

Together

MARCH 2024



LDS clients

**star in new
ad campaign**

**More than
Christmas
cheer**

**Age no barrier
to friendship**

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Front cover: Lutheran Disability Services clients Jack and Natalie are some of the stars of a new ad campaign (story page 6). Photo by Andre Castellucci.

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To subscribe to our eNews 'Online Together', visit www.sant.lca.org.au/news/enews/



Editor's note

Have you watched ABC TV's *Old People's Home For Teenagers*? I had seen the original series, *Old People's Home For 4 Year Olds*, where pre-schoolers were brought into a retirement home as part of an ultimately uplifting social experiment to alleviate loneliness in the older generation, and I had high expectations for what I viewed as the sequel. I wasn't disappointed! I loved watching the seniors and teenagers interact, find common ground and eventually bond with one another. Of course, it wasn't without hiccups and some awkward moments, but overall it was one of the most heartwarming shows I'd seen in a long time...even rivalling it's preschooler predecessor for me. I was excited to hear that Victor Harbor Lutheran Church was inspired by the show to create its very own intergenerational project, bringing together residents from Victor Harbor Lutheran Homes and students from Encounter Lutheran College, and of course we had to do a story on it. The project aims to reduce loneliness across the age-groups as well as sparking joy and

connection. You can read more on page 10. The residents at Village of Praise in Lobethal have also been reaching out to young and old in their community, putting a mammoth effort into food stalls and other offerings during the Lights of Lobethal Festival over Christmas and having fun as they did it! You can read all about it, and see photos of their very festive get-ups, on page 6.

And Lutheran Disability Services clients are featured on screens across the nation doing the things they love, in a brand-new ad campaign with a cheerful and heartwarming vibe (our cover, and story on page 7).

Enjoy this edition!

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



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A word from your Bishop...

Pastor Andrew Brook
Bishop SA-NT District
Lutheran Church of Australia

In Australia we experience the church year differently to our sisters and brothers in the northern hemisphere. The seasons are inverted, and some of the traditions don't make as much sense for our climate. Christmas is the prime example. We can all remember Christmas Eve services where we heartily sang Christmas carols which referenced the cold and the snow as we baked in a superheated, sunlit church.

In mid-February, Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of our Lenten journey. Seasonally we are heading into autumn, and soon the deciduous trees will slowly turn shades of yellow and red and we'll be raking up the leaves in our gardens. In the northern hemisphere, Lent coincides with the arrival of spring. The long winter has ended, nature is waking up. The word 'Lent' originally meant 'spring' or 'the lengthening of the day.' Lent is the time in the church year where we focus on the spiritual growth that flows out of the events of Good Friday and Easter.

So how might the season of autumn help us to think through the church season of Lent? As plants begin to shut up shop for winter, as the paddocks are bare, we may be drawn to think of our mortality. We won't always be in the growing season of life. We are all getting older, some of us closer to the end than the beginning. When we were marked with an ash cross on Ash Wednesday, we may have heard these words: 'Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.' These words always lead me to this song from Robin Mann:

'Like autumn leaves upon the ground. We know not where we should be bound. The rain comes hard and night rolls in. The sky is black, and it's dark within, And one by one, you call us home.' (All Together Now, 38)

As at home as we feel in this world, we are on our way home to fullness of life in the presence of God. There are glimpses along the way of how eternal life will be, in the joy of worship, in the gift of relationships, in the beauty of the natural world. The forty days of Lent give us breathing space to dwell on the story of the suffering of God's son for our sake. We do this through our tradition of mid-week Lenten services.

Lent provides us with an opportunity to name and to confess those things which weigh us down and compromise our spiritual health. On Ash Wednesday we heard this call to repentance as we came forward to receive the sign of the cross on our foreheads: 'Repent and believe in the gospel.' At the heart, repentance involves a death to self. Like the many leaves that fall from a tree in autumn, there are a thousand deaths that we must die. We so easily indulge in behaviour that gives the lie to our new identity as sons and daughters of our heavenly Father through Christ. Instead, we want to make our name in the world. We are convinced that we will be happy if we have more and more. We buy what we don't need. We find that the treadmill of life is speeding up, but we lack the will, or the strength, to get off. We don't have time to maintain relationships with other people.

