

MOUNTAINSIDE RUMBLINGS

Mountainside
Lutheran Church



October/November 2019
Volume 18, Issue 5

Giving Thanks For The Encouragers Among Us

Over the last few months I have been doing some visiting with people in their homes. As I have been with people, where we have been talking about many different things, something I have noticed is that there are many positive encouraging people among us here at Mountainside. This is something that I have come to appreciate as a real gift.

I would like to share with you a reading from Romans 8: 4-8, where it says:

“For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.”

I have spent some time pondering on the above scripture reading from Romans, which talks about different gifts that God gives us as the body of Christ, His church. One of the gifts that God gives people stands out to me and it comes from verse 8, which says: “if it is to encourage, then give encouragement...”

Who would have thought that something as simple as a word of encouragement is a gift given by the grace of God to his church! The more I thought about this the more I recognized the need for us to encourage one another, but also the need to receive encouragement from one another.

A conversation with someone, who speaks encouraging words has a way of breaking through barriers and building up and strengthening us on our walk of faith as Christians. And it stands out because too often, perhaps without even realizing it, we can become discouraged; we can focus on the negatives that we see; looking at the things that are not happening that should be.

I am amazed at how many times I have had conversations with people, who don't deny the reality of the negative things that happen, but that in the midst of things they speak words of encouragement, where I walk away feeling lighter and positive in my walk with God. Has this ever happened to you? This is a gift of grace that God gives us.

We have people at Mountainside, whom God has placed among us who are great encouragers; who are great at building people up; who help people see what God is doing among us.

I encourage you all to give thanks for these people and receive from them all that God wants to give you through them. But also to put the challenge out there to pray that God will help us to have the gift of encouragement so that we can be encouraging of others and bless them with his grace.

Blessings,
Pastor Nich



Announcing Mountainside's Annual Longest Lutheran Lunch

Join us in ...



The Great Lunchbox Give-away

On Sunday 10th November 2019 we will have the opportunity to bring a packed lunch, to be given to the Auckland City Mission [Luke 14:12]

We will with joy, and with thankful hearts give a tasty lunch to someone who needs it.

CHURCH WORKERS CONFERENCE 2019



Group Photo from Church Workers Conference, attended by Pastor William, Pastor Nich and Mary Jala, held in Wellington, September 2019.

TINY TOTS 2019

Who knows the Teddy Bear's Picnic song: "If you go down to the woods today, you're in for a big surprise... for that's the way the teddy bears have their picnic"?

*Well, if you go down to the church Thursdays,
You're in for a big surprise
If you go down to the church Thursdays,
You wouldn't believe your eyes.
For every child that ever there was
Is gathered there for certain because
That's the day the Tiny Tots have their playgroup.*

Actually, it's not quite 'every child that ever there was', but we do have a consistent little group of families attending with recently about 7 children each week. With consistent attendance, and consistent volunteers (plus casual volunteers), it feels like we are getting to know these precious families and can support them better.

We start off each session with around 20 mins of free play, where children discover new toys and learn valuable skills about playing together & sharing, and slowly gain confidence interacting with people other than Mum. Then we gather everyone on the mat to have a time of singing and music. We often sing many of the same songs, but it is a joy to see shy children learn the songs & the actions and begin to participate with enthusiasm. In the past 6 months we have also been more often including a brief story time, usually with a bible story or truth (told in simple toddler language of course). Many of the families attending do not have church connections, so sometimes this is all they hear about the Christian faith. Earlier this year after telling a simple version of the Easter story, one of the mothers thanked us saying "I've never heard that story before".

After our music time, we have morning tea together, during which Pastor Nich and Pastor William will often join us, and then a time of craft. We have been doing some fun topics about the alphabet, and watching the weather changing through the seasons, but yes, we also had a Teddy Bear's Picnic recently too!

Although Tiny Tots continues on, weekly during term time, without many of us in the church knowing much about what happens there, please pray for Tiny Tots and certainly pray for these special young families that God has brought here for us to serve.

