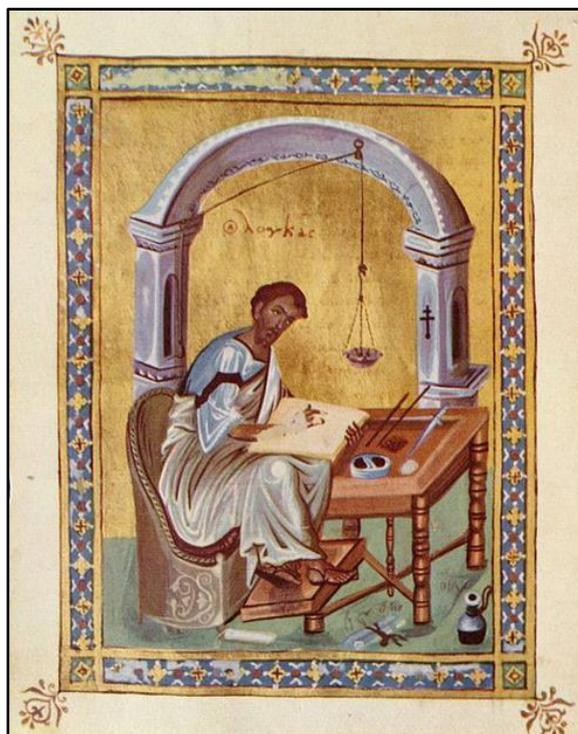


Monthly update

The Uniting Church in Australia

St Luke's Congregation, Highton

October 2021



Evangelist Luke writing, Byzantine illumination, 10th century^[1]

St Luke

Monday 18th of October is the date that the church celebrates the namesake of the congregation: Saint Luke, who is sometimes called “Luke the Evangelist.” Luke wrote both the Gospel account which bears his name and the Book of Acts; and while separated in our Bibles these two works should be thought of and read as one unified work.

Luke tells us at the beginning of his Gospel that he is seeking to set down an orderly account of events.

In his Gospel, Luke highlights the role of Mary in the stories surrounding Jesus’ birth and writes more about the risen Christ than Matthew or Mark. In the book of Acts, Luke sets out the history of the early church.

We don’t know much about him. In Acts there are places where Luke uses the first-person plural such as Acts 16: 10, “When he [Paul] had seen the vision, **we** immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia...” Outside of his own writings, he is mentioned in three New Testament letters: Philemon, Colossian and 2 Timothy. He is described by Paul as the “beloved physician” (Col. 4:14). Paul regards Luke as a loyal companion. Luke, commentators argue, writes as well as any of the authors of the New Testament texts, using excellent Greek and a careful structuring of his narrative.^[2]

In summary Luke was a healer who wanted to share the good news of Jesus. Surely these two attributes offer a wonderful vision for the mission of the St Luke’s Congregation: a community that seeks to bring healing and to share the good news of Jesus!

Office administrator: Robyn Hodge.

Office open hours: Tuesdays and Fridays, 9:30am–12:30pm

Prayer for St Luke's Day:

Almighty God,
 You called Luke the physician,
 whose praise is in the gospel,
 to be an evangelist and physician of the soul:
 by the grace of the Spirit
 and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel,
 give your Church the same love and power to heal;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. ^[3]

Rev. Paul Stephens

^[1] Byzantinischer Maler des 10. Jahrhunderts 001.jpg - Wikimedia Commons

^[2] "Luke" in Paul J. Achtemeier, (Gen. Ed.), *Harper's Bible Dictionary*, San Francisco, Harper and Row, 1985, p.582

^[3] Luke the Evangelist | The Church of England

Readings for the Month

	<i>1st Reading</i>	<i>Psalm</i>	<i>2nd Reading</i>	<i>Gospel</i>
Oct 10 Pentecost week 20	Job 23:1-9,16-17	Ps 22:1-15	Heb 4:12-16	Mk 10:17-31
Oct 17 Pentecost week 21	Job 38:1-7,(34-41)	Ps 104:1-9,24,35c	Heb 5:1-10	Mk 10:35-45
Oct 24 Pentecost week 22	Job 42:1-6,10-17	Ps 34:1-8,(19-22)	Heb 7:23-28	Mk 10:46-52
Oct 31 Pentecost week 23	Ru 1:1-18	Ps 146	Heb 9:11-14	Mk 12:28-34

Diary

Sat 9/10 1.30 - 3.30pm Geelong Repair Cafe-Highton

Wed 13/10 8 - 8.15am Weekly prayer time over Zoom. Contact info@stlukesuca.org.au for details

Fri 15/8 1 - 4pm St Lukes Collectibles

Sat 16/10 9am - 12 St Lukes Collectibles: Community Market Day

Fri 17/10 - 24/10 Paul on leave

Wed 20/10 7 - 8.30pm Church Council on Zoom

Tues 26/10 5.30 - 6.30pm Environmental Action Group

Wed 27/10 2 - 3.30pm Coffee & Chat @ Brioche

Thur 4/11 10 - 12pm Connections Team Meeting @ Fellowship Room

Congregation News

St Luke's Collectibles & Community Market Day

Friday 15 October 1pm to 4pm

Saturday 16 October 9am to 12 noon: Community Market Day

I want to tell you about our first Community Market Day to be held during our next Collectibles days in October. As months roll on the plan is to invite Community Fund Raisers to be a part of this new community Saturday outreach. It is another way in which we can show support for organisations and groups who largely depend on fund raising within our local community.

