



“Rejoice in the
Lord always...



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Joy in all Circumstances *Philippians 4*

The last chapter of Philippians contains one of my favourite passages in the bible. Philippians 4v4 “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again rejoice!”

Note it does not say rejoice always, but rejoice **in the Lord** always.

Knowing Jesus turns every situation into joy whether its

- beginnings or endings,
- birth or death,
- good events or bad,
- suffering or times of peace.

Jesus turns every occasion into a time of joy. His presence in our lives converts every situation into one with joy.

St Paul when he wrote these words was in prison. Not a place to be all that positive. Not an experience you would get excited about. Yet he can say these amazing words, “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say rejoice”, because he knew from his own experience of Jesus that he gives this joy.



From the Bishop
Robert Bartholomaeus

E. Stanley Jones – the great missionary to India in the 1920’s - said “When I met Jesus Christ, I felt like I had swallowed sunshine.” I think there could not be a more vivid description of joy in the Lord.

William Barclay when speaking of the Christian life said, “The Christian is a person of joy. Joy is the surest sign of the presence of God.”

It’s not only people from the past who speak like this. Pr Hans Peethala the former pastor at Belconnen and Liverpool said to me on one occasion, “If there is no joy, it’s probably not of God.”

You can see then that joy and Jesus go together. Where one is, the other one is sure to be.

“ ... Again I say
rejoice! ”

Continued next page

LCA NSW and ACT District is *Walking together* IN MISSION by:



- Supporting congregations and ministries in mission and ministry
- Supporting congregations in transition
- Developing and supporting alternative models for ministry
- Planting and renewing congregations
- Developing and supporting networking and connections between congregations and ministries
- Developing and supporting leadership – through the Bishop leading leadership teams

DISTRICT NEWS

For your prayer and care

Calls

- Pr Paul Hannola (Tuggeranong) accepted the call to Nundah Qld. and had his final service on 4 February, 2024.
- Pr Will Frost accepted the call to Albury and Lavington.

Installation

- Pr Will Frost was installed at Albury and Lavington on 4 February 2024.

Elections

- Pr Richard Schwedes (Sydney and Narraweena) was elected the next Bishop of NSW and ACT District at Synod on 9 March.
- Pr John Borchert was elected Assistant Bishop of NSW and ACT District at Synod.

Installation of new Bishop

- Pr Richard Schwedes will be installed as District Bishop on Sunday 28 July, at LifeWay Epping, at 3pm.

From previous page

So why then do so much of our lives not reflect this joy?

Because we are focused on other things. Our personal goals which are earthbound. Our achievements for this life, and what the world says is important. Maybe we just watch too many advertisements. Watch a few and they are sure to make you discontent and think how hard done by you are. That is their aim, so that you buy the product. The advertisements try to sell you a positive experience of happiness along with the product.

Joy of course is more than a good time, or a lot of laughter, it's a deep feeling of happiness along with contentment. It's the feeling that this is how life was meant to be.

For the Christian that joy goes with them in every circumstance, because joy is the byproduct of following and knowing Jesus. He is

“ Joy is the surest sign of the presence of God. ”

the one who forgives, restores, heals and reconciles us to God the Father and also each other. Jesus re-establishes us in right relationship with everyone and everything. With God, with humans, and with the creation.

So keep close to Jesus, and may the joy he gives fill the lives of our churches, our ministries and our personal lives.

Pr Robert Bartholomaeus
Bishop NSW and ACT District


Walking together IN MISSION

Joy in all Circumstances - Phil 4

Join with members of the LCA NSW and ACT District in the next online Bible study led by Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus

Wednesday 3 April, 7.30pm on Zoom

To register, please email Kaye.office.nsw@lca.org.au



Pr Will Frost Installed at Albury and Lavington

Pastor Will Frost has been helping out in vacant parishes of the District since 2022 (Henty, and Albury). After serving as Interim pastor at Albury for nine months, Pastor Will accepted the joint call from Albury and Lavington, and was installed on February 4, 2024.

Pastor Will shares some of his story:

I grew up 20km southeast of Johannesburg, South Africa, in a town called Alberton. I had a background in engineering before studying theology where I started out Anglican until I discovered the teachings of Luther and became a Lutheran before moving to Australia in 2009.

I have family in the Gold Coast, including my two sisters and their husbands and kids. I enjoy cooking American style barbecue, watching motor racing, cricket, and hockey, both ice and field. I love to read all sorts of things, my favourite author being Gerald Durrell. I love animals, especially their humorous side. My music range is broad, from Vivaldi to rock to gospel to bluegrass.

I am very down to earth, and want to care for people like Jesus did and thus invariably go for the underdog, but let's hope it never comes down to Australia and South Africa in a world cup or I may have to make a hard decision.

My two kids Keegan and Lenya stay with me part-time and can sometimes be seen helping with the sermon and communion. Keegan is almost 9 and loves Minecraft, cars, and mid distance running. Lenya is 3½ and loves Bluey, Frozen and Paw Patrol.

I am excited to be involved with pastoring and mission in the ACT/NSW district and look forward to meeting many of you.



Pr Will Frost

Pr Will Frost

District Synod at Wagga Wagga



On the weekend of the 8th-10th March 2024, delegates, visitors and invited guests met together in Wagga Wagga for the 40th Convention of Synod for the Lutheran Church of NSW and ACT District. The theme was 'It's all about Jesus', and in the opening worship, Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus revealed his heart for mission: "Because he is Lord of our lives, we want to share that with others".

