

Together

DECEMBER 2022



Emilie Appelt:
Lutheran woman's
diary makes history

Lockdown
babysitting
reveals a
writing gift

Inaugural combined-schools Walk My Way

Contents

Features

- 6** The diary of Emilie Appelt
- 9** Finding the write path
- 10** Outreach stirs up cooking skills
- 11** Inaugural combined-schools Walk My Way
- 14** Lutheran Care volunteers receive Premier's awards

Regulars

- 3** Editor's note
- 4** From the Bishop
- 8** District News and Professional Standards Department update
- 12** Blueprint Ministries
- 15** In brief

Front cover: Students take part in the ALWS event 'Walk My Way', on the Granite Island Causeway in Victor Harbor (story page 11). Photograph Skye Grivell.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that the following pages may contain images of people who have died.

SCHUBERT & SONS PTY. LTD.

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

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

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

Together

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

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

Graphic Design: www.spicerscreative.com.au

Printer:  **Finsbury Green**

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

How to advertise or have your article featured in Together

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

Advertisements in Together

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

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

Editorial content in Together

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

Publication deadline

Editorial and advertising copy deadline for the next edition of Together is Wednesday February 1st, 2023. The magazine will be distributed in March. Online news content is published between editions on our website, Facebook page and eNews. To subscribe to our eNews 'Online Together', visit www.sant.lca.org.au/news/enews/



Editor's note

"Gentle words bring life and health; a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit." Proverbs 15:4

As a child, I remember being told not to pay too much attention to other people's words. "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me" is a phrase I remember chanting. While this may seem good advice for a child who is trying to ignore a mean comment, we can't forget what the Bible tells us about the importance of our words. Words of encouragement - words of life - have power. Likewise, negative words can be more destructive than we realise. In this edition of *Together*, Bishop David speaks to this theme (page 4) when he reminds us that God doesn't waste any of our words, even when we might not realise it.

The act of putting pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard, as is the more modern method) and recording a more permanent written account can also be powerful. Emilie Appelt, a Lutheran woman from Eudunda who penned her personal diary nearly 120 years ago (and whose story can be found

on page 6 of this edition), would have had no inkling that her journal would be discovered nearly a century after her death, nor of the impact and insight it would be lauded for when it was subsequently published as a book.

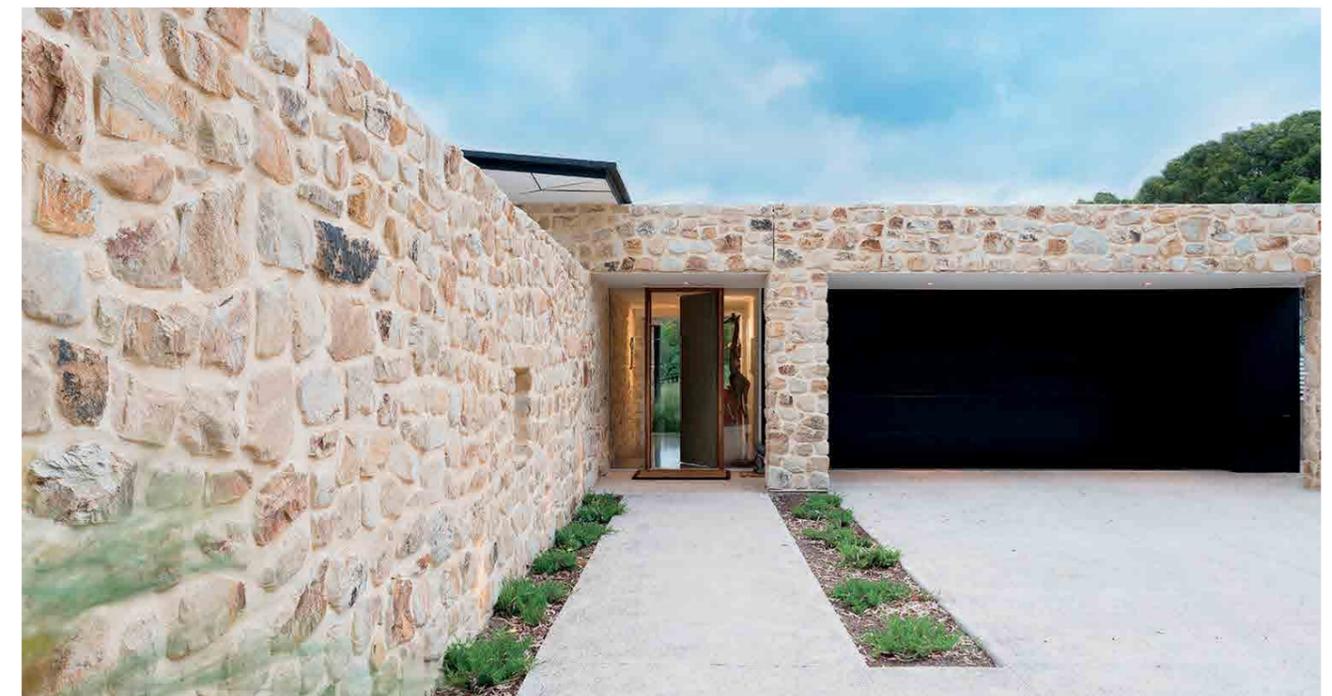
Maree Schaefer didn't think she had a God-given gift, let alone a gift for writing, but during the pandemic her talent was unveiled – you can read her story on page 9.