Lent gives us the conscious opportunity to refocus our lives on God's will and his ways. In the Gospel for Ash Wednesday, Jesus speaks of these healthy spiritual practices: 'so whenever you give alms...whenever you pray...whenever you fast...' (Matthew 6:2,5,16) Jesus assumes that these habits will be part of the way that his followers conduct their lives. To give, to pray and to fast are powerful statements that run counter to a world in which we are told to acquire what we can, trust no-one but ourselves, and have our fill of pleasure.

A Lenten lifestyle is a quiet and gentle witness to God's grace: giving - to a local charity, to an agency of the church; praying - at a set time each day; fasting - from a streaming show that you are hooked on, for example. This is no sanctified self-improvement course. Instead, it's all about placing our trust fully in the grace and mercy of God through orienting our habits and practices around him.

When the last of the autumn leaves have fallen in a couple of months, trees appear barren, lifeless. Then the rain comes, and then the spring sunshine, and the tree buds into new life. Treat Lent as an opportunity to pare back your life. Let the things that don't serve you well in your walk with God fall away. Delight in the growth that God's spirit brings as the gift of Jesus' cross.

A Respectful Way Forward

The SA-NT District will host the LCANZ General Convention of Synod from October 4-7, at Concordia College in Highgate. One of the major items on the agenda will be the resolution arising out of last year's General Convention that the LCANZ 'work through the theological, constitutional, and governance requirements to operate as one church with two different practices of ordination and establish a detailed framework through which this could be accomplished, such as one or more existing LCANZ Districts becoming Districts that teach and practice the ordination of both women and men to the office of the public ministry or by establishing a non-geographical LCANZ 'District' that does so.'

The church has established the Way Forward 2024 process to progress this resolution, and in the next months the LCA will be presented with the preferred framework that will then form part of the agenda of General Convention of Synod. I encourage you to keep an eye on the LCA website or in your local church's communication for further information as it is released.

I recently wrote to the pastors of the district about the tone. I know that many of you are passionate about the issue of the ordination of women as well as men, and are convinced about your position. This is to be expected, and it is important that we hold strongly to what we believe the scriptures say on this issue. But I've seen and heard instances where our explanation of what we believe has unfairly attacked others who hold the contrary position. Some people are playing the man (or woman), rather than the ball. Sadly, social media encourages this kind of approach. We can say what we would not say to another person face to face, and more's the pity. The eighth commandment is regularly breached. We do well to remember Luther's explanation of the Eighth

Commandment: 'We are to fear and love God so that we do not betray, slander, or lie about our neighbour, but defend them, speak well of them, and explain their actions in the kindest way.' May God give us the strength and patience to do this.

Next Steps for the District in 2024

I have the practice of choosing a word of Scripture to frame the year. District Church Council has done the same thing this year. We have identified the following watchwords from God's word and resolved to let these words guide our thinking, praying and leading:

- "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:18,19a)
- "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:3)
- "Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit." (Galatians 5:25)

How might these words shape the life of your congregation or institution? Or has God given you another word to dwell in this year?

This year we want to build on the vision statement we launched at last year's convention at Victor Harbor: **Real Grace. Real Life. Real Community.** These are some of our proposed work areas in 2024:

- Reviewing the structure of our district zones and the role and responsibilities of Zone Pastor roles
- Ongoing regionalisation of ministry
- Our financial resources and assets, and how they can be utilised for mission and ministry.
- Support of LCANZ General Convention Planning
- Strengthening relationships with our district's agencies and determining how they embody 'Real grace. Real life. Real Community.'

We are also working through the ongoing implications of the restructure of the LCANZ Churchwide Office and what we might need to pick up to ensure our congregations receive the support they need. Please let us know how you believe we can best support you and the people of your community ministry context.

From the Bishop's diary...



