

Together

JUNE 2021

Record numbers for **Walk My Way**

Cupcakes, craft & church:
The rise of Messy Church

Hundreds gather for District Convention of Synod

Contents

Features

- 6** Cupcakes, craft & church: The rise of Messy Church
- 8** Hundreds gather for District Convention of Synod
- 10** Residents create native garden
- 11** Record numbers for Barossa Walk My Way
- 14** Catherine's café
- 15** In brief

Regulars

- 3** Editor's note
- 4** From the Bishop
- 8** District news
- 12** Blueprint Ministries
- 14** Professional Standards Department update

Front cover: Walkers at the Barossa Valley ALWS Walk My Way event (story page 11). Photo: Linda Macqueen.

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Publication deadline

Editorial and advertising copy deadline for the next edition of Together is Friday, August 6th. The magazine will be distributed in September. Online news content is published between editions on our website, Facebook page and eNews. To subscribe to our eNews 'Online Together', visit www.sant.lca.org.au/news/enews/



Editor's note

Our June edition marks the middle of the calendar year. While the wintry weather and bare trees remind us that nature is resting in this season, the same can't be said for church life!

The stories in this issue of Together speak of people using their unique gifts to serve others, working collaboratively to create something special. Whether it's lending a hand at property maintenance or baking delicious cupcakes to serve to families (see our Messy Church article on page 6), or working with a group of volunteers to create an incredible native garden to be enjoyed by residents at Murray Bridge Lutheran Villages (see page 10), every person's gift is important and their contribution valuable.

The District Office has been abuzz with activity recently in the lead up to a number of anticipated events, with staff pulling together as a team to plan, organise and implement

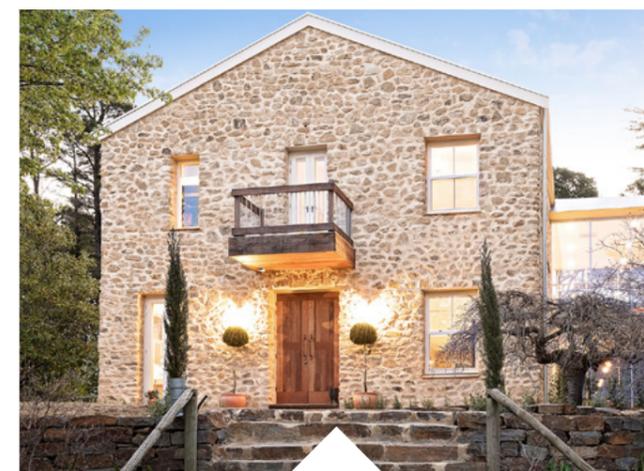
While the information contained in Together is correct at the time of going to print, we recognise that COVID-19 is an evolving concern and therefore some details published may have changed by the time this magazine reaches our readers.

each of these. We are grateful that our face-to-face District Convention of Synod was able to go ahead last month, after being forced to cancel last year due to COVID-19. Read more about Convention, including the decisions made, on page 9.

Enjoy this edition of Together, I pray you find some time to rest, and perhaps even reflect on your own gifts, during this winter season.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

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



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

A word from your Bishop...

The following is an excerpt from Bishop David's opening address to the recent District Convention of Synod.

Some of us here today recently walked through the Barossa Valley as part of *Walk My Way* – 670 Christians walking 26km together in faith and in love for God and for the vulnerable children of the world. Persevering in the hope of reaching our destination and goal together, leaving no one behind.

As I walked I thought of "synod" which means "walking together" - in the same faith and in God's love for all his children. Persevering together in the common hope of reaching his promised destination, the goal of our faith, and not wanting to leave anyone behind.

Our theme as we come together is "The Hope We Have" (1 Peter 3:15), and chapter 1 introduces the hope we have been given to live with.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a

living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

This letter was written to scattered Christians just like us - from Ceduna to "the Mount", to the communities in the Centre and all the way to Darwin. Christians who feel like strangers in their own country - ignored and regarded as irrelevant at best, silenced and persecuted at worst.

"Is it worth putting up with?" they wondered. Peter reminds them and us that we have been born again in baptism to live with hope, a "living hope", through the resurrection of Jesus. This is hope we walk with, breathe in from our living Jesus and his Spirit, and breathe out to the world.

