

# TOGETHER

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



**ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**  
*for women's choir*

**Age is no barrier**  
*for Victor Harbor*

**Sustaining  
the mission of  
Ferryden Park**



**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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### FRONT COVER PHOTO

The Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir at the National Indigenous Music Awards in Darwin last month, where they received a Special Achievement Award. Photo: Barbara Stuart.

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## EDITORIAL

Amelia Dawkins

Together Editor & SA-NT  
Communications Officer

Welcome to the spring edition of the Together magazine. I can't believe that we are here already.

Finding the time to do everything I want seems to be more of a challenge this year and I will happily put that down to my recent engagement.

After almost seven years together, my fiancé Jeremy proposed back in April. Following all the excitement and congratulations from friends and family, it suddenly dawned on us that we would have to plan a wedding.

Well I can tell you, five months later, we haven't made a start. The engagement party is booked for October, but even that had some stressful moments!

Both of us don't want an over-the-top, extravagant wedding, but we do want a nice, relaxed day, spent with our closest family and friends. It's a journey that we want to enjoy and not a process that needs to be rushed, so I guess we'll get there, eventually!

Being busy has both positives and negatives. I enjoy living a life of fulfilment under the guidance of God, however, a busy schedule can sometimes stop us from focusing on what is important in life.

For me, that is the relationships we have with the people we love, including our Father in heaven.

So however busy and challenging life gets, and I'm sure it will continue to, it's important that I continue to take the time to grow in my relationship with God.

He's the one who can guide us through life when we are feeling overwhelmed and give us the power to give witness to Christ.

Blessings to you all this spring. I pray that God be with you as you travel in your busy lives.



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Aust-wide freecall: 1800 814 559 after hours

## OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY 2020 TOUR 2

1 August - 20 August (19 days)  
1 August - 1 September (31 days)

Some ticket categories already sold out  
Deposits due now  
Please call 0429 447 821  
Or email for further information

## SENIOR ORGANIST

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Flinders Street, Adelaide

Applications are invited for the position of Senior Organist at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. The 3-manual-and-pedal organ is an integral part of the worship and mission of the congregation.

The senior organist is responsible for the organ roster (which includes several assistant organists), assisting the pastors in the choice of appropriate hymns and liturgical music, accompanying the choir and arranging for other musicians to be involved in worship services. The senior organist is also an appointed member of the worship committee of the congregation. The position is remunerated.

Inquiries should be directed to Timothy Pietsch on 0419 606 707.

A job and person specification is available from, and applications can be sent to:

The Office Secretary, Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
12 Sudholz Place, Adelaide, 5000  
(08) 8223 6662, [bethlca@adam.com.au](mailto:bethlca@adam.com.au)

APPLICATIONS CLOSE ON  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2018



## A WORD FROM YOUR BISHOP...

### UNITY IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

By Pastor David Altus

Bishop, SA-NT District, Lutheran Church of Australia

**'May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.'** (Romans 15:5-6)

That was our wedding text.

God calls my wife and I to give a united witness to Christ, who has joined us to himself and has also joined us to each other. He wants us to be of one mind and to speak with one voice before the world in our witness to Christ. So far so good, however imperfectly, after 38 years we are still singing off the same hymn sheet!

Together, you and I are 'synod' – walking together, witnessing with one mind and voice to Christ. That's how the church is meant to be and live before the world as a common witness to how we have all been brought back together with God and each other through Jesus Christ.

In the readings from Ephesians in recent months, we heard that there is

**'one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.'** (Ephesians 4:4-6)

We have only just marked 50 years since God brought two Lutheran synods into one, the LCA. Our 'togetherness' is based on Christ and his forgiving sacrifice for us, his justification, his love and grace, which come to us in his word, in baptism and in the Lord's Supper.

We have been joined together in one baptism and are one at his table. Our togetherness as Lutherans is expressed in a common confession to Christ and his word.

The reality is we are not always of one mind and voice. Our 'togetherness', our God given and Christ centred unity, is about to be tested at the General Convention of Synod in October, and no doubt after it.

We are all probably conscious and nervous about that. We are no doubt conscious of what divides us on one issue in particular. When it comes to ordaining both women and men to the public ministry, pastors and laity alike can't agree on what God is saying in the same scripture that we all subscribe to as the authority for the teaching and life of the church.

We have different interpretations and strengths of opinion on the same Bible texts. We have different views on whether we can 'live with' whatever outcome.

We have seen disunity played out on the political stage and it doesn't draw us to our politicians. Further disunity in the life of the Christian church doesn't help draw people to Christ, who unites us and who is our peace.

And yet, at the same time, we can't force people against their consciences to accept what they can't, in whatever direction, just for the sake of an outward appearance of unity. Unity has to have integrity and substance.

**Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

While outward unity or organisational unity is not an idol to be served at all costs, we dare not lose sight of what unites us. Reflecting with thanksgiving on what we have in common, I urge you not to act or react too quickly post-convention, but allow time to reflect, pray and consider together 'what next' and 'where to from here'.

