



Trinity Grapevine

Cairns Lutheran Parish

Pastor: 0447 782 969 (Phone held by Pastor David Spanagel)

Trinity Lutheran Church

472 Severin Street, Manunda

Email: TrinityLutheran4870@outlook.com

Our Saviour Lutheran Church

Golflinks Road, Atherton

Email: oslc01@outlook.com

Parish Website: www.cairnslutheran.org.au

February 2026

Mission - Let your light shine for the Gospel.

Task - Keep spreading the Good News!



CC BY 2.0 Church of Transfiguration – Mosaic, Mount Tabor

Prayers

- For all those in Australia impacted by and recovering from natural disasters, both fires and floods.
- For those who mourn the loss of loved ones at this time of the year.
- For those who are unable to attend services and share in Christian fellowship with their congregations.
- For any who are sick, and especially Eddie, and all those caring and supporting them.
- For the congregations of Trinity, Our Saviour, Hope Vale, Wujal Wujal and Coen as they faithfully continue services to hear God's word and equip members to share the Lord's mission in Far North Queensland.

UPCOMING SERVICES

1st February – Trinity Lutheran Church, **9am**

8th February – Peace Lutheran College, **9am**

15th February - Trinity Lutheran Church, **9am**

18th February – Ash Wednesday Service,
Trinity Lutheran Church, **7pm**

22nd February - Peace Lutheran College,
9am

DATE CLAIMERS

9th February – Trinity Church Council Meeting,
5.30pm

15th February – Cairn Parish and Trinity
Lutheran Church AGMs, **following 9am**
service, at Trinity Lutheran church.

28th February – Trinity Lutheran Ladies
meeting. **9.30am** at the Church.

21st & 22nd March - Confirmation lessons,
contact Pastor David on 0419 023 114



Confirmation Plans

Pastor David is planning to hold Confirmation lessons during March of 2026 with a Confirmation Service planned for Palm Sunday, 29th March.

If you know anyone wishing to be confirmed please be in contact with Pastor David by text or phone on 0419 023 114.

Congregation and Parish News

Call for a Pastor

We have now heard back from Pastor Joona Toivanen and he has declined the call to our Parish.

The Call Committee will continue to progress this matter on our behalf and will advise any news related to this matter as it comes to hand.

Parish AGM

The Parish AGM is planned for February 15 and will occur ahead of the Trinity Congregation AGM. If you have any interest in serving on the Parish Council, please contact one of the members of the Parish Council for an informal discussion.

Trinity AGM

We are planning to hold the 2026 AGM on February 15, 2026.

We encourage members of the congregation to consider whether you would be interested in standing for a position on the Council. Michael Fraser has indicated that while he is happy to continue on the Council, he would appreciate if someone stepped up to take on the role of Vice Chairperson and/or Chairperson.

We have a long standing vacancy for the role of Property Manager and all other interest in serving is most welcome.

Please prayerfully consider providing support to the congregation. Anyone with interest in getting involved is encouraged to have an initial informal discussion with Michael Fraser or any other member of the church council.

We remain low on Ushers. If you can support even for a limited period, please see Andrew Schelberg.

A joyful service on 11th January.

On the 11th January the Trinity congregation was joined by Pastor Robert Hamann, a retired Pastor living in the Blue mountains in NSW.



Pastor Hamann and his wife Marie were on a cruise that came through Cairns. When he was advised that the cruise would be in port for Sunday 11th January, he reached out to Pastor David and asked whether he could be of service.

The weather conspired to make his presence with us less than certain, but his ship came into port on the afternoon of Saturday the 10th, much later than expected, and all went as planned.

Pastor Hamann sang the standard liturgy for us, which was a treat for all who were present.

We are most thankful for his offer of assistance.

Lent 2026 & Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday this year occurs on 18th February.

Pastor David has planned a service for us. The service on Ash Wednesday can include up to 6 readers. If you would like to participate, please contact Pastor David and he will supply a reading ahead of the service.

LENT 2026: A SEASON OF REFLECTION, PENANCE, AND RENEWAL

Lent is the season of the church year that follows the Epiphany Season. It is a time we set aside each year to remember the love of God that is poured out through Christ Jesus on the cross in His death; and His defeat of death, sin and Satan in Christ's death and resurrection that brings Eternal Life to you.

