

Together

JUNE 2022

**Aloha
at the
Ark**

**Trinity
celebrates**

**A NEW WAY TO PRAY:
VICTOR HARBOR'S
PRAYER LABYRINTH**

 **LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
OF AUSTRALIA
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
NORTHERN TERRITORY

*Magazine of the Lutheran Church of Australia
South Australia – Northern Territory District*

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Front cover: Fun was the name of the game for the *Aloha at the Ark* event. Story page 9. Photo: LLL Australia.

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Editor's note

"To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven."
Ecclesiastes 3:1

As I write this the weather outside my window has changed from blue, sunny skies to a deluge of hailstones and thunder to boot – the seasons are well and truly on the move and winter is taking hold. I live in the Adelaide Hills where the cycles of nature are very much on display - autumn leaves in all their glory, parched yellow hills in the summer and the constant gauging of the months by how full the rainwater tanks are. The consistency of nature and its cycles is a good reminder that life works this way, too. The seasons of life will constantly change – the ups, downs and everything in between – but we can trust that God is with us through it all.

In this edition of Together you'll see life's seasons reflected in many of the stories. Trinity Lutheran Church in Pasadena is celebrating a raft of milestones in 2022 and as the congregation has been musing on the last 40 years they've remembered both the good times and the challenges –

including the church building being destroyed by fire in an arson attack in 1991 and the subsequent rebuild (story page 11).

On page 9 you can read about *Aloha at the Ark*, a fabulous event full of colour and fun, designed to give the community the opportunity to let their hair down after a particularly tough two years.

And in our *In Brief* section, at the back of the magazine, you'll see our church families reaching out to support those going through a difficult season, providing care packages and goodies to frontline workers.

Whatever season of life you are in, may God's blessing be upon you as you read this edition of Together and beyond.

While the information contained in Together is correct at the time of going to print, we recognise that COVID-19 is an evolving concern and therefore some details published may have changed by the time this magazine reaches our readers.

We welcome your story submissions, suggestions and feedback. Email the editor at jessica.smith@lca.org.au



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

A word from your Bishop...

"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life" - John 4:13-14

Our SA-NT Pastors Conference and Synod day in May focussed on these words of Jesus. He spoke them first to a woman who came to a well with an empty bucket.

Life has been sapped out of us in one way or another over the past few years, perhaps more than we realise. We see the consequences of that in many areas of community life, including in our congregations. The life we share in together has been sucked out of us in some way too, at least that is

the observation of leaders of other Christian churches who I meet with bi-monthly.

I wonder how you would describe the bucket that you come to draw with from God's well on Sunday morning? What are you grieving for that used to be in your personal or church life, and what are you longing and hoping for in the future?

Sapped of life, in our thirst for life, we are tempted to drink from whatever we can find. Jesus predicts we will continue to be thirsty. He invites us to drink from him, promising that **"the water I give will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."**

Imagine an endlessly renewable source of pure life, eternal life even. Life that resides not in a deep well somewhere but in the depths of your own baptised being. Life and love that we carry around from God, with God's presence at work within us, every day, everywhere, empowering our being for him! That's what Jesus offers and promises. Drink of his forgiveness from the past, drink the peace of a new relationship with God, drink of endless love, drink the joy of eternal life. Drink and never be thirsty in your spirit.

A few chapters later Jesus said: **"...Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.' By this he meant the Spirit..." John 7:37-39**

As you read this edition of Together we are transitioning from the Easter season to the Pentecost season, a seamless transition because the same risen Christ is present with and within us now through the Holy Spirit.

I pray that at this time of energy drain and thirst in individual and communal life you will come with your empty buckets to Christ, the well that never runs dry.

I pray that God will renew and restore his life within you, as you draw daily from him in his word, and together from him in word and sacrament in worship.

I pray that as you draw from him you will be conscious of that bubbling spring of life, the river of living water that Jesus says now flows within you personally, from your baptism into him. It is the life of Christ himself, the life of the very Spirit of God. All the divine power you need to face and live through anything, in your lives as individuals and as church, and to do it with his grace and love.

From the Bishop's Diary...

The period after Easter contained a number of important events such as Pastors Conference and Synod Day, Lutheran Principals Conference, and Lutheran Women SA Convention. There are also a number of strategic conversations that are being progressed (District Church Council, College of Bishops, General Church Board meetings and more). Please pray for those discussions focused on the future that what God may want for us as his people in his mission is revealed.

