

TOGETHER

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

District Gathers
for Meeting
of Synod

**50
YEARS**
of Adelaide
Lutheran
Football

**Cross Cultural
Congregations
In Action**



**LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
OF AUSTRALIA

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA
NORTHERN TERRITORY**

TOGETHER

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

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FRONT COVER PHOTO

The Chinese Congregation of St Stephen's Lutheran Church in Adelaide celebrate Chinese New Year. Photo: supplied.



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EDITORIAL

Bethany Slaughter

Together Magazine Editor

In Australia, we are currently seeing a trend of disinterest towards learning a foreign language. With the breadth of translation technology now available to us, it might not seem so important. We can travel and translate with only a rudimentary grasp of a foreign language as long as we have our smartphone handy. However, this opens up the risk of mistranslation. After all, the same sentence or phrase written in English may mean something completely different in Australia than it does in the UK, let alone once translated into a different language entirely.

My high school French teacher once warned our class about this. She told us about a previous student who, when given the assignment to write a recipe in French, typed her ingredients list directly into Google Translate – including the phrase 'lemon zest.' Within seconds, each word converted from English to French, but upon marking the assignment, this teacher was amused by the instruction to stir in an 'enthusiastic lemon.'

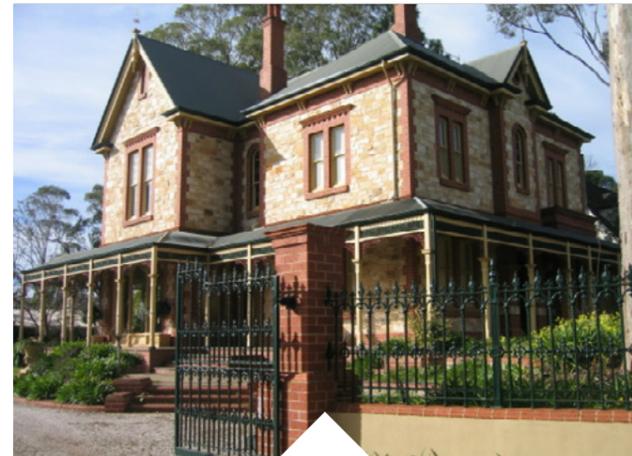
Clearly, true understanding and appreciation of a language requires learned, human understanding – something that a computer lacks.

Migrants, refugees and tourists arrive on Australian shores every day, many of whom may speak little or no English. It is important that we have the facilities, services and enthusiasm to welcome them into our congregations, show them love and ensure that God's message of hope does not get lost in translation.

For this issue, I spoke with three cross-cultural churches in our district who are doing just that – offering services in a language other than English, providing spaces for people to worship in their native tongue and, as a result, benefitting from their participation in the life of the church.

You'll also find a wrap-up of our One-Day Synod and Pastors Conference, some of the projects enabled through last year's Maintenance Grants, and a couple of special anniversaries in our community.

Blessings.



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A WORD FROM YOUR BISHOP...

Freedom of Speech

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

Freedom of speech has been in the news a lot lately, with one high-profile case likely to be played out in the highest courts of our land.

We all want freedom of speech, but in the same breath, we don't want to be offended by other people's speech, and we all take offence very quickly these days. Calls to curtail free speech are getting louder in some circles, curiously by some of the same people who do not see it as a problem to vilify anyone they disagree with!

As Christians, we value the right to speak our faith; in fact, it is imperative that we do this as disciples of Jesus Christ. To speak of Jesus, who he is, what he means to us and to share his words and life and love with people in private and in public, verbally and electronically, is a freedom we have enjoyed in this country, but can't take for granted anymore. We would want that right protected and defended, not just for ourselves, but for people of other faiths and no faith as well. The time may well be coming, if it isn't already here, when we may be challenged and sanctioned if we do just that.

Christians by nature have freedom of speech. Not because the world grants it to us, but because Christ has set us free in all sorts of ways including our speaking, and especially our speaking about him. After being hauled before the authorities, Peter and John said **"We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard"** – Acts 4:20.

Motivated, empowered and controlled by the Holy Spirit, we speak, and we speak especially of what God has done for us in Christ. No one can ever stop us or silence us from doing that.

