



LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
OF AUSTRALIA

SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
NORTHERN TERRITORY

# THE HOPE WE HAVE

1 PETER 3:15

## BOOK OF REPORTS

**49TH**  
REGULAR  
SYNODICAL  
CONVENTION

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## Welcome to the Book of Reports for the 49<sup>th</sup> District Convention of Synod

Grace and peace to you as you read this Book of Reports.

We pray that you will be encouraged and inspired by these reports when you see what God is doing among his people in the Lutheran Church SA-NT District.

As you read this Book of Reports you will be conscious of the fact that our coming together as Synod at Redeemer Lutheran School in the beautiful Barossa Valley has had to be cancelled. We thank all who were preparing to welcome us, and we hope to be there in 2021 to celebrate before God together. As church we are already beginning to feel the impact of "social distancing", something strange and unfamiliar to us, and yet our consciousness of being together in Christ through our baptism remains strong, and we are encouraged by what we hear of God's people maintaining support for each other in new ways and continuing to reach out to others with faith, hope and love.

We will remember the beginning of 2020 for many reasons – drought, fire, flood, and a virus that has stopped the world in its tracks and affected our lives in all sorts of ways. In extraordinary times like these we thank God for the hope we have been given through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We have every reason to keep living, always ready to share the reason for **"the hope we have" (1 Peter 3:15)**.

Whatever the threat we face, whatever life in the world looks like on the other side of COVID-19, and whatever the challenge will be to the church in it all, we have opportunity this year to give witness in new ways to the hope we have in Jesus Christ. People will be asking many questions about life and death, meaning and what matters.

God bless you, with the courage the Holy Spirit promises, as you share the reason why you continue to live with hope.

**Pastor David Altus**

Bishop

LCA SA-NT District

*But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord.  
Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you  
to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with  
gentleness and respect.  
1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)*

## Proposals

### **Proposal 1: Election of Bishop and Assistant Bishops**

**BE IT RESOLVED that, In light of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, those pastors elected to the positions of Bishop, First Assistant Bishop and Second Assistant Bishop at the 2018 LCA SA-NT District Convention of Synod continue in these positions until the LCA SA-NT District Convention of Synod in 2021.**

### **Proposal 2: Election of District Church Council**

**BE IT RESOLVED that those persons elected to hold positions on District Church Council at the 2018 LCA SA-NT District Convention of Synod continue to serve in these roles until full elections can be held at the 2021 LCA SA-NT District Convention of Synod.**

#### **Members currently serving on District Church Council are:**

Pastor David Altus – Bishop  
Pastor Tim Klein – First Assistant Bishop and Chair  
Pastor Eugene Minge – Second Assistant Bishop

#### **Pastor Member:**

Pastor Andrew Vanderwal

#### **Lay Members:**

Ben Schubert  
Craig Hall  
Eric Marschall  
Helen Martul  
Judy Jaensch

#### **Finance Consultant:**

Stephen Kroker

#### **Rationale for Proposal 1 and 2:**

With the cancellation of the District Convention of Synod scheduled to be held in Nuriootpa in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we believe it is important to maintain stability of leadership through this season. With the inability for physical meetings of Pastors to nominate for positions of Bishop and Assistant Bishops and the inability for District Synod delegates to meet to vote we believe it best to continue the leadership positions already voted in by District Synod delegates in 2018.

### **Proposal 3: Zinnbauer Fund Proposal 2020 Synod**

**BE IT RESOLVED that the Zinnbauer Fund be utilised for the provision of Chaplaincy Services in hospitals, prisons and other facilities in the SA-NT District up to the amount budgeted annually for this work.**

Rationale:

The 2018 District Convention of Synod resolved: *That for the next two years interest from the Zinnbauer Fund be used to support and sustain chaplaincy ministry in the SA-NT District up to the amount budgeted annually for this work, and that the current process for allocation of interest from the Fund be suspended.*

Adopting this proposal will financially sustain the Chaplaincy Ministry Team, with funding to be provided by the interest and other income of the Zinnbauer Fund.

Income to the Zinnbauer Fund in 2020 is expected to be approximately \$55,000, which is received from interest earned plus rental income on one property.

The Zinnbauer Fund has one commitment of \$15,000 to pay in 2020 as the final payment in a three year grant cycle.

The need for chaplaincy services is increasing as the community ages and people are brought to Adelaide more for medical care, thereby removing them from their local community and the care of their local pastor.

District Church Council reminds delegates that the District has other funding sources available for mission grants for congregations and they can present projects to District Church Council for potential support.