There are times we might not think we have a gift for words, or we don't know what to say. But we can trust that, if we ask and if we listen, God will give us the right words at just the right time.

Enjoy this edition of *Together* and the celebrations of the Christmas season.

We welcome your story submissions, suggestions and feedback. Email the editor at jessica.smith@lca.org.au

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



Adelaide Hills Sandstone
The heart of the Hills

Whether you are driven by sustainability, sleek design or practicality, the versatility of Adelaide Hills Sandstone means that the options are only limited by your imagination.

Phone: (08) 8390 3420
Email: info@ahsstone.au
Social Media: Adelaide Hills Sandstone





A word from your Bishop...

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

God doesn't waste words – his or ours.

Thirty-five years ago, at the start of my ministry in Queensland, I met a lady who had just come out of hospital after a knee replacement (actually, I met her bull terrier first and it nearly took my own knee cap off in her living room!). I learned she'd had a difficult life raising her nine children who had fallen into all kinds of troubles. After visiting her, I often wondered what value I had added to her life. Twenty-five years later a hospital chaplain in Brisbane rang me on her behalf to thank me. She was dying and had asked where 'that young pastor' was now. My sitting with her, listening, brief prayers and a word of God had helped sustain her to be the mum she needed to be for her troubled family, 25 years earlier.

A few weeks ago, on the way into church, I spoke with a man whose wife had recently died. He was obviously grieving but was back at church for

the first time. I asked him what keeps him going and he said he has never forgotten something a pastor at that church had said to him 40 years ago. Those words had carried him through many a trial and are helping him through his grief today.

And it's not just pastors. I was listening to the radio in the car recently when the ABC radio host asked people to ring in if they could remember what happened in their life 60 years ago on that day. The first caller talked about something his primary school teacher had said on that day - his teacher was a Mr Altus who had taught at a state school in the hills - I realised his teacher was my uncle. This man hadn't forgotten something his teacher had said 60 years ago to that day.

Sometimes the fact that people don't forget what we say makes me nervous, but other days it encourages me to know that God doesn't waste anything.

That is especially true of his word that we share. *"It will not return to me empty but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."* Isaiah 55:11

Christmas is the fulfilment of a word that God himself spoke through prophets centuries before. A word that God now fulfilled in person, in Jesus, God's 'living' word. *"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."* John 1:14

"In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son... The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word." Hebrews 1:1-3

I don't always get the timing or content right with my words, but God speaks the right word at the right time, especially in Jesus himself, and he gives us the privilege of speaking his word for him into the lives of people around us. Don't underestimate its power, and don't ever imagine it is wasted.

God never wastes a word, especially his, but also yours. Have confidence in that, as you give witness to him in your families and communities this Christmas.

From the Bishop's diary...

Welcome

We are pleased to be welcoming the following pastors and their families to the SA-NT District in the coming months:

- Joel & Nicola Grieger and Henry (graduate assigned to Bordertown parish)
- Jeremy and Katie Smith (graduate assigned to Maitland parish at Kadina)
- Andre Meyer (accepted Morphett Vale)
- Theo Prucha (SMP assigned to the German congregation at North Adelaide)
- Mike and Leanne Steicke (accepted Balaklava/Saddleworth parishes for 12 months)
- Eugene and Nikki Minge and family (accepted Greenock)

Farewell

We say goodbye and 'God bless' to Pastor Matthew and Sal Huckel who have left Pasadena for the call to Moorabbin-Dandenong in the Vic-Tas District. Go in the peace of the Lord, and with our thanks and blessing.

Bereavements

We remember before God Pastor Peter Boesch, Mrs Hilda Schmocker and Jacqueline Nakamarra. We ask God to sustain their families and other loved ones and we give him thanks for their faithful service of his church.

Other installations

- Paul Kerber as Intentional Interim Pastor to the Southern Barossa on 30 October
- Michael Steicke at Balaklava on 29 January 2023
- Andrew Meyer at Morphett Vale on 15 January 2023

LCA General Convention of Synod

Please pray for all who are attending this event in Melbourne in February, and for God's will to be done among and through us. Next year will be the 50th Synod of the SA-NT District in May at Victor Harbor.

Notification of historic sexual abuse

On the opposite page you will read a notice regarding incidents of historic sexual abuse that took place in one of our congregations several decades ago. It is part of our church's response to a survivor who I met with earlier this year, in conjunction with the National Redress Scheme. The leadership of the congregation and I have been deeply saddened since being made aware of this abuse, however we agreed to make both the local congregation and district aware of it for the sake of others who may have been abused. We would encourage anyone impacted to avail themselves of the support listed in the notification. Please pray for everyone affected by this news, especially survivors, and use this awareness as a catalyst to support every effort in the LCA towards being a church that is safe for all, particularly children and other vulnerable people.

Pastoral vacancies

Aberfoyle Park, Alice Springs (congregation), Alice Springs (Aboriginal support), Berri-Barmera, Bethany, Bethlehem Associate, Birdwood, Blackwood, Cleve, Eudunda, FRM (support worker), Glynde-Zion, Glynde-St Andrews/LHG, Tanunda-Langmeil, Mawson Lakes, Mid Murray, Morphett Vale, North Adelaide, Para Vista, Pasadena, Port Lincoln, Tanunda-Grace, Mt Gambier College (three other colleges have opted for lay chaplaincy at this time).