At times, that is going to offend people; people who disagree with us, people who do not want to hear us and people who are hell bent on silencing Christians and Christ himself. At times, it will cost us in all sorts of ways, maybe one day including our freedom as citizens. Many Christians around the world already know and experience that, and we rightly pray for them.

Having said that, freedom of speech – like every form of freedom – comes with responsibility. Freedom is never absolute.

We need to ensure that if people are offended by our speech, it is not because of the way we speak or because the law is drowning out the sound of the gospel in how we go about sharing our faith. Earlier this year, I stood on the corner of Flinders St Station in Melbourne and a man jumped out at the waiting pedestrians with a megaphone, yelling at us that we were all going to hell, and why. It was only as I walked on that I heard the name of Jesus mentioned, only briefly. Even then, it was like he was selling fire insurance and scaring us into buying it. I recalled St Paul's words in **Romans 2:4, "God's kindness leads you towards repentance,"** and I remembered Jesus saying in Matthew 4:17, **"repent for the kingdom of heaven is near,"**

not 'repent or go to hell.' There is a difference.

As Lutherans, we are conscious of the need to speak both law and gospel, words of God that challenge, confront and – at times – offend all of us, but ultimately we want others to hear the good news of God's love for sinful, broken people in Jesus Christ.

We cannot fudge speaking the harder word of God that none of us likes to hear, otherwise Christ died for nothing. On the other hand, we need to think sensitively about how, when and where we speak law and gospel into the lives of people around us. A pastor has that special privilege and challenge every Sunday when he preaches. As carefully as we might think we have done that, some of you might still be offended by either the law or even the gospel! If I do err, I hope it will be the latter ...

Freedom of speech doesn't mean Christians have the right, nor is it helpful to those who hear us (especially in contemporary Australia), to preach the law with a megaphone while the gospel is hardly heard. We risk this either because the gospel has been drowned out, we have given the impression that particular sins and sinners are worse than others, or we haven't thoughtfully diagnosed the situation we are speaking into. Not only can we miss the mark, but we cause unnecessary and damaging offence, which means the gospel does not get a hearing at all.

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calls

Julian Bayha (Tanunda Langmeil SA) to Renmark & Paringa Congregations SA

Joel Cramer (Salisbury SA) to Manawatu Parish New Zealand

Calls Accepted

Luke Spilsbury (Onkaparinga SA) to Faith College Plainland QLD

Pastoral Vacancies

Alice Springs, Ceduna, Central Eyre Peninsula, Darwin, Good Shepherd College Darwin, Ferryden Pk, FRM Support Worker Central Australia, Goolwa, Hampstead, Light (0.5), Endeavour College Mawson Lakes, Mid North Ministries, Holy Cross Murray Bridge, Onkaparinga Parish, Renmark/Paringa, Riverview Loxton, Southern Yorke Peninsula, Underdale-Glandore, Whyalla

We need to remember that the catalogue of sins in some New Testament texts is not exhaustive, and does not exclude our own, nor set up a hierarchy of sins. As some atheist commentators have observed looking at those texts (even though they do not believe it), "we are all in trouble!"

My encouragement to you is not to shy away from speaking your faith for fear of reaction, but to always consider and ask how you might hear and read your own words if you were standing in the shoes of someone listening to you.

Use the 'freedom of speech' that Christ has given you through his Spirit. Above all, use it to share the good news of Christ, who sets us free in all sorts of ways and from all sorts of sins. If your speech offends anyone, I trust it will be for speaking about how gracious God has been to you too. In fact, sometimes that can be the best place to start.

FROM THE BISHOP'S NOTEBOOK...

Departures

We say farewell to Pastor Luke Spilsbury, Anna and family as they leave the Onkaparinga parish for Queensland. God go with you as you serve him there, and we thank him for your time with us serving the Lord together.

Sympathy

Pastor Clarence Schmidt, Pastor David Schache, Pastor Gordon Mibus, Pastor Len Tscharke, Pastor Bill Stolz and Pastor Simon Dixon's wife Anne in Central Australia all died recently. We thank God for these faithful servants and for what they have meant to their loved ones and the church as a whole, and we commend them to him.

