

August 2022
Volume 37, Issue 2



Life News

Promoting the sanctity of life

The Barossa's Centre of Care for all walks and stages of life



Earlier this year, one of our committee members visited the St Petri Lutheran Church plant (in the Barossa Valley township of Nuriootpa) which is richly blessed with land, resources and a great location. She was blown away by the ministry going on at St Petri and their multi-pronged outreach into the local community. This was a story that needed to be shared!

Through this "tour", Edwin Shoesmith (Vicar at St Petri) will illustrate how Christians can work with their local community to create a culture that values and supports life in all its stages. *Editor*

Inside this issue

The Barossa's Centre of Care.....	1
LfL Riverland Branch closes after 33 years.....	4
Snippets	5
Enid Lyons Training Day... ..	6
Meet the new committee..	7



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In late 2021, I was placed as a vicar at St Petri Lutheran Church Nuriootpa, along with my wife Fiona and two boys Paxton (3) and Chester (1). The members of St Petri were very welcoming and excited to have a vicar again. I was able to work alongside a seasoned veteran - Pastor Adrian Kitson - who guided me and answered many of my questions. Vicarage was such a great experience for me and my family and is such a gift from God. I encourage anyone who is considering the ordained ministry to investigate the possibility by having a conversation with their local pastor.

On arrival at St Petri one will note that this isn't just a single building. St Petri is a campus with multiple structures which speak of the love Christians share through physical and spiritual means with the gospel being at the centre of all they do. The community of volunteers and paid staff on the campus care for a range of people from all walks and stages of life. St Petri is an example of how a congregation can work together to be a wonderful gift to the local community.

The first church building on the site was dedicated on the 10th November, 1867 and measured 47 feet by 22 feet. Over the years, the site has evolved through demolition, rebuilding and extension to meet the needs of the growing congregation. God has blessed the congregation with both the human and financial resources needed for this to occur.

The St Petri campus is now known as the "centre of care" in Nuriootpa- a place that is safe and somewhere people can come to get help. By taking a walk around the St Petri campus it is easy to see all the long-standing partnerships and relationships with several community-based and non-government agencies.

The first of these partnerships is with the Barossa **Child and Family Health Service**. CaFHS (as it is known) is a free service for all families in South Australia with children aged 0-5 years. For families experiencing added

challenges, CaFHS offers more intensive support over a longer period to help families meet the health and development needs of their child. Having this available right in the heart of Nuriootpa is one of the first areas St Petri supports the community with its partnership with government bodies.



The **Hand in Hand Centre** is a St Petri Lutheran Church initiative but is also supported by Lutheran Care. It is run by both paid staff and volunteers who provide a variety of groups, events and courses aimed at increasing connections with the community whilst helping people who require support. Some of these include:

- Connect & Play – a free, casual and friendly play-group offered in the Hall at St Petri.
- Coffee & Chat – a group for creating relationships with members of the community.
- Craft Group - an opportunity for crafty people to bring their latest craft project along and meet people with similar interests.
- Parenting Toolbox Course and Tuning into Kids coaching which run throughout the year.

St Petri also partner with Nuriootpa High School to run a **Flexible Learning Centre** in an old house across from the Lutheran Care building. The Flexible Learning Centre supports students from Nuriootpa High School who require extra learning help.



St Petri Housing Association works in partnership with Cornerstone Housing to provide low-cost housing for those on low incomes. There are 6 units available for those who require housing assistance within easy walking distance of the church.

The Barossa based **Lutheran Care** provides support with homelessness, Foster Care, Disability Services (NDIS), Emergency Relief, Counselling and much more.

Lutheran Care's aim is to build stronger

communities where people feel included and cared for. The staff and volunteers are caring and warm, guided by faith and compassion.

Lutheran Disability Services are located in the building next to St Petri's main office. Lutheran Disability Services (LDS) supports people with disabilities and their families with accommodation support (including independent living), community participation, and learning new skills. The staff are passionate in helping people achieve their goals, connect to their faith and grow and build relationships in a positive and client-centred way.



Carers and Disability Link are right across the road from St Petri on First Street. They are a highly respected and quality service provider for the region, empowering carers, the aged and people with disabilities to live enriched lives.

Centacare run by Catholic Family Services, is next door to St Petri. They assist people of all ages who have been marginalised and are experiencing hardships in their lives such as domestic violence, homelessness, disability, and relationship breakdown.

The Veterans Shed at the back of the Flexible Learning Centre is home base for Club 1, which is a high school age support and learning group run by **Young Life Barossa**.

Just a few streets away is the campus of **Redeemer Lutheran School** which St Petri supports along with 9 other local Lutheran congregations. Similarly, it supports **Faith Lutheran College** in nearby Tanunda with many other local Lutheran congregations in the Barossa.

