

LUTHERAN MEN OF AUSTRALIA

November 2017

NEWSLETTER

ANNUAL VISIT TO AUSTRALIAN LUTHERAN COLLEGE



The Village Green at Australian Lutheran College.

On Thursday the 28th of September your National Executive Committee and as well members of the SA executive met with the graduating pastor's for this year. It was a glorious Spring day and it began by attending Morning Devotion in the Chapel at 9-30 am.

We were introduced and welcomed to the assembly by Dr Andrew Pfeiffer and the Principal Rev James Winderlich. As part of our projects, Vice President Malcolm Pfeiffer made a presentations of \$750 to five of the six graduates during this service. The graduates present were Mathew Huckel, Peter Heintze, Darryl Shoesmith, Roelof Buitendag and Joseph Graham. Roelof Buitendag unfortunately was absent due to undergoing surgery that morning. We wish him God's speed in his recovery Malcolm made the presentation in the absence and on behalf of our President Neil Lehmann who now resides on the Queensland Gold Cost and asked to be excused.

We were treated to morning tea in the refectory after Chapel, and were kindly invited to join them for lunch, which we duly accepted. The Executive then had a meeting concerning the coming Triennial Meeting in 2018 and ongoing matters of the LMA.

At lunch we were honoured by the presence of the Principal of the College and accompanied us at our table and, as is the custom in Lutheran circles, family ties was one of the topics discussed amongst other things.

In the afternoon we were privileged to sit in on one of the session of the Pastoral Students lead by Dr Andrew Pfeiffer. A presentation was given by three students who recently spent time in various parishes for two weeks as part of their training, one of them spent his time in the bush with the Fink River Mission, this and the experiences shared by the other two proved very interesting. Malcolm Pfeiffer informed the class about Lutheran Men and our projects, as well as our hopes and aspirations for the future including the various Shed Men groups in many congregations in Australia.

Thus ended an interesting and informed day at Australian Lutheran College. We wish both the College and it's students God's blessings for the future.

Featured In This Issue

Annual Visit To ALC

Pastor Neil Hampel

Devotional Pastor Mat. Ker

Onkaparinga Men's Fellowship Feature

Hedley Scholz Sermon

Pastor Richard Fox

Luther 500 Celebration

Message From Colin Schutz

How Old Is Grandpa?

David Pfeiffer Mackay Experience

Christmas Greetings

Lutheran Men's Newsletter is the official publication of the Lutheran Men of Australia and is published four times a year. The next publication will be in February 2018. Articles and men's related news and stories always welcome.

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Regular Post most welcome, mail to John Seidel, Unit 51 / 85 Main St.

Photos From Australian Lutheran College Visit



This Years Graduating Class.

L to R.
Matthew Huckel,
Peter Heintze,
Darryl Shoemith,
Roelof Buitendag
and Joseph Graham.



Vice President Malcolm Pfeiffer



This must be a Pfeiffer benefit.
Vice President Malcolm Pfeiffer and Dr Andrew Pfeiffer discussing strategies.



Around the lunch table.

Centre of table, College Principal Rev James Winderlich, Pastor David Kuss, President Colin Schutz, Malcolm Pfeiffer, mostly obscured, Treasurer David Pfeiffer, Elliot Voit, back to camera, Betty and Keith Munchenberg

Editors Message



Hi there. Once again it's time for another Newsletter. My, how time flies when your having fun. It may be a little time yet from Christmas, but as a quarterly magazine goes Christmas is on the agenda for this issue. In preparation, I phoned someone up for an article and he asked what was the theme, I gave the usual reply, "whatever is relevant," the reply came back, "I suppose a Christmas greeting would be positive." Until then I hadn't even thought of Christmas, just goes to show how it creeps up on you. See the back page, I haven't forgotten Christmas, every blessing to all our readers for this Christmas celebration and may the Lord be with you through the whole New Year.

It is generally around this time of the year that we have our annual pilgrimage to ALC, (cover story), what a wonderful day was had by all who attended.

Included is Pastor Neil Hampel's farewell for us as a columnist in this edition of our Newsletter. It has been a pleasure to have him write devotional articles for us. For a number of years Pastor Neil was Spiritual Adviser to Lutheran Men and as recently as the last AGM Pastor Hampel sat on the executive for SA District LMA. We thank him for his contributions and know he is with us in spirit. God be with you Neil.

Hedley Scholz, from Eudunda, shares with us his first sermon. Well done Hedley, It is nice to learn more about the life of Luther. Read Hedley's introduction and sermon on page 6 and 7.

It may not come under my portfolio, but just a reminder that next year is the next Triennium of our church, and elections are coming up at a special meeting of LMA - Time and placed to be advised. Please give this some earnest consideration as there are a number of positions to be filled.

God bless you all, I hope you enjoy this edition of the Newsletter.
Brother John.

Farewell from Pastor Neil Hampel

Pastor Emeritus Rev. A Hampel,
McLaren Apartments, Room 43,
1217 Grand Junction Road
Hope Valley. S.A. 5090

To Mr. John Seidel, Editor,
October 13th 2017

Unit 51, 85 Main Street,
Lobethal, .S.A. 5241

Dear John, My Brother in Christ Jesus.

With this letter I am resigning from writing further devotional articles for Lutheran Men. Physically I find that I just cannot do it. The flow of words needed just does not flow like they once did.