A failure to protect children from abuse

We are bringing to light and to your attention that multiple incidents of sexual abuse of children took place at Good Shepherd Para Vista in the 1990s. The abuse was the subject of a recent application to the National Redress Scheme for people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse. A survivor has received redress through the National Redress Scheme and has also accepted our offer to publish a statement of our failure to protect.

The Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand (LCANZ) and its congregations abhor all forms of sexual abuse, and we take allegations of abuse very seriously. We encourage survivors of sexual abuse, regardless of where or when it occurred, to access avenues of support and redress that are appropriate for their circumstances.

These include:	The Lutheran Church of Australia Professional Standards Department 1800 644 628 www.lca.org.au/psd (Pastoral care would be accessed if requested as part of their assistance)	SA Police 13 14 44 Other avenues of support Bravehearts 1800 272 831 bravehearts.org.au Blue Knot Foundation 1300 657 380 www.blueknot.org.au	In Good Faith Foundation 1300 124 433 igff.org.au Lifeline 13 11 14 lifeline.org.au 1800 Respect 1800 737 732 1800respect.org.au
----------------	---	---	--

The LCANZ is committed to being a safe place for all. If this notice has triggered strong emotions for you, we want to support you. Please reach out to a trusted person in your church community or contact any of the organisations listed above.

National Church Life Survey 2021/2

Stephen Schultz
Assistant Bishop for Mission

Our congregations recently took part in the National Church Life Survey in late 2021 and early 2022. This survey is conducted every 5 years and aligns with the Australian census.

Over 70% of our SA-NT congregations completed the survey with information gathered from nearly 4,000 people. This gives us significant insight into how our people view their faith communities.

The things we most value continue to be holy communion (67% people listing it in their top three), sermons/

preaching/teaching (38%), traditional worship (30%) and contemporary worship (28%). The things we wish to prioritise include worship services that are nurturing (43%), building a sense of community (32%), ministry to children and youth (27%) and creating a clear vision (27%).

COVID has increased our desire to build a sense of community and has impacted on our confidence to achieve our vision as congregations (only 25% of people are fully confident that their local church can achieve the vision, goals or directions set).

This time the survey asked extra questions about people's worship habits: 57% worshipped exclusively in

their own congregation, 30% attended elsewhere in person and 22% attended elsewhere on-line.

I would encourage every community to use this information, provided by your own people, to help with future planning. As well as identifying areas of priority it is also a useful tool to engage your people and enable honest and open conversations about your ministry and mission.

If you require assistance to interpret the data or facilitate these conversations, please contact me at stephen.schultz@lca.org.au

Blessings to you as you serve the Lord of the church and the harvest.

The Diary of Emilie Appelt

Lutheran woman's journal makes history, 100 years after her death



In the garden - Emilie and Friedrich with their children c. 1885.

"Christmas Day, A lovely festival. All are happy, some in a worldly way, others because of the child in the manger. We all went to church."

This could be any of our musings, hastily jotted down as a reminder of the joy of the festive season. In fact, these words were written nearly 120 years ago, in 1904, by Lutheran woman Emilie Appelt in her *tagebuch*, or diary. Emilie's diary was recently published as a book after being discovered in archives, where it had been sitting for years. The fact that we can read Emilie's detailed personal journal, spanning the decade between 1904 and 1914, is something of an anomaly. Surviving diaries written by Lutherans from this time are almost unheard of, those written by women are rarer still.



Emilie and Friedrich on their wedding day in 1876.

Emilie was an active member of the Eudunda community at the time she wrote the diary. When she first put pen to paper Emilie was 52 years old, had lived through drought and famine, witnessed the rapid growth of Eudunda, and had borne thirteen children, six of whom she buried.

Originally written in German and translated into English after Emilie's death by her daughter, Vida, the diary reveals Emilie's innermost thoughts, her prayers to God and her hopes for her children. It also recounts days, moments, events and interactions with people in great detail (how many bottles of *magentropfen*, or stomach drops, were made; who came to tea; the prize winners at the agricultural show; how much rain fell; who had just gotten engaged). Significant events of the time are relayed through a personal lens – the opening of the rail line from Robertstown to Eudunda; the derailing of a train at Fords after heavy rain, resulting in the death of the driver. Sometimes a day's entry may be just one sentence, at other times several paragraphs or more.



Emilie Appelt (nee Temec) c. 1908.

While Emilie herself never held an official position in the community (not uncommon for women of the era) her husband, Friedrich, was not only the local store owner but also the coroner, postmaster, Justice of the Peace and chemist. He also held a number of positions within the Lutheran church as a layperson, was chair of the District Church Council, and church treasurer for 30 years. This meant that Emilie had dealings with the vast majority of the community, and an insight into the inner workings of the church. Much of this is evident in her diary, along with reflections of her own faith.

Are your relatives mentioned in Emilie's diary?

Emilie's diary contains reference to some 350 individuals, those Emilie encountered in her busy daily life. Most often they're identified by their surname – 'Teacher Eckerman', 'Missionary Kuchel' and 'Pastor Nickel', for example. The names have been compiled and listed in a blog article on the website www.appeltdiary.com (the diary's digital home run by editor, Samuel). Have a look - you may recognise your relatives!



