

Australian Evangelical Lutheran Church
BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA, OUR SAVIOUR LOWOOD, ST JOHN'S AUBIGNY,
ST PAUL'S GREENWOOD, TRINITY MARBURG, TRINITY OAKEY
22nd September Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

HYMNS: 54 356 277 282 283 199

INTROIT: Psalm 116:1-9.

I love the LORD, because He hears my voice, my supplication for favour.

Because He has turned His ear to me, I shall call on Him as long as I live.

The cords of death encompassed me; the distresses of the grave took hold of me; I was experiencing affliction and torment.

But I kept calling on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, save my life!"

Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is compassionate. The LORD protects simple people. When I was weak, He kept on saving me.

Return to your resting places, O my soul; for the LORD has been good to you.

For You have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

I shall walk before the LORD in the lands of the living.

COLLECT:

O God, whose strength is made perfect in weakness, grant us humility and childlike faith, that we may please You in both will and deed; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Welcome to all worshipping with us!

Pastor Ziebell can be contacted via phone/text at 0407 583922.

Please notify pastor of anyone who is unwell or in need of a visit.

Email him at paziebell@gmail.com or to the church office at draelc@gmail.com. Pastor is usually in his office Tuesday-Wednesday for anyone who would like to call in. Other days of the week are set aside for visits.

READINGS: Jeremiah 11:18-20 A plot against Jeremiah's life.
James 3:13-4:10 Wisdom from above. Do not love the world. Resist the devil.
Mark 9:30-37 The servant of all is the greatest.

Jeremiah 11:18-20

¹⁸ Because the LORD revealed this to me, I became aware of it. Then You showed me what they were doing. ¹⁹ Nevertheless, I had been like a trusting lamb being led to the slaughter. I did not know that they had been plotting against me, saying: "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit! Let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name may not be remembered any longer!" ²⁰ However, O LORD of hosts, You judge righteously. You **test the inner being** and the heart. Let me see Your retribution on them! For I have made my case known to You.

James 3:13-4:10

¹³ Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him by his good conduct show that his works are done in humble wisdom! ¹⁴ However, if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth!

¹⁵ This "wisdom" does not come down from above but is earthly, unspiritual and demonic. ¹⁶ For where there is jealousy and selfishness, disorder and every evil practice are there. ¹⁷ The wisdom that comes from above is, first of all, pure, then peaceful, gentle, willing to obey, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and without pretence. ¹⁸ Those who make peace are also sowing a harvest of righteousness in peace.

^{4:1} Where do wars and where do fights come from among you? Do they not come from this, from your desires for pleasure, which wage war among your members?

² You desire and do not have. So, you murder. You try to get something and cannot obtain it. So, you quarrel and wage war. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you are asking wrongly, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

⁴ Adulterous people, do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wants to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think the Scripture says without reason: "God jealously longs for the Spirit, whom He has caused to dwell in us"? ⁶ However, He gives more grace. Therefore, it says, "**God opposes proud people but gives grace to humble people.**" ⁷ Therefore, be subordinate to God! Resist the Devil! He will flee from you. ⁸ Go near to God! He will come near to you. Cleanse your hands, sinners, and purify your hearts, double minded people!

⁹ Be miserable, mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy into gloom! ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord! He will lift you up.

Mark 9:30-37

³⁰ They left that place and were passing through Galilee, and Jesus did not want anyone to know about it. ³¹ For He was teaching His disciples and telling them: “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, but, after He has been killed, He will rise on the third day.”

³² They did not understand what He said and were afraid to ask Him.

³³ Then they came to Capernaum. When He had come into the house, He asked them, “What were you discussing on the road?”

³⁴ They kept quiet. For on the road they had been discussing who the greatest was. ³⁵ Jesus sat down and called the Twelve. He told them, “If anyone wants to be the first, he must be the last of all and the servant of all!”

³⁶ He took a little child and set him among them. He put His arms around him and told them, ³⁷ “Whoever welcomes one of the little children like this one in My name welcomes Me. Whoever welcomes Me welcomes not Me but the One who has sent Me.”

