

# TOGETHER

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

## DISTRICT YOUTH *Gather for Christian Life Weeks*

**Lending an Ear ...  
Chaplaincy at work  
in our District**

**GROWING  
TOGETHER:**  
*Church and  
College Collaborate  
to Create Garden*

**LUTHERAN  
COMMUNITY  
CARE  
CELEBRATE  
MILESTONE**



**LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
OF AUSTRALIA**

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
NORTHERN TERRITORY**

# TOGETHER

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

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Campers at Metro CLW were covered in colour after playing Capture the Flag with coloured powder. Photo: supplied.



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## I welcome all of you to the spring edition of Together.

It is with a tinge of sadness that this is my final edition as the editor of Together. By the time this magazine reaches your church, home or school, I will be living across the Tasman (which is a terrifying but exciting prospect).

It has been a joy to speak with so many of you, far and wide around the district, and to work with the wonderful team at the District Office. My time in this role has been enjoyable, albeit much shorter than I had planned. However, God's plans for us rarely match up with the ones we have made in our own minds, and I am looking forward to whatever he has in store next.

If spring is the season of opportunity and change, I hope that some of the initiatives featured in this magazine – and also out in your community – encourage and inspire you.

This issue is packed with a range of stories from all around the district, such as a collaboration between Tatachilla Lutheran College and St Pauls Lutheran Church in McLaren Vale, which is a great example of our schools and churches working together. There is also a double-page feature celebrating Blueprint Ministries' winter Christian Life Week camps, as well as an insight into the ministry of our volunteer chaplains.

I wish you all the best as the days lengthen out again, the trees start to look greener and the footy finals send the country into a flurry.

**Blessings.**

## EDITORIAL

Bethany Slaughter  
Together Magazine Editor



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## Bishop's Notebook

By Pastor David Altus

Bishop, SA-NT District, Lutheran Church of Australia

### Pastors

Pastor Rolf Lungwitz returns to active ministry after four years' Leave of Absence. He will serve Hampstead 0.5 FTE from mid-August for six months while Hampstead explore options for the future. Pray for Rolf as he re-enters pastoral ministry.

Pastor Peter Fuhlbohm, who had been serving at Southern Yorke Peninsula, has relocated to NSW to serve in Lavington. En route to his new parish, Peter had a car accident and we pray for his full recovery and start in his new parish in the NSW District.

Pastor Brian Keller completed five years of serving Port Pirie in "semi-retirement." We thank him and Elaine for the gift they have been there and pray God's blessing on them in the future. He will be available to the Port Pirie church for emergencies and special needs, but we "farewelled" him at the recent celebration of 100 years of worship in Port Pirie on July 28.

### Financial Viability of Parishes

This has become an issue for a growing number of parishes, including within metropolitan Adelaide. Since this affects the calls of several incumbent pastors, I ask you to pray for these parishes, their pastors and families in this time of uncertainty for them.

### Congregations and Parishes

St Andrews Lutheran Church, Port Pirie celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of regular worship in that city on July 28. It is good to read the early histories of these places, as they are stories of innovation, adaptation and responding to need and opportunity, being served in all sorts of ways from various distances. We can learn and be inspired by those who have gone before us to face and respond to the changing landscape today.

Grace Lutheran Church Tanunda will be formed from St Pauls Tanunda and St Johns Tanunda if the proposal is adopted at a meeting on August 18, merging the two congregations.

Berri-Barmera Lutheran Church was formed recently and Pastor Dean Mills has accepted the call to serve this new entity.

## A Word of Encouragement...

*'And now, just as you received Christ Jesus as your Lord, continue to live your lives in him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness' – Colossians 2:6-7.*

### Lutheran Community Care

This year marks 50 years of expressing God's love through Lutheran Community Care. Various events are planned to mark this milestone, including a thanksgiving service at St Stephen's Lutheran Church, Adelaide on September 29. We thank God for everyone who has served over the years, either as an employee or volunteer, and to all of you who have supported LCC financially or in any other way. God knows how far your expressions of faith active in love have gone in the lives of people in South Australia and the Northern Territory.

### Bereavement

Pastors Colin Rohrlach, Keith Peters and Dudley Liebel have passed away since the last *Together*. We remember all of them with thanks to God for their service, and we pray for their loved ones.

I travelled to Yalata to preach at the funeral of Keith Peters, the first Aboriginal Lutheran Pastor in SA. It was good to be there as a sign of support from the wider church, as we have no lay worker there and no Ceduna pastor. Keith had only recently preached in Ceduna, and his funeral was a witness by the Yalata community to Christ and to the esteem that Keith was held in as a preacher and shepherd.

