



District Leadership - through the Bishop leading Leadership Teams



From the Bishop
Robert Bartholomaeus

“
Something
far greater is
achieved
when we work
together.”

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When I was at secondary school, I played men's basketball. I was not a great player. Nor were the other members of my team. But each person in the team tried ever so hard to win. But no matter how hard we tried, we did not win many of our games. We were just a bunch of individuals hoping for big results, but only getting a handful of wins.

Then one year a new boy came along, and he was an exceptionally good player. He was outstanding, so we all decided that the only way to win was if we each fed the ball to him and we all capitalized on his skills. Lo and behold, we started to win more games. We were starting to act like a team. We were a bunch of below average players, but we had worked out a way of winning if we all worked together. (Now I would *like* to report that we went on to win the crown that year, but we didn't. Opposition teams worked out that if they focused on defeating our one good player, they could beat us. It takes more than just one good player to win a crown.)

People tell me that when skilled team

members are each contributing, it can be an exciting experience. Because somehow the result is greater than the sum of the parts. Something far greater is achieved together. To be part of such a team where everyone is contributing what they are good at, is very satisfying.

The bible gives a number of examples of people working in teams. Take Aaron and Moses. Moses led the people of Israel, but he found speaking difficult, so God gave Aaron to Moses so he could speak for him.

From the writings of Paul the apostle, you might get the impression he was a great individual of faith, going on these mission journeys alone. Paul did not go by himself, he always went with others. First with Barnabas and John and then with Silas. We know he even relied on a scribe to write the letters he wrote from prison. He says in Galatians 6:11, "See with what large letters I write, with my own hand."

Jesus worked with a team of disciples

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

Call

- Pr Darren Kupke (Temora) has declined the call to Horsham, Victoria

Installations

- Pr David Cherry was installed at Wagga Wagga on 23 January
- Anita Morton was installed as Principal of St Pauls College Walla Walla on 30 January
- Pr Lassi Pappinen was installed at Bass Hill Finnish on 6 February

Appointment

- David Jarman has been appointed part time Pastoral Chaplain at Lutheran Aged Care Albury

Closure

- The congregation of St Andrew Corowa was closed on 7 November 2021

Deaths

- Pr Colin Scheer died on 31 January 2022, aged 100. Pr Scheer served at Corowa from 1944-1948, and Albury 1948-1954.
- Pr Geoff Schirmer died on 2 February 2022. Pr Schirmer was ordained at Newcastle in 1968 and served there until 1973.

From previous page

to get the Good news of the kingdom out into the Jewish world. He taught them, trained them and then sent them out to preach and teach. Luke 10:1-24

Our sixth strategic priority says there should be **District Leadership through the Bishop leading Leadership Teams**. This means in practice that the bishop doesn't do everything himself, but gathers and encourages teams of people to work at helping congregations to live out the Walking together in Mission Strategic Plan.

Up to now, this has been lived out, mostly in one way. The assistant bishop Pr Richard Schwedes is employed half a day a week by the district to focus his skills on implementing and helping the District Church Council (and the Bishop) to remain focused on implementing the Strategic Mission Plan of our district. Richard and I often consult and discuss the things that are going on in the district and what might help to nudge things in a positive direction. This is a wonderful out-working of this strategic priority.

The bishop continually tries to speak with congregations about their mission. But, there is only so much he can do. Starting in the coming months, we will employ a Strategic Directions Facilitator. This person will work closely with congregations in focusing them on Christ's mission locally and working on how to get over the hurdles which are standing in the way of going down this mission road and fulfilling the command of Christ in Matthew 28:19-20. All of us desire that our congregations would see new baptisms and new Christians growing, but sometimes we need a person with knowledge and experience to assist us, or to help us discover where to find the answers to our questions about our congregational life. I look forward to working with this new person on the district team.

In addition to this new position, we know people are encouraged in their work in the kingdom when they hear stories about how God is working in another part of his vineyard. To improve

“ Every person in the church has a gift from the Spirit to be used in team for the purpose of the church.”

this communication, we have employed a new communications officer one day a week to help get these stories out to congregations and schools. This person is Tanya Cunningham. She will supplement the work that Kaye Simpfendorfer does through the production of the Contact, working in other media forms especially online and in electronic communication, telling us the stories of what God is doing in our district.

Of course it is not just at the district office level where we need teamwork to be operating. We want to see this in every congregation. After all St Paul says in various places in his letters things like, "To each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good." (1 Cor 12:7), then later in the same chapter in verse 27, "Now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it. In the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different types of tongues." In other words, every person in the church has a gift from the Spirit to be used in team for the purpose of the church which is to proclaim the good news of the kingdom to the world. Some gifts focus inward on the "already believers", other gifts focus outward on the "not yet believers".

I pray that working together in team by the power of the Spirit we will fulfill God's purpose, and see God growing our congregations and ministries so that his name might be glorified by many.

Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus

Walking together IN MISSION

a Bible Study series

Join with members of the LCA NSW and ACT District in the next online Bible study led by Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus
Wednesday 16 March, 7.30pm on Zoom

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



(Turn to page 14 for the Bible Study notes)

Pr David Cherry installed at Wagga Wagga

Graduate pastor David Cherry was installed by Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus at Bethlehem Wagga Wagga on 23 January, 2022.

Pastor David introduces himself:

I was born at Wodonga in 1991 and lived there until I moved to Adelaide to study at ALC in 2017. I attended Victory Lutheran Primary School and Victory Lutheran College until I left in Year 10 to pursue a trade in building and construction. That did not eventuate, I got an apprenticeship in boiler making and qualifications as a second class welder. I volunteered for Victorian SES and the NSW Rural Fire Service for a period, and gained a traineeship in Civil Construction.