#### **Proposal 4: District Finances 2019**

**BE IT RESOLVED that the audited financial statements for the Lutheran Church of Australia South Australia and Northern Territory District Inc for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 be accepted.**

Please [click here](#) to view a copy of the signed audited financial statements or access from our website [www.sant.lca.org.au](http://www.sant.lca.org.au).

#### **Proposal 5: District Budget 2020 Approval**

**BE IT RESOLVED that 2020 budget for the Lutheran Church of Australia South Australia and Northern Territory District Inc be approved as presented.**

Rationale:

The Lutheran Church of Australia, South Australia and Northern Territory District budget has been presented to you in the financial reports – please [click here](#) to view the proposed budget.

This budget was prepared prior to the COVID-19 pandemic currently in Australia. A post-COVID-19 budget will be developed once all relevant information is known.

## LLL Mission Outreach Grant 2020

Once again we are grateful to the Lutheran Laypeople's League for their generous provision of \$25,000 for use in our SA-NT District to encourage mission initiatives. This has enabled many valuable projects that have borne much fruit for God's kingdom.

A number of applications were received again this year. I was encouraged to see the diversity of ideas and the ways congregations are seeking to engage their communities with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

District Church Council endorsed two successful applicants this year, receiving \$15,000 and \$10,000 for their respective initiatives.

The first grant of \$15,000 is awarded to Pilgrim congregation, Magill, and the Adelaide Deaf Community Church. This grant will help enable the installation of a video system capable of live-streaming and recording services held at Magill in AUSLAN (Australian sign language) and English. This is potentially the only deaf church in Australia who will be broadcasting their services in this way, offering a valuable ministry to the 30,000+ AUSLAN users in the country.

The second grant of \$10,000 is awarded to St. Peter's congregation, Loxton. This grant will enable the establishment of a toy library on their premises. The region currently has no such facility. This project will provide a needed community service and create another opportunity for the congregation to connect with young families in the area.

We commend both these projects and wish the congregations every blessing as they continue to share the good news of Jesus with their communities.

Pastor Stephen Schultz  
Assistant Bishop for Mission  
LCA SA-NT District



## Welcome to the District

We welcome to the SA-NT District the following Pastors:



Peter Heintze, Tony Traeger and  
Dan Rooney –  
Mallee Lutheran Parish

Damien Martin –  
Barossa North Lutheran Parish





Mathew Ker – Barossa North Lutheran Parish

Michael Jacobsen -  
Finke River Mission



Matthew Edgecomb – Strathalbyn Lutheran Parish



Shaun Manning –  
Naracoorte Lutheran Parish



Lee Van Rossen –  
Whyalla Lutheran Parish



Paul Calnan – Murray Bridge Holy Cross Lutheran Church



Sam Davis –  
Port Adelaide / Woodville Lutheran Parish



Lindsay Thomas –  
Specific Ministry Pastor at  
Yalata

## LCA SA-NT District Bishop

As I write there is much uncertainty in the air about many things, from our health to the world economy, to life in the church post COVID-19. I am conscious that some of you reading this may have had your work and income impacted, as well as family life. In all the uncertainty of the current threat to wellbeing, "lives and livelihoods", we are also seeing previously unseen collaboration and cooperation, sacrifice, creativity, consideration and kindness. The church has a significant role right now, even though we might be "the church invisible" for a time, together with everyone else.



We have a hope to share that is for more than this life. A hope that is based on more than the size of government support, or a quick end to this unfolding tragedy. Our hope is in the God we know in Jesus Christ. Our hope is based on Easter. We have a wonderful opportunity in new and creative ways to share that hope with individuals and our communities. I have thanked God for the ways I am seeing and hearing that this is happening already. One of my hopes is that the church won't retreat during this time but become bolder, as we discover just how relevant and real the faith we hold to and the hope we have is. I also hope that we might discover some ways of being connected and of sharing our hope that we might want to continue on the "other side" of the COVID-19 crisis. We wait in hope for what God is going to do among and through his people, even in and through this challenging time.

**Ministries:** District ministries continue to serve the church and community and give witness to Christ, sharing his hope in all sorts of ways. After the handover of leadership from Helen Lockwood to Rohan Feegrade, Lutheran Community Care (LCC) celebrated 50 years in 2019 and has taken some new initiatives. Aged care and schools continue to provide quality care and education to the community in the name of Christ, as they tackle change and challenges. Chaplaincy is an evolving scene and is constantly responding to shifts in government direction and practice. Parishes are responding to financial and personnel challenges, thinking and working collaboratively with neighbours in new ways. The relationship with the Adelaide Deaf Community Church and Pilgrim Magill is one such partnership that is working very well. There is much more I could say.