Appelt's General Store, c. 1905.

So how, then, did these very personal pages come to be published? That in itself is a story, one that the book's editor, Samuel Doering, says was down to 'perfect timing.'

"Since the age of 12, I have been a volunteer at the Eudunda Family Heritage Gallery, the town's local museum, and as I grew into the role I increasingly spent time in the Archive Room, sorting documents and creating easy-to-navigate filing systems," says Samuel.

"In mid-2019 I came across a box with two precariously bound books, one being a scrapbook of newspaper clippings by Friedrich Theodor Appelt, and a translated transcript of Emilie Appelt's diary. I sat in the Archive Room, which was admittedly quite cold, and read Emilie's diary.

I was entranced. Here was a woman speaking to me nearly a century after her death, illuminating a time beyond the reaches of living memory. It was unlike anything I had read before, and I was resolved her story had to be told."

As fate had it, Samuel was elected chair of the Eudunda 150 Committee, formed to celebrate Eudunda's 150th anniversary in November 2020. In formulating a program of events, Samuel suggested the publication of Emilie's diaries, which was met with great enthusiasm.

Samuel says Emilie's diary is one of the most consistent portrayals of daily life in Eudunda ever recorded, and its personal nature resonates with readers.

"Her story also acts as a bridge to much wider narratives – including Lutheranism in Australia, the labours of rural pioneers, German heritage, the voice and position of women in society, and more – which draws the community in.

"I often meet people who are related to the Appelt family, are descended from friends and contemporaries of Emilie, or had some other connection to the Appelt family or Eudunda. It continually astounds me how interconnected we are with our forebearers."



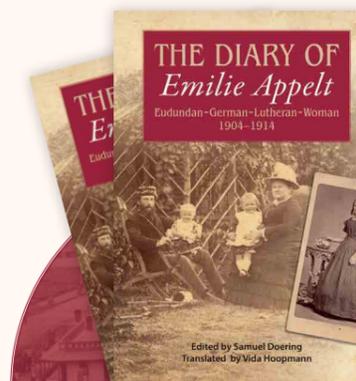
Samuel Doering (right) officially presents the published diary to Dr John Weste (left) librarian at the SA Parliament Research Library. A copy of the book is now housed in the library's collection.

100 YEARS ON – celebrating Emilie's life



Bishop David Altus (left) was joined by his son Darren Altus and grandchildren Maddison and Aimee (far right), and diary editor Samuel Doering (second from left) at the thanksgiving service. Coincidentally, Darren was one of Samuel's teachers at Eudunda Lutheran school.

It was a descendant of Emilie's, SA-NT Bishop David Altus, who led a special thanksgiving service in August this year, celebrating her extraordinary life. Held at St John's Lutheran Church in Eudunda the event marked 100 years since Emilie's death.



Want to read more?

The Diary of Emilie Appelt is available to purchase at www.appeltdiary.com



District update

By Angela Rogers
District Administrator

In the lead-up to Christmas I have been thinking a lot about Mary. What must she have thought when she learned she was chosen to be the mother of Jesus? Having to travel to Bethlehem on a donkey whilst heavily pregnant would, in modern terms, be like having to pack up a house and move within days of the impending arrival. Yet throughout all of this, Mary kept her faith in God. She knew he had a plan for her and her baby.

The end of the year is a wonderful time to thank the volunteers in our congregations and the agencies who do so much for us. Whether leaders or servers, whether their work is front and centre or behind the scenes, they are all serving in God's kingdom and even a quiet acknowledgement can mean so much.

Before we know it, it will be AGM season again. Will God tap you on the shoulder to encourage you to take on a role in your congregation? Don't be afraid if this does happen, there are many people there to support you. The District Office has resources available for all aspects of congregations life – reach out to us for assistance. The LCA NZ Learning Hub has a number of bite-sized training modules which may be of use, and our Church Chat book (available on our website) can help guide you as you prepare for an AGM.



Resources to help you and your congregation.

Have you considered asking a younger person to take on a role in the congregation? There may be some who are waiting to be asked, perhaps too shy to put their hand up but very willing to help out. Our congregations are blessed when members of all ages share their skills.

In the District Office we are privileged to speak with so many valued volunteers who serve within our congregations. We sincerely thank each and every one of you for what you do. You may think it is only a little job, but without all of the little jobs nothing would be achieved for the glory of God.

As we end this year and begin a new one, I pray that God will encourage us to be more like Mary – humble, faithful servants of God, following his path for us. Blessings to you as we celebrate the most wonderful of gifts, the birth of Jesus.

Reflecting gods love

Professional Standards

By Dave Biar, Professional Standards Officer

Child Safety Standards



Thank you to all congregations who have already submitted either a Child Safety Improvement Plan or a Child Safety Assurance Statement. So far 43% of our district congregations have at least started a self-assessment. If your congregation has not yet started or submitted, please proceed as soon as possible, as this is a requirement for all LCA congregations.

An initial progress report has been sent to District Church Council, with the final report planned for submission in March 2023.

