

# the Lutheran

NATIONAL MAGAZINE OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

where love comes to life

SEPTEMBER 2019

**SPECIAL EDITION**

**GOING AND GROWING**  
as God's people

**THE LCA STORY**  
**2019**

Print Post  
Approved  
PP-100003514  
VOL 53 NO 8



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LCA Subscriptions

PO Box 731

North Adelaide SA 5006

11 issues per year

Australia \$44 | New Zealand \$46

Asia/Pacific \$55 | Rest of the world \$64

Issued every month except January.

## DESIGN & PRINT

Design & Layout Elysia McEwen

Printer Openbook Howden

## ADVERTISING/ MANUSCRIPTS

Should be directed to the editor.

Manuscripts are published at the discretion of the editor. Those that are published may be cut or edited.

Copy deadline: 1st of preceding month

Rates: general notices and small advertisements, \$19.00 per cm; for display, contract and inserted advertisements, contact the editor.



The Lutheran informs the members of the LCA about the church's teaching, life, mission and people, helping them to grow in faith and commitment to Jesus Christ.

The Lutheran also provides a forum for a range of opinions, which do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editor or the policies of the Lutheran Church of Australia.

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## WOMEN ON A MISSION



Anthea Habel, centre, from Trinity Lutheran Church at Pasadena in South Australia, recently went on a mission trip to North Sumatra, Indonesia, with members of the women's group of the Indonesian Christian Fellowship of Adelaide. The Adelaide-based members of the group also worship at Pasadena in Adelaide's south (see also page 10). Two members of this group currently live in Indonesia. This photo was taken at Lake Toba on a rest day during the visit. Pictured from left to right are Dasni Rau, Yanti Burnett, Pastor Ani Sumanti, Anthea, Wina Suter, Erna Manik and Juliati Tarigan.

Send us a photograph featuring a recent copy of *The Lutheran* and you might see it here on page 2 of a future issue.

## People like YOU bring love to life



Hudson Noack

Herberge Christi Bethany SA

Student, OSHC (Out of School Hours Care) worker,  
Grow Leadership participant

Enjoys sport, camping and travel

Fav text: Jeremiah 29:11



Joyce Parups

Nazareth Brisbane Woolloongabba Qld

Retired administrator

Enjoys time with family and surf fishing on Fraser Island

Fav text: John 3:16



Marilyn Nagel

Our Saviour Aberfoyle Park SA

Retired

Enjoys gardening, quilting and bike riding

Fav text: Jeremiah 29:11

Surprise someone you know with their photo in *The Lutheran*. Send us a good-quality photo, their name and details (congregation, occupation, what they enjoy doing, favourite text) and your contact details.

## EDITOR'S *Letter*



As I write this, the Australian men's cricket team is battling the old enemy England for the sport's most honoured trophy, the Ashes. As a former sportswriter, I'm reflecting on the terminology used in the reporting of this series. Probably the biggest 'good news' story has been the wildly successful return to Test cricket of former Australian captain Steve Smith.

Shamed and suspended, along with two teammates, after a ball-tampering scandal, Smith returned to the Test fray with consecutive centuries. As well as causing comparisons with the peerless Don Bradman, Smith's feats in this Ashes series are being widely gushed over, under headlines hailing his 'redemption'.

His sins of omission – he neither concocted nor actively participated in the cockamamie sandpaper scheme – and his tearful admission to turning a blind eye were as public as can be. He himself would need to win back the trust and admiration of the public in front of a hostile crowd and cameras beaming every possible flaw and failing around the world. No coach, official or player could do it for him.

Thank God that's not our experience of redemption. Our sins may be public or private, and they are not usually one-offs. Yet our 'life coach' doesn't force us to front a press conference to announce them to the world. Instead, he's done it all for us. He's taken on himself the public humiliation, the pain and the shame that should have been ours, and won for us the forgiveness of God.

That's the best redemption story we will ever hear.

Our redemption in Christ makes all the difference in the world. It means we can look forwards with confidence, not backwards with guilt or despair. It means that we can step out in the sure hope that God is with us and for us, and that he will bless and multiply the offerings we bring him. For instance, in this annual 'report-back' issue of *The Lutheran*, you will see how God's redemption story plays out in the ministries of your LCA/NZ, and how they support his redeemed people to be his light and love in the world. And I know that many of you play out God's redemption story in your own lives and ministries. What a blessing we can be for each other and for the world when we walk together confidently in God's love and power.