As General Convention approaches, I urge you to pray that Christ himself, who unites us, may keep us together somehow by the miracle of his grace. I encourage you to honour, accept and respect each other and each other's consciences and convictions, even while disagreeing with each other.

Pray that if there is a way of staying together, because of what we hold together and the one who holds us together, then God will show us a way that has integrity.

I pray that somehow God will find a way, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## FROM THE BISHOP'S NOTEBOOK...

### District Church Council

We seek your prayers for District Church Council, as well as the councils and leaders of the District, with many significant items on the District agenda. Among them are:

- Potential merger of Lutheran Community Care and Lutheran Disability Services
- Appointment of new Lutheran Community Care Director
- Schools governance review recommendations being considered by General Convention
- Aged care and community services governance review recommendations implementation
- Support, resourcing and oversight of ministry in Central Australia
- Re-envisioning regions of the District to sustain pastoral ministry
- Re-envisioning Child, Family, Youth and Young Adult Ministry

All of the above (and a whole lot more) are 'works in progress' and will require patience, diligence and application to see through to good conclusions. All of the above present both opportunities and challenges, and we pray the eventual outcomes will lead to stronger District entities for the sake of carrying out God's work together.

### Helen Lockwood

We thank God for the service of Helen Lockwood to Lutheran Community Care for 25 years, including nine as Director. Helen stepped down at the end of August. We publicly thanked her at District Convention of Synod and in other

places, but record our gratitude here. Her heart of compassion and justice for those struggling on the edges of our community has been an inspiration. We commend her and husband Peter in this new phase of the adventure of faith and life with God.

### Recruitment of workers

Please prayerfully consider those in your parishes who may be suitable for pastoral ministry. At the time of writing, I understand there are no applications for entry to the pastoral ministry course at Australian Lutheran College for 2019. While applications don't always present this early, it is still concerning, so please pray to the Lord of the harvest.

### Central Australia

On August 11, 25 leaders gathered in Alice Springs to consider future directions and better ways of supporting and resourcing God's work there. We look forward to progressing this conversation to outcomes that will bless God's people in the Centre. LCA Bishop John Henderson and I record our gratitude to Brian Schwarz, Neville Otto and their wives, who have made significant sacrifices in the past nine months to attend to the information gathering tasks we set Brian and Neville for the sake of the church in Central Australia.

### Departures and retirements

Pastor Ken Schultz completed his service in Alice Springs on July 29. He and Lynne go to Oakey in Queensland to take up Ken's next call. The District thanks them for their service as a graduate pastor and wife team in a challenging first ministry and we pray that life in

Queensland will enable them to see more of their family.

Pastor Roger Atze retired on June 17 at Glandore-Underdale and will live in Queensland. We thank God for Roger's service and pray for him and Julie in this next phase of life with God.

Pastor Tim Spilsbury completes his service in the Whyalla Parish on September 16. We commend him, Lauren and their children to the Lord as they move to Queensland and thank them for their faithful service in our District.

### Our sympathy and prayers

Mrs Joyce Gierus, wife of Pastor Andy, died on July 31. Her funeral was held on August 8 in Murray Bridge. We thank God for her and remember Andy and his family before our Lord in prayer.

Mrs Hilda Leske, widow of Pastor Laurie Leske, died at age 98 on June 27. Her funeral was held on July 7 at Glynde. We thank God for her and commend her to his care. Pastor Kevin Schmidt died on July 24 at Fullarton. He served Albury, Victor Harbor, St Stephen's Adelaide, Ringwood, Nundah, as Director of Church Development in Queensland and as LCA General Secretary. We pray that God will comfort Pastor Kevin's wife Barbara and family at this time. His funeral was held on July 27 at Aberfoyle Park.

Pastor Carl Dohler died on August 14. He served Point Pass, St Petri Nuriootpa, Berri, Bordertown, Millicent and Magill in South Australia, St Mary's and Belconnen in NSW and Petrie in QLD. We pray that God will comfort Pastor Carl's wife Elsa and her family. Carl's funeral was held on August 22 at Para Vista.

## DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALLS ACCEPTED

Pastor Tim Spilsbury (Whyalla) to Hervey Bay QLD

Pastor Peter Ziersch (Freeling) to Keyneton, Eden Valley and Springton

Dr Noel Due (part-time SA-NT Mission and Ministry Support Pastor and part-time LCA Committee for New and Renewing Churches) to full-time with LCA Committee for New and Renewing Churches

Lay worker Malcolm Willcocks has accepted a call to serve as Aboriginal Support Pastor in the Pitjantjatjara speaking areas of Central Australia with Finke River Mission



The group from Encounter Lutheran College who travelled to Central Australia earlier this year. Photo: Victor Harbor Times.

A highlight for many of the students was the Sunday church service at Hermannsburg and learning about the history of the Lutheran mission.

“We went to the church and saw the Central Australian Aboriginal Women’s Choir and that was pretty good,” year 11 student Harrison Grenfell said.

“A couple of us had done our assignments on them in stage one Aboriginal Studies.”

