

# Together

MARCH 2023

A new chapter for  
Deaf Ministry

Healing  
at Golden Grove

Going gold for  
homelessness

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Front cover: The stars of Lutheran Care's Behind the Guise of Homelessness volunteered their time to shine a light on the issue. Story page 13.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that the following pages may contain images of people who have died.

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# Together

Together is published four times a year for members of the Lutheran Church of Australia SA-NT District.

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#### Publication deadline

Editorial and advertising copy deadline for the next edition of Together is Monday May 1st, 2023. The magazine will be distributed in June. Online news content is published between editions on our website, Facebook page and eNews. To subscribe to our eNews 'Online Together', visit [www.sant.lca.org.au/news/enews/](http://www.sant.lca.org.au/news/enews/)



## Editor's note

Welcome to the first edition of *Together* magazine for 2023. The time has flown since Christmas, no sooner have we turned the page on an old year and welcomed in the new than the hot-cross buns start appearing on supermarket shelves (in January no less!), and suddenly we're on the cusp of Easter.

This edition marks the end of an era for SA-NT District Bishop, David Altus, who finishes up in the role in May this year. By the time the next edition of *Together* hits congregations in June, a new bishop will have been elected at District Convention of Synod. You can read Bishop David's penultimate message on page 4.

Deaf Ministry is also entering a new era, with a Specific Ministry Pastor, Julian Mazzeo, expected to be ordained later this year. Did you know that Deaf Ministry has been

supported by the Lutheran Church since the 1970s? Head to page 6 to read about its history, and the anticipated way forward for this unique and important ministry.

Another featured outreach in this edition is the healing ministry at Golden Grove Lutheran Church (page 8). The congregation holds prayer healing services monthly, as well as smaller weekly gatherings where people can learn the biblical principles of healing and receive ministry, with an immense number of healings reported over the years.

I hope you enjoy this edition, blessings to you and yours as we look forward to all that the Easter season brings.

We welcome your story submissions, suggestions and feedback. Email the editor at [jessica.smith@lca.org.au](mailto:jessica.smith@lca.org.au)

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## A word from your Bishop...

Pastor David Altus  
Bishop SA-NT District  
Lutheran Church of Australia

**Jesus said 'It is finished'.  
With that he gave up his spirit.**

John 19:30

It is finished.

It's a good feeling - to stand back and look at something you've spent many hours and a lot of sweat on and say '**It's finished!**'

I don't know about you but I live with the constant feeling that I am never finished – whether my work, raising and loving a family, or working at marriage.

At work or around home I finish one thing and the pile of things still left to do has grown. Or I finish things, but they are always less than perfect. A better job could have been done. My childhood report cards always said, 'could have done better!' and they were probably right.

My life with God is like that – 'could have done better'. You never get to the point where you can confidently offer your life to God and say, 'I am now everything you ever wanted me to be – It is finished'. And when you think about your death, you can never be sure you've done enough to please God, never sure whether you have finished diverting or appeasing God's anger at your sins.

That's what makes these words of Jesus from the cross so special and so comforting. '**It is finished**'. He is finished. Finished doing what you and I could never do – and that is to live a life of perfect obedience and love. Then to take on himself all our sin and our shortcomings in displaying

the complete and perfect love God designed us to show, and all the condemnation we deserved from God for that.

### 'It is finished'

His disciples thought that meant 'it's all over. Our dear friend who we thought could have been the promised messiah is dead. It has all been a dream that is now over'. The soldiers thought it meant the end of another criminal, just a job they had finished. The chief priests and leaders thought it meant they had finished with Jesus, finished him off, they thought his death would bring an end to the threat he posed. Many people today think it means Jesus was just a good man whose life tragically ended early, unfinished, and they consign him to the pages of history or myth. Nice story, but it is finished now. 'The End.'

But it was Jesus who said those words. He would have heard his dad Joseph say those words often in the carpenter shop. They would have had a vision of how a piece of furniture was meant to be, and then set about making it that way. None of the things Jesus and his earthly father may have made have survived. But Jesus and his heavenly father had a vision of a forgiven world where things could be different between God and people, and between people. They shared the vision, they knew what it would take, and Jesus let himself be nailed to a cross to put the vision into the reality we enjoy as Christians.

**'It is finished'. With that he gave up his spirit...**

His last breath did not simply end his life, it completed it.