One Church, Many Doors

This year we are holding a one-day District Convention of Synod in Lobethal on Saturday 4 May. Our theme is, "One church, many doors". Each of our congregations are unique, and each of us have the privilege of serving God and

the community in specific ways at the local level. How is God at work in your church and community? What difference is the good news of Jesus' life, death and resurrection making in and through you? These are the stories that we want to share at this year's gathering.

District Pastors Conference & Pastors and Church Workers Retreat

District Pastors will gather for a two-day conference prior to District Synod, on Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 May. On Friday pastors and church workers will share a day together. Please pray for the work of the pastors and church workers who serve across our district, in congregations, schools, aged care and indigenous ministry.

Pastor installations

- Greg Page at Mount Barker and Tom Pietsch at Bethlehem, Adelaide (interim) on 4 February 2024
- Mike Steicke at Albert Park-Semaphore (interim) on 11 February 2024
- Peter Klemm at Berri/Barmera on 18 February 2024
- Howard Beard at Balaklava-Carlsruhe on 26 May 2024

I've also had the privilege of installing school leaders at the following schools: Unity College, Murray Bridge, Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Para Vista, St Jakobi Lutheran Campus, Lyndoch, and Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Angaston. Visiting these church and school communities has greatly encouraged me and I thank God for those who take on new leadership roles as pastors and principals.

Bereavements

We remember before God Pastor Ian Kleinig and Pastor Evan Koch, who died recently, and we pray for those who were close to them and grieve. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." (Psalm 116:15)



LDS clients are the stars of the ads currently running in cinemas and online.

LDS clients star in new ad campaign

Lutheran Disability Services (LDS) clients are starring on screens big and small, in a new ad campaign that shows them living their best lives. Whether foaming milk for a flat white, shooting hoops on the basketball court, cheering on their footy team or flinging kernels in a popcorn fight, much fun was had behind the scenes to bring the campaign to fruition.

The campaign promotes supported independent living options for people living with a disability in South Australia, with the tagline “we get more because we deserve more”.

‘Many of our clients and families were telling us that they love being a part of the LDS community and it felt like chalk and cheese between LDS and their previous provider,’ says Michael Kromwyk, LDS CEO. “We took this to our advertising agency and the insight that they found was that it was more than LDS doing more, LDS does more because our clients deserve more.’

Filmed over two and a half days in September and October last year, there were 18 LDS clients cast in featured roles and lots of others appeared alongside support staff as background extras. While a few cast members may have started out a little shy, it didn’t take long for them to warm up with the support of the fun-loving filming team.



Photos by Andre Castellucci.

The campaign is currently being shown on cinema screens across South Australia, as well as on YouTube and Facebook, with an audio version airing on commercial radio stations. There are also plans for the ads to hit TV screens in May and June.

You can watch the ads online on the LDS website at ldssa.org.au

More than Christmas cheer



Getting into the Christmas mood are Ivy Sandercock, Olga Hein, Elaine Ivey, Pat Tucker, Julie Schubert and Kath Sziller.

As the normally sleepy town of Lobethal swelled with seasonal visitors during its iconic Christmas lights festival in December, the residents of Valley of Praise Retirement Village were hard at work.

In a show of Christmas spirit the Village opened its doors to the community, offering an extensive range of food, drinks and retail options to the crowds. Volunteer residents ran the show, putting heart and soul into each and every offering. Food stalls catered for all tastes with spiral potatoes, ice creams, toasted sandwiches, scones with jam and cream, biscuits, and hot and cold drinks for sale. A range of goodies were on offer at the craft stall, bargains were to be had at the white elephant stall, and raffle tickets were also up for grabs.

While the turnover was quick, this was no ‘fast food’ – nearly every item was made by hand with love and care by the dedicated residents. Over the fifteen nights of the festival nearly 3000 potatoes were hand-turned into delicious potato spirals, with residents working until after midnight some evenings to feed the hungry throng. Scones were baked fresh each day, and the jam that accompanied them was made the week of the festival. Biscuits were carefully baked, iced and packed by residents, and all the craft items for sale were also hand made.

‘The making and creating of all these things led to fun, conversations and friendships made and built over this festival period,’ says Village Manager Ros May.

