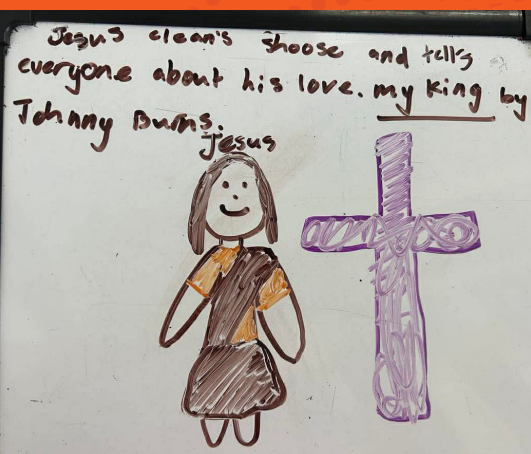


Piper Prayer Page

with David & Joanne Piper • May 2026 (no. 76)



'The Gathering' grows!

Last year we asked you to pray about the evening congregation we had planned to launch on 26 October. We wrote: *We don't have a huge launch team, but we believe it ('The Gathering') will connect with a wider range of people than our morning meeting can. Please pray that we start well, and that we keep a culture of being welcoming and accessible to unchurched people.*

Prayers have been answered – it has started well! We're regularly getting over 30 people, so it has almost doubled the number of people at church each week!

While most people coming are churched, we're working on a culture of being easily accessible for unchurched people. There is a good welcoming vibe, which is exciting! Having a weekly kids' program and dinner afterwards certainly helps.

Give thanks and please pray that our evening service is a place that people are comfortable to invite unchurched people to.

Schools outreach

Joanne organised an Easter education school assembly which saw an inter-church team of 15 (Anglican, Baptist, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Uniting) go into two state schools for an all-school assembly. We were able to reach all students as it was done in line with the HASS [humanities] curriculum rather than as a Religious Instruction activity. We had young people involved from the State High School (Years 11 and 12), who

have half days on Monday. We contacted them through our boys, who attend lunchtime Bible Study with them. The team did an amazing job, sharing the Gospel with joy, confidence, and squish mallows! It was a real joy to work with brothers and sisters from so many different churches. All with one clear purpose and one clear message.

Afterwards, a Christian staff member sent this feedback: *Thank you for coming today and for being bold to share the Gospel. Thank you for ministering to my heart as well... to sing about our servant king and see the pictures of him washing the disciples feet and the empty tomb were so encouraging.*

Please pray for a little girl who wrote a note pictured at left. She didn't want to come to the assembly. Pray that she remembers and stores up these treasures in her heart.

Give thanks and pray also for Religious Instruction in our parish. It has now extended to Comet which is a village halfway to Blackwater.

Banner Image: St Luke's Emerald

Circle Image: The Pipers

Middle Image: Dinner after The Gathering

Bottom Image: Easter Assembly student response

Continued from previous page...

Easter

Easter was full of activity: a Passover-style dinner, an entry in the Easter Saturday float parade (pictured at right), plus the baptism of four adults and two children in a pool, followed by lunch together. Two of the baptised adults are people who just turned up at church in the last year and have been growing in faith.

One of them, 'A' was just walking past our church with her kids one day last year, and her son wanted to go inside. So, she came the next Sunday. We kept in contact and she linked up with another young mum at church to read the Bible. When a ladies Bible study started, she joined that also. Her husband (a miner) has started coming when his shifts allow it. So, 'A' went from wanting her children baptised to wanting to be baptised herself! It has been very encouraging.

Please pray that those baptised continue in the faith. Pray for their protection and growth.

Sundays and people

The events of Easter were great, but in general David is trying to focus not on events, but on growing people through pastoral care and making Sunday services work well. **Please pray**

that he has the discipline to do less himself and invest in discipling and training people.

We had a really enjoyable church picnic recently where people from both the morning and evening congregations mixed well. **Praise God for the generous, faithful people of St Luke's Emerald.**

Family

We give great thanks that we are all feeling more settled in Emerald this year. We are certainly feeling connected and a steady flow of people through our house in the autumn school holidays was evidence of that. It is 'living the dream' to see kids coming around to our place to play sport on the church lawn, and walk alongside people sharing life and burdens.

Please pray that we will be organised and have sufficient energy in a very full life!

We will take some leave around the Field Staff Conference. Please pray for stability while we are away.



Easter parade float



Easter Sunday baptism service

Love from,

David, Joanne, Daniel, Luke & Matthew

Pray for

our work in
Emerald/Blackwater

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