Bulletin - No. 46 15 November 2026 - Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH ASHMORE

Weekly Bible Readings

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday 15 November
Judges 4:1–7 or
Zephaniah 1:7, 12–18
1 Thessalonians 5:1–11
Matthew 25:14–30

Monday 16 November
Isaiah 65:17-25

Tuesday 17 November
Matthew 24:15-28

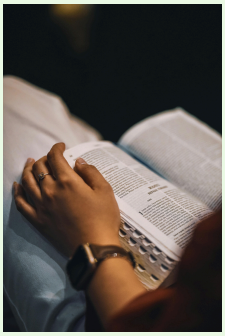
Wednesday 18 November
1 John 2:18-23

Thursday 19 November
1 John 4:1-6

Friday 20 November
Jude 17-25

Saturday 21 November
Psalm 95:1–7a

Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday 22 November
Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24 or
Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24
Ephesians 1:15–23
Matthew 25:31–46



Devotion

Faithful Stewards of God's Gifts

Matthew 25:14-30 and *1 Corinthians 12:4-27*

In the Parable of the Talents, Jesus tells of a master who entrusts his servants with different amounts of money before leaving on a journey. Two servants faithfully use what they have been given and produce a return for their master. The third servant buries his talent in the ground out of fear and returns it unchanged.

This truth connects beautifully with 1 Corinthians 12, where Paul teaches that the Holy Spirit gives different gifts to different believers for the common good. Not everyone is called to preach. Not everyone is called to teach. Not everyone is called to lead. Yet every member of the body of Christ has an important role. Just as a body needs hands, feet, eyes and ears, the Church needs people serving in many different ways. Perhaps God has gifted you with:

- Bookkeeping and financial skills to help oversee the resources God has provided.
- Maintenance and practical abilities to care for church property and facilities.
- Prayer and intercession to uphold the congregation and its ministries before God.
- Pastoral care and encouragement to support those who are grieving, lonely, sick, or struggling.
- Web Administration and Maintenance to help our webpage run effectively.
- Hospitality and welcome to help visitors and new members feel at home.

Here, God has entrusted each of us with gifts, abilities, opportunities and resources. He does not expect all of us to have the same gifts, but He does expect us to use what He has given us faithfully.

This message is especially relevant as we prepare for our Elections Meeting on Sunday, 22 November 2026 where all positions on Church Council and our committees will become vacant and will be available for election, including the Chair of Property Committee, a Member of the Property Committee, the Pastoral Assistant, two District Synod Delegates and a Church Council member. It is easy to think that council work is only for certain people or that our gifts are not important enough. God does not ask us to compare ourselves with others, but to be faithful stewards of what He has entrusted to us.

None of these gifts are more important than the others. Rather, this is an opportunity to consider how those gifts may be used for the benefit of God's people. Every role contributes to the mission of Christ. The person praying faithfully at home is as valuable as the person standing at the front of worship. The volunteer who quietly maintains the church building serves the same Lord as the pastor who preaches the sermon.

As Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 12, "The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you.'" Every member matters. Every gift matters. Every act of service matters. As we consider the current vacancies within our Church Council and ministry teams, perhaps God is inviting some of us to step forward. The question is not whether we are perfectly qualified, but whether we are willing to offer our gifts into God's hands. The Holy Spirit equips those whom He calls.

Pastor David Lazarus

Roster Time

It's time I got started on a new Roster.
Can you assist?
Do you want to keep doing what you are doing?
Are you going to be away for any length of time?
Would you like a change of job?
Please tell Lorraine.
We need our fabulous volunteers to keep our church running,
so please consider how you might help.
I try to roster people on just one Sunday a month.

Lorraine.e.thermomix@gmail.com
Or 0429 863 949



Our web-site needs updating. If anyone has a working knowledge of WordPress we'd appreciate your assistance - contact Helen or Desley

Informal Lunch Meet and Greet Pastor David Lazarus and Family

Sunday 29 November, 11.30 am
At Carole and Philip Morris' home
16 Stewart Parade, Ashmore
Ph 0422545753

- BBQ lunch - meats provided and cooked by Philip and Carole
- Non-alcoholic punch provided
- Please bring along some food to compliment the BBQ meats
- And bring your chosen beverages

Sign-up sheet (for catering purposes) at Sunday church services
Or call Ph 0422545753 or email plpmorris1@gmail.com to confirm attendance

I look forward to seeing you there
Philip Morris (Chair TLCA Church Council)



Christmas Bikkie Swap and Buy

December 20 2026

How does it work?
Contributors bake a batch or two of Christmas type biscuits and pack in lots of 5 in the bags provided. All the bags go on the table for sale.