On Saturday 16th. October, the 'Cottage ByThe Sea' (selling Jams, sauces and pickles) and 'Days For Girls' (selling mostly craft items), and 'St Luke's Garden Table' will have trading tables for shoppers. When you enter the Chapel to view the Collectibles on sale, you will enjoy the Community Market just outside the Chapel door set up on the grassed area between the Men's Shed and the Lane Memorial building.

'Cottage by the Sea' situated in Queenscliff, helps disadvantaged children have opportunities for fun and inspiration and aims to empower young people through tailored programs. This Australian children's charity does not rely on government funding.

'Days for Girls' is a not-for-profit organization that has a network of Teams and Chapters around the world. They raise funds to make washable reusable sanitary care kits which are then distributed to girls and women in need. Alongside the distribution of these kits, reproductive and hygiene education is provided.

Wanted..... can you help? We are setting up a church table at the Market. It will be a Garden Table, selling pot plants, vegetable seedlings, garden tools, etc.

If you can give any plants for our table, either give me a call or drop them off beside the Chapel on 15th.

I invite you to take the time and come and visit our Collectibles. It will be important this month to support our Community Market Day also.

If the above dates are not suitable, then book a time with me for a private viewing.

Collectible Sales are directed towards the support of Refugee and Asylum Seekers. If your cupboards are already full, do come for a visit simply to see our Mission Outreach in action. If you are not a shopper, then you may wish to donate any saleable items – helping to raise money for people in need. The Mission Outreach Ministry Team are thankful for all support of raising money for needy people.

Make the most of COVID free restrictions and plan to visit our next Collectibles Opening. Shopping for birthdays and Christmas is wise thinking.

QR Code/Sign-In and Masks Mandatory.

Rae Anderson – Collectibles Co-Ordinator.



Environment Group

1. Seasons of Creation

Once again we worked with Paul to present the service for “Seasons of Creation” emphasising our responsibilities to care for God’s Creation, our home. We highlighted some activities which are being carried out in the St Luke’s community.

2. Repair Café

Even though we cannot open the Repair Café at the moment – repairs are still being carried out and picked up by grateful patrons.

3. Farewell

We bade a sad farewell to Michelle Walker as she returns to her home and a new job in Queensland

4. Tree Planting

We participated in a community tree planting at Warralily



Claire Zeigler - Environment Group

Church Council

Welcome to Spring everyone, and the joy of heading to the end of the Liturgical year (Christ the King) on 21 November, and the start of Advent the following Sunday. Robyn shared the updates from Church Council’s meeting on 2 October by email – if you didn’t receive that, let us know.

A big thanks to Mike Currie for not only joining to assist Council as Minutes Secretary, but also to helping compile this newsletter and the weekly news. A quiet mannered newsman is Mike!

Apart from dealing with the administration and financial matters for the Congregation, we have also been helping coordinate opportunities for pastoral care training (with Presbytery), and the safety and wellbeing of all our groups as the various Covid-19 lockdown changes are released. We are particularly aware and have been reflecting on the best ways to meet and continue to live as a worshipping and connected people. Tuesday mornings are a good time to catch up with Men’s Shed usually open, and smiling faces down in the office area too – let Linda or Barbara know if you’d like to help out. Shaghek and others continue to help connect and support families and those who feel lost, particularly if they have only been in Australia a few years. We’ll be back together soon, as more and more of the community get vaccinated.

We are also getting toward the end of the current phase of St Luke's Salt and Light Project. After finalising the Design Brief, our committed Community Voice members are coming together again on Sunday 10 October to see and hear the insights and ideas that our architects (Igor and Stewart) from Deakin University have formed having received the Brief and listened to the conversations over the last 6 months. An initial sketch offers a number of exiting possibilities, and when we have reflected and responded, Igor and Stewart will refine their sketches and models and we'll share them widely to inspire the next phase of this journey. This will not be primarily about buildings – its about how we transform the site to be the beacon of hope and sanctuary for our community, drawing people from all around closer to Jesus as we share care and hospitality. It is likely to be a change that will take 5 or more years to complete.

And for my family, we also nearing the end of our time in Geelong. Michelle is now in Queensland at a new job, and Natasha and I are finishing things here (particularly the VCE for Tash) to return back to our home at Golden Beach on the Sunshine Coast. Deborah has another year training as a physiotherapist in Albury. We'll be closer to our families, particularly our parents in the years to come. We have been blessed to be in the midst of the St Luke's Highton church family – and will continue to value your friendship and care for us, as we will continue to uphold you.

I'll be working with Council to support a smooth transition, and (as we've discovered) only be a Zoom call away to share ideas and help as best I can as the St Luke's community journeys into the years ahead.

Please continue to pray for one another, for your neighbours and our leaders. The current times have been challenging, but like the Spring shoots, the Holy Spirit is already showing us that there is life and inspiration springing back from so many places; may we join in as God's hands and feet!

Blessings, Lloyd Walker.

Share in your news

E-mail your notices to news@stlukesuca.org.au by **27 October 21**. The monthly news is normally printed on the last Tuesday of the month and available for the congregation on the 1st Sunday.