

Together

SEPTEMBER 2020

Still serving
support:
**fireground
update**

**Memories
preserved
at Sandleton**

The way
back to
**public
worship**

 **LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
OF AUSTRALIA
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
NORTHERN TERRITORY

*Magazine of the Lutheran Church of Australia
South Australia – Northern Territory District*

Volume 27 / Number 3

Contents

Features

- 6** Remembering Dean Heyne
- 7** Faith journey: Zachery Schubert
- 10** Still serving support: fireground update
- 13** Memories preserved at Sandleton
- 14** The way back to public worship

Regulars

- 3** Editor's note
- 4** From the Bishop
- 8** District news
- 12** Blueprint Ministries

Front cover: Peter Luhrs and Anthony Risdale enjoy the 'coffee in the cark park' event, hosted by the Ark Lutheran Church in Salisbury. Image: Rachel Cramer.

SCHUBERT & SONS PTY. LTD.

Manufacturers of Granite and Marble Memorials
Since 1862
New Memorials, Additional Inscriptions,
Foundation Stones, Bronze Plaques

Adelaide Metro, Adelaide Hills,
Alice Springs, Barossa Valley, Ceduna,
Eyre Peninsula, Fleurieu Peninsula,
Kangaroo Island, Mannum, Mid North,
Murray Lands, Port Lincoln, Tumby Bay,
Streaky Bay, Tennant Creek, Naracoorte,
Yorke Peninsula

179 Flinders St. Adelaide SA 5000 Phone: 8223 2473
Website: www.schubertandsons.com.au
E-mail: schubson@senet.com.au

Together

Together is published four times a year for members of the Lutheran Church of Australia SA-NT District.

Editor: Jessica Smith
Phone: 08 8267 5211
Email: jessica.smith@lca.org.au
Editorial address: 137 Archer Street,
North Adelaide, South Australia 5006

Graphic Design: Maggie Spicer

Printer: Finsbury Green

Advertising: Jessica Smith
Phone: 08 8267 5211
Email: jessica.smith@lca.org.au

How to advertise or have your article featured in Together

Contact editor Jessica Smith.
An advertisement in Together promotes your event or product to over 10,000 readers throughout South Australia and the Northern Territory.

Advertisements in Together

Together is a member of the Australian Religious Press Association, which is a network of Christian publications and related agencies in Australia and New Zealand.

Publication of advertisements in Together does not necessarily mean endorsement of the contents of such advertisements.

Editorial content in Together

Opinions expressed in articles, letters, news stories and features in Together are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the policy of this magazine or the Lutheran Church of Australia SA-NT District.

Publication deadline

Editorial and advertising copy for the next edition of Together closes on Friday, November 6th. The magazine will be distributed in December. Online news content is published between editions on our website, Facebook page and eNews. To subscribe to our eNews 'Online Together', visit www.sant.lca.org.au/news/enews/



Editor's note

Welcome to the spring edition of Together magazine. This year has been one of adaptation and adjustment and it's safe to say it's not been what most of us expected. Sunshine and blue skies are a nice reminder of the rhythm of the seasons, at a time when many other 'man-made' markers of the year (the Royal Adelaide Show being one I was looking forward to this month) have been cancelled or postponed.

Our church congregations and members have continued to inspire us with imaginative solutions when hindered by restrictions. From an 'Uber-communion' service (page 14) to online camps (page 12), ingenuity has abounded. Some congregations have found that their online services have reached a much broader audience than they anticipated,

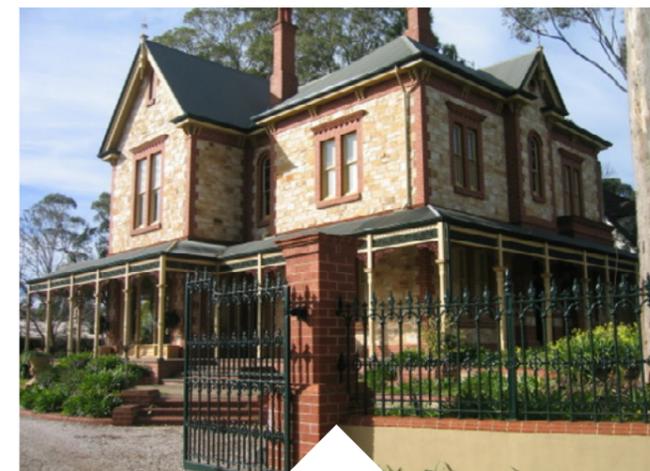
While the information contained in Together is correct at the time of going to print, we recognise that COVID-19 is an evolving concern and therefore some details published may have changed by the time this magazine reaches our readers.

and it's exciting and encouraging to know that new ways of worshipping have opened these doors.