My dad used to say "where there is life there is hope" (usually at three-quarter time when the Maggies were behind at Alberton). I didn't believe him then, but now he is 89 and into "time-on" in his life. "Where there is life there is hope". I believe him now because we share the same faith and hope in Jesus Christ, risen from the dead. Where the life of the risen Jesus is there, there is always hope! And where hope in Jesus is present there is always life, even in the face of death.

Normally we receive an inheritance when someone dies, and it is of no use to us when we die. Peter says we have been born again into an inheritance to look forward to - **"an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you".** An inheritance that blesses us now and when we die, all because Jesus died and rose again.

I hear that Bill Gates' children are not going to inherit \$130b one day. Neither are my children. Bill's children will reportedly only have \$10m that they will have to make do on.

As God's born again, baptised children we stand to inherit everything our heavenly Father has to give. Jesus said it is our Father's will and pleasure to give us the kingdom! Not only is this inheritance kept secure in heaven for

you, Peter adds that you personally are kept safe and secure with, and in God too. And even more, Peter says we don't just stand to inherit it in the end, we have been born again in baptism to live in it already now, and one day we will see it with our own eyes. We get to begin to enjoy life in his Kingdom now, even as we live with its ultimate hope.

We may be uncertain about the near future but we are "dead and resurrection" certain about our eternal future, and that makes all the difference to how we live in the church and in the world right now. How we face small and big trials, how we live in a world of COVID and cancer, and how we can offer hope to a world that sees euthanasia as giving ultimate hope (yes, I heard that).

God promises that living in Easter hope we can live through anything now, and this passage reminds us that it is highly likely will have to - **"In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials"**

This is not a sign of God's rejection but the opportunity for faith to shine like gold, even if we are no longer young and shiny ourselves any more.

- Hope that keeps us from being crushed, overwhelmed and despairing of life
- Hope that enables us to push through and live through whatever happens in church or personal lives
- Hope that enables us to face the agenda in front of us today and in front of the LCA tomorrow
- Hope that holds to what God promises, not what we might want
- Hope that doesn't give up on anyone in this world because God doesn't

Don't take that hope we walk together with for granted.

I heard the word "Jesus" on ABC radio while driving to Waikerie two weeks ago. Sadly it was an interview with a woman who had left the Christian church. She felt that her experience of church had been one of legalism. She said that when she left the church

she felt she "got her life back". A little later in the interview she said she was "still working on how to die in peace." She told of standing beside her faithful Anglican father's bedside as he lay dying in the peace of his faith. She said, "I wanted to tell him as he died it was going to be OK – but I couldn't".

What she can't do, you can – and that is to tell people who don't know how to die and who want to determine when they die, and who want to die in peace that everything can be OK in the end.

What she has given up you still hold to. It's not wishful thinking. It's Easter thinking, Easter faith.

It's the hope we are born again to live with.

It's the hope we are called to share with everyone.

It's the hope we will one day die in.

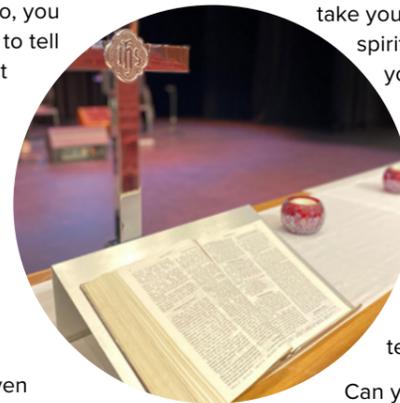
It's the hope we will one day enter and enjoy fully forever.

All because of the risen life of Jesus, the life we now share in with him and the hope we have because of him.

At the LWSA Convention I heard about a 96 year-old member of the church talking to a six year-old about what dying is to her. She said: "When you were born, God took a giant breath and breathed it into you. When you die, God takes your breath away."

Our faith says that one day God will take your breath away – physically, spiritually and in wonder, as you will finally see and enter what we have believed in, hoped for, and kept living with together all along. Meeting Jesus, a new body, reunion with all God's people, a forever life in a place we can hardly imagine, with no tears in sight.