Mary Jala and Julie Kitchen

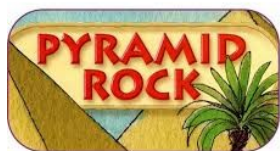


Above: Group photo of the Teddy Bears Picnic Day



Above: Story time with Roxanne

Mary's Corner

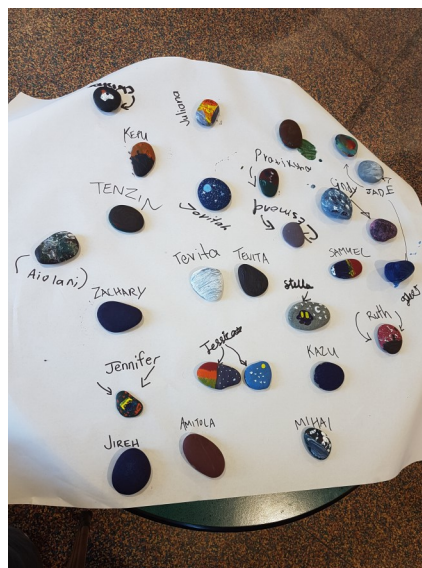


Holiday Bible Adventure 2019 -
Thank you to our volunteers, Participants &
Prayer Supporters!

thank
you!

Holiday Bible Adventure was held in the recent school holidays from October 8th concluding on October 10th 2019. We had a good turn out each day. The children rotated through singing, Bible stories, Memory verse, games, and crafts every day. Children learned how God used a young man (Joseph) to inspire us! A HUGE THANK YOU to all the wonderful volunteers who spent their week making HBA extra special. Thank you to all the children who participated in our program learning about God's word and the love he has for each one of us. We also recognize and thank the parents for getting your children to our program each day. A special thank you to all who supported this wonderful event through their prayers. I thank God for being with us. God Bless you all! *Mary Jala*

(Editors note—HBA photos to come in next month's edition of the Rumbings so watch this space!)



Above: Rock Painting by the kids at HBA 2019

TINY TOTS

Starting back this week after the school holiday! Again, just a reminder that the start time has been changed to 10am. Come along with your pre-schoolers and enjoy a morning of songs, snacks and play.

SUPAKIDZ

Please pray for SUPAKIDZ as we are going to restart this from Term-4, October 2019. If anyone is willing to help with SUPAKIDZ i.e. on every school Term, Fridays 3 - 5 pm we would be grateful. Please see Pastor William, or Mary Jala if you can assist.

WOMEN'S ONE DAY RETREAT:

Please pray for the upcoming WOMEN'S ONE DAY RETREAT we are going to have on Saturday 9th of November 2019. More information on this soon.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME:

Christmas isn't too far away and planning has begun! Parents, more information on this will come in the next few months.

AED (Automated External Defibrillator Unit Training)

Most of you will have heard that we've purchased an AED Unit for the church and this will soon be mounted in the foyer area for use if required. We've also been added to a database as a place that the St John Ambulance team can come to use the equipment. A huge thanks to Fredric Doss for organising Gareth to come and give our office team AED training in September, this very clever machine can do amazing things and we are fortunate to have it available to us (it may even help to save a life or two!). If you have any questions about how the AED works, please feel free to come and chat with one of our team. (Pictured below: Gareth, Jenna, Laura, Mary, Pastor William & Felix)



After-School Care Programme

SUPAKIDZ



3.15pm - 5.00 pm
EVERY FRIDAY,
During School Terms

Where: Mountainside Lutheran Church
1 Harris Rd, Mt. Wellington, Auckland 1051

Who: For Primary School Aged Kids

Cost: Gold coin donation

When: During School Terms (Every Friday)

Programmes and Activities:

**Singing, Games, Afternoon Tea, Bible Lessons,
Learning (life skills, values), Projects and Lots of fun!**

**Register
now!**

For more information and registration please Contact:

Pastor William Chang
Mob: 021 112 9929
williamchang.lcs@gmail.com

Mary J
(Family & Community Worker at Mountainside L Church)
familycw.mside.lutheran@gmail.com
09 579 4490

Mountainside
Lutheran Church

1 Harris Road, Mt. Wellington, Auckland 1051
Phone: 09 579 4490
Fax: 09 579 4490
Email: familycw.mside.lutheran@gmail.com