YOUR LIFE IS NOT ABOUT YOU

Sermon for the 18th Sunday after Pentecost, 2024

Mark 9:30-37

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

The text for our sermon today is our Gospel from before, Mark 9:30-37: **They left that place and were passing through Galilee, and Jesus did not want anyone to know about it. ³¹ For He was teaching His disciples and telling them: “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, but, after He has been killed, He will rise on the third day.”**

³² They did not understand what He said and were afraid to ask Him.

³³ Then they came to Capernaum. When He had come into the house, He asked them, “What were you discussing on the road?”

³⁴ They kept quiet. For on the road they had been discussing who the greatest was. ³⁵ Jesus sat down and called the Twelve. He told them, “If anyone wants to be the first, he must be the last of all and the servant of all!”

³⁶ He took a little child and set him among them. He put His arms around him and told them, ³⁷ “Whoever welcomes one of the little children like this one in My name welcomes Me. Whoever welcomes Me welcomes not Me but the One who has sent Me.”

Lord God, heavenly Father, sanctify us through Your truth, Your Word is truth. Amen.

Dear friends in Christ,

One of the symptoms of our sinfulness is that we tend to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to. We all have proud achievements and believe we have not received proper recognition or been adequately praised. I'm sure we sometimes think, *"I'm a better person than most people – certainly a lot better than those I have to deal with daily. Their flaws and shortcomings are abundant and obvious. Mine, the few that I have, are much less severe and hardly noticeable; besides, I have good excuses for them. Indeed, most of them are someone else's fault."*

These are the attitudes and traits we sinners share that are being highlighted in today's Gospel. Jesus had just healed a boy with an unclean spirit and now wanted to spend time with His twelve disciples for private instruction. They passed **"through Galilee, and Jesus did not want anyone to know about it."** Jesus **"was teaching His disciples and telling them: **"The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, but, after He has been killed, He will rise on the third day."****

Jesus was preparing His disciples for what was about to happen because they didn't get it right now. Sure, at this point, they had seen His power, and had heard His teaching and confessed that He is the Christ, the Son of the living God. They knew Him to be Israel's long-promised Saviour and Messiah. The trouble is that they were thinking in terms of an earthly kingdom: power, riches, fame, honour, and glory. They had envisioned Jesus taking Jerusalem by storm, driving out all opposition, and setting up God's kingdom on earth. They saw themselves as His handpicked and most trusted advisors, the ones who would be His chief administrators in the greatest kingdom the world had ever known. They saw themselves as the most outstanding men in this kingdom and deliberately tuned out anything they heard that contradicted the dreams of glory filling their imaginations.

Jesus showed vast patience by trying repeatedly to get through to them. But no matter how often or patiently He explained it, they weren't getting it. Instead, we're told that **"on the road they had been discussing who the greatest was."** It wasn't enough to be one of the twelve closest disciples, separated from the vast majority of humankind by that distinct honour. No, they had to establish a pecking order, even among themselves. The funny thing is that they couldn't agree on what it should be. Each one saw *himself* in the top position. And we can well imagine the boasting each one did to exalt himself and to belittle and discredit the others.

What's interesting is that their words are not recorded. All their boasting, the things they were most proud of, the reasons for the honours they thought they deserved - are lost to us. And that says something about them: they all amounted to nothing. They weren't important at all. They weren't nearly as great as they thought they were. Only the words about Jesus' upcoming suffering and shameful death remain.

It is further interesting that while the disciples had no trouble shooting off their mouths when they should have been silent, twice, we find them silent when they should have spoken up. It turns out they actually do hear Jesus when He speaks of His impending death and resurrection, but it doesn't make any sense to them. It doesn't fit their preconceived notions. **“They did not understand what He said and were afraid to ask Him.”** Why is that? It could be because they didn't want to have the bubbles of their dreams of glory burst. That was probably part of it. But the main thing is that asking a question like that would have revealed how little they understood. Each one thought, *“If I ask, I'll look foolish – and that will undermine my campaign to convince the others that I'm the greatest.”* Not one understood, and not one had the courage to ask. So, they all remained in the dark.