‘One thing that stood out to me was that everyone involved was happy and smiling, and the atmosphere was wonderful and joyous, as it should be at Christmas time.’

As it turns out, not even a town-wide power outage one evening could ruffle the festive residents’ feathers.

‘On one particular night the power went out in the entire town, which, as you can imagine when people are here



Sandra Hughes, Judy Pitman and John Hughes man the homemade biscuit stall.

to see the Lobethal lights, is not a good thing to happen!’ laughs Ros. ‘Our team of residents worked together to enable us to continue to be fully operational.’

The group managed to collect five generators, generously loaned by residents who had them in their caravans, and quickly got things up and running again.

‘Each stall was back up and operational in a matter of minutes,’ says Ros. ‘Not one stall was without power, we had lights on in our resident centre, and we could all function. I personally was so proud of everyone involved as nobody panicked and nobody was left out. This is what team work is all about.’

All in all the residents’ efforts raised \$20,000 which will go towards items that will benefit everyone in the Village.

With wonderful support from the community and visitors alike, the Village residents enjoyed the opportunity to showcase their skills and talents.

‘We proved that just because you are retired it doesn’t mean you are not capable!’ says Ros.



Bev Schubert and Margret Saunders enjoy a potato spiral treat.



District update

By Angela Rogers
District Administrator

My husband and I travelled to Europe over Christmas and one of the many things we experienced was snow, a first for me. We spent the afternoon on Christmas Day watching little children learning to firstly walk in skis and then to ski. The happiness as they eventually managed to glide was evident by the size of their smiles. And for those who were tobogganing the joy at not falling off was huge, especially as they raced around to the lift to take them back up the hill. For me, I was just happy that I didn't fall over in the snow or on the ice!

God has given us lots of reasons to smile and moments to experience joy in our lives. Many congregations and parishes are holding or have recently held their annual general meeting, and this should be a time of joy and thankfulness. We are grateful for all the mission opportunities and activities that are being tried, the connections with people being made, and the volunteers that are serving in so many roles. The District Office would love to hear the good news stories happening in your congregation right now. These don't have to be 'big' stories – they could be as simple as highlighting the work of an individual, a milestone moment, blessed interaction, or outreach to a single person or family. From little things big things grow! Send us an email with some photos, or even a video if you have it, to administration.sa-nt@lca.org.au

A couple of reminders about your annual general meeting: it must be held within five months of the end of your financial year; reports are to be received, including the financial report, and elections will possibly be held. This is a great time to say 'thank you' to all the position holders and other volunteers who serve your congregation – these people are excellent reasons for us to smile and be joyful. If your congregation or parish has elected new people, please remember to notify the District Office so that LAMP2 can be updated.

One of my recent morning devotions was about seeing things the little things, like the individual snowflakes, the little leaves and pretty shells that children will pick up. Our world is full of the miraculous, of remarkable details and wondrous moments that have the power to fill our hearts with joy if we see them through the eyes of a child. The fingerprints of God and his grace are everywhere.

Blessings
Angela

Professional Standards

By Dave Biar, Professional Standards Officer

Has your congregation had leadership changes?

Has your congregation elected new leaders late last year or early this year, and did this include a Safe Church Coordinator and/or Safe Church Alternate Coordinator? If yes, it's important for you to promptly notify the Churchwide Office by submitting a LAMP2 form so all details can be updated.

Are you a newly elected leader, or have you taken on a new role in your congregation?

Touch base with your Safe Church Coordinator or Professional Standards Officer about a Working With Children Check and Safe Church Training requirements.

Working With Children Checks – when does yours expire?

Working With Children Checks (WWCCs) issued in 2019 will expire in 2024. Do you know when yours expires? Please check and diarise renewal at least two months prior to the expiry date. If a volunteer doesn't hold a valid WWCC they must step down from their role until they obtain a valid clearance.

Safer Internet Day

This initiative is led by the eSafety Commissioner in Australia, to educate people about online safety risks. This year's Safer Internet Day was held on 6 February. It promoted three simple online safety actions:

Connect safely by keeping apps and devices secure and reviewing privacy settings regularly.