### Farewell

We say goodbye to our *Together* Editor Bethany, who leaves us to take up full time work in Wellington NZ. We pray that God will go with you on this adventure and thank you for serving us well.

### Children & Families, Youth & Young Adults (CFYYAM)

We have just welcomed the new CFYYAM staff into the District Office. There are now three part time (0.8 FTE) positions in this ministry area after a restructure (in partnership with LCA Grow Ministries). Now working with Ian Crambrook (Camping and Events Coordinator), who began earlier this year, are Jeanette Mann and Joanne Chamberlain.

Team Leader: Jeanette Mann is a Pastoral Care Worker at Callington Primary School. Prior to this, she was Children's Ministry Assistant at St John's Lutheran Church in Bundaberg for three years, as well as School Chaplain in Bundaberg for six years. Jeanette also worked as the Reception - Year 12 Care Ministry Coordinator for over ten years at Unity College in Murray Bridge. Jeanette is an Accredited Lay Worker and has a Certificate of Parish Work, a Diploma of Teaching and a Graduate Diploma of Theology in Education. She is a member of the LCA and active in congregational life and worship.

Congregational Coach: Joanne Chamberlain was the Child, Youth and Family Coordinator at Gawler Lutheran Church and a chaplain in Gawler Schools. Prior to this, Joanne was the manager at the Christian Community Hub in Tanunda and the Ministry Development Coordinator at Langmeil Lutheran Church, Tanunda. Joanne has been a Grow team leader at Gawler and a leadership mentor. She is an Accredited Lay Worker and has a Certificate IV in Christian Ministry and Theology, along with a range of other relevant qualifications (including Seasons for Growth and Toolbox Parenting). She is a member of the LCA and active in congregational life and worship.

We thank God for leading these people to serve with us in District ministry. No doubt you will be hearing from our new team, since the intention of restructuring this ministry was further resourcing and equipping you locally for ministry among young people and their families, and in intergenerational ministry. Pray for Jeanette, Joanne and Ian as they get off the ground and develop relationships with each other and with you in the life of the District.

### ALC Graduates

The bishops get to know potential ALC graduates (there may be seven this year) in August and again in October prior to potential assignment. Pray for these men and for where they might best serve in the life of the LCA next year – and yes, please pray for more!

### Supervision

Pastor Gordon Wegener has been working with the LCA Church Worker Support Department on the detail and resources relating to pastoral supervision, which will be required for all pastors in all denominations by the Royal Commission, but is a healthy exercise in and of itself for the wellbeing of pastors and the church. Leaders of Christian Churches SA have it on our agenda to tackle this ecumenically, since we all face the same need for supervisors. If any of you would consider training to be an accredited pastoral supervisor, please let me or Gordon Wegener know.

### Out and About

Lately, I have been asked if I preach much. The short answer is, on average, 2-3 Sundays a month over the course of a year. It can be challenging to find preparation time, but I find it a joy and mutual blessing to be out proclaiming God's word and meeting his people. This year, I have had fewer special occasions to preach at, and have sometimes invited myself. Since the last issue of *Together*, preaching Sundays have included Berri (amalgamation and call meeting), Darwin (50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary), Palmerston North in NZ (prior to the Bishops' Retreat), Aberfoyle Park, Port Pirie (100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary), Auburn/Balaklava, Stockwell, Tanunda (amalgamation and call meeting), Freeling (installation) and the New Horizons mission conference. I wish you could come with me to see God at work in the life of his people. There is much to thank him for and people who need to be fed and encouraged.

### Assistant Bishop for Mission

Stephen Schultz is on R&R leave until early October. We pray he comes back safe and refreshed. I noted he happened to be in London on the last day of the first Test match ...

## DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Pastor Installations

Geoff Kuchel at Light Lutheran Church on August 25

Dean Mills at Berri-Barmera Lutheran Church on September 15

### Calls Accepted

Greg Priebbenow (Blair Athol) to Indooroopilly QLD

Greg Vangsness (Naracoorte) to Mid-North Lutheran Ministries (Clare)

Dean Mills (Berri) to Berri-Barmera Lutheran Church

Michael Dutschke (Bridgewater-Hahndorf) to Bridgewater (0.7FTE)

Rolf Lungwitz to Hampstead for six months (0.5 FTE)

### Pastoral Vacancies

**Parishes:** Barossa North, Blair Athol, Ceduna, Darwin, FRM Support Worker, Ferryden Park, Hampstead, Light (0.5), Morphett Vale, Murray Bridge – Holy Cross, Naracoorte, Onkaparinga, Port Pirie, Renmark, St Stephens Chinese, Southern Yorke, Whyalla, Wudinna

**Schools:** Unity - Murray Bridge, Endeavour - Mawson Lakes, Good Shepherd - Darwin, Faith - Tanunda, St Martin's Mount Gambier

**Aged Care:** Riverview Loxton.



## Principal's Tours 2019

- + Concordia Campus (Years 7 to 12) **Tuesday, 29 October**
- + St John's Campus (ELC to Year 6) **Wednesday, 30 October**

Register online  
[www.concordia.sa.edu.au](http://www.concordia.sa.edu.au)

Engage. Achieve. Serve.