Lent is a sacred time in the Church to prepare our hearts for Easter. It is a season of prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and spiritual renewal, helping us reflect on Christ's sacrifice and to grow closer to God.

Key dates for 2026

Ash Wednesday: February 18, 2026 – First day of Lent.

Palm Sunday: March 29, 2026 – Celebrates Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and begins Holy Week.

Holy week

Maundy Thursday: April 2, 2026 – Commemorates the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist.

Good Friday: April 3, 2026 – Remember Christ's Passion and death on the cross.

Holy Saturday: April 4, 2026 – A day of waiting and prayer, preparing for the Resurrection.

Easter Sunday: April 5, 2026 – Celebrate Christ's Resurrection, the victory of life over death.

As we journey through this holy season, may our hearts be open to God's grace. Let this Lent be a time of true reflection, sincere repentance, and renewed love for Christ, so that we may celebrate Easter with joy, hope, and faith.

Message from Rev. Dr Mark Vainikka, Bishop, to all in the Queensland District

19 January 2026

A Pastoral Letter on Unity

Dear Fellow Servants,

During Christmas, many of us gathered with family and friends around the dinner table. These gatherings often included people we love deeply, and also those we love but struggle to like. We sat beside those whose personalities, opinions, or beliefs are different from ours. Sometimes, we felt the presence of unresolved tensions, unspoken words, or differences that do not resolve quickly.

And yet, we still sat at the table.

I have been thinking about this from my own early childhood. Before we migrated to Australia, although I was very young, I remember Christmases in Finland, especially the large family gatherings on Christmas Eve in Helsinki. Like for all Finns, Christmas Eve was the heart of our celebration. The table was full, and so were the differences around it. At other times of the year, I could sense tension among the adults, even as a child.

But at the Christmas dinner table, something was different.

We gathered to celebrate Christ's birth. My father would read Luke 2 before the meal. Earlier that day, the Christmas Peace was proclaimed in the city of Turku, a tradition dating back 700 years, declaring peace to the whole land. I did not fully understand it then, but I do now. Christ was at the centre of our gathering. He brought us together and held us close, even when we did not agree.

I believe this speaks directly to the season our Church is living through now.

The General Synod's decision to remove the prohibition on the ordination of women has brought both joy and anxiety. Some have felt deep happiness and gratitude. Others have felt grief, unease, and a real sense of loss. Many people feel both thankful and concerned at the same time. These feelings show that this is important and that something has changed for us as a Church. For people on all sides, these responses arise from a sincere desire to remain faithful to Scripture and to act with integrity of conscience before God.

For some women, this decision speaks directly to their sense of calling, which they have carried with prayer for many years. In many of our congregations, these women are people we know well, sisters we have worshipped with, learned from, and shared Christian community with for much of our lives. This is where the General Synod's decision takes on a human face. These women are not a distant group or an abstract issue. They are 'us,' not 'them.' It is right that we recognise how deeply personal this is, even as others may feel uncertain or grieve right now.

We need to name that honestly.

We also need to be careful about what we expect from ourselves. If we think unity means everyone must agree, we put a burden on ourselves that only Christ can carry. Agreement may come with time, or it may not. But unity is not something we create by matching our opinions. It is a gift from Christ, given before our differences are settled, *and it lasts even when those differences remain.*

Here, I have found the words of theologian Andrew McGowan helpful. He reminds us that brokenness is not our failure; denial is. Our differences are not always meant to be ignored or quickly

overcome, but they can be redeemed. Redemption begins when we face what is broken together before God, rather than denying it or turning it into a weapon.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer also spoke clearly about this. He said that the unity of the Church is not just an ideal we strive for, but a reality grounded in Christ himself. He described the Church as 'Christ existing as community.' Our life together depends not on how well we manage each other, but on Christ's living presence among us.

Bonhoeffer also said, quite profoundly and radically, that Christ is the mediator in all human relationships. Christ stands between me and others. This means I do not meet my sister or brother based on my own expectations, fears, or need to be right. I meet them through Christ. Christ frees me from trying to control or change others to fit my own ideas. He claims each of us first, and because of this, we can stay in relationship even when it is hard and where opinions differ.