While a lot has happened since the January bushfires, their effects are still very much felt by fire-affected families. You can read about how our members are still supporting those in need, along with some notes of gratitude from those assisted, on page 10.

With many congregations having headed back to face-to-face worship, we celebrate this transition and thank God for the opportunities and learnings that have been discovered throughout the process.

As we reflect on this unpredictable year to date it is apparent that life is often not what we expect – but watching God at work within our community has been a timely reminder to keep our focus on him and the love and provision he offers us throughout it all.



Basket Range sandstone has been used extensively throughout South Australia for over 100 years and our quarry continues to produce a wide range of traditional finishes, in both solid block and veneer/cladding.

Whether you require sandstone to restore your church or property to its former glory, or would like an addition to match your building or garden, please contact us.

For more photos and information, please visit our website.



262 Basket Range Road, Basket Range SA

sales@basketrangesandstone.com.au

(08) 8390 3420

www.basketrangesandstone.com.au



Pastor David Altus
Bishop SA-NT District
Lutheran Church of Australia

A word from your Bishop...

We are always learning to trust God.

There is always something new to test and challenge our faith in him every day.

This year we are learning to trust God, individually and together as church, in ways we never anticipated. The truth is we are not *“all in this together”* in the same way during 2020. Some have been hit harder with what they’re experiencing and feeling, others are being more severely tested in different ways.

Lutheran Community Care tells me that they are seeing more people - students, professionals and people from all walks of life - looking for basic assistance, such as food relief. I heard this week that in one of our Lutheran schools alone 25% of families have indicated financial hardship. More pastors than normal are currently on leave for stress or mental exhaustion, and most express a depletion of mental energy. Some have indicated they are in a very dark place.

At some point we all come to the end of our inner resources. Who hasn’t called out to God at some time *“Lord save me!”* when we fear going under, as we are swamped by demands, sucked under by self-

doubt, overwhelmed by unmeetable expectations, afraid we won’t be able to get through whatever “it” is.

In Matthew 14:22-33, twelve disciples of Jesus are rowing hard into the night against the wind. They don’t know if they are going to make it to the other side in the darkness. Jesus comes

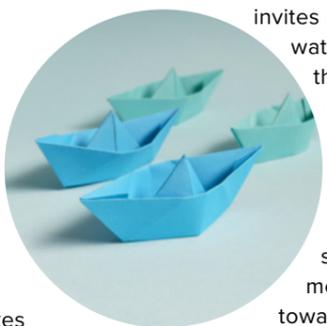


to them on the water. They may have lost sight of him, but he hadn’t lost sight of them. In fact, he had been praying for them on a hillside overlooking the lake where they were struggling to stay afloat. As he comes to them, the disciples think he is a ghost – they, like us, question whether there is anything or anyone real to hang on to in the darkness.

Jesus says: *“It is I; don’t be afraid.”*

Fear is the dangerous undertow, the rip that threatens to drag us away from God. Fear threatens to engulf the disciples in their boat. Fear is what paralyzes Peter, and makes us feel like all we are doing is treading water before we drown. Fear makes us tired, wears down our faith and creates doubts about God.

To the disciples’ fear, and to our own, Jesus says, *“Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”* The phrase “It is I” is actually “I AM”, the sacred name of God in the Old Testament – the God



who made order out of the chaotic watery mess that covered everything at creation, who opened up a path for the Israelites through the Red Sea, who rescued Jonah when he was thrown overboard, and the God who has pulled you through the waters of your baptism and saved and rescued you for all eternity.

Peter grew in confidence at the sound of Jesus’ voice. Peter says, *“Lord, if it’s you, tell me to come to you on the water.”* Now I would have said “If it is you Lord, come here and get in the boat with us!” or “If you really are out there stop the storm”. But Peter doesn’t just ask Jesus to do something for him to fix everything, Peter asks Jesus to tell him to come out on the water and walk to him through the wind and the waves!

So Jesus takes Peter at his faith and invites him to step out on to the water, to walk on top of and through the chaotic sea to him. Sometimes Jesus calls us to come to him in situations where we have nothing but his promise and invitation to stand on. Faith is never mere bravado, it is walking towards Jesus, listening to his call to come to him through anything life throws at us, daring to believe we will not go under.

Peter only goes under when he stops focussing on Jesus. Now normally Peter could talk under water, but this time he has to. *“Lord save me”* he blubbers. And Jesus reaches out his hand and grabs Peter, keeping him

from going under. When they reach the boat where they were literally “all in it together” they worshipped Jesus, recognising him as Lord and God of the waves, and of their lives.