I know that all I have done is by the grace of God. But in human activity there comes a time when human weakness just cannot handle the demands required. So for this reason I ask to be relieved of the request to write further articles for Lutheran Men's Newsletters.

I thank you for the opportunity to be involved with Lutheran Men of SA/NT, first as spiritual advisor in 1995 – 1998; then as a member and more recently as a writer of short articles for Lutheran Men's Newsletters. I thank you also for the opportunity to



attend LMA functions over the years and for the fellowship I have had with Lutheran men. Thank you, John, for your persistence as editor in phoning many times to get an article from me. I assure you that I read Lutheran Men's Newsletters with interest when they arrive on my email.

I pray that the Lutheran Men's Newsletter will bring joy, information and encouragement to many in the future as in the past.

Wishing all LMA Newsletter readers and all LMA members every blessing,

Yours Truly in Christ Jesus,
Neil A. Hampel, Pastor Emeritus.

MOVING ON WITH CHRIST

As I review my life I realize that I must move on. At age 82 my youth is behind me. My sporting achievements have long been surpassed by better athletes and my work record is history. Now I realize that when I die I must leave behind me everything I have ever worked for.

I realize that I have been greatly blessed in life and I realize also that when I die I shall live in a mansion which Jesus has prepared for me (John 14; 1 – 7). The opposite to being in God's beautiful mansion is hell which is far away from God's saving presence Luke (16:19 -31). I firmly believe that I have been saved from the power of hell by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. On judgement day none of my achievements on earth will save me for a blessed eternity.

St. Paul had an impressive Jewish pedigree, significant educational achievements, great zeal and a faultless record among the Jewish authorities. (Philippians 3:5 – 6). But he writes that *whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things* (Philippians 3:7-8b). Like St. Paul I realize that all my achievements are like rubbish in the presence of God. I have been saved by Christ. I have been buried with Christ by baptism into his death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father I too have been raised to a new life in Christ (Romans 6:3 - 6). Believing Jesus I pray God to continue to save me through the precious blood of Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:7).

Every day Satan – the Devil – attacks my faith. Every day He raises doubts about my faith. He makes accusations about my past and every day he places new temptations in my journey through life. But in the midst of these assaults on my faith I rely on Jesus to be with me, to deliver me from evil and bring me safely into the presence of God in glory.

With Christ Jesus as our Lord forever we move on by faith in Jesus. Day by day we live by faith in Jesus and are blessed by his renewing strength to face the issues of the day, to make decisions necessary for daily life and face the future in eternity. Day by day I realize also that I, too, am moving on to eternity to be in the presence of God forever (Philippians 1: 22 -23).

As each of us moves on through life with faith in Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Lord, I encourage everyone to grow in faith and life in Christ Jesus by reading and obeying God's word. May you, the reader of this article, also grow stronger in faith and life in Christ and receive the crown of eternal life to be in the presence of God forever (2 Timothy 4:6 - 8).

Neil A. Hampel, Pastor Emeritus

Devotional Article, Pastor Mathew Ker

'Reformation Church'



God's grace, peace and mercy to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

This is what the Lord God showed me: behold, the Lord God was calling for a judgment by fire, and it devoured the great deep and was eating up the land.... This is what he showed me: behold, the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. And the Lord said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "Behold, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel." (Amos 7:4, 7-8a).

Much has been made of the 500 years since Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses against the church door at Wittenberg in 1517, and rightly so. This event marked a pivotal moment in the reformation of the Christian Church. Part of this 500th Anniversary should surely be the giving of consideration as to whether we are still a church of the Reformation? To be able to answer this question more fully, we should consider what this would actually mean.

The best explanation I have heard to date comes from Pastor Guntars Baikovs who encouraged those listening to his Bible study to consider the opposite of 'reformation' which is 'deformation'. When something is pushed out of the shape or condition it was made originally, it is deformed. To reform something is to then remodel it back into the shape of its intended purpose. A panel beater will reform, will reshape a bent panel into the shape it was originally made. He or she will use a mould or a series of specifications so the reformed piece matches to original design.

In the case of the Church, we should be able to recognise when it is out of shape. That was certainly the case when Luther considered the condition of the Roman Catholic Church in which he originally served and was ordained. Recognising error can be difficult at times though, especially when there may have been a series of seemingly small incremental steps. The Church may start to veer away from God's path (Ps 1:6) and before too long we are heading in quite a different direction to the straight and narrow (Matthew 7:13-14). Wait too long and the path or track we are on will head towards heresy and false teaching. The measure or plumb line is never "what works" or "what seems right" or "is relevant". The only measure God gives us is His Word

It was always against the Word of God that Luther considered the teaching and practices of the Church. When the Church was in error, Luther sought to correct the Church against the Holy Scriptures. Rather than divide the Church, Luther's aim was to unify the Church through agreement in and with the Word.

The question before us today is whether we are still a Reforming Church? Do we continue to measure our teaching and practice against the Word of God? Do we question who we are, not to be controversial or sensational but because we want to test the theological depth of the waters in which we swim?

We are blessed to be inheritors of a great tradition. Not tradition for its own sake but one that continues to measure itself against God's Word – Sola Scriptura.

These are very exciting times in which to serve as part of the

Body of Christ. The voices of religious intolerance grow stronger all the time and increasingly the culture looks to other means to find values and meaning. This can only result in a hollow darkness which in turn means many people will once again need to hear the truly good news, in many instances for the first time.