Can you imagine the angels in heaven in charge of "contact tracing"? As each Christian enters glory they trace their contacts. Who were the people this new arrival caught faith from? Their parents? A friend? A pastor or teacher? A Christian in a hospital bed or their visitor? Or from a 96 year-old explaining death to her great-grandchild? Or maybe they caught faith and its hope from you, as you breathed in and out the hope you have been given to live with by your living Lord, and when given the opportunity you named Jesus as the reason for the hope we have.



Bishop's notes from District Convention of Synod

I thank God for the service to the District of Pastors **Tim Klein** and **Eugene Minge** as Assistant Bishops in the last Synodical term/s and for their support of me personally. Tim especially has given more than most would know. I look forward to working with the newly elected 1st Assistant Bishop, Pastor **Andrew Brook** (Unley pastor) and 2nd Assistant Bishop, **Joel Cramer** (Salisbury pastor). Please remember the service they will render the District is over and above their parish calls, and please pray for them.

I am humbled to be re-elected again as Bishop and will serve you with my best in the next two years, which I have advised Synod will be my last. I am confident there are good leaders being raised up by God to care for his church in this District in the future.

Thank you to all who attended the District Convention of Synod, I enjoyed being with you and trust that you were blessed by being with each other in God's presence. May God's work and will be done among and through us.



Church CHAT Day 2021
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Cupcakes, craft & church

the rise of Messy Church

By Jessica Smith



Messy Church participants at St Petri Lutheran Church in Nuriootpa enjoy the fellowship and activities.

A happy hum of activity greets you as you walk through the doors to Messy Church at St Petri Lutheran Church in Nuriootpa. Coloured paper and craft supplies are strewn on the tables, children and adults alike are busily engaged in colouring, cutting and pasting as they maintain a cheerful chatter, engrossed in the activity of the day. At a glance, it would be easy to assume this is a craft club, or maybe a family playgroup, but it is neither.

“Messy Church isn’t a kids club, it’s a church,” says Sharon Green, Messy Church Coordinator at St Petri. “It’s a place where people from any age group can come, whether they’re in a family unit or as an individual.”



Adamantly Christ-centred, Messy Church has been described as a ‘fresh expression’ of church. Originating in the UK in 2004, Messy Church was devised when a group at a church near Portsmouth were frustrated because they weren’t reaching any children with God’s story. They decided to try a brand new concept: an all-ages learning and worship gathering for families. Typically held once a month, Messy Church includes hands-on creative experiences, a ‘celebration’ in the form of a song, prayer or story, and a shared meal. It is, in a nutshell, church - but not as we’ve always known it.

Today Messy Church operates across many denominations around the world and has been in Australia since 2010. Four Lutheran churches in the SA-NT District currently run Messy Church programs, with the largest of these being St Petri. The others are St Michaels in Hahndorf, Immanuel in Novar Gardens and Berri-Barmera Lutheran Church, with Lutheran individuals also involved in supporting ecumenical Messy Churches across the region.

Messy Church at St Petri began in 2016.

“Our first gathering was just a small one,” says Sharon. “That first year we ran three Messy Church gatherings and were almost doubling our numbers each time. By the time we’d had those three we could see that it was going to be a booming ministry!”

With ‘lots of prayer’, St Petri Messy Church has steadily grown in the five years since its inception. The group does no formal advertising, but instead relies on word-of-mouth

and its connections with community groups including the adjacent Hand In Hand Family Centre, local schools and other service providers. In any one session up to twenty families attend, sometimes numbering around seventy people.

The St Petri church community has also jumped on board. From baking and decorating cupcakes (Messy Church’s ‘signature dish’, served at every gathering) to facility maintenance and beyond, close to fifty passionate St Petri volunteers have generously given of their time and talents to grow the Messy Church vision.

In 2019 St Petri Messy Church received an LLL Mission Stimulus Grant, enabling it to employ a Facilitator to manage the day-to-day, allowing Coordinator Sharon more time to develop the deeper mission of the program.

Sharon says the warm welcome, the relaxed atmosphere and the sense of belonging gives those that attend Messy Church - the majority of whom have no previous church connection - a reason to keep returning.

“Messy Church takes people where they’re at – it’s quite a hustle and bustle of activity going on so people feel welcome from the moment they come in, and they feel like they can start from wherever they’ve entered the door from,” she says.