“Lord save me! Lord have mercy!”

On a recent trip to Mt Gambier the service began with these very words. We come to Jesus, together in the same boat in worship, saying *“Lord save us”* - for ourselves, for those we know and love who are hurting, for the church, and for a suffering world.

We look to Jesus to help us, when what needs to be done is overwhelming or simply beyond us. We put our hand in his outstretched one and we trust him, with our own life and death, and with his world. We dare to believe he can handle what we can’t, provide what we don’t have to walk on, and walk through whatever it is we face.

If you are going under right now personally, or fear for the future of your church, Jesus comes to you in this story and these words. He reaches through them to grab hold of you so you don’t go under, but stand, and even walk on and through whatever threatens to sink you - walking towards him. One day we all have to go under - 6 feet under when we die - but even then faith walks through the valley of the shadow of death fearing no evil, for the Lord is there too with us. His hand reaches into the grave and will one day pull us out - that’s his promise, the word on which our faith is based, and by which we live, and live through anything.

From the Bishop’s diary...

On the road again

It is good to be out and about meeting God’s people in person once again and joining you in “COVID-safe” worship, including Holy Communion and coffee!

A six day road trip to the **Eyre Peninsula** enabled me to sit with pastors and reflect on the past months, which was greatly encouraging.

In late July I was finally able to attend to the installation of **Pastor Andrew Vanderwal** at Ceduna, which had been postponed from its original date in March.

Mt Gambier, Central Australia and **Darwin** are on the itinerary in the coming weeks.

Vacant congregations and schools are again stepping into the call process and we are planning for a pastor’s retreat in October.

Mental health

I have become very conscious of the mental health of pastors and members of the church in light of the challenges of this year so far. We have a number of pastors on stress leave and others who are close to it, and as people come together again in some places relationships are being tested. We are making decisions relating to the future shape of local ministry at a time when people are mentally tired. I encourage you to be conscious of this and to be sensitive to each other and aware of your own fragility as the year unfolds.

Retirements

We thank God for the ministries of **Mark Thiel** who retired on 28th June and **Detlev Vosgerau** on 26th July and we pray for Mark and Sue and Detlev and Phyllis as they enter the next phase of life together with God.

Impending Closure

St Johns Taplan have indicated they will close and are planning to recognise that and thank God for the life of the congregation on October 18th.

Bereavements

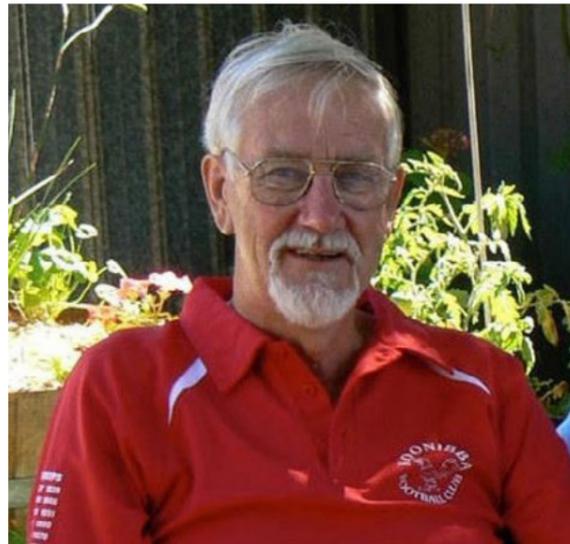
We thank God for **Dean Heyne** who died on 26th May, remembering Dean’s faithful service particularly in the area of education and especially his commitment to Aboriginal people, including in Central Australia and on the West Coast of SA. We remember Louisa and family in our prayers.

Leah Steicke (nee Briese), passionate witness to Jesus and wife of Dr Lance Steicke, died on 8th June 2020. We commend Lance and family to God’s care in their grief.

Pastor John Sabel former tertiary chaplain and pastor in Queensland and on Kangaroo Island died on 24th July. We pray that God will comfort Pastor John’s wife Helga and her family.

Remembering Dean Heyne

19/10/1937 – 08/05/2020



Photos: supplied

“You just need to love people... and to do this properly you’ll need to roll up your sleeves.”

Dean Heyne

Dean Heyne was many things to many people, but some qualities remained constant – his warmth, his love for people and his faith, that would always make him question ‘what would Jesus do in this situation?’

A respected Lutheran lay preacher in the Yalata and Oak Valley communities before his retirement in 2003, Dean was previously a teacher and principal who taught at schools all over Australia and Papua New Guinea, where he was a beloved and influential presence for generations of children.