In his final report to Synod, Bishop Robert invited speakers from a number of congregations to tell their stories of mission, in order to emphasize the fact that Walking Together in Mission is about trusting in Jesus and finding ways to spread his love. We heard from Jacob Traeger about the Molonglo Valley church plant; Peter Reed planting at St John's school Jindera. We heard about Narraweena congregation reaching out to the community; about growth at Port Macquarie, and from various others.



Pr Richard Schwedes, his wife Veronica, and Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus



We were introduced to the Warrambui Interns, who shared the Good News with LCA Bishop Paul Smith during closing worship at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Wagga Wagga



COLOSSIANS 2:6-7

LCA NSW & ACT DISTRICT SYNOD
WAGGA WAGGA | 8-10 MARCH 2024

The Synod heard from District ministries including St Paul's College, Professional Standards, Warrambui, Frontier School of Mission, and from District staff about their work in the District's Strategic Priorities. There were discussions about the future of Turning Point Ministries and Lutheran Women as they face challenges of declining numbers - the District will assist in facilitating reviews of these ministries in order to plan for the future.

Representatives of the LCA NZ also presented their work including the information from the National Office, LLL, ALWS, Australian Lutheran College and the Ministry Futures Project. There was a panel Q&A time about the Ordination Way Forward Project and how the work has been progressing in preparation for General Synod in October 2024.

Elections of office bearers for the next synodical term included the appointment of Pastor Richard Schwedes to the role of District Bishop, and Pastor John Borchert to the role of Assistant Bishop. Pastor Richard and his wife Veronica are currently serving in the St Paul's Sydney and Redeemer Narraweena congregations.

The Saturday night dinner included a presentation from Rev Dr Tim Stringer on the topic of 'when you say 'NO' but God says 'YES'', as he detailed his journey in ministry which most recently has seen him installed as Principal of the Australian Lutheran College. Synod also had the chance to bid farewell to Bishop Robert and Jenny Bartholomaeus, and we

Continued next page



heard many joyful stories of the ministry journey that they shared, including 23 years in the NSW & ACT District.



Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus and DCC members Bruce Arnold, Jeannie Kenney, Pr Darren Jaensch, Leigh Caldwell, Ward Westphal, bishop-elect Pr Richard Schwedes, and Administrator Russell Veerhuis (absent DCC members Pr John Borchert, Tony von Brandenstein and Jarmo Roenneberg)

Tanya Cunningham

Sunday worship was shared with members of the Bethlehem congregation, and included singing from the Warrambui interns, the installation of the new District Church Council, and a message from LCA NZ Bishop Paul Smith. Bishop Paul spoke from Acts 8:26-39 about Philip sharing the good news with the Ethiopian eunuch, and emphasized the way God is going before us and providing what we need in mission, and that God is dynamically active and present in our lives.

“Walking together in mission” and “It’s all about Jesus”. These core tenets provide encouragement, direction and vision for our Synod, as we discover and celebrate what God is doing in our congregations and communities.

Pastor Richard Schwedes, bishop-elect

Thank you

Dear colleagues in mission

Thank you to all our delegates (lay and pastors) who came to Wagga Wagga for our 40th Synodical Convention. It revealed again why the NSW and ACT District is an encouraging place to do mission, we were able to share stories, be encouraged by each other and begin to deal with some real mission issues of the changing situation regarding Turning Point Ministries and women in our District. These discussions followed by appropriate actions will no doubt continue in our District.

Personally, I am very grateful for the support and encouragement I have received from many people following being elected as your next bishop. God has used many people and situations throughout my life to shape and encourage me for this and other areas of life, which I am very grateful for. It is also reminder that the office of Bishop is one position of many needed for us to be God’s community in NSW, ACT and New Zealand. Becoming bishop reinforces that I am part of a whole team of people serving, reflecting and revealing Jesus and His love to NSW, ACT and New Zealand. I pray that together we can serve and support each other well.

Please continue to pray for myself, my family of (Veronica, Mercedes, Zackary and Brooke), my current congregations of St Paul’s Sydney and Redeemer Narraweena, our District, the New Zealand District and the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand. Let us give thanks to God for the good things that are and have happened, confess where we have not lived as the people God calls us to be, place all our worries, concerns, questions and needs before God, and seek God’s guidance, support and assuring graceful presence. And I look forward to being part of the adventure God has for us.



Pr Richard and Veronica Schwedes, and their children Mercedes, Zackary and Brooke

Bishop Installation and Transition

The bishop installation service is Sunday 28th July 2024 at 3pm, at LifeWay Epping NSW. I pray that you can join us either in person or via livestream (details to come) as this is another opportunity for us to come together to support and encourage each other and celebrate God calling us to be His church.

Between now and 28 July 2024, in this transitional phase, Bishop Robert and bishop-elect Richard will continue to work closely together. For current day matters relating to the district please contact Bishop Robert, and our District office team. For matters that will take place following 28 July, please contact bishop-elect Richard. You are welcome to email him directly, and cc in Kaye our Administrative Assistant.

Pr Richard Schwedes, bishop-elect

Cultivating Prayer in our District

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything.” (Philippians 4:6a, NLT)

During the past synodical period, we actively encouraged our prayer intercessors and cultivated prayer in the District.

We began with collating and distributing prayer points for our congregations and ministries each week (which you may have seen in your church bulletins). In November last year we held our first ever Prayer Gathering of the NSW & ACT District (+LCNZ). This was an important time to Praise, Pray, Reflect and Repent. Planning has started for the next one on August 23-25 2024.

