**70 years of Lutheran church in Tasmania**

by Irma Baumeler

Out of the darkness of the war,

The turmoil it created,

God led his people to a land,

Which all their hearts elated.

From Europe we all came that time,

Our faith us all uniting,

The year was 1949,

The Lutheran Church here was created.

Our friends from the Mainland-

A visiting Pastor they us sent,

He crossed this island end to end,

His dedication had no limit.

We grew, we lived, we laughed we cried,

We shared our faith with others,

Who questioned oft who is this mob?

This alien lot who want to be our brothers.

Some years went by and God persisted,

The first resident Pastor joined our midst,

The first rented church opened its doors,

The year was 1954.

Five years went by with worship at St Mary’s

But we moved on no longer here to tarry,

Cross Street Church next bore our name,

To worship here was our aim.

The Church grew on not standing still,

We welcomed members from the Big Island at God’s will,

Nothing could stop us so it seemed,

Our own St Peters Lefroy Street would fill our dreams.

So we grew on never to rest,

And through the years we were so blessed,

We outgrew Lefroy Street, no longer filling our need,

And so went onto Davey Street.

We thanked the Lord,

For this new place,

A beautiful church,

And still room to grow, so much space.

So we planned on,

And looked ahead,

And a few years later still,

A school for us was in Gods will.

This church was blessed,

Our numbers grew,

And for the children that were few,

A separate school arose proud and new.

Disaster had struck in Hobart Town,

The massive Tasman Bridge went down,

In 2 our congregation did divide,

The year was 1975.

St Paul’s on the Eastern Shore was born,

To help out those who from us were torn,

And we went on and did our best,

And thanks to God he did the rest.

Our faith in God was repaid,

Our Church again was unified,

We thanked the Lord and went on,

A stronger people to become.

The Lord was with us all the way,

Our Church grew day by day,

We went on so blessed for many years,

T’was hard to think there could be fears.

Our members started to decline,

And fewer people did remain,

The church was harder to maintain,

The way God had intended.

The building once so proud and tall,

Was starting to show signs of fall,

The walls started to crumble,

We went to the Lord so humble.

So far he had brought us,

There had to be more!

We undecided,

He opened a door.

A whole new chapter about to start,

2012 we sold our church with heavy heart,

The school once struggling,

Now thriving was our new start.

Again we were building,

Renovating due,

We found we still had lots to do,

St Peter’s Lutheran Church rose anew.

St Peter’s Lutheran Church in Hobart town,

After all that passed did not go down,

70 years on as the Lord delights,

Luther’s mighty fortress still remains.