Our Lord still has unfinished business – with us. To build on what he has begun in us and bring it to completion on his return. Through his Spirit breathed out on us, shaping us to be more like him - forgiving, loving, faithful, courageous, believing, serving. But even as he looks at us, imperfect and 'works in process' as we are, he always sees the finished product. He sees us through what he has already done for us and the world.

This is the penultimate message I will share with you in *Together* before you elect a new District Bishop. As I finish up my time as Bishop, I am reflecting on what has happened in the life of the District since I was elected at Mt Gambier in August 2009 at 'The Barn' (just to keep me humble!). While I will leave the role of Bishop with a sense of gratitude and godly satisfaction, I am conscious of what I have left undone, won't have time to finish, and yes, of some things I would like to undo but can't. In the end we leave each day, our workplace, and one day life itself, with faith in Jesus' words '**It is finished**'. What he has done and completed is what ultimately matters, and we live and die in his grace.

There is nothing more needed to be done when it comes to how God sees us and our lives before him. If anything does remain outstanding, it is simply for us to give witness in words and by our living in the world to the wonderful message of Good Friday and Easter Day.

## From the Bishop's Diary...

### Installations

- Joel Grieger at Bordertown on 22 January
- Jeremy Smith at Kadina on 29 January
- Eugene Minge at Greenock on 5 February
- Stephen Pietsch has accepted an interim role as second pastor at Bethlehem Adelaide for 6 months
- Wayne Boehm (recently retired) has accepted a 12-month interim role at Immanuel North Adelaide.

### Bereavements

We pray for those closest to their loved ones whose lives on earth have ended, thanking God for them. Remembering: Claire Tscharke, and pastors Reggie Baldock, Mark Reid, Gordon Gerhardy, Mike Hassold, and Lionel Otto.

### Welcome Craig Fielke, LESNW

Craig Fielke has commenced his role as Executive Director of Lutheran Education SA NT & WA. He will be installed at a morning service on Friday 24 March at St Michael's Hahndorf. Please pray for Craig as he learns his significant role in overseeing and supporting Lutheran Schools in our District. Pray also for the new principals and teachers on the ground this year.

### St Paul's Lutheran Homes, Hahndorf

By now you may have heard that the Board and company of St Paul's Lutheran Homes in Hahndorf have recommended the sale of the aged care facility and independent living units to another provider. This decision has not been made lightly but comes after a challenging period. I want to pay tribute to the members of the Board, especially the chair and the interim CEO, who have served well to ensure due

diligence has been followed every step of the way in discerning what is best for residents in the future.

Increasingly as church based ministries we need to be honest about our capacity to govern and manage our facilities well, given the responsibility we have to care for people, the funding being received and the level of scrutiny that rightly comes with it, and the complexities of running such facilities. We need to be honest about when the time might come either for amalgamation with another of our own entities, or whether seeking another provider to take over is the best option. Be assured all options were considered by the board, and the District was consulted and has provided support along the way.

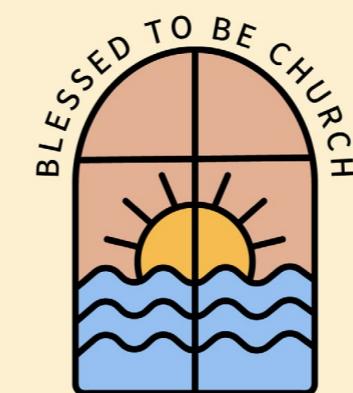
The home is regarded highly by its residents and will be handed on in a good place to continue the care of the ageing in our community. Of course, ministry will continue to be provided as appropriate by Adelaide Hills congregations to those who desire it. We thank God for the history of St Paul's Homes as a ministry of the Lutheran Church in the Hills and for everyone who has contributed to the life of the facility along the way.

### General Convention of Synod

By the time you read this General Convention of Synod for the LCANZ will have been and gone. I pray that we might work together on the agenda that church gathered in convention has set before us by its decisions, and do that in peace and with love for one another as a witness to the world.

### District Convention of Synod

I look forward to seeing your pastors and delegates at Synod in May, in Victor Harbor. We are facing some big challenges together on multiple fronts and it is important that your congregation is represented and your pastor present.



## LCA SA-NT District Convention of Synod

20-21  
May 2023  
Encounter  
Lutheran  
College

We request all elected delegates submit their LAMP2 form by 1 March 2023.

More information, including Book of Reports and program to be emailed to delegates directly in the coming weeks.

Please visit the LCA SA-NT website for registration and more information.



Above: the live-streaming system ready to broadcast an ADCC service.  
Inset: Julian demonstrates the Auslan sign for 'Jesus'.