In March, intercessors met on Zoom to pray for the District Pastor’s Conference, District Convention of Synod, and the process of nominations and elections in the District. Throughout the Convention of Synod, we met in person to cover each day in prayer before the start of sessions. We also had numerous people across the Church praying from home.

After the convention, outgoing Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus responded, “thanks to you and your team for all of your prayers both before and during the convention of synod. I personally felt the peace and blessing of God throughout. Please pass on to your team my heartfelt thanks.”

During the past 18 months we have been praying for rejuvenation, revitalisation and refreshment of our congregations and ministries. In the Bishop’s report on the Saturday morning of convention, we heard numerous examples of ways God has been answering these prayers.

This report also included some sobering news. Data from National Church Life Survey (NCLS) shows that young adults are “the most frequent attenders at religious services.” “one in 3 young adults aged 18 to 34 (32%) say they attend religious services at least once a month”¹. The sobering news is that these young people aren’t present in many of our congregations. This shows that it’s not true that young people aren’t interested in Church! Perhaps they are not there because we have turned them off from being involved in *our* congregation.

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” ... And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them. (Mark 10:13-16, NIV)

We then lamented and repented. The Bishop asked us to feel this grief and discuss some reasons for this. Have the young people left the church, or have we left them? We were then led in a prayer of repentance for ways we have not noticed, welcomed, loved, valued and listened to young people when they have been present.

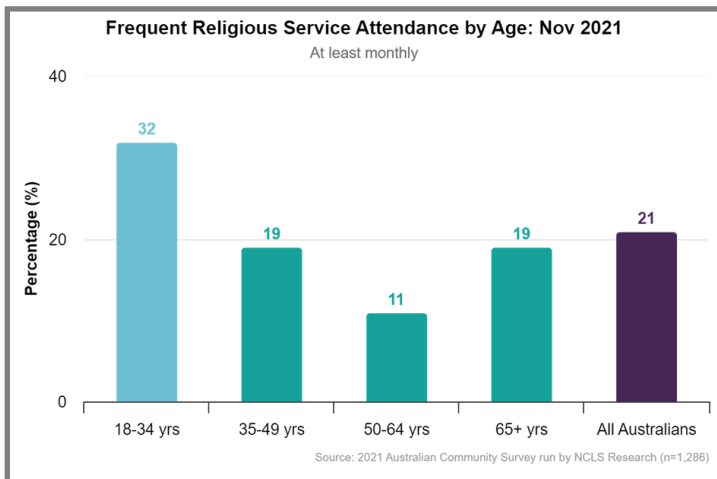
To help us change our ways, we were challenged to take an interest in the young people present at Synod. The next day a survey was done to see how many could remember the name of one young person they first met yesterday. Bonus points were given in the instance where Instagram details were exchanged! (Research shows that if a young person hears their name in a meaningful way 5-10 times each Sunday morning, they are more likely feel that they belong and stay in the church.)

As we pray for God to revitalise our congregations, may he lead us to repent of the ways we have hindered young people in the past, and help us to love, honour and appreciate them in the future. In fact, the Liverpool congregation have already set aside a day of fasting and prayer on April 13 to do just that.

We also pray for a peaceful transition as Pastor Robert retires as Bishop, Pastor Richard Schwedes steps into the role, and Pastor John Borchert becomes Assistant Bishop. Also for the District office staff, District Church Council and the Sydney and Narrabeena congregations as they now begin the call process.

I encourage you to join in praying for our District, including our young people and our leaders. I also invite you to join us at our District Prayer Gathering on August 23-25 at Warrambui. May God bless our congregations, including the young people who are in our congregations and the ones he will send us.

*Pastor Darren Kupke,
Prayer Cultivator for the NSW and ACT District*



PRAYER GATHERING



LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF AUSTRALIA
NSW and ACT DISTRICT

Intercessors gathering to praise, pray, reflect, and repent
23-25 August 2024

¹ <https://www.ncls.org.au/articles/young-people-most-frequent-attenders-at-religious-services/>

District Pastor's Conference

A time of refreshing, equipping, encouraging and preparing us to be God's church

Sometime people wonder what happens at pastor's conferences. Is it secret pastor's business? Why do pastors spend three days together, away?

Pastor's conferences are important not just for pastors and those preparing to be pastors but for our congregations and ministries. They not only provide opportunities for pastors to be refreshed, but also to be encouraged, equipped and better prepared for life in our congregations and ministries.

The pastor's conference in Wagga Wagga included time for encouragement, prayer, worship and networking.

Our pastor's also engaged with the following:

- **Luther and change** – Pr Mark Worthing led us in exploring how Luther was involved in change and how at times was hesitant about change, and how Luther's approach may affect our approach.
- **District Strategic Directions - Working Together in Mission** - Pr Ian Rentsch shared with us the work we are doing with specific congregations, especially those seeking support, looking at transitioning and renewing.
- Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus and LCA Bishop Paul Smith shared their reports about the many things that are happening in our district and the wider church, and what we need to be aware of.
- **Pastoring, leading and managing change** – Pr Richard Schwedes encouraged us to look how we are involved in

and called to respond to change from a biblical and Christ centred perspective, managing change process, leading change and pastoring people in change. He shared with us a number of resources including 'Who moved my pulpit? Leading Change in the church' by Thom S Rainer; 'My iceberg is melting' by John Kotter; 'Who moved my cheese?' by Spencer Johnson; and 'Start with Why' by Simon Sinek.