The other time they should have spoken up was when Jesus asked them, **“What were you discussing on the road?”**

This time, shame holds their tongues. It's one thing to boast before your peers – the ones you're fighting to stay on top of, but it's quite a bit harder to boast before the righteous Son of God who knows your heart better than you do; the Son of God who has called you to follow Him by His grace and grace alone without any merit or worthiness in you. This time, they should have spoken up, confessing their sins of pride, jealousy, and selfish ambition. But they didn't. **instead, “They kept quiet.”**

And so again, with infinite patience, Jesus sits them down and gives them a lesson on what it means to be truly great in God's kingdom. He tells them, **“If anyone wants to be the first, he must be the last of all and the servant of all!”**

This foundational word of wisdom stands opposed to all worldly wisdom. The wisdom of this world says *it's all about you*. No one is more important than you. And no one will look out for your best interests better than you. So go for it. Climb as high as you can. Make use of every advantage. Take what you can get. Let nothing stop you from achieving your dreams. Go for fame, fortune, honour, and glory. And if you can't beat the competition fair and square, then cheat because that's okay. It's for a good cause: you.

The world is the way it is – a dark and loveless place – because this is the wisdom on which it operates. As James says in today’s Second Reading, “*For where there is jealousy and selfishness, disorder and every evil practice are there*” (3:16).

God’s kingdom operates on a different principle of wisdom, and it’s this: ***your life is not about you***. It’s about others and what you can do to meet their needs. So, stop thinking of yourself. Stop thinking of making the most with what you’ve got to make yourself great. Think about others and what you can do for them with what God has given you.

This is the principle of divine wisdom that drives the Gospel of our salvation. God Himself, in the person of the Son, though He is Lord of all, comes to this earth to take on our fallen flesh. He lives a perfect life of humble service on our behalf, and then He offers that life on the cross to suffer infinitely for our sins, all the while never thinking about what’s good for Him. He’s only looking out for us and what we need: a Saviour from sin. He, the greatest, makes Himself “**the last of all and the servant of all**.” By His suffering, dying, and rising again, He raises us also. He raises us from the death, disorder, and vile practices of this world’s wisdom to the wisdom from above upon which His kingdom is founded. He calls for us to be great in His kingdom by offering ourselves as living sacrifices in the service of others.

If by now you’re thinking that this wisdom from on high is a lot harder to understand than you once thought, that’s good. You’re with the disciples who didn’t understand Jesus when He spoke of it. But don’t be like them, afraid to speak. Ask Jesus to explain, and through a study of His Word and the power of His Holy Spirit, He will. And if you’re thinking that you’ve been caught red-handed seeking greatness for yourself, again, don’t be like the disciples who were ashamed to speak. Confess your sins. Receive Christ’s Word of forgiveness, and ask Him to create in you a clean heart that gladly seeks to serve.

One thing’s certain: opportunities for serving abound. The world is full of people with needs. Every one of us has them. As a final point, remember that Jesus locates Himself in our human needs. This is what He meant when taking a child into His arms, He said, “**Whoever welcomes one of the little children like this one in My name welcomes Me**.” The word for receive here means to welcome with hospitality, that is, to care for them as if they were your guest and you were their host. In other words, attend to their needs. But that’s where we find Jesus, in the needs of our neighbour. He bears all the world’s suffering, and so where there is want and need, He’s there in the middle of it. This is why, on

the Last Day, He can say to those who are on His right, “I was hungry, *and you gave Me food. I was thirsty and you gave Me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed Me. I was naked and you clothed Me. I was sick and in prison and you visited Me... for truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brothers, you did it to Me*” (Matthew 25:35-40). So you see, whenever we serve the least in God’s kingdom, without seeing Him, we are also serving the Greatest.

It is to this great work we have been called in Christ. Therefore, by His Word and Spirit, may our gracious God and Father accomplish His great work in us, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

O God our Father, Lord of all, the creator and sustainer of all things in heaven and on earth, we bow before You in worship, and bring before You our praise and our prayers. In the name of Your only Son Jesus Christ, we ask You to forgive us our many sins, and to rescue us from what we deserve because of them. Come into our lives with Your power, and save us from the temptations and dangers that threaten us.

