ELIZABETH CHURCH OF CHRIST

the beacon

ELIZABETH CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER
Sunday 29th November 2026

a beacon of hope

THIS WEEK

Monday
30th November

Tuesday
1st December
Prayer Time 9.30-10.30am in the Parents Room

Wednesday
2nd December
Women's Bible Study 9.30am

Thursday
3rd December
One50 Dance 3.45pm

Friday
4th December
3E Youth 7-9pm

Saturday
5th December
Nepalese Church 9.00am

Sunday
6th December
10am FAMILY SERVICE
2pm Grace Community Church Service

On-Line Giving

Account Name
Elizabeth Church of Christ
BSB Number
105 121
Account Number
441343540

This week as we wrap up our series on *Walking with Jesus,* we're visiting one of the most challenging moments Jesus presented to his disciples.
It was a chat about forgiveness, and for many of us that's tricky.
Matthew 18:21-35 starts with Peter possibly trying to curry some favour with Jesus by posing a question about how many times we should forgive someone, and putting forward his own number of seven.
That was a generous number in those days, as the standard people lived by was to forgive three times, and that was it.
But Jesus, the master of extravagant love, has a different idea.
He suggests not seven, but 70 times seven, or 77, depending on which Bible translation you're reading. Apparently, the original text can be taken both ways.
But the interpretation here doesn't really matter because the intent of Jesus words is to express limitless forgiveness.
It's a bit like someone saying shall I buy four pies and you responding , "nah mate ... 40".
In other words, just keep them coming.
Jesus goes on to tell a parable about a master whose servant owes him billions of dollars.
There's no way to repay that debt and the servant and his family should be sold into slavery.
Instead, the master forgives him.
What happens next is staggering.
The forgiven servant finds someone who owes him around $15,000, turns violent on him, demands repayment, then has him put in prison.
The master hears about this and likewise sends the forgiven servant to prison to face the torture he will discover there.
The message here is clear.
Those of us who have put our faith in Jesus have been forgiven an unpayable debt of sin.
It's at a scale we can't begin to comprehend.
But do we forgive those who sin against us?
If this makes us feel uncomfortable, it's supposed to.
The extravagant forgiveness of God needs to be reflected in our own lives.
It's not a suggestion. It's a command of Jesus.
Is it easy? No?
Does that mean we should resist or that we can't do it? No.
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
We'll unpack this further this week, because we know that for some people, the things they've experienced are horrendous, and forgiveness will take an enormous amount of faith.
Forgiveness absolutely doesn't mean accepting further harm, but it means putting judgment in the hands of God, the only one who is able to judge correctly.
But we can't ignore the last verse that tells us that failing to forgive damages our relationship with God.
That doesn't mean we're not saved, but it speaks of His clear direction that we must accept his word on this.
Doing anything else will leave us broken, and that's never what God wants.

John Parker



LAST WEEK TO VOTE. Elder's Ballots are available at the information desk for Church members.



Alabaster Boxes
Bring your Alabaster Boxes or small change **this Sunday 29th November** to help offset the church loan account. So far this year $1997.20 has been given to help offset the loan. *Thank you.*

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 encouraging us to not let the enemy deceive us into thinking "we have plenty of time" or that " we are not good enough" but to ask God to reveal to us if we are embraced by any of these lies and to also pray for others that may be embracing them. Salvation is essential for all of us.
- The maintenance team who faithfully and freely, give their time and energy to keep our buildings and gardens in such good condition, while also supplying the funds needed by recycling bottles and salvaging scrap metal.

PRAY FOR:

- Safe travel for Year 12 students and the Green Team as they travel home after the schoolies weekend at Victor Harbour.
- The Brown family as they celebrate Pat Brown's life.
- The Elders as they meet to plan for 2027.
- Elizabeth South Community Centre as they finalise the plans for the upcoming children's Christmas party.
- Direction and renewal for the South Sudanese church who meet at our church on Sunday afternoons.
- A moving of the Holy Spirit across our nation drawing more people to Christ.
- Members who are isolated and unable to fellowship with us, due to a disability or ill health
- The people in the world who have been affected by the natural disasters.
- The Christians in other countries that are being persecuted because of their beliefs.
- Pray for families in our community during the lead up to Christmas that they may have the opportunity to know the "real reason for the season".
- For our Government and leaders who make the difficult decisions that will affect our nation now and in the future.

1 Peter 1 20-21 "He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through Him you believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and glorified Him, so your faith and hope are in God."



Tuesday 1st December – Talk N Do
Sunday 6th December - 10am FAMILY SERVICE
Wednesday 9th December – MumCo
Sunday 13th December – Kids Ministry Party



Open Door Christian Bookshop

Now arrived - beautiful Christmas stock including Advent Calendars, Advent Candles, Gifts, Nativities, Cards, Books, DVDs and CDs.
*Also for 2027: Calendars, small Diaries and "The Australian Christian Diary". *
Gift Vouchers* are available.
We rely on your ongoing support - Thank you!
Christmas blessings from all Committee and Staff at
Shop 5, Gawler Arcade, Gawler.
Ph: 85221677 E: opendoorbook@gmail.com
Trading M-F 10-4, Sat 10-1