Walpeup Closure

I closed the congregation and church in Walpeup Vic (part of the ten-point Mallee Parish) on April 24th. A healthy crowd turned up for the final service. These are always sad but faith-strengthening days. When I conclude my time as bishop such days will remain in my memory even though closing churches isn't what we would want. Every blessing to the remaining members who will find church homes in Murrayville and Ouyen.

Murray Bridge

The Murray Valley Lutheran Community was inaugurated on April 24th at a service in Monarto. Holy Cross and Christ Church Murray Bridge together with Monarto have called two pastors to serve across the region. Pray for this developing relationship for the sake of ministry and mission in the region.

Lutheran Care

Sylvia Andersons is the new board chair of Lutheran Care, and we thank Simon Rodger for his excellent service and commitment as the outgoing chair.

Aged Care

Lutheran Homes Inc (Glynde and Hope Valley) and Fullarton Lutheran Homes have made the decision to merge in order to further strengthen and enhance their care. The merged entity is *Lutheran Homes Group*. This development is significant in the life of our District and we pray for the new board which includes membership from both previous boards. Consideration of mergers was one of the recommendations of the LCA Aged Care and Community Services Governance review a few years ago. This move has the full support of District Church Council.

Bereavements

We remember before God the families of **Pastor Hans Oberscheidt**, and also **Florence Huf**, **Betty Riedel**, and **Joan Ruwoldt** who have died in recent months. We thank the Lord of life and death for them, and for their service in his church, and pray comfort over their loved ones. **Neville Grieger** also died after a life of wonderful service to Lutheran Schools including the District with LESNW. **Pastor Mark Kaesler** died on Good Friday after a long illness and we remember his family before God in the time ahead.

Installations

Noel Due at Top End Lutheran Parish on 28th March

Chris Mann at Endeavour College on 8th April

Heidi Smith as SA-NT Chaplaincy Ministries Coordinator on April 10th at North Adelaide

Pastors

Noel Due has accepted a 2 year 0.5FTE interim pastor role in the Top End Parish for which we are very grateful. Noel's retirement was short lived!

Rolly Stahl has accepted the call to Tea Tree Gully and will be installed in July.

Josh Muller accepted the call to Wodonga from Eudunda. Josh was assigned to Eudunda as a graduate in 2014 and then the combined Eudunda-Robertstown region, firstly in a joint pastorate and more latterly on his own. We thank Josh for his adaptability and commitment to the people there in a changing multi-point scene over the years and pray for him as he prepares to leave for the NSW District.

Graduate **Phil Bentley** resigned his call to Greenock and has returned to his Anglican roots, now serving with them on the West Coast.

Mark Worthing resigned his call at North Adelaide and has accepted a call in the NSW District. We thank Mark and Cathy for their time at North Adelaide and for the faith and passion with which they used their gifts there.

Dan Rooney has resigned his call to the Mallee Parish and we thank him and Helen for their gift to the region and pray for God's future for them. Dan was instrumental in helping the ten-point Mallee Parish to become established.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT TANDARA LUTHERAN CAMP



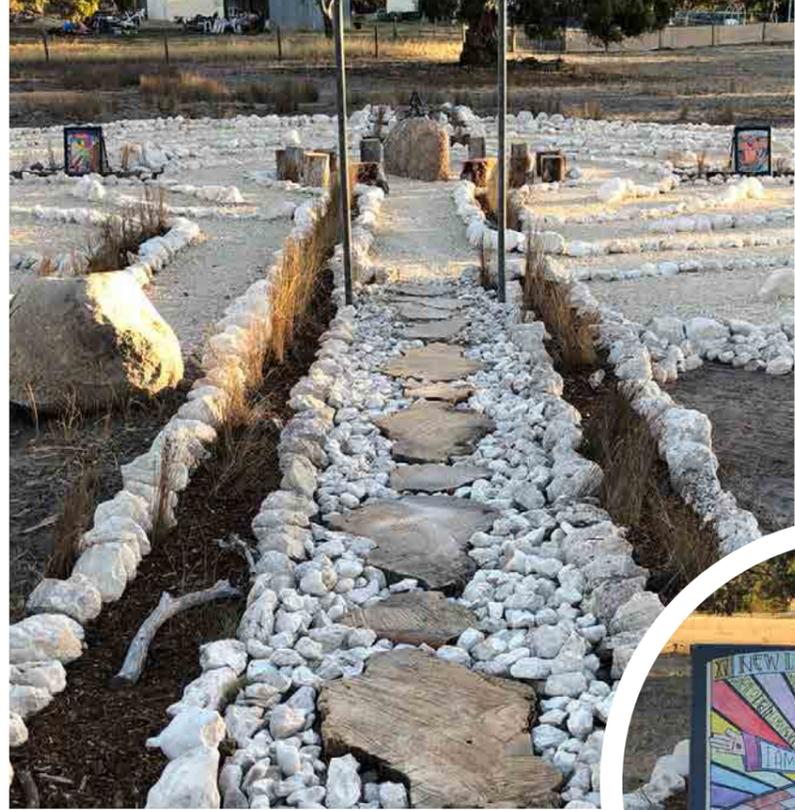
Lutheran Women of Victoria: we look forward to hosting a Camp in 2023