Welcome Nicole Hall

We are thrilled to welcome Nicole Hall, our new Child Safety Standards Implementation Support Officer. Nicole will assist congregations with their self-assessments and safety planning, as well as providing crucial support to our teams.

Safety Management Online (SMO)

Did you know that it is a requirement that congregations use SMO to record details of all working with children checks? Using SMO at a congregation level enables our department to provide you with detailed and up-to-date information, tailored to you needs. If your SMO records are up-to-date, automated monthly reporting can save your office administrator a lot of time.

SMO 'traffic light' notifications on the website are now working properly (as pictured, right), after a glitch that meant some incorrect statuses were appearing.

Appointment	Training
Yellow	Red
Green	Green
Red	Green

Please contact the PSD team on 08 267 5211 or psd.sa-nt@lca.org.au with any queries.

Finding the write path

Lockdown babysitting reveals a writing gift

Maree Schaefer's stories of pelicans, platypuses, green tree frogs and other Australian animals became a welcome respite from COVID lockdowns for her grandchildren living in Germany. Now Maree's gift for writing has blossomed, with eleven books published and more on the way.

It was in early 2020, as the impact of the COVID pandemic was being felt worldwide, that Maree and her husband Brian, both members at Pasadena Lutheran Church, agreed to help their German-based family with their homeschooling.



Maree holds one of her most popular books, 'On my way...in Coffin Bay', inspired by a 2021 visit to the town.



Maree and Brian's six grandchildren all live in Germany.

The resulting stories included 'Molly and her pet green tree frog, 'How the platypus was made' and 'Percy the Murray Magpie' – to name just a few.

Maree's six grandchildren, aged from seven to 12, were instantly taken with the stories, and with encouragement from friends and family she looked in to publishing them as books. Now Maree has sold copies to customers all over the world, including in the USA, Canada, Germany, Malaysia, Indonesia and of course within Australia.

"We became 'Skype babysitters' for our grandchildren during their lockdown," says Maree. "As you can imagine it was rather challenging! To help keep them amused and occupied after they had finished their schoolwork, I began writing these Australian stories for them, and would read them out to them."

Although she had no previous writing experience, Maree says she drew on her childhood memories of life on a farm as inspiration for many of her stories. A knowledge of German culture also helped to shape the books, with the aim of making them as engaging as possible for her young audience.

"From our many visits to Germany I was aware that they are fascinated with our native birds and animals, and in particular our snakes and spiders."

Maree is thankful for the circumstances that led to the discovery of her writing gift.

"As a child I vividly recall being taught that we all have God-given gifts, and at that stage I didn't consider that I had any because I felt I was no different from anybody else," she says.

"My journey through the COVID-19 pandemic turned out to be a very positive journey and I thank God for that. My God-given gift was unveiled."

Maree enjoys sharing her journey as an author with clubs and groups as a guest speaker, and now has more stories in the works. She considers the stories a legacy she can leave for her grandchildren, with some of them now involved in brainstorming and planning new books with her.

Maree's books are available on the Openbook Howden website <https://www.openbookhowden.com.au/bookshop/>

Images courtesy Maree Schaefer



Outreach stirs up cooking skills

Classes help community make the most of food donations

Having the ability and skills to prepare a meal is a blessing, even if it sometimes feels like a chore at the end of a long day. But for those who don't know how to cook, a quick and healthy dinner may be out of reach. This was something the volunteers of Victor Harbor Lutheran Church's food relief ministry, Loaves and Fishes, realised. Loaves and Fishes distributes surplus supermarket and bakery goods to those in need, with donations coming in through the organisation OzHarvest.

"We noticed that a lot of people collecting food from us were not taking the fresh vegetables – they would go for the pre-prepared things like bakery goods," says Loaves and Fishes coordinator Merelyne Young.

"What we realised was that they didn't know how to prepare the fresh food. We thought to ourselves, what if we run cooking lessons and teach them the skills they need?"

The idea was there, but a few hurdles remained in place. Who would run the classes, and where would they source the fresh produce for the lessons, without taking away from the donated goods for distribution? The team saw God's provision on both fronts. The congregation was excited to receive a local government community grant of \$1000, and approached professional chef Michael Duchow, who also works with students at Encounter Lutheran College, to see if he would be happy to run the classes. When Michael agreed to do so at no charge, the grateful

congregation's prayers were answered – they could now use the grant money to purchase supplies and ingredients.

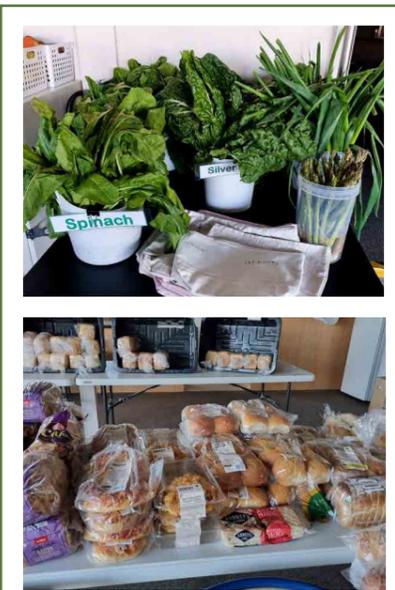
Participants were quick to sign up to the six-week course and received general food education, as well as cooking skills that will last a lifetime.

