



“  
*Communication  
and  
encouragement  
help us  
get through  
challenging  
times.*  
”

## in this issue

Bishop	P.1
District News	P.2
Reformation Sunday	P.3
Revitalising Churches	P.3
Communications Officer	P.3
Emerging from COVID	P.4
DCC News	P.5
District Administrator	P.6
St Paul's College	P.7
Turning Point Ministries	P.8
Warrambui	P.9-11
Professional Standards	P.12
Ordination Discussion	P.13
Bible Study	P.14
Prayer Calendar	P.15
Upcoming Events	P.16

## Networking and connections between congregations and ministries



From the Bishop  
Robert Bartholomaeus

### Crisis and communication

The Covid-19 pandemic has forced us to look at new ways of communicating and supporting each other. Churches have become proficient at live streaming. Congregations have printed up service orders, supplied sermons and recorded services. People have phoned each other to give encouragement when they were bound to their homes. Pastors and leaders in the same region have communicated and worked together in facing this challenge. Our District administrator has communicated the ever-changing health regulations throughout this pandemic. Communication and encouragement help us get through challenging times.

### The challenge of mission

Christ commands us to share the message of the Gospel. In our world today, that is quite a challenge. Our culture and world is disconnected from the language and message of the scriptures. In the public square the organisational church is not respected by the media. However the Christian faith itself is still appreciated. Enrolments at Christian private schools are still strong. And, no one ever literally throws stones at me when I walk down the street. But doing mission in the world today is a challenge. To keep going we need encouragement from one another.

Having people understand the message is the challenge. Our culture has become so secular, that terms and words which we use in the church are nigh on meaningless to the not yet believer. How to 'translate' the message so it is understood is a hard task. Some of us are good at this, while others do not even know where to start. We are in foreign territory both individually and collectively. As we attempt to communicate and bridge the gap, we need encouragement from each other. It helps to hear from others. It lifts our spirits when someone asks "How are things going?" Are your mission endeavours bearing fruit? How are you coping? One person's experience helps another face what they are finding difficult.

It was no different in Paul's day. After Paul was converted to the faith, he was initially sent home to mature in the faith for seven years. Then Barnabas (whose name means 'son of encouragement'), went and got Paul and taught him for a further two years. After this, Paul and Barnabas went preaching the message throughout the Roman provinces.

Did Paul find his time of preaching and teaching easy? Far from it, read Acts 13-21 and you will find Paul going from one

*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

- Pastor Dan Mueller (Walla Walla) has accepted the call to Buderim, Qld.
- Pastor Paul Hannola (Tuggeranong) has declined the call to Moorabbin-Dandenong, Vic.
- Pastor Richard Schwedes (Sydney & Narrabeena) has declined the call to Tea Tree Gully, SA.
- Pastor Darren Kupke (Temora) has the call to Horsham, Vic.

### Graduate Appointment

- David Cherry, ALC Graduate has been assigned to Wagga Wagga, and will be installed on 23 January 2022

### Farewell

- Pastor Darryl Mattner has concluded his ministry at Lutheran Aged Care Albury, and will move to SA in January.
- Don Walkley has retired as principal of St Paul's College Walla Walla. Anita Morton has been appointed as the new principal and will commence in January.

### Deaths

- Pastor Lance Steicke died on 10 September 2021. Pastor Lance served as LCA President from 1987-2000.
- Pastor Lloyd John died on 28 September 2021. Pastor Lloyd served at St Marys 1955-1960.
- Pastor Wilton Quast died on 9 November 2021. Pastor Wilton was ordained at Gilgandra in 1969, and served in PNG and SA.

problem to another. Nothing was smooth sailing. People rejected what he said in Acts 14, others questioned whether he had the message right in Acts 15, crowds erupted against him in Acts 19 and things went drastically wrong in Acts 20. So how did Paul cope?

Paul had a support network. He always worked with one or two companions. First it was Barnabas, then it was Silas, then Timothy and Erastus, then Gaius and Aristarchus.

### Networks

A network is a group or system of interconnected people or things. It allows different sections of the whole to be supported by separate parts. Each part of the network needs to communicate with the other parts to achieve this.

The internet is an example of this type of encouraging network. One person puts up information on how to fix a tap, another on what to consider when buying a new car. Now everybody who reads it is helped. The internet connects people like never before.

You might have heard about how Canadian geese honk as they fly. You would think that to conserve energy they should keep quiet. But, researchers think that the honking sound geese make as they fly is used to help maintain the integrity of the flock, and to co-ordinate position shifts with the V-formation in which they fly. The V-formation makes flight more energy efficient for the entire



flock. Honking is a kind of encouragement helping each goose know their place in the flight pattern, so they can all complete the challenge of flying long distances.

So the intention of this strategic priority **Networking and connections between congregations and ministries** is that the church in its various parts communicates and supports other parts of the network in the great work of Walking together in Mission.

So ask yourself:

Whom could you give an encouraging honk?

How might you encourage another person in the work of mission?

How could your congregation encourage another congregation who is challenged by their mission?

When I was in the parish, I always tried to persuade my local congregation to form a relationship of support with another congregation somewhere in the district, a good distance away. I have many special memories of mutual visits made between these two congregations.

Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus

## Celebrate International Day of People with Disability with your Church!

International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD) is a United Nations (UN) recognised day held on 3 December each year to celebrate the contributions and achievements of people with disability.

This year, as part of the Christian Care Sunday project, the LCA NSW is providing additional worship resources to celebrate International Day of People with Disability on or around 3 December. We also remember and celebrate the care workers who support the community participation and inclusion of people living with disability – particularly our staff at Lutheran Disability Services and Lutheran Care in SA/NT, Lutheran Services and Anuha in Queensland and all our aged care services.

For more information about Christian Care Sunday resources, go to [www.lca.org.au/ccs](http://www.lca.org.au/ccs) or contact the project officer, Anna Kroehn via email [anna.kroehn@lca.org.au](mailto:anna.kroehn@lca.org.au).

You can find the IDPwD Christian Care Sunday resources on the **“More Resources”** page, under the dates and focus days tab.



## 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 1 December, 7.30pm on Zoom**

To register, please email [kaye.simpfendorfer@lca.org.au](mailto:kaye.simpfendorfer@lca.org.au)  
(Turn to page 14 for the Bible Study notes)

# Celebrating Reformation Sunday

On 31st October 2017, the German Lutheran Church together with our partners in Sydney, marked the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Four years later, in 2021, we seized the opportunity of the 31st being a Sunday, and invited our friends once again. We enjoyed having Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus as our preacher, and Assistant Bishop Richard Schwedes taking a good deal of the liturgy.

