

# Christian Community Care Sunday

## 25 September 2005



**LUTHERAN COMMUNITY CARE**

*'Sharing the love of Christ - building caring communities'*

# Christian Community Care Sunday

Christian Community Care Sunday can be celebrated each year to recognise and acknowledge the many wonderful people within our congregations who have given practical support to those in need within our communities.

To support your worship time on Christian Community Care Sunday, we have included resources which we hope will be of some help to your service:

- Prayers written by the staff of Lutheran Community Care
- Litany
- Short plays

The drama "Caring made easy" is from the website:

<http://www.healthcaresunday.org.uk/index.html>

We have made some slight changes to this.

You may wish to support Lutheran Community Care on this day by holding a retiring offering and/or by distributing donation envelopes. Donation envelopes need to be ordered through Daniel Perkins on 08 8269 9300.

- Guest Speaker – Lutheran Community Care can supply a guest speaker for a presentation on the work Lutheran Community Care is doing with people suffering from poverty, homelessness, family dysfunction and also the community development and education that are being undertaken. Contact Danny Perkins on 8269 9300 if you would like a guest speaker for Community Care Sunday. Speaker numbers are limited.
- If you cannot celebrate Christian Community Care Sunday on the last Sunday in September, it may work on some other day.

May God bless your Christian Community Care Sunday and all those who have given of themselves to help a person in need. And may these resources give you some assistance in celebrating the work that is being done in your community as well as the work that we are able to do.

**Colleen Fitzpatrick**  
Director

## **Prayers from the staff and volunteers at LCC**

Loving Father,

We thank You for the opportunity to serve in so many ways and praise You for our **Counselling Program**. We acknowledge Your Holy Spirit as the Wonderful Counsellor and Comforter as we seek truth and righteousness. Out of Your abundance of love and grace to our Christian counsellors and all people with whom we have the privilege to meet, may Your spirit draw us to a place of repentance so that you might lift up all who call upon You to a place of amazing blessing of love, joy and peace - freedom within – as we discover or affirm our identity in Christ, In whose Name we pray.

**L Lord in your mercy**

**C Hear our prayer**

Lord God

We pray for wisdom to know where to give care and the courage to embrace new areas and people or groups

We pray for better relations with welfare agencies and government departments, and with churches and other voluntary groups that work hard in meeting community needs

**L Lord in your mercy**

**C Hear our prayer**

Praise the Lord for Afghans!

These refugees open up unknown worlds to us in our comfortable Australian cocoons.

They keep silent about their pain until it turns into depression, sleeplessness, death.

But when we start to share their pain, (the tiny amount we can know),

Our hearts are torn and tortured, ripped open until Your love, Dear Lord, can enter.

Thank you Lord for taking us to the extreme where the only answer for the Afghans, and for us, is You.

**L Lord in your mercy**

**C Hear our prayer**

We give thanks for the generosity of people that consider the needs of those in our community that struggle, particularly during the colder months. To be able to give a larger than usual food parcel through the Emergency Relief program allows for those winter chills to be under control a little easier. Winter seems to be a time for children and adults alike to consume more food for that warm feeling. We believe God smiles on those with a heart for giving to those less fortunate.

**L Lord in your mercy**

**C Hear our prayer**

Heavenly Father,

Giver of life, love and good things.

Thankyou for blessing us with many good things, especially your life, your love, and your companionship.

Please continue to guide us according to your will and give us your wisdom to walk with those in need and to share with them your message of hope and freedom through our words and actions.

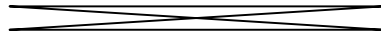
Please be with the staff and volunteers of LCC and continue to encourage them to continue to help people in need of many basic human requirements such as food, clothing, and companionship.

**L Lord in your mercy**

**C Hear our prayer**

Lord, we are brought to tears when we see the faces of people who have been turned away from so many and are challenged by so much in their lives. Lord, just when they thought all was lost, You provide them with an entire army of loving Christians who reach out in your name and provide them with food or shelter, protection, comfort or simply a friendly smile and a nod to acknowledge them as valuable human beings. Lord, how can we express our thanks to those who hear your call and respond in love? Father, thank you for sending your servant out to care and respond to the needs of others, no matter how hard that task is.