# New chapter for Deaf ministry

A silent sermon is preached every Sunday at Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Magill. Yet while they may be low in volume, these services are perhaps the most interactive in the Lutheran community. Held in Australian Sign Language, or Auslan, the Adelaide Deaf Community Church (ADCC) services take place weekly. Participants are encouraged to take part in discussion on the sermon theme, often resulting in animated conversation and sharing.

Deaf Ministry has been supported by the Lutheran Church since the 1970s, led by Pastor Michael Prenzler since 2017. A hearing pastor with no prior experience of deafness, Michael spent several years learning Auslan before taking on the role of pastor at Magill, where he ministers to both the Deaf and hearing congregations in a shared role, based at Pilgrim Lutheran Church.



This year represents a significant milestone for the ADCC, with a new Specific Ministry Pastor expected to be ordained, Julian Mazzeo. Julian, who is profoundly deaf, will be preaching his first full sermon this Easter, one he has written himself. Julian says he feels a strong call to the role.

'I feel that God wants me to speak to the Deaf community and that he is showing me how to teach, how to help to fix relationships, how to understand the best fit for Deaf culture and how to create opportunities and be an encouragement.'

Preaching in the richly expressive and visual language of



Photos courtesy Michael Prenzler and Julian Mazzeo.

Auslan is also something that Julian finds rewarding. 'Auslan is wonderful. It's so creative, there's so much storytelling and it's clear and easy to understand.'

Pastor Michael echoes the sentiment.

'I love the deaf approach to worship, where all members are encouraged to participate in and contribute to the service,' he says.

'I also find it personally satisfying to worship in Auslan. There is something very profound about worshipping God with one's whole body.'

Technology has become an important tool for the ADCC, and the congregation is thankful for a live-streaming system that was installed at Magill in 2020.

'In some of my earlier travels I met some deaf Christians interstate who said they had no local church to attend, and I asked whether there was something the ADCC could do,' says Pastor Michael.

'We then applied for and received an LLL Mission Grant, and with contributions from both Pilgrim and the ADCC we were able to install cameras in the church shortly after the COVID lockdowns began. We now have a few viewers from interstate who watch our service every Sunday. Without our videos they would struggle to find somewhere to worship in Auslan, their heart-language.'

## Deaf Church History

**1890** A Deaf congregation is established as part of the Royal South Australian Deaf Society.

**Mid-1900s**  
Deaf ministry lapses.

**1996** Pastor John Hoopman is ordained and becomes the first Deaf pastor to serve the congregation.

**2016** Michael Prenzler is ordained and called jointly by the ADCC and Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Magill to a shared ministry.

**2023** Julian Mazzeo is expected to be ordained as a Specific Ministry Pastor.

**1928** The congregation moves into custom-built chapel in the Royal South Australian Deaf Society building on South Terrace.

**1974** Deaf ministry resumes under the name St James Church of the Deaf, with support from the Lutheran Church. Services are presented by hearing ministers with Auslan interpreters.

**2013** Pastor John notifies the LCA of his intention to retire. Michael Prenzler, a hearing pastoral theology student at Australian Lutheran College, expresses his interest and begins studying Auslan.

**2017** Pastor John Hoopman retires after 26 years. Pastor Michael Prenzler is installed. The ADCC moves to its new home at Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Magill.



The church also has a video studio, funded through another grant, that is used for creating Auslan content. During the height of the pandemic the studio played an important role in the creation of various worship-at-home resources, for both the hearing and Deaf congregations at Magill. The church plans to use the studio extensively in the future to produce more desperately needed Bible studies and resources for the Deaf community.

The introduction of digital technology is just one of the changes that Deaf ministry has seen over the years. The pastoral team has also evolved, as well as the location where the group worships. Pastor Michael says there have been many positives in the ministry's transformation.

'Because of these changes the Deaf ministry has probably become less pastor-centric, encouraging all members to participate in the mission of the church,' he says.

'These changes have also encouraged greater interaction between hearing and Deaf members, which has been very good for mutual awareness and understanding.'

While the church faces some of the same challenges as many others in the district, Pastor Michael says there is great joy in providing the much-needed ministry.

'We have a small and ageing congregation, yet we are still very active and it's a blessing that through Julian and other young people we have a future.'

# Healing ministry at Golden Grove

By Jess Smith



Pastor Greg Fowler outside the healing tent at the Golden Grove Lutheran Church Community Fete.