- **LCA Ordination Way Forward** – the current status and LCA Bishop Paul Smith responding to a number of questions pastors submitted
- **LCA Future Ministries project** - exploring how the church is responding in various ways to the reducing number of pastors.
- **LLL changes** and how they affect us, our congregations and members.
- **Prayer in the District** - Pr Darren Kupke led us in exploring prayer in our district, especially in praying for revitalisation, and details of the next prayer gathering in August.
- **Bishop Robert shared with us what he has learnt over many years of ministry.** A significant theme was around developing and nurturing relationships, especially with youth and children.

Thank you to congregations and ministries for encouraging and supporting your pastor to attend, this helps not only them, but you, the communities they serve and our District, to grow in and live out being the Body of Christ.

Pr Richard Schwedes

Frontier School of Mission 2024 Intensives

Frontier School of Mission has begun the year with the 'Foundations of Christian Belief' intensive held in Port Macquarie on 5-9 February. We were pleased to have the Warrambui interns join Frontier for this intensive.

And the year has continued with Dr Tania Nelson and Pastor Nathan Hedt leading the 'Missional Discipleship' intensive on 18-22 March in Albury. Eight students were able to join them for this inspirational time of mission focus in Albury, where the Frontier ministry first began.

For those who missed out on these first two intensives, several more are available this year and can be taken for academic credit or simply audited. These include:



Students of 'Foundations of Christian Belief' Port Macquarie

Leading Worship 15-19 April, at Port Macquarie.

Led by Peter Reed and Pr Mark Worthing

Creative Christian Writing 29 June - 3 July, at Warrambui.

Led by Pr Mark Worthing

Introduction to Preaching 5-9 August, at Port Macquarie.

Mission Perspectives September, at the District Office, Bella Vista. Led by Dr Steen Olsen and Pr Mat von Stanke.

Jesus and the Gospels 14-18 October, at Port Macquarie.

Led by Pr Mark Worthing

For more information or to register please contact frontier@lca.org.au 02 8660 1200

or Pr Mark Worthing mark.worthing@lca.org.au





Warrambui Retreat & Conference Centre
322 Greenwood Road Murrumbateman 2582
www.warrambui.com.au
(02) 6220 1000

WARRAMBUI NEWS

March 2024

Prayer Points

- For God's protection over our Interns, staff, volunteers, guests and site
- For continued growth in bookings
- For God's wisdom and guidance as we seek to continuously improve and "Fan the Flame"

Praise Points

- For the 7 Interns for 2024 who have come to give a year in service to Christ
- For the 2 new staff members God has called to join us
- For the large, early bookings this year
- For the green growth around our site, and in our Team and operations

Centre Director's Update

Green Growth

Thanks to high rainfall over the summer, Warrambui has been unusually, beautifully green for the start of 2024. Just as there has been much new growth around our site, there has been a lot of new growth in our team and our operations, with these green shoots giving us further encouragement and hope for the year ahead.

Bookings for 2023 and Beyond

Last year we welcomed a total of 89 groups and 5113 guests for the year - which is more than in 2021 and 2022 combined. This is still considerably less than the pre-COVID years. We are hoping for a continued significant increase in 2024 and we are aiming for 125 bookings.

So far our bookings rate is looking positive, but with the continuing post-COVID trend of groups booking at shorter notice, forecasting is challenging. We continue to work hard to ensure we retain existing clients, welcome back pre-COVID clients and attract new groups.

In January, we got off to a positive and busy start to the year with 3 large bookings, 2 of which were a week long. As I write, we are preparing to welcome

a school group of 100 students from Perth, again for a week. Such large and long bookings obvious make a big contribution towards our financial goals, and we pray that God will continue to bless us with bookings growth.

New Staff and Interns

Following the success of our Internship Program last year, with our first 3 Interns from Papua New Guinea (PNG), we worked with the Department of Home Affairs to amend our Special Program Agreement. This enabled us to increase to number of positions we could offer to young women from PNG to 6 in 2024 – and we subsequently welcomed Illeana, Betty, Miriam, Jessica, Harriet and Koyange in January.

Additionally, we also have an Australian Intern, Elijah, who has joined us for 2024. This brings our Intern cohort for the year to a record total of 7.

We feel blessed that God has called so many young people to join our ministry and serve Him as Interns this year.

The Interns have settled in well, completed a large amount of induction activities and training, and undertaken their first course with the Frontier School of Mission.

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power."

Ephesians 6:10



The 2024 Warrambui Team

They are already proving to be a tremendous blessing to our Warrambui Community, to the groups we serve and to the wider NSW & ACT District. They have been teaching primary school students about PNG and a song in Tok Pisin (Jisas Laikim Olgeta / Jesus Loves Everyone), been involved in local churches and ministry activities, assisted with the worship at Synod, and presented at the Lutheran Women's Retreat.

You can read more about our 7 Interns on the following pages.

In early January we also had two new members of staff join – our Liaison and Bookings Officer, Florina Singh, and a new Chef, Prabath Ghanasingha. Florina joins us from India, via Dubai, filling the main office role that had been vacant for over 12 months. Prabath is from Sri Lanka, with experience working in Dubai and the Maldives, and completes our Chef Team.

We are now close to our pre-COVID level of staffing, giving us the capacity to host more groups and relieving the burden on staff who had been covering additional positions.

Recruiting and retaining key staff has been a significant challenge over the past few years for hospitality organisations, and Warrambui has been no exception. To overcome this challenge, we have actively sought to recruit staff from overseas on Visas when there were no

suitable Australian based applicants. In fact, the Warrambui Team (consisting of Interns, full/part-time and casual staff), is now at 21 members for 2024 with 12 of these being in Australia on visas.