The Lutheran Church of Sweden, whose pastor Katja Lin resides in Melbourne, was represented by their elder Ms Lisbeth Reymont. The Indonesian Gospel Church, another regular user of Martin Luther Kirche, sent Ms Lydia Pantjanansigh.



(L-R) Ms Lisbeth Reymont, Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus, Pr Christian Hohl, Ms Lydia Pantjanansigh.

Earlier this year we commemorated Luther's 'Here I stand' moment before the Diet of Worms. This was an event of the Churches in the City Together, with Pastor Richard Schwedes, Rev. Ken Day from the Uniting Church and Rector Andrew Sempell from the Anglican Church acting together with me. It is good to stand our common ground in times of ignorance and indifference. Luther not only stood for the liberating truth of the Gospel, but also for the importance of the triple, true faith, plain reason and a good conscience.

Bishop Robert reminded us of the Reformation moment when Martin Luther rediscovered the doctrine of justification by faith. How do we deal with our sins and failures? With Jesus, 'our sins are no longer on our head', so that we can live freely and lightly, loving God and our fellow human beings.

Grace and peace. Pr Christian Hohl

## Do you want to be part of a Revitalising Church?

In 2022 we are encouraging individuals and congregations to be intentionally involved in revitalising their church communities.

This is about being motivated by the love Jesus has for us and everyone and being led and empowered by the Holy Spirit in being God's church with the people in our communities.

Being part of a revitalising church is not easy, it involves change, taking on new attitudes and approaches and also letting go of some old attitudes and approaches. As my doctor once reminded me, you won't get healthier just by eating more healthy food, you also have to stop eating some of the unhealthy food.

So, we are not only encouraging congregations, pastors and their leaders to consider revitalisation, but also providing them with support.

There are a number of options for you and your congregation to be involved in Revitalisation.

**1 City to City Revitalisation Project** – this is an intentional consultancy project where pastors and mission workers experienced in revitalisation will be engaged to assist a congregation in revitalisation. This involves a commitment of time by the pastor and church leaders. If you would like to know more about the City to City Revitalisation project, please contact Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus.

**2 New and Renewing churches** – Nathan Hedt as the Pastor for New and Renewing churches is always willing to talk with you and explore what may be appropriate for you and your congregation to be involved in revitalisation. You can email [nathan.hedt@lca.org.au](mailto:nathan.hedt@lca.org.au)

**3 Revitalisation Reflect Plan and Act group** – this is for leaders and pastors who wish to explore together revitalisation. It will be facilitated by Pastor Richard Schwedes, with support from others who specialise in congregational revitalisation. Meeting monthly via Zoom, we will focus on a specific revitalisation resource, sharing what we have learnt, exploring how our learnings can be applied to our contexts and then going back to our contexts to implement

what we have learnt. These monthly meetings will also include a time of prayer for revitalisation in our church communities. If you are interested in being part of Revitalisation - Reflect, Plan and Act please contact Pastor Richard [richard.schwedes@lca.org.au](mailto:richard.schwedes@lca.org.au)

Revitalisation is about Walking Together with God and each other so the communities we exist in may know Jesus and His valuable love.

Pastor Richard Schwedes  
Assistant Bishop

## New Communications Officer



Tanya Cunningham

Our Walking Together in Mission focus is being strengthened and blessed by the appointment of Tanya Cunningham as our District's new Communications Officer, for 1 day a week.

Tanya will support us in improving our communications within the District, helping us to equip and encourage our congregations and ministries as we live out Walking Together in Mission.

Expect to hear from Tanya in the near future as she shares new communication initiatives with us and seeks stories and information from our congregations and ministries.

To contact Tanya, email [tanya.cunningham@lca.org.au](mailto:tanya.cunningham@lca.org.au) phone 0430 390 876

We pray for Tanya:

*Gracious Father we thank you for the people you place in our lives to assist us on our journey of mission with you and each other. Fill Tanya with your Spirit so she assists us in living out Walking Together in Mission through her gifts in communication, bringing blessings to our District and the many communities we serve. Amen*

# Being Church emerging from the season of COVID

Over the last two years our lives have been dramatically affected by COVID. Physical contact has been constrained, there have been more rules to follow, we have learnt to use different ways of connecting and relating, isolation has been encouraged and people's habits have changed.

As we emerge from this COVID season there are many who are simply looking forward to getting back to how life was before March 2020, but it is most likely for many that life will be different, and this means that church life will be different. So how might we respond as we emerge from the COVID season.

## The foundation and starting point – The Gospel

The foundational point for us as Christians and what shapes us as a church is the Gospel. The message that God loves the entire world (every person) that He sent His one and only Son into the world not to condemn the world but to save the world. (John 3:16-17)

*What happens when this is the main message people hear and experience through me as a Christian, and us as a congregation, school, aged care facility or ministry of the church?*

## Dealing with the rules in a compassionate and Gospel focussed way

One of the marks of COVID has been the increasing number of rules. Many of these rules have been put in place to care for the whole community. So, abiding by them in many cases is a sign of loving God and loving our neighbours. Yet a negative by-product that rules create is a legalistic atmosphere. A lifestyle of rules alone, creates judgementalism, division, exclusion and an uncompassionate society. This is a challenge for us as church, as we need to not only follow the rules but also at times enforce them.

*How can we can implement the rules in a graceful, caring and compassionate way? How can we serve and minister to people disadvantaged by any rules? And when people are not abiding by rules what does it mean to apply Luther's explanation to the eighth commandment, 'explain all their actions in the kindest possible way'?*

## Encourage, nurture and renew relationships

It is important to keep reminding ourselves that the church is people (people gathering to receive God's Word and His sacraments so they can be the living body of Christ). This means that relationships are not only important but essen-

tial for our lives as Christians. Hebrews 10:24-25 reminds us to encourage each other and to be continuing to meet together.

*Let us look for ways to encourage, nurture and renew relationships with people in old and new ways so you can encourage others to have a relationship with Jesus. How might you contact people you have lost touch with or have not seen for a while? How can you use technology to develop and nurture relationships? What does it mean for you and your church community to meet people (be incarnational) on their terms, at times and in ways that suit them?*

## Keep adapting to new ways

Whilst the message of God remains constant, His love for all people continues forever, the contexts in which we are called to bring the Gospel is diverse and continues to change. This means there will be different and changing ways for us to be God's church and share God's Gospel to the people where God has placed us.

*What are some new or alternative ways for you to be God's community of faith and share His Gospel? Could you use technology to help you? Are there ways you could partner with another congregation? How is your community changing, in the way it lives and how can we connect to that changing community?*

## Be thankful

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 reminds us to be thankful in all circumstances. Even during the most difficult times of COVID there are people and situations we can be thankful for.