We need not despair however as this same word of God tells us that we have a merciful God who is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. We are called to continually turn back to him in repentance, asking him to forgive us and trusting that this forgiveness comes for the sake of Jesus Christ, rather than any work we might do.

After 500 years, the Lutheran Church continues to do its reforming work. There are many challenges ahead of us and yet with Jesus Christ as our head, we cannot help but to be confident of the journey yet to unfold.

In Christian service,
Pastor Mathew Ker

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

LUTHER 500

1517 — 2017



A mighty Fortress is Our God.

A hymn of Luther Based on Psalm 46.

Printed here for your meditation.

1
A mighty fortress is our God,
A trusty shield and weapon,
Our faithful helper in all need,
Our stay whate'er may happen,
The old evil foe
Now means deadly woe:
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight:
On earth is not his equal

2
With might of ours can naught
be done,
Soon were our fall effected;
But for us fights the valiant one
Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye: Who is this?
Christ Jesus it is,
Of Sabaoth Lord,
And there's none other God,
He holds the field for ever.

3
Though devils all the world
should fill,
All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill,
They shall not overpower us,
This world's prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none;
He's judged, for e'er undone;
One little word can fell him.

4
The world shall stand despite all
foes —
No thanks they for it merit —
For God is with us, and bestows
His gifts and Holy Spirit.
And take they our life,
Goods fame child and wife:
Though these all be gone,
Yet have our foes not won;
The kingdom ours remaineth.

Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott
Martin Luther (1483-1546)
Tr. 'Church Book',
Philadelphia, 1868, alt.

Onkaparinga Men's Fellowship

Morgan's Farm Visit, Karoonda.

On Saturday the 2nd of September the Onkaparinga Men's Fellowship (Woodside & Springhead) invited neighbouring fellowships and interested people to join them on a bus trip to Morgan's Farm in the Mallee near Karoonda.

Morgan's Farm is a grain farming operation run by a father and son team. Besides farming they are 'farm machinery innovators and aircraft restorer enthusiasts'.

Half a dozen responded from Lobethal together with sixty plus other men and women which amounted to more than a bus load, so four people travelled by car. After overnight rain the day was cloudy, but fine enough for a day out, after all as the saying goes, "it never rains out there." As it turned out they did have some rain over night, but it was a fine day and the sun almost came out a couple of times. We travelled via Mannum, Bow Hill and on to Karoonda, and returned home via Murray Bridge.

The day was advertised as a display of unique farm machinery and several old aircraft under restoration, plus a model aircraft display. The Morgan's have a Douglas Dakota under restoration and a replica Spitfire. The days entertainment did not disappoint, the Morgan's father and son are keen aircraft engineers and restorers, for there are numerous aero engines in various states of rebuild, both radial engines and an in-line V12 Rolls Royce Merlin. There is a line-up of light aircraft, some of which will never fly again, but there are two Cessna's that are airworthy and in constant use. The World War 2 Dakota has served in New Guinea. Currently it is wingless, but the wings have been rebuilt and will be re-attached when a new aircraft hangar currently under construction is completed and the Dakota can be housed. One of the highlights of the afternoon was the starting up of the left engine on this plane. It burst into life after a few cranks of the engine with a burst of blue exhaust smoke, and as the engine crescendo was built up it seemed to be saying, "lets fly, lets fly," but like a bird with its wings clipped, this proved impossible, especially with a twenty ton tractor attached to it's tail.

Another interesting implement was a unique articulated three axle two engine tractor, engineered and built by the Morgan's, built up from Chamberlain tractor components and powered by two 671 GM Diesels.

There were also three model aircraft on display, these have about a two metre wingspan, beautifully made and demonstrated an exciting aerobatic flying display. One of the three aircraft is jet propelled that seemed to fly past at about a 100mph. Fantastic, truly amazing boys toys. There is also a building crammed full of small WW2 memorabilia and small static model war planes.

A lovely lunch was served, including soup, hot dogs, and a variety of small cakes, including vanilla squares all washed down with tea or coffee. As this was Royal Adelaide Show time, they would have been capable of winning first prize.

The afternoon was capped off with a short film showing Dakota aircraft flying troop supplies during the war in New Guinea, which featured this particular plane.

Thanks to Woodside Coaches and Ian Pfitzner who drove the bus, we arrived safely home again at around six o'clock in the evening. A very entertaining day. Thank you Onkaparinga Fellowship.



Firing up the old Douglas Dakota in the afternoon as a special treat. Note the tractor anchored to it's tail, could this be to make sure it doesn't fly away?



Articulated tractor built by the Morgan family.



Below, line up of aircraft, the twin engine plane on this end is now a museum piece.



Bottom. Model planes that put on a fantastic aerobatic display.



500th Anniversary Of The Protestant Reformation 31st Oct. 2017

By Hedley Scholz.

Introduction

Dear John.

In February 2018 it will, God willing be 63 years that I have by the Grace of God been privileged to Lay Read in the Lutheran Church. I always wanted to write my own sermon, and because we will be God willing celebrating the 500th Anniversary on October 31st this year of Martin Luther nailing the 95 theses to the Wittenberg Church door in 1517, I thought what better time to fulfil my ambition.

Our Pastor Josh Muller gave me approval to present my sermon in the Eudunda St. John's church on 8-10-17 at which 54 people were present. Colin Schutz heard that I was presenting my first sermon at this service and drove from Swan Reach for the 9am service.

Colin rang me since and asked me whether I would like to send a copy of my address to you to publish some of it in the next Men's Newsletter.