Women's One Day Retreat

When:
Saturday 9th November

Where:
Mountainside Lutheran
Church

Time:
TBC

**Ladies, come and join
us for a day of
fellowship and fun!**

**Any queries, please
contact Mary Jala
familycw.mside.lutheran
@gmail.com**

BirthDay greetings

'Happy Birthday' and Best Wishes to the following people celebrating birthdays in October:

Julie Routley (1st)	Sonya Tippett (3rd)
Malcolm Court (5th)	Hayden Morris (12th)
Tevita Masima (13th)	Kathy Kirtlan (16th)
Jovitah Mathews (16th)	Eva Lever (17th)
John Choo (17th)	Jacob Quax (28th)
Heyab Solomon (28th)	Christian Gerson (30th)
Jean Cuff (31st)	Ray Meharg (31st)
Kate Neal (31st)	Aiolani Fifita (31st)

'Happy Birthday' and Best Wishes to the following people celebrating birthdays in November:

Sue Samsom (1st)	Kevin Reeve (2nd)
Albert Vallès (7th)	Betty Robson (8th)
Pippa Girard de Soucanton (8th)	
Aase Hansen (9th)	Anneliese Lindstrom (17th)
Nick Hewett (17th)	Stuart Neal (19th)
Soren Geese (24th)	

Wedding Anniversary Congratulations to:

Arild and Aase Hansen	68 years on the 9th
Fredric and Mari Doss	20 years on the 12th
Keith and Ingrid Phyn	40 years on the 24th
Kevin and Kathy Kirtlan	28 years on the 30th

PRAYER POINTS

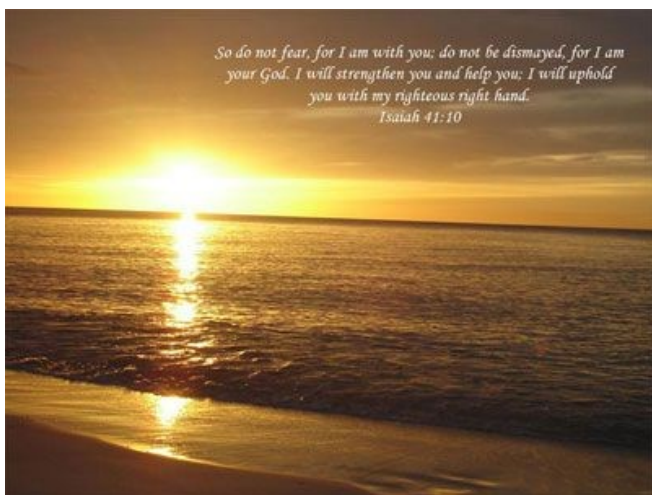
In your prayers this month, please pray for the following:



We pray ...

- ✚ For and also give thanks for all the team who helped to make HBA 2019 a success.
- ✚ For the children and families who attended HBA and will be attending the Supakidz afterschool programme.
- ✚ For the members of our Parish Council, Elders and all who serve our parish through our various ministries.
- ✚ For the churches & volunteers involved with the Mt Wellington Foodbank and all who work with those in need.
- ✚ For all who are sick or suffering at this time—may God give them strength and his healing comfort.
- ✚ For our small group ministry leaders and the participants as they continue to meet regularly to study God's word and grow in their faith.
- ✚ For the young people who are currently going through confirmation classes with Pastor Nich.
- ✚ For the upcoming Women's Retreat Day which will be held on site at Mountainside in November.
- ✚ For Auckland City Mission and those who are in need that will be receiving our packed lunchboxes in November.

*So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
Isaiah 41:10*



Deadline for articles for the December 2019/January 2020 issue of 'Mountainside Rumbblings' is **TUESDAY 26th November 2019.**

Don't forget that you have 3 options for receiving this newsletter—a printed copy available in the foyer of Mountainside Lutheran Church, we can post you a copy if you let us know your address, or we can email a copy in PDF format. Just contact the office and we will organise it for you. And please remember to let us know if your contact details change so we can alter our records accordingly.

Thanks very much.

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