



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH ASHMORE

Weekly Bible Readings

**Twelfth Sunday
after Pentecost**

Sunday 16 August

[Genesis 45:1–15](#) or

[Isaiah 56:1, 6–8](#)

[Romans 11:1, 2a, 29–32](#)

[Matthew 15:\(10–20\) 21–28](#)

Monday 17 August

Isaiah 66:18b–22

Tuesday 18 August

Acts 11:1–18

Wednesday 19 August

Acts 13:42–49

Thursday 20 August

1 Timothy 2:1–7

Friday 21 August

Revelation 21:10, 22 – 22:5

Saturday 22 August

Psalms 138

**Thirteenth Sunday
after Pentecost**

Sunday 23 August

Exodus 1:8 – 2:10 or

Isaiah 51:1–6

Romans 12:1–8

Matthew 16:13–20



Devotion

A feisty faith

Then Jesus said to her, 'Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.' And her daughter was healed at that moment (Matthew 15:28).

The elements of this story are simple. A woman seeks healing for her daughter from 'The Healer'. However, her encounter with Jesus is quite profound. A Canaanite – historic enemy of Israel – and a woman, possibly without a husband, so an outsider even in her own country. Yet this woman recognises Jesus as 'Lord, Son of David'. She pleads for mercy and, much to the disciples' annoyance, persists.

Jesus' initial reaction and conversation seem harsh. Firstly, he ignores her, which I'm sure is not a technique recommended by modern counsellors dealing with a distressed person. But the silence demonstrates how persistent the woman is and points to the strength of her faith.

Jesus then emphasises her 'outsideness'. 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' This does not stop her. She ignores what Jesus has said but takes advantage of the fact that he is talking to her. 'Lord, help me.' A simple and humble plea for help.

But Jesus has not finished testing her faith. 'It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs.' Imagine the outrage that public statement would cause today! Social media would be white hot. Again, this does not deter the woman, and her response is amazing. 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' That response would take me a day or two to formulate. In her response, the woman recognises Jesus' purpose for the lost people of Israel. She trusts that he has mercy enough for those beyond Israel.

This is a story of powerful spirituality. The woman acknowledges her need, refuses to give up, trusts Jesus' mercy and approaches him with humility.

Jesus meets us in our individual situations, in the down-and-dirty harshness of life. I wonder what the disciples learnt from this encounter. The Canaanite woman foreshadows the inclusion of Gentiles into God's kingdom. Yet even after the resurrection, some of the disciples struggled to understand that Jesus died for all people and nations.

Do we persist in prayer like the Canaanite woman?

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the examples of faith you have given us in Scripture. Help us to acknowledge our needs, be humble, trust in your mercy and be persistent in prayer. Thank you for accepting Jesus' sacrifice on the cross so that all people and nations can have a personal relationship with you. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

by Stuart Gray



• Announcements



WE ARE GETTING OUR MANSE READY FOR DAVID, ANNIE, CJ AND JC.

We are required to provide white goods and a lawnmower as part of the manse package. Do you perhaps have:

- a spare fridge (single door only and needs to be no higher than 1720mm to fit the kitchen cavity). Fridge on top and freezer underneath, about 420L. In very good condition please and not a bar fridge.
- a front-load washer – 10 kg minimum – also in very good condition please.



A Honda lawnmower has been donated.
Thank you 😊.

We have also asked our Gumtree team to be on the lookout.

Please contact Sue Specht urgently on 0412 403 308 if you can help.



Donations

Any donations towards painting of the church manse would be gratefully received

LLL: Ashmore Trinity Lutheran Church:

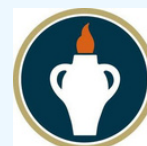
BSB: 704942

Account No: 100217974

Description: Manse or painting

Any cash donations - place in a sealed envelope marked Manse or Painting and place in offering basket.

Gideons International - Pizza and Dessert



Fund Raiser for Bibles for the World Friday 4 September 2026

Dear TLCA Congregation Member, each year Gideons have a dinner to hear about wonderful work being done throughout the world spreading the Bible and its Good News message. I invite you to attend this year's dinner with me. See details below. You will be my guest and I will pay for your meal. Please let me know if you can take up this invitation. RSVP me by 21 August to me by my mobile phone or email. I do hope you can attend. Philip Morris.