## 'A place where Jesus turns up'

The skies look dark and foreboding and rain is on the way, but inside the healing tent at the Golden Grove Lutheran Church Community Fete there is an atmosphere of hope and expectancy. Despite the weather, fete visitors are plentiful. Rain patters on the roof as the volunteer team at the tent begin their work, with prayers and declarations of health and healing in the name of Jesus available for anyone who seeks it.

The congregation holds prayer healing services monthly, as well as weekly smaller gatherings where people can learn the biblical principles of healing and receive ministry for whatever their need, whether physical, spiritual, mental or something else. The healing tent at the fete is an extension of this, orchestrated and run by Golden Grove member John Schiller.

'We initiated our prayer healing Sundays because we started to have people ask for prayer at our worship services,' says Golden Grove Pastor Greg Fowler. 'On a number of occasions, the prayer would last longer than church service itself and we saw that there was a real need.'

Pastor Greg says that, like him, the members at Golden Grove are very accepting of the idea of healing through faith in Jesus.

'I think our community is very open to seeing what God wants to do. I believe that God continues to heal today.'

The Golden Grove church website and YouTube channel are filled with testimonies of people describing their personal experiences of healing through the ministry. The accounts of infirmities healed range from back pain to broken bones, cancer and more.

'We're not saying that people shouldn't see a doctor,' Pastor Greg is quick to point out. 'We believe very much that God heals via medicine, but we also know that God calls us to lay hands on the sick, so that's what we do as well.'

Prophecy plays an important role in the ministry, with team members often receiving words of knowledge that shed light on a situation.

'There have been a number of occasions where somebody's come in with an issue that we couldn't possibly have known anything about and one of the people in our team will say "God's asking me to pray for this, does that make sense?" and the person will say "a hundred percent, that's what's really burdening me" and we'll pray into that,' says Pastor Greg.

Giving the public the opportunity to encounter the ministry was the reason that the healing tent at the fete was set up.

'It was one of the first things we decided to include, because we couldn't imagine having a fete without giving people the opportunity to be prayed for,' says Pastor Greg.

'That's been a real blessing, seeing people come past and being prayed for off the street. And people know that Jesus is here – this is a place where Jesus turns up.'

## Setting people free

Paul Napier has been in leadership at Golden Grove Lutheran Church for many years. Along with his wife, Nadia, Paul runs small group Bible study sessions that teach people how to use the power of the Gospel to heal. An experience the couple had around 13 years ago served as the catalyst that introduced the Golden Grove congregation to the concept of healing ministry.

Seeking a cure for the severe and debilitating migraines their daughter, Jess, was suffering, Paul and Nadia were running out of hope. When even specialists couldn't offer a solution, they weren't sure where to turn.

'Jess would be shut in her room for up to a week at a time, screaming in total agony, and we couldn't do a thing about it,' says Paul. 'She had to stop her university studies in teaching because the migraines were so frequent she was falling behind, and as parents we were incredibly concerned because we couldn't see how she would ever hold down a job.'

'Then I was reading God's word and kept seeing 'Jesus heals'. I realised through everything he did, Jesus was constantly healing somebody. At this point I thought well I have two choices here. Either I believe his word, that he heals everybody, or I don't believe and I think no, he doesn't heal. And I said to him "I choose to believe that your word is absolute, and you do heal, and you still heal. Can you please show me how?".'

Shortly after this, Paul and Nadia attended a healing seminar run by Dr Roger Sapp.

## Dan the miracle man

The world seemed to stop for Russell Herrmann and his family after an early morning phone call from the Woodside police on June 7, 2013. Russell's 17-year-old son, Daniel, had been critically injured in a car accident in the Adelaide Hills, trapped in the vehicle after it plowed into a tree.



'During the seminar we were asked to come up and practise our healing ministry and I was the first one up,' says Paul.

Thinking he was going to pray for a stranger, Paul was unexpectedly asked to minister to Nadia, who had been suffering from a painful ongoing back condition for decades.

'While we were praying, another person in our group had a word of knowledge that Nadia had an unspoken fear of being in a wheelchair for the rest of her life because of her back,' Paul recounts. 'Once this fear was broken off and rebuked in the name of Jesus she was completely set free. She even felt the bones in her lower back shifting as she was healed.'

Paul excitedly relayed this to his church pastor at the time, Leon Rosenberg, who also began to learn about healing, and the ministry began to accelerate through the congregation. The regular Sunday healing services started soon after, including a focus on teaching the biblical principles of healing.

Paul says the number of healings that he and the church team have witnessed over the years has been immense.