“The sense of belonging is a big thing, because a lot of people are searching for that connection with others and want to experience that loving friendship and care, which is something that is very strongly formed here at Messy Church. And the fact that people come back year after year, when they are a member of our local community that we have never had a connection with before, and they basically say ‘this is OUR Messy Church’ – that’s pretty good.”



Volunteers bake cupcakes, served at every Messy Church gathering.

Photos: supplied



John with children Jaxon, Alex, Emily and Paul.

John’s story

John Boor, his wife Elena and their three foster children moved to the Barossa three years ago. It was their grandson, four-year-old Ezekiel, who first invited them along to St Petri Messy Church.

At first John was unsure how his children Alex, Paul and Jaxon – who at the time were aged 11, five and four – would react to the concept, having had no previous exposure to church. But his uncertainty was soon replaced with delight.

“Our children absolutely fell in love with Messy Church,” he says. “They’ve loved learning about God and Jesus. Messy

Church has taught them in their own language how Christmas and Easter aren’t just about presents and chocolate – they were coming home and telling us about how Jesus died for us and how we should celebrate his birth. They ask to say Grace at mealtime, thanking God for everything they have and asking for help for those in the world in need.”

Three years on and with another addition to the family, 11-year-old Emily, John says the children are continuing to thrive and grow in their faith. Alex, who is now 14, was recently confirmed and now volunteers her time as a helper at Messy Church.

“Messy Church has had an amazing impact on our family,” says John.

The 5 Messy Church Values:

Christ-centred

Messy Church is a church that helps people encounter Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

All-age

Messy Church is for adults and children to enjoy together. Every element aims to be relevant and accessible to all ages.

Creativity

Messy Church reflects the creativity of God in its imaginative, hands-on approach to being church together.

Hospitality

Messy Church is outward-facing, welcoming everybody to enjoy the hospitality and unconditional love of God.

Celebration

Messy Church reflects a God of joy who wants his people to have life in all its fullness.



Outdoor activities at Berri-Barmera Lutheran Church.



Thinking of starting a Messy Church?

Sharon’s advice:

“Get together with a small group of people from your church or community. Talk and pray, and connect with another Messy Church to chat things through (you’re welcome to connect with us at St Petri!). Find out more about the heart of Messy Church, including its five core values. Understand that Messy Church is definitely not a kids club – it’s a church where people of all ages are welcomed and gather to hear God’s word. Be ready to share Jesus in a creative way, with a caring community sharing hospitality and celebration!”



For more information on Messy Church and how you can get involved please contact Jeanette Mann, CFYYAM Team Leader, at jeanette.mann@lca.org.au or 08 8267 5211.



Top left: Preparing for communion during Sunday's worship service. Top right: Delegates during a business session. Bottom left: Musicians from Faith Lutheran College. Bottom right: A group of delegates who had first met years ago at an Eyre Peninsula youth camp took this 'reunion photo' at Synod! Image thanks to Port Lincoln Lutheran Church.

Hundreds gather for District Convention of Synod

The 49th LCA SA-NT Convention of Synod was successfully held at The Barossa Arts & Convention Centre in Tanunda, on the weekend of May 15-16.

Attended by nearly 300 people, the convention was the site of some important decisions for the church moving forward, as well as being a welcome opportunity to catch up with friends and acquaintances face-to-face, something that has been sorely missed since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year the theme of Convention was The Hope We Have, based on 1 Peter 3:15. There was much reflection on the innovations and opportunities the challenges of the last year have brought.

As well as business sessions, there

were a number of elections for various positions. Pastor David Altus was re-elected for the next synodical term, with Pastor Andrew Brook elected as 1st Assistant Bishop and Pastor Joel Cramer as 2nd Assistant Bishop.

Gawler Lutheran Church and St Peter's Lutheran Church Loxton were announced as joint recipients of the LLL Mission Outreach Grant. Gawler Lutheran Church will use the grant to build a coffee cart that will serve as a bridge between the local school and church communities. Loxton St Peter's will be working with the nationally acclaimed 'Illuminart' group to produce

an animated light show depicting the message of Christmas, as part of the renowned 'Loxton Lights Up' festival.