This is why the image of Christ's wounds is so important. Bonhoeffer reminds us that the risen Christ still carries the marks of suffering. Resurrection does not erase the wounds, it changes them. These wounds are not signs of failure, but of love. In the same way, the Church does not need to pretend it is unhurt to be faithful. When we name our wounds honestly, without denial or bitterness, they can become places where grace is at work.

We are now in a new season, and seasons take time to settle into. Over the Christmas – New Year period, I have been reading the Austrian poet, Rainer Maria Rilke and his *Letters to a Young Poet*. Rilke wrote to a young man who was impatient for answers. Rilke invited him not to demand answers too quickly but to 'live the questions,' suggesting that some questions are so important that they can only be answered by being lived over time, and that, gradually and often without noticing it, we may grow into the answers.

That wisdom is quite fitting for us now. As a Church, we are not living with settled answers. We are living with questions about faithfulness, conscience, unity, and how we move forward together in this new situation. This does not mean we are lost. It means we are trusting Christ as we go through this time.

As we move forward, I encourage us as a Church to take our time. No one wants to remain uncertain for long, and it is natural to seek answers. Yet it may be that God is inviting us not to rush, but to pay attention to what God is doing during this time of waiting.

I was recently reminded of an image that has stayed with me. The darkness of the womb and the darkness of the tomb are, in a deep way, the same. Both are places where something ends, and both are places where something new begins. We have experienced loss in this season, and God does not ask us to move on too quickly. For some, this season also carries the fear of losing a spiritual home that has shaped faith and a sense of belonging over many years. But that same darkness is also where resurrection life is being prepared, beyond our control and in God's time. Luther would remind us that God's hiddenness is not his absence and that God is often most present where he seems least obvious, even amid our disagreements, rifts and struggles.

In this season, it matters how we talk about each other, how we listen, and how we stay together. It is important to be gentle with one another and with ourselves, because the Lord is gentle with us. Christ does not push us forward harshly or impatiently. He walks with us at a pace set by his grace.

I also want to say this clearly. Our sisters and brothers who now worship in Lutheran Mission – Australia congregations are still our beloved sisters and brothers in Christ. We are united by one baptism and confess the same Lord. We may disagree about how Scripture applies to ordination, but

that disagreement does not undo baptism or break the bonds Christ has made. The unity he grants us as a gift remains.

But there may be even more to consider. God, in his mercy, gives us sisters and brothers not only to support us but also to keep us grounded. Sometimes, God brings people with different perspectives to help us notice our own blind spots, remind us to stay humble, and encourage us to pray. I pray that, with the Holy Spirit's guidance, Lutheran Mission - Australia can be this kind of voice for us, and we for them, as we continue our journey together as Lutheran Christians in Australia and New Zealand.

As we learn again how to sing the Lord's song in a strange land (Psalm 137:4), I pray that we will have the humility to admit we do not have all the answers yet and the courage to trust that Christ, who has brought us this far, will also bring to life what he has promised.

Your Fellow Servant

Bishop Mark

Around the region

As usual, Pastor David has been very busy in the service of many across the far North. During January he conducted services and multiple funerals in Hope Vale and Coen as well as tending to those of us in the Cairns Parish.

Home visits

We are very thankful for the efforts of our Locum Pastor, David Spanagel, including his efforts to visit those experiencing challenges across the congregation.

Michael Fraser will take on a role of scheduling visits that are requested, so please contact Michael on TrinityLutheran4870@outlook.com should you wish to be included in the list of those to receive a visit.

If you receive a call from someone wanting to schedule a visit, know that it is the result of our efforts to reach out to members of the congregation, especially those experiencing some challenges.

Ladies Group

The ladies group met again in January and enjoyed morning tea and a presentation from Elaine Krenske on her role with the District Church Board and the work of the DCB generally.

A big thank you to Elaine for her time and preparation.

During the meeting we called for those interested in doing some detailed planning work an event or events later in the year. Ideas will be considered during the February meeting.