One-day Synod

By now, the one-day Synod meeting at Salisbury will have come and gone. We were pleasantly surprised by the higher attendance this time around, and thank all of you for giving each other and the church your time and attention.

Milestones

In June, fifty years of ministry will be recognised in Darwin. Please pray for our brothers and sisters in the Top End, especially as they look to our Lord for a pastor of the congregations and schools.

Pastor Schultz On Leave

Please be aware that Assistant Bishop for Mission Stephen Schultz will be on R&R from July to September, and you will need to be patient as I attend to your needs as best I can during that time. We trust he enjoys the rest he deserves.

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CROSS-CULTURAL CONGREGATIONS IN ACTION

By Bethany Slaughter



Birthday Celebrations at the St Stephen's Lutheran Church Chinese Congregation!

“Ehre se idem Vater und dem Sohn und dem Heiligen Geist” (*Honour to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit*)

These are the words that the German-speaking congregation at Immanuel Lutheran Church in North Adelaide open their service with, every first and third Sunday at 11am. The church is part of South Australia's rich German heritage, having offered both English and German church services since 1930. It was only in the 1970s that the English congregation became the larger service of the two; now, the difference is significant.

Although their congregation is small and all members speak fluent English, Rev Dr Mark Worthing believes the service still meets a need.

“It's important for people ... to be able to worship in their mother language,” Worthing says.

“We'd like to keep it going – not just for historical reasons, we think there are unique opportunities to reach people with the gospel, minister to people ...”

As Worthing puts it, “God works in unexpected ways and people pop in.”

One such person was a backpacker who would not usually have gone to church in Germany, but heard about the service and decided to reconnect. Another backpacker, who visited the service regularly while travelling, ended up coming back to get married at the service, while university students visit occasionally to practice their German skills.

Worthing also receives calls for one-off cases of German-language ministry in places such as hospitals or detention centres.

“That might happen once or twice a year, but because we're there, it's an opportunity to minister.”

“We're here to proclaim the gospel, and we'll proclaim in any language that we can do it in that's effective, and right now, German is one of the languages we can do that in.”

“There are doubtless many languages in the world, and none is without meaning” – 1 Corinthians 14:10

This is also true for the Chinese congregation that meets at 10.30am at St Stephen's Lutheran Church in Adelaide. Chair of the Chinese Ministry Committee Ken Ng is certain that their service has brought people into their church who would be unable to attend an English-speaking service, such as new migrants on reunion VISAs.

Their congregation is experiencing a time of transition, after Pastor Wing Tso retired in April. Ng says that while this is a challenge for the congregation, they are confident they can fill the pastoral gap.

“We have a lot of people that are here supporting us ... we have quite a few retired pastors, or even Pastor (John) Strelan at the English congregation, we can invite them to come in for sermon and we can do a translation.”

Another possibility is for a congregation member to share the message using supporting materials from the LCA website.



Making Chinese Pancakes at Glynde Lutheran Church's Grace Over Lunch.



The German Congregation at Immanuel Lutheran Church, North Adelaide.



The Sudanese Community lead Glynde Lutheran Church in song.



The Chinese Congregation at St Stephen's Lutheran Church, Adelaide celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival.

The yearly highlights for this congregation are Chinese New Year and the Mid-Autumn Festival (which, conversely, takes place in Australia's springtime – this year it falls on the 13th of September).

“Usually those are the festivals that we'll try to invite lots of friends and (try) to invite the English congregation to come as well,” Ng says.

“We see we have a lot of opportunity.”

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares” – Hebrews 13:2

Glynde Lutheran Church take a mid-week approach to cross-cultural ministry, although they also host Korean (12.30pm) and Nuer (2pm) congregations in their church building on Sundays.

Pastor Wayne Boehm says the Korean congregation approached their church in search of a worship space, and they eagerly said yes.

“It's had all sorts of positive benefits for us in having them worship in our premises. We've got to know them; they've joined in our mid-week church ministries.”

These ministries include Mainly Music, Grace Over Lunch and English classes, to name a few. Cross-cultural Coordinator Barbara Matiske singles out Mainly Music as the main drawcard bringing multicultural families into their church.