Reflect on how our actions online may affect user safety.

Protect ourselves and others by visiting eSafety.gov.au for tips on how to stay safe and to report online abuse.

Almost half

of children aged 8-17 were treated in a **hurtful or nasty way online**¹

Of these children

55%

said they had **felt sadness**, **43% had felt anger**, and **17% said their mental health** had been affected¹

75%

of teens aged 16-18 had **encountered online porn**, with 13 being the average age of their first encounter²

1 in 6

adults had **done something negative** online to others⁴



Information extracted from the eSafety website. For more information check out <https://www.esafety.gov.au/newsroom/whats-on/safer-internet-day>

Let's get digital

What's your church's online presence?

First impressions count

If somebody wants to check out your congregation and searches for you online, what will they find? What will they do if they can't find anything about you? Or if they do find your website or social media page, but it's hopelessly out of date, doesn't have much information on it, or has information that only seems relevant to current church members but makes no sense to an outsider?

People will make assumptions about your congregation based on your online presence. If they like what they see and feel welcomed by the tone of your online communication, they may come to visit you in person. If not, you're losing valuable opportunities to connect with people that might be searching for exactly what you've got. Give your digital presence as much thought, care and attention as you would to your church building and grounds.

Ready to make a digital change for the better? Here are some tips.

Your church's social media

The internet has changed the world in countless ways. Entire generations now choose to communicate online, particularly through social media, and it is exciting to be able to use this wonderful media in God's service.

Navigating the world of social media can be tricky. Most people know by now that you never, ever, put anything on social media (even on your private or closed-group page) that you wouldn't want the world to see. You also know how easily you can harm the name of the Lutheran Church (and worse, the name of Jesus) if you post inappropriate material on social media. But there are also other things to consider:

- How can you engage and reach out to people from outside of your church, as well as speaking to your current members?

- Who is managing your social media and what is going up online? It's worth delegating this to someone within the congregation who has some 'know-how' in this area, or someone willing to learn and who understands the importance of maintaining content that is appropriate and safeguards your people, especially children, on social media.

- How can you guard against inappropriate content and comments being posted on your page, that you are legally liable for as the page owner?

To help you as you answer these questions the LCA has developed an online resource page, as well as a Social Media Policy to help our congregations. You can find out more on the LCA website at www.lca.org.au/social-media

Your church's website

In this day and age it's important to have a website. Currently, all LCA congregations have a very basic 'one page website' already set up by LCA Communications, with information generated from your data in LAMP2 and HRS. However, if you're ready to go beyond this to renovate, rebuild, or create a new website, LCA Communications can guide you and offer advice. They have comprehensive information available at www.lca.org.au/websites which goes through all the essentials you need to consider, and more.



Got more questions?

We're here to help!
Email lca.comms@lca.org.au



Encounter Lutheran College students visited Victor Harbor Lutheran Homes for a fun day of bowls with the residents.

Age no barrier to friendship

Intergenerational relationships being built in Victor Harbor

An intergenerational project bringing older people together with school students to generate joy and alleviate loneliness is a first for the Victor Harbor region. Initiated by Victor Harbor Lutheran Church, the two year pilot will facilitate relationships between residents from Victor Harbor Lutheran Homes and students from Encounter Lutheran College.

The ABC television show *Old People's Home For Teenagers* served as the inspiration for the project. The popular program features a group of teenagers who spend time with seniors living in a retirement village. The relationships formed result in some heartwarming moments, with testing done by psychologists showing that the intergenerational contact is beneficial for both age groups in alleviating social isolation and improving health, both mental and, particularly for the older cohort, physical.



Tamara McPherson (pictured left) leads the Victor Harbor program in the newly created role of Intergenerational Community Engagement Officer. The position was made possible thanks to an LLL Mission Outreach Grant through the Lutheran Church SA-NT District, and it's one that Tamara is well equipped

for, having worked in schools as both a pastoral care worker and a school support officer in the past.

'I know the wonders and inquisitive nature of school kids and what they have to share with others, just as I know that the life experiences and knowledge that seniors have to share is invaluable to have in our communities,' says Tamara.