Lutheran Youth of Victoria, CLW Purple: 4-8 July (teenagers + in age)

Lutheran Men of Victoria, 'Men Led by God': 19 - 21 August

Lutheran Youth of Victoria, CLW Orange: 26 - 30 September (teenagers + in age)

For more details call (03) 53-564253, email manager@camptandara.com, check out our new website www.tandara.org.au or visit our Facebook page.



The labyrinth from above. Left: The labyrinth entrance. Below left: Colourful illustrations created by Junior School students are displayed at each station.



Among those at the dedication ceremony were special guests from LLL Australia, key college leadership, staff and students, and the congregation volunteers who built the labyrinth.

A new way to pray Prayer labyrinth collaboration in Victor Harbor

A new prayer labyrinth on the grounds of Encounter Lutheran College has been many years in the dreaming, but just a few short weeks in the making. The collaboration between Victor Harbor Lutheran Church and Encounter Lutheran College was made a reality thanks to an LLL 100 Year Anniversary Grant.

Both Pastor Nigel Rosenzweig from Victor Harbor Lutheran Church and Encounter Principal Kelvin Grivel agreed that a



Hard working volunteers did an amazing job during the labyrinth's construction phase.

newly acquired block at the rear of the college proved the perfect space to explore new learning opportunities.

"We were keen to see how the space could be used to promote a greater understanding of our spirituality, and the relationship that exists between ourselves, others, God and creation," said Pastor Nigel.

Since 2009 Pastor Nigel has had an interest in developing sacred spaces, interactive prayer stations and labyrinths. His interest in labyrinths for school ministry grew after attending a workshop with Pastor Rick Zweck at a Lutheran Education conference in 2014. Similarly, Kelvin had always dreamt of having a labyrinth on campus.

A successful application for a generous LLL grant saw plans for the building of a series of outdoor prayer stations set in motion, and the labyrinth design phase began.

"We started to consider what would be the most usable, effective and flexible way to build a 'stations of the cross' walk," says Pastor Nigel.

"We looked at creating a lineal path through the bush and also explored traditional labyrinth designs. We then found a way of modifying a traditional labyrinth to be able to host a series of 15 stations along the pathway."

After the design was agreed upon, the deadline was set – the

goal was to have the labyrinth ready to use by Holy Week.

A fantastic effort from the church and school community saw the project come together quickly. Congregation volunteers cleared the site, transplanted native vegetation, marked out the pathway and dug out prayer gardens. The college property team levelled the area, laid the limestone base, and set in place the two main feature stones. Limestone rocks were arranged to line pathways and create decorative features, and to form the giant cross that stretches beyond the boundaries of the labyrinth. Encounter Junior School students also got involved, creating the colourful illustrations displayed at each station.

The labyrinth is designed to enable people to recreate the effects of taking a long walk, but within a small space. Across cultures labyrinths have been used as tools to aid mindfulness, wellbeing, awareness and prayerful reflection.

"With the help of a simple word, idea or verse, the slow walk can create space for people to give attention to the thoughts the Holy Spirit places on their heart and mind," says

Pastor Nigel.

"The traditional way to walk a labyrinth is to enter and follow the path slowly to the centre, pause for a while, then follow the path back out the same way you came in.

The 'stations of the cross walk' we have set up will be used a little differently – people will experience the first 14 stations on the way to the centre of the labyrinth, but then take a unique 'escape route' to experience the final station."

The labyrinth was officially opened at a dedication ceremony in April, and the project also marked a milestone for Encounter principal, Kelvin.

"This project has also become a way of giving thanks to God for Kelvin, who has celebrated ten years at the college and is now in his 11th year as principal," says Pastor Nigel.

Encounter College students have already had the chance to use the labyrinth, with principal Kelvin seeing it as a blessing to the college community.

"Every student at Encounter has engaged in this space during Holy Week and we're grateful to Pastor Nigel and our Victor Harbor congregation for their generosity and hard work."