I believe we are obliged to praise God that Luther condemned indulgences and purgatory, and instead taught that the just shall live by faith

*With Christian greetings,
Hedley Scholz.*



Thank you Hedley and Colin, I am pleased to include it in this issue of the Newsletter. Please note that the last few paragraphs regarding passing on Luther's teaching have been omitted due to space.

Editor.

500th Anniversary Of The Protestant Reformation on 31st October 2017

The text for this Reformation address is found in Romans Chapter 1 verse 17. *"The righteousness of god is revealed from faith to faith, as it is written, the just shall live by faith."* On October 31st 2017 marks the Anniversary of the of the founder of the Protestant Reformation of Dr Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Wittenberg church door in 1517. There were two other prominent men before Luther's time who tried to expose some of the false teachings of the Roman Church.

John Wycliffe challenged many of the un-biblical teachings of the Church of Rome. In 1370 John Wycliffe wrote a debateable doctrine on the Eucharist. History has shown that those who challenged the Eucharist were burnt at the stake. The desire of the Reformers during the Middle Ages was to correct religious abuses which had no Scriptural basis. John Wycliffe was considered a heretic by the Roman Church for writing against indulgences, which were man invented to supposedly lessen time in so-called purgatory. John Wycliffe died from a stroke at the early age of 54 years in 1384.

Another dedicated Christian by the name of John Hus was born in 1374 at a village in Bohemia (present day Czechoslovakia) and was greatly influenced by John Wycliffe's teachings, and also taught against the sale of indulgences and papal authority over the church, believing that God (as revealed in the Scriptures and not by Rome) was the foremost authority. John Hus was excommunicated from the Roman Church and summoned to attend the Council of Constance in 1415 to defend his teachings. At the Council John Hus listened to the 40 accusations made against him, to which he appealed his case to Jesus Christ, the higher judge. John Hus claimed that the Pope was not the head of the Church, but Jesus Christ alone. John Hus also challenged the Church of Rome in denouncing the extravagant and immoral life-

styles of the Pope and the priests. For his testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ and exposing the Church of Rome, John Hus was burned at the stake, together with all the books he had written, and his ashes were thrown into the River Rhine. Just before he died Hus spoke a prophetic sentence when he said that in a 100 years God will raise up a man whose calls for reform would not be suppressed. That man, whom God raised up was Martin Luther, who in 1517 nailed his 95 theses onto the Wittenberg Church door.



Martin Luther was born on the 10th November 1483 at Eisleben in Saxony, the son of a miner, who wanted his son Martin to become a lawyer. After his early schooling, he studied at the University of Erfurt where he obtained his Master's degree in 1505 at the age of 22. That same year Martin Luther entered the monastery of the Augustine's at Erfurt, much to the surprise of his friends, and to the disappointment of his father. Martin's predecessor John Hus's prediction 102 years earlier, by God's Grace, allowed the Protestant Reformation to begin. Luther described being caught in a terrifying thunderstorm, became frightened cried out, "help me St. Anna, and I will become a monk."

In 1508 Luther was appointed Professor of Divinity at the University of Wittenberg. As a monk, through reading the Latin Bible, he had been troubled by the thought of the righteousness of God, as he studied St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans in which God's mercy, forgiveness and compassion showed that, "the just shall live by faith". This passage inspired Luther to such an extent that on his first visit to Rome in 1511 where he stayed for a whole month, his eyes were opened to the infidelity and immorality of the Priest's.

On his return as a monk to Germany he wrote, "I would not have missed being in Rome for any amount of money. Had I not seen it with my own eyes, I would not have believed it. Neither God, nor man, nor sin, nor shame is regarded. If there is a hell, Rome is built over it." Another reason why Luther thought this way, was because a Dominican monk called John Tetzel visited Germany selling indulgences. Tetzel told Luther the money for these indulgences was supposed to be for a crusade against the Turks, but the Pope diverted these monies towards the building of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, which today is the world's most expensive cathedral and is valued at tens of millions of dollars.

Tetzel, who was the Catholic Church's spokesperson at the time of Luther, stated it was not necessary for a person to repent of their sin, all that was required was that people pay indulgences to the Church, which will bring salvation, not only to the living but also to the dead. In other words, as soon as the money was paid, then the soul would be paid for and released from purgatory and fly into Paradise. Many paid large sums of money to the Roman Catholic Church, because they were brain washed into believing that it would help their loved ones who were suffering in purgatory's torment. The Catholic Church became rich, based upon these false Biblical teachings, by resorting to a propaganda of fear.

On the contrary, Luther was of the opinion that such teaching was totally unbiblical, and was used to bring money into the Church's coffers. The Pope also offered forgiveness in exchange for money. If a person committed adultery, or broke any of the Ten Commandments, that person would then (instead of repenting these to God) pay the church for that sin. Those who were wealthy could afford to commit many sins. It was be the

Continued from previous page.

500th Anniversary, Hedley Scholz

cause of the Catholic's false teachings that Martin wrote those 95 theses proving that the selling of indulgences was un-biblical and that he was prepared to debate the issue, he nailed them to the door of the Wittenberg Church on the 31st October 1517. The document was written in Latin, so Luther prepared a German translation, and the University printing press could not issue copies fast enough to satisfy the demands which came from all over Germany.

