



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA
 QUEENSLAND DISTRICT
STRATEGIC CHARTER
 2017 – 2021




LUTHERAN CHURCH
 OF AUSTRALIA
where love comes to life



INTRODUCTION

In August 2016 the District Church Council of the Lutheran Church of Australia Queensland District (LCAQD) convened its Strategic Planning Workshop, which included for the first time leading representatives of the four LCAQD departments: Mission and Ministry, Lutheran Youth Queensland, Lutheran Community Care, and Lutheran Education Queensland.

This 'Strategic Chartering' document has been produced to guide the people and entities of the Queensland District in their mission within the Lutheran Church of Australia.

In the rapidly changing context of modern Australia, this Strategic Chartering document is designed to guide our witness and service to Australian people for the five years from 2017 to 2021, anticipating that the strategic chartering would need to be reviewed after three years.

The design of this Strategic Chartering document has been carefully aligned with the Strategic Direction document of the Lutheran Church of Australia, as well as engaging the current strategic documents of the departments of the LCAQD. The design also builds on the prior strategic planning of the LCAQD, recently expressed in the '2012-2017 LCAQD Strategic Plan'.

The District Church Council commends this 2017-2021 Strategic Charter to the people of the LCAQD, that we may be ever more purposefully 'engaging people with God's love in everyday life'.

St Paul encourages us with these words: 'Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labour is not in vain' (1 Cor 15:58).





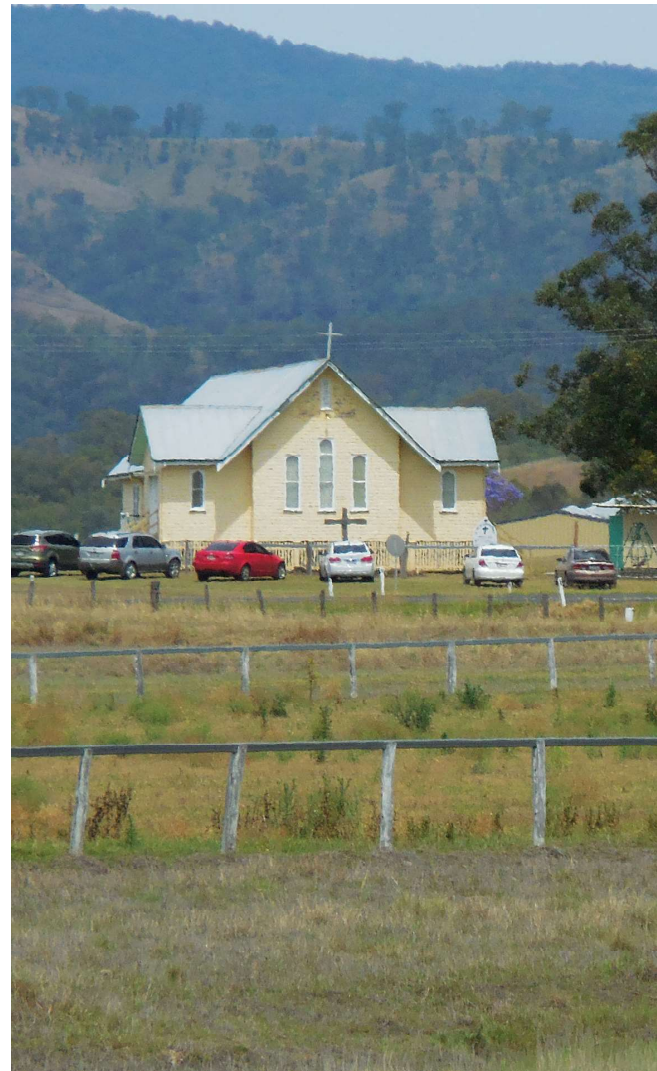
OUR HERITAGE

We began in Queensland as a mission to the local Indigenous Australians. This key element of Lutheran history is unique among the districts of the Lutheran Church of Australia. Queensland's first free settlers, who came to the Brisbane area we now know as Nundah were missionaries of Lutheran background, both lay and ordained, who came here for the purpose of witnessing the love of God in Christ Jesus to the many Indigenous Australians who lived in this country.

Scottish Presbyterian leader, Dr John Dunmore Lang, who had a deep concern for the well-being of Indigenous Australians, appealed to Pastor Johannes Gossner of Berlin to help him secure missionaries. Pastor Gossner believed that the most effective mission work could be done by establishing a colony of earnest Christians, farmers and artisans. Pastor Gossner gathered a party of 20 adults, who arrived in Sydney in January 1838.