*And as we emerge from COVID look for the small and large things we can be thankful for. Consider directly thanking people who have helped and blessed you? Daily in your prayers to God name those things and people you are thankful for.*

Emerging from this season of COVID is another great opportunity for us to be God's missionaries of grace in the world. Let us be people who are transformed by the Gospel (Romans 12) and because of the Gospel, shining the light of God's grace in the world, so others may see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven. (Matthew 6:12)

Pastor Richard Schwedes  
Assistant Bishop

## Walking Together in Mission - What is happening?

We continue to implement our Strategic Directions, Walking Together in Mission with a focus on our priorities:

- Alternative Models of Ministry
- Supporting congregations and ministries
- Supporting congregations and ministries in transition
- Planting and renewing churches
- Networking and connections between congregations and ministries
- District Leadership through the Bishop leading teams

You will notice that our Bishop focuses his work and reporting around Walking Together in Mission, as does our District Church Council. Bishop Rob has been hosting quarterly bible studies via Zoom focussing on our priorities of Walking Together in Mission.

We have recently advertised for a Strategic Directions Facilitator to assist us as a District in being more intentional in living out Walking Together in Mission and our priorities. This appointment should be made by the end of the year.

Tanya Cunningham has been appointed Communications Officer (0.2) to assist us in improving our communications as a District around Walking Together and our priorities.

In 2022 we are expecting even more intentional focus on Walking Together in Mission at the congregation and ministry level, so as to assist you in the mission and ministry God calls you to.

Pastor Richard Schwedes, Assistant Bishop



# District Church Council News

## Supporting Congregations and Ministries:

### Belconnen Lutheran Church Constitution

The Belconnen Lutheran Church have taken the opportunity to update their Constitution which was approved by the District Church Council at their May meeting.

## Planting and Renewing Congregations:

### Frontier School of Mission

The NSW and ACT District have been looking at reactivating Frontier Ministries as the Frontier School of Mission based out of the NSW and ACT District Office with three other teaching 'campuses' across the District. This is still in preliminary stages, but the aim will 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. Melbourne School of Theology will be the key training delivery partner in reactivating Frontier. The DCC has committed to supporting this exciting development with up to \$150,000 over 3 years to get the school operational until it is self-supporting. We look forward to providing more updates as this comes together further in 2022.

### Lifeway Westside

Lifeway Westside is the Western Sydney Church Plant at Glenmore Park in Penrith Sydney. Danny Brock has developed a good relationship and mutual support with the local café, and Danny has been looking at different ways to support and connect within their community. Pastor Mark Schultz reported on how the COVID lockdown had been really hard on Danny's relational style of mission and ministry.

### Jindera Chapel Replant

Malcolm Hall, Albury Lutheran Church has been working with the Jindera Congregation as they look at Replanting the Jindera Chapel community. They have been working on an MOU of how these communities can work together. The DCC is supportive of this arrangement, and already many of the Albury Lutheran church leadership have been working in the Jindera community and in particular the school through providing chaplaincy support.

## 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. The DCC discussed how New and Renewing Churches department could partner with the District through the support of a coach to continue to support these Church plants and repots, and that a range of models to do so were available.

## Alternative Models of Ministry:

### Central West Parish SMP

The DCC heard about the great work that Brant Waterson has been doing in the Orange Lutheran Congregation and agreed to support the application from the Central West Parish (which includes Orange Lutheran Church) to submit a proposal to the College of Bishops for Brant Waterson to be enrolled in the LCA Special Ministry Pastor (SMP) program.

## District Leadership:

### District Investments

The Finance advisory Committee in overseeing the District Investments continually reviews the Districts Investment mix. The FAC was aware that we needed some investments that were not dependent on the large tech stocks and so requested the DCC add the Vanguard Global Value Equity Fund to the list of approved investments. This was approved by the DCC and so in order to better balance the investment mix, \$2M was invested in the Vanguard Global Value Equity Fund.

### Strategic Directions Facilitator

The DCC has been working for some time towards employing a Strategic Directions Facilitator. This exciting position is to assist congregations and organisations in their mission and ministry context, helping our congregations and organisation's to flourish in the ministries that they are called to pursue. Some of this role will include assisting congregations to work together where they have a common ministry outlook. This position is in the process of interviewing candidates.

### 2022 District Synod

With the LCA moving the General Synod face-to-face component to 2022, the NSW and ACT District Synod dates have been placed on hold subject to knowing what the LCA General Synod dates are, with the recognition that if the General Synod needs to be in the vicinity of the District Synod dates, then the District Synod may need to change our dates. We will keep you posted as soon as the LCA General Synod dates are locked in.

### COVID-19 Vaccinations

The DCC did discuss and consider back in August what COVID vaccination status would look like and whether it might be necessary to mandate vaccinations for pastors and those who serve in churches given the large number of vulnerable people in our worshipping communities. The Bishop was encourage to provide advice and guidance to people about getting vaccinated with the District continuing to encourage all people to follow the Health Orders in their jurisdiction.

### Governance of Specific Ministries

The District and TPM will look towards drawing up an MOU that more formally articulates the relationship and support provided between the District and Turning Point Ministries. This will help to add clarity to this already healthy working relationship.

The District Church Council at their meeting in August heard updates from the many different Ministries in NSW including Lutheran Education Victoria NSW and Tasmania, War-rambui Retreat and Conference Centre, Lutheran Aged Care Albury.

Julian Denholm the director of LEVNT shared on the challenges and opportunities that sit in front of the 4 Lutheran Schools in our District. The four Lutheran Schools in the Riverina are looking to work together and support each other in a more formal "Inspire" partnership arrangement, this will lead to sharing of resources and staff as they work together more collegiately. Brad Moss the principal at Jindera has also been supporting Henty Lutheran School in the ab-



*Continued next page*

# District Financial update

## Financial update

The ongoing effect of COVID-19 in 2021 has been many and varied, and we all look forward to being in a place where we can all worship together on a regular basis and lockdowns, masks, online worship are a thing of the past. I suspect that some of the effects of COVID-19 will be with us for many years to come.

During the last 5 months, all of our congregations in NSW and the ACT have been in lockdown for at least some period of time. Due to this loss of income, the vast majority of these congregations and/or parishes have been able to receive Federal and State/Territory Government assistance in the range of grants through the District Office. To the end of October, these grants have supplied over \$175,000 in support to help our congregations in lockdown continue to afford their pastors and staff. We are extremely grateful to the Federal and State/Territory Governments for all their support over this period.

The Districts Finance Advisory Committee in implementing the Districts Investment Strategy has resolved to invest \$2M in the Vanguard Global Value Equity Fund. This will bring the total investment so far to be \$3.8M in Australian Ethical Investments Australian Shares Index Fund and \$3.4M in Vanguard Australian Shares Index Fund, \$2M in Vanguard Global Value Equity Fund and \$2,166,667 in Vanguard International Shares Select Exclusions Index Fund.