While still in its early stages, Tamara says she is excited to find fun and engaging ways for the two groups to interact. Meet and greet sessions have revealed areas of interest the seniors feel they could share with the younger generation, including subjects such as sewing, cooking, sport and leisure activities, sharing of historical information and more. Activities have kicked off with Encounter students visiting the Harbor Village to learn outdoor and carpet bowls skills with the residents, as well as a portrait competition that culminated in a mini art exhibition.

Tamara says these first events have been a great learning ground for the future, with more fun and creative activities in the works.

'Successful intergenerational connections are built when there are relationships formed,' she says. 'We can put residents and students in a room together, but if there isn't the opportunity for them to connect there's unlikely to be success – so for me my main goal is to be able to facilitate intentional relationships and this will take time. But for now, I think we are off to a great start.'

Intergenerational portrait competition

The creative prowess of Encounter Lutheran College students and staff was on display as they took part in an intergenerational portrait competition. The task was to draw or paint a resident of Victor Harbor Lutheran Homes and the resulting artwork was a testament to the local talent. The pieces were displayed in an art exhibition at the Harbor Village Dawson Centre, before heading back to the school.

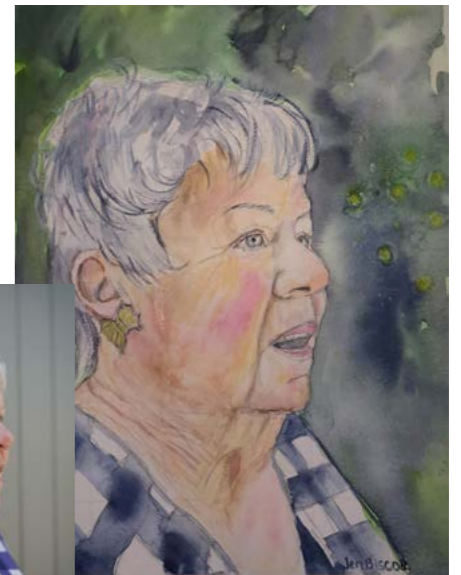
Photos supplied.



Winner of the Middle/Senior School category was Alana Anderson (year 9).



Winner of the staff category was Mrs Jen Biscoe.



Winner of the Junior School category (years 5-6) was Kiara Shepherd.



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Bautzen, Eisenach, Berlin, Leipzig, Dresden, Grünberg, Klemzig, Züllichau, Wittenberg, Hamburg and Amsterdam. Worship in Luther's churches and in Berlin. Other areas and towns available on request. Add-on Budapest to Amsterdam cruise is also available.

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Volunteers put together the packs. L-R: Clay Smith; Jeanette Mann; Beth Mann; Anastasia Ferguson; Liam Moulden, David Zwijnenburg.

2023 Children's Christmas Packs a hit

By Jeanette Mann, CFYYAM Team Leader

Interest and enthusiasm for Blueprint's Children's Christmas Packs grew again in 2023, with 1500 packs sent out to congregations and individuals far and wide. Initially the vision for these packs was that they would be used as a resource for grandparents to gift to their

grandchildren, as an avenue to speak about the true meaning of Christmas. In subsequent years we've seen the packs used as a follow-up for families who have had children baptised, as a gift to children in congregations, and to witness to children in public schools and at community events. We are thankful to those who helped fund and resource these packs, including supporters of the Blueprint Dinner, Lutheran Tract Mission, all those who gave donations, as well as those who volunteered their time to assemble the packs. May the love of Jesus Christ flow into the hearts and lives of the children who were gifted these packs. Praise God!

Ministry grants awarded

By Joanne Chamberlain, Congregation Consultant

Blueprint Ministry Grants were available again in 2023 and we were overwhelmed by the applications from our district congregations. The team specifically looked for applications that considered new or enhanced ministry outreach opportunities.