Our Assistant Bishop for Mission Stephen Schultz has been gifted by God for his role. He has a high work-ethic and, while he is managing the role well and enjoying it, the increasing number of parishes that need to rethink their ministry is growing. We need to keep talking and moving towards future ministry models that are more sustainable and flexible, in that we want to walk in step with and as part of the LCA. Stay hopeful and work and walk prayerfully.

**Disaster responses:** I am inspired by how God's people responded to support each other during the drought and recent bushfires. Be assured the District staff handled and administered your donations faithfully and in a timely way, in consultation with local people in the fire affected areas. We are also grateful for access to the LCA Disaster & Welfare Fund. All funds distributed were approved or endorsed by DCC. We have not forgotten those regions still in recovery.

**The Northern Territory:** I thank God for our wonderful and resilient NT members. St Andrew's Darwin celebrated 50 years in 2019, a wonderful weekend celebration. The NT faces many challenges to pray for, including:

- The fact that we have no serving pastors in Darwin, either congregation or school.
- Finding pastors willing to serve in Alice Springs or as FRM Support Workers and lay people serving the church in other ways.

**The pastorate:** I thank God for the pastors of our District for all sorts of reasons. I have been particularly thankful for the way they have responded to the COVID-19 crisis in such a short space of time, including over Easter, maintaining contact with members and ensuring they have access to worship and other resources that will sustain them for an uncertain length of time. To support pastors in the future the LCA is putting in place:

- Professional Supervision for all pastors which is a project underway and will take some years to reach maximum take up. This will bless our pastors and enable them to serve at their best.
- Support for pastors through access to an Employee Assistance Program.
- One particular challenge is finding school pastors (an increasingly specialised role) and we recognise those lay-people who have stepped into chaplaincy roles.

**Governance:**

- The proposed school development at Two Wells that Synod was made aware of in 2019 did not proceed. This was a very difficult decision and I acknowledge the hard work and impact on LESNW who invested much in this project. Learnings from this project will bless schools in other ways. DCC and LESNW are in conversation about the appropriate processes of approval looking forward.
- The merger between Lutheran Community Care and Lutheran Disability Services that Synod endorsed at Salisbury last year will not be taking place at this time. The LDS Board made the decision that it would not be in the best interests of LDS to proceed at this time. DCC are reviewing this development and continue conversations with LDS and LCC. We will report more fully this time next year. We express our gratitude to those who had been appointed to the "board in waiting" of Lutheran Community Services.

**Restructure:** The restructure of District ministries approved by Synod in 2018 has been completed. The added flexibility has reduced the need for a number of District Councils and brought some ministries and those who serve under clearer oversight and support. CFYYA, for example, now has three part-time workers in different areas, and one overlaps with a GROW Ministries role which has enhanced networking and collaboration. Tertiary chaplaincy to Adelaide University is now in the remit of the City Zone pastors and is part of young adult ministry. We will report more in 2021.

**A safe church & reconciliation:** Thank you for working to ensure a safe church in our District. I know there are still some issues that are Church-wide needing resolution and being addressed by the LCA review, and that these have and can cause tension in some places. We keep working at this with God's help.

LCA Reconciliation Ministries are working with us to identify members of the District who can attend to training in reconciliation, which will be a blessing not only to address any conflicts that arise but to prevent them in the first place by lifestyles of reconciliation.

**Other**

- I continue to serve on the Commission on Theology & Inter-church Relations (CTICR).
- I am serving as chair of Leaders of Christian Churches SA (LOCCSA) for 2 years.
- The LCA gave me the privilege of representing the Church at the ELC-PNG Synod

**Gratitude**

- For the District Office staff – proactive and positive servants to work with.
- For the Executive support (Assistant Bishops Tim, Eugene and Stephen).
- For the renovated office to work in – far more effective and welcoming.
- To the Lord our God – for Christ, his church and everything.

**Pastor David Altus**

Bishop

SA-NT District

## SA-NT District Church Council

The District Church Council meets monthly for a full afternoon. It's an afternoon of significant conversation and decision on behalf of the LCA in South Australia and Northern Territory. I remind the Synod that our chief function is governance – to develop and promote an ongoing vision for our district; to plan the pathways for the vision to unfold; and to ensure that our finances, safety and other structures that enable us to function are resourced and robust. In practice that also means that DCC works to ensure that the programs and policies of the Church and the District are carried out in the District.