The current value of these investments as at 30 September 2021 was \$13,453,016 broken down as follows:

- Australian Ethical Investments Australian Shares Index Fund \$4,730,447
- Vanguard Australian Shares Index Fund \$3,999,626.
- Vanguard Global Value Equity fund \$2,032,636
- Vanguard International Shares Select Exclusions Index Fund \$2,690,370.

It is anticipated by the end of 2021, we will have received over \$800,000 in share fund distributions. This combined with the market growth of over \$1M to September 2021 on top of \$1M last year has a lot of people smiling about these investments. This income is used to support church planters and renewal ministries across the District.

The NSW and ACT District Finances are currently running with an asset base as at 30 September 2021 of \$29,028,561

2021 NSW District Budget		
	2021 Budget	2021 Jan -Sept
<b>Income</b>		
Congregations Contributions	\$164,650	\$53,500
Mission and Ministry income	\$78,000	\$35,344
TPM Camp income	\$122,750	\$20,560
Investment income	\$391,333	\$472,881
Government Assistance		\$386,875
Other District Income	\$29,500	\$1,697
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$786,233</b>	<b>\$970,857</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
LCA Budget	\$210,775	\$210,775
Mission and Ministry	\$508,831	\$415,564
Office Expenses	\$96,900	\$55,428
Staff Salaries + housing Expenses	\$370,884	\$230,878
Gov't Assistance distributed		\$354,429
TPM Camp expenses	\$122,100	\$34,451
Depreciation	\$100,620	\$142,240
Other expenses	\$33,200	\$5,526
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,443,310</b>	<b>\$1,449,291</b>
<b>Net Profit/Loss</b>	<b>-\$657,077</b>	<b>-\$478,434</b>
<b>Other Income</b>		
Share investment growth		\$1,072,279
<b>Total Net Profit/Loss</b>		<b>\$593,845</b>

and liabilities of \$228,077. The 2020 Financials have been audited, if you would like a copy of the full financial statements and notes, they are available by contacting the District Administrator. A summary of the 2021 budget and the first quarter income and expenses is provided above.

Russell Veerhuis, District Administrator

## Notes for the first quarter summary (above):

- *LLL Bank Interest was minimal in 2021 due to low interest rates*
- *Mission and Ministry expenses includes the grants as listed in the DCC report.*
- *Office Expenses include strata levies for the District Office.*
- *Staff salary costs are lower due to the Government COVID support*
- *Turning Point Ministries income and expenditure is minimal as most camps have been cancelled*
- *Share price variation is included in other income, as direct income is not received.*

## District Church Council News *continued from previous page*

sence of their principal. All the schools have had their struggles in moving to online learning. Wagga Lutheran School is undertaking a feasibility study about extending to a K-12 school and what this may mean for the future.

Neil Mason the chair of the Warrambui Board shared the many challenges and opportunities that now sit in front of Warrambui. The Dome building Development has had some delays due to rain but was now moving on steadily. With the latest COVID lockdowns the majority of camps have been cancelled to the end of the year and as such Warrambui closed for business until at least the end of September. Whilst being able to receive several NSW Government grants, Warrambui has had to stand down staff and Pastor Tim Muller from Woden has been providing chaplaincy support as he is able. Please continue to pray for Warrambui and their Post COVID recovery.

The DCC did discuss the new Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill which is being proposed in NSW and its implications for Lutheran Aged Care Albury. It was noted that there were many concerns with the legislation in its current form. The DCC is aware that there is similar legislation in other states, and they are encouraging people to make submissions in reply to this bill.

## St Pauls College Board nominations

The District Church Council endorsed the nomination of Cameron Turner to the St Paul's College board. The application was supported by the SPC Board and Lutheran Education Victoria Tasmania and New South Wales (LEVNT). The Church Council gives thanks for Cameron's willingness to serve in this way.

Russell Veerhuis, District Administrator



## The Class of 2021 at Valedictory Service



# ST PAUL'S COLLEGE

Walla Walla NSW

**We believe in  
CommUnity**

### Message from College Board Chair, Mr Anthony Lieschke

On behalf of the College Board, I am delighted to announce that **Anita Morton** has been appointed as the new Principal of St Paul's College. Anita will commence as Principal in January 2022. Anita is currently a member of the leadership team at Luther College in Melbourne.

Anita has also served at Pacific Lutheran College, Meridan Plains and St Peters Lutheran College Indooroopilly. Anita is an outstanding Lutheran educator and has a Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Education, Graduate Certificate in Music Studies, Master of Creative Industries and is currently completing her Graduate Certificate in Business and the Lutheran Education Leadership Development Program.

Anita is a committed teacher and leader who values each student and has a strong passion for quality teaching and learning. Anita brings expertise in contemporary learning practises, curriculum development and its implementation.

Anita currently worships at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Ringwood, and has a strong commitment to Lutheran Education, having taught within the system since 2003. The qualities identified in Anita, and confirmed by others, include a personal warmth and energy, a strong desire to achieve the best experience for each of the students in her care, a commitment to high academic, wellbeing and spiritual standards, strong communication skills and a collegial style of leadership.

Our ongoing gratitude is also extended to Mr Don Walkley for his outstanding service as College Principal over the last 5 years and we wish him God's continued blessings on his retirement.

### CURRICULUM : STUDENTS FLOURISHING IN NEW AGRICULTURE EDUCATIONAL HUB

St Paul's has formed a unique partnership with Nurtien Ag Solutions and S & W Seed providing an on the ground educational hub. Nurtien Agronomist Alex Tier works alongside our Agriculture Teacher, Mrs Courtney Hutchings and students overseeing 30 different varieties of seed. Our students are flourishing in their learning and case studies and love comparing what is happening on site to what their parents do on the farm!



**Discovering  
your future  
at St. Paul's**

## BUILDING FOR SUCCESS IN STUDENT WELLBEING & LEARNING OUTCOMES

At St Paul's we support a positive culture of wellbeing which is fundamental to successful learning. Our support team consisting of learning enhancement, counsellors, pastoral, boarding and medical experts work alongside students to develop their learning and personal growth. Small class sizes allow for a unique learning environment supporting the individual.

**Round One enrolments for 2023 start February to March.**

**Scholarships available.**

Day school alongside casual, weekly and full-time boarding opportunities.

Enquiries please visit [www.stpaulscollege.nsw.edu.au](http://www.stpaulscollege.nsw.edu.au)  
or call (02) 6029 2200



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



Turning Point Ministries

Faith filled events,  
growing disciples  
of Jesus Christ

## REGISTRATIONS OPEN FOR OUR SUMMER CAMPS!

### History Makers

18 - 21 January  
Grades 7 to 12  
\$290

History Makers is our annual summer camp and in 2022 it will be for high schoolers as we are introducing a Summer JYC! Come along for heaps of fun and face-to-face community! **Invite a friend - first time TPM camper special fee of \$150**

### Summer JYC

21 - 23 January  
Grades 4 to 6  
\$140

INTRODUCING Summer Junior Youth Camp! We are looking forward to seeing lots of new faces. We know that SO many of this age group have missed out recently and we can't wait to meet you and spend the weekend together!