During that time I always felt God's call on my life and where he wanted me to go, but like a good old stubborn Aussie, I did my thing instead, until God made it very apparent where he wanted me to go.

I met Kayla in 2013 and we married in 2015. We have two girls Esther (3) and Eloise (18 months) and are thrilled.

I am a country bloke at heart, and have spent every moment I can out bush or on mate's farms.

We are all very excited to serve the people of Bethlehem Wagga Wagga and Bethlehem Milbrulong, and see what God has in store for us in the next chapter of our lives.



**Pr David and Kayla Cherry,
Eloise and Esther**

Pr David Cherry

Nancy Fox AM, thanked by LLL for faithful service

Member of St Pauls Lutheran church Sydney, Nancy Fox was appointed to the LLL Board in 2002 and has been a valued contributor to LLL's mission throughout her 19 years of service.

During her tenure, she helped charter LLL through challenging periods, including the Global Financial Crisis – as well as LLL's triumphs, such the transition to becoming an Authorised Deposit-taking Institution, and guiding LLL to adapt to new technologies such as online banking and cybersecurity.

In June 2021, Nancy became a Member of the Order of Australia (AM), which was announced in the Queen's birthday Honours List. This prestigious achievement recognised her significant service to the financial and banking sector, and to women in business. Graeme Huf, LLL Board Chair, explains, "This is a well-deserved recognition...May God continue to bless you in all that you do."

Fellow Board members credit Nancy for her delicate balance of professionalism, knowledge and understanding, with her respectful and generous nature. Nancy brought a wealth of experience to the Board, drawn from her personal and professional experiences. Her skills helped her quickly step into the position of LLL Board Vice Chair in 2008 – a role in which she excelled for 13 years.



Nancy Fox AM

We thank Nancy for her faithful service to LLL, the LLL Board and Lutheran Church of Australia. We wish her God's richest blessings for the future. We praise God for the contribution that Nancy has made to the mission and ministry of the Church throughout her almost two decades of service with LLL. She will be greatly missed.

LLL Awards Anniversary Grants

In the spirit of celebrating LLL Australia's anniversary - of supporting the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) for the past 100 years - and with the intension of bringing church communities together in fellowship for the future; applicants from Lutheran congregations were invited to apply for one of 40 LLL 100 Year Anniversary Grants.

The grants, awarded in January 2022, provided successful applicants with \$2,500 each to put towards their own personalised mission outreach project. We are excited to announce that from NSW St Paul's Lutheran Church, Sydney, were successful recipients. They plan to celebrate and recognise the cultural diversity in their community by hosting a festival for new and returning community members.

LLL looks forward to sharing the successes of these grants - and the grants recipients of other states - as they come to fruition on the LLL Facebook and Instagram pages.

Rhianan Strangways, LLL

- Vice Chairperson; Board Governance and Remuneration Committee; Board Risk Committee
- Employment Professional Non-Executive Director
- Congregation member of St Paul's, Sydney, NSW
- Current LLL Congregation Contact; International Mission consultant; International Mission Asia Focus
- Dialogue Group advisor; LCA Tribunal member; LCA Aged Care Review Dialogue Group member
- Former District Finance Council member; Sunday School Teacher; Congregational Church Council member
- Qualifications: Doctor of Law; Bachelor of Arts (History); Company Directors Course (AICD); Mastering the Boardroom Course (AICD); Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors

Rhianan Strangways - Marketing Manager, LLL Australia

Welcome new Finnish Pastor Lassi Pappinen

In search of new experiences

There is something special in being the furthest away from home you have ever been. That happened to us somewhere en route to Australia. My wife and I have always loved being abroad but this was something special. A bit more than two years ago we had seized our opportunity and applied for a position serving Finns and Finnish descendants in Sydney.

My name is Lassi Pappinen. I was ordained by the bishop of Lapua diocese in Finland three years ago. Since then I have been working in my childhood's home town Kokkola, Finland with support from my lovely wife Iida and our now three-year-old daughter Sylvi. Although I liked my job there I have always wanted to work abroad and learn from different cultures. That is why I was delighted to find a job opening in Sydney. I was acquainted with the previous pastor, Aapo Kaivasoja, which made applying even easier. Lodging the application launched a process both exciting and exhausting. Luckily after a long wait we have finally arrived and started learning about our new working environment.

We have been taken aback by the friendliness of locals as well as our fellow Finns. We have admired all the scenic

roads around the Sydney area (there's heaps!) and we have been settling into our lovely manse in Bass Hill. I have been eager to find new routes for running and cycling. And of course, being a family of food-lovers, we have enjoyed tasting all kinds of foods which might not be available in Finnish west coast.

We're very excited to get to know new people and see how things are in the Lutheran Church of Australia. I bet we'll be facing some challenges as well but I trust that since God has led us here, He won't be far away in the future either. So may God bless all the work done within the LCA and all the people involved!

Pr Lassi Pappinen



Pastor Lassi with his wife Iida, and Sylvi

St Paul's Sydney appoints Ministry and Mission Facilitator



Bridgitte Willshire

St Paul's Sydney Lutheran Church, in the centre of Sydney, serves a diverse and far-reaching area of Sydney. Some people travel over an hour to engage with God and others as part of St Paul's. To assist St Paul's in living out its mission of connecting people with Jesus, St Paul's has engaged Bridgitte Willshire as their ministry and mission facilitator.

Bridgitte's focus is to work with the congregation in helping them grow as the body of Christ in Sydney and to assist St Paul's in engaging with the Sydney community. This is of course a big challenge, so your prayers for Bridgitte, St Paul's and the people of Sydney are greatly appreciated. Also, St Paul's greatly thanks the District for their financial support, which has made this role possible.

Bridgitte grew up in Sydney surrounded by a very close home and faith family. Her initial entry into church life came when she was baptised at the local Catholic church at six days old. Her favourite hymn is "Here I am Lord."