Dean was also a keen and talented footballer. During his time at Koonibba Aboriginal School ‘Teacher Heyne’, as he was known, was bestowed the honour of being the only non-indigenous football player to be included in the Eyre Peninsula First Nations Team of the Century – an accolade that recognised Dean’s contribution to the community and the love and respect afforded him as part of it.

Dean was most happy and at home in the Aboriginal community of Koonibba, and in later years at Yalata, Oak Valley and Ceduna. His family noted the significance of the people, culture and respect of the land in Dean’s life, saying it gave him ‘the happiest days, a sense of belonging, security, respect and love that knows no other’.

Dean continued to be active in communities after his retirement through church, football, choirs, hospital boards and school council and in 2011 he was recognised for his outstanding contribution with an Order of Australia Medal.

Dean is remembered by his wife, Louisa, his children Justin, Nick and Pieta, and his nine grandchildren.

Faith journey Zachery Schubert

Before Zachery Schubert was an elite sports person, the Australian Beach Volleyball player and member of St Peter’s Lutheran Church in Loxton was already learning to exercise faith when faced with an unknown outcome – be it a match point or a life path.

“As a farming family we ride the waves of the highs and lows with drought and hardship,” says Zachery. “But we have a solid foundation of faith that everything is going to be OK and no matter how bad it gets, God is always going to be there.”

As a child Zachery regularly attended church with his family, but it wasn’t until he moved away from home that his faith journey really began.

“Faith is never linear, it’s always going to be up and down and that’s what I’ve definitely found,” he says. “I went for two years without doing a lot in the church and without doing a lot with my faith, and then realised how much I need it when you start to grow up and need something to lean on.”

With his sights set on an Olympic gold medal, Zachery’s busy schedule means he’s usually in a new country every week for more than a third of the year, representing Australia in tournaments across the globe. The COVID-19 pandemic has meant that this routine has changed indefinitely, and Zachery says it is his belief in God’s plan for his life that reassures him in times of uncertainty and keeps him grounded.

“I think it’s really fascinating when you get into the elite sporting world how many people are actually of faith,” says Zachery. “And I think a lot of people need the faith, because sport is an environment where you don’t know the end result.”

Zachery is also an entrepreneur - his business Schubugs is



Zachery (second from left) with his volleyball teammates

a cricket breeding facility that currently supplies pet stores but aims to expand production for human consumption in the future. Schubugs, which Zachery runs with his dad, Tim, was born through Zachery’s Bachelor of Nutrition studies, something he’s been doing ‘in his spare time’. With their high protein content, Zachery saw the nutritional potential of the insects and was inspired to try his hand at farming them. What started in Zachery’s garage quickly became a commercial operation and shifted to the family farm. Crickets require very little water, making them a sustainable option to produce in difficult and dry conditions.

Zachery feels that God has opened doors for him in all arenas.

“God continues to give me opportunity, it’s that simple,” he says. “Every time I open the bible it somehow relates to my current position in life. God has given me the skills and the opportunity, I’m just rolling with his vision.”



Zachery and his father, Tim, at the family cricket farm which is run out of shipping containers on their property.



Photos: supplied



District update

By Angela Rogers
District Administrator

As I write this piece there are so many thoughts and mixed emotions running through my head. Joy as we celebrate with congregations who have returned to worshipping publicly and enjoying other activities together; concern for all who live and work in our aged care centres, but so thankful for all the precautions that are in place and the wonderful leaders and staff; disappointment as our Christian Life Week camps move online, but also joy that technology will allow them to join together for an online event; and happiness that the District Office team are all able to meet and work in our office again. But through all of this I give thanks to God for his enduring love, watching over us all and being in all that we do in His name.

COVID-19 Update

The District Office continues to monitor the changing government regulations and we aim to update you as soon as possible. Please do keep an eye on the District's website, Facebook page, our eNews and congregation emails, and remember that the District Office staff are here to support you if you have any questions.

District Convention of Synod

Although our District Convention was cancelled, a successful online version was hosted. I am pleased to report that all proposals were approved by the delegates. Thank you to our

delegates for participating.

We are in the early stages of planning for a convention on 15-16 May 2021 - please note this in your church calendar. More details will be advised soon.

2021 will be a big year as there will be a District Pastors Conference, District Convention of Synod, General Pastors Conference and a General Convention of Synod. Please budget for delegate and pastor expenses accordingly.

Work Health and Safety

Now is a good time to ensure that your church is ready for the approaching summer. Think about trimming trees, checking gutters and clearing any debris before the fire season approaches. Don't forget to do this at the manse and any other properties.

