

THIS WEEK

Monday

3rd August

Tuesday

4th August

Prayer Time 9.30-10.30am in the Parents Room.

Wednesday

5th August

MumCo 9.30 -1130am
KYB 12.30pm

Thursday

6th August

ONE50 Dance 3.45pm

Friday

7th August

Youth Group 7.00-9.00pm

Saturday

8th August

Nepalese Church
8.30am - 12 noon

Sunday

9th August

9am Worship Service
10.45am Worship Service
2pm Grace Community
Church Service

On-Line Giving

Account Name

Elizabeth Church of Christ

BSB Number

105 121

Account Number

441343540

The Final Exam

I am not sure that many schools have comprehensive finals anymore. Yet, in my high school days it was a certainty. Yes, right before we were able to run for the door and rush into summer vacation we had to sit and recollect what we had learned over the last year. The final exam was a time to apply everything you had gleaned from August to June. No matter how many notes I had or how much I studied I never felt prepared. As I sat down in late May or early June and begin to read through the exam questions, I constantly felt overwhelmed and very nervous. I usually had a feeling that eminent failure was at hand.

From February to July, we have been on quite the journey at Elizabeth Church of Christ. We began February looking at the overarching theme of "The Righteous Live by Faith." Our focus was to understand what it practically looks like to live by Christ-centred faith in our everyday lives. We concluded that faith is about:

1. Trusting in Jesus (Romans 5:1-2)
2. Taking Risk (Hebrews 11:23)
3. Persevering (Hebrews 10:39)
4. Embracing God's Forgiveness & Purpose. (Act 7:23-25 & Ex. 3:9-10)

We also unearthed a challenging truth. Faith is a refining process. (Job 23:10) God is always at work moulding and shaping us for His Glory. The refining process means:

1. God is at work despite circumstances. (Genesis 45:5-8)
2. God is always there despite feelings. (Genesis 39:2)
3. God Gives us everything we need despite our inadequacy. (2 Peter 1:3)

The idea that we have been given everything we need to live a Godly life is a phenomenal revelation. How is that even workable. It is feasible because:

1. God's power can make a way (2 Peter 1:3/ 2 Cor. 5:21)
2. Jesus' sacrifice/resurrection provided the way (Gal. 5:1)
3. Holy Spirit is promise for the way (2 Peter 1:4)
4. God invites us to participate in the way (2 Peter 1:4)

In the power of God through Christ, we have been given the opportunity to partake of His divine nature. We have been given the Holy Spirit, not only as the promise of this invitation, yet as a promise that he will guide us into fulfilling this invitation. How incredible is that?

What do we do? We make every effort (2 Peter 1:5) to mature, to be refined by His Spirit. Remember this phrase "every effort" simply means that we are holding deeply to his promise, we are letting Him do the work within us. To bring the idea full circle. The Holy Spirit is the promise (given by God) to help us learn to live by Faith. The Righteous (only because of Christ) should live by faith (only because of Holy Spirit) Through the Holy Spirit we will be given courage for the risk, strength to persevere, grace for our mistakes and passion for our purpose. The Great Promised Holy Spirit is at work in the refining process as well. He will help us embrace God's plan during the trials, sense His near presence in moments of doubt or frustration. The Holy Spirit will also continue to equip us with everything we need for the Godly life. He will aid us in growing with goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love. Do you see how God's plan is perfect. God provided the way through Christ and promised help through Holy Spirit.

Now, as we come to the end of these 6 months of teaching, I am praying that you can recollect and apply what our Good Shepherd has been equipping us with. Why? Because everyday is like a final examine. We must put into practice what Jesus is teaching us or otherwise we may miss the opportunity to Glorify Him in everyday life. However, don't get stressed or nervous (like I did during my finals.) Why? Because He has already given you everything you need. Just press into Jesus and you will be fine.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:5

See Ya Sunday,
Pastor Brent



**Senior Pastor
Ballot 2026**

Vote to renew Brent's
position for an ongoing basis

Ballot papers available
July 26th, August 2nd & 9th

A special welcome to all our visitors. May you be blessed by the time you have spent with us at the Elizabeth Church of Christ.

PRAISE & PRAYER NEWS

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- For Brent's message last Sunday reminding us "to shine our light before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" Matthew 5:16
- That we can freely come together each week to worship Him.
- The love, fellowship and support of our church family.

PRAY FOR:

- All the people in our church family who have been impacted with colds and flus or are recovering from recent operations. Pray for Tristan Rutland who has Glandular Fever.
- The Winter Shelter program which has been unable to attract homeless people to take the opportunity offered, to have a safe warm place to sleep. Pray for wisdom in finding where we can help the homeless in ways that will meet their needs.
- Pray for the Café Hope team as Alistair retires this week. Pray for a smooth transition as they adapt to change.
- People in the world who have been affected by natural disasters.
- The Christians in other countries that are being persecuted because of their beliefs.
- Pray for those in the world who are affected by hostile environments.

Thess. 3: 12, "May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you."

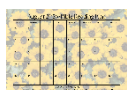


Wednesday 5th August – MumCo

Tuesday 11th August- Talk N Do

Sunday 16th August – NewComers lunch

Saturday 22nd August – Family Quiz Night



The August Bible Reading plan is available at the Information Desk and on the church website



Diary of a Church Mouse...

Ferdinand

"Gloria in excelsis Deo" – Glory to God in the highest! Ah Christmas in July, a great time to bring out the Christmas carols (and the Christmas turkey!). A Christmas Carol that we can sing every day of the year. Giving God glory every day of the year. God *is* the one that we should be giving our glory to each day. Through the good and the bad days. When we are unsure about life and when we are living life to the full. God is with us in every season. Christmas time and winter time. He came as a child into our world to bridge the gap in the relationship that God wants to have with us. He paid the price that needed to be paid for our sins. The sins that stop us from living as God had planned us for us to live. But when Jesus came as a babe (and we celebrate each Christmas – so why not celebrate in Christmas in July!) he became the connecting piece to bridge us back to God. Glory in the highest as we are once again together with our Heavenly father every day, every moment, whenever we need.