# Church and College Collaborate to Create St Pauls Walk

By Bethany Slaughter



Tatachilla Lutheran College's Conservation and Land Management Course students. Photo: Karen Lawrence.

The front garden of St Pauls Lutheran Church, McLaren Vale is sprouting seedlings and a brand new look, thanks to the students of Tatachilla Lutheran College's Conservation and Land Management course.

Ten students, led by project leaders Skye Dunn and Mitchell Livingston, have collaborated with St Pauls as part



Students hard at work planting, Photos: Tim Castle-Schmidt, Karen Lawrence

of their coursework, which requires them to landscape an area. St Pauls' Pastor Tim Castle-Schmidt, a former teacher at the college, knew of the program and recognised an opportunity to connect with the local school.

"We've tended to think of schools as a natural mission space for us, but



I don't think it's quite that simple," he says. "We actually need to think 'how can we work together to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes?'"

Beyond simply refreshing the church entrance, Castle-Schmidt hopes St Pauls Walk is a place for the community to meditate, spend time with God and step out of their busy lives.

"Finding or making the time to do those things is not easy, and so if you've got a nice setting ... hopefully that will invite people in."

The students designed the garden, considering factors such as plant species, growth patterns and accessibility, and completed planting at the end of June.

St Pauls' members laid down mulch the following week, while Tatachilla's Doorways 2 Construction program



Seedling Laying. Photo: Tim Castle-Schmidt.

created sleeper benches and platforms. Castle-Schmidt hopes these platforms will serve as an ongoing gallery space to partner with the Tatachilla art department, as well as local artists.

Course Trainer Karen Lawrence believes the skills and knowledge gleaned from hands-on, environmental learning not only teaches students to think independently, but also prepares them for jobs that will arise in the future.

"When kids are empowered with that sort of information, they're able to have a closer ownership with the country and are also able to work at a more personal level, like 'I'm doing this because I know it's the right thing to do, and because I've got a vested interest to see how this is going to improve.'"

As part of the workplace-simulated course, the group has also created an extension to Tatachilla's EcoClassroom to house bandicoots,

visited Arid Recovery to work on releasing and monitoring endangered species, and carried out plantings in several conservation parks.

"There's lots of things that all come together to help the kids say, 'oh wow, this is pretty awesome. I didn't know that there was a job like this available.' Well, yeah, there is!"

Castle-Schmidt encourages other churches to think about how they can "use the talents and the skills of schools, as well as realising that engaging that way benefits their learning as well."

"It's good for the kids, it's good for the school, and good for the community," Lawrence says.

**"Designing, planning, and implementing St Pauls indigenous garden was definitely one of the highlights of completing our Certificate 3 in Conservation, Animal and Land Management. We designed the garden with a range of native flora, differing between low and middle storey flowering plants, with a dry creek bed as a feature in the middle. This left room for bench seats and sculptures surrounded by soon flowering flora, ensuring an enjoyable walk. Throughout this experience, we loved the hands-on work and support that we got around our ideas and plans, and look forward to seeing the long-lasting impact this garden will have!"**  
**Skye Dunn**



St Pauls Lutheran Church - Before and After. Photos: Tim Caste-Schmidt

# Longest Lutheran Lunch is Changing Lives

By Julie Slaghekke

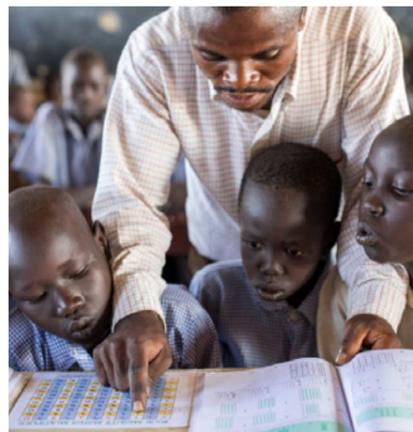


Photo Credit: ALWS

Without a doubt, a good education means we can earn a better living wage and enjoy a better quality of life. For refugee children, education is a life-changer.