SAVE  
THE  
DATES  
FOR  
2022  
EVENTS

### Young Adults Retreat at Talbingo Mountain Retreat

22 - 25 April (Long Weekend)  
Ages 16+

### Better Blokes

10 - 13 June  
Blokes aged 16+

### Back2Base

11 - 15 July  
Grades 7 to 12

### Winter JYC

15 - 17 July  
Grades 3 to 6

### Sisterhood

August TBC  
Women of all ages

### Young Adults Retreat

Oct 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



# WARRAMBUI NEWS

November 2021

## Prayer Points

- Prayer for recruitment for Arise Volunteer Interns and senior staff recruitment
- That new and returning groups will be able to be served at Warrambui in 2022



## Praise Points

- Rain and beauty of the site
- The Dome Project approaching completion

One thing I ask from the LORD,  
this only do I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze on the beauty of the LORD  
and to seek him in his temple.  
**Psalm 27:4 NIV**

## Director's Update

### Bookings

As I write, it is a particularly beautiful time at Warrambui. The recent rains have freshened everything up, brought out the colours of the bush and encouraged many Spring wildflowers to bloom. Such a great reminder of God's continued blessings.

It has continued to be a challenging time at Warrambui throughout the last quarter, with no bookings since mid-July.

We continue to focus on making the most of this time and we are greatly looking forward to our next group to be hosted in early December.

### Staffing

We have been pleased to recently welcome a new member of staff – Tara Collier. Tara has joined us to fill our vacant Guest Services position. Tara has a long history with Warrambui through participating, leading, and directing many TPM camps. We feel very blessed that God has called her to serve alongside us.

Our Head of Catering Benedict D'Rozario, has recently finished up with us. Many people will fondly remember Benedict, his friendliness, and his great cooking. His curries and his famous tandoori chicken have been particular favourites. We thank Benedict for his service and wish him God's blessings for the future.

Heading into 2022, we will be looking to recruit further staff to fill vacant positions we have left unfilled due to COVID-19 closures. New staff will be vital for getting ready to return to a higher level of bookings in the new year. Recruitment is likely to be challenging, especially given the current state-wide shortage of hospitality staff, so we ask for your continued prayers in this area.

### The 2022 Arise Volunteer Internship Program

We have been very pleased to receive some applications for the Arise Volunteer Internship Program and we are currently in the process of interviewing applicants. We are also, at the time of writing, continuing to seek further applications to complete the 2022 Intern Team.

We will still be taking applicants in December and are always happy to field any enquiries or answer any questions people have about the Program.

We continue to seek God's guidance in all our recruitment of staff and Interns, praying that He will continue to call people to serve Him through Warrambui and unite us all together as a team.

### Work Camp

We have decided to proceed with plans for our Annual Work Camp to be held from Friday 28 – Sunday 30 January 2022.

At Work Camp we invite volunteers to come and join us for the weekend, participate in projects that help us maintain Warrambui as a beautiful and welcoming place for guests, and join us in fun and fellowship.

Meals and accommodation are provided for all participants.

For further information please see the advertisement at the bottom of the page, or contact our office.

### The Dome Refurbishment Nearly Complete

The project to upgrade our beloved Dome is drawing to completion with work progressing at a fast pace over the last few months despite some further delays due to rain and flooding.

The fit-out stage of the project is very exciting as the construction work is largely complete and the building

rapidly takes on its final appearance as the finishing touches are added including painting, floorcoverings, lighting, and cabinetry.

We are currently working with the certifier to obtain the certificate of occupancy to enable us to begin moving in the new beds and furniture, and doing all we can to host groups in the Dome from early December.

The project has been a long and arduous journey, but we are very pleased with the outcome: a beautiful and modern venue, with substantially improved facilities, and much greater comfort and safety for guests. All of this has been achieved whilst still maintaining its original character and charm.

The Dome is such a special venue to many people, and we look forward inviting people to return and see what it has become.

### Looking Ahead

The last couple of years has shown that “normal life” is not the certainty that we have often perceived it to be, privileged as we are to live in Australia.

In Camping Ministry, it is uncertain what next year will bring and what the impacts of easing COVID-19 restrictions will be.

As always, we put our faith in Jesus Christ, praying for wisdom, strength and peace on the road ahead.

We thank you for your continued prayer and support throughout 2021 and hope we get the chance to welcome you to Warrambui in 2022.

God’s blessings,

Dean Salzke



# Work Camp



6pm Friday 28th - 2pm Sunday 30th January 2021

Please join the team out at Warrambui for our annual work camp!

A fun weekend is assured as we set about jobs that help to make this place as welcoming and beautiful as possible for all who come and stay. There will be something for everyone with the focus on **landscaping, tidying, clearing, cleaning** and further **beautifying** Warrambui.

All meals & accommodation are provided, so register your attendance with our office as soon as possible, and get set for a great weekend of accomplishment and enjoying the company of friends!

Contact the office today to register. P 02 6220 1000  
E [office@warrambui.com.au](mailto:office@warrambui.com.au)

**Please Note:** Parents/carers are responsible for the supervision and safety of their children at Work Camp. We would like all adults attending to have completed a Working with Children Check (NSW) or Working with Vulnerable People Check (ACT). Please contact the Warrambui office for further information.

## Financial Information

### Warrambui Retreat and Conference Centre

#### Income and Expenditure Statement for the period 1 January – 30 September 2021

	Budget 2021	Pro Rata Budget	Actual to 30 Sept
Total Bookings	142	107	39
Occupied Bed Nights - Total	15,769	11,827	4,002
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,395,328</b>	<b>\$1,020,008</b>	<b>\$410,910</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,360,011</b>	<b>\$885,476</b>	<b>\$756,018</b>
<b>OPERATING PROFIT/LOSS</b>	<b>\$157,676</b>	<b>\$134,532</b>	<b>-\$345,104</b>
NSW Government Assistance—COVID19			\$74,000
<b>REMAINING SURPLUS/LOSS</b>			<b>-\$270,504</b>
Quarry Income			\$71,954

#### FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The very substantial loss of bookings throughout the year, including all bookings since 16 July, due to COVID-19 and associated restrictions continues to severely impact Warrambui's bottom line. COVID-19 was recorded as the reason for 41 lost bookings by the end of September and is believed to be a factor in at least 6 other cancellation decisions. September-October is traditionally Warrambui's busiest period for guests.