Unlike Steve Smith, who has to work hard for his redemption (and suffered concussion and a physical battering for the cause), our redemption has already been won. So we can put the past behind us; we can hold our heads high – and we can get out there on the field of life and smash a few sixes for the Lord's team.

Lisa



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*Our cover: Design by Elysia McEwen.  
Photos courtesy of Lutheran Media, Church Worker Support, Lutheran Archives, ALC, Grow Ministries, Finke River Mission, LCA International Mission, Lutheran Education Australia and Australian Lutheran World Service, along with images from iStock.com*





JESUS IS GOD'S LOVE.  
HE GIVES US NEW HEARTS –  
TO LAY ASIDE OUR OLD WAYS,  
TO BELIEVE AND FOLLOW HIM,  
TO LIVE WITH HIM EVERY DAY.

# heartland

REV MIKE FULWOOD  
Bishop LCA WA District

## GOD GIVES US THE WORD TO SPEAK

The deadline is here. I am sitting in front of my computer screen and I am imagining Bishop John enjoying his leave. Right now I am wishing we could swap places. In particular, I am wishing he was here to write his *Heartland* column.

*I don't know what to say!*

Do you ever have the same experience? Do you ever struggle with what to say when faced with questions from neighbours or friends about the Christian faith? Sometimes their questions contain a raft of assumptions and insinuations that are subtly off the mark. I sense that answering these questions leads away from Christ rather than towards him. I am anxious not to make a mess of it and find myself floundering.

However, I take encouragement from reflecting on the calling of Jeremiah into ministry and from promises that the Lord made to him when he was installed as a prophet (Jeremiah 1:4–12).

At the time of his calling, Jeremiah was told by God, 'I am with you'. That's certainly something he needed to hear. God also assured him that he had been set apart for his task. Again, this was very encouraging.

And then God reached out his hand and touched the reluctant prophet's mouth and said, 'I have placed my word in your mouth'. For a speaker of God's message, that has to be really good to hear. Jeremiah must have thought, 'God's word is in my mouth. Now I have the confidence to speak'.

Now we don't need to think, 'How lucky was Jeremiah!', because the very same promises have been made to you and me. Jesus told all his disciples, 'Behold, I am with you always' (Matthew 28:18). And Ephesians 1:4

reminds us that we have been chosen or set apart in Christ since before the beginning of the world.

And then there's the clincher: God has placed his word in our mouths.

I claim this last promise on the basis of something many of us would have experienced last weekend in worship. We came to the communion rail, we opened our mouths and we received the bread and wine of the sacrament. But far more than that, we received the living Christ. Jesus is with us and in us.

Now, remember that Jesus is the Word of God. That's what John calls him in the very first verse of his Gospel. He is the word, the message and the living embodiment of the gospel. So as we received Christ at the table, God whispered from heaven, 'Behold, I have placed my word in your mouth'.

That encourages me in my floundering. These are sustaining truths that reach past Jeremiah to us. We go with Christ into every encounter. The word of God is in our mouths. We have been set apart for this moment.

I am seeking to press into these promises from Jesus in the day-to-day encounters that I have with others. I am wanting to make these truths my own and thus be confident in my witness. Could this also encourage you in those times when you don't know what to say?

*Lord Jesus, as we have received you in the bread and the wine, may we now allow this living word to be shared with others. Bless us as we seek to share you so that others may also receive life. Amen.*

*LCA Bishop John Henderson is currently on Rest and Refreshment Leave.*



# the INSIDE story

WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE OUR CHURCH

## COAST WALKERS SUPPORT 2200 REFUGEES

by JONATHAN KRAUSE



Above: Pastor Mark Vainikka (left), LCA Queensland District's 1st assistant bishop, challenged 2nd assistant bishop, Pastor Ben Hentschke (right), to beat him in the ALWS Walk My Way. Bishop Paul Smith (centre) was pleased to give his blessing, and a little coaching!