'We've seen thousands, literally thousands, of healings. I've lost count now, it's just huge.'

Paul and Nadia's daughter, Jess, numbers among them – she isn't affected by migraines anymore, was able to finish her studies, and now works full-time as a teacher in Melbourne.

The ministry has something of a flow-on effect, as many who have received healing have then gone on to minister to others who need it.

Above: Paul and Nadia Napier



The wreckage of Daniel's car. Police Accident Recovery personnel at the time stated the driver wouldn't have survived this impact, not realising Daniel in fact did.

Continued on page 10 ▶



Daniel unconscious in hospital after his accident.  
Inset below: Sue Kindle.

Daniel underwent decompressive craniectomy surgery, where part of the skull is removed to relieve pressure on the brain. The family was told that if Daniel survived, he would never be the same and would likely be institutionalised for the rest of his life.

Despite this, Russell and the Herrmann family stayed steadfast in their belief that Daniel would be healed. They called on family, friends and their church community at Golden Grove Lutheran Church for prayer and used social media to send the call far and wide.

Paul Napier remembers visiting the hospital to minister to Daniel.

'After we prayed, Russell and I went downstairs and I said to him "Russell, your son is going to walk out of this place." That was a prophecy that just came out of my mouth. It wasn't premeditated, it was the Holy Spirit.'

Russell says that he made the choice to believe for Daniel's healing, despite many saying it was impossible.

'I stood by God, believing in a miracle,' Russell recounts. He told his two daughters that Daniel would recover and vowed he would one day publicly testify to it, 'with thanks to God.' He even shouted a round of drinks in celebration of Daniel's future recovery.



Daniel and sister Ashlee today.  
Waking from a coma after surgery, Daniel experienced post-traumatic amnesia and his weight plummeted to just 42kg. But the family kept on believing for his healing, with a newly discovered detail



Photos courtesy Russell Herrmann.

about a bystander who stopped to help Daniel after his accident also revealing God's hand over the situation.

Sue Kindle was driving to Adelaide from her home when she witnessed Daniel's car accident and stopped to help. Having just taken a first aid course, she was able to perform crucial CPR that medics say saved Daniel's life. The Herrmann family discovered that when Sue had left her home that morning, she had forgotten her bag and had to head back for it. Had she not done so, she wouldn't have seen the accident at all.

'We call her our angel from heaven,' says Russell.

On June 17, just ten days after the accident, medical staff reported a marked change in Daniel. His breathing was improving, his lungs and chest were healing. Soon after he began to speak a few words and remembered the PIN to his phone. Steady improvements over the next few weeks had the medical team stunned. Many confirmed that it was indeed 'a miracle'.

After three weeks in intensive care, Daniel was moved to a ward and was transferred to a rehabilitation centre just a few weeks later. After nine months of rehab, Daniel was able to go home – fully recovered aside from some hearing loss.

Russell says it was faith in Jesus that brought Daniel back.

'I do believe the key to facing these sorts of situations is to grasp your faith with sincerity and believe that if you ask God in his name, no matter how big the mountain is - and that mountain was huge with Daniel's condition - to adhere to that faith and start testifying in advance of what you will receive.'

For more information on the Golden Grove Lutheran Church healing ministry visit their website at [www.gglc.org.au](http://www.gglc.org.au)



Russell, Daniel, Ashlee (Daniel's sister) and her husband Brad, and Angelika (Daniel's mother) in the hospital café during a visit.



## District update

By Angela Rogers  
District Administrator

Where have the past couple of months gone? Harvest, school holidays, extra time with family and friends...and now we are back into the swing of normal life, making sure the children are out the door in time for the bus, getting ourselves off to work, and being involved in community and church activities. It just never seems to stop. But we must take the time to care for ourselves and each other, time to listen properly to partners, family, friends and colleagues.

### The District Office: serving congregations

One of the most enjoyable aspects of my role is listening to people, having conversations, and assisting with questions or concerns. It is something all of us in the District Office enjoy and it is one of the reasons why we are here – to serve our congregations. Whether it be a question about nominations for positions, congregational vacancies, compliance, constitution updates, finance, finding a locum pastor, synod, advertising or organising an event, camps or visiting a rural patient in hospital there is someone in the District Office that can help you. Our mission statement is that we exist 'to resource, encourage and focus our communities to grow in Christ and make him known to all people.' Please do not hesitate to contact us.