It is hoped that the community and college students will use the labyrinth often in the years ahead as a tool to aid in reflection, reconciliation and renewal.

Images courtesy Encounter Lutheran College and Pastor Nigel Rosenzweig



District update

By Angela Rogers
District Administrator

Share your creativity

I am constantly amazed at all the creative ideas that are shared by our congregations. From beautiful flower arrangements at Easter and visual arts displays, to drama and music performances by our talented musicians, God has given us many gifts and talents and we are blessed by those who share them so generously. It is also exciting to see people of all ages involved. Seeing your creativity shine on Facebook is a source of inspiration and a wonderful chance for others to see what your congregations are doing for various celebrations. Here at the District Office we enjoy hearing about your creative concepts and photos are especially welcome, if you are happy to share.



Some of the wonderful creativity on display from our churches over Easter.

Protecting personal information on devices

Unfortunately, creativity is not always used in a positive manner - in fact it is something that computer scammers and hackers are very good at. It is vitally important that you do not store important private information on your computer,

such as copies of birth certificates, drivers licences or any other government-issued identification documents, as these can be used to create fake identities. If you assist people in completing their Working with Children Checks and send copies of these documents to the District Office, please ensure that you delete them from your system after sending them. This applies to personal computers/laptops/tablets as well as computers in our church offices. Please do a check of your computer to ensure you do not have any of these items stored in your sent emails folder. If you need assistance with this please contact LCA IT - phone 8267 7300 or email itsupport@lca.org.au

Using your LCA email address

Are you a pastor, church council position holder or church employee? If so, you have an LCA email address. Have you ever checked it? Do you know how to access it? You will find the instructions in the *Resources* section of our website, under *Policies & Procedures*. It is important that people do use their LCA email address for church related communication as there are additional necessary security features built into the LCA system.

Additionally, each and every congregation also has an LCA email address, which can be accessed by more than one person. This is where all communication from the District Office goes for congregations, such as Synod letters, COVID information, other event information and much more. Your address will be along the lines of stignatius.athelstone@lca.org.au. Please contact LCA IT if you need additional support to access these email addresses.

Manse rental requirements

Does your congregation or parish rent out the manse? It is recommended that all rental properties are managed by a professional property manager who is qualified, as per government requirements. Having a property manager makes good sense for all concerned. It provides the tenant with a constant contact when they have an issue, releases the property committee from some of their obligations and also makes good financial sense, as the property manager will ensure the rent is paid on time and the property is being cared for. If you have questions about this please contact the District Office.

Images courtesy St Martin's Lutheran Church Mount Gambier Facebook: Trinity Lutheran Church Pasadena.



Aloha at the Ark was a chance for the community to relax, reconnect and most importantly have fun!

Hawaiian inspired decor brought colour and vibrance to the festivities.



Fun was the name of the game at The Ark Lutheran Church in Salisbury, as they hosted the community event *Aloha at the Ark*. Attendees donned Hawaiian shirts and leis and soaked in the carnival-like atmosphere, enjoying music, popcorn, ice cream, hot donuts, face-painting for the kids and a sunset dinner.

"When we saw the LLL was offering grants for their 100-year anniversary our staff were very excited at the opportunity to do something fun for our church community," says The Ark's Litina Tucker.

"The last few years have been very tough and we felt people needed to have something fun to look forward to that could bring the entire church community back together."

Thrilled to be successful in their grant application, The Ark team started to plan their fellowship-based vision. The word 'Aloha' came to mind when thinking of the party atmosphere they wanted to create, and when it was discovered that the word is not only used as a greeting but also means 'fellowship, kindness and community' the theme officially got the tick of approval.

"We knew we wanted an event that all members of the church could attend, so we made plans to see how many fun things we could include," says Litina. "The grant gave us a wonderful opportunity to give back to everyone."

Aiming to put smiles on as many faces as possible, the team booked food and coffee trucks, organised a face painter, and hired popcorn and slushie machines as well as a fairy

floss maker. Picnic rugs were set up on the lawn and giant games, bubble wands and a limbo stand brought out the kid in everyone, no matter their age.

"Everyone was so happy to be together just enjoying each other's company, there was a wonderful atmosphere and people just had big smiles on their faces all night," says Litina.

"Someone told us it was like the old-fashioned church picnics, seeing kids running around having a wonderful time. Others said they wished we could do it every month. We could see that people have missed the sense of community that comes with food, fun and fellowship, and it's so good for our mental health to be together again in a light-hearted way."