**Serving members of DCC:** Judy Jaensch. Helen Martul, Craig Hall, Eric Marshall, Ben Schubert, Andrew Vanderwal (Pastor), Bishop David Altus, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Bishops Tim Klein and Eugene Minge, Assistant Bishop for Mission Pastor Stephen Schultz (as a consultant), Stephen Kroker (Financial Consultant), and Angela Rogers (Minute Secretary).

Together the members bring a diversity of gifts, interests, experience and active church participation to our Council. I am very thankful to the Lord for each one, and invite the Synod to give thanks to the Lord for all district councillors and minute secretaries who have served during this term.

**Retiring DCC members:** We acknowledge Pastors Geoff Havelberg and Josh Muller who have both served on DCC with grace and wisdom. Marie Fitzgerald resigned from DCC following a new job path that precluded her continuing her role in DCC. Thank you Marie, Geoff and Josh. You blessed us all with your willing service.

After a season of being unwell, Helen Martul was invited to fill a vacancy. Thank you Helen for being so willing and for bringing your quiet wisdom to DCC.

**District personnel:** Decisions of the District Church Council are both informed and enacted by the district ministry teams and office staff. As our structural changes unfolded this has meant changes in staffing over this last synodical period. They are recorded elsewhere in the reports.

DCC notes with thanks the ongoing work of the Bishop's Executive Assistant, Michelle Storie, District Administrator, Angela Rogers, the work of the new Blueprint team – and every other member of staff who serve faithfully with diligence and grace.

Pastor Peter Miller continues in chaplaincy. He regularly visits hospital patients – especially country people in city hospitals.

Dave Biar, our District Professional Standards Officer, supports in assisting to resolve and manage professional standard issues.

**Synod 2018 resolutions:** All resolutions of 2018 Synod have been taken up by DCC. Other relevant outcomes will be reported elsewhere within the various ministry areas. There are a number of constitutional changes that have come about as a result of our restructuring.

**Constitutional changes:** These were due to be discussed at this Synod. We have deferred that process until we can meet face to face in 2021, rather than on-line. With that in mind, the District Church Council has proposed that Synod 2021 become a full Synod, in lieu of what we are unable to do this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Elections:** District Church Council are also proposing an alternative to regular elections for DCC: that willing district church councillors remain serving until the electoral processes for 2021. We suggest to the Synod that continuity of leadership is important given the critical decisions that will need to be made as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. This proposal will come to you electronically alongside the normal electoral process.

**Executive:** The DCC executive is formed by Bishop David and Assistant Bishops Tim, Eugene and Stephen. The executive meet between meetings as needed and provide support for our Bishop.

**A challenge:** The restructuring over recent years has settled into place and new systems have been developed. However, the COVID-19 pandemic challenges it all. How do we continue to serve in new ways? What does ministry with young people look like in this season? How do we maintain district and congregational structures and viability? What ministry opportunities are there before us? How will we not only survive, but thrive as church in this season?

Our hope is based on the Lord. In Him, all things are possible. Let's remain as people of hope: calm in the face of fear; confident in the face of uncertainty; and courageous in the face of fear. We are called to be the calm, confident and courageous presence of Christ in the world!

We thank you, the members of the LCA SA-NT District for your patience and support as we travel this road together.

Please continue to remember DCC in your prayers as together we seek to discern the Lord's purposes in our service to the SA-NT District of the Lord's church; all for the sake of the Kingdom of God!

**Tim Klein**

Chair of District Church Council

*Our hope in the Lord is well placed: "The Lord All-Powerful is with us.  
The God of Jacob is our fortress." Psalm 46:11*

## LCA SA-NT District Assistant Bishop for Mission

The following report is based on the first 2 years in the role (January 2018-March 2020). My activities are reported against the redefined position description of the Assistant Bishop for Mission. I see it as a priority to **resource, encourage** and **focus** the communities of the District, in accordance with the mission statement of the District. In order to do this I have seen it as essential to be present on the ground in the communities of the District. This includes congregations, schools, aged care facilities, District camps and other organisations in the District (e.g. Lutheran Community Care).



I engaged congregations/parishes through preaching and leading worship and attendance at council, congregational and fraternal meetings. I have been privileged to worship at 82 different locations (preaching at 67 of them). I have met with leaders of over 150 congregations of the District for a wide range of reasons. I endeavour to respond to the various needs for support in a timely manner.