Lutherans for Life Branches

Riverland: Est. September 1989

Serving the Riverland area of South Australia

Contact: Mrs Lois Rathjen

08 8584 5706

New Zealand: Est. June 1991

Contact: Dr Petrus Simons

04 476 9398

Sunshine Coast: Est. August 1992

Serving the Sunshine Coast area of Queensland

Contact: Mr Norm Auricht

07 5443 6849

Darling Downs: Est. October 2005

Serving the Darling Downs area of Queensland

Contact: Mrs Joy Wurst

07 4613 4189



Check out our website

www.lutheransforlife.lca.org.au

Follow us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/lutheransforlifeaustralia

Contact us (email)

lutheransforlife@lca.org.au

Life News Editor (email)

ln.editor@gmail.com

Support Lutherans for Life

Consider making a financial gift to continue the promotion and protection of human dignity in our culture and community (see back page for details).

St Petri continues to be a place where God's love comes to life in the Barossa. They carry the good news of forgiveness and new life to people by God's grace, received through faith in Christ.

Edwin Shoesmith

Vicar, St Petri Lutheran Church Nuriootpa.



Edwin, Fiona, Chester and Paxton Shoesmith

Well done, good and faithful servants

In this edition of *Life News* we are celebrating the work of those involved in the Riverland Branch of Lutherans for Life. Over their 33 active years, they have witnessed faithfully on behalf of our Lord, advocating for the rights of the unborn.

The Riverland Lutherans for Life branch was established in 1989 with their first meeting held on the 23rd of August, and was held in Glossop, at the home of Louty de Ryke. This meeting included the election of members to office, with Pieter Raams as President, Mrs Jackie Ziegler as Vice-President, Mrs Penny Vanderwal

as Secretary, and Mrs Joyce Webb as Treasurer. Pieter B. Raams and Veronica Raams were also present at this meeting.

From there, recruitment of representatives from the Riverland and Swan Reach area began. The LfL Convention was held in the Peace Hall in 1992. This event was very successful with a great turnout from members and representatives.

Lois Rathjen was made Secretary in 1992 and has been faithfully serving in this role, with support from her husband Eric, since then. In 1994 David Jaeschke became President and held this position until 2016. We would like to acknowledge specifically David's great passion, service, and dedication to LfL and pro-life issues in the larger context. He worked tirelessly and with great joy up until his passing.

This group could not have worked either without the support of many pastors and other spiritual advisors.



Lois and Eric Rathjen

Pastors Paul Arbers, Wayne Logan, Peter Geyer, Chris Gallasch, David Buck, and Darrin Kohrt all supported and gave oversight to this group during its time of service. The national LfL Committee would like to acknowledge the recent passing of Darrin Kohrt. Our condolences to Vanessa and the rest of the family, we are praying for you at this hard time.

The Riverland Branch look back fondly at their participation at the Loxton Show and local Field Days. David Jaeschke is remembered for organising and bringing the "Great Expectations" Stand from Adelaide to these events for many years. The Stand includes information, photos and other items that show the development of life from conception to birth. It was displayed at one or both events from 2008 until 2015. This was made possible with the help of numerous volunteers, including members of the LfL Riverland Branch.

After their 33 years of service, the Riverland Branch has made the hard decision to close due to the ageing of their members. The remaining members of the Riverland Branch are Eric and Lois Rathjen, Cynthia Voigt, Martin Simpfendorfer, Alice Bettison, Vanessa Kohrt, Janet Thompson, Keith and Betty Munchenberg and Melva Joppich. They have all been longtime and faithful members of this group.

The national LfL Committee would like to thank and honour all those mentioned in this article for their years of dedication and service. Know that your work has not gone unnoticed by your fellow LfL members, but more importantly, by our Father in heaven, for he sees our good deeds done in secret (Matthew 6:4). We give thanks to God for your work in the Riverland over the years and pray that he blesses you now in your time of rest.

Karl Jacobson

LfL Committee

Snippets

Pray for the new federal government

You may recall we had a federal election on 21 May, and after weeks of counting postal votes and preferences it emerges that Labor has 77 seats, 76 to govern and 1 to appoint their own speaker. In the upper house, Labor will need the Greens or other independents to pass legislation. How well this will work remains to be seen. In some mysterious way God is acting and carrying out his plans. Romans 8:28 reminds us that all things work together for good to those who love God. Anglican minister Tracy Lauersen remarks on the large proportion of women and of First Nations people elected to both houses of parliament. She prays, "We give thanks for this land and the diversity of its peoples. Grant that we may so honour one another that all may be enriched by our common heritage and free from despair, poverty and exclusion."