In her late twenties she found a spiritual and faith home in the Adelaide Hills Lutheran congregation of Spring Head Trinity. It was here she believed God was prompting her towards a call to ministry.

Her life has taken a number of twists and turns, including completing a degree in Visual Arts and working in a Lutheran school in Western Australia. However the call to ministry never left her. 2018 was a major turning point, having completed her Honours year in Visual Arts and sworn that she would never study again, she found herself at a Year 10 careers expo with her son. One of the stands they came

across was a stand for Tabor College, an independent Christian University. She picked up the literature not for her son, but for herself, sensing an inner prompting from God. Following a discussion with her pastor, who was very affirming of her pursuing a call into ministry, she enrolled in the Master of Divinity program.

Knowing that she could not be a pastor in a Lutheran church, but having a strong belief that she should 'bloom where she was planted,' she stepped into the course in faith, trusting God to open up ministry opportunities. She prayed that, as she was entering into obedience in Christ, God would have a pathway for her at the end of her studies. At the end of each year of subjects she would pray again that she would be heading somewhere, because she just couldn't see it though she fully believed that God had a plan.

Then when the St Paul's Sydney advert for a Ministry and Mission Facilitator appeared she felt absolute joy, not only was this an answer to prayer but a fresh opportunity to learn and grow alongside a new faith community and the chance to have a whole new family in Christ. She is excited about being part of St Paul's Sydney, to be stepping into the great stream of Goodness God is already pouring out in Sydney and the local neighbourhood, and the creative ways God may use us in this space.

Bridgitte joins St Paul's with her new husband Paul. Between them they have five young adult children, three boys and two girls who range in age between 26 and 18.

And we thank God for Bridgitte, who continues singing, "Here I am Lord!"

Pr Richard Schwedes

How to view Strategic Directions: Walking Together in Mission

Over the last 12 months we have received various reactions from people about Lutheran Church NSW and ACT's – Strategic Directions - Walking Together in Mission.

Some of these reactions have been extremely positive; 'it is good we have a common direction and way of being church', 'it is good we are addressing some of the issues of today together', 'it is good we are mission focussed'. But some of the reactions have been less enthusiastic. Like 'why do we need a strategic plan, we have God', 'Strategic plan feels too constraining', 'I know what we should be doing, let's get on with it, we don't need a plan.'

Some of these understandings are probably the result of our previous experiences with planning and strategy, including how they have been used in the past. In engaging with the Lutheran Church of Australia NSW and ACT district it is helpful to understand how we are using Walking Together in Mission.

- Walking Together in Mission focuses us on living out **God's vision for us** as a District, **of seeing God's love in Christ coming to life in people everywhere through a Lutheran Church that carries out the Great Commission by joyfully receiving, living and sharing the Gospel, which is achieved together.**
- Aims to support the activities in the district to live out God's vision for us, and that means supporting the activities of congregations and ministries - including schools, LACA, Warrambui, TPM, Lutheran Women.
- To encourage us to be more proactive less reactive.

- To be involved in CHANGE!!
- To be seen as a tool for mission not the mission. To assist us in engaging with God and the communities we serve with His Good News.
- Not to see it as a silver bullet
- It is about TEAMWORK - how we work together as District
- It is a map or guide, not a detailed operational manual or plan.
- Helps us in using our resources better
- Adaptable to various contexts.



We encourage leaders in our congregations and ministries to engage with our Strategic Directions Walking Together in Mission, particularly using those areas that they believe will best help them live out God's mission for them in making disciples of all nations.

You can download the current Strategic Directions document at www.shorturl.at/zlJQ9

If you would like to explore how your congregation or ministry can engage better with our Strategic Directions, please contact Pastor Richard Schwedes 02 9331 1822

Stories of Life

Last year the members of St Peter's, Port Macquarie were encouraged to consider telling their personal stories of faith as part of the annual *Stories of Life* writing project. Five members of the congregation were among the fifty authors included in this year's anthology: *The Labyrinth and Other Stories of Life* in which 'ordinary' people share their extraordinary experiences of God's grace.

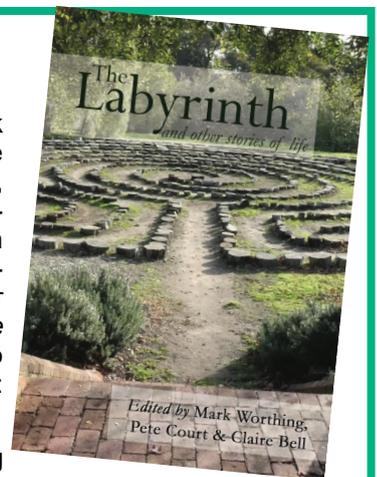
The contributions from St Peters include a miraculous rescue at sea, surviving cancer, praying for rain in time of drought, a story of adoption, and a story of a young man who decided to focus life on service to God after missing a commercial flight that crashed into Sydney Harbour in 1961.



Pictured from left to right: Sherry Thompson, Toy Koch, Jenelle Franci, Mark Worthing (editor) and Aileen Huf.

LCA pastor Dr Mark Worthing, who is one of the editors of *Stories of Life*, attended a special Port Macquarie launch of the book on 9 January. Anyone interested in submitting a story for next year's *Stories of Life* collection is encouraged to visit the group's website: <https://storiesoflife.net>

Pr Mark Worthing



"When I wrote, Lord help me be a Mother, I was asked to share 'my' story with a group of ladies during a Fellowship Day 15 years ago as part of the inspiration message for that day. I prayed for guidance from the Lord to help me show everyone what an awesome God we have and hoped that by the end of my talk they would see how God had touched and still touches my life in a very special way and how blessed I am because of it!"

