



He Is Risen! Blessings to you all this Easter.

Ettalong Baptist Newsletter, 2nd April 2026

God's Sheltered Life:

At the end time billions of people were scattered on a great plain before God's throne. Most shrank back from the brilliant light before them. But some groups near the front talked heatedly - not with cringing shame but with belligerence. "Can God judge us? How can he know about suffering?" snapped a pert young brunette. She ripped open a sleeve to reveal a tattooed number from a Nazi concentration camp. "We endured terror ... beatings ... torture ... death!"

From another group, a former slave slowly lowered his collar. "What about this?" he demanded, showing an ugly rope burn. "Lynched for no crime but being black!" In another crowd a pregnant schoolgirl with sullen eyes murmured, "Why should I suffer? It wasn't my fault."

Far out across the plain were hundreds of such groups. Each had a complaint against God for the evil and suffering he permitted in the world. How lucky God was to live in heaven where all was sweetness and light, where there was no weeping or fear, no hunger or hatred. What did God know of all that people had been forced to endure in this world? "For God leads a sheltered life", they said.

So, each of these groups sent forth their leader, chosen because they had suffered the most. In the centre of the plain they consulted with each other. At last, they were ready to present their case. They thought it was rather clever... Before God could be qualified to be their judge, he must endure what they had endured. Their decision was that God should be sentenced to live on Earth - as a man! "Let him be born a Jew. Let the legitimacy of his birth be doubted. Give him work so difficult that even his family will think of him out of His mind when he tries to do it."

As each leader announced their portion of the sentence, loud murmurs of approval went up from the throng of people assembled on the plain, "Let him be betrayed by his closest friends. Let him face false charges, be tried by a prejudice jury, and convicted by a cowardly judge. Let him be tortured. Let him see what it is like to be terribly alone. Then let him die. Let him die so that there can be no doubt that he died. Let there be a great many witnesses to verify it."

When the last had finished pronouncing sentence, there was a long silence. No one uttered a word. No one moved. For suddenly all knew that God had already served His sentence. He had already experienced it all. He had already been there. He had already suffered.

But God had overcome. He rose triumphant from the tomb. Able to help the helpless. Lift the fallen. Give life to those who had no life. (Author unknown)

Easter Services:

JOIN US THIS EASTER

THURSDAY 2 APRIL: 7.30PM
SERVICE OF THE SHADOWS

FRIDAY 3 APRIL: 9.30AM
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

SUNDAY 5 APRIL: 9.30AM
EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION



8 Barrenjoey Road, Ettalong Beach
The church at the roundabout!

Thursday 2nd April 7.30pm: Service of Shadows

Reading the accounts of the Passion according to the Gospel of Matthew and the Prophet Isaiah.

This service will not be Livestreamed.

Good Friday 3rd April 9.30am:

Encounter Grace – Luke 23:32-43

This service will be simulcast on 94.9 Rhema Central Coast, and Livestreamed at

https://youtube.com/live/3LTSE0_roN0?feature=share

Easter Sunday 9.30am Communion Service:

Encounter Redemption – John 20:11-18

The service will be livestreamed: <https://youtube.com/live/sG27lnUeGc?feature=share>

Merryll, Jane and others, will be at the front after the service for anyone who wants prayer.

'Kid's Church' is on during our 9.30am service. This is a good time for parents to be blessed in the service while the children are having fun learning about God in the next room. All children are welcome!

SHOUT!!

SHOUT!! is in recess for the school holidays and recommences on Sunday 19th of April 2026

Good Friday Offering:

This Easter we are again joining in the Australian Baptist Easter Offering to unite with a thousand churches in expressing our gratitude for Jesus and investing in sharing him with others. The offering funds Crossover – a national Baptist ministry that provides all sorts of resources, training and encouragement to help us share Christ with others. So, let's give generously as we are able! To contribute see our posters in the foyer or plan to give a cash donation into our offering box during our Good Friday Service. Remember this offering is in addition to our regular church offering.

Ministry of Leftovers:

Ministry of Leftovers will be closed Easter Monday:

LIFT 'Ladies In Fellowship Together' Lunch 10th April @ Pelican's:

Good Friday falls on the first Friday in April so our LIFT Lunch will be held on FRIDAY 10th APRIL 12.30pm at 'Pelican's' Woy Woy.

As always, all ladies are welcome and we look forward to seeing you there to share with us in fellowship.

For info: Marion 0401 344 814

Men's Breakfast Saturday 18th April, 8am @ BBF Café Woy Woy:

The next men's fellowship breakfast will be held Saturday 18th April 8am, @ BBF Cafe (Woy Woy). Ian.

The first 5 men who notify Graham or myself that they are attending will have their coffee paid for by Graham Checkley! Thanks, Ian.

Happy Birthday to Pastor Frank Willis:

Frank Willis, was pastor of Ettalong Baptist Church from 1992 to 1999. Currently he lives at Point Clare. This week he celebrated his birthday. Thank you to Ruth and Jimmy who gave him flowers on behalf of our church.

A message from Wendy and Len Creamer:

On the 4th of May, we are moving to Forresters Beach Retirement Village. We will miss everyone at EBC.

Games mornings for FUN raising are in Recess:

Games mornings will resume on Wednesday April 22nd @ 9.45am – 12pm

Ettalong Baptist Church Prayer Chain:

If you would like prayer, please send your request to: ettalongbaptistprayerchain@gmail.com

Giving:

Our bank details are:

Account Name: Ettalong Baptist Church – Bendigo Bank

BSB Number: 633 000

Account Number: 225 369 099

You may also give cash or cheque by placing your offering in the box next to the main entrance door in the church auditorium.

Find Important Church Documents on our Website:

You can download and print documents or simply read and fill in documents online!

<https://ettalongbaptistchurch.org.au/documents/>

Ettalong Baptist Church, Safe Church Team:

To report a child protection concern or incident please contact: Pastor—David Gilchrist (phone: 0448 431 234) or Jean Lynch (phone:0425 749 224)

Send Your Newsletter Items, Including Photos:

Please send your Newsletter items & photos to: office@ettalongbaptistchurch.org.au by **12.30pm Wednesdays.**

If you would like a copy of our weekly Newsletter emailed to you, please send an email to the address above, with your name and email address.

There are printed copies in the foyer and the newsletter is also posted on our Ettalong Baptist Church Website.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter by email, please reply ALL to this email with the word **UNSUBSCRIBE** and we will remove you from this email list.

Thanks to those who have sent their photos for the Newsletter, keep them coming please!