Guest speaker: Scott Muller, from The Gideons International in Australia, with first-hand accounts will take you into the mission field of Indonesia.

Come and hear amazing stories and testimonies from the International Mission Team Indonesia April 2026.

Venue Multipurpose Hall, Palm Beach Community Centre, Thrower Drive, Palm Beach

Friday, 4 September 2026 at 06:45pm for 07:00pm start, finish at 09.00pm

RSVP by 21 August To: Dr Philip Morris (Chair, Church Council, Trinity Lutheran Church Ashmore) Ph 0422545753 or email plpmorris1@gmail.com



CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

MEETING: 9 AUGUST 2026

- Safe Church Coordinator: Helen Teece will take over as Safe Church Coordinator, responsible for helping organise blue cards and Safe Church certification.
- Kevin Lambert was welcomed as vice-chair; to be ratified at the November Budget & Elections meeting; he was also endorsed as the Safety Management Coordinator (WH&S and risk management). Rob Fysh will continue as casual council member, also to be ratified in November B&E meeting.
- Father Lazarus: Preparations are underway for his installation on September 27. Sue is coordinating the program; invitations have been emailed; Lorraine E. is arranging the afternoon tea.

COUNCIL:

Philip Morris: Chair
Kevin Lambert: Vice Chair
Desley Maurer: Treasurer
Sue Specht: Secretary
Pr Michael Alfson
Juliane Dwyer
Rob Fysh
Graeme Teece

Philip:
plpmorris1@gmail.com
Sue:
secretary.tlcashmore@gmail.com

Property & Facilities

- **Signage:** We have agreed to proceed with a college-funded sign to match the college's "monolith" sign on Ashmore Rd (see bottom left photo). Because wording is permanent & space is at a premium, we will keep the wording short.
- **Manse:** A working bee is set for September 9–10. \$1,000 has been raised for painting – thank you! We are seeking donations for a fridge and washing machine for the manse (see ad elsewhere in Bulletin).
- **Church Office Upgrades:** The college has very kindly agreed to paint and recarpet the church office. Office cleanup is underway in preparation.
- **Equipment Purchases:** We have approved the \$900 purchase of Rob Fysh's almost-new laptop for church services. Decisions on a laptop and mobile phone for Pastor Lazarus are pending further discussion. One set of business cards were approved.
- **Donations:** Approved moving the altar currently downstairs in office to Cotlew Street for Encounter & Primary School services. | Thanks to Judy Vesco's son for the donation of a microwave.

Governance, Data & Privacy

- **Visitor Cards & QR codes:** Council wants to introduce a simple visitor card (collecting just a name and phone number) – A draft will be shown at the November Budget & Elections meeting. Also, a QR code on the screen for offerings.
- **Privacy & Member Data:** Council discussed requirements under the Privacy Act regarding church surveys, visitor cards & QR codes. Data on computers must remain on-site with regards to retention requirements.
- **Strategic Plan:** Discussion on the draft mission ("Be Christ's witnesses" Acts 1:8) and vision ("To walk together in the way of Jesus") were put on hold until October 2026, though existing programs resulting from the 2025 survey will continue (eg Support pray-ers at communion time, our public Facebook page, investigate viability of Kids' Corner during service time).

Sue Specht



MAN SPACE

Breakfast. Conversation. Connection.
A place where men can share a meal, share stories,
and be themselves.

- ☕ Coffee
- 🍳 Breakfast Together
- 💬 Real Conversations

No pressure. No fixing. No pretending.
Just good food, good company, and space to talk—
or simply listen.
All men welcome.

Date: Saturday 15 August
Time: 8.00am
Host: Tony Qualischefski

Please RSVP for catering purposes to
qually62@hotmail.com

Bring a mate. Pull up a chair.

Community News: Sister Space



Ten of us thoroughly enjoyed our August gathering of Sister Space and were treated to the wonderful hospitality of Sue Specht. We each received a gum leaf with our own special Bible verse, and shared something personal about another woman in our lives. We look forward to next gathering at the home of Sue Fysh on Saturday, September 5th.

We Need You

Join our working bee

With the smell of fresh paint in the air it is time to
put the finishing touches on the Manse.

When ? you say!

Wednesday 9 September and
Thursday 10 September
9 am start both days
Talk to Helen and Graeme
Teece and let them know you
are keen.