Children torn from homes, families and the horrors of war find safety, food and a sense of normality at school. It helps them recover, but more importantly, it gives them real hope that life can be better.

Eugenie lost her parents and lived on the road until she was taken in by a

pastor and his wife. Eugenie and her sisters became their children and now go to school. She dreams of becoming a lawyer for the UNHCR.

Elizabeth was forced to marry at the age of 13 and had two children. At 20 years old, she returned to school. Elizabeth knows she is changing how her story ends, but she also wants to change the story for others. She plans to work in Child Protection and encourage others to find a way out of their situation.

There are thousands of similar stories. Longest Lutheran Lunch 2019 is helping refugee children realise dreams and change lives. By hosting a traditional Long Lunch or a Gourmet Grace Gathering, you can help too. Register your congregation and take part in this year's event.

An education for refugee children costs just \$26 per year, but the value is priceless!



## Do you work or volunteer with children?

New working with children checks are law from 1 July 2019

Check what to do: [screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc](http://screening.sa.gov.au/wwcc)



# Look who's coming to your LONGEST LUTHERAN LUNCH!



The Longest Lutheran Lunch is all about welcoming our community with hospitality ... just as we welcome refugees in camps like Kakuma in Kenya.

This year, your Longest Lutheran Lunch or Gourmet GRACE Gathering can help refugee children to go to school through the ALWS LCA GRACE Project. Our prayer is this will make it easier to invite people to join you!



**Launch your Lunch!**

Longest Lutheran Lunch is a simple idea:

- gather people at a LONG table
- take a LONG time sharing a meal so people can get to know each other
- and have lunches all the LONG way from the east of NZ to the west of WA.

Most importantly, invite people from outside the church, and use hospitality to connect with our communities.

You can choose your time / date / meal ... whatever suits your local skills and resources. We'll help with ideas.



**Gourmet ... or may not???**

Are you brave enough for a Gourmet GRACE Gathering ???

When people arrive, 10 per cent receive a Gourmet Guest Card, while 90 per cent receive a Ration Card. This reflects how the world's wealth is divided.

The Gourmet Guests receive a splendid banquet – whatever you can create – for which they must pay the price you decide.

The Ration Card People receive their meal FREE – but it is the same meal a new arrival at Kakuma Refugee Camp receives. Think lentils, or maize porridge as you see in the photo!

**FREE Resources:** placemats, videos, hospitality ideas, expert advice from a professional caterer, a quiz, unique African thank you gift for organisers ... and much more!

**SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER – or when it suits you!**

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## ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

By Angela Rogers  
District Administrator

### CHURCH CHAT DAY

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent Church CHAT Day – and a special thank you to our hosts, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Hampstead. We hope that everyone who attended the day found it helpful, and will share the information gained with their congregation. The Church CHAT Book has been uploaded to the District website along with the PowerPoint presentation. Both are available for download, and contain lots of information that your church council will find helpful (and good conversation starters for your meetings).

### REACHING OUT

The District office has a number of banners, flutterers and a sun shelter that can be borrowed for use at community events. These are a great way of letting the community know that there is a Lutheran Church in their area. Please contact the District Office to book these items for your next event.

At Church CHAT Day, we floated the idea of congregations purchasing

small sandwich boards, which can be placed outside the church whenever someone is inside the building to let people know they can drop in for a chat. We are seeking assistance to come up with a catchy phrase for these signs, so please send me your ideas at [administration.sa-nt@lca.org.au](mailto:administration.sa-nt@lca.org.au). The thought was that we would purchase them in bulk at a discounted rate on behalf of the congregations who order them. We will be contacting church councils about this idea in the next few weeks.

Another idea from Church CHAT Day was to have printed postcards that congregations order in preparation for Christmas. Postcards would be printed with your congregation's Christmas service details on the back and a Christmas design on the front. These can be letterbox dropped by congregation members, or put into post boxes to advertise your Christmas services. We will be contacting church councils about this idea in coming weeks as well. Please do start thinking about these ideas. We need to let people know that a church is so much more than just Sundays. We must connect with the community in a way that makes them feel comfortable. Let's be creative in our thinking about mission.

### STAFF CHANGES

During the past month, we have been blessed to welcome Jeanette Mann and Joanne Chamberlain into our District Office team. Jeanette is the CFYYAM Team Leader, and Joanne is the Congregational Coach. They are working alongside Ian (Camping and Events Coordinator) to assist congregations in reaching out to families and young people in a variety of ways. Please do invite them to partner with your congregation in this area.

As we go to print, we will be saying farewell to Bethany, our *Together* editor, as she has accepted an exciting role overseas. We sincerely thank Bethany for her work here in the District Office, and pray that God will bless her in this new venture. Next edition, we will introduce you to our new editor who will assist with our other communications strategies.