Their newest challenge is starting an Alpha course, which Matiske says has already been “an absolute gift from God,” as the Tuesday night course has allowed conversations to transfer into Grace Over Lunch on Wednesday.

“(At Grace Over Lunch) we're encouraging each person, even though English is their second language, to teach us to cook something, and then we sit together and we might read a story from the Advertiser so that they know what's going on in Adelaide, but then we also share in a simple devotion,” Matiske explains.

“It gave people the opportunity to ask the questions that they didn't think of the night before, so it was like Alpha continued Wednesday and Thursday and Friday.”

Although their contemporary service at 10:30am is an English-speaking service, it now attracts a multitude of nationalities including Korean, Sudanese, Japanese, Chinese, Iranian, Afghan and Malaysian.

The highlight of their church calendar is the yearly multicultural service, where the English-speaking, Korean and Nuer congregations gather as one.

“We have the songs up in Korean as well as Nuer ... we're getting people to speak responses in their native language, for example, or speak the Creed and the Lord's Prayer in their native language,” Boehm says.

Boehm firmly believes all churches should look for opportunities to open their doors to cross-cultural ministry.

“Whenever that happens, there's going to be positive spinoff.”



The One-Day Convention of Synod was hosted by The Ark Salisbury Lutheran Church.

District Gathers for Meeting of Synod

By Michelle Storie

More than 260 delegates, pastors and visitors gathered at The Ark Salisbury Lutheran Church on Saturday 25th May for the District's meeting of Synod. The day began with opening worship, led by Bishop David Altus and Pastor Joel Cramer, with the theme 'Life from the Ashes' shared through songs and Bishop David's message.

The following resolutions were passed on the day:

- The financial reports for the District and District Holding Company for 2018 were accepted
- The proposed budget for the District for 2019 was approved
- The proposed merger of Lutheran Community Care and Lutheran Disability Services was discussed and accepted.

After lunch and a time of fellowship, Pastor Stephen Schultz



First Assistant Bishop Pastor Tim Klein leads the congregation in music.

presented a possible ministry model for the twenty-first century.

Feedback gathered on the day will be sent out to all congregations in the next few weeks, along with minutes.

Thank you to all who travelled to attend, to the people of Salisbury who assisted with organising and helped on the day, and a big thank you to the District Office staff for all of your efforts.

The District Convention of Synod for 2020 will be held from 15-17 May. The venue will be advised later, but please note this date in your Church calendars.

"Last year I volunteered to be one of the delegates to represent Tea Tree Gully at Synod ... I do recall being pleasantly surprised by how much I enjoyed the event. So I don't know why, as I headed into (Saturday's) one-day meeting, I had forgotten that and was expecting - in part - a dry and boring event.

By the end of the day, I walked away feeling so blessed by my time spent there. Sure, there were those boring financial statements, but in and around it were some amazingly inspired speakers and discussions.

After (Saturday), I'm truly excited about our future."

Jenny Kraft - St John's Lutheran Church, Tea Tree Gully delegate.



Synod Day gets the thumbs up from Joshua Muller and Peter Noble.

LCA Ministers Convene at District Pastors Conference

By Pastor Eugene Minge, Second Assistant Bishop



Gregs Unite: Pastor Greg Page, Pastor Greg Graham, Pastor Greg Priebbenow, Pastor Greg Vangsness and Pastor Greg Lockwood at District Pastors Conference.

This year's District Pastors Conference was held in Gawler from the 22nd to 24th of May. More than one hundred active and retired pastors and vicars gathered from across South Australia and the Northern Territory to connect, learn, discuss and encourage each other in our work for Christ's Kingdom.

Bishops John Henderson and David Altus presented reports and led discussions on topics such as ordination in the LCA and the ongoing dialogue with the Uniting Church of Australia.

Pastor James Winderlich and Pastor Gordon Wegener talked to us about various learning opportunities in the LCA for pastors and laypeople.

Tim Ross, Mary-Ann Carver and Carl Collins presented on behalf of the Professional Standards Department on the role of pastors in protecting the vulnerable in our church. All of these conversations were held in the context of worship, prayer and fellowship among our pastors.

