



LCA Pastoral Care Nurse **NOTES & NEWS**

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We are living in difficult times, and when a pandemic such as we are in the middle of strikes, our world is turned upside down. How we respond in and to these new circumstances can make a huge difference, not only to us but especially also to those we care for.

As creatures of habit, most of us don't cope well with change. Parish Nurses and Pastoral Carers have had to find new ways to deliver care in their specific environments and locations. *Trinity Pasadena* is a retirement village attached to Trinity Lutheran Church in suburban Adelaide. It has a team of deacons and pastoral carers. With residents confined and isolated, and physical visiting restricted, maintaining contact and giving support needed a different approach.

Suddenly technology became the hero to save the day! Telephones and emails were the main means of contact. Making sure nobody was left out had to be organised. This included congregation members, many of whom are also elderly. With so much negativity and bad news, encouragement and keeping people connected was an important challenge. ***'Love one another as I have loved you'*** (John 13:34) was the central message, as well as our Lord's assurance that he would be with us no matter what.

People in the village and congregation responded by leaving gifts of baked biscuits, cakes, fruits, flowers etc, plus caring cards or notes for others, especially those with little or no family support. Shopping and other support such as visits to doctor were organised for anyone with no family support, and people got to know each other better. As restrictions eased, some residents joined each other for a 'cuppa' – outside of course!

Trinity's Caring and Sharing newsletter was a new initiative for keeping people involved and connected. People were asked to write or contribute articles and photos about themselves or other relevant matters to a stated theme such as Mother's day or International Nurses day. This was edited, collated and sent via emails either weekly or fortnightly. Those without emails received a printed copy. After encouragement, the response was amazing! People wanted to tell their stories, and soon everyone learnt so much more about each other. *Trinity's* ethnically diverse community contributed articles when requested. Everyone benefitted!

As well as supporting each other, Pastoral carers assisted Pastor Huckel with on-line church services. doing Scripture readings and saying prayers. Now that life is gradually returning to normal, the hope is that we have all learnt to love each other more and will continue our caring actions.



The pandemic is not over, but as we move forward let us do so with gratitude to our heavenly Father who cares for us.

Kristina Reeve

About race relations

As the Lutheran Church of Australia embarks on its Reconciliation Action Plan to improve relations between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal members of the church, the Executive Director of the Westberg Institute for Faith Community Nursing, Dr Katora Campbell (pictured), has issued the following challenge to nurses, in the light of racial tensions, particularly in the United States.

‘As respected, trusted members of your community, you are poised to champion the values of peace, listening, and encouraging others to do the same. I challenge you to stretch your comfort level. Allow yourself to experience being uncomfortable for a time by placing ‘listening’ at the heart of your nursing care, and see through the eyes of another’s lived experience of injustice, fear, and hope. Listening in this way is not always comfortable or easy, but it is an important step toward understanding and acting.

We applaud the faith community nurses and parish nurses who are taking the unprecedented step of standing among community contentions to support prayer, peace and listening. The intentional care of the spirit is needed now more than ever!

‘May God provide you with insight to react as a leader to preserve hope, to bring peace, and to treat humankind with patience, kindness and dignity.

‘As Martin Luther King, Jr taught us: “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere”’.



Singapore nurse completes introductory course

Earlier this month, Jennifer Chua Bee Kiaw became the first Singaporean Lutheran to qualify as a Pastoral Care Nurse when she completed the international version of LNAA’s introductory course. Jennifer is a pastor’s wife at the Bedok Lutheran church.

Lutheran ministry began at Bedok in 1978, and the present church was dedicated on Reformation Day, 31 October, 1981. The congregation’s web site lists 12 care groups, and it operates a kindergarten that was established in 1982.

Jennifer teaches Sunday school at Bedok, and serves as a nurse at church functions.

She was one of two recipients of a Lutheran Parish Nurses International scholarship to attend the aborted study tour to Alice Springs that was scheduled for this month.

This scholarship has been held over for next year’s study tour to the United States.

Registration forms for this introductory course are available from: robert.wiebusch@lca.org.au



Lutheran Parish Nurses International

Registration forms for the 2021 LPNI study tour to eastern USA on 15-21 September are available on the LPNI web site at lpni.org, or from robert.wiebusch@lca.org.au.

Tourists will spend three days in Washington DC, where they will visit the national Bible museum and the cathedral. They will then move to Williamsburg for three nights, returning to Washington for a final night. In Williamsburg they will participate in a service project at a local Christian Outreach Centre.

Cost for a shared room is US\$2077 (earlybird US\$1877). A single room costs US\$2552 (earlybird US\$2352). A US\$500 deposit is payable by 15 October.

A combined tour to Alice Springs in Central Australia and Madang in Papua New Guinea is being planned for 2022.

Participants will be able to register for either or both sectors of this tour. Further information will be available later this year.