During recent months the District Office team have spoken to many people from all parts of our church and we have been so blessed by the innovative ways that you have reached out to our community to show them that God is with them through everything. All of your phone calls have been so caring and have shown that you are doing all that you can to protect your people. We have appreciated your calls and emails so much.

As we continue in these uncertain times we can be sure of God's love for us all and I pray that we can all be witnesses for him.

Life during Coronavirus shutdown for the District Office staff

By Michelle Storie
Executive Administration Assistant

Life has certainly been very different for many of us over the last few months. As the Government mandated that our churches must shut their doors and we should all try to stay home, the staff at the District Office also had to start making plans to work remotely. It was strange sending staff home one by one with their computers packed into boxes, taking their files, paperwork and in some cases even chairs with them. Eventually there was just myself, Angela and Holly who remained in the office to keep things running.

We are very fortunate that we live in an era where technology allows us to stay connected and mobile as this meant that we were able to speak to staff in their various home locations – from here in metropolitan Adelaide, to the Adelaide Hills and even one staff member in Loxton! Distance was no issue, so long as the internet connection was good. We had regular meetings via Microsoft Teams, which allowed us to not only speak to each other but to see each other and remain connected as staff. One staff meeting even had us bring our favourite coffee cup and morning tea to 'share'.

Those of us who remained in the District Office undertook to speak to someone from each and every one of our congregations – all 180 of you! – to see how everyone was coping during shutdown and to check that you had access to the resources you needed. Then came JobKeeper, which required another round of conversations, this time with Treasurers. Through all of these conversations it was encouraging to hear how well you had all adapted to the necessary changes and how you were supporting each other during the time we could not be face to face.

With the recent easing of restrictions, many of our churches are again meeting face to face, and so are we at the District Office. All staff have now returned to working from the office, and we're happy to again be able to work collaboratively to support our congregations and members. We are celebrating with you as we see pictures of congregations returning to worship centres and thanking God for the many gifts he gives to us. The District Office staff are very much looking forward to continuing to support you all as we see what God has in store for us in the future.



Professional Standards Department updates

By Dave Biar and Holly Koning
Professional Standards Officer & Professional Standards Assistant

Working With Children Checks (WWCC) are required for most in leadership positions, and also for those who would normally work with children. For our Northern Territory members a WWCC is an Ochre Card. If you have a current police check (NPC), this is no longer sufficient. Members cannot start working with children without a current WWCC. If you only hold an NPC or your WWCC is approaching expiry it is now urgent for you to apply for a WWCC.

Guidelines for safe online ministry with young people are now available on the LCA Online Communication webpage. Other social media documents are also available on the same page. Even though most congregations have now already set up online ministry events it's not too late to review. As with any ministry event it should be planned well, risk assessed and managed, and formally approved by your governing council (possibly through the SP3 system and Permission to Proceed). Please do not underestimate the need for this or dangers present. Unscrupulous persons have already been taking advantage of the current situation.

Face-to-face Safe Church Training workshops have now resumed. They are subject to meeting whatever the current COVID-safe plans might be. Face-to-face delivery provides interaction with others and a better learning experience for many and remains our preferred form of delivery, however online training will still be offered.

In addition to the full version of Safe Church Training, we are pleased to be able to introduce Safe Church Refresher

Training, available in both face-to-face and online delivery.

Refresher training is half the length of full Safe Church Training, and is available for people who:

- Have completed full Level 1 Safe Church Training components since 2017
- Now need to update their Safe Church training (valid for three years)

For those who would prefer, we will try to also make a face-to-face version of refresher training available at a similar time to full face-to-face training. For those completing it online, please allow at least three hours.

As with the Safe Church Level 1 online training the online version is hosted online on ALC's iLearn platform. It is not a live webinar, can be completed any time and does not need to be completed in one attempt. You will be able to save your work and come back later to finish the session.

The training fee, to be charged to your local congregation or ministry, is \$15.00

You can register through the Safe Church Training page - www.lca.org.au/psd-training – please note the registration process can take up to a week.

Fireground Update

Still serving support

An ‘uplifting, warm hugging experience’ is how one grateful Adelaide Hills resident has described the meals delivery service for bushfire affected locals, that began in December last year as blazes tore through the area and has continued to support those in need many months down the track.

While fire-affected families have moved into the next stages of recovery, members of the Lutheran Church who have been coordinating delivery and assisting with cooking meals have seen a unanimous outpouring of thanks and gratitude from those they continue to serve.

When *Together* magazine spoke to St John’s Lutheran Church member and delivery coordinator Kelly Johnston about the project six months ago in March, she knew that the project would extend beyond the short-term.