On behalf of the Planning Team, our sincere thanks go to everyone who contributed. In particular, thanks to Michelle at the District Office who handled the bulk of the organisation, and the people of Gawler Lutheran Church who provided the venue and kept us well fed. Your hospitality was exceptional! Thanks also to the congregations who made it possible for your pastors to attend the conference. It was a valuable investment into your pastor and his ministry.



ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

By Angela Rogers
District Administrator

Maintenance Grants

Last year the District Office funded over \$100,000 worth of maintenance grants to forty congregations throughout the district. We have been blessed to receive positive reports of how this funding has assisted those congregations. It has brought people together as they have worked on their church buildings and gardens.

Church CHAT Day

Each congregation and parish has a leadership team made up of volunteers who have skills in various areas of management. There are many things that each church/parish council will discuss at their meetings, and many questions that they will have. The District Office is hosting a Church CHAT Day on the 27th of July, and if you are a member of a church/parish council, we invite you to come along. We have many resources to share with you, and we will be able to answer lots of your questions.

Name Change: LCA Churchwide Office

As of May, the Lutheran Church of Australia's National Office is now known as the Lutheran Church of Australia Churchwide Office. Please note the change in terminology.

AGMs

If your congregation or parish has recently held their AGM, please remember to provide the details of the position holders to the Churchwide office via lamp2@lca.org.au. Also, please complete the Annual Information Statement on the ACNC (Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission) website

(www.acnc.gov.au). If a new Public Officer has been appointed, Consumer and Business Services must be advised via www.cbs.gov.au. Please contact the District Office if you have any questions.

Donations

Our church is also blessed with some very generous donors and congregations, for which we are all so thankful. We just have one thing to ask; if you are transferring money to the District Office, please ensure that the reference includes the name of your congregation (e.g. Tanunda St Pauls), especially if it is a congregational contribution.

If you are paying for a camp, please ensure the camper's name is in the reference. We appreciate you sending us a remittance advice to accounts.sa-nt@lca.org.au.

Staff Changes

The District Office extends a warm welcome to Ian Crambrook and Vanessa Freislich. Ian has taken on the role of Blueprint Ministries' Camping and Events Ministry Coordinator, while Vanessa joins us as our new Bookkeeper.

Easter

Thank you to all congregations who provided us with details of your Easter services. We advertised through Facebook and had an amazing result in that we were able to connect with another 5500 people! We will do this again at Christmas.

Blessings to you all as you share the gifts that God has provided.

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Q&A WITH IAN CRAMBROOK



Blueprint Ministries' new Camping and Events Ministry Coordinator Ian Crambrook.

The SA-NT District extends a warm welcome to Ian Crambrook as the new Camping and Events Ministry Coordinator for Blueprint Ministries. We caught up with Ian to learn a little more about him as he begins his new role.

On accepting the role

"I've been involved with camps for a long time now as leader and director, and felt I had the skills that I could contribute to camps in a different way."

On what he loves about working with Children's and Young Adults ministry

"I love to see young people grow in their faith, and to see them year after year and see the growth in between the camps that we have ... to see where they're at and how they've grown and how they've strengthened in their faith and brought their friends back."

On what he's looking forward to in his new position

"Being part of camps in a different way, and being able to extend my contribution to camps past just leading on them and directing them, and to see them continue and grow."

On his hobbies outside of Church

"I'm a huge cricket fan. I don't play – I'm not very good – but I love watching it, so I chew up every hour of cricket I can get hold of during the summer."

"I bake a lot, which I started doing through youth ministry because we did our teaching ministry on a Monday after school, and the kids would rock up and they were all kinds of flat and dull."

"I took up baking and cake decorating as a bit of a hobby to try and make the food a bit more fun and exciting for them. I get commissioned by all my friends now to do birthday cakes for them, so I really enjoy it. I've won a few awards at the local shows for cake decorating."

On his favourite Bible passage

Matthew 7:7-8 (NIV) "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

"It tells me that God's always there, and he's always wanting to be in relationship with us."

"We have our times when things get hard and we drift away and we're not as focussed on him as we should be, but whenever whatever's happening with us, we just have to look and God's there ... we're always welcomed back, no matter what's happened, and that's very powerful for me."