As Martin Luther had nailed his 95 Theses onto the Wittenberg church door he got into trouble for writing them. He went to Augsburg soon after to defend his position in a debate with a Cardinal of the Roman Church. Emperor Charles the Fifth summoned Luther to a meeting to appear before the churches Diet of Worms Council at which Luther was asked to renounce all that he had written. Luther calmly said, "prove from the writings of the prophets and the apostles that I have erred. I will retract every error, and be the first to lay hold of my books and throw them into the fire." Luther continued, "I cannot submit my faith either to the Pope or to Councils, because it is clear as the day, they have frequently erred and contradicted each other. My conscience is bound by the Word of God, I cannot and I will not retract, for it is unsafe for a Christian to speak against his conscience. Here I stand, I can do no other, may God help me. Amen."

Following Luther's bold statement, the Catholic Church declared an all-out war on Luther's followers, with all of them receiving threats and were banned by the Pope. (Being banned by the Pope meant anyone could kill them.) Many of the Reformers were burned at the stake. Think about the gruesome torture the Reformer's endured under the Catholic Inquisition in Spain, where hundreds of thousands of Reformers were burned at the stake. By challenging the Roman Catholic Churches false teachings, such as indulgences and purgatory, Martin Luther's scriptural 95 Theses was the commencement of the Protestant Reformation.

After Luther's courageous stand at the Diet of Worms Council, his life was in danger, and his supporters hid him for ten months from the Roman authorities. During this time Luther wrote 12 books and translated the New testament from Greek into German. A year after he defied the Roman authorities because of his 95 Theses, Luther decided to lead a church convention in Heidelberg. Luther's friends pleaded with him not to go, as his life could be in danger. On his way to Heidelberg he stayed in a hotel in Miltenberg. Luther's enemies heard that Luther was passing through Miltenberg. Count Eberhard was one of those enemies who wanted to arrest him and put him in prison. Both Luther and his enemy Count Eberhard stayed at the same hotel without each others knowledge, with only a thin wall separating their two rooms. Luther composed many hymns such as 'A mighty fortress is our God.' He also had a wonderful baritone voice, and that evening he sang some of those hymns and finished with a long fervent prayer. The next morning Count Eberhard, Luther's enemy was awoken by the singing of hymns and listened to a prayer where Luther asked God to protect him from all harm and danger. Count Eberhard asked the hotel keeper that morning whether he could meet the stranger, and when they met the Count thanked the stranger for his songs and prayers. The Count said he was looking for the heretic and enemy of the Roman Church, Martin Luther. The stranger then asked the Count what he would do when he found Martin Luther. He said he would imprison him until he gave up his teachings. If he refused, he would be burned at the stake. The stranger replied, "your search is over, I am Martin Luther." The Count was stunned and speechless and finally when

he was able to speak, he said he was no longer an enemy of Martin Luther. By God's grace and mercy Luther's Christian witness of singing and prayers had converted the Count's faith from being an enemy of Luther to becoming a follower of Luther. (Similarly, Saul of Tarsus was converted by God from being a persecutor of Christ, to becoming St Paul, the greatest missionary and apostle for Christ in all time.)

In 1546 Luther went to Eisleben, the town of his berth, and it was here that he died at the age of 62 years.

Following Luther's successful Protestant Reformation, teachings known as the five Solas were taught. What is a Sola? The term 'Sola' is Latin that means 'alone or only.' The five Solas were developed in response to specific corruptions of the truth that were being taught by the Roman Church during the Dark Ages. The first Sola Scriptura means Scripture Alone, and refers to the return of what the Bible says. We unfortunately live in a world where society has rejected the Bible in many ways, some Christians tell us they believe the Bible, but interpret the Bible in such a way in which St Paul warns in 2nd Timothy 4 verse 3 & 4, "for the time will come when people will not listen to sound doctrine, but will follow their own desires and will obtain teachers who will tell them what they are itching to hear, and will turn away from listening to the truth, and give their attention to legends."

The second Sola Christus (Christ Alone) states that only through Christ can someone be saved, as revealed in John 14 verse 6, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father, but by me." To the contrary, the Church of Rome teaches that Mary the mother of Jesus and other saints are mediators between God and man, and therefore can get one into heaven. The Word of God says, "for there is one God, and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus," as recorded in 1st Timothy 2 verse 5.

The third Sola Gratia (Grace Alone) means salvation is by grace Alone. Every false religion in the world can be identified by the fact that they teach that you have to do something yourself to earn salvation. To the contrary, the Word of God says, "for by grace you are saved through faith, and not of yourselves, it is the gift of God. Not of works, lest man should boast."

The fourth Sola Fide (Faith Alone) is to have faith in Jesus Christ. Martin Luther, who coming from a Catholic background read Romans 1 verse 17 which states, "the righteousness of God is revealed from faith, to faith, as it is written, the just shall live by faith." He then realised that the righteousness of God was not something he could earn, but it was a free gift to be received by faith.

The fifth Sola Deo Gloria (to God alone be glory). It refers us to the Bible, which points us to Christ, and that salvation is, by the grace of God, a free gift to be received by faith alone.

In conclusion, what does the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation mean to us? To be a Lutheran doesn't mean we follow Luther. Luther followed Christ and set us an example to do the same. Here was a man who didn't just keep his faith in his heart, but actually lived it and shared it despite severe persecution. What about us today? Are we willing to continue what Luther, by the grace of God, fought so hard for during his life? Amen.



Lutheran Media

LUTHERAN.MEDIA)))

COMMUNICATING CHRIST

Pastor Richard Fox.



**A Men's Fellowship
Project**

Reaching out through YouTube.