We were particularly impressed by a vision from Glynde Lutheran Church to install a basketball hoop as outreach to multi-cultural families. Where language could be a barrier, an opportunity to share life with families through sport was an ingenious way of welcoming new people into their community. Another successful applicant from St Michaels Hahndorf is looking to install a sensory play area for families. It's dual purpose of engaging

and supporting families during worship services as well as supporting families with children who have sensory needs was a testimony to understanding the needs of their community.

Rather than just issuing materials to bolster programs, congregations carefully considered how the grant could improve ministry to children, youth, young adults or families.

In all, six congregations were awarded funding ranging from \$300 to \$800, with the intent of congregations being able to fund some of the resources themselves. Maximum applications of \$1000 were encouraged.

We look forward to sharing more stories from the successful applicants throughout the year.

If you are interested in ways to engage communities and support outreach opportunities, please get in touch on 08 8267 5211 or visit blueprintministries.org.au for information on camps, events, resources and related content.

SPIN camp takes on the Wild West

By Alyssa Will, Camp Director

In January of 2024 Blueprint Ministries ran their 10th annual SPIN Kids Camp. SPIN is a primary school aged youth camp for children in Years 4 to 6 from all across our SA-NT District to gather and experience a week of faith-based fellowship, learning and growth. Camp was held at Camp Kedron in Barmera, allowing us to make the most of Lake Bonney in the hot weather!

The camp theme was 'Wanted', a Wild West spin on Biblical learning. We discussed God as our "Sheriff" and how he saves us from being "outlaws" and has freely given us the title of "Deputy Sheriff". From this, there were some very fruitful discussions about us being God's masterpiece and that we are all "citizens" of Heaven.

Throughout camp we had an amazing menu including a meal of tacos and burritos for a Wild West theme night. All our campers and leaders got dressed up, we had cowboy stand offs and mini games for all of our groups to get involved in.

We also had other activities such as silly songs, sports activities, lots of board games and, of course, swimming. The campers especially enjoyed the water activities, including getting the chance to throw water balloons, tip water buckets and use the hose on the leaders during the water obstacle course. It was a blessing that we were able to swim in the lake again after the floods in 2023.

Thank you to everyone who supported SPIN financially, in prayer or with encouragement of campers. We are so thankful for the local churches who continue to support their youth members when they return from camp. We look forward to SPIN 2025 next summer.



Howdy partner! Wild West was the camp theme this year.

SPIN Camp parent feedback

'The Spin play list has been on repeat here. Thanks for making my son's first camp such a great experience. He can't wait to go back. We praise God that these camps exist to connect young people together to share and experience the love of Christ!'

'Please pass on my sincere thanks to all involved for another wonderful camp. I can see how spiritually recharging these events are for my children, what a wonderful way to start off the new year. When I asked my daughter what she was most looking forward to about camp she gave me a long list! So much goodness, I am so very grateful.'

'Boys had a fabulous time at camp. They have shared lots and continue to. Many grateful thanks to all organisers and leaders. Continued Blessings for this important ministry.'

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Ben and Metha on their wedding day in 1914.

From a vision to a village Glynde Homes founders honoured

In 1953 Ben and Metha Schulze moved from the country town of Blyth to Adelaide. The couple were in their early 60s at the time and felt a God-given call

to give back to the community by establishing a retirement housing precinct. From their vision, and through their financial support, the facility that we now know as Glynde Lutheran Homes was established in 1957.

In 1964 the couple bequeathed another significant amount in celebration of their golden wedding anniversary, which saw the addition of purpose-designed nursing home – an Australian first in an era where aged nursing care was not a familiar concept.

Ben and Metha were honoured at a ceremony in October last year, where a memorial was dedicated by Stephen Schulz, Assistant Bishop for Mission. As part of the ceremony, Pastor Stephen was presented with an engraved trowel that was

first used by Ben Schulze in the 1950s to bless the original foundation stone.

The memorial consists of an explanatory storyboard plus a dedication plaque, the original foundation stone and Ben and Metha's headstone.

Invited guests on the day included parliamentarians, council wardspeople, members of the Schulze family, Lutheran Homes Group board members, staff and residents. They enjoyed the ceremonies in the sunshine, then moved into the air-conditioned comfort of the community centre to enjoy afternoon tea.