All in all the weekend was a very successful one, with many attendees expressing their gratitude at being able to gather together in person again for worship and business. We pray for God's blessing over the District as we continue to serve his church and all the people we encounter.

For further details about the events, business and presentations that occurred over the weekend, visit our website and download the 2021 Convention of Synod Popular Report.

Convention Decisions

Proposal For LCA SA-NT District Assistant Bishop For Mission Call Extension

This proposal was brought to convention by the SA-NT District Church Council. The proposal was that the call to Pastor Stephen Schultz be extended for a further four years, until the end of 2025. This resolution was passed.

Proposal For Amendments To The LCA Theses Of Agreement

St Stephen's Lutheran Church Adelaide presented to convention the proposal that the SA-NT District recommend to the 2021 LCA/NZ General Convention that Theses of Agreement 6.11, be removed from the Theses of Agreement. After much debate, this proposal was passed.

Proposal For Changes To Clause 3.2 Of The Model Constitution For Congregations

Tea Tree Gully Lutheran Church presented this proposal to convention, relating to pastoral guidelines for responsible communion. It was proposed that the LCA SA-NT District Synod propose to the 2021 LCA/NZ General Convention the change to Clause 3.2 of the Model Constitution for Congregations. After much discussion, the proposal was approved by delegates.

Proposal For Changes To Clauses 5 & 10 Of The Model Constitution For Congregations

Tea Tree Gully Lutheran Church presented its second proposal to convention, relating to church discipline. It was proposed that the LCA SA-NT District Synod propose to the 2021 LCA/NZ general convention that Clauses 5 and 10 in the Model Constitution for Congregations be amended.

After some debate, this matter resulted in a referral, as follows, which was approved by delegates.

Referral: Be it proposed that proposal 7 in the SA-NT 2021 District Book of Reports, which has been submitted by Tea Tree Gully Lutheran Church, be referred to the College of Bishops so that the wording of the respective clauses in the Model Constitution for Congregations is fully considered to accurately reflect the teaching and practice of the Church, with respect to Church discipline being carried out in an evangelical manner. Be it further noted that, where possible, this work be completed in readiness for consideration at 2021 General Pastors Conference and 2021 General Synod.



District update

By Angela Rogers
District Administrator

Pastors Conference & Synod

Thank you to everyone who attended Welcome Day, District Pastors Conference or Convention of Synod, it was lovely to see you all and to put some faces to names. A special thank you to all the volunteers who assisted with these events, we really appreciate your time and energy. The staff at the District Office are to be commended and thanked for all their work in assisting with the preparation and running of these events. You have a great team here.

Bookkeeping service

The District Office is pleased to launch our By the Book bookkeeping service for congregations and parishes, whereby we are able to assist with the processing of payments and all bookkeeping functions for a small annual fee. If your congregation or parish is struggling with finding a treasurer please make contact with the District Office to discuss your requirements and how we can assist you.

Church Chat Day

Chat Day is being held on Saturday 31st July at Glynde Lutheran Church. This is an information day for all church and parish council members. Come along and learn more about your role and how the wider LCA can assist you in your role.

ACNC statements

ACNC Annual Information Statements are now due if your financial year ended on 31st December.

Elected SA-NT District Church Council Members

Synod elected the following DCC members:

Pastor Andrew Vanderwal
Robert Hoff
Judy Jaensch
Helen Martul
Ben Schubert

They will join Pastor David Altus (Bishop), Pastor Andrew Brook (1st Assistant Bishop), Pastor Joel Cramer (2nd Assistant Bishop) and Stephen Kroker (Finance Consultant) to make up the council.

Residents create native garden



What do you get when you combine three big heaps of dirt with a whole lot of vision, ingenuity and skill? For the residents of Murray Bridge Lutheran Villages, the answer is a brand-new native garden space, with true wow-factor.

Resident Kevin Schrapel had just moved in when Murray Bridge Lutheran Homes CEO, Delton Schiller, approached him, asking him if he could

transform some spare soil and empty space into a garden. Drawing on his time living in arid areas, Kevin created a detailed concept plan and enlisted other residents to assist with carrying it out.

“So started about seven months of head scratching, laughter, brain storming, great fellowship, some dirty fingernails and a few aching backs!” Kevin says.

