

DARLING DOWNS PARISH OF THE AELC
TRINITY OAKEY, ST PAUL'S GREENWOOD, ST JOHN'S AUBIGNY,
BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA

2 April, 2017

5 Lent

HYMNS: 60 401 394 839 69 440 v.1

INTROIT: Out of the depths I have cried to You, O LORD. LORD, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the sound of my pleas for mercy!

If You, LORD, should observe iniquities, O LORD, who would stand? Nevertheless, with You there is forgiveness, so that You may be feared. I have been waiting for the LORD. My soul has been waiting, and I have been putting my hope in His Word.

My soul waits for the LORD more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is mercy, and with Him there is very great redemption, and **He Himself will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.**

Psalm 130

COLLECT: Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people, that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lord's Supper has always been seen as a sign of unity between those who commune together at the Lord's table (1 Cor. 10:17). When Christians partake of the Lord's Supper in a church body that has a confession of faith, they thereby declare that they believe that they are one in faith with those who commune with them. Since people cannot honestly hold two differing confessions at the same time, they cannot honestly commune with those whose confession is in conflict with their own. If any do this nevertheless, they deny their own confession, and so deny Christ Himself (2 Cor. 6:14-18). **We ask visitors who are communicant members in a church not in fellowship with the AELC, or are not familiar with the *AELC Statement of Faith*, to refrain from communing today. If you have questions, please speak with the pastor after service.**

READINGS: Ezekiel 37:1-14 The valley of dry bones.

Romans 8:1-11 Through Christ the law of the Spirit of life sets us free.

John 11:1-45 The raising of Lazarus.

SERMON: Psalm 102 The afflicted penitent hopes in the eternal Lord

Our Vicar, Jake Zabel, was asked to give a brief resume of his life that led to his wanting to become a pastor, and finding his way to the AELC. Below is his account:

Jake Zabel - a Brief Overview of my Faith-Life

I was born in 1994 and baptised the same year at Zion Lutheran Church Minden (LCA). I was raised in the Lutheran Church of Australia, in a conservative traditional congregation (Zion Minden, which has drifted further to the left since my childhood).

Despite attending church almost every Sunday I would now consider the faith of family growing up to be “Sunday Christians”. My faith and Scriptural education was very shallow growing up, but my faith-life took a serious change in my teen years due to a number of events.

Firstly, as I started early high school (Lowood State High School), I began to notice Atheism and non-Christianity a lot more. My primary school (Tarampa State Primary School) was not a particularly Christian community, but high school was the place where many teens took control of their personal beliefs and became more vocal. This meant that I was confronted with non-Christian views more than I had experienced at primary school. Plus, I was beginning to become more aware of the surrounding society and culture. This began to challenge my faith as I felt like wheat being choked by the weeds.

Secondly, at high school there was a great push in science to deny faith and promote views of evolution and the big bang. At this point in time I was very challenged to choose evolution over Creation. This push made me question the entire faith, I can remember being about 14 or so and making the decision that if Creation wasn't real then there was no God. Then at a Toowoomba Bookfest I happened upon the book *The Lie: Evolution* by Ken Ham. At this same time I had been attending the AELC youth group at Minden/Marburg because our own congregation didn't have a youth group. At a youth event at Trinity Marburg we watched *Creatures that Defy Evolution*. It was these two events that convinced me of the truth of Creation and I knew that the Bible could be trusted.

Thirdly, due to a changing of pastors I had a later confirmation and was sixteen when I was confirmed. This meant that I was much more mature and understood a lot more when I went through confirmation. In addition to the previous two issues, I was also much more appreciative of confirmation. Confirmation turned me from a “Sunday Christian” into a faithful believer. Confirmation made me realise the importance of my faith and I had to take it more serious. At this time I also began to read my Bible starting at Genesis 1 all the way through.

All of this gave me a passion for the Lord and a desire to study and learn more. I became a lot more solid in my faith and views (which didn't go very well in a high school environment that was hostile to traditional conservative Christianity).

