



Lion Island, Thank you Les for this week's photo.

Ettalong Baptist Church Newsletter, 7th April 2022

This Sunday's Services:

Join us 9.30am this Palm Sunday as we celebrate Christ as King. We will also be continuing our series through Hosea, reflecting on "The Redeeming Love of God" from Hosea 3.

In Hosea 3, Gomer is wrapped up in the depth of her brokenness. Hosea has had good reason to divorce Gomer and end their troubled relationship forever. Instead though he continued to love her, even after she hurt him so deeply. Hosea was willing to pay any price to have her back.

Hosea's love for Gomer, is a picture of God's redemptive love. Redemptive love goes in eyes open, knowing everything. God does not redeem us based on our goodness, but in spite of our badness. He knows the worst about us, but still redeems us. He offers our wedding ring back, beckoning us to come to back to him. Will we accept him?

Sunday 10th April, 9.30am

The service will also be live streamed (except for the singing at the end).

<https://youtu.be/Rxch8ePOAjg>

Song Playlist: The songs we are singing this Sunday:

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDAa9SEvIGqAuiFJSpk_W0-oB1imZ2NJR

4pm Family Service with SHOUT!!

A service for all generations to praise God together with good coffee, singing, stories, discussion and fun!! Come early from 3.30pm, to enjoy games and coffee.

Services This Easter:

Thursday 14 April, 7pm – Service Of Shadows

A very moving service as we read through the account of Jesus arrest and crucifixion.

Good Friday 15 April, 9.30am

Reflecting on the cross on which Jesus died and our response to God's love.

Easter Sunday 17 April, 9.30am

A worship service for the whole family together, reflecting on the relentless love of God.

Our service will be followed by a special Morning Tea with Hot Cross Buns.

(There will be no 4pm service on Easter Sunday. We encourage you to spend time with your family and celebrate God's relentless love together.)

Pre Service Prayer Group:

8.30am Sunday mornings in the downstairs hall.

Special Church Meeting – Sunday 10th of April (After the 9.30am service).

- 1). We will be affirming our Vision statement that was reflected so strongly through the dreams we have been dreaming for our church. We will be presenting the Purpose, Values and Vision booklet that has been created by our Revitalisation Team. The booklet is attached to this newsletter, or included in the envelope.
- 2). We will be considering engaging the services of Balance Ministry Services. This is a service set up by the Baptist Association of NSW & ACT, to assist churches in running their day to day business.
- 3). We will be affirming Rick Keuning as a delegate for the NSW & ACT Baptist Assembly and the Gathering.

Giving:

As Christians, we believe it is especially important that we give financially to support God's church. You may give your weekly offering using the following methods:

1). Through direct electronic transfer. You can do this using online banking or ask your bank teller to set up an electronic transfer for you.

2). Deposit your offering directly into the church account at any branch of the Westpac Bank.

Our account details are:

Account Name: Ettalong Baptist Church

BSB Number: 032 527

Account Number: 350 062

3). Use the Red Box at the back of the church auditorium BEFORE our 9.30am Worship Service.

Volunteers Needed To Count And Bank Money:

Are you looking for a simple way to serve the Lord and help his church? Do you like counting money? We need volunteers who can help count money we receive through our red box, and we also need volunteers who can help with banking. Please see Rick Keuning if you are able to help or want to find out more.

Funeral for Jenny Griffiths:

It is with much sadness that we heard last Friday that our dear sister in Christ Jenny Griffiths passed away suddenly. Jenny's funeral is Wednesday 13th of April, 11am at Woronora Crematorium.

The service will be live streamed and we will be participating in the Live Stream at the Church in the Hill Hall. See David Gilchrist for details and to let us know you will be attending.

Please pray for Ukraine:

Please continue to pray for Andrew Ford. He has been to Vinnytsia to drop off food and medical supplies and has now returned to Amsterdam with his family. Praise God for safe travels, with no sight of army or conflict. He was also able to call into Oksana's parents and provide food and their prescription medication.

Andrew is now preparing to return to Ukraine:

- 1). To continue to source food and medical supplies for refugees and the people of Ukraine.
- 2). The Mayor of a small town near Vinnytsia (about a 3 hour slow drive on a very bad road) has given the town's old preschool building, to be converted and used to house refugees, who are arriving daily in the area. Andrew, Vadem, plus remaining YWAMers, are building a shower block and a kitchen within the complex for refugees to use. Andrew is sourcing materials for this in Amsterdam and will deliver them in his van.

Creating Safe Spaces Workshop:

Everyone who is a leader in our church or who works with Children, Youth or Vulnerable People, must complete a Creating Safe Spaces Workshop every three years. Wyong Baptist is hosting a workshop on Sunday 29th May. Please see Janine Arrua or Natasha Kelley for more information. Or go to the Website:

<https://www.ncca.org.au/scp/scp-upcoming-events/nsw-act-workshops/creating-safe-spaces-wyong-baptist-church-4>

Zoom Prayer Group:

Tuesdays 10am. See Greg or Elizabeth Beckenham to join.

Divorce Care Support Group:

After Easter, Ben and Natasha will be running a 13 week support group, Divorce Care. The group is for those who are recently divorced or separated.

“Divorce Care is a weekly seminar/support group that will help you heal from the hurt. It's a warm caring environment led by people who understand what you are going through. Gain hope for your future!”

Interested? You can find more details and register online at <https://www.divorcecare.org/groups/146535> or speak with Ben or Natasha.

Spring Fair:

We are planning a Spring Fair to raise money to support missions, on Saturday 3rd September. The Missions Committee would like to remind you to start thinking about potting plants and making craft items ready for the day.

To make the Spring Fair a success we need to open Ministry of Leftovers Op-Shop for the fair. To be able to do this Caroline needs volunteers who can commit to setting up during the week leading up to the fair and volunteers assist in the shop on the day. Please write your name on the list on the Church noticeboard or see Caroline.

Preparing for Worship

From a Facebook post by Ruth Brentner. Submitted by Merryll Mead.

Thoughts to consider between now and Sunday...

🏠 THINK OF GOING TO CHURCH AS A CELEBRATION OF CHRIST. The beauty and simplicity of this approach brings all the dynamics of churchgoing into proper focus. It also has the effect of helping shed any baggage we might carry in with us.

🏠 PREPARE YOUR HEART BEFORE ARRIVAL. A worthy prelude to meeting with the King of kings is a heart dwelling on the wonder of Who He is and what He has done. Also, making music to Him in our hearts prepares us for greater receptivity to the Word of God. 📖 “Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord.” (Ephesians 5:19b; Colossians 3:16b)

🏠 PRAY FOR YOUR PASTOR AND THE MESSAGE. Pray that Christ will be magnified through the message; that the Spirit of God will refresh, edify, comfort and strengthen the hearts of believers; and that He will convict unbelievers of their need for Christ.

🏠 PUT YOUR WHOLE HEART INTO SINGING AND WORSHIPING THE LORD. How wonderful to be lost in wonder, love and praise. 📖 “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.” (Colossians 3:23)

🏠 PRAY FOR EARS TO HEAR, AND EXPECT THE LORD TO SPEAK TO YOU PERSONALLY. This helps safeguard us against a wandering mind, or boredom, or for some of us — an I’ve-heard-that-before attitude.

Lastly,

🏠 LINGER INSTEAD OF MAKING A MAD DASH TO THE CAR. Ministry happens everywhere —even at church — in the sanctuary, the foyer, and the parking lot. As we walk in the Spirit, we may be used by the Lord to speak an uplifting word to someone; give a loving embrace; reach out to someone new... or even pray with someone.

📖 “...not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:25)