I have always been encouraged to write my story down so it could reach others facing that unknown direction in their lives. Stories of Life gave me the opportunity to share that one glimpse of God's beautiful plan for me."

Sherry Thompson, contributor to 'Stories of Life'

Professional Standards

Greetings to everyone and every blessing for your ministry activities in 2022. I'm sure that most of us are a little more hopeful of being able to gather again and resume some of the congregational activities that we've missed over the past couple of years. It will be important to continue to plan well to mitigate risks so that the needs of all members are considered.

At this point, I'm more optimistic that there will again be some face-to-face training opportunities this year. I continue to be grateful to those of you who have committed to do your training online. I urge all Pastors to ensure that their SafeChurch training in both Levels 1 & 2 are up to date. Refresher training for Level 1 is online as is Level 2 training. Please be in contact if you need support to check your training details or you can check your details on your SMO profile.

Authorities in both NSW and ACT had extended the expiry dates for Working With Children Checks (WWCC) and Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) during the pandemic crisis, however, it will be important that everyone requiring a current check makes sure they are renewed or if you need to obtain a check, please attend to that task at your earliest convenience. Congregational leaders, please make sure that you keep your District Audit of these details up to date and send to Kaye in the District office. Whilst it may appear to be just another piece of administration, it is very important given that legislation has increased in both jurisdictions.

In the December issue of Contact (p.12), I included a message from Mary-Ann Carver, LCA Child Protection Project Officer. Reference was made to the General Church Board approving the LCA Child Safety Standards. These standards are to be introduced this year and will need to be implemented in all congregations. I encourage Congregation leaders/Coordinators/Pastors to 'attend' the webinar to gain more information.

Carolyn Kiss
LCANZ Professional Standards Officer
carolyn.kiss@lca.org.au 0457 770 100



SAVE THE DATE

Child Safety Standards Webinar

Saturday 26th March 2022

12.30pm – 2.00pm (NSW-ACT time)

The LCA Child Protection Project and Professional Standards will host a webinar aimed at exploring the LCA Child Safety Standards (CSS) and how these will be implemented in LCA congregations in 2022.

The CSS have been designed to assist LCA congregations maximise the safety of children and young people and to meet regulatory responsibilities in an increasingly rigorous child safety landscape in Australia.

An infographic titled 'LCA CHILD SAFETY STANDARDS FOR CONGREGATIONS' in large red letters. The background is a photograph of a diverse group of people, including children and adults, smiling. Ten numbered circles are arranged around the central text, each containing a specific standard. The standards are: 1. Our culture, leadership and governance is child safe; 2. We value, respect and listen to children; 3. We include families; 4. We respect and welcome diversity; 5. Our people are safe, supported and informed; 6. Our complaints system is child-focused; 7. Our people understand child safety; 8. Our risk management is child safe; 9. Our policies and procedures are child safe; 10. We regularly review our child safe progress. The Lutheran Church of Australia Child Safety logo is in the top right corner.



ST PAUL'S
COLLEGE

Walla Walla NSW

The College of St. Paul's

We believe in
CommUnity

COMMUNITY : INSTALLATION OF NEW STAFF

It was a great day of celebration at Zion Lutheran Church Walla Walla on Sunday 30th January, as the school and community installed Ms Anita Morton as Principal. Many thanks to Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus and College Pastor, John Borchert who led the service. Ms Morton was joined by her family and friends on this special occasion. In addition, the College installed three new teaching staff at a special Chapel Service on the first day of school. From left: Jayanthi Viswanathan Maths Teacher, Anita Morton, Principal, Laura Chettleburgh Head of English and Laura Thompson, Maths/Science Teacher.



GROWTH : EXPERIENCING INCREASED NUMBERS

St Paul's kicked off to a great start welcoming 81 boarders and 207 day students. Boarders have settled in well and are enjoying amazing after school activities including cricket, fishing, boxing, fitness classes, games nights, a netball competition, equine, guitar lessons, and even a rainstorm! Director of Boarding, Mr Kris Wheeler couldn't be happier, "There is a fantastic atmosphere with our boarders and they are really enjoying meeting new friends and getting out and about. After a difficult past few years, it's great we can get back to a full after hours program".



CURRICULUM : SNAPSHOT OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES

Year 8 Christian Studies students have been busy learning about the Christian Church. They have looked at what the Church is, as a building, and as the people—Christian communities. A visit to Zion Lutheran Church in Walla gave the students time to investigate and learn more. They were astonished to see the 1,364 pipes of the pipe organ!



EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS



At St Paul's, we believe in the unique skills and gifts of each child. Our unique setting allows us to offer a holistic educational experience including equine, agriculture, day and boarding. Our balanced approach prioritises academic pursuits while also preparing our students for a life beyond the classroom.

Round 1 enrolments for 2023 now open until 30 May



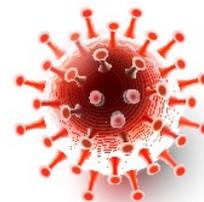
Come and meet with our Principal, Ms Anita Morton and staff to see for yourself what makes St Paul's such a special place.

Please visit our website
www.stpaulscollege.nsw.edu.au
and register your interest
or call (02) 6029 2200



ST PAUL'S
COLLEGE
WALLA WALLA, NSW

The future in NSW with COVID-19



As we have discovered over the last two years there is a lot of unpredictability when it comes to living and ministering with COVID. The situation continues to change because information, circumstances and resources are also changing. However, we can gain a sense of how COVID is and will be managed in NSW through NSW Health, and how this may affect how we approach ministry and mission.

Pastor Richard Schwedes has regularly been attending briefings relating to COVID for Multicultural and Religious leaders, which give us an opportunity to listen to the current situation and provide feedback to the government.