This recruitment has taken considerable time and resources to implement, but we are confident that it will give us a stable staff cohort for the next few years as we continue to rebuild and grow.

Theme for 2024

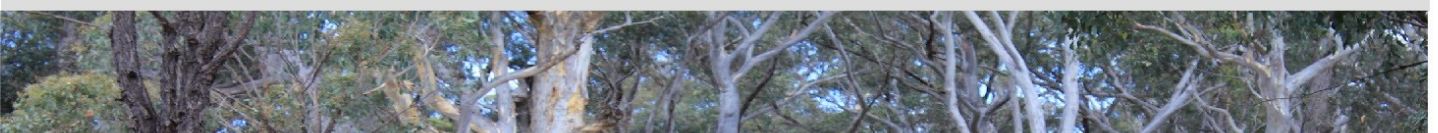
In 2023, our theme at Warrambui was “Reignite to Burn Bright” as we sought to re-establish our business and ministry coming out of the pandemic, grow as a team and community, foster an increasingly positive culture and shine the light of Christ in people's lives.

This year we are seeking to “Fan the Flame” - to increase in sustainability, efficiency and effectiveness, and to improve and grow in all that we do. We pray that God will continue to bless and guide as we work for His glory and His Kingdom

We thank the members of the NSW & ACT District for all your continuing prayers and support.

Yours in Christ,

Dean Salzke – Centre Director



2024 Warrambui Interns



The 2024 Interns — Jessica, Betty, Koyange, Harriet, Illeana, Elijah & Miriam

HARRIET



My name is Harriet Kingui Makindi, I have a diploma in Human Capital Management and my hobbies include painting and sketching.

Growing up in a Lutheran church, I have always been intrigued by different cultures and communities worshipping the same God that I do. I am truly grateful for the chance to experience this in Australia. Being an intern in Warrambui has allowed me to immerse myself in Christian community that values love and care for one another; always seeking to center our lives around Christ. This experience is enriching, especially for me as a young Christian.

Warrambui has become a home away from home for me, providing an environment that fosters personal growth and learning. The experiences and lessons gained during my time here will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact on my life.

I am so happy for this opportunity to be an intern in Warrambui. As I continue this path, I pray that God will guide me through His Word as I successfully complete my internship here over the year.

BETTY

My name is Betty Amemai, coming to Warrambui was a privilege and I am honoured to be part of the Arise program. It is a great place for young people to serve Jesus through serving others, while growing together with other like-minded people as a community. It has been a different and new experience for me. It is a learning curve for me adapting to the environment, climate, language and culture. But it is quite an experience and is a good learning space for me to build myself to a more confident person, and it enhances my Christian faith.

God calls people to serve Him in many ways according to His will, therefore I believe that coming to Warrambui is my calling to serve. And I am happy to be working and learning from the wonderful staff here at Warrambui. I thank God and I am grateful for the opportunity to be living and serving in such a good Christian environment.

During the last 8 weeks of doing the internship, I did struggle at first, but I always keep in mind that everything I do is for Jesus and His glory, and I am His instrument. By participating in some of the church's activities and working for the last 8 weeks, I feel that it is building my confidence and that is an achievement for me.



KOYANGE



Hi, my name is Koyange Grace Yuke,

I am one of the six Papua New Guinean interns at Warrambui in 2024. Leaving home and coming to Warrambui is very exciting because we get to know new people and new cultures. Being an intern and living here is amazing because we get to share our faith and grow together in Christ.

I chose to come to Warrambui because this program will help me to grow stronger in Christ in terms of living away from PNG. Being here for the past 8 weeks has been awesome as we get to experience a new environment, explore new places, and attend fellowship together at different churches. It has been really fun and exciting so far.

Living here in this God-fearing environment has taught me a lot in life and I know that after this program I will go back with a strong faith to reach out and touch lives of the people in my home country, and to serve and change lives with the things I have learnt here.

ELIJAH

Hello, My name is Elijah Temme and I come from Canberra. I am 18 years old and have a total of 6 brothers and sisters. I was home schooled growing up and I am looking to start an apprenticeship in carpentry after my internship this year.

I grew up in the Lutheran Church, attending Immanuel Woden when I was younger and Good Shepherd Tuggeranong later on, and I have been on a few TPM camps at Warrambui.

I decided to become an Intern this year because I felt it was a great opportunity to serve others, and spend more time with God as I focus on my future and figure out what God has planned for me.

My time at Warrambui so far has been amazing. I've enjoyed running programs for school kids, working in the kitchens, learning about the Foundations of Christian Belief up in Port Macquarie and attending District Synod in Wagga Wagga. I am excited for the year ahead as I learn more and grow closer to God while serving him and the community.



ILLEANA



Hello, my name is Illeana Dom.

I was an online student of the University of the South Pacific (USP) studying Law under their Bachelor of Law degree program. I intend to continue the rest of my degree in person as a residential student in Fiji next year.

I was largely motivated by my inherent desire to grow and develop my faith in God as a young Christian lady to apply for the Arise Internship Program. Having the chance to serve and live in a close-knit Christian community is a true blessing. Living away from the hustle and bustle of city life and being surrounded by the natural environment is also an added bonus.

During this one-year internship at Warrambui I personally hope to see God utilize me for ministry through the many interactions I will have with various people. I also hope to display God's love; fulfil His purposes; and reflect Him by devoting my time, energy, talents, and resources into helping the guests of Warrambui. Overall, I aim to grow as a disciple of Jesus, deepen my personal relationship with Him, mature spiritually, and uncover His purpose for me.