3 bags of mix and match biscuits for $15's
Cash purchases only
Please message Lorraine to register and send a photo of your recipe for printing



Lorraine 0429863949
lorraine.e.thermomix@gmail.com



Christmas is almost here

Are you interested in helping plan our Christmas Services this year - including the Christmas nativity play?

If so, please contact Helen Teece.

A meeting of interested people will be held mid November.







Image by Jeet Khatri on Unsplash

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE 1

Meeting: 8 November 2026

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

NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 2026

BUDGET & ELECTIONS MEETING:

AFTER MORNING TEA: SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2026

Property and Facilities

- Significant expenditure on the manse refurbishment acknowledged as worthwhile given the congregation's responsibility as custodians of a valuable property asset.
- Stormwater pipe blockages noted at the manse. It was resolved to wait until the dry season before hiring an excavator and operator to address the issue and remove a golden cane palm believed to be contributing to the blockage.
- The church office refurbishment has prompted a review of archived records and storage practices.
- The Trinity Centre and church office are scheduled to be unavailable from 7–9 December due to a major electrical upgrade by the college. Note fridges to be emptied Sunday 6 December.
- An access card audit was completed, resulting in the return and review of key cards and keys held by former officeholders.
- There will be new parish office signage (provided by college)
- Council discussed more permanent name tags for our members, with further costing to be undertaken (in response to request by church member.)

Governance, Privacy and Data

- Preparations for the 2026 Budget and Elections Meeting included the nominations committee finalising who on council will renominate, the 2027 budget discussion of future improvements to the nominations process.
- Council recommended consideration of constitutional amendments to allow proxy voting.
- TLCA Mission and Vision Statements. This work will involve collaboration between Council and Pastor David, incorporating findings from previous surveys and aligning with the District Synod Strategic Charter Framework.
- A Local Support Group will be established in February 2027 to support Pastor David and provide ongoing reporting to Council.
- Financial reports indicated a challenging financial position, with reduced offerings, increasing expenses, and a projected deficit in 2027. Gumtree fundraising continues to make a significant contribution to church finances. $1,000 of Gumtree funds will be directed to LYQ leadership who self-fund attendance at student camps. (As requested by the craft group.)
- Safe Church responsibilities were identified as a heavy workload, with discussions initiated regarding sharing responsibilities and reducing the burden on the coordinator.
- Council recognised the need for a formal protocol governing information collected through visitor welcome cards and QR codes. A policy will be developed outlining what information is collected, how it is stored, and how it is managed, together with a recommended visitor card design.

Sue Specht

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE 2

Meeting: 5 November 2026 with Bishop Mark

Governance & Ministry

- Bishop Mark thanked the congregation and council for supporting Pastor David and Annie through the challenges associated with Pastor David's Blue Card process.
- The Graduate Pastor Program (GPP) is a two-year developmental and review process designed to support new pastors while assessing the suitability of the placement for both congregation and pastor.
- Pastor David's first years of ministry are intended to focus on learning, relationship-building, observation and pastoral care rather than implementing major changes.
- Bishop Mark emphasised that Pastor David has been called primarily to shepherd and care for the congregation, noting that ministry should progress at "the speed of church", valuing and caring for existing members before focusing on new outreach initiatives.
- A suggestion was made to publish the Letter of Call in the church bulletin to reinforce understanding of Pastor David's role and responsibilities.

Leadership & Pastoral Support

- The Graduate Pastor Program includes oversight, mentoring and formal appraisal processes.
- Bishop Mark will oversee Pastor David's progress, visit annually and conduct formal appraisals.
- Pastor Michael Alfson has been appointed as Mentor Pastor, providing regular guidance, advice and support as Pastor David settles into ministry.
- Pastor Michael Dutschke will serve as Pastor David's accredited Pastoral Supervisor, providing formal professional supervision.
- Bishop Mark is involved in setting ministry and development goals for Pastor David.

Professional Development

- Pastor David will undertake both formal and informal learning opportunities throughout the Graduate Pastor Program with formal professional development goals.
- Clinical Pastoral Education is expected to take place after completion of the GPP, requiring approximately 40 hours annually.

Local Support Group

- Bishop Mark strongly encouraged the establishment of a “Local Support Group” to support Pastor David and his family.
- The group would assist with community integration, provide encouragement and offer constructive feedback regarding Pastor David's ministry.
- The recommended group size is approximately six members who are not currently serving on council or in leadership positions.
- Council was encouraged to begin identifying potential members and formally establish the group early in the new year.
- The Local Support Group should become a standing agenda item for Church Council to ensure ongoing support and accountability.