The village is unique in having its own heavy equipment and residents who are experienced operators, so hauling rocks (all 34 pallets of them!), levelling ground and forging paths was no problem.



The finished garden incorporates a waterfall, a rapid, a lilypond and a mini wetland of bullrushes. There is also a rock gorge with sensory plants, wheelchair friendly paths and a fire pit area, where residents can sit and listen to the sounds of nature. The space was dedicated to God in a ceremony led by Pastor Peter Welke, and residents are now enjoying their new surrounds.

“The plants are flourishing, ducks have been seen on the mini wetland, a large variety of birdlife have moved in...and the callouses have gone from the hands,” Kevin laughs.

“Some wives, whose husbands had been deeply involved, are now asking ‘what are you going to do to keep them from under our feet?’”

Images: Kevin Schrapel

...join us in Barossa ...villages now open for inspection



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Record numbers for Barossa Walk My Way



A record number of walkers took part in the ALWS event, doing their part to send refugee children to school.



A record number of walkers turned out to the Barossa Valley Walk My Way event recently, with funds raised going to support thousands of refugee children in East Africa.

The Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS) event saw 650 members and friends of the LCA walk, run or cycle the 26 kilometres from Redeemer Lutheran School in Nuriootpa to St Jakobi Lutheran School in Lyndoch.



Images: Linda Macqueen, Amy Dahlenberg, Jonathan Krause

“Our national target for Walk My Way for all of 2021 is to support 10,000 refugee children to go to school,” says ALWS Community Action Manager Jonathan Krause. “South Australia is doing an amazing job leading the way, with the Barossa Valley walk already raising enough money to support 8,258 children!”

Jonathan said it was wonderful to see so many people out and about.

“What’s exciting is seeing young and senior, city and country, Lutheran schools and churches, Lutheran Aged Care and Lutheran Disability Services walk together. No matter what

might seem to divide us, there is more that unites us,” he says.

Alongside the Barossa event, there are several smaller local Walk My Way events taking part within the SA-NT District. In the Northern Territory, Good Shepherd Lutheran College in Darwin is hosting their own walks and fundraising activities. In South Australia, schools such as Encounter at Victor Harbour and churches including St John’s at Unley are also hosting walks.

The money raised supports refugee children at Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya, as well as displaced children inside conflict-torn Somalia and children in South Sudan whose families are forced from their homes by conflict, flood and locust plagues.

“Before our help, these children did their learning sitting on rocks under trees, practicing their writing in the dirt, and those ‘lucky’ enough to be in classrooms were often crammed in, a hundred at a time, into stifling hot corrugated iron sheds,” says Jonathan.

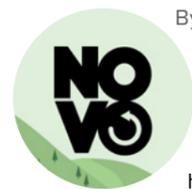
“Walk My Way is a wonderful way to show our community that the Lutheran Church is serious about bringing love to life.”



Read more about the 2021 Walk My Way event in the news section on the District website.



NOVO camp



By Matthew Rohrlach
2021 NOVO Camp Director

During the second week of the April school holidays the Blueprint Ministries team held its annual NOVO camp at Woodcroft College, Morphett Vale. NOVO is a camp for young people in high school from all across our District. After last year's camp was impacted by the global pandemic, it was heartening to see 81 campers keen to return to NOVO this year from across the Adelaide Metro and Hills areas, Barossa, Mid North, Lower Murray and the South East. Our leadership team were very excited to return to camping ministry and welcome our campers along!

Camp this year focussed on our theme 'The Mountain' where we explored Jesus' sermon on the mount in Matthew 5-7. We thank our camp speakers, Tim Foulkes and Michael Pollnitz, who came all the way from the Teen Missions Australia Base in Queensland!

The campers had many opportunities to engage in different faith-developing activities. These included worship and small-group discussion time, where campers could explore the scriptures and

grow in an understanding of who our God is, and workshops where we were able to take these conversations even deeper. Thanks to our workshop presenters Pastor Steve Schulz, Pastor Shaun Manning, Chelsea Pietsch, Emma Graetz and Tim Foulkes for guiding us through these topics.