Just a reminder of our support of the Hope Vale Thrift Shop ministry. You will see a box for the donation of quality second hand items as you

DONATIONS SOUGHT - HOPE VALE THRIFT SHOP

Currently needed

- Towels, Linen, Tablecloths
- Curtains in good condition
- Coffee Mugs
- Bowls and dinner plates
- Plastic containers
- Pots and pans, esp. Stock pots
- Plastic tubs
- Appliances in working order

Please contact Pastor David if you wish to donate

- Furniture
- Larger appliances

No donations at this time please

- Cutlery


The following items are not supplied through the Thrift Shop
Clothing, Cups and saucers, Glass ware, Toys
NO DONATIONS OF THESE ITEMS PLEASE

Trinity Lutheran Church, 472 Severin Street, Manunda, QLD 4870

enter the church. Please think about how you might support the work of David and Pam Spanagel. An indication of the things sought as donations is shown.

Our next get together, will be at 9.30am at the Church on Saturday 28th February. All welcome.

ROSTER - February

Please arrange a swap if you cannot help on your allocated day.

	February 1st Trinity 09:00am	February 8th Peace 09:00am HC	February 15th Trinity 09:00am	February 18th Trinity 7.00pm HC	February 22nd Peace 09:00am HC
Pastor / Lay Reader	Michelle Brayshaw	Pastor Adam	Peter Schmidt	Pastor David	Pastor Adam
Lesson Reader	Rod Krenske		Maria Bitmanis	Volunteers req.	
Ushers	Rod & Elaine K		Bernie & Marianne W		
Powerpoint	Elaine Krenske		Michael Fraser		
Lead Musician	Julie		Julie	Sharon	
Church Cleaning	Jenny Cook		Jo-Anne Scarini		
Mowing			M. Henseleit / M. Fraser		

Ways of Giving

1. Offering plate during service
2. Regular Electronic Giving (REG) with LLL – visit the [LCA website](#) or complete the forms available on the front table at Church
3. [Home | LCA Donations & Payments](#) To donate, click on Parishes & congregations.
4. Deposits into the Trinity's NAB Account –
 - o National Australia Bank. BSB 084472 A/C 508664430

Containers for Change



You can support the Church when recycling your containers. The following code allows funds to be allocated to Trinity Lutheran Church.

Alternatively, you can drop off your containers in the bins held in the Vestry.
Containers for Change Code: **C10162743**

Live Streaming at Trinity

You can find live streams at the following address:

<https://www.youtube.com/@cairnslutheranlivestreams>

Alternative ways to attend Sunday Services

Listen to a service

- **Radio - 89.1 FM** Sundays at 9:00am a service recorded by Pastor Greg is broadcast. Access this at the same time on *Cairns FM 89.1 or 92.3FM* on your devices.

There are a range of view at home options.

You can utilise the [Lutheran Church of Australia online worship](#) option that meets your needs.

Alternatively, you can navigate directly to the following online options, which can be utilised live or during the week:

- [Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Toowoomba Queensland](#) Streamed live at 9am Queensland time every Sunday.
- [Nazareth Lutheran Church](#), South Brisbane Streamed live at 8.30am Queensland time every Sunday.

Pastoral Assistants - David Spanagel (Locum Pastor), Raelene Ricketts, Martin Klink, Michael Fraser, Phoebe Weier.

Trinity Council: Chairperson - Michael Fraser, Secretary - Jo-Anne Scarini, Treasurer - Andrew Schelberg, Member - Rod Krenske, Member - Mark Henseleit, Property Manager - Vacant.

Our Saviour Council: Chairperson - Lynalee Strickland, Vice Chairperson - Roger Strickland, Secretary - Kathy Tidmarsh, Treasurer - April Strickland.

Parish Council: Chairperson - Roger Strickland, Secretary – Rod Krenske, Treasurer – Jo-Anne Scarini

Key Holders - Please be advised that the following people hold keys to Trinity Lutheran Church, should access to the building be required for example to carry out cleaning: Michael Fraser, Rod Krenske, Grace Pullar, Jo-Anne Scarini, Andrew Schelberg, and Bernie Weidner.