The Coronavirus pandemic saw a significant decline in both volunteer delivery drivers and cooks, but support from businesses including Bird in Hand winery and Five Little Figs café, as well as continued provision of meals from Victor Harbour Lutheran Church, was gratefully received and meant the service could be maintained.

Kelly feels that the connections and relationships forged through the service have been a testament to the love and compassion delivered alongside the meals.

“Many of our drivers have connected with homeowners and are now supporting them through regular conversations, check-ins and even providing physical items, especially if they have lost their home,” she says.

“The Holy Spirit is filling the delivery drivers with empathy and hope, which they are able to share with those they are visiting, and God is blessing the volunteers who are often humbled by the time they spend with people who are so resilient.”

Kelly says that when people question why and how the meals delivery service is still running more than six months after the fires, she points to God’s continuing provision and guidance.

“Whenever we are running low on meals, monetary donations, items for care packs or delivery drivers, God provides for us,” she says.

If you are interested in volunteering to make or deliver meals for fire affected families please email onka.parish@internode.on.net

Notes of Thanks from meal recipients

*Thank you so very much to everyone involved in this. Was beyond amazing to receive some beautiful meals at a very difficult time. The support and kindness really means so much to a whole lot of people I’m sure xx **Kerrie***

*Thank you so much for helping us out during that time after the fires came through, until we could get on our feet again. Your smiles, your kindness, and your generosity meant so much to us, and we will always remember you all in this way. **Jenni***

*Thank you all for your time, beautiful food and kind thoughts, the delivery is an uplifting, warm hugging experience which comes around every time a meal is consumed. Thank you. **Lucy***



Above: OzHarvestSA generously donated bulk fruit and veggies to the Onkaparinga Lutheran Parish, to be made into meals. Inset: donated produce and meals ready to be delivered.

“When people ask how long we will do it for, we say until the last person says that they don’t need our support any more,” Kelly said at the time.

In the months since, her words have rung true.

“We now hear from homeowners saying ‘are you still delivering meals? Thank you, it’s so nice to know that people are still thinking of us and wanting to help us,’” says Kelly.



Despite uncertainty during the COVID-19 breakout the program has evolved and grown, and continues to support approximately 250 homes, with over 10,000 meals delivered to date and that’s not including generous donations of baked goods and hampers, as well as fruit and vegetables.

Hands-on help



Seeing the desperate need for hands-on help at fire-affected properties, Adelaide Hills Lutheran church members have rallied together to establish a much needed manual labour service.

Coordinator Bronwyn Norsworthy said the idea came about after realising it could take years of work for fire-affected property owners to clean up and restore their land to pre-bushfire status.

While COVID-19 restrictions dampened the initial stages of their efforts, the relaxing of restrictions meant that volunteers could be matched with households needing help. Working alongside the homeowners, volunteers assist with jobs like clearing fences, trees and debris, and chopping wood.

“Property owners have been extremely grateful, as it has allowed them to ‘get over the hump’ and be able to move forward with the recovery phase,” says Bronwyn.

Free counselling services offered by Lutheran Community Care have also provided an opportunity for bushfire-affected locals to work through their experiences, helping them to rebuild mentally and emotionally at the same time as working on re-establishing their properties.

“God has certainly blessed this project to date in supplying individuals and groups with appropriate skills and a heart for those who are struggling. It has lifted the spirits of those we have helped, given them hope and reminded them that amongst COVID they have not been forgotten, just as God reminds us every day,” says Bronwyn.

If you have general handyman skills (particularly chainsaw or fencing experience) and would like to volunteer, please contact Bronwyn at norsy@adam.com.au



Volunteers hard at work on site.

Images supplied

Images: Fruit and veg donation/ OzHarvestSA; all other supplied

camp. online

By Ian Crambrook
Camping & Event
Ministries Coordinator



When it became clear that we would be unable to host a number of our camps earlier this year due to COVID-19, Blueprint Ministries made the decision to look for alternative ways for us to gather as God's Kingdom. Thus the idea for camp.online was born.

The camp.online program featured an online streamed morning worship service each day of "camp", prepared by each of the camp teams affected by the cancellations, and supported by congregations from their zones. Thanks to the Pastors and ministry leaders at St Petri in Nuriootpa, Good Shepherd Para Vista, Strathalbyn Parish and St Peter's in Loxton for their support of our ministry.