Sue Specht

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH ASHMORE
NOTICE OF UPCOMING BUDGET & ELECTIONS MEETING



Our Budget & Elections Meeting will be held on Sunday 22 November 2026 immediately after our church service and morning tea.
The 2027 budget will be presented at the meeting. As well, all positions on Church Council and our committees will become vacant and are available for election.
The holders of the following positions have indicated they are unable to continue:

- Chair of Property Committee
- Member of Property Committee
- Pastoral Assistant
- District Synod Delegates x 2
- Church Council member
- Please also give prayerful consideration to the role of Treasurer, currently held by Desley Maurer, who has been in the role for a few years now. If there is anyone who can step into the position, this would be most helpful.

Papers for the meeting will be emailed in the days before the meeting.

Nominations for church council 2027

The Nominations Committee has received (re)nominations from the following people:

Chair Philip Morris
Vice Chair Kevin Lambert
Secretary Sue Specht
Treasurer Desley Maurer
Other member Michael Alfson
Other member Vacant
Other member Juliane Dwyer
Other member Rob Fysh
Pastoral Assistant Abbi Stumer
Pastoral Assistant Vacant
Lay Reader Jackie Keily
Lay Reader Philip Morris
Chair of Property Committee Vacant
Property Committee member Vacant
Pastoral Care Coordinator Sue Fysh
Pastoral Care Committee member Abbi Stumer
Pastoral Care Committee member Ken Kleidon
Pastoral Care Committee member Tony Qualischefski
Pastoral Care Committee member Sari Kessler.
Sunday School Coordinator Michael Alfson.
Safe Church Helen Teece
Safe Church Vacant
District Synod Delegate (Two positions) Vacant
General Synod Delegate Sue Fysh
General Synod Alternate (Reserve) Delegate Vacant

In particular, we need persons interested in assisting our Secretary and our Treasurer. Training will be provided. Please consider. When we all take our turns in these positions, the load can be spread fairly. When the same people are left to put their hand up, year after year, burn out and exhaustion can occur.

There is still time to submit a nomination. Please consider serving our congregation in this way in 2027.

Rob Fysh, on behalf of the Nominations Committee.

Traditional Barossa German Honey Biscuits (Honigkuchen)

As Christmas approached, Anne Lambert shares her family favourite recipe that down through generations. The original recipe adapted from Selma Kappler's original recipe, as published in The Barossa Cookery Book (1917) and preserved by Sheralee Menz & Marieka Ashmore in 'Rolling Up Their Sleeves.'

Ingredients:

- 500 g Honey
- 500 g Sugar
- 1/2 cup Water
- 1 to 2 tbsp Butter or margarine
- 3 to 4 Eggs
- 2 tsp Bicarbonate of soda
- 1 kg Plain flour
- 1 tsp Ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp Ground cloves
- 1/2 tsp Ground nutmeg or allspice (optional)
- Blanched split almonds or thin honey glaze (1 tbsp honey mixed with a splash of boiling water) for topping (optional)

Instructions:

1. In a saucepan over medium heat, gently combine the honey, sugar, and water. Stir until the sugar completely dissolves. Remove from heat, stir in the butter, and allow the mixture to cool to room temperature.
2. Sift the flour, bicarbonate of soda, cinnamon, ground cloves, and optional spices into a large bowl.
3. Whisk the eggs and add them to the cooled honey mixture.
4. Pour the liquid into the dry flour and spice mixture, stirring well until a thick dough forms.
5. Cover the bowl and let the dough rest overnight at room temperature or in the fridge.
6. Preheat your oven to 170 to 180°C (conventional). Line baking sheets with baking paper.
7. Turn the dough out onto a well-floured surface. Roll out to about 5 mm thickness.
8. Cut into shapes using festive or traditional round cookie cutters or roll into small balls and press a blanched almond into the centre of each.
9. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes until lightly golden around the edges.
10. Brush with a light honey glaze while warm if desired, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.



TLCA and Encounter Joint Prayer Meeting Prayer Items

10 November 2026

1. Praise God for all the faithful attendees for this meeting on zoom.
2. Praise God for the faithful servants who serve in different roles at both TLCA and Encounter to ensure that God's ministry and the congregations continue to flourish.
3. Thank God for Ps Michael A's mentoring and supporting of Ps David and Chaplain Tala in their ministries.
4. Thank God for the TLCA council and Encounter Mission Support Team for their dedication and willingness to volunteer and serve in respective roles.
5. Pray for Ps David and Chaplain Tala as they continue to seek you for wisdom and guidance for the two congregations and the gospel ministry that you will fill them with your spirit.
6. Pray for the hearts and minds of both congregations to be ready to grow spiritually individually and collectively so that God can use us to serve his people.
7. Pray for TLCA Budget and Election scheduled for 22 November 2026 that God will bless the nominees and the budgets presented before the congregation.
8. Pray for discernment and wisdom as each of us lives and serves God while being worthy witness of the gospel.
9. Pray for the upcoming Christmas celebration events as joint ministry that Ps David and Chaplain Tala would be guided to share the good news of Christmas.