I am confident that God has called me personally to come here to Warrambui and I will forever be grateful for this opportunity that He has provided and ultimately made possible. Thank you.

MIRIAM



Hi, my name is Miriam Armba and I am from Chimbu Province, Papua New Guinea.

I decided to come to Warrambui because I love to take part in church activities and serving others. Being born and raised as a Lutheran, it is my utmost pleasure to be here serving Warrambui and in the Lutheran Church of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. It is also a great opportunity for me to visit Australia, and experience a new environment and culture.

Coming to Warrambui and working as an intern has been quite an interesting and fulfilling experience. I believe working here at Warrambui has helped me to become more servant hearted, and helped me be conscious of managing and using my time wisely for programs and guest services. The theology studies, and fun and development activities have also strengthened my Christian faith. I have also enjoyed working in the kitchen and running programs for our guests.

My time and experience here at Warrambui during the last three months has been wonderfully exciting. I love the weather, food and people here. Being surrounded by kind, passionate and generous people has made me feel at home. I have enjoyed visiting the local churches and meeting new people, and I am very much grateful for the generous donations in cash and kind from the Christians at the local churches to support the program.

I have learnt a lot during the three months that I have been here, and I anticipate learning and growing more in all aspects of my life whilst serving as an intern at Warrambui throughout the year.

JESSICA

Hello, my name is Jessica Patel.

I completed one year at Port Moresby Business College in Papua New Guinea studying Office Administration in 2023.

I have been brought up in a Christian family and in the Lutheran church all my life. I was told about Warrambui through a friend and thought it was good opportunity for me to unpack all that I have within me and so I accepted the offer to take part in this internship program. I came here with the idea that I would discover more about myself, and to learn and serve people by living Jesus with a willing heart.

The first 8 weeks of being here at Warrambui has been hectic so far. We have had High School and Primary students come here to visit the site, and I have worked alongside Warrambui staff in conducting the programs with the students from these schools and instructing them on how to go about the programs. Also, helping in the kitchen with the other interns has been successful. And of course, not forgetting there are so many beautiful places that we've visited during my stay here at Warrambui so far. Everything here about the environment is beautiful and the sunsets are amazing.

Also, we have had a lot of support from everybody here at Warrambui, and we have connected well as interns by networking with different people at Warrambui and also from the Lutheran Churches that we've attended.

I am eager to see what God has for me during my time here at Warrambui, and to grow personally and spiritually in my relationship with God. I am also keen to develop values such as valuing others, doing things in the right way and growing together by being servant hearted.

Shalom.



“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. Ephesians 6:18b

*"A Christ-centred Community
Valuing People and Learning"*



**ST PAUL'S
COLLEGE**
WALLA WALLA, NSW

CELEBRATION EVENING

St Paul's would like to acknowledge and thank Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus for attending our Annual Awards Celebration evening and presenting the prestigious Lutheran Church of Australia, NSW & ACT District Principal's Awards. Three students were honored for their exemplary Christ like behaviour through self-less giving to benefit others. These students demonstrated love and commitment to living a service focused life and were recognised and appreciated for using their God given gifts and demonstrated evidence of their maturity, humility and leadership. We extend our congratulations to Jaiah Disher, Clancy Manning and Emma Biar for receiving the award of \$300.



THE RITE JOURNEY

Year 9 students participated in The Rite Journey program's Calling and Departure Ceremony. The students began by ringing the original school bell, received their polo shirts, and attended a service with their families at Morgan's Lookout. During this time, each student dropped notes written on a gum leaf to symbolise letting go of their childhood and embracing their future.



SYNOD

Our Principal, Ms Anita Morton attended the NSW & ACT District Synod and had the privilege of presenting the St Paul's College report to delegates. Ms Morton took this opportunity to thank the NSW & ACT District, Council and delegates for their ongoing support and prayers to our College and sincerely thanked Bishop Robert for his guidance and wisdom to St Paul's during his service. We know Walla Walla holds many fond memories for Bishop Robert, Jenny and their family and sincerely appreciate their commitment to our wider community and school.



**ENROLMENTS
OPPORTUNITIES FOR
CURRENT & FUTURE
YEARS**

Day and Weekly Boarding

**SCHOLARSHIPS
NOW OPEN**

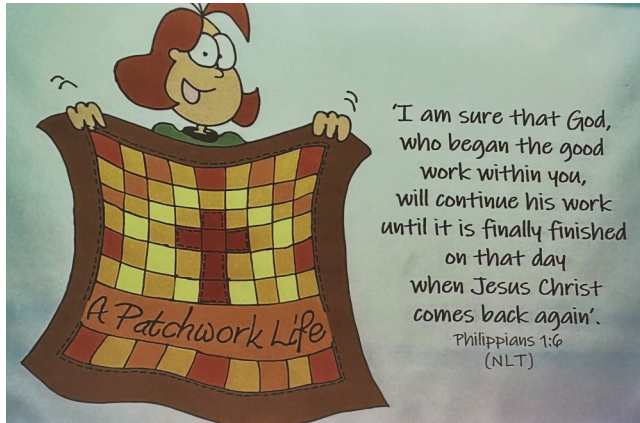
*Empowering students to embrace
the future with courage,
confidence and creativity.*



**ST PAUL'S
COLLEGE**
WALLA WALLA, NSW

For more enquires call 02 6029 2200
www.stpaulscollege.nsw.edu.au

Women's Retreat - 'A Patchwork Life'



Lutheran Women of NSW & ACT Retreat was recently held on 15-17 March at Warrambui. What an amazing weekend to be a part of! 42 women gathered at Warrambui to unpack what God's 'patchwork life' means for them.

