

## This Sunday at Riverside

Today there will be an opportunity for people to share their personal testimony. This is where we share what the Lord is doing in our lives so that others can be encouraged or be able to stand with you in prayer.

Immerse will also be on at 4:30pm, including some Carols in the Street.

## Next Sunday at Riverside

Next week Josh will be sharing again around the subject of rest. This time he will be looking at 'financial rest' which could be pertinent as we head to Christmas. Please look at Deuteronomy 5:12 in preparation.

## This Week at Riverside

Tuesday	10th Dec	Bubbles	9:30am - 11:30am
		Café and Play Café	11:30am - 2pm
Wednesday	11th Dec	Bubbles	9:30am - 11:30am
		Café and Play Café	11:30am - 2pm
Thursday	12th Dec	Café and Play Café	9am - 2pm
		Prayer Meeting	6:45pm
Friday	13th Dec	Café and Play Café	9am - 2pm
Saturday	14th Dec	Brekky Club	8am - 10am
Sunday	15th Dec	Worship Service	9:45am - 11:15am
		Splash	11:45am - 12:30pm
		Carols on the Riverside	6:30pm

## SHOUT Youth Holiday Program

Our Shout Youth team are running some programs for the January School holidays. If you have a young person in years 7-12 for 2025, they are welcome to come along. Shout Youth is a safe place where all young people are treated and cared for equally while having fun and sharing our faith and our love for God and the difference He is making in our lives and community.

Tuesday 7th January - Wheels Day @ Clonlea Park + BBQ - 11am-2pm

Friday 10th January - Polymer Clay - 1pm-3pm

Friday 17th January - Pool Day @ Gawler Pool - 11am-3pm

Tuesday 21st January - Games Day - 11am-2pm

Friday 24th January - Band JAM - 10am-12pm - Movie and Popcorn - 1pm-3pm

To RSVP or for more information, contact Kim on 0452 201 271.



Don't forget to like us on Facebook. 'The Salvation Army Riverside Gawler'

Website: [www.riversidesalvos.org.au](http://www.riversidesalvos.org.au)



**HUMILITY : AUTHENTICITY : SERVANTHOOD : EXCELLENCE : JOYFULNESS**

December 8th

2024



**RIVERSIDE**  
GAWLER

## Who is in the centre of Your Christmas Story?

The Christmas story, as told in the Gospel of Luke, focuses on two couples preparing to have a baby. Two! I hear you cry, we know about Mary and Joseph, who are the other couple. Well, their names are Zechariah and Elizabeth and they are the expectant parents of John the Baptist.

Luke writes in the first chapter of his book, that Zechariah had been told by an angel that his little son was born to get the people of Israel ready to meet Jesus. And according to the angel readiness looked like three things;

- ◆ Turning the hearts of the people back to God
- ◆ Opening their hearts to each other
- ◆ Seeking wisdom to live God's way

I'm aware that a lot of effort goes into preparing for Christmas, putting up trees and decorations, buying and preparing food, purchasing and wrapping presents and managing stressful family dynamics. At times it is overwhelming and stress and tiredness dominate our preparations and before we know it one of two things happens:

- ◆ We become the center of the Christmas story with our complaints, exhaustion, stress and grumpiness.
- ◆ Someone else becomes the center of the Christmas story as we get critical, resentful and judgmental.

Maybe this Christmas season we need to deliberately take the posture of John. He was not the center of the Christmas story himself, but he prepared the way for others to engage with the one who was. Maybe this Christmas we can help others stop, rest and seek a greater and deeper significance to our celebrations. Maybe this Christmas we can be the ones intentionally helping people to open their hearts to each other. Maybe this Christmas we can seek the wisdom to live the way God wants and so bless others with lives of patience, compassion, grace and mercy.

Maybe this Christmas we can agree that we are not the center of the Christmas story,

**Jesus is**



## Christmas Cheer Volunteers

As usual we are looking for volunteers to help with our Christmas Cheer effort this year. The Hamper Packing and set up will be on the 18th of December and the Distribution will be on the 19th and 20th. Please fill in the sign up sheet on the foyer table if you are happy to help.

## Christmas Lunch Volunteers

Johnathon and Erin have generously offered to supervise the Christmas Day Lunch. We are now looking for volunteers to help with set up and serving on the day. Please leave your details on the sign up sheet in the foyer. Blessings.

## Mercy Call Answered

I love it when needs are met by people responding to the prompts of the Holy Spirit. After reading the mercy call in last week's newsletter a couple at Riverside both felt prompted to give the car they were planning to sell, to the lady we had highlighted was in need. This has bought joy, relief and a resurgence of faith into her life. Thank you

*Carols on the Riverside*  
*Come and sing your heart out!*

**With Gawler  
Town Band &  
Carmel Gospel  
Choir**

**Sunday 15th  
December 6:30pm**

*Bring rugs and folding chairs  
(hot weather option  
inside church)*

 **RIVERSIDE**  
GAWLER

17 Edith Street, Gawler East

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# Touch Point

Sermon by  
Darren Dwyer  
Available on App and  
Website



**Read Luke 1:46-49, Luke 1 68-70, Luke 2:17-18, Luke 2:30-32, Luke 2:38 38**

- Q1. The above verses record the responses of people impacted by the Christmas Story. Have a look at identify the common themes.
- Q2. What is the most wonderful news you have received and how did you respond?
- Q3. Why is the birth of Jesus such good news for you? Share your answers with each other. Don't leave anyone out.
- Q4. Have you ever shared, what you shared in question 3 with anyone else outside of church? Why or why not?
- Q5. Those who encountered the news that God's son had come to earth couldn't keep it to themselves. Make yourself accountable to those in your Life Group that you are going to share your experience of Jesus with one person before Christmas. Pray that the Holy Spirit will give you the perfect opportunity to share this good news. Next time you meet as a group review how everyone has done. Then do it all over again.



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