets, pillowcase **AND** your own  
pillow, sleeping bag/duona. Due to Covid 19 Warrambui  
is not currently providing doonas and pillows. If you  
have hired linen, all items will be available for you.

Bible, pen, paper.

“Open Door Books” will have their wonderful display!  
**Guest Speakers** Mary Muller from Immanuel

**PLEASE SEND YOUR REGISTRATION FORM and  
PAYMENT TO:**

Meryl Packer Unit 91 / 13 Eastlake Parade Kingston ACT  
2604. Mobile: 0412 508 755 or merrex62@gmail.com

Cheques/money order payable to: **LWNSW Retreat  
Account**, or by online banking: Account: **LWNSW  
Retreat Account** BSB: 032 732 Account No: 591914  
Please include your name as a reference.

### CANCELLATION POLICY:

NO Refund for withdrawal after the **Closing Date**.

**NOTE:** Warrambui does NOT give refund after their  
final due date. Other refund requests are at the discretion  
of the organising committee and the LWNSW/ACT  
Executive

## REGISTRATION FORM

**Lutheran Women of NSW & ACT Retreat**

**15– 17 March 2024**

Warrambui Retreat & Conference Centre  
The Village [ensuite accommodation]  
322 Greenwood Rd, Murrumbateman NSW 2582

**Name:**

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

**Address:**

**Phone:**

**Emergency Contact Person & Number:**

**Email:**

**Home Church:**

Please indicate any dietary requirements, medical con-  
siderations or other information we should be aware of:

### CLOSING DATE:

**Early Bird: due by 10 February** \$190

**Or 23 February 2024** \$200

2 nights' accommodation - 2 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches and 2  
Dinners as well as mid meals as applicable

**Linen** (1 x Pillowcase, 2 x Sheet, 1 x Towel) \$17

**TOTAL enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please keep yourself a copy!!!!

This is my first LWNSW Retreat: Yes / No

I, the undersigned, hereby declare the Lutheran Women  
of New South Wales & ACT and all connected herewith,  
to be free of all responsibility from any accident or illness  
occurring in connection with my participation in this  
LWNSW Retreat. I promise to conduct myself as a  
Christian and willingly submit to rules as set down for the  
Retreat. On arrival you will be asked to sign the Covid 19  
terms & Conditions.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*PLEASE DO NOT COME IF YOU ARE UNWELL**