Ian is a skilled cake-decorator – here are some of his creations.

SA YOUTH GATHER FOR NOVO 2019

Kurt Miegel

Blueprint Ministries' annual statewide youth camp NOVO had a new location and new time in 2019, but the good times and fellowship were as strong as ever.

Held in the first weekend of the April school holidays, NOVO was held at Woodcroft College in Morphett Vale. With the theme of 'Awaken,' 82 campers from Years 7–12 looked at how to Wake Up, Get Up, Stay Up, Eat Up and Light Up their faith. Following awesome worship services and speaker time, campers were then able to unpack the daily devotionals in their small groups.

Along with developing their faith and spiritual journey, campers and leaders also took part in a range of fun activities. These included finding the Lost Treasure of Woodcroft, escaping 'Island Saucerackus' (which only tribe Sweet and Sour managed to do), taking on an inflatable obstacle course, and many other fun activities at the carnival, all while spending time reconnecting with friends and making new ones.

A sincere thank you is extended to all leaders who assisted with the running of the camp, along with the support of parents, friends and congregations who enabled NOVO to run successfully again.



Campers gathered at Woodcroft College for NOVO in April

Maintenance: Granted

In 2018, the LCA SA-NT district was able to give out \$100,000 worth of building maintenance grants to help congregations fund external maintenance work on their church properties.

These are some of the projects which have already been completed – funded by the maintenance grants, and brought to action by the hard work of church volunteers.



St Paul's Lutheran Church, Booleroo Centre (After)



St Paul's Lutheran Church, Clare (After)



St John's Lutheran Church, Dutton (After)



BEFORE

St Stephen's Lutheran Church, Geranium Plain (Before)



AFTER

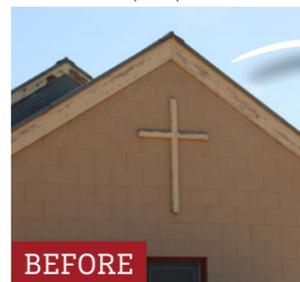
St Stephen's Lutheran Church, Geranium Plain (After)



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Kadina (After)



St John's Lutheran Church, Lameroo (After)



BEFORE

St Stephen's Lutheran Church, Nildottie (Before)



AFTER

St Stephen's Lutheran Church, Nildottie (After)



Lyndoch Lutheran Church (After)



BEFORE

Victor Harbor Lutheran Church (Before)



AFTER

Victor Harbor Lutheran Church (After)

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, CLARE

Grant: \$3204
Congregation Contribution: \$6800
Purpose: Signage and Car Park Upgrade

How this maintenance will benefit the congregation:
 "Upgrading our church yard with ground repairs and new gravel has improved our drainage issues and given our church yard a facelift. The council street signs directing people to our church will help visitors find us more easily."

Fun Fact: "Since these improvements to our church, we have received many positive comments ... from the community, such as: 'improved the looks of the church,' and 'the new street signs – looks like the Lutherans are trying to drum up business!'"

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, DUTTON

Grant: \$2650
Purpose: Bell Tower Repair
A reflection on the process: "We were able to complete this project well under budget due mainly to the extra voluntary labour which meant that we completed the work quicker, and this reduced hire costs."

How this maintenance will benefit the congregation:
 "Structure is visually more appealing and stronger and safer to operate repairs, and painting will preserve the original woodwork into the future."

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, GERANIUM PLAIN

Grant: \$616
Purpose: Signage
How this maintenance will benefit the congregation: "This sign will be of benefit as it is more visible for our visitors to see and celebrate worship with us. One of our members came up with the phrase 'Come and Join Us,' and it is evident as more people are attending our services."

A reflection on the process: "It has taught us to work together to achieve this result. Our whole congregation are very thankful that God has guided us through this process for worshippers and visitors to enjoy our 'church in the bush.'"

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, KADINA

Grant: \$2500
Congregation Contribution: \$665
Purpose: Painting and Signage

A reflection on the process: "Many thanks for the gift of the grant ... it was a great help to pay for painting the exterior of the Church. Blessings."

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, LAMEROO

Grant: \$500
Purpose: Signage
How this maintenance will benefit the congregation: "This sign now shows the people passing through Lameroo where the Lutheran Church is, as the sign can be read easily from both directions of traffic passing through, as we are on the Mallee Highway."