Some key things to note from these briefings with NSW Health include:

- The main strategy in managing COVID is through vaccination. NSW Health encourages everyone to be up to date with their vaccinations i.e. either two shots or the booster shot. Being vaccinated reduces the risk of contracting COVID, reduces the affects of COVID if you do contract it and reduces the risk by around 20 times of you passing COVID onto another person. If you are concerned about vaccinations for yourself, please discuss this with your doctor. Also, in our communities if needed help people arrange and get to vaccinations.
- With the opening of borders and increased travel, vaccination for the flu is encouraged, as well as for COVID.
- Whilst vaccination is the main strategy in dealing with COVID, it is not a silver bullet, other measures help us, including wearing masks, checking in with QR codes, RAT and PCR tests, sanitisation and social distancing. None of these measures will stop COVID by themselves but they do contribute to managing COVID. As the situation changes the use of measures will change.
- Meeting with others is good for our mental, physical health and the community's well-being. With vaccinations and other measures making it safer to mix with people, lockdowns are now a last resort for governments. Explore ways you can meet with others safely. This may mean some people are excluded or choose to exclude themselves from physically meeting, if this is the case look for ways you can connect with them and care for them. In some cases, especially where people are travelling from different locations, people are not regularly associating with each other or very vulnerable people are meeting, use a Rapid Antigen Test.
- Please continue to show care and respect for others, including those who are not responding exactly how you are. Don't just think of yourself, but also look out for others including those who approach responding to COVID in a different way. If you feel unsafe meeting in a group

then stay home, however don't expect the group to stop meeting, likewise if you are comfortable meeting in a group, but someone isn't, don't condemn them.

- Remember the Health Orders instruct us to act in a particular way for the common good. At times some measures will no longer be compulsory, but that does not mean you personally have to stop using these measures.
- Look for ways you can help those who are in isolation, either because they have tested positive for COVID or someone in their house has. At least phone them to see if there is anything you can help them with.
- The situation will keep on changing.
- Encourage people who have concerns, feel ill or have reactions to vaccines to seek medical advice from a GP or specialist who has an understanding of their medical situation to discuss their situation, concerns and best way to keep safe.
- COVID will continue to have an affect on how we approach mission and ministry well into 2023.
- Articles and information is available in languages other than English <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/languages.aspx>

Grants and assistance are available to help some organisations including churches and not for profits <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/covid-19-help-businesses/grants-loans-and-financial-assistance>

For more information relating to COVID, including a daily update visit <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/default.aspx>

Pastor Richard Schwedes regularly attends the Multicultural and Religious Leaders NSW Health briefings. If you have a question or an issue you believe needs raising, you are welcome to contact him at richard.schwedes@lca.org.au or 02 9331 1822.

WALKING TOGETHER IN MISSION

LEADING | SUPPORTING | NETWORKING AND CONNECTING | ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY | STRONG RELATIONSHIPS | COMMUNITY CONTROL

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA | **NSW and ACT DISTRICT** | *where love comes to life*

Like and Follow the District Facebook Page to keep up to date with news and events. Search Facebook for LCANSWACT, or go to www.facebook.com/LCANSWACT



WARRAMBUI NEWS

March 2022

Prayer Points

- For speed and precision with the finishing touches of the Dome Refurbishment
- In these times of uncertainty, pray that we at Warrambui will trust God and His plan
- That God will continue to refresh, renew, and heal our staff and community
- For God's wisdom for Warrambui Board and Management in planning and decision making for the future

Praise Points

- O Lord, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth! Your glory is higher than the heavens. (Psalm 8:1)
- For the refurbished and re-dedicated Dome
- For those groups keen to return to camping
- For new and returning bookings in 2022

Centre Director's Update

The Start of 2022

At Warrambui we are feeling the same way I am sure many people are, that the start to 2022 has not been the return to "normality" that we had hoped. Our bookings levels and staffing have continued to be affected by COVID-19, as they have been for over 2 years now. Our staff have experienced the same personal and family struggles that many people have during the pandemic. They have also endured the challenges of Warrambui not being able to host groups and our team not being able to contribute to our ministry in the way they feel we were called here to do. We ask for your prayers for refreshment, healing and a renewed sense of purpose for them. We continue to commit everything to our God, seeking to follow His will in using the opportunities in this crisis and praying for His guidance as we make decisions for the future.

Dome Re-Dedication and Events

In mid-January it was our great pleasure to begin the year with the blessing and re-dedication of our Dome after its refurbishment and prior to the first use of the upgraded facilities for camping by Turning Point Ministries (TPM). The

afternoon included individual, small group and corporate prayer over the various aspects of Warrambui's ministry and for future users of the Dome. A band of TPM youth led us in worship. Bishop Robert shared a message on how we grow as Christians from God calling us as individuals, to gathering together in small groups and then to coming together as a community, with Warrambui being a place where many Christians come together to grow. It was truly a fitting and right way to commence the next stage in the Dome's history, by dedicating it anew to God for His Kingdom purposes. Thank you to all those involved in organising the afternoon and to the team of volunteers who helped set-up the refurbished Dome in preparation for the event and TPM camps – including those who moved and set-up the many bunk beds.

Unfortunately, the decision was made to postpone both the Work Camp and the



Bishop Robert shares the message at the Dome Re-Dedication

We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.

Proverbs 16:9



The Centrum Area of the Refurbished Dome

to field limited enquiries from some schools who are seeking to re-institute camps for March, as they see

asset protection zones around the Dome as required due to its upgrade. We will miss Mick greatly and we wish him God's blessings for the future.

Unfortunately, we are again in a situation for 2022 where we are commencing the year without Interns, in part due to challenges of the pandemic. The Arise Volunteer Internship Program remains an important part of our Ministry and we are investigating potential avenues for the program to commence later in the year.

Official Opening of the refurbished Dome originally planned for late January. We are in the process of finalising alternate dates for these events and will provide updates as the new dates become clear.