**Amen**



## Litany

- P** For the times we have failed to give a helping hand to serve those in need
- C** **Forgive us, O Lord**  
*(Silence for reflection)*
- P** For the times we have walked away from situations that have called us to serve,
- C** **Forgive us, O Lord**  
*(Silence for reflection)*
- P** For all the times we are more concerned about ourselves than others, for hearts that are selfish, for eyes that see only our own personal needs,
- C** **Forgive us, O Lord, and by your Holy Spirit, strengthen us for energetic service in your Kingdom**  
*(Silence for reflection)*
- P** God hears our Confession, understands our weaknesses and for the sake of His only Son, Jesus Christ, does forgive us. Through the Holy Spirit, He empowers us to live anew as His people, serving Him and each other as sons and daughters of the living God.
- C** **Amen.**

## Other materials (from Church Rites and Resources)

### *General*

We give you thanks, heavenly Father that you bless all people and provide for them. As you blessed Adam and Eve when you created them, bless people who care for others in their work. Give them health and strength for their work, protection from all accidents. Please bless them in what they undertake, so that they may receive your good gifts and use them for the benefit of our whole community. Give them joy in their work, and let them rejoice with you in what you have created and given for our enjoyment; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### *Health care*

Merciful God, you are the giver of life and the source of all health. We thank you for the staff at our local hospital/health-care centre: the nurses, doctors, and other specialists who serve our community by caring for those in need of healing. Give them strength and patience, gentleness and compassion, and guide them in providing the right course of treatment for those who are sick. Continue to bless their work with your healing hands; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Prayer

**P** Lord of all people, hear our prayer. You call us today to give up all that we are and have because there are multitudes that need help. Give us each a heart of concern that is aware of the world's tremendous need for Christian faith in action. Lord, fill us with love.

**C** **EMPOWER US TO GO. HELP US TO CARE**

**P** Lord of all times and seasons, hear our prayer. You call us today because we do not know the hour of your return, nor do we know the hour in which you will call us from this world. Give us each an eager heart that is keenly aware of the shortness of time and the urgency of caring witness. Lord, fill us with love.

**C** **EMPOWER US TO GO. HELP US TO CARE**

**P** Lord of the church, hear our prayer. You feed us with your Word and Sacrament and you equip us for every caring work you want us to do. Your call to us is clear. We heard it in the Gospel. Give us each a fertile heart in which this seed may grow and bear fruit. Lord, fill us with love.

**C** **EMPOWER US TO GO, HELP US TO CARE**

**P** Lord of all plans and purposes, hear our prayer. The task you lay before us is clear. You gave up everything for us. Now you want us to give up everything for you. Your Spirit will work through us. We need not fear our weaknesses. Give us each a heart that doesn't wait, but boldly steps out in caring ministry. Lord fill us with love.

**C** **EMPOWER US TO GO. HELP US TO CARE**

**P** Lord of all who have needs, we pray for those among us with special needs (Specific local petitions may be included here)

**P** We remember Lord, that you call us to care not only for our Church community, but also for the wider community. For this joyful service as your disciples, Lord fill us with love.

**C** **EMPOWER US TO GO. HELP US TO CARE**

# DRAMA

## *Caring made easy*

### (SETTING THE SCENE)

A piece of music can be playing at the same time as the mother and other helpers are speaking.

It is up to the individual how they wish to act this out, either using 8 people, or using just the news reader and the mother, with the mother talking about those who support her.

### NEWS REPORTER:

To-day at our local Court House, Judge Norman Kettle passed sentence on Mr John Moore for the hit and run on 23rd November 2002 which left a twenty one year old man with sever head injuries which has resulted in him needed twenty four hour care, and he will never walk again. Judge Kettle sentenced the accused to seven years imprisonment.

In his closing remarks he told Mr Moore that he hoped that his time in prison would be used as a learning curve for the reckless way in which he had behaved. He also reminded him that the victim of his recklessness was also serving a sentence, but the sentence was not one that he could look forward to a release date, but rather a life sentence.

Mother on stage with a (wheelchair), you can use other items to show that there is someone who needs full time care.

### MOTHER:

Hello this is Robert, he is my only son. I also have two daughters Cathy and Kerry. I sit here most night with Robert I read to him books that he enjoyed as a child and letters from friends. At first all his friends would call and sit and talk to him, but they don't come as often now well apart from his friend Gary. There has been so many that have made the burden of caring easier, the burden is much lighter when you have others to help you carry it.

