

## St Peter's Lutheran Church Elizabeth

521 Main North Road, Elizabeth

*'A Christ Centred Community where God's Love is experienced and shared, so that all may know and worship Jesus'*

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

*Second Sunday after Christmas*

*Church Year C*

**Pastor Greg Bensted**



**10:00am Worship with Holy Communion**

### TODAY'S Readings

**Jeremiah 31: 7-14**

**Ephesians 1: 3-14**

**John 1:1-18**

### NOTES ON READINGS

**Jeremiah 31:7-14:** The long-suffering God of Israel had finally scattered his rebellious people into humiliating and despairing captivity under other nations. Now through the prophet Jeremiah, he promises to gather them together with himself once again in the land given to their ancestors. The inclusion of even the handicapped shows this work to be purely by the work of God. The joy of return rests on their repentant weeping being replaced by their shepherd's own consolations and abiding protection. They would be provided with plenty once more to serve the Lord in overflowing gladness. Christmas reminds us of our return to the Father through his own wonderful redemption.

**Ephesians 1:3-14:** Paul outlines in majestic words the sweep of God's plan from eternity at its beginning to its consummation in the future, the final, eternal redemption that God wills for his people. The work of the Trinity is cited in a) the planning of God made first in his predestination and election, b)



the cooperative redemption and adoption by which Jesus Christ has created us as God's blameless children, and c) the work of the Holy Spirit to seal these blessings to us through faith as empowered by the Holy Spirit. What glorious hope is ours through the counsel and will of our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

**John 1:1-18:** Jesus Christ is called here 'the Word' who existed and worked the words of God at creation. The light of truth and holiness exists perfectly only in God himself. John tells us that this light and truth came into the world in Jesus Christ. Those who receive him in faith become by his power God's children, born of God to receive from Christ's fullness grace which has no limit. This is the marvellous and mysterious miracle of Christmas.

**Volunteers NEEDED to use their gifts and talents on the following rosters:**

1. **Tea & Coffee**
2. **Flowers**
3. **Opp Shop 9am-11:30am**

**Friday &/or Saturday mornings**

**Please let Bev de Longville know by Sunday 5th January 2025 if you are available to help.**

**Thank you!**

**Devotion Books \$25**

*Please see Lisa Kuhlmann if you would like to purchase one.*



**Save the Date:**

**Preliminary Pastor Call Meeting**

**26<sup>th</sup> January with Pastor Steve Schultz after 10am service followed by Australia Day Luncheon**