Bookings for Term 1

In late January, the ACT Education Department made the decision that school camps would not be permitted in Term 1 for ACT public schools. At the same time, the NSW Education Department decided to allow schools to go on camps provided they had appropriate COVID-19 risk management procedures in place. Many schools were very keen to come and stay with us, knowing the benefits of camps for their students, but ended up cancelling or postponing their bookings as they were unable to see viable ways for them to proceed. This resulted in us losing all our school bookings for Term 1, at least initially. At the time of writing, we are starting

how the Term progresses and further plan ways to manage the risks e.g. by holding camps of shorter duration.

Bookings are still likely to be very limited until the end of April, but we continue to plan, hope and most importantly pray. Many groups have chosen to postpone their camps until later in the year, and, should conditions allow, we will have a very busy period from May onwards.

After being unable to stay with us since 2019, we are very blessed that the Lutheran Women's Retreat is planned for March. We are greatly looking forward to serving them with Christ's love.

Staffing & Interns

In February, we farewelled another member of staff, our Maintenance Manager, Michael Waters. We are very grateful to Mick for all his hard work and effort for Warrambui, particularly for his work in increasing

As the pandemic has continued to severely impact our operations, we have chosen not to fill some vacant staff positions. As bookings begin to increase, we will need to recruit more staff in a very challenging recruitment environment. Please continue to pray that God will call the right people to come and serve Him at Warrambui.

Thanks for your Support

Thank you for your support of Warrambui and our ministry through these challenging times as we look forward to increasing opportunities for groups to come together and grow, in their understanding of and relationship with each other, and most importantly in their relationship with Christ.

God's blessings,

Dean Salzke - Centre Director

WARRAMBUI SUPPORTERS KEEP IN TOUCH

If you would like to hear more regular updates of Warrambui News, you can join our Friends and Supporters Facebook Group at

www.facebook.com/groups/warrambuifriends

or join the e-news mailing list by emailing

supporters@warrambui.com.au





Turning Point Ministries

Faith filled events,
growing disciples
of Jesus Christ

SUMMER CAMPS UPDATE

Just like the rest of the world, TPM events were put on hold in 2021. We looked with such anticipation and excitement for our January camps. On Monday the 17th our leaders met together and enjoyed time preparing for our high school campers to arrive the following day. On Tuesday, Warrambui was once again filled with returning youth who were excited to see their friends again, and some new faces eager to experience camp for the first time. The History Makers camp theme of "The Deep" set to explore holding onto Jesus as an anchor. Our first day included get to know you games, a Bible study, and night game. Unfortunately on Wednesday morning two individuals tested positive to Covid-19 on RATs, and we were required to end camp early and decided to cancel Junior Youth Camp for the following weekend. Of course we were disheartened however we can keep our first small group study in mind - that God is always present, and that there are many stories in the Bible of how God, in disappointing situations, is doing more than what people expected.

Yes, we are disappointed, but what we saw in the quick shut down of camp was a strong body of Christ working together incredibly well to send every one home safely in an efficient manner. We are so thankful to each of our leaders on the ground for the different roles they played, and also to our families for working with us during this time. We are so proud of how our team handled this incident. We aim to host History Makers again in January 2023, and Junior Youth Camp in July this year.

UPCOMING 2022 EVENTS

**Young Adults Retreat
at Talbingo Mountain Retreat**
22 - 25 April (Long Weekend)
Ages 16+

**REGOS
OPEN!**

Better Blokes
10 - 13 June TBC
Blokes aged 16+

Back2Base
11 - 15 July
Grades 7 to 12

Winter JYC
15 - 17 July
Grades 3 to 6

Sisterhood
19 - 21 August
Women of all ages

Young Adults Retreat
October TBC
Ages 16+

Leadership Camp
November TBC
Ages 16+



0435 314 384

tpm.org.au
event.bookings@tpm.org.au

facebook.com/tpmcamping
@turningpointministries_nsw

District Church Council News



Narraweena Ministry Apprentice Training

The Narraweena Lutheran Church submitted an application for a Ministry Training Apprentice to work within and be a presence on the Northern Beaches. The focus of the position is on training, working with the congregation and leading the community outreach. This position will also allow the Northern Beaches to have a Church Worker who is permanently focused on the Northern Beaches Community as Pastor Richard is committed to supporting both the Northern Beaches and Central Sydney communities. The DCC was in full support of this exciting opportunity and agreed to co-fund this position together with the Narraweena congregation for three years at a total cost to the District of up to \$120,000.

Frontier School of Mission

The NSW and ACT District are now actively looking to reactivate Frontier Ministries as a campus of the Melbourne School of Theology. The Frontier School of Mission will be based out of the NSW and ACT District Office with three other teaching 'campuses' across the District. The aim would be for Frontier to provide training in a range of mission and ministry spaces from hands-on ministry such as Church planting and repotting through to more theologically focused training including specific Biblical studies. Further information will be provided to the District as this exciting development continues to unfold.



New and renewing churches – Pr Nathan Hedt

Pastor Nathan Hedt joined the meeting and shared about the large amount of church worker training taking place in NSW and the ACT. Nathan shared his experience as an observer with City to City Planters Intensive and highly praised the training. It was noted that four NSW congregations are looking at engaging with City to City coaching.



Central West Parish SMP

Brant Waterson who works in the Orange Lutheran Congregation as part of the Central West Parish was approved by the College of Bishops to be enrolled in the LCA Special Ministry Pastor (SMP) program.



District Audit

The Finance Advisory Committee had been working to make out District audit more presentable and readable to the members of the Church. As such there was a slight delay in the completion of the 2020 Audit as the format was reviewed. The DCC agreed that the 2020 Financial Statements constitute a fair and accurate representation of the District's finances and that they be approved. If you would like a copy of the District Audited financials, please contact the District Office and one will happily be provided.