The memorial features a storyboard as well as a dedication plaque, the original foundation stone and Ben and Metha's headstone.

IN BRIEF



The cast of the original *Kick Off Ya Boots* production.

An all new *Kick Off Ya Boots* for 2024

An all new version of the acclaimed show *Kick Off Ya Boots* is on its way to the Riverland in September. Following the success of Little Town Productions' previous show, the new iteration will follow the Conner family in the next phase of their farming journey. Little Town Productions has been an outreach ministry of St Peter's Lutheran Church in Loxton since 1999.

Kick Off Ya Boots celebrates what it means to live and work in a rural community and deals with the real issues faced by locals, with plenty of laughs, great music, good company and more on offer.

The show will be on at Lutheran Peace Hall in Loxton for limited performances between 20-28 September. Visit Little Town Productions on Facebook or littletown.com.au for more information.

Memorial image courtesy Ian Pfeiffer. Historical photos taken from the publication 'From a Vision to a Village', used with permission.

Murrayville images courtesy Mallee Lutheran Parish.

100 year service at Murrayville

St Peter's Lutheran Congregation at Murrayville recently celebrated the 100 year anniversary of the laying of their foundation stone. Baxter Gierus-Heintze (pictured far left with his mother Dr Sharon Gierus and sister Ella) played the organ during the thanksgiving service, a fitting tribute given Baxter's great great grandfather, J.H.S Heidenreich, was one of the pastors present as the foundation stone was laid in December 1923.



The congregation outside the church at Murrayville.

Multicultural celebrations at Glynde

The wonderful multicultural community at Glynde, which includes Glynde Lutheran Church and Grace Lutheran Chinese Church, has come together on a number of occasions recently, to celebrate and join in fellowship. Events including art shows, community lunches and family days have been held, as well as the installations of pastors Richard Fox and Tim Chen.

There have been Bible readings read and heard in different languages, the praying of the Lord's Prayer in people's first languages and worshipping with the help of interpreters. Congregation members of all ages have been involved, and leaders and members from the local Sudanese and Korean churches have also taken part.

'People were hearing the good news of Jesus Christ in their own language and there was a sense of what it may have been like at Pentecost,' says Pastor Richard Fox. 'We give thanks to God for drawing people from different cultures together to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.'



L-R: Pastor Richard Fox (Glynde Lutheran Church), Pastor Stephen Schultz (LCA SA-NT District Assistant Bishop), Pastor Andrew Brook (LCA SA-NT District Bishop), and Pastor Tim Chen (Grace Lutheran Chinese Church) at Pastor Tim Chen's ordination and installation.



Thank you!

When 4-year-old Taban was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, his dad disowned him. He then abandoned the family and left them struggling to survive in a displaced persons camp in Somalia.

This is where you met Taban.

Supported by ALWS, a Lutheran World Federation (LWF) team found Taban in the camp and told his mum Shamsa that Taban could receive help to make the most of his abilities.

Physio. Playgroup therapy. Home visits. A four-wheeled wheelchair. Shamsa says:

'Things have been better since we got a wheelchair for Taban. It has greatly eased his movement as he can go where he wants.'

'Many families cannot afford the mobility aid that their child needs. These mobility aids play a critical

part for my child, and I hope for a day when our world is adapted to be inclusive for everyone with different abilities.'

The average cost to support a child like Taban for a year is \$52, but the 5:1 grant means our impact is SIX TIMES our donations!

Our ALWS Lutheran goal is to help 3,500 children with disabilities in Somalia like Taban receive the support they need to achieve all their potential in life – including at school.

Shamsa is thankful for what your kindness means in the life of her child:

'Taban is a brilliant boy, and he's getting better by the day. Society should be mindful of people living

with disabilities by giving them equal chances in life, as this will help them achieve their dreams. All that these children want is inclusivity.'

**The good news is our
Lutheran ministry in
Somalia through ALWS
is matched 5:1 by the
Australian Government!**

You are welcome to use the 5:1 grant to help another child with disability in Somalia, like Taban, receive practical care, and support to go to school:

1300 763 407 * alws.org.au