<https://www.eternitynews.com.au/australia/welcome-to-the-most-diverse-parliament-in-australias-history/>

Euthanasia

The New South Wales parliament formally passed its Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill on 19 May 2022, without taking on any of the critical amendments. The bill passed the upper house 23 votes to 15. There will be an implementation phase of 18 months plus from the date of assent, so that it will probably be January 2024 before anyone can use the scheme. (The SA bill is expected to come into action on 29 March 2023).

Catholic Archbishop of Sydney Anthony Fisher has criticised the new law, warning that NSW is "poised on the verge of legalising the killing of some people judged better off dead." He noted that the church is the biggest palliative care provider in our country and the oldest and largest provider of healthcare in the world.

www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/election-2022-live-news-is-integrity-set-to-dominate-week-two/live-coverage/a64032e4d089cede42fa3c491ea75d1b#.49923

Palliative Care

In better news, the NSW government will boost its spending on palliative care, with \$743 million to be spent over five years hiring hundreds of extra health care professionals and improving pain management services for people in the final stage of life. NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet announced the funding boost on 8 June - a further \$93 million will be allocated for two new dedicated palliative care units at Westmead and Nepean Hospitals.

www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/palliative-care-gets-740m-injection/news-story/99d6942f5d0ced555d19edcdb7751ce1

Dr Rob Pollnitz

Enid Lyons Training Day

On Saturday July 2nd, committee members Karl Jacobson (and his fiancée Lucy Rathjen), Chelsea Pietsch, and Rose Vonow attended the 2022 Lyon Leaders Youth Training Day at Saint Nectarios Convention Centre in Croydon Park, South Australia.

Enid Lyons was a mother of twelve children and the first woman elected to the federal House of Representatives and serve in the federal Cabinet. Enid Lyons opposed abortion and, in her memoirs, recounted her horror at having to watch a nurse throw the remains of her baby into a fireplace after a miscarriage. She was devoted to supporting women and particularly pregnant women.

The **Enid Lyons List** was created to prepare and equip women leaders to take office in places of influence; to support the elevation of women who advocate for the protection of human life; and to support and empower pregnant women and unborn babies so that both can realise their full potential.*

The day was filled with discussions with other under 35s within the Pro-Life movement. Presentations were given by those in law and politics and myths about abortion were debunked. Things that were discussed included:

- treatment for miscarriage is not an abortion;

- treatment for an ectopic pregnancy is not an abortion;
- how the purpose of a uterus is to hold life and has no other benefit for the woman;
- how life saving treatment will always be given to mothers (ie. the life of the mother takes precedence over the life if the unborn child);
- how abortion is frequently performed for reasons of sexism, racism and convenience;
- how a foetus' body is not the woman's body (ie a woman does not have 20 fingers and 20 toes, the foetus is genetically distinct from the woman).

The LfL website has more information on the above topics for those who wish to delve deeper.

It was an incredible day filled with encouragement and inspiration. There are so many young people across ALL church backgrounds who are wanting to take a stand for the life which God has blessed us with. We praise God for other organisations seeking to bring glory to our Father by defending the unborn. We look forward to the next Enid Lyons Day.

*For more information, see:

<https://www.enidlyonslist.com/>

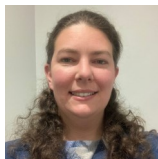
Rose Vonow

LfL Committee

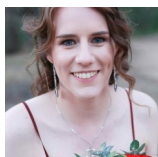
* "It is a poverty *
* to decide that a *
* child must die *
* so that you may *
* live as you *
* wish." *
* Mother Teresa *

Meet the new LfL Committee!

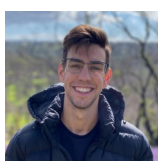
The LCA is in a new synodical term which means there has also been a “changing of the guard” for the LfL Committee. Please welcome our new (and not-so-new) members:



Elizabeth (Beth) Matuschka is the minute secretary of Lutherans for Life. Beth is a nurse and midwife with a heart for giving care with dignity and love for people at the beginning and the end of life. She currently lives in rural Victoria, where she works locally as a nurse in aged care as well as travelling to continue her passion for midwifery. Beth is also actively involved in the local community including the Lutheran church where her husband Lucas is the pastor.



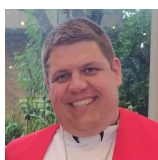
Hayley Simons is a lifelong Lutheran working in the construction industry and living in country Victoria. She is passionate about all things life, especially when it comes to encouraging our younger generation to stand up in these issues. Watching as this becomes increasingly harder to do, she believes with faith we can bring about change - change that will help and support, and glorify God our loving giver of life.



Karl Jacobson is a 3rd year student at Australian Lutheran College, studying with the intent of becoming a pastor within the LCA. He is engaged to Lucy Rathjen and is to be married in October 2022. He has a great passion for the love that God has for all people, born and unborn. Karl seeks to be able share that love with all who would hear of it through his work with LfL.