Year 10 student Sam Tummel said he enjoyed watching the service in

both English and the local language, admitting he didn’t know much about Hermannsburg before going on the trip.

“When the opportunity came up, mum asked me if I wanted to go and I thought it would be a good experience,” Sam said.

Encounter Lutheran College is hoping to return to Central Australia every two years, while Victor Harbor Lutheran Church is continuing to explore other ways of serving and connecting with the school.

*“It was a great way for us to show that we’re just normal people”*



Above: Victor Harbor Lutheran Church members prepared and cooked meals for the school group on their trip to Central Australia. Photo: Vic Walter.

“Now, we are looking for real and relevant ways of church and school coming together and this seemed to be one.

“We (the church) went in with a general approach, not proselytising. We were just seeking to serve the kids and be there for them and the staff as best we could.”

Judy Tscharke was one church member who travelled with the group. She said it was an opportunity to break down perceptions.

“It was a great way for us to show that we’re just normal people,” Judy said. “We didn’t really get the opportunity to talk for very long (with the students) because we were busy, but they were a great bunch of kids, they really were.”

Another church member, Vic Walter, was able to connect with some of the students during the drive to Palm Valley, where the students camped by a fire in swags.

“Driving out to Palm Valley was actually the best time for me and interacting with the kids,” Vic said. “I even had a kick of the footy with them at some point.”

The trip was Encounter College’s first to Central Australia and was open to students from years 9, 10 and 11. Its aim was to give students the opportunity to connect with the Arrernte people at Hermannsburg and grow in their life experiences.

As well as Palm Valley, students also visited Alice Springs, Uluru and Coober Pedy.

## Age is no barrier for Victor Harbor

By Amelia Dawkins

It is no secret that Victor Harbor Lutheran Church is an ‘ageing’ congregation, but that hasn’t stopped its members from connecting with the local school community at Encounter Lutheran College.

In May and June, 10 members from the church accompanied the school on a journey to Central Australia, joining more than a dozen students and staff members.

For a week and a half, congregational members used their skills to support the school group, cooking daily meals and even taking the students on a 4WD adventure to Palm Valley.

The church members’ involvement was a result of conversations between Encounter Lutheran College Principal Kelvin Grivell and Pastor Andrew Vanderwal from Victor Harbor. Both are passionate about growing the partnership between the church and the school.

“There’s been a long-standing relationship with the school since it was formed. In fact, the church was very actively involved in forming the school,” Pastor Andrew said.

## SUSTAINING THE MISSION OF FERRYDEN PARK

By Pastor Thomas Pietsch

Two siblings are placed in a foster care home following a sad situation.

On their first weekend in care, they insist that they want to go to the Lutheran Church at Ferryden Park.

Their carers begin to come to church with them each week. The siblings get involved in services, Sunday school and confirmation lessons.

A local person on home detention applies for special leave to attend St Paul’s Lutheran Church at Ferryden Park each Sunday, so they can help serve coffee.

Their electronic detention anklet is low on battery and so they spend the service glued to the wall of the church, so they can recharge while participating in the liturgy.

Not every congregation has stories quite like these, but this is just a sample from the last few months at St Paul’s Lutheran Church, Ferryden Park.

While St Paul’s is in metropolitan Adelaide, it is in some ways out of place in the city.

The courtyard is full of pictures from Central Australia, where many of our members and friends originally come from.

As the centre of Adelaide’s Aboriginal Lutheran Fellowship, St Paul’s has long been the spiritual home of Aboriginal Lutherans living in Adelaide, or those who are passing through. Over time, it has become a piece of Central Australia in the middle of Adelaide.

For decades, the Lord has used this church to heal the broken hearted through the proclamation of his gospel and bind up their wounds through the holy sacraments.

He has used this church as a place of reconciliation between God and humankind in Christ Jesus, as well as a place where Aboriginal people can find a home. For as Jesus himself taught, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations?’” (Mark 11:17)

Now, St Paul’s Ferryden Park is trying to ensure that the decades of mission can continue.

The siblings in foster care and the person on home

detention all need a place in the gracious presence of Jesus Christ, but the core people of God’s ministry and mission at Ferryden Park have never had much money. That is partly why they’re so precious to God and key members of the body of Christ.

To help sustain the mission of St Paul’s, the congregation is currently seeking volunteers to help us partner in the gospel at Ferryden Park.

We need drivers for our bus to pick up people for church on Sunday mornings, no special licence required. We need volunteers to assist on our committee, including a treasurer, secretary and maintenance support. And we would love for volunteers to help us distribute food to families in need every Friday night, as we have been doing for many years.

About 30 per cent of our weekly attenders are children and they need Sunday school teachers to lead them into God’s saving word.

St Paul’s also welcomes financial contributions to ensure the ongoing viability of our mission and ministry. And we covet your prayers, that the Father of lights may continue to give us his gifts from above.

Our congregation is weak in the eyes of the world, but in Christ Jesus when we are weak, then we are strong.