Some members of the group left for Moreton Bay in March 1838 and the remainder in June. When they landed at Humpy Bong (now Redcliffe) one of the lay missionaries, Niquet, wrote in the sand: 'The Lord is with us'. The New South Wales Government granted the mission the use of 650 acres of land about 6 miles north of the centre of Brisbane and the missionaries gave their mission station the name 'Zion's Hill'.

These pioneer missionaries experienced many difficulties and their work was poorly supported. Often they were forced to curtail their missionary activities in order to undertake manual work to supply



themselves with the basic necessities of life. Much of the goodwill built up between the missionaries and the Aborigines was lost when the Moreton Bay District was opened to settlement by free immigrants. At the same time all good government subsidies to missions ceased and so the mission work was virtually abandoned. But despite these difficulties, they left a legacy of missionary passion which guides and informs our church work in the 21st century.

In 1857 Pastor C F A Schirmeister arrived at Zion's Hill and under his pastoral leadership congregations were established throughout the state's south-eastern regions. In the late 1800s, Lutheran settlers arrived in increasing numbers, comprising mainly of people with German heritage but also including numbers of people from various Nordic backgrounds. These folk established congregations across the Darling Downs and also northwards along the coastal and regional Queensland settlements. The year 1886 saw the arrival of missionary Flierl to begin mission work among the Indigenous Australian communities in the Cooktown region.

In 1966 there was a major milestone for Lutherans in Australia, with the union of what had become two churches to form the Lutheran Church of Australia. It was the culmination of almost a century of efforts to bring unity to Lutherans in Australia and the church today has seen tremendous diversification from its early northern European roots.

Today the Queensland District is an expression of the mission of God in the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand. The people of the Lutheran Church in Queensland serve in over 65 parishes with 11 aged care services, 3 youth and family support centres, 5 places for the care for people with disability, 2 youth camp sites, 27 schools and 58 centres for early childhood work, all governed by the 'Lutheran Church of Australia Queensland District', administered through the church's office in Milton in Brisbane.

We give thanks to God for the commitment of those who came before us. We are inspired by their courage and faith in reaching out to Indigenous Australians, followed by those who established congregations and schools, and developing other institutions which continue to serve the wider Australian and New Zealand communities.

Certainly, 'the Lord is with us'.

Material from the Centenary Anniversary book of St Paul's, Nundah (1863-1963) Dr L B Grope's article appearing in the 1981 Yearbook of the Lutheran Church of Australia and <http://www.lutheran.edu.au/public/content/viewCategory.aspx?id=483> and from LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA | STRATEGIC DIRECTION | 03 SECTION A: OUR CONTEXT



OUR OBJECTS

The Objects of the Lutheran Church of Australia Queensland District are aligned with the Objects of the Lutheran Church of Australia which are to:

- (a) fulfil the mission of the Christian Church in the world by **proclaiming the Word of God and administering the Sacraments** in accordance with the Confession of the Church laid down in the preceding Article II;
- (b) **unite in one body** Evangelical Lutheran congregations in Australia and New Zealand for the more effective work of the Church;
- (c) promote and **maintain true Christian unity** in the bond of peace;
- (d) ensure that preaching, teaching and practice in the Church are in **conformity with the Confession of the Church**;
- (e) **provide pastors and teachers and other church workers** for service in the Church and its congregations, and for this purpose to establish and maintain institutions for their training;
- (f) **encourage every congregation to carry out its mission to its local community**;
- (g) **establish, develop and support new congregations** where it is not possible for individual congregations to do so;
- (h) **support and cooperate with selected churches in other lands** as they seek to carry out their mission;
- (i) **dialogue** with other Christian church bodies;
- (j) **establish and maintain schools** and other institutions and to foster all other means whereby the members of the congregations receive Christian education;
- (k) **cultivate uniformity in worship**, ecclesiastical practice and customs in accord with the principles laid down in Article X. of the Formula of Concord;
- (l) **publish, procure, and distribute literature** compatible with the Confession and principles of the Church;
- (m) **minister to human need** in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord in the spirit of Christian love and service, and to provide institutions and agencies for this purpose; and
- (n) take such action as is necessary for the **protection** of the congregations, pastors, teachers and other church workers in the performance of their duties and the maintenance of their rights.

