

# ELIZABETH CHURCH OF CHRIST

# the beacon

ELIZABETH CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024

a beacon of  
hope

## THIS WEEK

### Monday

29th January

### Tuesday

30th January

Prayer Time 9.30-10.30am  
in the Parents Room.  
Talk'n'Do 9.30am

### Wednesday

31st January

Women's Study 9.30 -11am  
KYB 12.30pm

### Thursday

1st February

ONE50 Dance 3.45pm

### Friday

2nd February

Youth Group 7.00-9.00pm

### Saturday

3rd February

Bhutanese Church  
8.30am - 12 noon  
Grace Community Church  
Music Practise 12noon-  
2.30pm

### Sunday

4th February

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 Why of Obedience

### Obey: to follow the commands or guidance of.

Do you struggle with the idea of the word obey? I think most of us would have a bit of an issue when it comes to obeying. Why? Because to obey someone is to submit to their plan. This means we give up our plan and follow them. Submission doesn't come easy for us humans. So why do we choose to obey? One is for the reward involved. Another reason is for consequences that will come. Reward and consequence can be strong motivators in why we do what we do. I like to think of this type of submission as result-based obedience. Although reward and consequence can be an influence in our life of obedience, I have found that it doesn't always work. There is a problem with result-based obedience. This form of obedience is focused on self. We only obey because of what we get or don't get. The whole idea of obedience in this capacity is self-centred. Sometimes the reward or consequence will not be great enough for a person to choose obedience. At this point they choose their own plan over the one in authority. This produces the opposite of obedience, disobedience. Have you ever experienced this in your Christian walk? Unfortunately, I have. Disobedience seems to be a theme in my journey. There has to be a better way than result-based obedience.

If result-based obedience doesn't work, then what is the answer as to why we obey? Here is what Jesus says in John 14:23,

*Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them."*

Obedience works best when it is relationship-based. If our motivation to obey is driven by genuine affection and appreciation, then we obey for a very different reason. Relationship-based obedience is selfless not selfish. We are no longer doing what we do for a result, we do it to honour and respect the person we serve. This reshapes how we measure obedience. Submission is no longer about what we can get from obeying, yet it is about what we are giving by obeying. We give our King great joy in our obedience. We give our King a great testimony when we obey. Relationship-based obedience longs for others to see our

incredible God and knowing God will be delighted in our choices.

Relationship-based obedience is what Christ desires for us. However, like all the ways of Jesus, it is challenging and confronting. Could I invite you to start by examining your reason for obedience? Pray about becoming more relationship-based instead of result-based. Start working toward an obedience that is motivated by a heart of gratitude. An obedience that is determined to see the one we serve honored and glorified through our faithful actions.

Join me Sunday as we keep looking at the idea of how we start 2024. I think we will find obedience is a vital part of that journey.

Pastor Brent



### Church Directory 2024

Have any of your contact details changed? Do you want to be included in the Church directory? If you answered yes to either of these questions please contact the church office on 8255 2467 or [office@elizabethcoc.org](mailto:office@elizabethcoc.org) to let us know of any changes.

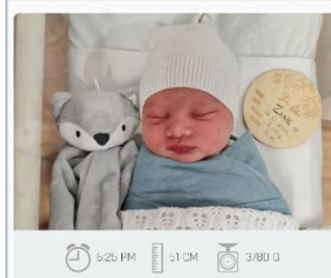
## SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING – 11.30am TODAY

## Special Business Meeting

Meeting to approve 2024  
Budget and elect new  
Auditor for 2023 Financial  
Records

Sunday 28 January 2024  
11.30am  
After the 10am service

Special Business Meeting to approve the 2024 budget and elect a new auditor for the 2023 Financial Records.



Hello World!

ZANE  
WAQAIRAGATA

BORN ON

16.01.2024

OFFICE: 38 Ashfield Rd Elizabeth SA 5112

PHONE: (08) 8255 2467

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday 9am - 2:30pm

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES: 9am, 10:45am & 2pm

SMALL GROUPS: 5pm

WEBSITE: [www.elizabethcoc.org](http://www.elizabethcoc.org)

EMAIL: [office@elizabethcoc.org](mailto:office@elizabethcoc.org)

FACEBOOK: Elizabeth COC

*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:

- Brent's message last Sunday encouraging us to faithfully, listen, trust and follow God's leading as we start another new year.
- For the safe arrival of Hamanda and Pate's baby boy, Zane on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January.
- That He has faithfully provided for all of our Church's needs spiritually, physically and financially over the last 12 months.

#### PRAY FOR:

- Students, teachers, school staff and parents as they begin to prepare this week for the new school year starting on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January.
- The Brill family as they also await the arrival of their third baby.
- The different ministry leaders within the church who are planning programs for the coming year.
- The Boomerang Centre as it reopens on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January. Pray for the volunteers as they share the love of Christ to those they meet while working in the shop.
- Elizabeth South Centre as they start their programs up again for 2024.
- Continue to pray for all those in our church family who are battling illness. May God's healing and peace fill them and their families during this difficult time



**Monday 29 January** – Boomerang Centre Re-Opens

**Tuesday 30 January** - Talk N Do

**Wednesday 31 January** – KYB

**Wednesday 7 February** - MOPS (MumCo)



Know Your Bible studies will commence for 2024 on Wednesday, January 31st at 12.30pm, meeting in the chapel. This term we will study the Gospel of Luke (part 1). All ladies are welcome!



*Diary of a Church Mouse...*

*Ferdinand*

Wow, I can't believe that it is already the end of January. Where has the beginning of 2024 gone? I haven't even had the chance to tell you about my Christmas yet, but here it is.

Christmas 2023 was its usual craziness. So much to do and so little time. On Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> we had the Bhutanese Christmas Celebration. What a day with Brent preaching, amazing worship, food and fun. That congregation certainly know how to celebrate! The ladies also know how to dress up. I have never seen so many pretty fabrics and sparkles!

On Christmas Eve we had the two services here at Elizabeth in the morning, a great prelude to Christmas Day. Grace had their church service in the afternoon and a team of helpers came back at night to help set up for the Christmas Day lunch.

Christmas Day was, as always, a beautiful day celebrating the birth of Christ. We sang carols and had different folk talk about different people in the Christmas Story. Most people headed out after church for their own Christmas celebrations but some stayed to help Alistair out with the Christmas Day Lunch for the community.

About 100 people came along on Christmas Day for a free lunch. The food and drink was supplied by the generous donations from local companies. Much fun was had by all and presents were given out. It was a great Christmas meal with the Grace Church celebrating Christmas with a service in the chapel. There were many people who gave up their Christmas Day to help serve the meal and clean up afterwards. What an amazing bunch of people.

I am still amazed at our community. How we come together to worship and praise our Saviour and how we help each other out when people need it. Simply amazing!



The Wednesday morning ladies Bible Study group is starting a new study on the book of Jonah on Wednesday 31 January, 9:30am-11:00am. Free. Please see Judy Roberts if you are interested.