More than 15 million Australian's watch YouTube every month. 1.3 billion worldwide. YouTube gives us a great way to reach people with the good news of Jesus Christ. Stephanie Gonzales commented on the YouTube video "Dementia – this is our story".

"This man is so beautiful. I love this story. Thank you for sharing."

The story of John and Maureen's faith in Jesus Christ touched her heart and encouraged her. You can watch John and Maureen's story at www.youtube.com/messagesofhope.

Short Movie Competition

To reach out to more people through YouTube, we recently ran a Short Movie Competition across the church and schools. When we launched the competition, we didn't know how many videos we would receive. We were blown away by receiving more than 60. The videos were on people's favourite bible stories or a story of hope. It was a pleasure to watch all the videos and work out the winners of the competition.

You can watch the videos at www.lutheranmedia.org.au/competition or on the YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/messagesofhope.

Who was Martin Luther?

Part 3: The Movement NOW available

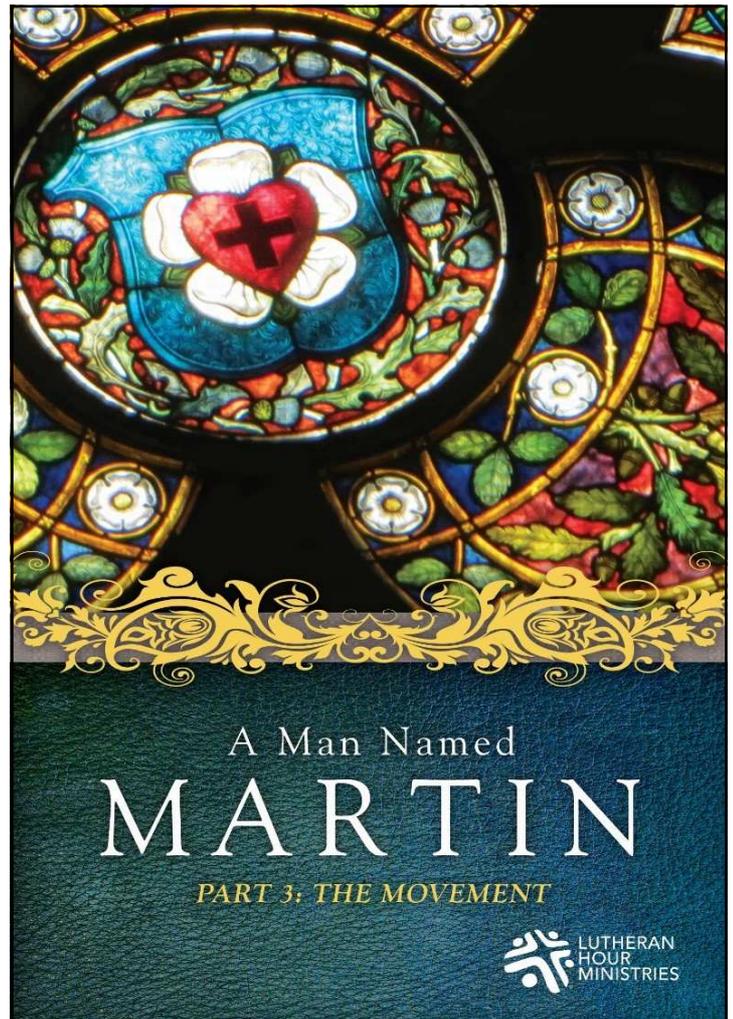
Have you ever wondered who Martin Luther was, or why we needed a reformation, or how it shapes the world we live in today? Order and watch the 3 Part DVD series to learn more about Martin Luther, the Reformation and its impact today.

A Man Named Martin – Part 3: The Movement is now available at www.lutheranmedia.org.au/luther or call 1800 353 350.

Thank you!

Thanks to your support, people are hearing and believing in Jesus Christ. Your donations help share this good news on over 800 radio stations to over 5,000,000 people every week. To donate, go to www.lutheranmedia.org.au/donate or call us on 1800 353 350.

Thank you and God bless, Pastor Richard Fox, Director of Lutheran Media.



Luther 500 Celebration



**Top of the Valley
Luther 500
1517—2017
22nd October 2017
Lobethal Lutheran Church**



LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF AUSTRALIA
where love comes to life



Beginning of Thanksgiving Service.



Service presenters, Dr Noel Due, Erin Kerber & Pastor Dave Kuss.



Messages of Hope, Pastor Richard Fox.



The gathering at lunch.



The Town Crier, Rev Tom Playford.



The Wine Merchant, Greg Nuske.



Beer Stein holding competition. Steins filled with water. No beer wasted!



Monk, Brother David

As can be seen by the caption above, 'Top of the Valley' (Torrens and Onkaparinga Valleys) Lutheran Churches recently celebrated the Luther 500 Event. The congregations involved Birdwood, Springhead, Lobethal and Woodside.

A great day of celebration, kicked off by a re-enactment of Martin Luther nailing 95 theses to a door, followed by a procession into the Lobethal Church lead by clergy and other partakers in leading worship. The Processional Hymn was naturally 'A mighty fortress is our God.'

Pastor David Kuss lead the Service, Dr Noel Due preached the sermon entitled, 'The heart of the problem, is the problem of the heart.' As well as organ, a band and lead singers also enhanced the worship. At the completion of the service the congregation filed out of the church to a Village Square setting.

A serve yourself lunch of bread rolls, ham and other German style condiments were provided.