St Paul’s Lutheran Church, Ferryden Park, is looking for volunteers to help sustain its mission, including drivers for its bus. Photo: supplied.

Pastor Thomas Pietsch is Associate Pastor at St Paul’s Lutheran Church, Ferryden Park. If you would like to support St Paul’s Ferryden Park, please contact Pastor Thomas ([thomas.pietsch@lca.org.au](mailto:thomas.pietsch@lca.org.au) or 7120 8200) or Senior Pastor Malcolm Pech ([malcolm.pech@lca.org.au](mailto:malcolm.pech@lca.org.au) or 0429 139 353).

## SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT FOR WOMEN’S CHOIR

The Central Australian Aboriginal Women’s Choir won the Special Achievement Award at the 2018 National Indigenous Music Awards in Darwin last month.

It was another highlight for the talented choir this year, following the success of the documentary ‘The Song Keepers’, which tells the story of the choir and their

first tour of Germany a few years ago.

The choir also travelled to the United States in June and July, performing shows in New York City and Washington.

The National Indigenous Music Awards is a special celebration of Indigenous music and one of Australia’s most prominent Indigenous music award ceremonies.



## Professional Standards Update

By Dave Biar  
SA-NT Professional Standards Officer

### SAFETY MANAGEMENT ONLINE

Safety Management Online, the browser-based application that we use to manage the SP3 (*Safe People, Safe Programs, Safe Places*) system, has undergone a facelift!

It has the same features as the past version, but has now been designed to work better on mobile phones and tablets, so you can have all the information for your events at your fingertips!

The Professional Standards Department is running free-of-charge information sessions for Team Leaders and Coordinators on SMO. Please email [psd.sa-nt@lca.org.au](mailto:psd.sa-nt@lca.org.au) to register your interest.

### WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS IN SA

Volunteers in Australia who work with a range of people in circumstances of vulnerability have for many years been required to hold a current background screening check.

For volunteers in SA, this has usually been a National Police Certificate. Others in SA have obtained a clearance from the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Here is a quick update.

- SA Police have advised they are no longer processing background screening checks in the category of 'Working with Children'. They will still process checks for 'Vulnerable Groups'.
- The Children's Protection Act 1993 will be repealed on October 22.
- Additional parts of the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017 will be enacted at the same time.
- The LCA PSD anticipate that the Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016 will also be enacted at a similar time, along with associated regulations.
- In addition to this, the LCA General Church Council has recently endorsed the LCA Child Protection Procedure – a procedure to implement the Child Protection Policy of the LCA.

The implications of the above are that, in most situations, those in SA who were required to hold a 'Police Check' will now be required to hold a Working with Children Check.

The 'new' WWCC is essentially the same as a DCSI clearance that states

suitability for child-related employment. So when your current check expires, a new procedure will apply.

There are many advantages with WWCCs.

- It will only expire after five years (not three).
- It is portable across organisations and states.
- It is a much more comprehensive check.

The disadvantage, at this stage, is there is currently a \$60 charge per WWCC for volunteers.

We have advice that the government will be sponsoring WWCCs for volunteers, but do not have a timeframe for this to come into effect.

More detailed information will be provided as it becomes available, but you can view:

- the new screening process at [www.screening.sa.gov.au](http://www.screening.sa.gov.au)
- the new legislation at [www.legislation.sa.gov.au](http://www.legislation.sa.gov.au)
- the LCA policies and procedures at [www.lca.org.au/policies](http://www.lca.org.au/policies)

**If you require an updated background screening check, please contact the District Office (08 8267 5211 or [psd.sa-nt@lca.org.au](mailto:psd.sa-nt@lca.org.au)).**

## ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

By Angela Rogers  
District Administrator



### DISTRICT OFFICE

There is never a quiet time in the church and the same applies to the SA-NT District Office. God always has lots for us to do.

In July, General Pastors Conference was hosted by St Michael's Lutheran Church, Hahndorf, and was expertly managed by our Executive Assistant Michelle Storie.

We thank God for the skills that he has given to Michelle and for her willingness to utilise them for the benefit of our church.

As you will read further in the magazine, our Child, Family, Youth and Young Adults team has been busy assisting with Christian Life Week camps around the state. We give praise to God for the people who lead these camps and

for all the young people who soak up the gospel. Please do keep these young people in your prayers.

Our hospital chaplains continue to spread the love of Jesus to people through their visits. The SA-NT District also has chaplains that visit people in our prisons. They tell me that people appreciate being reminded that they are valued in the eyes of God and that he loves them.

If you would like to know more about visiting people in hospitals or prisons, please contact Pastor Peter Miller at the District Office.

District Office staff are always out and about. As I write this, Bishop David Altus and Assistant Bishop for Mission Stephen Schultz are in Central Australia, Dave Biar has two Professional Standards Workshops this coming weekend and I am visiting congregations next week.

We all enjoy the opportunity of meeting and worshipping with you.

## New maintenance grant open to churches

By Amelia Dawkins

A new grant is available for SA-NT churches to apply for, which will help congregations complete external maintenance work on their properties.