Right: The 'Fantastic Fives' from St James Lutheran School in Hervey Bay, Queensland, celebrate the beach leg of their Walk My Way. The team from St James (Years 10 and 11 students walked, too) also raised funds in their local community — enough to help more than 250 refugee children to go to school! Photos: Anthony Bothe



More than 270 Lutherans and friends walked or ran up to 26km in last month's inaugural Sunshine Coast Walk My Way in Queensland to help support almost 2200 refugee children to go to school.

Every \$26 raised through the Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS) Walk My Way events helps to support one child living in refugee camps in Africa to go to school for one year. The Queensland ALWS Walk My Way on Sunday 4 August was supported by the LLL, as were earlier events in Adelaide,

Darwin and Perth. As of 5 August, 733 walkers and their sponsors had raised \$240,041 to support 9292 children to go to school.

LCA/NZ Queensland District 1st Assistant Bishop Mark Vainikka and 2nd Assistant Bishop Ben Hentschke were up front on the Sunshine Coast course, which went from Good Shepherd Lutheran College, Noosa, to Luther Heights Youth Camp, Coolumb — each determined to run the route in the fastest time. Pastor Mark, who offered chocolates to those who could finish

ahead of him, was first in a time of two hours and nine minutes. Pastor Ben finished third after Megan Danslow.

Meanwhile, another LCA/NZ district assistant bishop, Western Australia's Pastor Peter Hage, completed his Walk My Way 'century' during the Sunshine Coast event, clocking up more than 100kms for the cause, having also participated in the SA and WA Walk My Ways, the latter of which he walked twice. Pastor Peter set himself the 100km-goal to match the more than 100 children his fundraising efforts will help send to school.



Another 10 Queensland pastors – including District Bishop Paul Smith – also did the Sunshine Coast walk.

The 'Fantastic Fives' – Year 5 students from St James Lutheran School at Hervey Bay, north of Brisbane – took part along with a group of Year 10s and 11s and raised enough money to support more than 250 refugee children to go to school.

St James Principal Luke Schoff said the school had received a visit from ALWS to share about Walk My Way before the event. 'I saw it as an opportunity for community involvement in something bigger than us, as well of course as the bigger purpose of helping refugee children go to school', he said.

'The response from students was excitement and enthusiasm – It's a great way for us to build community.'

The most senior walker was 78-year-old Hannelore Kienzle, while some of the youngest participants 'walked' in their prams or travelled by piggyback.

Along with donations from local businesses and others which provided sustenance for walkers, the LLL generously funded walkers' t-shirts and African carry bags created by the Lutheran Community Sewing Group in Adelaide.

Learn more about this inspirational group at <https://vimeo.com/331116724>

This generosity, along with the kindness of volunteers who cooked, marshalled and welcomed, meant the walkers' efforts have raised more than \$57,000 as of 5 August, which can support 2196 children to go to school.

It's not too late to be part of Walk My Way by walking, sponsoring someone, or simply giving a donation to help a child go to school.

The Gold Coast ALWS Walk My Way will be held on 8 March 2020 and there is talk of a Toowoomba walk, while planning is underway for a walk at Albury in 2020 to celebrate the 70th birthday of ALWS, and a further event in Melbourne.

For more information, go to [www.walkmyway.org.au](http://www.walkmyway.org.au)

## MEMBERS' VIEWS on child protection invited

LCA members are being invited to contribute to consultations as part of the church's commitment to developing a child-safe culture.

The consultations are part of the LCA Child Protection Project, which was established to oversee the implementation of recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The Royal Commission made more than 400 recommendations, about 70 of which relate directly to institutions such as the LCA, its entities, services, programs and congregations.

LCA Child Protection Project Officer Mary-Ann Carver has been briefing district church councils and next month will begin the churchwide consultations. She will speak with pastors, church workers, district staff, congregational leaders and members, including children, young people and their families.

The Royal Commission recommended that all organisations

with child-related responsibilities, including churches, implement 10 principles endorsed in February this year by the Council of Australian Governments. It also recommended that adherence to the principles be both mandatory and government regulated. While this will be a major change for churches, particularly at the congregational level, Ms Carver said it was important that LCA members did not view this 'simply as a new compliance framework with implications for increased paperwork and increased burdens for our church volunteers'.