There was also plenty of time for fun and fellowship on camp during our entertaining electives, star-lit dinners, enthralling board games, enlivening netball games, and a laugh over the serving table at mealtimes. A particular camp highlight was our night game out on the college oval, where participants equipped with torches attempted to find their friends, the "lolly-men" while avoiding their nemeses, who were trying to steal their lolly prizes away!



I would also like to thank my fellow camp director, Kurt Miegel, for helping plan the happenings of camp and guiding our lovely leadership team. He was a great support for me as I grew into the role on my first camp as a director.

We thank God for the awesome week we all had. Please pray for our campers, as they go into the world with Jesus by their side to share the good news of the gospel!

Stay tuned for our catch-up event planned for the October school holidays.

Images: supplied

Upcoming CLW camps

This coming school holidays Blueprint Ministries will be hosting four Christian Life Week camps across the state. These camps are a fantastic opportunity for our young people to gather in Christian community and grow in faith together.

Barossa CLW
5-9 July
Cornerstone College, Mt Barker

Hills CLW
5-9 July
Unity College, Murray Bridge

Metro CLW
12-16 July
Camp Dzintari, Normanville

Junior Christian Life Camp
12-15 July
Camp Kedron, Barmera

For more information or to register, head to blueprintministries.org.au/camps/all-registrations/ or call 8267 5211

Free camp opportunity, thanks to LLL

Are you new to Blueprint Ministries, or have a friend you'd like to invite along to camp? Thanks to the very generous support from the LLL, we are able to offer all new Christian Life Week and JC Life campers this year the opportunity to attend free of charge (apart from a \$20 admin fee).

For more information, please contact the Blueprint Ministries Team at admin@blueprintministries.org.au or 8267 5211.



St Peter's visit

Blueprint Ministries visited the St Peter's congregation at Elizabeth on Palm Sunday, participating in the worship service with some fun, intergenerational activities.

Streamers were waved as songs were sung praising God, with the opportunity to participate in some Easter activities after the service. Easter packs with Holy Week cards were given out for continuing these faith practices at home.

We loved visiting Elizabeth and meeting the people there. Thank you to Pastor Greg Bensted and the congregation for your warm welcome!

The Blueprint Ministries Team is happy to come and share with congregations. Chat to us about how we can help with intergenerational practices, faith at home ideas, children's talks, or children's activities during or after the worship service.

Email admin@blueprintministries.org.au or phone 08 82675211



Catherine's café

When Catherine Chapman started a hospitality course early last year she saw it as an exciting step in the direction of her life goal. Catherine, a resident of Lutheran Disability Services (LDS) supported accommodation, dreams of working in open employment in a 'regular job', earning an award wage.

Hopeful that her course could lead to work experience at a café, Catherine was disheartened when COVID hit, making it close to impossible to find a placement. It was then that Catherine had an idea – why not create her own pop-up café at home?

With characteristic enthusiasm, Catherine set about planning the café over a few months. She devised a menu, thought through the set-up of the tables, designed a flyer and sandwich board to advertise the café and practiced cooking every dish.

When the day finally arrived Catherine, who had her Mum and a support worker to lend a hand, was inundated with customers. Friends from LDS and from her local



church group, neighbours, housemates and family members all enjoyed her excellent service and delicious homemade goodies, including cupcakes, savoury snacks, coffees and cold drinks.

A sell-out success by the end of the day, Catherine said she'd loved running the café and was really pleased with the result. Having just completed her Certificate 3 in Hospitality online and with COVID restrictions easing, Catherine is now looking to undertake a work placement, with a little more experience under her belt!



Catherine serving her happy customers.

Reflecting gods love



Professional Standards Department updates

By Dave Biar
Professional Standards Officer

In the last issue of Together we noted a Safe Church Webinar that was run on March 27th. The focus of this was the proposed LCA Child Safety Standards (LCA CS Standards). These draft standards were developed specifically for LCA congregations and their communities as a mechanism for implementing the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. The purpose of the LCA CS Standards is to provide a more straightforward and tailored version of the National Principles for LCA congregations to embrace and implement. They are written in 'plain speak' and are tailored to the congregation context. The LCA has now entered a consultation period in relation to these.