Images courtesy LLL Australia

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Getting to know you Heidi Smith



Heidi with Bishop David Altus at her installation service in April

Heidi Smith is the new SA-NT District Chaplaincy Ministries Coordinator, replacing Pastor Peter Miller who has recently retired. Heidi accepted the call to the role in December last year and was installed by Bishop David in April at Immanuel, North Adelaide.

Heidi's role is to oversee a ministry provided to vulnerable people, including at hospitals, rehabilitation centres, prisons and disaster & recoveries ministries. Heidi is involved personally in delivering pastoral care as well as coordinating volunteers (lay and ordained) in this ministry.

Heidi's background is in Lutheran chaplaincy work, most recently as the lead chaplain at Zion Aged Care, Nundah, which is part of Lutheran Services Queensland. She has worked within Lutheran aged care chaplaincy for over a decade, and prior to this held roles in Lutheran schools as a chaplain and Director of Ministry.

Based at the SA-NT District Office, Heidi can be contacted at heidi.smith@lca.org.au or (08) 8267 5211.

ON GROWING UP

"I grew up on a 'mixed farm' called 'Dosyvale' (sheep, cows, pigs, crops) just outside of Henty NSW, so I've milked cows and goats and looked after many pet lambs. I attended weekly Sunday worship at the St Paul's Lutheran congregation, Henty, and later taught Sunday school and went to many congregational, CLW and Lutheran Youth camps. I attended school at St Paul's Lutheran Primary School, Henty, then was a 'day student' at St Paul's Lutheran College, Walla Walla (with an 80 -minute bus trip each way).

"My parents, David and Neva Muller, were both faithful Christians in the Lutheran tradition, where there were morning prayers and evening devotions around the family kitchen table, singalongs around the piano and constant visitors 'from everywhere'. I loved piano music and singing from an early age and later would play and sing for church services, aged care homes, local community dances and school musicals."

ON COMBINING STUDY, MARRIAGE & PARENTING

"I've always had an inquiring mind and took the advice of my maths and history teacher, Lyall Kupke, who encouraged me to attend university and be a Lutheran high school teacher with Lutheran theological training in Adelaide (English, maths, history, drama, music). It was at Adelaide University that I met, fell deeply in love with and then married a certain Paul Smith (now LCANZ Bishop). In our final years of study (Paul at Lutheran Sem and myself at Lutheran Teachers College) each were 'senior students' while learning the delights of being new parents (we have three now-adult children – Benjamin, Felicity and Jeremy) and 'house parents' for numerous LTC students living around Wellington Square."

ON MINISTRIES IN QLD AND SA

"I have journeyed with Paul in his calling as an LCANZ pastor since 1989 to many and varied ministries across QLD and SA. God has always given me so many opportunities for service to others and to the Lutheran Church in each place. During Paul's pastoral ministry at Immanuel North Adelaide, I completed my Bachelor of Theology at Luther Seminary, which included a year of theological studies on a scholarship at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, Ontario, Canada.

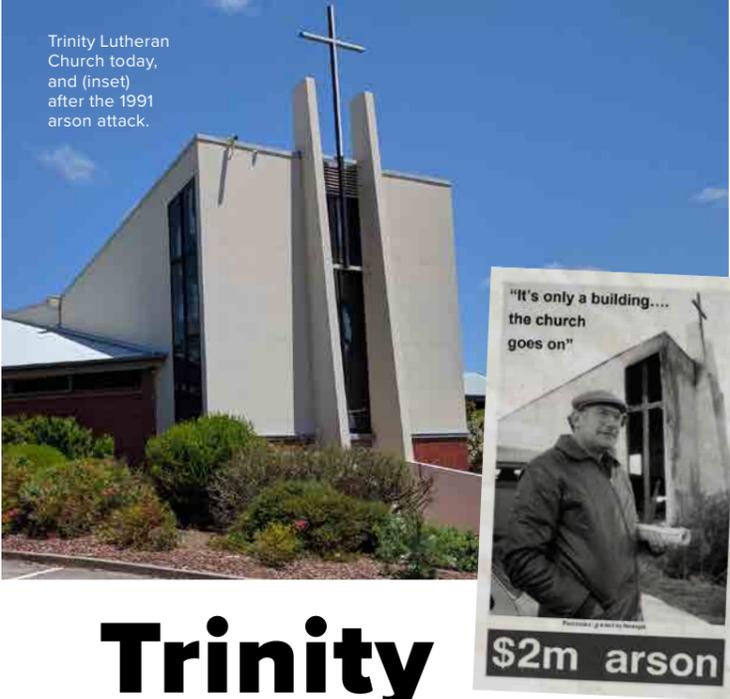
"I also worked as the Lutheran Tract Mission Development Officer for 7 years. I loved that job – it gave me a biblical, devotional and creative outlet with a mission focus and paid for my theology degree."