Trinity Lutheran Church Ashmore
Congregation invite you to the
INSTALLATION SERVICE
OF

The Reverend David Lazarus, Ph.D.

September 27 at 2pm

The Trinity Centre, Trinity Lutheran College
641 Ashmore Rd. Ashmore

Afternoon Tea will follow

RSVP for catering and dietary
purposes to
Sue Specht

secretary.tlcashmore@gmail.com

New Opportunity: Zoom Connect Group

Are you looking to dive into God's Word mid-week, but finding the travel or busy schedules tricky? We are exploring the idea of starting a Zoom Connect Group and would love to gauge interest!

What's the idea?

Format: Most weeks, we will meet online via Zoom for just one hour on a weeknight, making it easy to join from the comfort of your home, especially for those living a bit further out (like us).

Focus: Each session will focus on the Gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday, offering a relaxed space for personal reflection and sharing what the passage means in our day-to-day lives.

Fellowship: To build on our connections, we'll plan to get together in person every month or two for a shared meal!

A Different Way to Connect

While we are blessed with wonderful existing Home Fellowship and Community Connect Groups across our church, this group is designed to complement them offering an accessible way to reflect on Scripture together without the commute.

Whether you're already in a group or looking for a new way to engage with the Sunday readings, there is a place for you!

Interested or have questions? Please get in touch with Anne or Kevin Lambert so we can find a weeknight and time that works best for anyone interested!

Anne: 0439 750 704. Kevin: 0409 278 028



Encounter Church Plant Update, Praise and Prayer Points



Encountering God:

- An Encounter church member brought a friend who is a Buddhist to service last Sunday. We were delighted that we could minister to someone who would not have heard of the gospel otherwise. We are delighted that this person can encounter God through the church plant.

Praise and thanksgiving:

1. Thank God 9 August's attendance of 39 people with an offering of \$552.20.
2. Praise God for the welcoming approach Encounter adopts to welcome "strangers".
3. Praise God for going before us to prepare the hearts and minds of those we meet each day so that we can share our encounters of God with them.
4. Praise God for the faithful returning families with their children, and new families visiting.

Prayer requests:

1. Pray that God will send helpers to his harvest field as he said, "the harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few", especially for more young leaders to support Tala and Samuel at Encounter Youth each Thursday to grow the youth to steady 20-50 students.
2. Pray for Sunday school, Kids For Christ (KFC) that it will:
 - Grow to 20 consistent attendances at Sunday School over the year. Last week, we had 16 children in attendance!
 - Grow and dedicate 7 Sunday school leaders. We currently have 5.
3. Pray for a total of 20 members to join Encounter LC as members by the end of 2026. Ask for wisdom for Tala to approach people who are ready to commit to Encounter.
4. Pray for an average of 50 people attending Encounter service each week regularly.
5. Pray for the moving of the Holy Spirit in our college, and local community.
6. Pray for wisdom to follow up and contact the parents who visited Encounter services in the past.
7. Pray for Tala and Samuel as they plan to launch Junior Worship during Sunday School and Adult Worship time in Term Four.
8. Pray for spiritual growth and maturity of the Ministry Support team.

With appreciation and thanksgiving,

Team Encounter

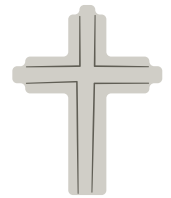
Church plant prayer meetings

We meet online every Tuesday at 5 pm. Should you wish to join us in prayers to support this important outreach work, please email this prayer meeting administrator at tseawong@hotmail.com and you will be sent the zoom link to join us.



Prayer Focus

Sunday 16 August, 2026
Twelfth Sunday after
Pentecost



WORSHIP & THANKSGIVING: Thank you, God!

- Praise: God, you are good. Reflect on [Psalm 67](#), the Psalm of the day.
- for the wonderful news that Graduate **Pastor David Lazarus** has been assigned to our congregation. We pray for **Pastor David, his wife Annie and children CJ and JC**, as they prepare for their move to Ashmore.
- for the Sundays after Pentecost: the Season of Growth, learning to step out in faith
- Our Volunteers: Worship Leaders while we are without a pastor
- for our Featured Ministry This Week: Facebook Administrators.
- For Encounter Lutheran Church, our church plant. Bless **Chaplain Tala** and his team, and all the new ventures happening, including Sunday School, Adult Bible study group and Youth Fellowship. May God encourage all who are new to the Gospel.