Join us on one or many Tuesdays at 5.00 pm by clicking this link (note that it is a new link):

Join Zoom Meeting https://us05web.zoom.us/j/87840329134?pwd=r9HAKhpXf5mkCLcZszFJtoS6pTsjba.1

Meeting ID: 878 4032 9134
Passcode: 5PaGCB

Blessings,
Tuesday prayer ministry group.

Prayer Focus

Sunday 15 November, 2026
Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

WORSHIP & THANKSGIVING: Thank you, God!

- Praise: God, you are good. Psalm of the day: Reflect on Psalm 90 1-12
- For our new Pastor **David Lazarus, his wife Annie and children Jenniver and CJ**. Thank you for sending them to us. We pray for them as they settle in to their new home. Bless them in their work in our congregation. Prayers also for the family as CJ continues his studies in Adelaide
- For the Sundays after Pentecost: the Season of Growth, learning to step out in faith
- Our Volunteers: those who distribute Holy Communion to members who are unable to come to church
- For our Featured Ministry This Week: Coffee chat and craft group

- 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.
- For the opportunity to pray together every Tuesday at 5pm in the joint Trinity Ashmore and Encounter prayer meeting (see Bulletin for Zoom Prayer meeting link)

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.**
- 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: **Ida; Rachel; Jeanette.**

Amen

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





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/

Offering Options

Regular Electronic Transfer (RET).
LLL: Ashmore Trinity Lutheran Church:
BSB: 704942
Account No: 100217974



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

The church also has a designated **QR code.**
Offerings to either Encounter church or Trinity church can now be made by card transactions.
(Fees apply)

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?

November

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
30.						**1.** Trinity Worship 9.00am Encounter worship 4.00pm
2.	**3.** **Church Plant Prayer Meeting** See p5 for details	**4.**	**5.** **Coffee, Chat and Craft Group** 10.00am 	**6.**	**7.** **Sister Space** 9.00am Host: Anne Lambert	**8.** Trinity Worship 9.00am Encounter worship 4.00pm
9.	**10.** **Church Plant Prayer Meeting**	**11.**	**12.**	**13.** **Games and Chat** Trinity Southport Hall 10.00 am 	**14.**	**15.** Trinity Worship 9.00am Encounter worship 4.00pm
16.	**17.** **Church Plant Prayer Meeting**	**18.**	**19.**	**20.**	**21.** **Man Space** 8.00am Host: Rob Fysh 	**22.** Trinity Worship 9.00am Encounter worship 4.00pm
23.	**24.** **Church Plant Prayer Meeting**	**25.**	**26.**	**27.** **Games and Chat** Trinity Southport Hall 10.00 am 	**28.**	**29.**

Contact Details



Pastor: David Lazarus
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Office Administrator: Helen Teece
Email: tlcachurchoffice@gmail.com

Pastoral Care Team: Sue Fysh
Mobile: 0413 996 204
Email: suefysh@bigpond.com

Chairperson: Dr Philip Morris
Mobile: 0422 545 753
Email: plpmorris1@gmail.com

Secretary: Sue Specht
Email: secretary.tlcashmore@gmail.com

Congregational email
ashmore.trinity.church@gmail.com

Pastor's availability

Pastor David's working hours

- Tuesday–Wednesday: in the office, 8:00 am–4:00 pm
- Tuesday: Zoom Prayer Meeting (for Trinity, Ashmore and Encounter Church), 5:00–6:00 pm
- Thursday–Friday: home and hospital visitation

Please phone or email Pastor David to arrange a meeting or visitation. I will normally be available at the office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, except where I have a prior booking. Please feel free to come, sit with me, talk with me and share with me.

Survey



1. Why do you come to Trinity?
2. Why do you stay at Trinity?
3. Do you know why Trinity worships the way it does?
4. In five years' time, what kind of church would you like Trinity to be?
5. If you were in my shoes as the pastor, what would be your highest priority?
6. If you could change one thing to make Trinity a better church, what would it be?

As I mentioned in my Sunday sermon, I have developed a six-point survey, but it is not a written survey. I don't want people simply to fill out a form. I want to hear their voices because God often speaks through His people, through their stories, hopes, concerns and dreams for the church.

This "survey" is really a conversation that helps us listen together for the places where God may be redirecting our church, where He may be inviting us to welcome His messengers, release our grip on comfort and step into new fruitfulness.

So please:

- Invite me to your Bible study.
- Invite me to your group.
- Invite me to your home for a cuppa.

Your voice matters. Your story matters.

Tell me where you see God redirecting us.
Tell me where you sense the vineyard needs tending.
Tell me where you believe fruit is ready to grow.

Pastor David Lazarus