ON VOLUNTEERING

"I've served as a volunteer on numerous LCANZ boards and committees, including the Youth Department, Department of Hymnody (then Music and Song), Commission on Social and Bioethical Questions, Open Book board, National Magazine Committee, Commission on Worship (including helping to form the online worship planning pages), Department of Liturgics (editing lay reading sermons) and recently the Commission on Theology and Interchurch Relations.

"I've also travelled widely while voluntarily serving the LCA as the Lutheran World Federation representative alongside of President Semmler at two LWF Assemblies (Winnipeg, Canada and Stuttgart, Germany) and have served for 12 years as a theological consultant and minute secretary of the LWF Lutheran Council in Asia (LUCAS)."

Images: supplied



Trinity Lutheran Church today, and (inset) after the 1991 arson attack.

Trinity celebrates

2022 has brought a slew of milestones for Trinity Lutheran Church in Pasadena and an atmosphere of celebration for the congregation and community. This year marks the 40-year anniversary of both worshipping at the congregation's current Pasadena location, and the establishment of Trinity Place Retirement Village. It's also 30 years since the church was rebuilt after a fire razed the original building. As if these milestones weren't enough, the congregation, which has a strong cross-cultural element, is also marking ten years since they began joint worship services with the local Indonesian community.

"We have so much to be grateful for and to celebrate," says congregation member Anthea Habel.

The congregation has been reflecting on the past four decades and remembers its 'rising from the ashes' after fire destroyed the church building 30 years ago. It was in March 1991 that Pastor Trevor Reu was woken at 2.30am by an urgent phone call from the police. The church building on Grandview Drive was ablaze, an arson attack later found to be the cause. The building was gutted and the damage valued at \$2 million. When interviewed by the local media Pastor Trevor's words proved prophetic – 'It is only a building, the church goes on. I see this as only a little set back.'

A temporary facility was constructed on the tennis courts adjacent to the church site, giving the congregation a space to continue worship while cleanup and then rebuilding began. Just under a year later, in March 1992, the new worship center was rededicated and continues to serve the congregation well to this day.

In the last decade a new element has been introduced as worshippers with an Indonesian background joined the congregation. Originally meeting at another church in the area, the Indonesian group couldn't find a pastor. The Trinity congregation and Pastor Detlev Vosgerau welcomed them with open arms, quickly establishing firm friendships and

Images: newspaper article used with permission courtesy NewsPix, all others supplied.



For the past decade the congregation has had a cross-cultural mix, giving everyone the opportunity to learn from one another and to establish firm friendships and close connections

connections. While some churches with a cross-cultural mix hold independent services based on language, Trinity tries to maximise opportunities for the congregation members to unite wherever possible.

"It has been a wonderful chance for us to see how other cultures worship," says Anthea. "We've been able to spend days together after church, learn from one another and make good friends. We've watched children grow together and be baptized and confirmed in our church, we've had gala dinners with singing and dancing, and of course our Christmas services together."

Trinity has provided a steady presence in the life of many Indonesian students who have relocated to Adelaide for the duration of their studies. The church has been a spiritual and practical support for those far from home, and students have often played a role in nominating a project in Indonesia for the congregation to support through offerings. Celebrating life's joyful milestones with the visiting students has also been a highlight for the congregation.

"One of our Indonesian students was married at Trinity and the bride and their family and friends came over from Indonesia for the wedding, in the middle of winter," says Anthea.

"The service was conducted in Bahasa by an Indonesian pastor with Pastor Mike Pietsch officiating."

Even after the students return home to Indonesia the connections often continue.

"We like to think they have a church home, even after going home," says Anthea.

While the milestones for Trinity will continue to accrue, the congregation knows that God is with them wherever they gather in his name – a sentiment voiced in the bible verse etched on the church's foundation stone, Matthew 12:6: "In this place is one greater than the temple."



We are grateful for the volunteers who came into the District Office to help us put the Easter packs together.

Easter Children's Packs

500 Easter Packs were distributed by Blueprint Ministries this year. These were given to children attending worship over Easter, to contacts of congregational members, to those at playgroups, and to relatives of congregation members.



The packs included a book (thanks to the Bible Society) an Easter tract, activities and puzzles, stickers, a wooden cross or balloon, a craft activity and a family activity.