LYNDOCH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Grant: \$4000
Congregation Contribution: \$9500
Purpose: Re-roofing the church hall
How this maintenance will benefit the congregation: "The hall is used weekly by our Church craft group and for morning tea after our Sunday service each week."

Fun fact: "Our property manager, Dudley Koch (88 years old), had been regularly patching the old roof – now he doesn't have to anymore!"

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, NILDOTTIE

Grant: \$3925
Purpose: Painting
A reflection on the process: "Our project was based on Proverbs 16:9; 'In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.' The entire project was also well supported by past and present community members who engaged with the congregation, allowing them to complete the entire project."

How this maintenance will benefit the congregation: "To have a well-maintained and painted property is a very good witness to all who pass, local or passing through. We are proud of our property because we are proud of what we do: worshipping our Lord, Jesus."

VICTOR HARBOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Grant: \$3250
Congregation Contribution: \$1500
Purpose: Removing and replacing unsafe external pergola from Church café area

A reflection on the process: "During the building process the team involved bonded closely and are justly proud of the improvement that this facility has made to the front of the Church and Café."

How this maintenance will benefit the congregation:
 "The Café is extensively used by the congregation and by the numerous community groups who make use of the VHLC facilities."



TOUGH BUT FAIR: 50 YEARS OF ADELAIDE LUTHERAN FOOTBALL By Bethany Slaughter

When a group of budding footballers from Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Adelaide, with no facilities to draw on, put together the first Adelaide Lutheran football side, they could scarcely have imagined what the club would become.

Yet here it stands, fifty years later. Since 1969, over 1700 footballers have donned their red, white and blue guernsey, while many more have dedicated hours of volunteer service not just to keep Adelaide Lutheran Sports Club (ALSC) going, but set it apart.

ALSC hosted a weekend-long celebration of their half-century of football, beginning with a triple header of home games at Bulldog Park, followed by a formal anniversary dinner and book launch. Among the 200 guests were founding members, premiership players, and Lutheran ministers who played for the club.

The club's Lutheran connection was acknowledged on the Sunday with a club service, led by Pastor Peter Miller (a premiership captain), followed by a family day and home game for their women's team.

Wayne Gladigau – author of commemorative book 'A Bulldog for Me' – experienced the club's camaraderie firsthand when he first moved to the city. After feeling unwelcome at his university football team's training, a friend pointed him in Adelaide Lutheran's direction.

Gladigau went on to play in their first premiership – one of a remarkable eighteen won by the Bulldogs. Their success is even more impressive considering – or perhaps, because – the club is run entirely by volunteers.

"We are a very social club and everyone that gets involved is valued, and that's how we are able to get so much volunteer help," Gladigau says.

"It's a second home for a lot of people."

One such person was a man nicknamed 'Pale Face,' an opposition "rough nut," who was reported in almost every game ALSC played against him, until one night when he showed up at an Adelaide Lutheran team meeting.

"He said he knew what we were like, and he wanted to play for a decent club."

Pale Face became a premiership player with the club, and "openly talked about how Adelaide Lutheran basically changed his life."

Gladigau believes ALSC's "good Christian values – community minded, everyone respecting each other, inclusiveness," have enabled the club to act as a mission field.

"I think many have maintained and led a good life as a result of their time at the footy club."

With the milestone celebrated, ALSC is turning its attention to the future.

Having survived so long on meek resources, their priority is securing funding to update their facilities and meet the changing demands of the club (such as their recent expansion into women's football) and its sub-tenants, and match the strength of their resources to the might of their community spirit.



Reverends who played for ALSC (back left to front right): Malcolm Pech, John Gerhardy, Robert Paech, Robert Borgas, Geoff Havelberg, Peter Bean, Kevin Bell, David Preuss, Peter Miller, Andrew Kowald.



Wayne Gladigau launches 'A Bulldog for Me' – for further enquiries, email: walgadigau@tpg.com.au.

TALKING THE WALK

On Saturday April 13, 387 walkers took to the Pioneer Women's Trail in SA for ALWS's Walk My Way. Participants raised over \$140,000, which will support more than 5,600 refugee children to attend school – a phenomenal effort.