"It was great to see the participants asking Michael the chef for his tips, on everything from what staples to have in the pantry to what herbs and spices to use with different ingredients," says Merelyne. "We even had some who had cooked before and thought they didn't need to come to all the classes who ended up staying for the whole lot, because of all the new and interesting information they were learning."

Most participants had little to no cooking experience (one mentioned before classes started that he "could only microwave things") but their progress over six weeks of willing learning was exceptional. Meals they whipped up included chicken soup, burgers, green chicken curry, sweet and savoury crepes and curry puffs.

As well as learning new life skills, Merelyne says the friendships formed have been wonderful to see.

"They've made quite a group of friends now and have come out of their shells – they were quite quiet at the beginning but by the end were very happy and chatting amongst each other. One lady has a husband who is very ill and she doesn't get out much, so this was her day out and she absolutely loved it."



Loaves and Fishes ministry operates out of the Victor Harbor Lutheran Church cafe on Thursday evenings and Friday mornings, serving those in the community who need assistance with food relief. Donations of goods are received through the OzHarvest organisation before being prepared and distributed by church volunteers. Available items include fresh fruit and vegetables, frozen food, bread and bakery items and some non-perishables. Emergency supplies including beanies, rugs and women's toiletries are also stocked.

Walking for refugees

Inaugural combined-schools Walk My Way

By Jonathan Krause,
ALWS Community Action Manager

If you look at a map of Australia, it's hard to find two places further apart geographically (and weather-wise) than Darwin in the Northern Territory and Victor Harbor at the bottom of South Australia. Both locations are even further from the refugee camps at Kakuma in Kenya, yet more than 700 students from seven schools have stepped out, to help more than 6000 refugee children at Kakuma step into school, as part of the Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS) event Walk My Way.

Good Shepherd Lutheran College in Darwin held two events, one for older students and parents and another for the junior school, raising \$16,800 – enough to support nearly 650 refugee children in school for a year.

"We are incredibly proud of our college community for recognizing this initiative as being something very special, with the ability to make a huge difference to others less fortunate than us," said Anita Synott, Year 12 team leader.



Meanwhile, at Victor Harbor, six schools took part in the first ever combined-schools Walk My Way. A total of 569 walkers from Concordia College, Rivergum Christian College, Encounter Lutheran College, Immanuel College, Cornerstone College and Endeavour College chose either a 13km or 20km course. More than \$61,800 was raised, enough to support the annual education of 2,380 refugee children.

"It was so good to hear how our community, through ALWS, is tangibly helping refugee children in many places," said Mark Rathjen, Concordia College chaplain. "It has been a great joy to be involved in the walk this year and we are ready to be first in line for the next one."

The Darwin and Victor Harbor walks are part of a nationwide Walk My Way effort, with ten walks held so far in 2022 and more than \$164,300 raised in total.

Gifts of
Grace
shine

- 6 gifts under \$10
- Long Drop Loo!
- Bauble Grace Cards
- Omera's FREE gift made just for you!

shine
joy this Christmas!

Tired of thought-free throwaway Christmas gifts?

GOOD NEWS! With ALWS **Gifts of Grace**, you shine Christmas joy to family and friends... and brighten the lives of families in need, like Omera's!

Pick a plucky Pig from Burundi. Get (c)lucky with a Chicken Farm in South Sudan. Clean up yucky with a Long Drop Loo in Myanmar.

Grace Cards describe each gift you buy. A press-out bauble and message of hope add true meaning to the Christmas Tree. The 20+ gifts start at just \$4. All are tax-deductible. First 500 orders receive a FREE shine tea-towel of Omera's drawing.

Don't miss out – shine joy this Christmas!
alws.org.au/grace * 1300 763 407



ALWayS for those forgotten





Riverland CLW

By Emma Strelan and Morgan Arnold
Riverland CLW Directors 2022

We have seen God's provision over Riverland Christian Life Week (CLW) camp in so many unexpected ways this year. CLW was supposed to run in July but due to COVID complications we were forced to cancel camp only 24 hours prior. While this was a very difficult time for all involved and a decision that, as directors, you never want to make, we were pleasantly surprised to learn that the campsite had a spot free in the October school holidays which we could reschedule to.

From then on, blessing after blessing flowed as we prepared for camp. We had a very dedicated leadership team along with several new leaders coming on board. In the weeks leading up to camp we had more camper registrations than anticipated and we were also able to incorporate campers and leaders from the Port Hughes CLW when their camp unfortunately did not go ahead.

The actual week of camp was wonderful and ran very smoothly. Lots of cricket was played, puzzles were done, food was eaten, line dances were danced, 'warm fuzzy' notes written, and emu noises were made (that one doesn't have much explanation, sorry).

Young adult network

Do you know any young people who have completed Year 12 and live in Adelaide, or are moving here for work or study in 2023? Blueprint Ministries provides a network where they can link in with other young adults. A welcome event will be held on Saturday 25 February 2023.

Our camp theme was based on Isaiah 64:8 – "We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand." Each day, Pastor Stephen Trautwein gave a message focussing on a step in the pottery-making process and explained how it relates to an element of God working in our lives. These messages led into fruitful discussions in small groups about our identity and what the Bible says about who we are.

Other highlights of camp include the worship times, the community time together, fun outdoor games, a giant life-sized Cluedo set, a quiz night, and plenty of board games.