The District Office team are always amazed by what is happening in your congregations. Please continue to share your stories with us. Thank you for all you do for your congregations and parishes. Volunteers are the backbone of our church and we are blessed by all that you do.



Lutheran Community Care's small staff team in 1978: Pastor Eric Blaess (Director), Marion Wilson (Receptionist), Evelyn Blaess (Counsellor), Ronda Schultz (Social Worker) and Jan Ziebarth (Manageress).

## Lutheran Community Care Celebrates 50 Years

By Amelia Dawkins

**There are many milestones to celebrate as Lutheran Community Care marks its 50th anniversary this year, but none more than the thousands of people the organisation has helped in its time.**

Fifty years ago, the Lutheran Church acknowledged there was a need for a central social welfare office in Adelaide, thanks to the efforts of The

Lutheran Women of South Australia. The LWSA were instrumental in this process, as they had become increasingly aware of the growing need to support people living in poverty and with issues termed as 'social distress' during the 1960s.

Many properties were viewed for the potential home of a new welfare office and it was decided that LCC's current site at 309 Prospect Road, Blair Athol, would be the most suitable. It was agreed that if the LWSA could raise half of the purchase price, the Church would provide the remainder.

This proposal was raised at the LWSA Convention in May 1969 and the offer was accepted with much enthusiasm. The women quickly raised the required funds to purchase the property and Lutheran Community Care opened in November 1969 (originally called The Lutheran Social Welfare & Relief Centre until the 1980s).

The centre provided many

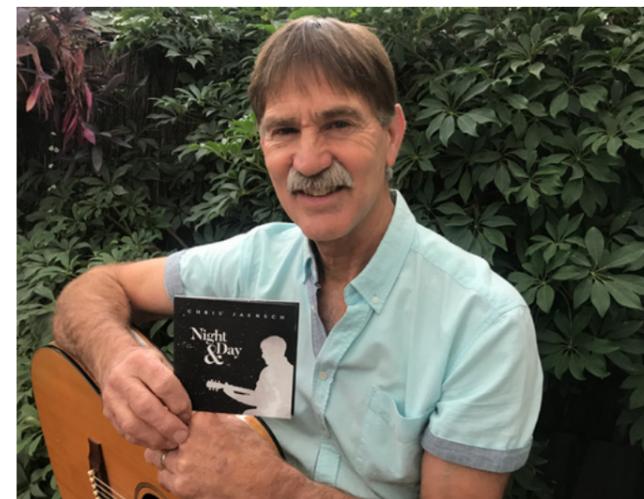
services to the community, including counselling and assistance to others on low income. It also received goods that were distributed to local and international missions, as well as the two opportunity shops operating at the time.

Over the years, the need for increased community services has continued to grow and Lutheran Community Care has developed into a highly reputable organisation that continues to serve under its vision of building strong, caring communities inspired through the love of God.

Today more than 130 staff and 500 volunteers work with people enduring hardship across 19 sites in South Australia and the Northern Territory. Its wide range of services include foster care, homelessness support, counselling (family, relationship and financial), emergency relief, elderly visiting, living skills, family education, community hubs, op shops and training and development.

**To celebrate Lutheran Community Care's 50th anniversary, a thanksgiving worship service will be held on 29 September 2019 (Christian Community Care Sunday). This will begin at 3pm at St Stephen's Lutheran Church, Adelaide. All are welcome. Please RSVP to [adawkins@lccare.org.au](mailto:adawkins@lccare.org.au) for catering purposes.**

## CHRIS JAENSCH OFFERS A "FRESH NEW LOOK AT THE GOSPEL" WITH LIVE SHOWS AND NEW ALBUM



Musician Chris Jaensch is eager to share his fourth album, *Night and Day*, with congregations around the district.

Early listeners have described the album as more sophisticated and musically mature than his previous releases, and Chris confidently believes anyone – of any age – could find at least one track to enjoy.

A current favourite is the title track, which refers to how "Jesus is always there, no matter who we are ... He's just sitting with his arms open wide, which is the best thing about Christianity."

Chris has been performing around the district – and nationally – for almost two decades. His worship concerts include stories, mini-sermons, bible readings, prayers and, of course, music, which the audience is encouraged to sing along to.

"I remember going to one school in Queensland after I released my second album, and I started this song which I thought was brand new to them," he reminisces.

"A class had heard it and loved it, and they'd made up actions to the song ... I thought 'how cool is that?'"

While primary schools have been his "bread and butter" for years, Chris is keen to bring his concerts to more churches. In particular, he suggests he may have something special to offer churches with a pastoral vacancy.