Delays in the finalisation of the Dome Refurbishment Project have also impacted bookings, but to a much lesser extent, leading to a loss of 9 bookings in total. The impact of these delays would have been greater had COVID-19 restrictions not prevented us from hosting guests in any case. The COVID-19 restrictions have also added considerable delay to the project with construction unable to continue for a number of weeks during the lockdown, and delays in tradesperson and materials availability throughout the project.

Measures to reduce the financial impact that have been taken include staff standdowns and reductions in staffing hours, applications for government funding and implementation of various cost saving measures.

We continue to monitor the situation closely, seek further cost saving measures and pursue further options for government assistance. We are also ensuring that essential activities continue to take place including maintenance and upkeep, fire season preparation, Intern recruitment and planning, Dome Project finalisation, and planning and preparations for re-opening.

## WARRAMBUI VOLUNTEER INTERNSHIP 2022



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

ARISE is a program designed for young adults to experience practical ministry and undertake ministry and theology studies as they learn to serve Jesus and each other while assisting in the operations of Lutheran Retreat and Conference Centre.

Arise focuses on building a faith foundation that is grown by living and serving in Christian Community. Whilst volunteering interns will build their character, further discover their identity in Christ, and explore questions of faith in a supportive Christian environment that will give them a solid foundation for whatever lies ahead.

**APPLICATIONS OPEN! APPLY NOW!**



SO, if you are (or know) someone who is interested and want to know more about this exciting opportunity please contact Lyzzi Donnelly-Coode (Ministry Development Manager) for an information pack:

Phone: (02) 6220 1000



# Professional Standards

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October, the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, launched a National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse (2021-2030), a 10 year whole-of-nation framework.

He stated that it was the first of its kind. "This is a watershed day for Australia. Today we deliver the first ever long term, truly national plan to protect our children from the scourge of sexual abuse," he said. He went on to say, "Australians were rightly shocked and appalled at the findings of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and we made a promise to do everything possible to end these abhorrent crimes. We have made great strides since then, through the Redress Scheme, establishing the National Office for Child Safety, the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation, and the world's first eSafety Commissioner. But this is the next big step.

While the Royal Commission was focused on child sexual abuse in institutions, the National Strategy targets child sexual abuse in all settings, including in the family and online. We must stop the abuse, and we must better support those who have been abused and we are contributing an initial \$307.5 million commitment to implement the National Strategy."

The National Strategy was developed in partnership with state and territory governments and in consultation with hundreds of stakeholders, including victims and survivors of child sexual abuse and their advocates, children and young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and people with disability and their advocates.

Recently, I have viewed a couple of documentaries and webinars directly relating to this topic. Its never easy view-

ing and again is a great reminder to us all, just how vulnerable our children and young people are. I've mentioned previously the eSafety Commissioner [www.esafety.gov.au](http://www.esafety.gov.au)

and the resources available there, particularly for parents. We mention Cyberbullying in our SafeChurch training and the devastating impact that online bullying can have on young people – especially as their online lives are a key part of their identity and how they interact socially.

Be aware of **the signs**. If you notice your child being secretive with devices or upset after being online, they may be experiencing cyberbullying.

It is also equally devastating for a person of any age to experience the effects of cyberbullying.

With re-entering into a time of no lockdowns, it is anticipated that there will again also be a return to face-to-face SafeChurch training workshops in 2022. There will no doubt still be some limitations of numbers that can gather; however, some future planning is now able to occur.

Again, **I wish to thank** all those people who have committed to do their training online.

I would like to remind those in leadership of congregations to be aware of the need to commit to the processes of the LCA with respect to the screening, appointment, and training of members in key leadership roles and particularly in relation to working with children and young people. If you are unsure of these processes, please be in contact with me.

My prayer is that congregations will be able to gather for wonderful Christmas worship after what has been a tumultuous time.

Carolyn Kiss

LCA Professional Standards Officer  
[carolyn.kiss@lca.org.au](mailto:carolyn.kiss@lca.org.au) 0457 770 100

## The LCA's new Child Safety Standards for Congregations have been approved by the General Church Board

These standards were developed to implement the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations across all LCA congregations in Australia. Endorsed by members of COAG (the Council of Australian Governments), the national principles reflect 10 child safe standards recommended by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The approval of the LCA standards is 'an important development for the church and an example of its long-standing child safety leadership and commitment', says Child Protection Project Officer Mary-Ann Carver.

'The LCA's Child Safety Standards reflect the national principles in their content and aspiration but are tailored to the faith-based, congregational context', Mary-Ann says. 'The intent of the standards is to provide congregations with clear guidance regarding child safety expectations and to help congregational leaders maintain effective oversight of congregational safety and wellbeing.

'The standards are also a reflection of God's abounding love for children and his expectation that we will dearly and lovingly do our very best to keep them safe as they grow their faith.'

Implementation of the standards will assist the LCA to meet its mandatory child safety responsibilities. This is particularly important given that robust regulatory systems are al-

ready in place in New South Wales and Victoria, with similar systems likely to be introduced across remaining states and territories.

The standards have been trialled with several congregations and resulting feedback has helped make the documents as user-friendly as possible. The standards come with two implementation tools – a simple self-assessment tool by which congregations can measure their child safety status and a child safety planning template for congregational leaders to document and monitor priorities and initiatives. **It is expected that from 2022 all congregations will undertake child safety self-assessments and prepare child safety plans annually** and they will be supported through this process by the LCA.

The General Church Board has also approved the LCA's Statement of Commitment to Child Safety. This statement represents a public demonstration of the LCA's commitment to keeping children safe. In part, it says: 'The LCA is committed to providing a safe church environment for children and young people. The LCA also affirms that it has no tolerance for child abuse ... The way we care for children is a reflection of our genuineness of faith. It is also a reflection of God's love and his divine protection.'

Mary-Ann Carver, LCA Child Protection Project Officer



# The Ordination discussion - Part 3



**Renée Simpfendorfer**

This is the third instalment in a series of articles about women's ordination from Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Belconnen, ACT. The previous articles reported about guest speakers at Holy Cross, with differing views on women's ordination. These presentations raised questions about how and why people form and change their views about important issues, such as women's ordination. Our District Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus'

views on women's ordination have changed over time. He graciously agreed to be interviewed. Bishop Robert was interviewed by Renée Simpfendorfer in Canberra on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2021.

**Before we get into the nitty gritty of our interview, can you share a 'fun fact' or interesting story about yourself?** I played in the World Croquet Championships in 1988 at Santa Rosa, near San Francisco.

**What about the time you talked your way out of running a red light on a late-night dash to the shops to buy bacon and eggs for a men's breakfast the following morning?!** I've got a better story than that.... I once got three speeding tickets in a single afternoon. The first was on the way to golf. When I arrived at golf, I realised that I had forgotten my golf shoes so drove back to collect them (second ticket). By the time I arrived back at the golf course with my shoes, I had three speeding tickets all from the same camera. That was an expensive round of golf!