We recognise our own weakness and know we need Your help. Without Your strength we can do nothing. Therefore, give us the power and blessing of Your Holy Spirit, so that we may stand in the grace You gave us in Baptism, and that we may live a life that measures up to the standard You set when You called us to faith. Inspire us with the Gospel about Your delivering up the Son of Man into the hands of sinful men. Because we humbly receive all spiritual blessings from You, take away our stubborn self-wills, and lead us to do Your perfect will. Take away our pride and conceit, and make us humble. Take away our critical and grumbling spirit, and make us content. Take away our resentment and anger, and make us gentle and patient. Help us in love to put up with each other’s faults and weaknesses, as people who have been made rich by Your love.

Pour out Your blessing on Your Church, O God. By the Spirit’s power, make us one in heart and mind, in the peace of Christ. Enable us to grasp the Church’s oneness in Christ in the truth of the Gospel. Take away from us our pride and sinful desire for pre-eminence. Inspire us by Jesus’ humble service to us to serve You gratefully through serving our neighbours. Give us opportunities to demonstrate the confession of the Gospel before the world, that people may be drawn to Your Son and rejoice in Your salvation.

Give Your guidance and blessing to all lawful authority, especially to our King and his representatives, and the parliaments of our Commonwealth and State. Give them wisdom and sound judgment, that godliness may rule and evil be kept in check.

Be the guardian of our homes and families. Make them places where Your Word is treasured, where faith in You produces love, and where love expresses itself in service to You and others.

Touch with Your healing power the sick, the sorrowing, and the suffering. Hear their cry, and remember them in Your mercy. Show them that You are the ever-present source of help, and the saviour of all people, especially of those who believe.

These things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Article: We Have Been Given Wisdom From Above

We believe, teach and confess that we, as people of Christ, do not have salvation that originates in our hearts or abilities, but we have been given salvation that is from above. In other words, when Jesus says to Nicodemus in John 3 that he needs to be born again, very literally, Jesus is saying to Nicodemus that he needs to be born from 'above.' The source of our salvation is outside of us in Christ; it does not originate within us.

It is also the same way with wisdom. Our wisdom is also from above. This wisdom is revealed from heaven and does not come from the human heart. The Holy Spirit, through the Word, is the one that teaches and gives us this wisdom. We are given this wisdom as the Word of God shapes us, as our sinful nature is killed, and we are daily resurrected in the Gospel. It happens as we die daily and are raised anew in Christ every day. This wisdom is a gift.

Now, let us take a moment and examine this wisdom.

This wisdom of God, in the first place, is pure. There is nothing fishy added to it. But more specifically, this wisdom seeks the welfare of others. This wisdom isn't concerned with me, myself and I, but focuses on the need to serve one another. This wisdom teaches that we 'give in' for the sake of another person. This wisdom teaches that when we are driving, we don't have to swear at the other driver when we are cut off. This wisdom teaches that an employee can fulfil his boss' demands without sputtering under his breath or talking behind his back. This wisdom teaches that students don't have to put down a loner classmate to stay in the popular opinion of friends. This wisdom teaches that siblings don't have to argue about whose turn it is to tidying up the living room or clear off the table. This wisdom is real, not some abstract idea. This is the wisdom that James, the writer of our Second Lesson today, wants all his readers to have.

When we think about this wisdom from God, we can all agree that this is the way that it simply should be. When we think about this wisdom from God, there is a sense of peace, which causes us to say, “That wisdom is good. Wouldn’t it be nice to have this? It would be like heaven on earth.” So, why aren’t things peaceable? Why do our world, or even our church and families, not live in this blissful state of selfless and all-serving wisdom? The reason is that we follow empty wisdom.