The food was presented on tables in the centre square with displays from ALWS, Lutheran Media, LLL, Lutheran Tract Mission, Blueprint Ministries, and Lobethal Bierhause who donated their beer to us to sell.

Market place activities included a stein holding competition, a selling of Indulgences re-enactment, Town Crier and Pastor David Kuss volunteered to have a tonsure haircut - which raised over a \$1000 to assist a family at ALC.

A great celebration was enjoyed by 400 worshippers and participants. Followers of LMA will recognise a lot of the names of participants in this service.

Message From Colin Schutz.



Dear Fellow Men in Christ.

Thanks be to God for He is always in control and for giving us the victory in Jesus alone. We need, by Gods grace to not just worry about ourselves but to encourage and love one another. This is a God given gift to each of us. It is so easy to live in our own little world and forget to actually be doing things, example, ring-

ing each other to see how they are and to earnestly pray for their welfare. If we look at Paul's life, even when he was in prison in Rome he asked his friends to bring his cloak that he left behind. He talks about Luke the physician visiting him as well as many others who loved God, to carry letters to encourage the saints in the letters to Timothy. The positive statements made by Paul were quite amazing as he was thinking of others more than himself when he wrote to them. This is a true gift of the Holy Spirit.

When we look at ourselves often we worry about what is going to happen to us or our family, but it is important for us to pray for our pastors and our leaders, those in our congregations and as well as our neighbours. Paul also talked about being encouraged by others. I am sure it helped him to stay sane while in prison for his precious faith in Jesus to stay strong. We need constantly to pray for direction for everything we do. Our faith is a daily walk with God in devotion and encourages us to take the word of God seriously for our corrections, grace and His forgiveness and to constantly realise God is watching over us, as we wouldn't be here without Him standing alongside of us.

Jesus is constantly interceding for us and the Holy Spirit within us to help us to understand God's word. With this encouragement from God's word we continually look to Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith.

On the 28th of September the LMA and LMSA Executive members met with all students called into the Ministry, who were present. This was an informative discussion about Lutheran Men and Shedmen, what we are about and some of the differences, and what the future holds for us in the ministry to men.

Our State Executive also met that day to start planning our next convention. This God willing will be held in the Barossa working together with Shed Happens, joining them for their normal get together for a BBQ, devotion and then a speaker interview, and those that can join with us during the day for the convention. Dates still to be confirmed.

In conclusion, what a privilege it is to carry everything to God in prayer. I ask you to please pray for God to guide the planning and provide the speakers for the day.

May God bless you all.

Colin Schutz.
President, LMA/SA.

A Note From Pastor Peter Geyer.

Hi John,
Always good to hear from you.
I have found some very stimulating reading in Lutheran Men and have read it on line from time to time.
I hope to start a Men's breakfast here soon.
It will be only once a month to start, but we'll see how it goes.
Thanks again,

Peter

Pastor Peter Geyer is the Pastor of the Boonah congregation in Que. Pastor Geyer writes a weekly blog and distributes via email.

Interesting Information

How old is grandpa?

One evening a grandson was talking to his grandfather about current events. The grandson asked his grandfather what he thought about the shootings at schools, the computer age, and just things in general!

The grandfather replied, "well let me think a minute, I was born before: television: penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, Frisbees and the pill.

There were no credit cards:laser beams or ball point pens. Man had not invented pantyhose: air conditioners, dishwashers, cloths dryers and the clothes were hung out to dry in the fresh air and space travel was only in Flash Gordon books.

Your Grandmother and I got married first—and then lived together.

Every family had a father and a mother. Until I was 25 I called every woman older than me 'mam', and after I turned 25, I still called policemen and every man with a title, 'Sir.'

We were before gay-rights, computer—dating, dual careers and group therapy.

Our lives were governed by the bible, good judgement and common sense. We were taught to know the difference between right and wrong and to stand up and take responsibility for our actions.

Serving your country was a privilege, living in this country was a bigger privilege. We thought fast food was eating half a biscuit while running to catch the school bus,

Having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with your cousins.

Draft dodgers were those who closed front doors as the evening breeze started.

Time - sharing was the time the family spent together in the evening and weekends, not purchasing condominiums. We listened to big bands, Jack Benny and the president's speeches on our radios, and I don't ever remember any kid blowing his brains out listening to Tommy Dorsey.

If you saw anything 'made in Japan' it was junk. The term 'making out' referred to how you did in your school exam. Pizza Hut, Mc Donald's and instant coffee were unheard of. We had a 5 and 19 cent stores where you could actually buy things for 5 and 10 cents. Ice cream cones, phone calls, rides on a streetcar, and a Pepsi were all a nickel, and if you didn't want to splurge, you could spend your nickel on enough stamps to mail one letter and two postcards. You could buy a new Ford Coupe for \$600, but who could afford one? Too bad, because petrol was 11 cents a gallon.

In my day grass was mowed, 'coke' was a cold drink, 'pot' was something your mother cooked in and 'rock music' was your grandmother's lullaby. Aids were helpers in the Principal's office. Chip meant a piece of wood and 'hardware' was found in a hardware store and software wasn't even a word, and we were the last generation to actually believe that a lady needed a husband to have a baby.

No wonder people call us 'old and confused' and say there is a generation gap.

How old do you think I am? I bet you have this old man in your mind You are in for a shock! Read on to see, pretty scary if you think about it and pretty sad at the same time.