### District Convention of Synod & District Pastors Conference

District Convention of Synod will be held from 20 to 21 May at Encounter Lutheran College, Victor Harbor. We ask that all delegates register online as well as completing a LAMP2 update form. We have a jam-packed agenda with some very important decisions to be made, but there will be time for conversation and sharing with other delegate as well as for celebration and praise to God. The District will be electing a new bishop and other position holders so please pray for the nominees as they go through this process. We are looking forward to welcoming everyone to convention.

Pastors Conference will be held in the two days prior to synod, at Victor Harbor Lutheran Church from 18 to 19 May. An excellent guest speaker is scheduled, as well as time to spend reflecting and sharing.

### General Convention of Synod

Some of our District Office staff assisted in various roles at the recent LCA General Convention of Synod in Melbourne. It was a pleasure to be able to share our skills with the wider church.

### Aged care

I recently attended an aged care forum attended by representatives from our district Lutheran aged care entities. It was good to gather and support each other, learn from each other and hear from experts in this area of care and ministry. Aged care is a challenging sector in so many ways, but we have dedicated and skilled operators and board members serving the residents. Please do pray for these people.

There are always so many balls in the air in the District Office; people visiting us for meetings, us going out to meet people in congregations and other places, emails to be answered, reports to be written, forms to be completed and phone calls to be answered and made, but the District Office is a place where we see God in action through all of you and for this we give thanks. It is our prayer that no matter how busy we are, we can take the time to listen to God and to serve Him through you.

## LCANZ to explore one church; two practices of ordination

Delegates at Convention of General Synod, held in Melbourne in February, discussed the issue of the ordination of women and have directed the General Church Board and the College of Bishops to explore the theological, constitutional and governance issues involved in establishing 'one church with two different practices of ordination'. Synod directed that work be done to outline how one church with two ordination practices might function and requested that the fruit of that work be submitted as a proposal in time for discussion at the 2024 meeting of General Pastors Conference, for the Convention of General Synod.

A prior proposal that the church introduce the ordination of women from February 2024, brought before General Synod by the St Pauls Box Hill congregation, was lost.

SA-NT District Bishop, David Altus, says the continued combative debate on the matter has negatively impacted relationships, and the energy that is needed to focus on the mission of the church.

'The resolution passed by a significant majority sends a strong message that the church as a whole wants to find a way to live together with difference on the matter of the ordination of women and men,' he says.

'I pray that pastors and lay members of our church will commit to finding such a way where we can continue to live and give witness to what we do hold in common, while allowing for difference on this issue, with integrity and in peace.'



# Blueprint Ministry Grants 2022

As a result of the money raised at the 2022 Blueprint Dinner, Blueprint Ministries has been able to offer ministry grants to congregations for developing or new initiatives in children, family, youth or young adult ministry.

This year we received nine applications. Of these, six received grants covering part or most of the requested amount. South Kilkerran, Mount Barker, Bethlehem in the city, Para Vista, St Petri and Golden Grove were the successful applicants.

The grants will be used to upgrade equipment, purchase GROW Ministry resources, to fund leadership training, help establish a family area in the church and support outreach for children & parents.

We pray for God's blessings over these projects and encourage people to save the date of **Saturday 5 August 2023** for the next Blueprint Ministries Dinner, as way to support work like this.



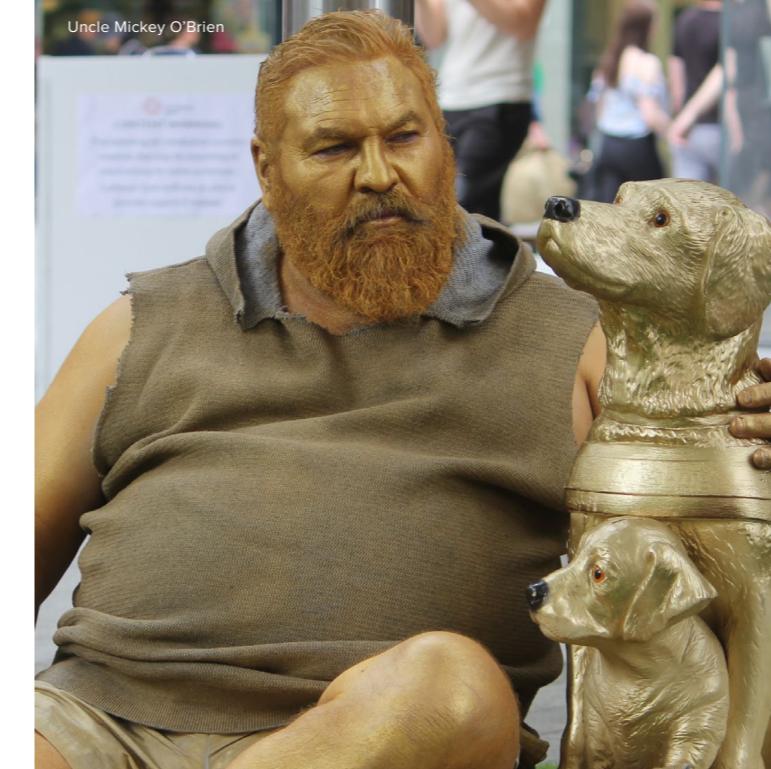
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# Helping young adults connect