If you missed the webinar, you can still share the experience of the 300 members who connected on the day. You can catch up by viewing the webinar recordings. A special webpage has been dedicated to sharing these with you. It can be found by clicking on the LCA Child Safety Standards link on the Professional Standards page of the LCA website. Or type this link into your browser: www.lca.org.au/css

On that page you will find a video clip of the full 90 minute webinar, and four extracts to assist those who would like to watch it in segments. The same clips are also available as audio-only versions which can be downloaded, copied onto a USB stick or phone, and played on many car radios.

Nine congregations have volunteered to pilot implementation of the draft LCA CS Standards over the next few months. This will help to refine documentation and processes prior rolling out the CS Standards to all congregations.

If you would like further information please contact Mary-Ann Carver, LCA Child Protection Project Officer - mary-ann.carver@lca.org.au or Professional Standards Officer, Dave Biar - dave.biar@lca.org.au

In Brief



Well-deserved awards

Gavin Launer (pictured above with Gawler Mayor, Karen Redman), a member at Gawler Lutheran Church, was awarded Citizen of the Year by the Town of Gawler. Gavin was recognised for his years of volunteering for the council, the Gawler Car Club and for service to the aged community.

Craig and Helen Menzel (pictured right), members at Hallett Cove Lutheran Church, were presented with the Southern Suburbs Volunteer Service Award, for their tireless and unselfish commitment to bless the lives of others – individually and as a couple. The pair work in many areas of the church and wider community, as well as being involved at numerous schools, projects and working bees.



Lutheran women unite at retreat

Swords, shields and troop carriers. Sounds a bit like war doesn't it?

With the theme of 'Women in God's Armour', the 51st Retreat of the Lutheran Women of the Upper North Zone was held at Camp Willochra at Melrose. The 31 women who attended were led by Pastor David Christian through a series of Bible Studies examining and applying the Armour of God to their lives.

Read more about this in the news section of the District website.



New Strategic Intentions for Lutheran Education

Lutheran Education SA, NT & WA (LESNW) has a new set of Strategic Intentions, which will serve as their dynamic roadmap over the next three years.

The Strategic Intentions 2021-2023 document was co-developed with the help of stakeholders including principals, leaders, board members, regional office staff and teachers. It emphasises the community aspect of LESNW, with the ongoing engagement of stakeholders ensuring that its goals continue to respond to changes in context locally, regionally, nationally and globally.

Read more about this in the news section of the District website.

St Paul's CEO recognised



When St Paul's Lutheran Homes CEO Trevor Patti went the extra mile to protect both residents and staff throughout the COVID pandemic, he never expected it to lead to an international award.

Trevor said he was initially 'embarrassed' when he discovered he had been anonymously nominated for the Inspiring Leader award from international change organisation Inspiring Workplaces.

"I'm not one for the spotlight, I'd much rather be the person nominating my team and staff," he said.

Trevor credits his team with the win, saying it was a combination of diligence, training and communication that kept everyone safe.

"It's been very humbling, but at the same time it's not 'my award', it was achieved by the great team at St Paul's, each and every staff member played a role."

"I have seen sound, compassionate Christian behaviours at work," he said. "What I have seen is people truly caring for other people and wanting to ensure our vulnerable residents are protected, nurtured and understood."



Stepping out ...
so refugee children
can step in to school!

My name is Sebit. I am 14 years old. I live at Kakuma Refugee Camp with my aunt.

My mother passed away when I was 10 years old.

When war started in South Sudan, we had to run away. I was very young. I can't remember much. All I remember is coming to a place with gates. I later learnt this was a refugee camp.

My favourite place to be is in school. In school, I forget I am in a refugee camp.

My teacher asks me what I want to be. I say I want to be a pilot. I want to fly up high. Maybe even close to God.

I will help other people. My parent, my friends, my teachers, even other refugees in the camp. Thank you for helping us. I am doing much better with your support. With love,

Sebit

Thank you!

Through ALWS **Walk My Way**, our Lutheran family steps out so refugee children like Sebit can step in to school. Your gift of \$26 can support a refugee child for one year – with textbooks, school desks, training for teachers. Thank you!

National 2021 **Walk My Way** target:
10,000 children

What you have achieved
already (18 May):
9,029 children!

walkmyway.org.au

* 1300 763 407