After worship each morning our senior participants logged onto the video conferencing platform Zoom, where they participated in small group discussions facilitated by our team of small group leaders. The discussions followed the theme of shining God's light into the world in amongst the fear and uncertainty of COVID-19. During the week, we explored the difference between darkness and light, what it means for us to shine God's light into the world, and how we might do that, and how we give hope to those around us as we struggle with the impact of the current public health situation.

While the seniors (Year 7 – 12s) participated in small group discussions, the Juniors (below Year 7) were provided with a Faith at Home

resource prepared by our Blueprint Ministry Team for them to work through with their families, following a similar theme.

Following most of the morning sessions we finished up for the day to maintain healthy boundaries on "screen-time", leaving our participants with some resources for their own private quiet reflection and prayer time in the afternoons. On two of the afternoons of the program, we offered an optional two-hour session of online games and activities facilitated by our leadership team, where we had a good laugh and spent some quality time in our online community.

While we know that an online program is limited and cannot incorporate all of the aspects on a regular onsite camp, we were very glad to have been able to provide this ministry to the young people in our district, and have learnt some very valuable lessons along the way. We are now much better placed to explore future options to incorporate an online aspect into our ministry programs.

camp.online will be offered again in the October school holidays, a combined ministry of the Riverland, Lower Murray South East and Port Hughes CLW teams. Check the Blueprint website for more information or to register, and please keep those involved in the program in your prayers.



Look out for the **Christmas Family Faith Trail**, available early October. Discover new ways to grow in faith with fun activities, discussions, prayers and more. A great resource for families, small groups or congregations. Contact Jeanette Mann at jeanette.mann@lca.org.au for more info, or check the Blueprint Facebook page.

Working bee participants on-site. From left: Brian Kroehn, Bob Page, Pastor Greg Page, Alice Page, Bailey Page, Max Joyce, Trevor Hartmann, Merv Klemm, Bruce Keller.



Memories preserved at Sandleton

The once-proud church building at Sandleton may have been demolished, but thanks to the efforts of a team of locals who have been restoring the site, the precious memories there have been preserved.

The church was closed in 1955 and was knocked down in 2016 after years of deterioration. What was a mass of stones and rubble has now been transformed into a welcoming and orderly scene, featuring a striking stone wall constructed with salvaged limestone from the demolished church.

The restoration and preservation of the area has been a passionate family project for Bob Page, whose family connections to the church stretch back generations. Bob's ancestors, the Frost family, first settled at Sandleton in the 1870s and were part of the original church congregation. Bob was child when he first attended the church in 1950, and several of his family members are buried in the cemetery.

Bob embarked on the project together with his sons, Jamie Page and Pastor Greg Page (Immanuel Lutheran Church, Novar Gardens) and Delton Schiller (Murray Bridge Lutheran Homes). They also had a team of volunteers assist at a number of working bees, at times camping out on site for several days.

It took some time to conceptualise the distinctive stone cemetery wall. The finished product is a labour of love, standing at an impressive 42 linear metres.

"Several generous donations were received toward the project, giving the team scope to consider their options for the cemetery wall," said Pastor Greg.

The team had pondered a professionally built stone wall, but abandoned the idea when it came in well over the available budget.

"After significant prayer and investigation, a solution was



The new stone wall around the cemetery. Inset: The old church building before it was demolished

found using gabion wire cages, which are usually used for retaining walls," said Pastor Greg.

While the gabion cages gave some structure, they were not designed to hold the weight of the limestone being used, so every stone had to be hand-chosen and stacked inside the cages. The nearly 30 tonne of limestone was loaded onto trailers at the church site, transported the one hundred metre distance to the cemetery, offloaded into wheelbarrows and carried to the empty cages, where the volunteer 'stackers' then placed them inside. The larger stones had to be broken into smaller pieces with a sledgehammer or trimmed to fit.



"God has undoubtedly blessed this project," said Pastor Greg. "After months striving to get this wall built from within my own capabilities I finally remembered to hand it over to God - within days we had donations, materials and volunteers. The wall was completed within weeks, and we had fun doing it. The look on Dad's face says it all, God is good!"

The group also worked to clean up and level the cemetery site and Bob has had name plaques made for every unmarked grave, bringing dignity back to those at risk of being forgotten. The team is now considering further work, including rebuilding the bell tower at the entrance to the cemetery, in memory of the church building.

In Brief:

The way back to public worship

The road back to face-to-face worship has seen many congregations think outside the square when it comes to connecting beyond church walls. Here we celebrate some of the further ways you've been together though apart, and some of the milestone moments from your return to public worship.



Mawson Lakes Community Church was among our congregations who continued to live-stream services online, along with a return to face-to-face worship.