The Church Building Maintenance Grant was approved by District Church Council in June and will benefit those who have been wanting to repair and restore their church for some time.

In recent years, it has become apparent that numerous congregations have not been able to maintain their property for several reasons, from a lack of volunteers to a shortage of funds.

SA-NT District Administrator Angela Rogers said it is important to look at the outside of your church property through the eyes of a visitor, stressing that first impressions count.

"People make lightning fast decisions based on their first impression," Angela said.

"If your church is well-maintained on the outside and visitors can see where to enter, they think it will be a positive experience inside."

The Church Building Maintenance Grant will provide up to \$5000 per congregation, with District Church Council committing to a maximum funding pool of \$100,000.

Angela said churches could use the funds for a variety of work, including external painting, upgrade of paths/gardens, replacement signage or improved lighting, car park space and toilet facilities.

"Your congregation could utilise the funding to clear vegetation to make the car park entrance more visible and mark car park spaces, purchase a new sign that looks fresh and has all the correct details on it, paint the woodwork and gutters on the building, or maybe a sign to indicate where to enter your church, especially if it is behind a fence," Angela said.

"Make the first impression people have of your church a good one. One that welcomes them into your church and opens the door to the love of Jesus for them."

Applications for the Church Building Maintenance Grant close on October 1. The application form and project guidelines are available at [www.sant.lca.org.au/resources/policies-procedures/](http://www.sant.lca.org.au/resources/policies-procedures/).

If you have any questions, please contact Angela Rogers (08 8267 5211 or [angela.rogers@lca.org.au](mailto:angela.rogers@lca.org.au)).

### AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION

Has your congregation or parish completed the annual information statement on the ACNC website? If you are a church council member, please ensure that this has been completed, as it is now overdue. If you have any questions, please contact the District Office.

### CONSTITUTIONS

We will soon begin contacting congregations who have not updated their constitution in a very long time. The District Constitutions Committee will assist you in updating your constitution. How long is it since your congregation reviewed its constitution?

### MANSE MAINTENANCE

Have you asked your pastor if there is maintenance that needs to be completed at the manse? Have a conversation with him and his family about the home they live in. We recommend that all manses are inspected annually, as this enables the family to tell you what needs

repairing and also lets the congregation know what maintenance might need to be done in the future.

### WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY - FIRE

As we edge closer to summer, it is time to start thinking about fire safety. There are strict laws about fire safety in commercial buildings (all churches and halls are considered commercial buildings).

Here are some items that need to be considered and checked regularly: overhanging branches, clean gutters, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers and emergency exit lights. Also, is there an evacuation plan and drawing in place? Has it been tested? Who will coordinate an evacuation?

Manses must also be regularly checked for fire safety. As the 'landlord', you have certain responsibilities that must be followed. Do the smoke detectors work? Has the heating system been checked recently? Does your pastor and his family know what to do in the event of a bushfire?

For further information, visit [www.mfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.mfs.sa.gov.au) and [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au).

WELCOME

# SHARING GOD'S LOVE in Cambodia

By Bronwyn Norsworthy

Never be surprised with how God will use you!

After both my children had participated in mission trips, I felt God was asking me to one day be involved in his service overseas.

Earlier this year, I received a message from LCA International Mission, asking if I would be interested in helping the Lutheran Church in Cambodia with bookkeeping.

God had a plan, but I never envisaged it would involve using my experience as a bookkeeper, not only in my congregation and parish, but also in Cambodia.

"Trust in me," God said. "I have it all planned."

He reminded me of this when, on arrival in Phnom Penh, I found myself lost in a tuk tuk late in the evening.

I trusted him, and thanks to an English-speaking driver and technology, I eventually arrived safely at my hotel.

God's plans included my visit coinciding with visits to Cambodia by Erin Kerber and Nevin Nitschke from LCA International Mission, as well as Bishop Terry Kee from the Lutheran Church in Singapore.

Their 'coincidental' presence proved helpful in regard to the work I was doing.

My role was to help the Lutheran Church in Cambodia with bookkeeping, but in doing so, I received many blessings.

I spent the majority of time at City Church, Phnom Penh, which includes tertiary students housed at Rainbow Hostel.

The opportunity to worship, commune and participate in weekly gatherings and prayer with the church was a privilege.

It was amazing to see the hostel youth involvement in worship and watch their faces light up as they talked about their faith journeys.

I was also able to see and experience Christian church planting and mission in Cambodia, with visits to the Lutheran centres at Phum Krus and Kandal.

Ministry centres and places of worship were established in these villages to connect with children through teaching

*Never be surprised with how God will use you!*

English and with adults through the provision of medical clinics.

It was amazing to have the opportunity to see the commitment of the staff, their love for God and the children they were teaching.

I was also privileged to visit the Boys Brigade Learning Centre near Siem Reap, where dedicated Christian staff taught English after school for up to two hundred children.

Serving God in Cambodia was a blessing to my spiritual life, providing me with a renewed vision of mission and a broader understanding of how to share God's love in real and practical ways.