I have conducted congregational/regional workshops at many different locations. These are tailor-made to the circumstances of those congregations/regions. At District Pastors' conference and Synod in 2018 I presented learnings from the ALITE report on the pastoral ministry in the LCA. In 2019 I developed this further with a presentation on the ministry structure in the LCA. A copy of that report is available by contacting the District Office.

There are not as many communities engaged in cross-cultural ministry in the SA-NT District as in the eastern states. However, this is a growing focus across the LCA-NZ and we are looking at ways of increasing the cultural intelligence of all our communities. In an increasingly multi-cultural society all of our congregations should be reflecting that.

I attend AbMinSA meetings held on a bi-monthly basis to conduct oversight of this ministry area. The committee is capably led by Ivan Christian and has dedicated and enthusiastic people on it.

A highlight was the recent ordination of Pastor Lindsay Thomas at Yalata on 26th February 2020. See the separate report from AbMinSA for further details of events since last synod.

There is a consistent need for conducting a pre-call process in such a large district. This results from the general rotation of pastors accepting calls and retiring. In the last 2 years there have been about 36 different congregations/parishes engaged in the process of ensuring pastoral supply. The pool of pastors



Evangelist Lindsay Thomas with  
First Assistant Bishop Pastor Tim Klein

available for call, or willing to consider a call, is consistently shrinking and it makes this task increasingly problematic.

With declining membership/attendance in congregations the need for realignments and shared arrangements between parishes is also increasing. Different memorandum of understandings are being arranged between places in a rapidly changing landscape.

Together with Stuart Traeger from Lutheran Education (LESNW) we have visited more than 20 school communities to engage in a conversation with the principal/pastor about their partnership in ministry & mission. These have been valuable visits and we are encouraged by the quality of leaders we have in our schools. We have identified the need to foster the relationship between congregations and schools and to help congregations in their ministry-mission in the school environment.

Bishop David Altus and I meet regularly to address the issues that are happening around the District. We identify the areas where I need to be involved. Some issues that arise do require some intense involvement at times. I believe this Assistant Bishop role provides the intended support for the Bishop in a large District like ours.

The Children, Family, Youth and Young Adult ministry area (Blueprint) now comes under my oversight with the District ministry re-structure. In this last synodical term Fiona Weckert concluded her role as the Director of this department and I wish to thank Fiona for her years of dedicated service to this ministry area.

I am a member of the Local Mission Leaders' Team and the Committee on New and Renewing Churches (both LCA-NZ groups). We share resources and identify the challenges of ministry and mission in our 21<sup>st</sup> century culture. These connections have been extremely valuable as we work collaboratively across the LCA-NZ.

I have had various involvement in ecumenical circles. I am a member of the ecumenical groups: 'Regenerating Places of Faith', 'Adelaide Show Outreach' and 'Pastoring of Pastors'. Other involvements include participation in the 2019 Franklin Graham Tour and the 2020 National Day of Prayer.

The re-structure places Lutheran Men and Lutheran Women under my oversight. I have attended the Lutheran Men's Conference and Lutheran Women's conventions and liaised with the executive of Lutheran Women to provide support where needed.

I have worked with Pastor Michael Prenzler to support ministry to the deaf community that now worships at Magill. Significant work has been done by Michael to improve resourcing to the deaf community and I commend him for his diligence.

### **Challenges**

The increasing 'shortage' of pastors increases the complexity of certain aspects of my role. I am exploring other options of delivering word and sacrament ministry in environments where it is no longer feasible to employ a fully-trained pastor. Our current structure of ministry in the church is placing a heavy burden on many of our congregations and parishes. We have good people in our Church who have served us so faithfully. We need to resource them and release them for their ministry and mission.

I am determined to use this position to bring about necessary changes that will hopefully bless our church into the future. These changes need to be effected in a way that ensures appropriate authority, resourcing and accountability.

### **Summary**

My role is demanding and multi-faceted. That said, I have been energised by the role and feel a strong sense of call and commitment to it. I have appreciated the trust invested in me by Bishop David to carry out my role. Together with the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Bishops, Tim Klein and Eugene Minge, we have enjoyed a great team relationship over these last couple of years.

I have also appreciated the administrative support I have received from Angela Rogers and Michelle Storie and the collaborative environment in the District office. This includes the schools department of our District (LESNW). I wish to thank John Proeve and Stuart Traeger especially for our ability to partner together as church, where school and congregations are seen working toward the one goal of growing in Christ and making him known to our communities.

I have also appreciated my connections with departments across the LCA-NZ. Too often in the past we have operated in silos without proper collaboration and coordination of our work. I see this changing in many ways. This is happening in our District through intentional partnerships with GROW ministries, Australian Lutheran College and the Church Worker Support department.

