



*Welcome to Elanora  
Uniting Church*

Joy and happiness are often considered synonymous. In this regard it could be said that to have great joy is to be super happy. However, God's version of joy goes far beyond happiness. Consider for a moment how happy we are at Christmas time when we open a present that we have really wanted. There is a moment of happiness and satisfaction when we peel back the wrapping paper and there is that longed for gift. Give it two months and that same happiness generated by the Christmas gift tends to diminish. Why? Happiness is temporary and conditional. Whether it is a material gift or human relationship it is easy to be happy when the thing or the person is meeting our wants and needs. What happens when they don't make us happy?

Joy is essential to God's very nature. God can't help himself but be joyful. There are plenty of expressions in Scripture that speak of God rejoicing. The flourishing of a life lived deeply in God's life is exemplified through what is referred to as the "fruit of the Spirit". Joy is one of the hallmarks of this way of living.

The Angels came to the Shepherds on the night when Jesus was born and declared that they were bringing good news of great joy (Lk. 2:10). The great joy surrounding the birth of Jesus is found in the Angels heralding that this baby, who was born in the city of David is the saviour, Christ the Lord. Why should this generate great joy?

It is through Christ the Lord that all humanity is drawn into God's life. Therefore, in relationship with God we live beyond the temporary desires, emotions and thoughts of this world. The conditional nature of happiness is a vastly inferior version of the joy that comes from the unconditional and constant embrace of God. Eternal joy is God's to share with all people. It is one of the greatest gifts any person can receive this Christmas.

Blessings Rev Nigel Rogers

# *A Christmas Wish*

*Sunday Dec 16*

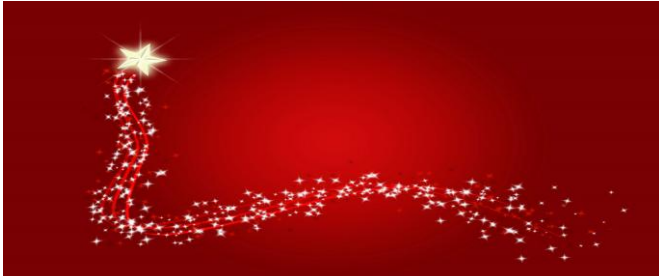
*we wish you Hope*

*Sunday Dec 23*

*we wish you Love*

*Christmas Day Dec 25 @ 8am*

*We wish you Christ – our Christmas wish*



Elanora Uniting Church



## **Leisuretime AGM....**

**Will be held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January  
2019 at 9.00am in the meeting room**

## **Other dates to remember.....**

- ❖ Church Council Meeting – Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December
- ❖ Christmas Pot Luck Lunch – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Please advise Mary Flynn if you are able to come
- ❖ Induction Service for Rev Catherine Solomon – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 7.00pm

**THANK YOU**



**Just like to say THANK YOU again to those participating and helping with the Kids Carols Event to make it all happen.**

**And.....a big THANK YOU to everyone here at Elanora who do so much to make it such a special place to worship our Lord Jesus Christ .**