Financial support was provided by funds raised at the 2021 Blueprint Dinner. In the future we plan to continue to provide these packs at Christmas and Easter and we are now seeking donations of wine and quality goods or services as prizes for the **2022 Blueprint Dinner to be held on Saturday August 27th**. All donations can be sent to the District Office. For any enquiries, please contact Jo Chamberlain 0466 400 907 or call Blueprint Ministries on 08 8267 5211.

Young Adult Welcome Event

The 2022 Young Adult Welcome Event was held on Saturday 5th March at the The Gov in Hindmarsh, with around 50 people in attendance. This event was a great way to network and welcome people new to the city or to tertiary study. Blueprint Ministries plans an event each term to continue these networking opportunities.

If you would like further information about any of these events, please contact us at Blueprint Ministries or check out the Blueprint Ministries or Blueprint Ministries Young Adults Facebook pages.



Images: supplied

Family Faith Trail – Prayer Resource

Blueprint Ministries along with Intergen (Uniting Church) have produced a new resource in the Family Faith Trail series. This resource is 'hot off the press' and focuses on prayer. In a similar style to the Easter and Christmas Faith Trails, the Prayer Family Faith Trail provides resources and activities relating to prayer in 3 sections: for pre-schoolers, for students in the primary years and for all-ages. It includes activities, Bible verses, age-appropriate reflection questions; prayer ideas; chat topics and a blessing, plus many additional resources.

It is available on the Blueprint Ministries website under resources, on the Blueprint Facebook page, in the May Resources Email or by contacting Blueprint Ministries.



NOVO

by Rose Vonow
camp director

Campers enjoy their time together

Blueprint's annual April camp, NOVO, was held the week after Easter at Cornerstone College in Mt Barker. NOVO is the state-wide camp for years 7-12. We were blessed to have 135 mouths to feed between campers, leaders and other volunteers this year. We had participants come from a range of regions, from as north as Gladstone to as south as Mingbooi! What a great way to create Christian connections across the state.

The theme for this year was 'Peace in the Pain', with the verses we explored being Isaiah 43:1-3 and 1 Peter 5:6-10. We were blessed to hear four messages on the theme from fourth year seminary student, Tom Kitson. Pastor Peter Miller was also present on camp, providing us his wisdom and spiritual guidance.

Camp this year was full of messages on the theme, small groups (12 of them!), fantastic games to get everyone involved (competition was fierce), day/night electives, workshops, and one of my favourites – witnessing the beautiful friendships that were formed throughout camp (even by people who had never met before)!



Images: supplied

Games this year were intricately created and included Egg and Custard (needing to keep them both intact), a large-scale camp Bingo, Defenders of Baronia (wearing costumes and getting in character topped it), and life-sized board games. There were also electives such as baking, board games, craft, dance, music, prayer and sports.



We were blessed to have a visit from Bishop Paul Smith who addressed both the leaders and campers – it was great to have him along. We even spotted him eager to help wipe off the tables during morning breakfast, what a servant heart!

Other guest presenters included Erin Kerber, Anna Seidel, Jodi Brook, Tom Kitson (camp speaker), Pastor Fin Klein and Pastor Andrew Brook. We see God's hand in this, making a way for some of these presenters to come last minute due to the impacts of COVID. Topics included Christian meditation, following Jesus, God's will, identity, Jesus' life, mission, prayer and worship.

Church caterer Barb Jacobson headed up the kitchen team and we were so blessed with the food that they produced. As something different, this year we had a number of young adults come into the kitchen to be trained in camp catering. We're encouraging anyone who would be interested in learning about camp catering to come along next year - please reach out, we would love to have you along.

Please join us in prayer for this year's campers and leaders as they continue to reflect on the themes presented on camp. Please also pray for the future planning of next year's camp and the 365 ministry which the Directors have the goal of creating.

To God be the glory forever and ever!



Name Above All Names 40 hours of praise & worship

A spirit-led event hosted by Waikerie Lutheran Church late last year was the result of a vision a congregation member had on his heart for over ten years. Cheryl Seabrook says her brother had been thinking about the idea for a long time but had previously 'come up against a brick wall'.

"He asked God 'why me, why have you put this on my heart?'," says Cheryl. "The answer came back, 'because you won't give up.' He felt very strongly that now was the time to do this."

The verse that provided the basis of the event was 2 Chronicles 1:4 – "If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and I will forgive their sin and I will heal their land."

A multi-denominational event, *Name Above All Names* took place over 40 consecutive hours, from a Friday evening through to Sunday morning. Over 20 bands, worship leaders and speakers took part. While there were different styles and methods of worship, all were united in their goal.