The Lutheran Church in Cambodia is blessed with support from some Lutheran churches from across the world, who offer financial assistance and provide volunteers to assist in the programs they run.

God takes what we have and uses it for his good. Being open to his calling can provide both surprises and blessings.

I am truly thankful that he called me!

*Bronwyn Norsworthy is a member at St John's Lutheran Church, Woodside. She travelled to Cambodia for two weeks in May and June earlier this year.*



Bronwyn Norsworthy (centre) was blessed to meet many people through her mission trip to Cambodia this year. Photo: supplied.

LCC Kwatja Etatha Playgroup staff Leeanne Swan (left) and Dolly Hampton are thrilled the ministry is running again. Photo: Emma Murray, Centralian Advocate.



## PLAYGROUP REOPENS AFTER SUCCESSFUL APPEAL

By Amelia Dawkins

Lutheran Community Care's Kwatja Etatha Playgroup in Alice Springs began operating again in July following a successful fundraising appeal.

The popular playgroup was forced to stop running earlier this year, as it lost its government funding at the end of 2017.

An appeal was launched in April, and since then, more than \$50,000 has been raised.

to get the fundraiser going."

The funds raised will allow the playgroup to operate for two days a week on the Alice Springs Lutheran Church lawns, however it will not sustain the ministry in the long-term.

Lutheran Community Care is working towards long-term sustainability, but in the meantime, the playgroup will support many families in Alice Springs again.

**They were in awe of how LCC and the Lutheran Church helped to get the fundraiser going.**

To celebrate the reopening, an open day was held at Alice Springs Lutheran Church on July 19.

LCC Playgroup Manager Dolly Hampton said there was a lot of excitement around the relaunch.

"We've seen a few families (who used to attend the playgroup) and they were very happy to hear that it was starting again," Dolly said.

"They were in awe of how LCC and the Lutheran Church helped

For 10 years, the ministry has given hundreds of disadvantaged children in Alice Springs a positive start in life. It has focused on getting children ready for primary school and encouraged parents to interact with them through structured activities, supporting their learning and development.

Lutheran Community Care would like to thank everyone who contributed to this appeal. If you would like to make a donation, you still can at [www.lccare.org.au/donate-now/](http://www.lccare.org.au/donate-now/).

## LCC initiates community discussion in the Barossa

By Amelia Dawkins

A community hub for people to turn to in times of need was a common suggestion raised at a workshop initiated by Lutheran Community Care in the Barossa in July.

The workshop was attended by about 30 local professionals, who were invited to discuss how the community can better support people who are struggling in the region.

Lutheran Community Care has expressed concern about the need for strengthened services in the Barossa, particularly relating to homelessness and financial counselling. That is why it decided to organise the workshop, so that key community members could share knowledge about emerging social needs and information about the range of existing services.

Key concerns highlighted throughout the in-depth discussion included unemployment, relief from addictions, suicide prevention, mental illness support and a lack of public transport. It was also noted that existing community services are currently working at capacity and that there is a misconception the Barossa has no issues because it is an affluent tourist region.

But the standout point raised was that a central hub is needed in the Barossa, one that can offer all services to people of all ages who are suffering.

Speaking at the event, Lutheran Community Care's Barossa Engagement Manager James Doecke said this was something he had been passionate about since commencing work with LCC nine months ago.

"Today is about the start of something," James said. "I feel very humbled. To think that there is a group of people that are prepared to take time out to look at this is amazing."

While the meeting focused more on ideas rather than decisions, a report is being prepared. From that it is hoped a smaller sub-group will be established to explore new opportunities and partnerships.

# RIVERLAND CAMP STRENGTHENS FAITH



A highlight of Riverland Christian Life Week was the 'Under the Sea' banquet. Photo: supplied.

## RIVERLAND CHRISTIAN LIFE WEEK WAS HELD AT CAMP KEDRON, BARMERA, FROM JULY 9 TO 13.

The focus of this week was on the theme 'Anchor', based on the text from Hebrews 6:19a, 'we have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure'. Campers were split into small groups of similar ages and explored this verse.

Over five small sessions, the group discussed some of the challenging parts of Christian life, including pressure from the world, how we relate to authorities and personal struggles.

At the conclusion of these discussions, the group spoke about Jesus as the 'anchor' of our lives, amidst the storms that surround us.

Each morning and evening, campers joined in a worship session, which was a time for song, praise and reflection.

One evening during worship, campers were able to contribute their unique talents into the service through acting, dancing, reading and writing.

Between the Bible-based activities, the campers got to burn off energy

and form new friendships through numerous activities and games.

Every morning, the day started with a high or low intensity boot camp to get the campers moving and excited for the day. A banquet was another highlight of camp, where both campers and leaders dressed up to an 'Under the Sea' theme.

Overall, it was an action-packed week, full of fun, fellowship and strengthening faith in God.

# RECORD NUMBERS FOR BAROSSA CLW

Barossa Christian Life Week was an inspiring, encouraging and greatly impactful camp in 2018.