"I don't ask a fee, I just ask for a donation ... if there is a church that is struggling, I'm happy to come for very little, just to help cover my costs," he says.

Any churches or schools interested in hosting a Chris Jaensch Worship Concert can contact him via mobile at 0406 971 553 or landline at 08 8263 6044. *Night and Day* is available on iTunes and Spotify, and information is available via his website [chrisjaensch.com](http://chrisjaensch.com) and Facebook.

**2019 LITTLE TOWN CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION**

**St. Peter's Lutheran Church, LOXTON**

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**LUTHERAN community care**

**50th Anniversary GALA BALL**

**9 November 2019**

Masonic Hall Grand Ballroom, 254 North Terrace, Adelaide  
6.30pm - midnight

**MC & Guest Speaker AMANDA BLAIR**  
**LIVE MUSIC and AUCTIONS**

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Includes canapés and an indulgent three-course dinner  
Unlimited premium beer and wine (+ non-alcoholic)

All proceeds raised will support LCC and the important work we do on behalf of the LCA SA-NT District

**A NIGHT NOT TO BE MISSED!**  
To purchase tickets visit [www.lccare.org.au](http://www.lccare.org.au)

Campers gathered at Cornerstone College, Mt Barker for Barossa Christian Life Week in July. Photos: supplied.

# BAROSSA CLW LEAVES A LEGACY

By Liam and Lauren Grieger, Barossa CLW Camp Directors



Barossa Christian Life Week 2019 was a hugely successful camp. It was simply the result of people full of faith serving a very faithful God. The concept of 'Legacy' shaped the week, exploring the story of the Bible, the central figure of Jesus Christ and how we as Christians are called to share our testimonies, encouraging hope in those around us and bringing glory to God. The foundational scripture was Revelation 1:8, which declares that God is, God was and God will be. Grounded in this truth, young people were empowered, equipped and encouraged to follow Jesus with confidence.

The ministry was run by a team of over 50 paying volunteers and attended by almost 80 teenagers. We held camp at Cornerstone College in Mt Barker this year. Whilst a pretty wet time of year in the hills, the large flexible indoor spaces provided a great backdrop for community, learning and fun.

We are, time and time again, so encouraged, honoured and humbled by the continual blessing of the volunteers, the Barossa community and our great God - we're in eager anticipation for what God's got in store for us next.

**“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”**  
- Revelation 1:8



JC Life's treasure hunt was a highlight of the camp. Photo: supplied.

## CAMPERS AHoy AT JC LIFE

By Narelle Fielke, JC Life Camp Leader

JC Life (Junior Christian Life) camp happens once a year in the school holidays for children in school years 4-7. Our theme throughout camp this year was 'Treasure Hunters,' and we

looked at how we are treasured by God, as well as what sorts of things we treasure as Christians. We were blessed to have Pastor Jason Sander write studies especially for camp, tailoring them to our theme and including some hands-on activities which gave campers the opportunity to creatively connect with God's word.

When the drizzly weather let up, a major highlight was our treasure hunt, where campers ventured around the site, completing challenges to earn a piece of a treasure map, which showed them where to dig! However, inside, there were some wonderful crafts happening, including origami and scratch-art.

Each night before bed, we watched an episode of VeggieTales, and on the last night, we all dressed up in pirate-themed costumes and played some carnival games, like 'pin the eye-patch on the pirate.' We watched the VeggieTales movie 'The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything,' which contained the message that any average person can be a hero, and achieve big things in their own way. Our leaders reinforced this message throughout camp by being themselves, using their gifts and initiatives to glorify God, and to connect and support campers and each other.

## FAITH AND FRIENDSHIPS STRENGTHENED AT HILLS CLW

By Ed Ruediger, Hills CLW Co-Director

The youth of the Adelaide Hills made their way down to Normanville once again for the annual Hills Christian Life Week. This year we had close to 65 campers from all over the Hills and Adelaide itself. With our awesome leaders and camp cooks, we had over 100 people involved in camp. Our week was filled with games, worship, some woolly weather and great friendships formed, rekindled and strengthened - both with others and with God.

This year, our theme was 'Presence in the Present' and we unpacked the ways in which we can experience God's presence in our daily lives. We looked at the disciplines of prayer, worship and reading the Bible. Through small group conversations, the campers were able to connect the importance of these acts in spiritual routine and how we are

encouraged in James 4:8 that when we draw near to God, he will draw near to us. Many campers shared that this year they were able to take ownership of their faith and being intentional about strengthening their relationship with Jesus.