Jane Franke, from Temora, led us in the Bible studies, referring to God's plans for this world as his patchwork quilt. You see, with a patchwork quilt, you plan your design, then you cut, then you sew it together to reveal the final patterns in the quilt.

God created his great design:-

- Day 1 – light
- Day 2 – sky and air
- Day 3 – land and plants

Then he repeated his pattern:

- Day 4 – sun and moon
- Day 5 – birds and aquatic creatures
- Day 6 – animals and man



Above: Warrambui Interns explain their bilums
Left: the quilt was completed overnight



In PNG bilums are used to carry loads - ask Jesus to carry your load

When sin came into the world, God had his plan for cutting. He sent Jesus to cut straight through our sin so we could have a pattern of hope. And God's great reveal of our final quilt will come on our last days when all is complete.

The weekend was a time of sharing together, praying together, and seeing how the patchwork of our lives touch the lives of people around us which in turn enhances their patchwork lives.

We were also asked to design a square sharing a verse or something meaningful within it. Overnight, two ladies sewed it altogether to reveal our beautiful quilt featuring the cross in the centre which was placed on the altar before worship on Sunday.

Thank yous:-

- to God, for his loving hand guiding this whole weekend
- to Jane Franke for leading this whole retreat
- to our guest speaker Mary Muller, who shared some of the patches of her 'patchwork of life'
- to Pastor Darren Kupke for being retreat chaplain and leading worship on Sunday
- to the Warrambui interns for their singing and explaining their different 'bilums'
- to Naomi Steinhardt for sharing her passion for quilting, and the opportunity to buy some

God is certainly at work in your life. The good work he has done in you so far, is just the beginning. I wonder what it will be like when he is finished?

Jenny Bartholomaeus

BETTER BLOKES

Where men are encouraged to get real with their mates,
get real with God and get real with themselves



PETER STEICKE



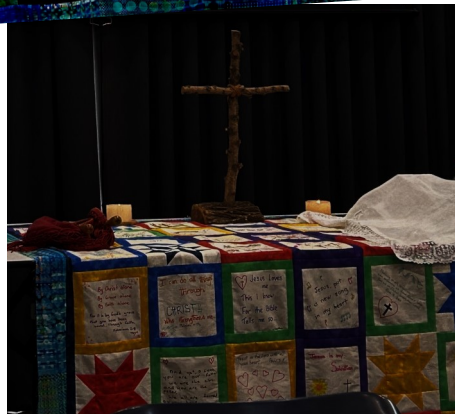
MARK WORTHING

Key Speakers - Electives - Shed Happens - Worship
Time with God and Men - Good Food

Dome Early Bird \$210.00
Village Early Bird \$230.00
Dome Regular \$240.00
Village Regular \$260.00
First Time Camper/Son of a camper \$150
Early Bird closes 22 April, Reg.closes 15 May

7 - 10 JUNE 2024

WWW.BETTERBLOKES.COM PHONE: 0418 303 406
WARRAMBUI RETREAT & CONFERENCE CENTRE MURRUMBATMAN NSW
A ministry of the Lutheran Church Australia - NSWACT District



Ordination Way Forward - Local Engagement Gatherings

The Way Forward project team's primary task is to deliver to the 2024 General Pastors Conference and Convention of General Synod a detailed framework through which the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand could function as 'one church with two different practices of ordination' – in accordance with the resolution of the 2021-2023 General Synod.

So far the process has involved gathering possible models from across the church, developing an evaluation matrix and using it to distil the multiple submissions down into a shortlist of three frameworks for further work by the eight working groups. Regular information and updates have been provided for church members and their engagement with the project has been sought.

It is intended that the proposal for the final framework will be approved by General Church Board and the College of Bishops in June 2024, for inclusion in the General Synod Book of Reports.

The last phase of the project, called Prayer and Preparation, will commence in July. It will run through to the commencement of Convention of General Synod in early October. During this phase, church members will be invited to prayerfully prepare for whatever change might be ahead for the church. A key component of the Prayer and Preparation phase is the opportunity for people to gather in local settings for engagement with the proposed framework in a setting of prayer and worship.

NSW and ACT DISTRICT MEETING DATES AND VENUES

Sunday 4 August 2024 – Riverina

Henty Lutheran Church 2pm

Thursday 8 August – Canberra

Woden Valley Lutheran Church 7pm, live streamed

Sunday 11 August – Sydney

St Pauls Lutheran Church 2pm, live streamed

Plan to attend a gathering near you:

- to explore with others what the Way Forward might mean for you and your congregation
- to pray and worship together as we prepare our hearts and minds for General Synod and the way forward for our church.



ORDINATION
way forward
one church, two practices



CALLING FOR PASTORAL CARERS

As we embark on bringing love to life at the LCA NZ synodical convention this year, we are inviting members to join a new churchwide program of offering pastoral care to our sisters and brothers in Christ. Consider applying to be a pastoral carer. You will receive specific training. Applications close 31 March 2024.