In the first few years after high school, it can be challenging to find connections with others who share similar values and faith perspectives. The Lutheran Church of Australia SA-NT District through Blueprint Ministries aims to support young adults who have moved to or live in Adelaide by providing opportunities to meet and interact with new people.

If you know of any young adults who have moved to the city for work or study in 2023, why not put them in touch with Blueprint Ministries.

For more information contact Blueprint Ministries at  
[admin@blueprintministries.org.au](mailto:admin@blueprintministries.org.au) or phone (08) 8267 5211



Erin Phi



# High profile Aussies go gold for homelessness

By Amelia Dawkin

Lutheran Care has collaborated with Adelaide surrealist artist Andrew Baines and several high-profile South Australians for new living art installation unveiled in Rundle Mall in January.

As part of the striking and thought-provoking installation titled *Behind the Guise of Homelessness*, prominent South Australians from sport, government, business and community were painted entirely in gold and positioned in Rundle Mall to represent a portrait of just some of the many faces of homelessness.

The installation featured Erin Phillips (Port Adelaide AFLW captain, former Opals/WNBA basketball player and media personality), Mark Soderstrom (media personality, sports presenter and former SANFL footballer), Nat Cook (SA Minister for Human Services and anti-violence advocate), Uncle Mick O'Brien (Kaurna and Narrunga leader), Bruce Djite (Executive Director of the Property Council of Australia's SA Division, former CEO of the Committee of Adelaide, former Socceroo and TV soccer analyst), Heather Croall (Adelaide Fringe CEO) and Andrew Kay (Business SA CEO).

Artist Andrew Baines is known for his surrealist paintings featuring bowler-hatted figures, sausage dogs and cows, and live installations which have included hundreds of suited volunteers – among them some of the country's top politicians – on beaches for photo shoots.

*Behind the Guise of Homelessness* aimed to raise the public consciousness of the emergency state of homelessness, challenge attitudes and stereotypes surrounding the growing issue and remind viewers there are complex reasons for homelessness and that it can, and does, happen to anyone.

Juxtaposed with the installation was an audio track including emotive music overlaid with some of the voices of people who have experienced homelessness or housing insecurity. Some digital ‘lived experience’ stories were also collected and shared as part of the project.

Andrew has been working on his idea for years, and approached Lutheran Care in 2022 to help him drive it. He is passionate about shining a light on homelessness and he knows how fast fortunes can change as he was close to losing everything in the Global Financial Crisis.

Lutheran Care's Chief Executive Officer, Rohan Feegrade says Lutheran Care was excited to be part of the installation.

'We hope to make it impossible for people to walk past the issue,' he says. 'We also want to break down stereotypes about homelessness. It can and does happen to anyone. The reasons people experience homelessness are many and varied and everyone's experience is different.'

'With rising living costs and energy prices, a pressurised housing market and predicted economic headwinds, more and more people and families across the nation are living with housing insecurity and we expect to see the number of people experiencing homelessness to continue rising.

'Homelessness is solvable. We need a whole of community approach including government and corporate Australia, more focus on early intervention, and more affordable housing.'

To read more about Behind the Guise of Homelessness visit [www.lutherancare.org.au/behind-the-guise/](http://www.lutherancare.org.au/behind-the-guise/)



## Disaster & Recovery Ministries

By Heidi Smith  
Chaplaincy Ministries Coordinator



Is God calling you to be a Disaster and Recovery Ministries (D+RM) Volunteer Chaplain? With South Australian Emergency Relief Centres (ERCs) opening along the flooding Murray River before Christmas and remaining open for months, I was very thankful that the SA-NT District already had over 20 accredited Lutheran Disaster and Recovery Ministries Chaplains (pastors and lay-people) who have volunteered to serve vulnerable people presenting to the ERCs.