Margaret Pearce is married to Fraser, and, with their four children, is a member at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Adelaide. Margaret loves being involved in church music but also has a long term interest in life issues. After 6 years of visiting schools to speak about sexual health and relationships she is taking a break. Margaret (also often called Meg), is such a lover of babies she can often be found approaching strangers to meet their little ones and have a chat!



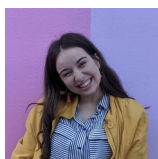
Joseph Theodorsen is a pastor of the Lutheran Church of Australia currently serving in a locum role at Hope Community Lutheran Church, Geraldton, WA. He is married to Maricel, and they have three children with a fourth on the way. Joseph has a passion for the sanctity of human life, appreciating that every person is created in the image of God.



Chelsea Pietsch is a consultant to Lutherans for Life and has been involved with LfL for about 15 years. Chelsea trained as a lawyer and has worked in various fields, including bioethics and legal research, legal practice, religious freedom advocacy, and natural family planning education. Her passion for life issues was born, in part, out of love for those who have journeyed through difficult, unexpected or long-awaited pregnancies. She is married and mum to two active boys.



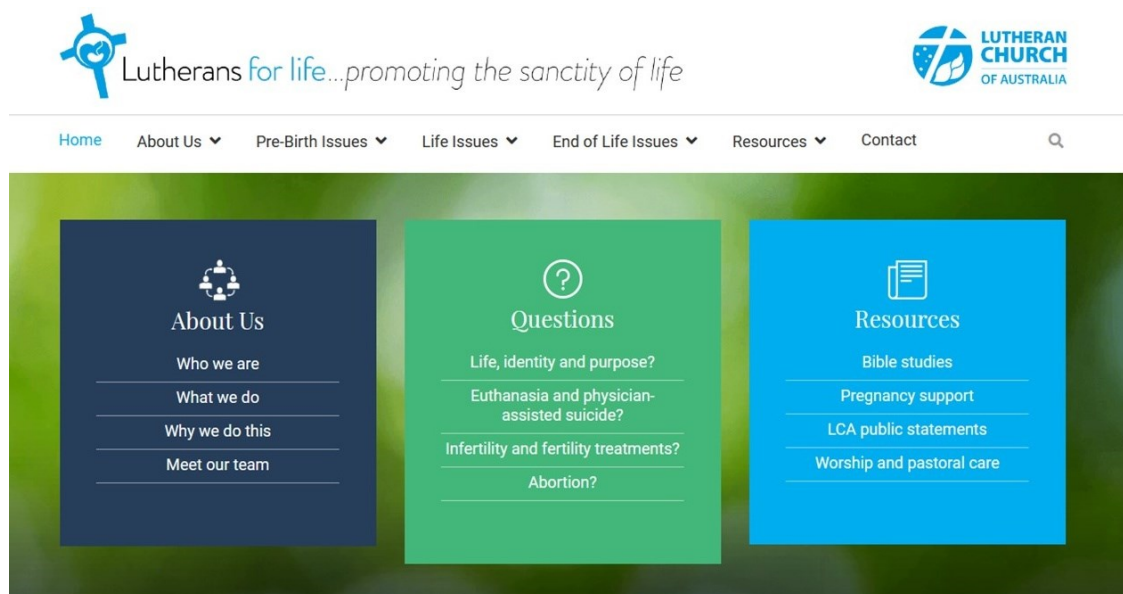
Janet Schoell is the treasurer for Lutherans for Life. She has worked in finance and administration for over 20 years. She is married and has one daughter. Her passion for life issues has grown out of her involvement with LFL, and she is committed to sharing information about life issues with the wider community.



Rose Vonow grew up in SA's Mid North, and is now a Registered Midwife, working in the Northern Suburbs of Adelaide. She has a particular passion for those within the womb, wanting to give gentle and loving care to all families who are encountered, no matter the journey bringing them to that place. Rose is also passionate about youth camping ministry within the LCA, and is currently a director of Blueprint Ministries' NOVO.

Trudi Skene, Editor

Check out the LfL website!



Have you visited our website and had a rummage through all those tabs at the top of the page? If you haven't, you might be surprised by what you find! There's all sorts of information on various life issues: from contraception and family planning to dementia and palliative care PLUS resources such as Bible studies, LCA public statements and worship resources for different 'life' events. You can also subscribe to our newsletter *Life News* and make donations towards the work of Lutherans for Life. Plan a visit soon! <http://www.lutheransforlife.lca.org.au/>

Thank you for your support!

Name: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Rev/Dr _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Occupation: _____ Congregation: _____

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www.lutheransforlife.lca.org.au/public-resources/life-news/

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Make cheques payable to 'Lutherans for Life'. Receipt Required ☐

Please send your completed form to Janet Schoell PO Box 346, Woodside, SA 5244

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