Readers may recall that Pastor Stephen Schultz promised a bottle of wine to any pastor who could beat him to the finish line. He says, "I am still awaiting the results from the urine samples of the pastors who beat me. There are four of them! ... I expected to have to give away 6 bottles, so I reckon I'm ahead."

Here's what our four walkers from the district office had to say about the day.

Assistant Bishop for Mission Pastor Stephen Schultz on the trail.



Pastor Stephen Schultz – SA-NT Assistant Bishop for Mission: "My challenge to the pastors generated some good-natured ribbing, and there was a bit of jostling on the track. I love the sense of community as we gather as God's people from all ages to engage in a common purpose."

Communications Officer Amelia Dawkins and Executive Assistant Michelle Storie at the start line.



Amelia Dawkins – Communications Officer: "It was a fantastic cause and I also got a week's worth of exercise in one day! I enjoyed talking with many different people while walking, and the scenery was beautiful."

Michelle Storie – Executive Administration Assistant: "Thinking of all the children that will now be able to receive an education, just because we walked a few steps (well, a few more than a few!) is a great feeling. Thanks to all who were part of the day, whether organising, volunteering, walking or supporting those walking by donating."

Pastor David Altus – Bishop, SA-NT District:

"Walking together over some distance, all with the same commitment to bless disadvantaged children, was powerful. Talking with various people along the way, which took my mind off my muscles and joints, (made) the 26 km seem shorter."



SA-NT District Bishop Pastor David Altus takes a break with LCA Churchwide Bishop Pastor John Henderson.



Pastor Ross Schultz leads the service. Photo: Ivan Christian

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Celebrates 30 Years at Ferryden Park

By Allan Wain

On Sunday March 3, worshippers gathered together at St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Ferryden Park to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the building.

The worship was led by Pastor Ross Schultz, while the message was given by Pastor Peter Welke – the pastor of the Cheltenham/Ferryden Park parish when it was first built.

The focus of the service was one of praise and thanksgiving for the ministry of the congregation to the local community and wider Aboriginal community, and for the way that God has blessed those who have worshipped, served and called the Ferryden Park congregation their spiritual home during the past 30 years.

In his message, Pastor Peter spoke about the way God has "protected this building and those who worship here," and has "blessed the ministry that has happened here."

The service included a special segment for the children, as well as prayers for the future of the congregation that the Lord of the Church will complete the work he has begun at Ferryden Park.

Following the worship service, the local congregation provided a lovely lunch, during which there was plenty of opportunity for sharing stories of times, events and people of the past 30 years, and to share dreams for the future ministry of the congregation.

Rakhine State MYANMAR



Ah Faw, age 8



Ah Ji Kamal, age 7

Photos: ALWS/Magdalena Vogt

Your healing Christian gift of \$20 can help both children go to school!

Ah Ji Kamal is too young to know the conflict that forced his family into a Displaced Persons Camp for Muslim Rohingya people in Rakhine State in Myanmar.

He is in Grade 1 at the school our Lutheran family supports, but his mum says they are so poor, she worries for him every day.

Ah Faw's Buddhist family struggles after his dad died in an accident.

His mum sells baby clothes ... but struggles to pay for books and school fees.

Through ALWS, you can help these little ones go to school. While the law does not permit preaching here in words, your Christian love can come to life in practical action ...

and begin healing we pray can help bring peace.

GOOD NEWS! A European Union Matching Grant multiplies your ALWS help 34:1!

Teachers. New classrooms. Learning kits.

NEW! NOW!
34:1
MATCHING
GRANT!

Your gift of \$20 – multiplied 34:1 – can support TWO children like Ah Ji Kamal and Ah Faw to go to school!

As ALWS begins this work, LCA International Mission continues to support the Myanmar Lutheran churches in their ministry of the gospel.

Please don't miss this 34:1 Matching Grant!

Your gift of \$20 (tax-deductible) delivers \$680 of help. You support two of the poorest children to go to school, and help bring healing and peace.

For fastest action, donate by 30 June! 1300 763 407 * alws.org.au

Working together to bring love to life!