Details at
[www.lca.org.au/
pastoral-care](http://www.lca.org.au/pastoral-care)



LUTHERAN
CHURCH
OF AUSTRALIA



LUTHERAN
CHURCH
OF NEW ZEALAND

**Lutheran Women of NSW & ACT
57th Convention**

Saturday, 27th April, 2024

‘Jesus Our Pattern’

Based on Ephesians 2:10

St Mark’s Lutheran Church
Cnr Gipps St and Macleay St,
Dubbo



Mission and Ministry Conference

for all interested in Mission in our District
members of congregations, lay workers and pastors
Warrambui Retreat and Conference Centre
4-6 June 2024

Meeting People Meeting Jesus



- ⇒ **Meeting the community**
Phil Husband serves Whanganui Lutheran Church NZ
David Pfeiffer and Pr Mark Worthing from Port Macquarie NSW
- ⇒ **Meeting God**
Kathy Worthing – Christian Meditation
- ⇒ **Meeting each other**

Contact: Pastor Richard Schwedes
0418 303 406
Registrations open April 2024



District Prayer Calendar
nswact.lca.org.au

To join the NSW and ACT District Intercessors Prayer List,
email Kaye office.nsw@lca.org.au



I urge, then, first of all,
that requests, prayers,
intercession
and thanksgiving
be made for everyone —
for kings and all those in
authority, that we may live
peaceful and quiet lives
in all godliness
and holiness.
This is good and pleases
God our Saviour,
who wants all people
to be saved and to come
to knowledge of the truth.
For there is one God
and one mediator
between God and people,
the man Christ Jesus,
who gave himself
as a ransom for all
- the testimony given
in its proper time.
1 Timothy 2:1-6

April

May

June

	Parishes/ Congregations	Pastors & Church Workers (and family)	Locations
	31 Indonesian	Pr Sahat Simanullang (Nuritalia, Paskalis, Givendiau)	Indonesian Yagoona
	7 Latvian	Pr Colvin MacPherson (Linda)	Sydney Latvian
	14 LifeWay	Pr Mark Schultz (Jo-Anne, Alex, Georgia) Pr Francis Leung (Peggy)	LifeWay Epping LifeWay Chinese
	21 LifeWay	Pr Mathew von Stanke (Elise, Lily, Aaron, Noah)	LifeWay Newcastle
	28 LifeWay	Pr Mark Simpfendorfer (Kaye, Joshua, Dylan)	LifeWay Nowra LifeWay Oak Flats LifeWay Wollongong
	5 LifeWay	Danny Brock , Church planter (Michelle, Dylan, Cody)	LifeWay Westside
	12 Liverpool	Vacant - Johan Lorenzsonn SMP Intern	Living Waters Liverpool
	19 Port Macquarie	Pr Mark Worthing (Kathy)	St Peters Port Macquarie
	26 Springwood	Vacant - Pr Bob Hamann , Interim (Marie)	Our Saviour Springwood
	2 St Marys	Vacant - Pr Bob Hamann , Interim (Marie)	St Paul's St Marys
	9 Sutherland	vacant	Good Shepherd Sutherland
	16 Sydney	Pr Richard Schwedes (Veronica, Mercedes, Zackary, Brooke) Bridgitte Willshire Ministry and Mission Facilitator (Paul)	St Paul's Sydney
	30 Narraweena	Pr Richard Schwedes (Veronica, Mercedes, Zackary, Brooke)	Redeemer Narraweena

Walking together IN MISSION

a Bible Study series

Joy in all Circumstances - Phil 4

Join with members of the LCA NSW and ACT District in the next online Bible study led by Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus

**Wednesday 3 April, 7.30pm
on Zoom**

To register,
please email Kaye
office.nsw@lca.org.au



PRAYER GATHERING



**LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
OF AUSTRALIA

NSW and ACT DISTRICT

Intercessors gathering to praise,
pray, reflect, and repent

23-25 August 2024

Contact Newsletter

Published 4 times each year
by the NSW & ACT District of
the Lutheran Church of Australia

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www.lcansw.org.au

LCA COMPLAINTS

Many complaints can be resolved before lasting hurt is caused, by addressing them quickly in a non-threatening manner and by raising the issue directly with the relevant person or organization in a thoughtful and courteous manner.

If this is not applicable or possible in your situation, you may lodge a complaint with the Professional Standards Department in any of the following ways:

Phone the freecall number 1800 644 628

Email complaints@lca.org.au

or write to

Confidential, PO Box 519,
Marden SA 5070

Upcoming Events

- April 3** 'Walking Together' Bible Study
Zoom online meeting
- April 27** LWNSW & ACT Convention
Dubbo
- May 3-5** 'Spice' Retreat
Spouses of pastors and church workers, Campbelltown
- June 4-6** Mission and Ministry Conference
Warrambui
- June 7-10** Better Blokes
for men of all ages, Warrambui
- July 28** Installation of Bishop Richard Schwedes
LifeWay Epping, 3pm
- Aug 4** Way Forward Gathering - Riverina
St Pauls Lutheran Church Henty 2pm
- Aug 8** Way Forward Gathering - Canberra
Immanuel Lutheran Church Woden Valley 7pm
- Aug 11** Way Forward Gathering - Sydney
St Pauls Lutheran Church Sydney 2pm
- Aug 23-25** Sisterhood
for women and girls of all ages, Warrambui
- Aug 23-25** District Prayer Gathering
Warrambui
- Sept 29-Oct 2** LCA General Pastors Conference
Concordia College, Adelaide SA
- Oct 1-3** LWA Convention
Unity College, Murray Bridge SA
- Oct 4-7** LCA General Convention
Concordia College, Adelaide SA

Assisting regional people coming to Sydney

If you are coming to Sydney for hospitalization and require pastoral care, or if you know someone moving to Sydney for work or study, please let your pastor know. You can also contact District Office and we will endeavor to put you in touch with a pastor who may be able to visit.

District Office 02 8660 1200