**For this interview, the focus will be on your own journey regarding women's ordination. What were your previous views about women's ordination?** I didn't agree with women's ordination at all in 1983 when I graduated and was ordained.

**What influenced the formation of these views?** Well, I thought it was obvious from the two passages (1 Cor 14:33b-38 and 1 Tim 2:11-14) that women's ordination was prohibited. It was the practice of the church and I could not understand how people could be in favour of women's ordination in the face of these passages.

**Did your studies at Luther Seminary (now Australian Lutheran College) influence your views?** The topic of women's ordination was not overly addressed in lectures when I was studying to become a Pastor. Although I do remember doing one reflective assignment on the topic.

**What are your current views about women's ordination?** My views have changed and I am now supportive of women's ordination.

## How did your views change?

The first catalyst for change was meeting ordained female ministers from other denominations at local ministers' meetings. These women were not fanatical feminists. They were ordinary people, exhibited Christ-like qualities and the fruits of the Holy Spirit; kindness, gentleness and self-control. They were a vibrant testimony to Christ.

Consequently, for many years I was in "no man's land" (1990s, 2000s) and didn't know what I thought about women's ordination anymore. I remember that the Bishop of Queensland (the late President, Pastor John Vitale) said he had changed his position on women's ordination and stated this publicly. I was fascinated with knowing how he could

have changed his mind.

In about 2010, I decided to read and look again at those passages (1 Cor 14:33b-38 and 1 Tim 2:11-14) and listen to them for what they were saying, not necessarily what I *thought* they were saying. I would try to hear the passages for what they were saying whether I liked what I heard or not. So, I read and listened to them every couple of months. This pattern of reading and listening led me to conclude that these passages are not as clear about women's ordination, as many claim.

Questions within the passages arose. For example, what was Paul trying to convey when he says in 1 Tim 2: 15 immediately after verses 12-14, "But women will be saved though childbearing- if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety." Is he saying that the primary role of women is to bear children? While this may have been the case in Paul's day, this is certainly not how we have come to view women today, nor does our church teach this. We recognise as a result of Christ's attitude towards women, that women can have various roles and gifts, not just focused on her ability to bear and care for children. It led me to think, if Paul is reflecting his worldview in this last part of the verse, he could very well be reflecting his worldview in the previous verses as well. If that is the case, how can we base a doctrine of the church securely on the previous verses?

Further to those thoughts, in verse 1 Timothy 2:14 Paul says "Adam was not deceived; it was the women, who was deceived and became a sinner." Is he saying women are more prone to sin than men? Anyone who knows the sinful minds of men, knows this can't be true. Yet this is what it seems to say, which again would fit more with ancient views of women.

The more I read the passages the more I was left with questions.

**Why did this make your views change?** Well the church teaches that doctrine can only be based on clear passages of Scripture. In other words, when a passage is unclear, we avoid making doctrinal statements from that passage. The practice of reading and listening to the key passages in question, over a considerable period, led me to conclude that these very passages are not as clear as we normally would want doctrinal passages to be. Consequently, my views about women's ordination have slowly changed as a result.

**Has this change prompted you to question other parts of theology/faith, or impacted the way you interpret Scripture?** Not really, because all other statements of the faith are based on numerous passages which no one questions. The problem when it comes to women's ordination is that there really are only two passages which carry weight. Whereas when it comes to other doctrines there might be ten or twenty passages which proclaim that truth. Scripture is clear on the essential topics.

**You are now in another chapter of your journey: that of District Bishop of NSW/ACT. Pastors, and indeed the**

*Continued on page 15*





The following Bible study is the sixth in a series that focuses on each of the 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 1 December, 7.30pm. Email [kaye.simpfendorfer@lca.org.au](mailto:kaye.simpfendorfer@lca.org.au) to register.

## Study 6: Networking and Connections between Congregations and Ministries

### Crisis and Communication

This Covid pandemic has forced us to look at new ways of communicating and supporting each other in the faith. Churches have taken up live streaming. Congregations print up service orders and supply recorded services. Pastors and congregational leadership in the same region are communicating more often as they face the challenge. Communication helps us through a time of challenge.

### The challenge of mission

Christ commands us to share the message of the Gospel. But our current culture is utterly disconnected from the language and message of the scriptures. This means the first step is to understand how to bridge the communication gap between church and culture. This is quite a challenge. We are in foreign territory both individually and collectively. As we attempt to communicate and bridge the gap, we need encouragement from one another. It helps to hear from others. How are things going? Are your mission endeavours proving effective? How are you coping with the challenge? Your experience might help me face the challenge I am going through.

### Network

A network is a group or system of interconnected people or things. It allows different sections of the whole to be supported by other parts of the same. Each part of the network needs to communicate with the other parts. So the intention of this strategic priority is that the church in its various parts communicates and so supports other parts

of the greater network.

- Think of examples of networks that you experience in your daily life. How does communication take place in that network?

### Bible Passages

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

- Romans 16:1-16
- 2 Corinthians 1:3-11
- 2 Corinthians 8: 1-15
- 2 Corinthians 8:16-24
- Philemon 4-7

- What networks were operating in these passages?
- What communication is being made and how does it help those who hear it?
- Is this text saying something to you about communication and networking with others?
- What does this text say to your congregation or your ministry?
- What are the practical implications of this text to the NSW and ACT District?

### Conclude in Prayer

Here is a suggested prayer to get started.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit you are a network of persons: the Trinity. As we face the challenges of mission, enable us to communicate with you and each other, so that we are continually supported and strengthened in the task that you have set before us. We are most grateful that you promise to never abandon us. Amen

**Bishops, have differing views on women's ordination. As a layperson I am curious to know: How has the topic of women's ordination been approached within these groups?**

The bishops are very gracious and respectful towards each other and their different views on this matter. They listen graciously and they long for our people to listen to the 'other side' and try to understand in the same way. I personally believe God is more interested in how we relate to each other over this topic, rather than who is right or wrong. The question God places before us is: can we mutually respect our differences and honour each other when it comes to this topic?

In the 1990s and early 2000s, there was a lot of respectful discussion about women's ordination, to the point that people were able to write and explain the argument for the opposing view. Unfortunately, we seem to have gone backwards and now there seems to be an increase of disrespect between people who hold opposite points of view on this topic.

**How will the Synod delay impact decisions regarding women's ordination?** I think it gives us a chance to do more reflection and have more discussion. God has given us another year of grace to work on our relationships and understanding of each other. I do not think God is overly concerned about whether we ordain women or not. What He does care about is whether we respect and care about each other. He does not want topics like this to divide us. Our attitudes to each other are a far bigger concern to Him!