With record numbers in all areas, including campers, leaders and support teams, the week was packed with inclusive activities, joyful and heart-warming interactions, as well as great teaching and discipleship.

Held at Murray Bridge's Unity College in July, the camp's theme was 'Awe & Wonder', which was developed out of the incredible stories that we find throughout the Bible and followed into the goodness and glory of God in our individual stories.

The leaders were encouraged by how God is moving in our campers, not only on camp, but also in their lives and communities outside of Barossa CLW. They all brought passion, excitement, joy and a whole lot of love with them.

Middle: Campers who attended Barossa Christian Life Week camp were full of life and had a passion for serving and seeking to know God more. Photo: supplied.



## BAROSSA CAMPER QUOTES:

"I would love to come back and lead and give guidance to those who have not found their path with God. Finding my path was so valuable through this experience."

"It was amazing! It was a really positive, encouraging, faith-growing, community building week! Loved, loved, loved it!"

"I had the most amazing and inspiring week on CLW and can't wait to come back next year as a leader! I have changed my perspective on so many things and had a really fun and relaxing week! The most fun and least stressed I've felt this entire year so far with year 12!"

The theme for Metro Christian Life Week 2018 was 'Rebel', based on Romans 12:1-2. Photo: supplied.



Metro Christian Life Week took place at Port Hughes in July. Photo: supplied.



# METRO 2018 CHANGES LIVES

By Tim and Monika Foulkes  
Metro Christian Life Week Directors

God has called us out. In response to his mercy and grace, we rebel against this world and conform to the image of Christ.

In July, Metro Christian Life Week found us stirring up 80 young people to rebellion – not against God, as we once all lived - but against the ways of this world, so that the world would be transformed by Jesus Christ in us.

We have so many stories we want to share about the experiences on camp and we praise God for teaching us more about what it means to follow Jesus.

We were privileged to meet a camper on the first day, who was confident she didn't believe in God. Needless to say, fervent prayer spread across the campsite and requests were sent to our off-site prayer team. We joyfully saw this camper leave on Friday, pursuing baptism as a sign of her faith in God.

Another camper arrived, not sure if God was real. It wasn't something he had ever experienced for himself. We can tell you that he approached his leaders on the last day to say he had felt God's presence during personal devotion time that morning. For the first time in his life, he was convinced that God is real.

Planning camp is exciting, but seeing God take our efforts and make ground for his kingdom, speak to his children and encourage us as he does, is an indescribable joy.

## CAMPER QUOTE

**"What an impact I have already felt coming home from Christian Life Week. I heard God speak to me just before, because I sat and listened. And through what God has said to me, I know what I need to do!"**

**I was praying about the Grow Ministries mission trip for early next year and I asked him if I should go. I heard a 'yes' in my thoughts and when I said 'no' in the same tone, the 'yes' always came back bigger and louder!**

**Then I asked for a Bible verse, and before I could finish my sentence, Romans 12:13 came into my head. It says, 'Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.'**

**I was so amazed I cried of joy! This was the first time I've heard God speak to me like this!"**

# USING OUR GIFTS FOR GOD

By Edward Ruediger  
Hills CLW Camp Leader

In the July school holidays, 65 campers and 25 leaders, chaplains and cooks made their way to Camp Dzintari in Normanville for Hills Christian Life Week.

Over the week, we were blessed with fantastic company, delicious food and faith-building Bible studies.

Throughout the camp, campers explored spiritual gifts and what this means in their lives. They also heard from leaders about how they are currently using their gifts.

Camper Lauren Hoopmann said learning how to apply our spiritual gifts to the outside world was something she particularly enjoyed.

"As God has given each of us unique purposes, the use of spiritual gifts looks different in everyone's lives," Lauren said. "However, when everyone uses their gifts in conjunction with one another, through the Holy Spirit, we are able to do amazing things."

We cannot wait for Hills CLW 2019 and to see how God works in the young lives of those who attended.



Hills Christian Life Week was filled with many activities during a week at Normanville in July. Photo: supplied.

# NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT



### Nairne to commemorate its 30th anniversary

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Nairne, will mark its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a service on Sunday, November 18.

The congregation acknowledges the wonderful support it has received from the Nairne Uniting Church, which has given Redeemer access to its building facilities over the years.

The anniversary service will be held at 10.30am and will be followed by a community lunch.

## Tertiary residential accommodation available at ALC

Australian Lutheran College offers a well-priced, fully catered, 78-bed residential college on the Adelaide city fringe.

The college is smaller than other residential colleges in the area, providing a unique, family environment. It has convenient access via public transport, walking or cycling to all tertiary education providers in Adelaide.

Living at ALC gives convenient access to Adelaide Oval, North Adelaide Golf Course, Adelaide Aquatic Centre and the River Torrens precinct.