Disaster and Recovery Ministries Chaplains have been rostered to serve in pairs for morning or afternoon shifts at SA Government ERCs in community centres in Berri, Mannum, and Murray Bridge. Some of these centres have been open seven days a week, requiring many chaplaincy hours. These ERCs will soon be replaced by Recovery Centres, with Disaster and Recovery Ministries Chaplains continuing to serve vulnerable people presenting there.



**Under LCA policy, all congregations are required to submit a Child Safety Plan to ensure they are meeting their legal, ethical and synodical obligations to be a child safe congregation.**

**THANK YOU** to all those congregations who have already submitted their plan.

Contact your District PSO if you need help preparing your plan, or contact Mary-Ann or Nicole at the Churchwide Office: [css@lca.org.au](mailto:css@lca.org.au) 08 8267 7300.



### Need relief assistance due to Murray River flooding?

Call the SA Relief Information Line 1800 302 787  
Help and information is available seven days a week, 9am to 5pm

### For continuing Disaster and Recovery Ministries Chaplains

Remember that every three years a face-to-face refresher training day through D+RM is required to maintain your accreditation.

## IN BRIEF

### Ordinations & installations

The SA-NT District has welcomed a number of pastors and their families in recent months.

Newly ordained graduates include Jeremy Smith (vicarage at Faith Warradale, assigned to Immanuel Kadina, part of Maitland Parish), Joel Griege (vicarage at St Pauls Glenelg, assigned to Bordertown Parish), and Edwin Shoesmith (vicarage at St Petri Nuriootpa, assigned to St James Hervey Bay, Qld). Other installations have included Andre Meyer (Morphett Vale); Theo Prucha (SMP to the German congregation at North Adelaide); Mike Steicke (Balaklava/Saddleworth Parishes); Eugene Minge (Greenock Parish).



Ed Shoesmith with wife Fiona and children Paxton and Chester.

Joel Griege with wife Nicola and son Henry.

### Flood relief

The flood waters that have inundated towns along the Murray River in SA have affected members of our community, and the District encourages members to pray for those impacted. The LCA SA-NT District Disaster and Welfare Fund was set up to meet the needs of people in our region affected by such events. You can contribute here:

**LCA SA-NT District Disaster and Welfare Fund**  
BSB 704 942  
ACC 1000 07244  
Reference: DWF Donation



Flood waters encroach on St John's Lutheran Church in Forster in December.

**Find accommodation.  
Live independently.  
Connect community.**



**ldssa.org.au**  
**8212 7766**



**'My thirst for education  
sometimes forces my mother  
to carry me on her back  
to school, yet she never  
sees me as a burden.'**

*- Ashkiro*



Photo: LWF Somalia

# Thank you!

**Ashkiro is 17 and living in famine-threatened Somalia. She was born with 'disproportionate dwarfism' and can no longer walk. Yet through the support of our Lutheran family, she is achieving her dream of going to school!**

Ashkiro's mum, Fatuma, says:

*I sometimes wake up in the night, only to see my daughter wailing and shaking uncontrollably. I have to comfort her until she sleeps, this has been saddening for me.'*

When day comes, the pain for mum and daughter remains.

Ashkiro's condition makes her unable to move from one place to another, and people around her have despised her for showing an interest in school.

Despite this, Ashkiro remains eager to learn and has never let go of her dream of schooling and one day becoming a mathematics teacher.

A Lutheran World Federation (LWF) mobilisation team, supported by Lutherans from Australia and NZ through

ALWS, found Ashkiro and took her to the Education Assessment and Resource Centre.

Ashkiro began intensive physiotherapy exercises to aid her movement, then had sessions on compensatory motions.

LWF supported her to find a place in school and provided a wheelchair so she could get there. If ever Ashkiro is too ill to go to school, LWF provides her with teachers who teach her at home through an Individual Educational Plan. Ashkiro says:

*I sometimes feel empty whenever I miss class due to sickness. I am passionate about learning and accomplishing what other children are able to do ... I won't be despised for my dwarfism, and I won't let my spirit and determination be broken by anyone until I achieve my dream!*

**'I won't let  
my spirit be  
broken by  
anyone until  
I achieve  
my dream!'**

*Ashkiro*

**Through ALWS, you provide food aid to families in Somalia threatened by famine and support 2,000 children like Ashkiro who live with disabilities to go to school.**

To help, or invite an ALWS guest speaker: 1300 763 407 \* [alws.org.au](http://alws.org.au)