We have been so blessed with the way that God has moved in the ministry of Hills CLW over the past few months and we cannot wait to start planning for next year!

Campers had a great time at Hills CLW. Photos: supplied.



There was plenty of fun to be had at Metro CLW. Photos: supplied.

## METRO CLW'S MASTERPIECE

By Nicole Pfeiffer, Metro CLW Camp Director

After many bumps, Metro Christian Life Week took place in the July holidays with 104 campers, leaders and support people attending. For the first time in five years, we went back to a year 7-12 camp, combining both speaker sessions and workshops from our previous camps, exploring the theme of 'Masterpiece' and what it means to be God's masterpiece. Throughout the week we had worship, small groups, delicious food cooked by our chef Barb

Jacobson (and helpers!), prayer triplets, board games and other activities, and the highlight for the week was a colour powder capture the flag game in the form of an art heist. On the last day of camp, campers and leaders were challenged by Pastor Eugene Minge to not complain about the church, but to be the change and actively work with their church to make the church for their generation and their children's generations. Even though it was cold and wet on occasions, it was a great week had by all!

### Camper Quote:

"Metro CLW is always an incredible event for a variety of ages and this year was no different. Students (AKA campers) from years 7-12 were seen throughout the week engaging with other campers, leaders and, in particular, God; having an enjoyable time whilst doing so. Campers within the metro area come from a variety of backgrounds, not all Christian, and the love and kindness is what ensures camps like these continue happening and are successful each time. Knowledge, friendships and faiths are all entertained and grown throughout this camp with the main idea being to equip young people to be able to grow when they get back to their everyday life. Every new day on camp holds a large variety of sessions and activities to challenge both religious and general thoughts. This year, these sessions came in a daily sermon for years 7-9, and workshops run by the leaders for years 10-12 and activities often consisting of group games, aimed at building teamwork and healthy friendships. The continual smiles and optimism displayed by all leaders is one of the contributing reasons that campers decide to come back each year, learning new concepts in a healthy environment."

*Mitchel Johns*



Our SA-NT District Chaplains (back left to front right): Faith Hamer, Rev. Robert Thiele, Clive Wundersitz, Rosalie Polkinghorne, Rev. Peter Miller, Lois Shepherd, Rev. Jack Shepherd, Rev. Howard Schilling.

## ALL EARS Chaplaincy in Action

By Bethany Slaughter

Bringing the ministry of fellowship to places such as hospitals, prisons and nursing homes, chaplains are there to lend a helping hand through a listening ear.

Rosalie Polkinghorne, one of the SA-NT District's volunteer chaplains, goes into the Royal Adelaide Hospital one day a week for three hours.

In the morning, she calls the hospital staff to let them know she is on her way, and receives a list of names upon arrival. She works within an Orthopaedic and Trauma ward, where most patients have suffered from a fall or car accident, and many are not Christians.

Provided that the door is open – both literally and figuratively – she will pop in for a visit.

“Sometimes people will say, ‘no, I don’t want a visit,’ and I say, ‘but I’m not here to preach to you ... I’m just here to see how you’re going or have a chat.’”

Rosalie will check in with every name on her list, only skipping those who are having an appointment, with visitors or sleeping.

“It’s interesting, the first lady I went to go and visit today, her room was quite dark,” she recalls, explaining how she was unsure whether to go in or not.

“I actually looked in, and I went in and said hello, and she said, ‘oh, it’s good to see someone, I’ve been talking to God.’”

“She said ‘oh, I’m so pleased you came.’”

Although conversations can be challenging, particularly in the bleak setting of a hospital, the ability to love, listen to and care about people is at the very heart of chaplaincy.

Before she was a chaplain, Rosalie completed short courses in areas such as bereavement and loss, mental health and palliative care. While these are not prerequisites to enter into chaplaincy, she believes these studies have been a wealthy resource to draw upon in her role.

“I did all those courses ... to help me through life or to help me understand other people in life, but it helped me and it grew me so that I can do what I do today,” she says.

### A Note from Director of Chaplaincy, Pastor Peter Miller

PLEASE NOTE that the Privacy Act does not allow hospitals to divulge patients’ denominational affiliation to our chaplains, even though patients may have indicated that they are Lutherans at the time of admission.

As a result, there are two ways in which a patient can be guaranteed a visit from one of our District chaplains:

- Once a patient is admitted to a ward, the patient can ask a member of the nursing staff and request a visit from a Lutheran chaplain,
- If you, a family member, a friend or a member of your congregation is being or has been admitted to any Public or Private Hospital, please contact Pastor Peter Miller (24/7) on 0409 725 573 or at peter.miller@lca.org.au. He, and our other volunteer chaplains, count it as a privilege to be invited to visit patients regularly for the duration of their stay.