### GARY:

Robert and I went to school together, we meet when we were five years old. We have always been there for each other, no matter what. The day of the hit and run we were about to go out bowling; he had gone to the bank to get some money, I watched him cross the road and then suddenly there was the car. I come to visit because I want to.

Dr McCord:

I come to visit once a week, I have been the Doctor to this family now for ten years. My visit is to make sure Robert is getting the best care but not only Robert but also the rest of the family.

**NURSE:**

Hi my name is Jenny and I call on a daily basis, if not me one of the other nurses on the team, we call in the morning to get Robert up out of bed washed and dressed and then we return in the evening and put him back to bed. I often wonder how families can cope with situation, but when I look at Robert's family, they cope so well; never complaining or casting blame.

**VOLUNTEER:**

I visit the home of Robert and his family, twice a week I have been coming now for ten months. My role is to help in any way the family have a need that may be that they wish to go out shopping, so I sit with Robert. Or that they may need help with house work that has got behind, and then sometimes I just sit and read to Robert.

**PASTOR:**

As the pastor of the Reid family, I call as often as I can to encourage them at this time. Some times to pray and sometimes just to listen to how they feel. Robert had so much to give and we in turned lost so much on that terrible day. But as I look at Robert and his family I see just how much richer they as a family have become from this terrible accident.

**MOTHER:**

I don't know what I would do without all the support that I have, it makes every day a little bit easier when you know that there are those around you with arms to hold you up.

**On the other side of the church sits a man who has become more and more burdened as the stories unfold: (he places paper chains on himself as the story unfolds earlier, sitting bowed and depressed). Formerly in a shadow so to speak, he now becomes the centre of attention.**

**MR MOORE**

I am guilty. It was my fault that Robert was injured. **(add another chain, appearing to be weighed down more and more as the story unfolds)** I have to live with that every day of my life **(add another chain)**. Since being here in



prison, however, I have learned the meaning of real freedom. At first I just felt worse and worse as the implications of what I had done became more and more real. **(Loading the chains on himself still)**

However, I have learned in my time here that this burden is too much for me to carry alone. **(He picks up a cross from the floor near him.) (Taking the chains from off his body – he places them on the cross).** I have learnt that I do not have to carry this burden – I can lay it all on the cross. Jesus will carry the burden for me. I can be free from this guilt. Pastor has shared the Gospel with me and those other visitors have prayed for me and cared for me and now I know that God's word is my comfort and Jesus has set me free.

I now want to share this with other inmates who are here in prison. This good news is too precious to be hidden away. I thank God for those who cared enough to pray for me and to visit me here in my burden. I pray God will use me to care and spread his freeing word. **(He now stands up strong and bold)**

#### **NEWSREADER:**

Out of tragedy there can be many positive things, knowing that people care. Often, it is only when there is a need that people who you never would have thought care, come to your aid. Caring is something that we all can have a part in. When the man who was paralytic came to Jesus it was his four friends who carried him and lowered him down to the feet of Jesus. He knew if he could get to see Jesus he would be healed, but he needed others to carry him.

What is your part in caring today, who's life can you touch and make it richer because you care. And above all, we need to remember that because Christ came to die for us, all of our sins can be forgiven - no matter how large we may think they are.

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#### **PRAYER**

Dear Lord Jesus  
Show us how to live for you today  
Help us to be your hands and feet  
Lord this isn't just another day  
This is the day that you have made  
It's a day that you have prepared for  
us  
Lord Jesus this is your day

care  
Lord we pray that your love  
And your compassion  
Will be seen in our lives  
Lord Jesus not our will  
But yours be done  
Through our lives today  
***Ann Silvester***

Grant us strength  
And grace to live for you  
Enable us to show others that we

## **DRAMA**

### ***Why me Lord?***

*(person speaks)*

Why me Lord?

It costs, it hurts to really care

It takes my time, my finances and my strength

Why me Lord?

Why do I have to care for others

Stop what I want to do, to lend them a hand

Care enough to take time out to pray

Life is so busy and getting busier

Why me Lord?

Time is too short already

There is always so much more to be done

So many voices, needs, urgent demands

The pressures increase each day

Lord why me?

*(Jesus speaks)*

You are my child

You must care because I care

I gave everything for you

For those I want you to care for

I cared so much I died on the cross for you

I paid the price for your sins with my own blood

I died in your place

You care because I care

*(person speaks)*

Lord, Why not me?

Here am I Lord, send me!

***Ann Silvester***