Finally, I wish to thank all the leaders and people of the District who have welcomed me into their communities and engaged me in ministry-mission conversations. You truly are salt and light in so many ways and I am deeply encouraged and humbled by the way I have seen you serve – often in difficult circumstances. I have an unwavering belief in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He is leading our Lutheran Church. He is truly present with us and is blessing us with everything we need to be the church in our local communities. May he bring you joy as you continue to serve him and his people.

Yours in Christ

**Stephen Schultz**

## Chaplaincy Ministry

This report covers the activities of people involved in ministry in hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, correctional services institutions, and also Disaster & Recovery Ministry.

### **Hospital Chaplaincy:**

I would like to acknowledge the congregationally-based pastoral visiting and ministry undertaken by laypeople and pastors who make weekly visits to Lutheran people in local hospitals and nursing homes, and in some instances conduct regular ecumenical worship services in nursing homes throughout the state. Their untiring, dedicated and compassionate ministry is very much appreciated by patients and their families.



Adelaide based ministry continues to present numerous opportunities for support of members of our church, of other denominations and also people with no affiliation with any faith community. All our chaplains are well received in their respective hospital settings, independent nursing homes, and rehabilitation facilities. All of us feel truly blessed to have the privilege of 'being with' people and their families in such times. We all have some wonderful stories to tell as a result of our privileged role in journeying with people and their families in times of hospitalisation.

Our current chaplains in the public hospitals are Pastors Howard Schilling (Royal Adelaide), Jack Shepherd & Robert Thiele (Flinders Medical Centre), and myself (all public and private hospitals and rehabilitation facilities). Our pastoral visitors are Jacqui Nicholls (Queen Elizabeth Hospital and St Margaret's Rehabilitation Hospital) and Rosalie Polkinghorne (Royal Adelaide Hospital).

In this past year, we welcomed Ivan Christian as a valued member of our team. Ivan brings to our team his extensive experience as a teacher and ministry leader over many years with Finke River Mission. He maintains many connections with generations of families in Central Australia, and is fondly remembered by all. His familiarity with a range of indigenous languages means that he is an invaluable resource when it comes to ministering with people who in many instances are quite alienated in a big city hospital far away from familiar surroundings and family. When people like myself visit indigenous folk in hospital and mention Ivan, their faces light up. Being able to contact Ivan and connect these people with him is truly a blessing. Ivan is particularly appreciated in the Women's and Children's Hospital, where his language and cultural expertise is utilised ecumenically.

### **Prison Ministry:**

Several of us are actively engaged in prison ministry. Clive Wundersitz and I are actively engaged in ministry with prisoners. Clive has been faithfully taking weekly Bible Study at Mobilong for many years, and is highly regarded by inmates for his genuine care and faithful sharing of the Gospel. It is not unusual for Clive to receive letters of gratitude from former prisoners who have come to faith through his ministry.

Under the umbrella of the Christian organisation Second Chances SA, I spend at least one day per week in the Adelaide Remand Centre. The opportunity, as a 'normal bloke', to

personally relate to these men in such a way as to assure them that they are valued, no matter what their circumstance, is a Gospel privilege. People would be surprised at how grateful they are for being reassured of their worth!

On that note, do you know that the children of prisoners are six times more likely to end up in prison than other children? These children and young adults live with significant stigma and shame through no fault of their own. A significant part of the Second Chances ministry is that of providing support for prisoners' families by way of:

- Regular home visits,
- Family counselling
- Provision of school uniforms and purchase of learning materials
- Conducting regular camping opportunities for children and young adults
- Paying for enrolment in vocational education and training courses and mentoring participants in these courses.

If anyone would like to speak with me regarding the possibility of volunteering in support for this 'down to earth' biblically inspired and fulfilling ministry, please let me know.

#### **Disaster & Recovery Ministry:**

Several pastors, including myself, along with a number of our lay people, are trained as disaster recovery chaplains. This is a wonderful opportunity to interact with and be of service to people in times of disaster. May I encourage our people to volunteer for this highly valued 'community building' ministry. The two day training workshop is excellent.

It goes without saying that there has been a huge call on such ministry this summer. Leon Rosenberg and Christine Schmaal have been involved with ministry to people affected by the fires on Yorke Peninsula. Joey Traeger and I have been involved in protracted ministry with people affected by the Cudlee Creek fire disaster.