## Port Pirie Celebrates 100 Years of Continuous Lutheran Worship Services

By Bev Argent (St. Andrews Chairperson)



Cora Gohl cuts the celebration cake. Photo: Phil Hensel.

St. Andrews Lutheran Church, Port Pirie celebrated the goodness of God on July 27-28 to commemorate 100 years of continuous Lutheran worship in Port Pirie.

On Saturday afternoon, people enjoyed fellowship and witnessed the launch of a commemorative book, painstakingly researched by David Burger. The front cover depicted the importance of gathering around the Word, and being enriched by the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. Elaine Keller designed and created a banner, which complimented the symbols on the cover. Memorabilia created much interest as those attending reflected on times gone by, acknowledging the faithful members who contributed so much to congregational life and growth.

The Honourable Geoff Brock, Member for Frome, spoke of the importance in capturing history, while Mayor Leon Stephens reminisced about the role St. Andrews has played in community service with connections to sporting teams and work in the wider church community. St. Andrews is proud of its presence within the community, and this was confirmed by letters of congratulations received from other denominations in the city.

More than 90 people attended the service of celebration on Sunday, with Pastor Brian Keller leading the service and Bishop David Altus presenting the message. Bishop Altus identified that the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. He encouraged us to continue to have a strong faith in the God who will be with us in the years to come.

Cora Gohl, who came to Port Pirie in 1947 to be closer to her sister, was invited to cut the celebration cake. Cora spoke of how the friendship she experienced, the sense of belonging and her never-ending faith kept her attached to the Port Pirie congregation.

After worship, people joined in fellowship over a meal. Visitors travelled from many Lutheran congregations, and members of other denominations in Port Pirie were also in attendance.



Bev Argent, The Hon. Geoff Brock, Heather Burger, David Burger, Mayor Leon Stephens and Pastor Brian Keller gather at the book launch. Photo: Phil Hensel.

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# Thank you SAiNTs!



**Lolie lives at Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya**, and is just one of the children our Lutheran family is helping go to school through the ALWS GRACE Project.

Together, our goal through 2019 is to help 40,000 children like Lolie go to school ... to match the 40,000 students blessed by Lutheran schools in Australia.

Already, Lutheran kindness means 28,007 children are now blessed with education ... and can go on to bless others with the career their education supports! Thank you!



**Jane Graham is a German teacher at St John's campus of Concordia College.** She was part of the ALWS Leadership Pilgrimage to Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya. There she met two teachers who inspired her, including Pascal who you see in the photo with Jane:

"Pascal is Head Teacher at Mogadishu School, the camp's largest primary school. He is a truly inspirational educator ...

... as is Deng, a South Sudanese refugee, and now also a teacher. Deng arrived at Kakuma in the early 2000s with his two younger brothers, as the child head of his family. Deng had no formal education until Kakuma, where he was educated in the primary school in which he now teaches. Deng and his brothers lost everyone in the journey to Kakuma but says:

"We have nothing, yet education is so rich. No one can ever take that from my brothers, myself or anyone in the camp. We are so grateful for all of the support that we receive."



**Cain McDonald (on left, in photo) Principal, Tatachilla Lutheran College** "We wanted to ensure that we weren't bystanders, knowing that while a challenge, it was an achievable action that we could take to serve our brothers and sisters. The least we could do was set out on the path in the hope that we'd get some supporters to see value in supporting the incredible efforts of ALWS – and that they did! We were moved by individual stories to want to respond with love."

**394 people walked in South Australia, while 11 braved the Darwin heat. Together, our SAiNTs now support 5,650 children in refugee camps to go to school. Across Australia, 598 Walkers support 7,950 children. Thank you!**



**5 year old Ramad Aula is a survivor** of what the UN has called 'genocide' and 'ethnic cleansing' in Rakhine State in Myanmar.

Thanks to support from the Lutheran family in Australia, Ramad Aula can now go to school – one of 26,000 children helped in the ALWS 34:1 Matching Grant campaign! His mum, Ma Ji Da, shares:

"I did not have the chance to go to school because we did not have enough money.

I would have liked to go to school so I could read and write.

"Before, my children had not been to school ... LWF is good. They make the school building. After this, we want to see our children become an educated person – a teacher, or more."

**NB: Our Lutheran family, through ALWS, donated the full \$150,000 needed to match the \$5,187,000 offered by the European Union Matching grant. Thank you!**

**Find out more! Or invite an ALWS Guest Speaker: [alws.org.au](http://alws.org.au) \* 1300 763 407**

*Working (and walking) together to bring love to life!*