On the final night of camp, we celebrated the week with a theme night: 'celebrities and famous people'. There were some wonderfully creative costumes, from politicians to royalty to movie stars.

Thank you to all who contributed to making Riverland CLW such a great camp.

UPCOMING CAMPS

SPIN CAMP (YEARS 4-6) 10 to 13 January Camp Kedron, Barmera	RENEW YOUNG ADULT CAMP 3 to 6 February Walker Flat
---	---

We encourage young people to follow the Blueprint Young Adult Network on Facebook to keep in touch and for support, encouragement and an opportunity to build new connections and friendships.

Contact Blueprint at
admin@blueprintministries.org.au
for more information.

Images: supplied

Lutheran uni camp

By Eloise Quinn-Valentine
Camp Director



Photo above: Uni campers at Woodhouse Activity Centre.

On a cold but sunny weekend in August, a number of Lutheran uni students, friends, and helpers from across South Australia gathered at Woodhouse for a weekend of learning, worship, fellowship, fun, and rest.

Upgraded from the bunkhouse to the beautifully restored Old Woodhouse Manor, we were blown away by our accommodation and made the most of the cosy dining room (where many hours were spent eating, talking, and playing board games), the ballroom (where we studied the Word and worshipped together), the outdoor fire pit (which was enjoyed well into the night), as well as spending an action-packed afternoon taking on Challenge Hill.

We were grateful to the guest speakers who came to help us think more about how we can challenge perceptions of Christianity which see Jesus favourably but reject the church, and how we can encourage one another to live faithfully as members of Jesus' body, the church. We left the weekend feeling rested as well as challenged, encouraged and excited to keep developing relationships and growing in faith.

Images: supplied



Participants from left to right: Bethanie Mann, Ethan Grosse, Noah Hahn, Lachlan Traeger, Joel Schiller (computer desk), Ryan Kennealy, Anastasia Ferguson, Izzy Yeend, Emma Strelan

Global Leadership Next Gen Conference

Blueprint Ministries was delighted to present the first Global Leadership Next Gen conference in October. We knew it was going to be a good day when the young adults started off by shifting the tables so they could all sit together – a great example of collaboration!

Participants heard from global leaders inspiring them to be brave and innovative, consider their impact, to 'be the mosquito' ('if you ever feel too small to make a difference, try to fall asleep with a mosquito in the room'), to persevere, to revisit their truth statements (what God says about them versus their self-talk), and to be good stewards.

Through the afternoon we engaged with leaders from the LCA NZ – Steve Schultz framed the picture of using your gifts in your vocation, and Jodi Brook

invited participants to consider how to engage with LCA NZ departments and encouraged the young people to think about their practical place in the body ('are you an eye, a spleen or the digestive system?'). Participants also reflected on their S.H.A.P.E. (spiritual gifts, heart passions, abilities, personality traits and experiences). Participants were encouraged to consider their next steps and be accountable to them, with the support and mentorship of Blueprint Ministries.

Some very helpful feedback will shape our plans for next year and how we can engage more effectively. Mentoring was a key area of interest and there was a general appreciation for the opportunity to gather and discuss real and relevant topics.

Plans are already underway to present GLS Next Gen 2023 with potential to reach beyond a one-day event. Save the date 3 June 2023!

Find accommodation. Live independently. Connect community.

lutheran disability services

ldssa.org.au
☎ 8212 7766

Building purpose for people

living with disabilities

Lutheran Care volunteers receive Premier's awards

By Amelia Dawkins

Lutheran Care recently celebrated the outstanding service of six Community Visitors Scheme volunteers, who received Premier's Certificates of Recognition earlier this year.

Together Sue Fackrell, Penny Pfitzner, Peter Rudiger, Dawn Spencer, Yvonne Gaca and Chris 'Tigger' Werner have a combined 115 years' service in Lutheran Care's Community Visitors Scheme program, which coordinates friendly volunteers to visit older people at risk of social isolation. Over the years, each volunteer has brought significant joy, friendship and comfort to those they have visited.

Guests who attended the awards presentation heard some amazing stories from the volunteers, who were all very humble in receiving their certificates from Lutheran Care CEO Rohan Feegrade.

Mr Feegrade thanked the group for their extraordinary service and the impact they have had in reducing social isolation.

"Coming to these events really gives us the opportunity to reflect on what Lutheran Care really stands for and the work with do in communities," Mr Feegrade said. "Lutheran Care does the full spectrum of life. We are in people's life from birth, right through to the stories we've heard today of last breath."



Attending Lutheran Care's Premier's Certificate presentation in September were (back L-R) Carolyn Koch, Peter Rudiger, Annie Chambers, Sue Fackrell, Chris 'Tigger' Werner, Dawn Spencer, Rohan Feegrade, (front L-R) Yvonne Gaca, Julia Borgas, Penny Pfitzner and Sonja Williams.

Volunteer Dawn Spencer is 93 years old and in her fifteenth year of CVS volunteering.

"I'm an oldie," Dawn joked. "But volunteering is worth it."

On accepting her certificate, Sue Fackrell said there were many benefits to being a volunteer with the Community Visitors Scheme.

"There have been so many wonderful people that I have learnt so much from," Sue said. "They've had so much life experience and I think it's been a really heart-warming journey for me to be involved with so many different people along the way."