This empty wisdom only yields a life full of bitterness, envy and selfish ambitions. It is not heavenbound but earthbound. This empty wisdom is not of God, but it is of Satan. It is not of the Spirit, but it is unspiritual. This empty wisdom springs forth not from faith that receives the Word. This empty wisdom brings about disorder, evil, disunity and chaos. More specifically, this empty wisdom teaches us to look out for the needs of self. It says to look to our own cravings and to do whatever pleases me, myself and I. The disorder and evil that comes from empty wisdom can be seen in government, business, the church and the home.

But where does this empty wisdom come from? This empty wisdom cannot be traced to a profound philosopher. It cannot be traced back to an idea that was cultivated by a particular culture. Rather, this empty wisdom can be traced right back here. Yes, right here in our midst, we can find the origin of this empty wisdom. The source of this empty wisdom comes from you and from me. James is addressing the readers and us by showing us that we have been given wisdom from above but we then so easily become snared in empty wisdom. He confronts the reader by saying he has been plunged into empty wisdom. Realistically we have three enemies that literally bombard us with this empty wisdom. The Devil, the world and our own sinful nature attempt to point us back to the spring of empty wisdom, and that is our own desires, ambitions and cravings.

But how do we know when we are drinking from the fountain of empty wisdom? We can most be assured that we fooling the ways of empty wisdom when we hear and see words like, “Me, myself and I” as a basis for why we do what we do. When the opinion, motive and reason for our emotions, actions and identity are “me, myself, and I,” we are captive to empty wisdom, which will most assuredly bring about division, war and conflict.

In fact, James gets right to the point. The reason for the divisions, conflicts and disputes in the church is because of sin. This empty wisdom goes the way of the sinful nature. Anytime there are divisions in the church, it is due to sin. Anytime there are divisions and conflicts in the family, in the government, in the workplace, and in your life, it is due to sin and following empty wisdom. The temptation for all of us is to point to anything but ourselves as the reason why conflict and disputes exist. We want to blame others. We blame our spouses. We blame the culture. We blame our history. We blame others. We try to shift everything away from ourselves. This is the way of

empty wisdom. Empty wisdom teaches us that the problem is outside of us and that the solution lies within us. In contrast, the Scriptures show us that the problem is within and the solution is outside of us in Christ. Even in marriage counselling, when one of the spouses is responsible for 95% of the problems, I will look to the other spouse and say, “You are still responsible for 100% of the 5% that you have contributed.”

Now, here is where it gets interesting. Doesn't it make sense that conflict arises from people wanting to fulfil their desires? It makes sense that there is peace and harmony when everyone seeks the good of one another. Right? So, the temptation for you and me is for us to think, “I better not give into my own cravings and my own desire, and I better work harder at loving others. I better stuff my feelings, shut down my wants, and try to do more good stuff to others.” What has just happened here? We are looking to ourselves! May this never be! James says that God opposes the proud (4:6). Believing that you can stop going the way of empty wisdom and go the way of God's wisdom is spiritual pride! You can't do it. God opposes this arrogance. What needs to happen is that our sinful nature that curves us inward on ourselves needs to be crucified. We need to die. Our selfish desires and our self-centred ideas need to be put to death. That old sinful nature needs to die today, tomorrow and every single day. We need to be brought to repentance and humility, confessing, “Lord God, have mercy on me, a self-centred person who drinks the from the fountain and buys into the ideology of empty wisdom.”

God does have mercy on you in Jesus Christ. In fact, for you and I, He gives grace. God opposes the proud. But in our brokenness of sin He gives grace. Hear the Gospel! God forgives you and me who are centered on self. For you and I as children of God there is an avalanche of undeserved grace. God desires to draw you and me ever closer to Him to gift us His love, grace, forgiveness and wisdom. God wants you and I not bound up in the deception of empty wisdom but as His children bound up in His grace and mercy given to us because of what Christ accomplished on the cross.