#### **Ongoing ministry resourcing:**

I would be happy to receive enquiries from people willing to explore the possibility of becoming Pastoral Visitors in our public hospitals and correctional services facilities. Similarly, with respect to volunteering for Disaster & Recovery Ministry.

Please let me know if you are interested in considering joining us. Training and ongoing support are cheerfully provided.

#### **Mutual Support and Development:**

Our Adelaide-based team of chaplains and pastoral visitors meet five times per year for sharing of experiences and professional development with respect to particular aspects of pastoral care in the context of our Christian faith and practice. We find this ongoing collegiality and mutual support to be of great benefit and blessing.

I continue to be a member of the Chaplaincy Services SA Board, which has undergone a re-structure in the past twelve months, reflecting policy changes at both SA Health and the Department for Correctional Services.

**Peter Miller**

Chaplaincy Ministries

## Children, Families, Youth and Young Adult Ministry

What a unique time it is to be serving God and following His call. We have such an awesome message of hope to share in the midst of all the messages of fear that people are faced with today.

Each of the three staff members of the Blueprint Ministries Team (the Child, Family, Youth & Young Adult Ministries of the LCA SA-NT District) believe God has lead them to their role at this time. Our team consists of **Joanne Chamberlain** (Congregational Coach, who also works with GROW Ministries); **Ian Crambrook** (Camping & Events Coordinator); and **Jeanette Mann** (Team Leader – overseeing the team, developing strategic planning and building connections ecumenically). Each of us have different roles and different strengths but we work together to focus, encourage, support and resource the LCA SA-NT District in the areas of children, family, youth and young adult ministries. We do not do this through our own efforts but as God leads and inspires us and by seeking the input of those who are involved in such ministries throughout the District. Our team has the desire to grow in our knowledge of what is happening in the District; to hear the needs and concerns of congregations; to listen to the ideas and initiatives that are taking place; and to encourage, communicate and pray for these ministries.

To do this we are building on the strengths and foundations laid down in the past - the work of the previous Director Fiona Weckert and the Council, whose ideas, vision, insight and planning led to the establishment of the new structure. I would like to publicly acknowledge their efforts and dedication and thank them for the time and energy that they have given to this ministry. I pray that God will continue to bless them as they continue to serve Him in many various ways.

I would also like to thank Bishop David, Pastor Stephen Schultz and the staff of the District Office for their support and guidance through the transition process and for helping us to “settle in”. We are better together as we work and support one another in ministry.

It has also been a privilege to work ecumenically with the SA Children's Ministry Network; the SA Messy Church Team and the Uniting Church Intergen Team. They have partnered with Blueprint to develop the Family Faith Trail Resources for Christmas and Easter and will be a part of the planning for the 2020 Invigor8 Conference. The gifts and blessings of working together with other Christians from different denominations is a great reminder that we serve the same Lord Jesus Christ who is the Head of the Church.

The more I become involved in this ministry, the more I see that we are a part of an inter-connected body and can achieve more when we share, plan and work together. An example of this is the partnership and strong link with GROW ministries. To have the link with GROW through Jo Chamberlain gives special access to their great support and resources. A further example of this inter-connectedness is Blueprint's link with LCC in the “Building Caring Families: Toolboxes & Connectors” project funded through the Zinnbauer Fund, aimed at building connections in families and also between school and congregation.

Blueprint was recently invited to join GROW in meeting with Jake Mulder, one of the authors of the book “Growing Young”, during his recent visit. His book highlights some key strategies for growing ministry to the young.

The work of Blueprint can be divided into a number of different areas:

### **Supporting Faith@Home**

This is an area that GROW ministries has developed. Blueprint is building further on this through Family Faith Trails (material available in the coming months). Congregations are encouraged to use this tool to support parents and grandparents in their role of key influencers in the faith journey of their children and grandchildren.

### **Congregation / District initiatives**

The Blueprint Team has visited some congregations and groups over the past six months to discuss ministry to the first third and is happy to visit more congregations in the future.

A Blueprint Grant (proceeds of the Blueprint Dinner) was made available to congregations to develop and support ministry to children youth and families. Three congregations received grants – Buccleuch St Johns, Glynde Zion and Loxton St Peter's.

GROW offers Congregational Coaching for congregations seeking to rethink ministry to children, youth and families. At present our Congregational Coach is working with a number of congregational clusters.