Accommodation is provided during the academic year in Graebner Hall with the following services:

- Large, single bed study rooms
- Three meals a day, seven days a week
- All linen supplied weekly
- Weekly room cleaning
- Wi-Fi internet
- Common rooms with TV & music room
- After-hours library access
- On-site parking
- Designated male & female bathrooms, cleaned daily
- Kitchenettes for light refreshments
- Laundry facilities on campus
- Recreation facilities

**All this for \$350 per week – plus annual fees.**



A special cake was made for the 60th anniversary of St John's Lutheran Church, Woodside, in July.

### Woodside celebrates 60 years

St John's Lutheran Church, Woodside, celebrated its 60th anniversary on July 8 with a worship service conducted by Onkaparinga Lutheran Parish Pastor Luke Spilsbury and SA-NT Bishop David Altus.

It was a wonderful service, followed by lunch and fellowship. Keith Pfeiffer, a founding building committee member attended on the day, as well as former pastors Stephen Albrecht and Jim Klein.

We praise the Lord for graciously blessing all the undertakings over the past 60 years at St John's Woodside and we pray he continue to do so.



SA-NT Bishop David Altus, Kriss Borgas and Pastor Rob Borgas at Zion Lutheran Church, Angaston, in July.

### Pastor Rob Borgas installed at Angaston

A large gathering of 220 people attended the installation of Pastor Rob Borgas into the Angaston Parish on July 29.

Many family members and friends, work colleagues and pastors attended, and numerous greetings were received. A sumptuous afternoon tea was enjoyed following the service to welcome Pastor Rob and his wife Kriss to the Angaston community.

Pastor Rob is leading the Angaston congregation, as well as the Moculta congregations of Gruenberg and Gnadenberg. He has also joined the Good Shepherd Lutheran School community as its pastor.

### Luther book shortlisted for top award

Dr Mark Worthing's book, 'Martin Luther: A Wild Boar in the Lord's Vineyard', was shortlisted for the 2018 Australian Christian Book of the Year.

Dr Mark, who serves as pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church, North Adelaide, said he was surprised when he learned of his nomination.

"It's an honour just to be shortlisted," Dr Mark said. "The book has been well-received and I think it's good for the Lutheran Church because it raises awareness of Luther and the Reformation."

Dr Mark was inspired to write the book because he thought it would be good to circulate a more readable publication about the life of Luther, especially for those who don't know much about him.

"So many other books have been very academic and people get lost, so I wanted to write a modern-style biography," Dr Mark said.

'Martin Luther: A Wild Boar in the Lord's Vineyard' was one of 10 books shortlisted and the winner was announced at the SparkLit Awards Night in Melbourne on August 16.

*"Living at ALC is great. People are friendly and it is easy to feel like you fit in and are welcome. It's very convenient and so close to everything you could want. A short walk to uni and into the city, and there's a supermarket just down the road." Louise (ALC resident 2017-2018)*

*"It's hard moving away from home, but having people around in the same situation as you makes it that bit easier. ALC is an inclusive and accepting environment, full of country kids who like to have a bit of fun and have your back no matter what." Sarah (ALC resident 2017-2018)*



Contact Lyndal to arrange a tour (details below), or download an application for residential accommodation now!



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(08) 7120 8200 | Freecall: 1800 625 193  
residential@alc.edu.au  
www.alc.edu.au/residential  
104 Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide SA, 5006



### Loxton Concordia Women's Fellowship turns 90

Loxton Concordia Women's Fellowship members Monica Schell (Secretary), Betty Munchenberg (Treasurer) and Sue Nitschke (all pictured) helped plan the guild's 90th anniversary celebrations, which many guests enjoyed at the Concordia Fellowship Centre in August.

Funded by  
Humanitarian Aid  
and Civil Protection  
ALWS



Photo: ALWS

## How to say thank you!

The Arabic word for thank you is *shukran*.

That's what's written on the sign Hayat is holding outside the new school our Lutheran family helped build at a refugee camp in Djibouti that ALWS supports.

*Shukran* is not the only way to say 'thank you'.

In fact, Hayat can say it in the six different languages she speaks. However, the most powerful thanks Hayat can give you is what she plans to do with the education you support for her:

**"I want to be a doctor and a professor  
so I can help the world.  
Not just myself, or my country,  
but the world."**

When you listen to Hayat's story, you can't help but believe she has the courage and determination to achieve her dream:

"When I came to this camp I was in grade five, but I did not speak English, so I must start in grade three.

I am a hard worker, and even though I did not know any English in grade three, I came second in my class. In grade four, I was first. Also in grade five. During the exams I became very sick, but I am still first.

I speak six languages – Oromo, English, Arabic, French, Amharic and Somali.

This school is important for many things. If it is not here, there is no place for people to learn. I believe education is the backbone of life. It is light. If you don't have education, it is like you have no eyes. You are blind. All your life you are without light.

That is why I want to thank the people who have given money for this school."

**"My hope is to become a doctor to save the world from HIV, TB and many things, and lead people to learn. I want to earn money and help the world like you do."**

To invite an ALWS guest speaker to share how you can support refugee children to become doctors, and 'help the world like you do', contact:

1300 763 407  
alws@alws.org.au

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