Members of The Ark Salisbury Lutheran Church braved the cold weather in mid-June for a 'coffee in the car park' get-together, before restrictions were eased. Pastor Joel Cramer, Lyn Bengler (Care Worker) and Litina Tucker (Office Support) delivered the hot drinks and biscuits, which people could enjoy from the comfort of their own car or hop out for a social distance chat. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to be together as a community, as many hadn't been on site in months. There was lots of news to share and speculation about when the doors would be open for public worship.

St Thomas Lutheran Church in Stockwell held their first service back together after the lockdown on June 28th. The day was a special one for the members of the small congregation as it was also the first service for Pastor Mathew Ker in the church.



The Lord's Supper was just a phone call away for St Petri Lutheran Church members in Nuriootpa, while COVID-19 restrictions were still in place. The four Pastors there - Pastor Robert Voigt, Pastor Ken Pfitzner, Pastor Paul Lohe and Pastor Adrian Kitson - set up an 'Uber Holy Communion' service, so that people gathering in worship at home in small groups could partake, while still maintaining social distance. Equipped with a custom-made Holy Communion Kit, each Pastor was ready to head out on the road to visit small groups on request.

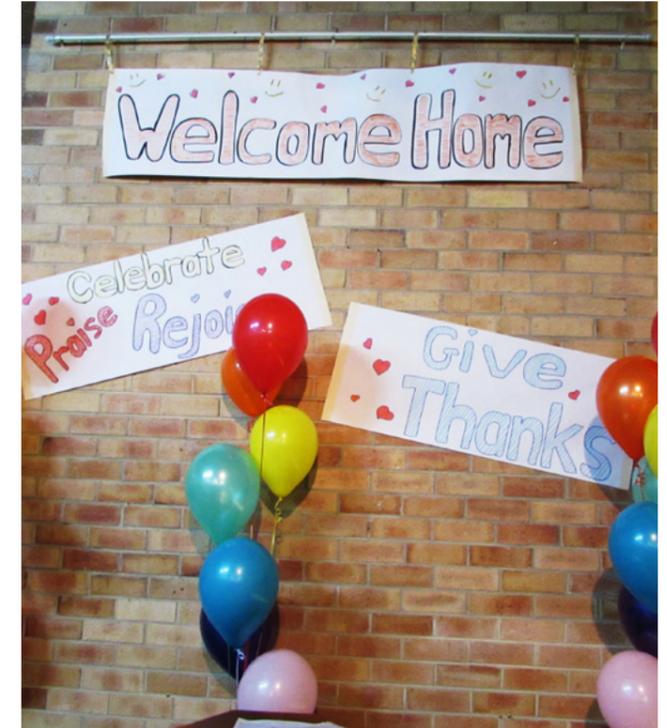
Images: The Ark Salisbury coffee in the carpark/Rachel Cramer; St Thomas Stockwell/ Ken Jaeger; all others supplied

We're back in the building!

Our congregations are thankful to be able to worship face-to-face again.



St John's Lutheran Church, Buccleuch



St Peters Lutheran Church, Elizabeth



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Port Lincoln



Gawler Lutheran Church



Mawson Lakes Community Church



Golden Grove Lutheran Church

Images: supplied

Locusts threaten hunger crisis!



Billions of locusts swarming across East Africa are devouring crops and putting millions of people at risk of hunger.

Heavy rainfall over the last year has created ideal breeding conditions for destructive desert locusts. Tens of thousands of hectares of crops ready for harvest are destroyed.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) reports 1.5 million to 2.5 million people are in danger. Areas where our Lutheran family works through ALWS are in the path of the huge swarms.

Eastern Equatoria in South Sudan, where the child in photo lives, is under direct threat. In Magwi County our Lutheran family is helping 5,000 refugees start again. Here, 60% of crops are already invaded.

NW Kenya, where Lutherans support refugees and local Turkana people, has the largest swarms in 70 years.

Did you know

Female locusts lay up to
158 eggs per pod

Reproduce 3 times

Hatch in 2 weeks

Live 3 – 5 months

Eat their body weight every day

Travel up to 150 kms
per day on wind

Swarm can last decade

Photo: ALWS

Your 4 Step Action Plan

ALWS will work through the ACT Alliance of churches from across the world to help families most at risk. As Governments and military carry out ground and aerial spraying of the swarms, through ALWS you can support:

- 1 cash transfers to families who lose food supply**
- 2 seeds for next planting season**
- 3 fodder for livestock**
- 4 ongoing development work**

The goal is to help 49,900 people in greatest danger from hunger – including children, pregnant and lactating mothers, people with disability, the elderly.

DONATE NOW: alws.org.au * 1300 763 407



actalliance

