

---

## WEEKLY BULLETIN – 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> December 2017

---

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEAD PASTOR...

During this season, we hear a lot about the 'spirit of Christmas'. For some it's giving, for others it's joy, or family, or peace on earth. However, when we come to the Bible's account of that first Christmas, I think it is obvious that the 'spirit of Christmas' is that Christ is with us. For he will be called 'Immanuel' which means 'God with us'.

You see, God is with us. He is not far off. He is not distant and disinterested. God is here. Right here in our midst, right now.

Jesus' birth proclaims the nearness of God, the in-breaking of God's gracious presence in all of life. That is the true 'spirit of Christmas'

I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a blessed and merry Christmas, as we join together at this wonderful time of year to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. For centuries, lives have been changed through the powerful grace and love that God offers to those who trust and believe in Him.

So this Christmas I encourage you to spread the good news, and help change the life of someone close to you by sharing with them that God is here, that God is near, that God's grace and love is for all, and that the 'spirit of Christmas' is theirs.

*Pastor Ben*



Series: **Celebrate Christmas**

---

## Ipswich Lutheran Church

facebook.com/ipswichlutheranchurch

32 Roderick Street, Ipswich, QLD, 4305

www.ipswich.church

07 3202 4035

info@ipswich.church

# | Upcoming Dates

Sun	04/02	2.00pm	Installation of Pastors Ben & Roelof (Bethany)
Wed	28/02	to 06/03	Myanmar Mission Trip

# | Today

## **Christmas Eve (24/12) Worship Times**

St. John's 9am; Bethany 6pm, Grace 7pm, St. John's 7pm

# | Happenings & Notices

**Christmas Blessings** The Office Staff would like to wish everyone a very Blessed and Holy Christmas and peace and happiness for the New Year. We pray for safe travels for all who are travelling over the holidays.

**Church Office Closure** The office will be closed over the Christmas break from **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2017 to Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018**. If you need Pastor Ben urgently, please ring office number to receive automated message for alternative numbers.

## **Christmas Day (25/12) Worship Times**

Bethany 8am, St. John's 8am

**Prayer Haven** in recess from 5<sup>th</sup> December. Will begin again on 6<sup>th</sup> February, 10am-12 noon at 86 Raceview Street. Enquiries and prayer available during recess on appointment. Contact 0455777008.

**Meals on Wheels Volunteers** required for Ipswich MOW to enable regular volunteers to have a Christmas break. Our church has been asked to supply 6 x drivers and 6 x helpers on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec, Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan and Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Jan. Please contact Des Damm phone no. 3288 9336 if you are able to help on any or all of these dates.

**Time Out...with the Shepherd** orders are now being taken for this 2018 Devotion Book. Each meditation is a 'time-out' of about 3 plus minutes and consists of a Bible reading, some thoughts on that passage, and a short prayer. This book provides Christian devotions based on the lectionary Bible reading for the day. The devotions can be used for individuals, families and groups. Order your copy now at the church office – 3202 4035 or simply make your request on a careslip today☺ Cost \$22 including postage.

**St. Johns Hand Rails** It has been a long and arduous task. Hours and hours believe it or not, have gone into these hand rails. Design, materials, aesthetics, and then finally colour. There are companies who have been involved that need to be thanked for their generosity and advise, however firstly I must thank Russell Kreis for his support, valuable input and his help with the instillation.

Thanks go to the following companies who gave willing of their time and services **free of charge**.

King Architectural Engineering ,0738123443 (for certification)

K R Engineering, 0732821997 (supplying and cutting of the base plates)

David Kreis, Russell's son who did the welding.

Also thanks to the paid contracted companies; Haggerty Group 0732818144(Steel Railing), Scott's Rods 0738120266 (Bending of the pipes), Westside Collision Centre Yamanto 072827175 (Painting of the rails)

I would like to thank everyone who had input into the final product. I am pleased with the outcome and hope they are a valued asset to assist people in worship Ron Schultz

**Volunteers to Move Office Furniture** in readiness for replacement of old carpet and vinyl Pastor Ben needs 1 to 2 people to help move Church office furniture on 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018 for approximately half an hour, please contact Pastor Ben or the office if you are able to help.

**Volunteer for Food Pantry** if you enjoy grocery shopping why not combine it with helping the wider community. We require another person to join our wonderful team who shop for our food pantry. Please contact the Church office if you would like to volunteer or require further information.

# Giving & Attendances



Giving



Attendance

# | Prayer

## Prayer Points

- for the church, that it would receive sinners with compassion and forgiveness
- for those who have strayed from faith in Christ, that they would return
- for the enemies of the church, that they would receive God's mercy
- for those who live with anger and bitterness, that God would give them peace.

## Connect Card & Submitted Prayer Requests

- for comfort to those who are suffering from a terminal illness
- healing and better health for those who are ill or have an injury
- for recovery and healing for those having surgery
- for rain for areas of Australia experiencing drought
- for wisdom for our world leaders to keep peace and not start a nuclear war

## General Prayers

- Please continue praying for
  - the Pastors, staff team and leaders of the Church
  - all upcoming meetings around the Church
  - worship services across all our locations (beforehand and as they take place)
  - specific events as they arise (i.e. funerals, weddings, baptisms etc.)

# | Stay Connected

**Want to know more about Jesus?** Head to 'Next Steps' on our website: [www.ipswich.church](http://www.ipswich.church) or alternatively, speak to one of our pastors. We would love to hear from you and help you if you want to continue in your faith walk, learning more about our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Guests** – we trust that you have drawn closer to God in worship today. Our church is blessed by your presence today. Please stay and enjoy a 'cuppa' with us after worship and make yourself known to us. We'd love to answer any queries you may have, and be able to bless you with a special welcome pack & gift – just for you!

**Help Us To Care** - if you know of someone who has fallen ill or who is suffering in any way, please let the Pastoral Care Coordinator or one of the Pastors know by contacting the parish office so that appropriate care and follow up can occur.

**Thinking Of Joining This Church?** – We would love for you to make that commitment with us, as you make a conscious decision to be part of something bigger than simply yourself. If you have been worshipping here regularly and are not yet a member, the pastors would be happy to talk to you about 'making our Church home - your Church home.'



## Worship Times

**8am**  
**St. John's**  
(32 Roderick St.  
Ipswich)

**9am**  
**Bethany**  
(86 Raceview St.  
Raceview)

**9.30am**  
**St. John's**  
(32 Roderick St.  
Ipswich)

**10am**  
**Grace**  
(19 Ipswich Rd.  
Riverview)