"This wasn't a time for preaching, self-promotion or asking for anything - just purely giving," says Cheryl. "It was a time to invite God into the event, into our hearts, and offer a sacrifice of praise. It was to unite the Christian community and family."

Held at Waikerie Lutheran Primary School's D'Vine Hall, many brought tents or swags and set up camp on the school grounds. Meals and freshly squeezed orange juice that was donated by a kind sponsor were provided free of charge.

The program was flexible and people were free to worship in their own way, as individuals.

"God speaks to each of us differently and has given each of us different gifts," says Cheryl. "It was beautiful to see so many people working together, worshipping together and glorifying God with one voice. Only God knows the ripple effect of this event."

Waikerie Lutheran Church now plans to hold the event annually.

IN BRIEF



Millicent connection day

St Paul's Lutheran Church in Millicent recently held a connection day and also welcomed Pastor Mitch and his wife Olivia (pictured) to the congregation. Held at the Nal-a-Wort camping area at Southend, the group enjoyed a meal of locally caught fish, shared Mitch and Olivia's welcome cake, and enjoyed some fun games and activities.

Art exhibition for Mark

An exhibition of Mark Rech's unique paintings was recently on display at Hahndorf Academy. Mark is a Lutheran Disability Services client who lives independently at Shimron House. Mark's art explores the concept of different worlds and planets and is full of bright colours and imaginative touches. Art gives Mark the freedom to express himself, with encouragement from his family, LDS staff and his art teacher at the Broughton Art Society disability art sessions, where Mark has been attending for the last three years.



Churches bless essential workers



Meribah Lutheran Congregation blessed the staff at Loxton Lutheran School with a kind gesture to lift their spirits, providing them with care packages after the school had faced a tricky time with COVID (above).



Gawler Lutheran Church sent a note of encouragement and a bag of goodies to staff at Immanuel Lutheran School in Gawler, as a token of appreciation for 'persevering through a crazy term'. (left).

Young people from St Peter's Lutheran Church in Loxton blessed frontline workers with a yummy morning tea they made as part of a service project. (right).



Walpeup closing service

St Peter's Lutheran Church Walpeup held their closing ceremony in April. The service was officiated by Pastor Tony Traeger and Bishop David Altus, with Pastor Andy Gierus (a previous Walpeup pastor) saying some final words as the church doors were officially closed. Like the stained glass windows he stood beneath which depict the Alpha and Omega, Bishop David's message focussed on Jesus being both the beginning and the end. Grace and peace have flowed from this church and will continue to flow wherever its people meet, in and through Jesus the saviour.



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Images: 'Churches bless essential workers' images courtesy Gawler Lutheran Church Facebook, St Peter's Lutheran Church Loxton Facebook and Meribah Lutheran Congregation. All other images supplied.



Farewell Michelle Storie

The District Office recently said farewell to Michelle Storie, Executive Administration Assistant and Assistant to the Bishop. Michelle had been a much-loved member of the District team for more than seven years (and for 20 years prior at the LLL) and we pray God's blessing be with her as she moves on to new challenges. Please redirect any communications to our admin team at administration.sa-nt@lca.org.au or phone 08 8267 5211.

Do not let the floodwaters engulf me
or the depths swallow me up ...

Psalm 69:15 (NIV)

Thank you!

**At first glance, you may not see a lot to be thankful for in
this photo from your ALWS work in South Sudan ...**

... and it's true, the flood crisis remains serious.

In Twic East, 48,000 people live on 12 islands, with so little dry land that the water they use for cooking and washing is drawn from the same water they must use as a toilet.

Your action through ALWS supports workers to repair dykes to hold back floodwaters.

In Panyagor (pictured), 200 workers earn \$3 a day for 20 days in a cash-for-work program. It's very hard work, but it supports the 1,000 people in their families.

This life-restoring action could not happen without people like you, living out your faith as you bring love to life through the ministry of ALWS.

The good news is our church's Christmas Action for South Sudan is matched dollar for dollar (to \$250,000) by a Lutheran couple in Queensland! Thank you!

Your Lutheran-supported action also:

- trained 100 people in disaster risk reduction
- provided 150 families with \$180 cash grants to buy survival rations
- built three temporary learning spaces (each with 4 classrooms)
- constructed disability-friendly pit latrines at these schools

In our COVID-focused world, the danger is that people in places like South Sudan are forgotten. But not by you. Here, your kindness is a blessing ALWayS. Thank you!

alws.org.au * 1300 763 407