If you are interested in volunteering with Lutheran Care, visit www.lutherancare.org.au/volunteer-with-us or contact Volunteer Coordinator Michelle Wende on 0437 836 134 or mwende@lutherancare.org.au

IN BRIEF

Lobethal principal recognised



Lobethal Lutheran School Principal, Stephanie Kreiwaldt (pictured), was an Excellence Awardee at the 2022 Australian Education Awards. Stephanie's focus on leveraging her school's rural setting by authentically embedding STEM into the curriculum and building community has led to a 44% increase in enrolments in just one year.

"I'm honoured and excited that the best practice education we offer at Lobethal Lutheran has been recognised," says Steph. "From little things big things grow!"

The school, affectionately known as 'LobeyLu', also celebrated their 180th anniversary in 2022 with guests including past students, teachers and principals flying in from across the country to take part.

Art on display at St Petri

St Petri Lutheran Church in Nuriootpa recently hosted an art exhibition with the theme 'Free indeed'. Part of the LCA NZ Simultaneous Art Exhibition, the display showcased over 70 works by artists ranging in age from two to 98 years old. Using resources prepared by LCA Visual Arts, the artists explored different aspects of Christian freedom, from the



Photo (L-R): Kerry Norman, Libby Krahlng and Kate Obst.

slavery and sin of a broken world through to the work of Christ on the cross, setting the prisoners free and bringing new life.

Read the full story in the 'news' section on the district website.

Upper North Zone Women's Fellowship Day



Photo (L-R): Joy Crawford (Jamestown) and Judith Murphy (Whyalla) catch up on the day.

The 55th Upper North Zone Women's Fellowship Day was recently held in Jamestown, with the theme 'Caring is sharing'. Attendees came from across the mid and upper North, from Port Broughton to Whyalla. The group of nearly 50 women enjoyed hearing from guest speakers including Rhianan Strangways from LLL Australia, John and Pam Staker from the mentoring program Kids Hope, and Lutheran Women SA-NT District assistant secretary Chris Kuchel.

Read the full story in the 'news' section on the district website.



Photo: Conference participants at the Monastery, Urrbrae.

National conference of German-language congregations

Twenty representatives from evangelical German-language congregations across Australia recently gathered at The Monastery in Adelaide for their first ever national conference of sharing, networking and theological studies. Sponsored by the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD), the participants were lay preachers, church council members, lay workers, pastors and academics.

Read the full story in the 'news' section on the district website.

Lutheran Nurses visit the Centre



Photo: Lutheran nurses from around the world with Rev Bob Wiebusch (centre)

Lutheran nurses from around the world have gathered in Alice Springs as part of an international study tour. The group included nurses from Australia, the USA, Singapore and Palestine. Lutheran Parish Nurses International (LPNI) runs the annual study tours, which take place in countries where parish nursing has been established. The tours allow participants to learn about the history and mission of the local Lutheran Church and about the health structures and parish nurse ministry in the countries visited, as well as providing fellowship opportunities.

Read the full story in the 'news' section on the district website.

...planning your next move?

... consider Retirement Living - Barossa Style

Brand new two bedroom homes in Tanunda - Ready for Occupation

Stage 2 pre-release of nine new homes in Nuriootpa...

Dont miss this opportunity, plan your move with Tanunda Lutheran Home. We are dedicated to providing the highest quality service to our Independent Retirement Living Residents, so what are you waiting for... join us and live your best life in Barossa.

Connected communities, great facilities, a low maintenance lifestyle and easy access to the best of Barossa Style.

It's time to start living

Open for inspection by appointment - 08 8563 7777



Tanunda Lutheran Home Inc.

www.retirementlivingbarossa.com.au

Image courtesy Lutheran Care

Images supplied



Thank you!

‘Half a million Somali children face hunger in world’s worst famine this century.’

Reuters

Before your Lutheran help through ALWS, the children of Abdullahi Hassan Ahmed were some of the children most at risk.

Mr Abdullahi is a farmer in Somalia. When drought killed 60 of his family’s cows and two donkeys, he despaired about how he would feed his children.

‘Our priority at the moment is to find food to eat.’

In the process, we often find ourselves facing other risks – such as having to leave behind the weak amongst our families, including persons living with disability, children and women.’

Working through ALWS partner LWF (Lutheran World Federation), you supply cash food vouchers to families in most danger from hunger.

Each \$105 cash food voucher enables a family to buy:

- 25kg each of rice, wheat flour and sugar
- 3 litres vegetable oil
- 1kg dates

This is a food ration for a family of six for one month. Our aim is to support 300 of the worst-hit families for six months.

In the photo above, you see Mr Abdullahi receiving his family’s cash food voucher for September from the LWF frontline team.

Mr Abdullahi says he is praying that the skies open up for rain, and passes on his thanks to you:

‘My sincere thanks to LWF and donors for their timely food assistance. I equally appeal to be supported to once again own livestock, as that is our only means of livelihoods.’

‘It’s so heartbreaking for us to be separated from our loved ones.’

Mr Abdullahi

Donate now to support this ALWS action. You can also invite an ALWS guest speaker to share more about your ALWS action bringing love to life for those in danger of being forgotten.

alws.org.au * 1300 763 407