The District Budget was approved by the DCC. The budget represents an \$849,000 loss after appropriations for Mission Support of \$862,000 and Depreciation of \$178,950. It is worth noting this budget does include a conservative Share distribution but does not include any Share growth that may or may not occur in 2022.

Strategic Directions Facilitator

The District is in the final stages of appointing a Strategic Directions Facilitator, and we are all looking forward to this new position being filled in the coming months. The Strategic Directions facilitator will work with congregations and ministries of the District to assist them to Walk Together in Mission. The Strategic Directions Facilitator will be responsible for coordinating and facilitating specific projects and activities throughout the District.

2022 District Synod

The dates for the 2022 District Synod and Pastors Conference have now been locked in. Pastors Conference will be 26 – 28 October 2022 followed by District Synod 28 – 30 October 2022 at Warrambui Retreat and Conference Centre. This will also be an opportunity for members of the district to check out the new Dome Development at Warrambui if they haven't done so by then.

Professional Standards

Carolyn Kiss the NSW and ACT District Professional Standard Officer shared with DCC the many upcoming developments. The NSW Government has updated their Child Protection legislation with the 10 child protection standards now passed into law in NSW. These 10 child protection standards will be implemented over the coming 12 – 18 months. The LCA has produced a Child Safety package that will be sent to all congregations to assist them in making sure they have all the appropriate Child Safety Standards in place, and the Professional Standards department will assist congregations to implement this. Further details and support will be provided to congregations in the coming months.

Carolyn also articulated that congregations need to know that Professional Standards training is not only beneficial, but essential for anyone working with people including children, but also anyone holding a Governance position in a congregation.

Governance of Specific Ministries

The District Church Council at their meeting in November heard updates from the many different Ministries in NSW including Lutheran Education Victoria NSW and Tasmania, Jindera Lutheran School, Warrambui Retreat and Conference Centre and Lutheran Aged Care Albury.

Continued next page

How can they know if no-one tells them? Rom 10:10-15

Many Lutherans have volunteered to teach Scripture classes in NSW government schools for decades. Special Religious Education, (SRE) is valued by families, schools and the Department of Education (DoE) as an important part of a child's development.

Many denominations, including the Lutheran Church NSW and ACT District, have met the requirements of the NSW DoE as 'Approved Providers'. All schools require a professional approach to any sort of voluntary work that is undertaken in the classroom. Authorisation and Accreditation of SRE teachers ensures that children are being delivered relevant and educational content in a safe and age-appropriate way.

Christian SRE teachers are active committed members of their local church, able to confirm their belief in Christian teachings. They care deeply for children and are able to teach and connect with them appropriately at their developmental level.

All SRE teachers are required to complete child protection training, a Working With Children Check and accredited SRE training before entering a classroom.

If you feel called to be an SRE teacher, or are interested to find out more, please speak with your local pastor, or contact Kaye at District Office. We are always looking for more volunteers. Encouragement, support and training is provided.

Romans 10.10-15 (CEV) *How can they know if no-one tells them?*

Thank you to all our current and past SRE teachers who have volunteered their time so generously over the years.

Kaye Simpendorfer



From previous page

Brad Moss the principal of Jindera Lutheran School shared about the pleasing enrolment numbers they were experiencing, as well as the receipt of a \$745,000 BGA grant they had received to undertake a \$1.1 million redevelopment at the school.

Julian Denholm the director of LEVNT and Greg Schneider the Chair of CLEVNT shared some of the opportunities and challenges that sit in front of the 4 Lutheran Schools in our District. Brad Moss the principal at Jindera has now been appointed the Principal of Henty Lutheran School until the end of 2023. All the schools have had their struggles with Covid including a range of shutdowns as local cases increase.



"There is always a real need for teachers. I loved it! I especially enjoyed teaching the younger children. The students were very responsive. We loved singing, loved action songs, roll playing the story and playing memory games to recall a story or learn a Bible verse."

"There is always more to learn when reading the Bible, digging deeper and doing more research not only when preparing lessons but also in one's personal devotional life."

"In NSW we are very fortunate that we are still allowed within the class room to teach SRE. There is a serious shortage of SRE teachers, with some teachers teaching the same story at two schools each week. I would strongly encourage anyone who is able to, to take up the challenge. You will be supported on a local level, and you will find it very rewarding."

- Monica, SRE teacher for over 30 years

"After about 40 years of teaching SRE, sadly it's time to call it quits. I looked on this as my main area of mission, I enjoyed the interaction with the kids so much and have been so blessed over the years. I loved connecting with the kids, sometimes seeing them in the street and even being introduced to their mums! Sharing stories about Jesus and Bible foundations with children is such a special privilege."

- Joyce, SRE teacher

"Teaching SRE is one of the most 'under the radar' missions we can do! Our churches don't value the opportunity it gives us. It is such a privilege to teach SRE. It might be the only time a child hears about God! We have people who come to our church because of what they learned in SRE as children."

- Kathie, SRE teacher

Neil Mason the chair of the Warrambui Board shared to the DCC in November that the Dome is almost finished and awaiting an occupancy certificate. He did note the ongoing challenges that Covid provides, and in November they were working towards being fully operational again in February. That was all until Covid again changed the forecast in January. The Warrambui Quarry is now in the process of being filled with clean fill, for which Warrambui receives a royalty.

Russell Veerhuis, District Administrator



LUTHERAN
CHURCH
OF AUSTRALIA

NSW and ACT
DISTRICT

The following Bible study is the final in a series that focuses on each of the six priorities of our District strategic plan 'Walking Together in Mission'. This study can be used by individuals or in a group.

Join the study online on Zoom led by Bishop Robert on Wednesday 16 March, 7.30pm. Email kaye.simpfendorfer@lca.org.au to register.