Renée Simpfendorfer,  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Belconnen ACT

**NATIONAL CHURCH LIFE SURVEY**

Complete surveys now or in February 2022. LISTENING TO EVERY VOICE

Due to COVID-19 the survey period for the National Church Life Survey (NCLS) has been extended until **February 2022**. Participating churches will have received a survey kit to help them run the 2021 NCLS. Further details [2021.ncls.org.au](http://2021.ncls.org.au)

**District Prayer Calendar**

[www.lcansw.org.au](http://www.lcansw.org.au)



I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving 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

	<b>Parishes / Congregations</b>	<b>Pastors / Leaders (and family)</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>December</b>	5 Military Chaplain	<b>Pr Darren Jaensch</b> (Julie, Isaac, Lachlan)	Canberra
	12 District Committees	District Church Council, Lutheran Women NSW, all other district committees	
	19 NSW and ACT District Office	<b>Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus</b> (Jenny) Tanya Cunningham, Communications Kaye Simpfendorfer, Receptionist Russell Veerhuis, Administrator	
<b>2022 January</b>	16 Turning Point Ministries youth camps and campers at Warrambui		
	23 Central West NSW	<b>Pr James Leach</b> (Adele, Amelia, Keziah, Zeek, Eliora, Netanya, Tobias) <b>Brant Waterson</b> , Discipleship & Outreach Coordinator, Orange (Elizabeth, Calhon, Anastasia)	St John's Forbes St Peter's Orange St Paul's Parkes
	30 Gilgandra/Dubbo	<b>Pr Joseph Graham</b> (Rehab, Nathaniel, Karissa)	St Mark's Dubbo St John's Gilgandra Preaching place Nyngan
	<b>February</b>	6 Gunnedah/Tamworth	<b>David Jarman</b> , Lay worker (Nicole)
13 Leeton/Griffith		vacant <b>Pr Ian Kotzur</b> , locum (Yvonne)	St Paul's Griffith St John's Leeton
20 Temora		<b>Pr Darren Kupke</b> (Lee-Anne, Zakea)	Trinity Temora Zion Trungley Hall Chapel on the Hill
<b>March</b>	27 West Wyalong	<b>Pr Darren Kupke</b> (Lee-Anne, Zakea)	Immanuel West Wyalong
	6 Bass Hill Finnish	<b>Pr Lassi Pappinen</b> (Iida, Sylvi)	Sydney Finnish
	13 Campbelltown	<b>Pr Hans Peethala</b> (Cynderella, Ethan, Yarmiyah, Carissa)	Good Shepherd Campbelltown
	20 Central Coast	<b>Pr Allan Taruste</b> (Tina, Matthew, Scarlet)	St Matthew's Woy Woy
	27 Chinese (Mandarin)	<b>Matthew Wan</b>	Sydney Hills District

## Grants and assistance available for mission

There are a number of grants and financial assistance available for mission focussed initiatives. So don't let a lack of funds be your obstacle in reaching people in your community.

If your congregation has an idea on how it can reach people with God's Good News and assist His church in growing, but needs assistance, your first step is to contact Bishop Robert. Bishop Robert will explore with you how your community can be better resourced and equipped to connect with your community and to help your community connect with Jesus.  
Email [robert.bartholomaeus@lca.org.au](mailto:robert.bartholomaeus@lca.org.au)

## Contact Newsletter

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

LCA NSW and ACT District Office  
215/20B Lexington Dr  
Bella Vista NSW 2153

Phone (02) 8660 1200

Email:  
[kaye.simpfendorfer@lca.org.au](mailto:kaye.simpfendorfer@lca.org.au)

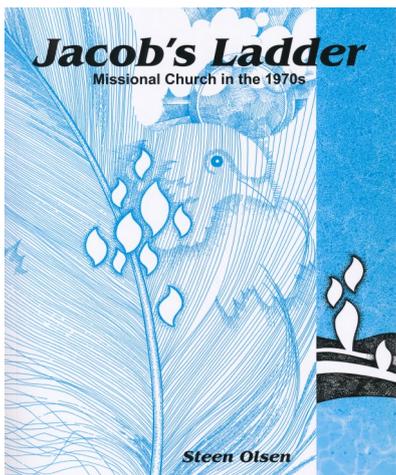
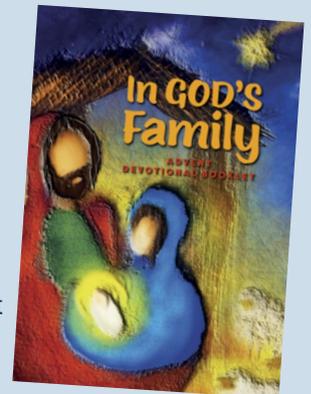
[www.lcansw.org.au](http://www.lcansw.org.au)

## Upcoming Events

- Nov 2021 - Feb 2022** **National Church Life Survey 2021**  
in local congregations
- December 3 - 5** **Leadership Camp**  
Warrambui, Ages 16+
- 2022**
- January 18 - 21** **History Makers Camp**  
Warrambui, Years 7-12
- January 21 - 23** **Summer Junior Youth Camp**  
Warrambui, Years 4-6
- January 23** **Installation at Wagga Wagga**  
Pr David Cherry, Bethlehem Wagga Wagga 2pm
- January 28 - 30** **Warrambui Work Camp**  
Warrambui
- January 30** **Installation of SPC Principal**  
Anita Morton, Zion Walla Walla Church
- February 6** **Installation of Finnish Pastor**  
Pr Lassi Pappinen, Bass Hill Finnish Church 3pm
- March 11 - 13** **LWNSW Retreat**  
Warrambui, Women of all ages
- April 22 - 25** **Young Adults Retreat**  
Talbingo Mountain Retreat, Ages 16+

**Lutheran Tract Mission's Advent Devotional Booklet 'In God's Family'** is an ideal resource for congregations to share with their members, guests and the wider community. Congregations can print out the PDF, and insert their contact details and Christmas worship times, making it an ideal resource to share with anyone they have contact with.

Go to [Itm.org.au](http://Itm.org.au) and click on **Downloadables** under the Resources tab to find this and loads of other great booklets.



**Jacob's Ladder: Missional Church in the 1970s** by Steen Olsen tells the story of outreach ministry started by Lutherans fifty years ago. At \$20 it would make a great Christmas present!  
For purchases go to [www.shopacr.com.au](http://www.shopacr.com.au)  
for details [www.jakes1970s.net](http://www.jakes1970s.net)

## Assisting regional people coming to Sydney

If you are coming to Sydney for hospital treatment 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 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](mailto:complaints@lca.org.au)  
or write to  
Confidential, PO Box 519,  
Marden SA 5070