TRUST & CONFESSION

- Repentance: God, we need your help. Forgive us, Lord, for the times we have allowed the noise of the world to drown out your voice, and for when we have failed to love our neighbours as ourselves. Cleanse our hearts today and restore to us the joy of your salvation.

COMPASSION: God, we need Your help. We place our worries in your hands and pray for:

- For our Church Council and the TLC Going Forward group as they plan our future direction.
- Our Church Family: for members who have recently been in hospital.
- Health & Healing: For those experiencing pain or illness, those facing cancer, and those managing mental health challenges. Give them relief and the assurance that they are deeply loved. We pray especially for **Jan and Darryl; Fay; and Joanne**.
- Our World: for an end to violence and a path to peace in the Middle East, especially in Israel, Palestine, Lebanon and Iran; also in Myanmar, Ukraine, Africa and other areas of conflict.

This week we pray for our members by name: **Kevin and Jenny; Joshua, Holly.**

Amen

OUR COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Any individual prayer requests may be sent to **Sue Fysh**, Prayer Chain coordinator.
Ph 0413996204 email: suefysh@bigpond.com



Coffee & Chat

with the Chaplain

Cotlew Campus

Tuesdays
7:30 AM - 8:30 AM

📍 Outside the café (next to the library)

All are welcome! -

There's a lot
happening in
our church.



LCA eNews KEEPS us CONNECTED

Stories in LCA eNews from across the LCA NZ will inspire you, encourage you, and inform you about events and resources to support you and your congregation.

Join more than 5000 Lutherans and friends who are already receiving LCA eNews in their inboxes every fortnight.

It's easy to sign up. It's free, and
you can unsubscribe at any time.

YES PLEASE,
SIGN ME UP!



SIGN UP AT www.lca.org.au/lcaenews-signmeup

[Link to e-news](#)

Gold Coast Lutheran Churches

Have a look at what is happening around the Lutheran churches on the Gold Coast. This website is for all Gold Coast Lutherans. If you would like to have an event or something else added to the site, please contact Rob Fysh 0481207709.

Click on the following link to check it out:

<https://www.goldcoastlutheranchurches.org/>



Please consider a **Regular Electronic Transfer (RET)**.

LLL: Ashmore Trinity Lutheran Church:

BSB: 704942

Account No: 100217974 or

For your Cash offering - place in a sealed envelope and place in the "Offering Basket"

Donations to Trinity Welfare Fund may be made by direct transfer.

Account Name: Trinity Ashmore

BSB: 704942

Account No: 100217974

Reference: Trinity Welfare Fund

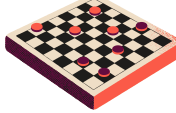
Trinity Church Plant Donations

Whilst the Church Council has been awarded a grant to help meet costs of this mission, donations from individuals are also welcome. This can be done either through REG - earmarked to the Church Plant, or in an envelope with your Sunday offering, again marked as Church Plant.



What's Happening this Month?

August

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
31.					1. Sister Space 9.00am Host: Sue Specht see p.2 for details 	2. Trinity Worship 9.00am Encounter worship 4.00pm
3.	4. Church Plant Prayer Meeting see p.7 for details Coffee & Chat with the Chaplain see p.8 for details	5.	6. Coffee, Chat and Craft Group 10.00am 	7.	8.	9. Trinity Worship 9.00am Encounter worship 4.00pm
10.	11. Church Plant Prayer Meeting Coffee & Chat with the Chaplain	12.	13.	14. Games and Chat Trinity Southport Hall 10.00 am 	15. Man Space 8.00am Host: Tony Qualischefski see p.4 for details	16. Trinity Worship 9.00am Encounter worship 4.00pm
17.	18. Church Plant Prayer Meeting Coffee & Chat with the Chaplain	19.	20.	21.	22.	23. Trinity Worship 9.00am Encounter worship 4.00pm
24.	25. Church Plant Prayer Meeting Coffee & Chat with the Chaplain	26.	27.	28. Games and Chat Trinity Southport Hall 10.00 am 	.	30. Trinity Worship 9.00am Encounter worship 4.00pm