Think about this now! Paul says we have every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realm in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 1:3). Everything! We have grace upon grace. In Christ we are given the wisdom of the Cross. We are given wisdom that says, “You have been freed from the condemnation of Hell and Satan. You have been ravished by the forgiveness of God in Christ. You are God's son and daughter through the blood of Christ.” This wisdom then goes on to teach us, saying, “God has done absolutely everything that is necessary for your salvation. You need to do nothing except receive what has been done for you! Given such a great God who has overwhelmed you with riches beyond number - why should you not freely, joyfully and with all of your heart and with an eager will serve your neighbour?” Wisdom goes on to say, “You can serve all, because you have been served. You don't have to

worry whether a person is a friend or an enemy or worry if they are going to be thankful or not. Rather, you are free to spend yourself and all that you have. Don't worry about whether you squander your love towards those that are ungrateful. Don't worry about yourself. You are forgiven. God has taken care of your salvation for you! Relax in His grace. Rest in the promise. You are freed to get your eyes off of yourself. God doesn't need your good works; your neighbour does. You are completely free of everything so that you can be completely attentive to the needs of all!"

Children's Message:

Today, in our First Reading, we hear of a prophet of God named Jeremiah. He wrote a book of the Bible. But look closely at our of Jeremiah. Can you see what Jeremiah is doing? That's right. He's crying. He must be very sad. Jeremiah had a lot of troubles in his life, and so he's called "the weeping prophet."

In our First Reading, Jeremiah heard that people were talking behind his back, saying nasty things. They were mad at Jeremiah because he was telling them God's Word, and they didn't want to hear it. It made them mad because Jeremiah said they should stop doing bad things and turn to God for forgiveness. Jeremiah said these things because he loved them and knew that the bad things they were doing were against what God wanted for them.

When the people refused to listen to Jeremiah, can you imagine how Jeremiah felt? It made him sad. And this happened several times in his life. It's why he's called "the weeping prophet."

But Jeremiah didn't lose hope because he knew God had chosen him for very important work. God chose Jeremiah to keep speaking His Word, no matter what. Jeremiah remained faithful to God, even when people talked badly about him and wanted to harm him. Jeremiah knew that when people were mean to him, God was always with him. Jeremiah prayed and asked God for help when those people were saying bad things to him and wanted to harm him, even kill him.

God heard Jeremiah's prayers and protected him through many tough times. What's helpful for us to think about is that Jeremiah didn't let those problems change him into a mean person. Jeremiah didn't tell lies and do mean things to those people. Jeremiah continued to trust God to protect him.

Sometimes when people are mean to us, we think we need to be mean back, don't we? But we don't have to become mean when others are, because God is with us. God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to forgive us when we are mean, just like He can forgive those who are mean to us. So instead, we can pray that God will lead those who are mean to stop being mean and then trust in Jesus for His forgiveness. *Dear Jesus, help me not to be mean to others, especially when they are being mean to me! Amen.*



WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

29 September 19 Pentecost	6 October 20 Pentecost	13 October 21 Pentecost
8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am MARBURG LR (Pastor away this Sunday)	9.00am TMBA LR 10.00am MARBURG HC (Harvest) AELC Service and Children's Sunday School Picnic	8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA HC Harvest 9.00am GRN LR 10.45am AUB HC Harvest 9.00am MARBURG LR
Sunday, 29 September		
READINGS: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; James 5:1-20; Mark 9:38-50		
HYMNS: 119 341 179 346		
Sunday, 6 October		
READINGS: Genesis 2:18-25; Hebrews 2:1-18; Mark 10:2-16 (Marburg) Deuteronomy 26:1-11; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Luke 12:13-21		
HYMNS: 361 893 280 101 MARBURG: 563 814 566 85 285 437		
Sunday, 13 October		
READINGS: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Hebrews 3:12-19; Mark 10:17-22		
HYMNS: 345 359 178 556 TMB/AUB: 563 814 566 (53 293) 437		

Pastor will be away from tomorrow until early the following week, visiting people in the southern states. If there is an emergency during this time, please don't hesitate to call or speak to one of your elders.

AELC Service and Children's Picnic

Everyone is invited to the AELC service at Marburg on 6 October, followed by the Children's Sunday School picnic. Could each family please provide something for a shared lunch? A BBQ will also be running, with the loose offering for the day going towards the cost. As always, if you wish for your offering to return to your own congregation, please mark it in an envelope. Please come along if you can!