During grade 11 and 12 at high school I got the calling to enter the ministry. And at the start of 2012 I began steps to attend the LCA's Australian Lutheran College. This was postponed by my father's death and I took a gap year in between high school and seminary.

During my gap year I went to two LCA Christian Life Week (CLW) camps. These camps were a cultural and theological shock as they were very Liberal and Pentecostal. Having been raised in a traditional, conservative, confessional congregation I was naive enough to think the entire LCA was just like Zion Minden. Therefore I was shocked by what I experienced at CLW. I assumed that this was just because these were young untrained uneducated lay leaders. However, upon attending the seminary I soon began to realise that this was not the case. At the seminary I was confronted by this same liberal theology being taught by lecturers, doctors of theology, those entrusted to train future pastors. And this was not restricted to the seminary. Over the next further years I would soon learn how wide spread liberalism and Pentecostalism was in the LCA. Confessional Lutheranism had become nothing more than a minority within the LCA (only a few lecturers at the seminary could rightly be called Confessional). Even among the Confessionals in the LCA many of them had been corrupted by the rampant false doctrine of the LCA. Many who could be considered confessional at least tolerated evolution, use of female laity in speaking authoritative positions, contemporary worship and many other false doctrines and practices. Many who draw the line at women pastors have allowed women lay-readers, lay-distributors of communion etc.

It was this continued false doctrine that I often fought with at the seminary, until I refused to accept communion from a woman and had my vicarage cancelled. I was called to submit to the public teaching of the LCA and told that the LCA wouldn't ordain me unless I changed my position. This led to my decision to finally leave the seminary and the LCA and search for membership in a Confessional Lutheran church body, thus I joined the AELC.

This is the summarisation of my faith journey.

Additional information about myself that may be of importance to the congregations of the AELC: I am a farm boy from Coolana in the Minden Valley, however, I am more academic and book smart than hands-on. I am currently engaged to Suzannah Seidel, a solid Confessional Lutheran girl originally from Queensland, and we will be married in April 2017.

I feel very blessed to have become a member of the AELC, which I feel is like finding an oasis in the desert.

Welcome to all with us today! May God bless our worship of Him by His serving of us!

Pastor Peter Ziebell, Phone 46912276, or 0407583922.

Email him at paziebell@gmail.com

Weekly sermons and bulletins are available at www.aelc.org.au.

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

COMING SERVICES

5 April 6 th mid-week Lenten Service	9 April Palm Sunday	13 April Maundy Thursday
WEDNESDAY	SUNDAY	
7.30pm OAK Vespers	8.30am TMBA HC 8.30am OAK PR JZ 10.00am GRN PR JZ 10.30am AUB HC	7.30pm GRN HC
WEDNESDAY, 5 April		
READINGS: Isaiah 49:1-6; Matthew 27:33-44; Mark 15:20-32; Luke 23:26-38; John 19:16-24; Luke 23:39-43; John 19:25-27; Matthew 27:45-56; Mark 15:33-41; Luke 23:44-49; John 19:28-40; Matthew 27:57-61; Mark 14:42-47; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42; Matthew 27:62-66		
HYMNS: 53 338 73 48 v.3		
Sunday, 9 April		
READINGS: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philipians 2:5-11; John 12:12-19		
HYMNS: TMBA & AUB: 86 75 733 61 (69) 87 OAK & GRN: 87 292 166 164		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday, 5 April, 10.00am. Women's Guild at Oakey. *Opening Devotion:* Margaret Sippel. *Key Word:* Heaven. *Item of Interest:* Doily.

Friday, 7 April, 7.00pm. Family Evening at Aubigny. Pizza etc is provided for a gold coin donation (usually start eating around 7.20), followed by games and activities, a devotion and hymns. The evening finishes with supper about 9pm, please bring a plate. Contact Jane Sippel 0488722074 for more info.

Saturday, 8 April, 10.00am. CoC/Seminary Committee meeting at Troys Road. Please send agenda items to Ian Manz, Igm64@netspace.net.au