

Words From A Messy Desk

4th August, 2023

To my Noranda Uniting family,

They say that it takes a village to raise a child, but I think it's also true that it takes a congregation to make a minister. You can go and do all the theological study and learn all the concepts and practices of ministry, but it's really when you're interacting with a congregation that you really learn who you are as a minister.

This week, I had a good chat with Susan, our new student here at Noranda, to lock in a few things on the calendar for her time here. It's made me realise how busy the next few months are for all of us. But it's also made me realise how lucky Susan is to be with this mob, and I'm looking forward to seeing what she learns about herself from being here with us. It's also made me wonder what we will learn about ourselves through her time with us.

As well as the High Tea, the Lego Challenge, the Fete, the Teachers' Morning Tea, Halloween Haven, and the Graduation Lunch, and all the special services like the Spring Festival and the Girls Brigade Parade, Susan has also agreed to take a special service in November as a **Blessing of the Pets**. We'll give you more details in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile the **High Tea** on 19th August to raise money for the Harry Perkins Institute and the Leukemia Foundation is now sold out. However, if you'd like to donate to this cause, please speak to Rae R or Michelle.

Before then, we have a **Communion service** this coming Sunday. Over the last few weeks, we've been looking at the stories of the founding fathers of our faith, starting with Abraham. Last week, during Breakfast Church, we explored the story of Abraham's grandson, Jacob, on his way to reconcile with his estranged brother, Esau. There were some great discussions around the tables and it was a joy to sit in on some of these, while enjoying some bacon and eggs.

This week, we start the story of Jacob's sons, focussing on the story of Joseph. Some of you will know Joseph's story from the musical, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. The story is found in Genesis 37:1-28 and our other reading for the day is Romans 10:12-15.

Another thing you might notice this coming Sunday is that we now have **activity packs** for the kids (and for any adults who need them). In each pack is a colouring sheet and an activity sheet based on the story of the week together with a pack of pencils. Our hope is that when kids get distracted, they can still connect in with what we're talking about while still being part of us.

Also on this coming Sunday, in the afternoon, the Presbytery will be celebrating the induction of Hannes Halgryn at **Fremantle Wesley UC**. I got to chair the Joint Nominating Committee for Fremantle as they searched for a new minister, and it will be a joy to see the final step in that process as Hannes officially starts as their new minister.

In other news, we have had a few people come forward offering to be **Pastoral Carers** for our congregation. Once we have a few people on board for this, the plan is that we'll divvy up the congregation into pastoral care groups. In this way, we want to make sure that no one slips off the radar for us. If you have a heart for the members of our congregation and would be interested in having half a dozen or so people to specifically care for, then please have a chat with Denise A or myself.

Of course, as well as having dedicated pastoral carers, we all have a responsibility to love and care for each other. With that in mind, can I please ask that you pray for those who are doing it a bit tough at the moment: Audrey H, Eris S, Jean C, Neville & Maureen L, Margaret L, Gloria B, and Denise B, as well as praying for Sylvia A, Tony & Jan B, Val D, Rob & Steph G & family, Sandra P, and Lawrie S?

I think that's all from me this week. I pray that each of you encounters God's peace and love personally over the coming days and I look forward to seeing you soon.

With love and hope,

Your minister,
your brother in Christ,
Ivan

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