**LCANZ Local Mission Annual Appeal**

**Announcement script –** with, or without, the accompanying PowerPoint slide

Good morning. We are probably all aware of congregations getting smaller, churches closing down, long vacancies where no pastor can be found ... and we feel the pain at what that means for the people we are here to reach. That's why today I want to share with you good news about green shoots growing, in places where you may not see them. New congregations being planted by people like Jacob and Kate in Canberra [OR] Matt and Becca in Rockingham, Western Australia.

[Choose one, or both, of the following stories]

JACOB AND KATE met at university in Adelaide, before moving to Canberra for work in 2013, the same year they were married. They have been involved in Immanuel’s journey as a sending church and Jacob co-led Immanuel’s first missional community. Jacob is now employed by Immanuel as a church planter, while also completing theological studies. Kate is a member of the Lutheran Church of Australia’s Committee for New and Renewing Churches and works full-time as a statistician. They enjoy playing board games and hiking in Canberra’s bushland and they have a passion for getting the gospel out.

Jacob says, ‘Canberra needs more churches and more Christians in our community. This city has the second-highest percentage of non-religious people in Australia. Imagine what would change if more people in Canberra experienced the love and hope we receive from Christ!’

MATT AND BECCA are newly married, living in the growing city of Rockingham with a pet budgie and lots of indoor plants. Matt has a background in youth and young adult ministry. He’s completing his Master of Theology through Australian Lutheran College while leading, with the Rockingham Mandurah Lutheran Church, in their church planting journey. Becca’s studying too, and is a gifted violinist, a wiz at hospitality and enjoys joining Matt in ministry.

Matt tells us that ‘1.2 million West Australians don’t know the gospel of Jesus. Church planting is the best way to change that!’

The Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand’s Local Mission office have launched their first appeal. Your support of this fundraising appeal enables you, with people like Jacob and Kate [OR] Matt and Becca, to share the good news of God’s amazing love.

Your donation enables **New and Renewing Churches** to provide mentoring, training and financial assistance to sending churches and church plants. Your donation enables **Cross-Cultural Ministry** to assist you in ensuring every congregation of the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand is inclusive and welcoming. Your donation enables **Grow Ministries** to assist congregations in their intergenerational ministry and **Ministry with the** **Ageing** to assist you with care for the older members of our communities. And your donation ensures that the message of God’s love can be heard via **Lutheran Media**.

Will you join in? Grab your appeal envelope today.