(emphases added)



OUR CHARTER

Engaging people with God's love in everyday life

God grows us as his people to a mature faith in Christ – a faith that comes to life through effective witness and service, so that people everywhere may know Christ and his love.

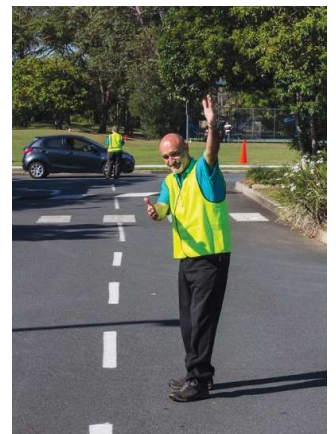
OUR STAKEHOLDERS

The Strategic Charter is to guide the mission of the people and entities of the Lutheran Church of Australia Queensland District, which includes our departments, our congregations and our workers: volunteers, employees and pastors.

OUR VALUES

The values of the Lutheran Church of Australia, Queensland District are aligned with the values of the Lutheran Church of Australia.

Our values are derived from our Lutheran identity: 'grace alone, faith alone, scripture alone', all summed up in 'Christ alone'. They are grounded in God's saving work through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are freed by God's grace to participate in his vision and mission for the world.



Through faith in Christ, by the work of the Holy Spirit we are a church:

Shaped by the Gospel of Grace

The love of God in Christ is an undeserved gift from God. It is the transforming agent and motivation for all we do in ministry and mission (2 Cor 5:14). We humbly come before God, who alone strengthens and equips us for our tasks. We gather with fellow believers, feed on God's word and receive together at the Lord's table in order to grow in love for God and for one another as we go out into our daily lives.

United in Christ

We are blessed by God with diverse backgrounds, talents, skills and opportunities. The Spirit brings us together as members of the body of Christ through one baptism. We declare our unity in our confessions, as contained in the Book of Concord. We live out our unity as the LCA.

Blessed by Relationships

We acknowledge that God's love is often seen and experienced most clearly within relationships. So, we support and respect one another. We listen to and learn from one another, to sustain and build up one another and our communities in the bond of love.

Inspired by Compassion

We are called to love in actions as well as by words. We strive to serve with the heart of Christ and we serve with the gifts of the Spirit. We join with Jesus in especially serving those people who are suffering, disadvantaged and marginalised.

Marked by Integrity

As faithful stewards of God's blessings, we strive for excellence in all we do. We use effectively and efficiently the gifts we have been given, knowing that to whom much is given, much is required. We are accountable to the people we serve, to each other, to our wider communities and to those who have entrusted resources to us.





OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

As the people of the Lutheran Church of Australia Queensland District our mission charter is guided by the following strategic priorities:





Growing Together

We engage people with God's love in everyday life by working together and growing as God's people. St Paul uses the image of the 'body' to explain how God's church is made up of many parts working for the common good.

- i. Strengthening our identity – celebrating what we have received and growing as a church of the Lutheran witness to Christ
- ii. Working together effectively as the people of the church with common purpose
- iii. Ensuring that our Lutheran communities are known as places which celebrate God's love
- iv. Growing as a church which inspires collaboration among Christian church denominations





Reaching Out Together

We engage people with God's love in everyday life by developing our outward focus to the communities where God places us. The Risen Lord sent us to be his witnesses 'to the ends of the earth'.

- i. Expressing ourselves in contextually relevant ways (making theology and worship relevant)
- ii. Ensuring that the church is known as a place of trust and care
- iii. Growing intergenerational church communities
- iv. Each person growing through their participation in the care of our Lutheran communities
- v. Developing a strong sense of being a thriving church which is always increasing in mission work
- vi. Establishing a strong presence in new communities





Success and Sustainability

We engage people with God's love in everyday life by ensuring that we are resourced and organised for growth and outreach. In the book of Acts we learn in the sixth chapter, that the early church established resourcing strategies to provide for the work of the gospel.

- i. Enabling all people for stronger participation in the mission of the church
- ii. Developing pathways for leadership development and for the ongoing formation of the people of the church
- iii. Ensuring effective governance, which includes equipping governance leaders, establishing succession planning and the ongoing review of District structures
- iv. Ensuring every worker has a fulfilling vocation
- v. Communicating purposefully internally and externally



*“Therefore,
my beloved,
be steadfast,
immovable, always
excelling in the work
of the Lord, because
you know that in the
Lord your labour
is not in vain.”*

[1 Cor 15:58]



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