Study 7: District Leadership through the Bishop leading Leadership Teams

Sports Teams

People love to watch sport. Sports like rugby, football and netball are favourites. Spectators watch closely to see if the players will work as a team. They know that the better they work as a team, the more likely they are to win. People working together achieve so much more than just a bunch of individuals working independently.

- Was there ever a time you played a team sport?
- Was your side an example of teamwork or a bunch of outstanding individuals?

Biblical Teams

There are examples of people working as teams in the Bible. Aaron and Moses. Moses led, but Aaron spoke for Moses who found it hard to speak. Paul the apostle went on his missionary trips not alone but together with Barnabas and John and then with Silas. We have the writings of Paul, so we get the impression he was a great individual of faith, but usually he worked with someone else.

Bible Passages

Take a look at the bible passages below and after reading each one ask these questions. *(Do as many as you have time)*

Exodus 4:10-17

Acts 13: 1-3,

Acts 13: 42- 14:3

Acts 16: 16-40

- What is this passage saying about working in teams?
- What are practical implications of this text for the NSW and ACT District and congregations?
- What are the practical implications of these texts for your congregation (or ministries) that you are part of?

Conclude in Prayer

Here is a suggested prayer to get started.

Father Son and Holy Spirit, we are used to doing things as individuals, we acclaim the hero who has single-handedly won the battle. Forgive us for neglecting the support of others in our congregation or district. Form us into a team which can do great things for you. Amen.

NSW and ACT District 39th Regular Convention of Synod

28-30 October 2022 - Warrambui

Online registration for pastors, delegates and visitors will be available in August.
 Reports, Proposals, and Nominations due to office.nsw@lca.org.au by 22 August 2022.
 Enquiries to District Office phone 02 8660 1200 email admin.nsw@lca.org.au

NSW and ACT District Pastors' Conference

26-28 October 2022



District Prayer Calendar

www.lcansw.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

	Parishes/ Congregations	Pastors & Church Workers (and family)	Locations
March	6 Bass Hill Finnish	Pr Lassi Pappinen (<i>Iida, Sylvi</i>)	Sydney Finnish
	13 Campbelltown	Pr Hans Peethala (<i>Cynderella, Ethan, Yarmiyah, Carissa</i>)	Good Shepherd Campbelltown
	20 Central Coast	Pr Allan Taruste (<i>Tina, Matthew, Scarlet</i>)	St Matthew's Woy Woy
	27 Chinese (Mandarin)	Matthew Wan	Sydney Hills District
April	3 Estonian	Pr Allan Taruste (<i>Tina, Matthew, Scarlet</i>)	St John's Estonian Sydney
	10 German	Pr Christian Hohl (<i>Ute</i>)	Martin Luther Sydney
	17 Indonesian	Pr Sahat Simanullang (<i>Nuritalia, Paskalis, Givendiau</i>)	Indonesian Yagoona
	24 Latvian	Pr Colvin MacPherson (<i>Linda</i>)	Sydney Latvian
May	1 LifeWay	Pr Mark Schultz (<i>Jo-Anne, Anna, Alex, Georgia</i>) Pr Mark Simpfendorfer (<i>Kaye, Joshua, Dylan</i>) Francis Leung (<i>Peggy</i>)	LifeWay Epping LifeWay Chinese
	8 LifeWay	Pr Mathew von Stanke (<i>Elise, Lily, Aaron, Noah</i>)	LifeWay Newcastle
	15 LifeWay	Pr David Schuppan (<i>Barbara</i>)	LifeWay Nowra LifeWay Oak Flats LifeWay Wollongong
	22 LifeWay	Danny Brock , Church planter (<i>Michelle, Dylan, Cody</i>)	LifeWay Westside
	29 Liverpool	Pr Hans Peethala (<i>Cynderella, Ethan, Yarmiyah, Carissa</i>)	Living Waters Liverpool

Walking together IN MISSION a Bible Study series

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

**Wednesday 16 March, 7.30pm
on Zoom**

To register, please email Kaye
office.nsw@lca.org.au
(Turn to page 14 for the Bible Study notes)



Upcoming Events

- March 11 - 13** **LWNSW Retreat**
Warrambui, *Women of all ages*
- March 16** **'Walking Together' Bible Study**
Zoom online meeting
- April 8-10** **Pastors' Wives Retreat**
Mittagong
- April 24** **Opening & Rededication of Dome**
Warrambui
- April 22 - 25** **Young Adults Retreat**
Talbingo Mountain Retreat, Ages 16+
- April 30** **LWNSW Convention**
Epping
- May 2-4** **Mission and Ministry Conference**
Warrambui
- May 27** **DCC**
- June 10-13** **Better Blokes Conference (TBC)**
Warrambui
- Oct 26-28** **District Pastors' Conference**
Belconnen
- Oct 28-30** **District Synod**
Warrambui

Contact Newsletter

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www.lcansw.org.au

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



LCA IT Online Shop

LCA agencies and congregations can now order computers and other IT equipment via the LCA IT Online Shop. The products in the online shop have been sourced from reputable suppliers and are recommended by our IT team. Go to <http://itshop.lca.org.au> to see the range and place your order. All prices are ex GST. Please allow for delivery costs.



Hardware · Software · Hosting Services

<http://itshop.lca.org.au>



55th ANNUAL CONVENTION
Saturday 30 April 2022

THEME: Carried in our Shepherd's arms
BASED ON: Isaiah 40:11

VENUE: LifeWay Lutheran Church
56 Norfolk Road, Epping NSW

Registration and morning tea: 9am
Commencing at 9.45am with devotion

All welcome

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: freecall number 1800 644 628 Email: complaints@lca.org.au
or write to: Confidential, PO Box 519, Marden SA 5070**