'Instead, we should try to embrace this change as a genuine vehicle for enhancing child safety within the church and for encouraging increased participation of children and young people in worship and other church activities', she said.

Members interested in being involved in the consultations should contact Ms Carver on 08 8267 7384, or 0490 281 727, or email her at [mary-ann.carver@lca.org.au](mailto:mary-ann.carver@lca.org.au)

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### About our tour host

Robert is a recently, retired principal, married and enjoys exploring foods of the world. He has visited the key sites on this tour several times and is particularly excited about going to Oberammergau and is looking forward to sharing this trip with fellow travellers.

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# Look who's coming to your **LONGEST LUTHERAN LUNCH!**



The Longest Lutheran Lunch is all about welcoming our community with hospitality ... just as we welcome refugees in camps like Kakuma in Kenya.

This year, your Longest Lutheran Lunch or Gourmet GRACE Gathering can help refugee children to go to school through the ALWS LCA GRACE Project. Our prayer is this will make it easier to invite people to join you!



## Launch your Lunch!

Longest Lutheran Lunch is a simple idea:

- gather people at a LONG table
- take a LONG time sharing a meal so people can get to know each other
- and have lunches all the LONG way from the east of NZ to the west of WA.

Most importantly, invite people from outside the church, and use hospitality to connect with our communities.

You can choose your time / date / meal ... whatever suits your local skills and resources. We'll help with ideas.



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The Ration Card People receive their meal FREE – but it is the same meal a new arrival at Kakuma Refugee Camp receives. Think lentils, or maize porridge as you see in the photo!

**FREE Resources:** placemats, videos, hospitality ideas, expert advice from a professional caterer, a quiz, unique African thank you gift for organisers ... and much more!

**SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER – or when it suits you!**

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Let your roots grow down into him...  
then your faith will grow strong in the truth. (Col 2:7)

**ARISE** is a program designed for young adults who are looking for a growth opportunity while they are transitioning between school and what lies ahead.

Arise focuses on building a faith foundation that is grown by living and serving in an authentic Christian community. While volunteering time to serve at Warrambui, the interns build their character, further discover their identity in Christ, and explore questions of faith in a supportive Christian environment that will give them a solid grounding for whatever lies ahead.

Interns experience practical ministry, learning to serve Jesus and each other, while assisting in the operations of a Lutheran retreat and conference centre. Interns are also given an experience of hands-on camping and youth ministry, and undertake ministry and theology studies as they journey with other like-minded young adults while serving at Warrambui together.

### WARRAMBUI VOLUNTEER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM 2020



**APPLY NOW! APPLICATIONS CLOSE 13 OCTOBER 2019!**

So if you are (or know) someone who is interested and want to know more about this exciting opportunity, please contact Andrew Sharp (Ministry Development Manager) for an information pack:

PHONE: 02 6220 1000 | EMAIL: [ministry@warrambui.com.au](mailto:ministry@warrambui.com.au)



WARRAMBUI

A project of the LCA NSW District



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# Many ministries, ONE CALLING

by LISA MCINTOSH

This special annual edition of *The Lutheran* brings the work of the churchwide departments and agencies of your Lutheran church in Australia and New Zealand home to you.

It provides an opportunity to learn more about each ministry and a chance to gain greater insight into the ways each one serves us as individuals and as members of church communities.

Over the next 18 pages, you'll read about how our departments and agencies work – with your support – to be a ministry through which love comes to life. Naturally, you play a critical role through your prayers, donations and the time you give as a volunteer.

The LLL, which is featured in this report-back, financially underpins many of the ministries of our church, having provided benefits and services

While the focus and scope of the ministries here are different, they share an identical purpose – to help us all to 'go and grow' as God's people.

estimated at almost \$10 million in the last financial year. Of course, the LLL is only able to provide this support because of your support as depositors.

While the focus and scope of the ministries here are different, they share an identical purpose – to help us all to 'go and grow' as God's people.

We hope you will see this report-back as a must-read which helps you to stay in touch with what's happening in your LCA/NZ, to become more engaged with church departments and agencies, and to be further encouraged to continue serving, according to your gifting and calling.

Ultimately, of course, the LCA/NZ is God's church and it is his love that is the heart, guide and motivation of all those who serve in it.