Are you ready? This man would be 70 years old today. 70 years ago was 1947.

Gives you something to think about.



David Pfeiffer's North Queensland expedition.

Correspondence From Pastor Mark Gierus.



Pastor Mark Gierus

Hi John.

I wanted to write a bit about the recent men's breakfast we held here in Mackay.

What a joy it was to recently welcome one of the members of the Lutheran Men of Australia as he shared with us in the beautiful tropical north of Queensland the work that is done and the fellowship that is shared by this group.

I only became more familiar with the work of this group when I was ordained and having received a financial gift from them. I was able to stock up on required books for ministry. It was only five weeks after I was installed as Pastor in Mackay and Cannonvale or Airlie beach in the Whitsundays that I used the book of Church Rites of the Lutheran Church for a funeral, a book purchased through the generous gift of the Lutheran Men of Australia.

I got to know David Pfeiffer quite well when I was doing my field work at Woodside and Springhead in the beautiful Adelaide Hills region and our friendship has continued to grow. I as a Pastor had wanted to invite David up to share with our men what the Lutheran Men of Australia was all about for quite some time.

David along with his lovely wife Faye made the trip to the north earlier this month (October) where he spoke to some of our men at the quarterly men's breakfast of the work of the Lutheran Men of Australia.

I want to thank not only David for his faithful commitment to the Lutheran Men of Australia but to all of you who have been part of or are supporters of the work that God has done and continues to do through them. I thank God for this opportunity for us in Mackay and the Whitsundays to gain more insight into the work of the Lutheran Church through it's men as they continue to connect with others in the church and in the wider community.

God bless you all. *Pastor Mark Geirus*
Mackay and Airlie Beach Queensland.

NB. Faye and David appreciated the loving Christian hospitality shown during their time in the north both by congregation members and the Gierus family. They enjoyed meeting the people there and appreciated the opportunity to speak to the gatherings about LMA and our Projects. Many thanks for the generous donation towards LMA Projects.

David encourages members to promote LMA whenever on travels and visiting other congregations.
David Pfeiffer.



Left
Mackay Lutheran Church

Photos right hand column.
Cannonvale Worship Centre, shared with three other denominations.
Bottom
Manse at Mackay.

Financial Report, David Pfeiffer

Since the last report payments have been made to the following LMA Projects.

Lutheran Media, \$3,000-00.

To the Pastor Graduates, 6 @ \$750-00 = 4,500-00.

Moneys Received Includes

Fellowships, \$1,800-00

Mackay men's breakfast, 92-00

Onkaparinga Fellowship,

(Scrap metal & battery collection, 1,684-60

This has helped support projects to a balance of &17,910-16 since the last LMA Convention at Halls Gap in 2015.

Project payments.

Lutheran Media, \$ 9,000-00

17 Pastor graduates @ \$750 = 12,750-00

2 payments to TWR @ \$1,000 = 2,000-00 (1 Payment still owing them)

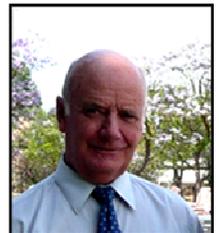
Credit balance @ 29-10-17 4,189-60

Financial summery supplied by treasurer David Pfeiffer.

Note from David. The Onkaparinga men's Fellowship have been busy collecting scrap metal and batteries from various sources around the district.

David encourages other fellowships to also take up the activity, it is a easy way to collect money for projects. Since embarking on this venture, they have collected \$1684-00 from this enterprise.

If you would like more information on scrap and battery dealers etc, David can be contacted on 08 838 97 349.





***A Blessed Christmas To All Our Members
And Readers, From President Neil
And The Executive..***

President's Report

Greetings to Lutheran Men of Australia!

Christmas is nearly upon us for 2017 where we will celebrate the birth of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. This brings happiness and joy to our hearts. He is our greatest friend to have, especially in this time of turmoil here in this country and the world. Jesus is the only one that we can go to for advice. His Word is the yard stick for us to adhere to and receive His wisdom, on how to go about our lives in this perverse, and ungodly time. End times are surely showing signs of his return. Where do we stand? Are we looking up and waiting for His return?

The Church is dwindling in numbers, and we need to ask ourselves, why is this happening? Where has the Church gone wrong? I suggest that there are a number of reasons why this is happening. Pastors have an awesome task ahead of them. We who sit in the pew also have a responsibility, to share God's Word every day. A day never goes by where I have the opportunity to share God's Word with someone. During my time on the Gold Coast, the people are looking for answers. 600,000 people live on the Gold Coast. Every Tuesday morning, I meet with a group of men, and we share the Word together, and pray for this Nation that the leaders would turn back to Jesus, and apply His principles of life. There are small groups of Christians meeting everywhere on the Gold Coast praying for

this Nation. My friends get together, and start a small group of believers, pray and trust God to do the rest. We are to believe and receive His answers.

This Nation is at the crossroads, and a sorting out between the sheep and the goats. I am referring to the SAME SEX MARRIAGE (equality) matter, that is before the people of this nation. All I know is that those who vote for it will face troublesome times. God's Word is very clear on this matter. God calls it an abomination unto him. This Nation will fall if the yes vote wins, however if the no vote wins, then it will be blessed. Scripture is very clear. We as Christians need to stand up and be counted in line with God's Word.

I pray that you will have a happy and joyous Christmas as you celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ!

God bless you...

Neil Lehmann
National President
Lutheran Men of Australia.