### **Camping and Events**

This has been a key area of Blueprint for many years which has resulted in positive faith growing experiences for the young people attending. It has also been a key area for empowering young people to develop their spiritual gifts and leadership skills. Each year, seven separate Christian Life Weeks are held plus two camps for primary students – SPIN and JC Life. There is also a weekend event for high school-aged youth called NOVO. For young adults a camp called RENEW is held every year. This year a young adult welcome event was held to help build connections between those who have moved to the city for work or study, organised in conjunction with Lutherans @ Uni. Blueprint are keen to develop greater connections between camps, events and congregations.

### **Communication and Listening**

The Blueprint team sees one of its roles as listening and connecting with those involved in children, family and youth ministry in the congregation.

One effective way of building communication with young people is through Facebook. Blueprint has a Blueprint Ministries Facebook page and a Blueprint Young Adults page. We encourage people to connect with these pages and invite you to share with us events you would like us to advertise. Blueprint also regularly contributes articles to the District's Together magazine and eNews.

As Blueprint looks to the future, there are a number of initiatives that we would like to pursue:

1. To continue to develop connections with congregations as a support and encouragement, and to share resources and enable networking
2. To continue to grow camping ministry. (We are thankful to the LLL who are supporting CLW ministry in a substantial way over the next three years)
3. To develop ministry to areas further afield (such as the Northern Territory)

We praise God for His goodness and for the young people whose lives have been touched by His love through the various ministries throughout the District. There are a lot of good news stories of how God is at work in the lives of children and young people.

Let's share these stories and encourage each other to see ways in which we all can be involved in supporting the faith journey of the precious young people God has placed in our lives and congregations.

Warmly in God's Love

**Jeanette Mann**  
Team Leader



Blueprint Ministries team members  
Ian Crambrook, Jeanette Mann and Joanne Chamberlain

## Administration

The LCA SA-NT District Office is blessed by a team of skilled and dedicated people who are committed to serving our Church. Our team consists of **Bishop David Altus, Assistant Bishop for Mission Stephen Schultz, Pastor Peter Miller, Angela Rogers, Michelle Storie, Holly Koning, Vanessa Freislich, Jessica Smith, Amelia Dawkins, Dave Biar, Jeanette Mann, Ian Crambrook** and **Joanne Chamberlain**. The team serves the Church through all that we do to support our congregations and their members in spreading the love of Jesus to all.

The past synodical period has been one of consolidation and implementation. Throughout this time we have been digitising our congregation records which, whilst it has been time consuming, has been very interesting to learn things we did not know about the history of some congregations. All departments have participated in this exercise.

Another consolidation exercise has been to continue refining the financial management processes that were implemented when we moved over to the MYOB financial management package. This has been a valuable exercise and one which is paying dividends, in terms of us better understanding our financial management and strategies moving forward.

Throughout all of this we have been reviewing our processes to ensure they are effective and efficient. One of these has been moving all communication to email and only utilising the postal system when absolutely necessary. This has been well received by our congregations. Through this we have been able to assist congregations and individuals with information for HRS and LAMP2.

This work enabled the District Office team to assess the needs of our office space, asking ourselves if it enabled us to work collaboratively, have spaces for private work and meetings and was appealing to come to work each day. Following approval from District Church Council a renovation of the ground floor area of 137 Archer Street commenced in December 2019. The space was almost entirely gutted and reconfigured to provide all staff with functional, inviting spaces in which to work and meet. We now have a large meeting room, improved private office spaces, more natural light and an improved environment in which to work. All staff are very pleased with the aesthetics and functionality of the areas.

The Administration Team has hosted Church Chat Day and Secretaries Day in the past two years. Church Chat Day is for congregation/parish council members with a focus on governance matters. Secretaries Day is for the office secretaries, both paid and volunteer, who work in our congregation/parish offices with a focus on operational processes and information. Both of these events have enabled us to provide a variety of information relevant to the work of the participants. We thank the LCA Churchwide Office for their assistance in presenting sections of these events. I am proud to advise that these events will be replicated in other Districts, as they were so successful.

Michelle was asked to assist with the organisation and running of General Pastors Conference in Hahndorf in 2018, which was a large undertaking but one which she did very well. She also coordinated the Lutheran Community Care Gala Dinner in 2019 assisting them to raise valuable funds for their programs.

Holly shares her time working as receptionist and the Professional Standards Assistant. She has become an invaluable part of the PSD team and a Churchwide expert in SMO and Cvent.

As the District Administrator I have the pleasure of meeting a number of our congregation members and I enjoy this aspect of my role very much. It has been a privilege to work with congregations through conversations and practical matters relating to amalgamation and the beginning of new congregations. There are many administrative aspects to these transactions which can be confusing and difficult to manage. It is here that the experience and expertise of the District Office is invaluable.

A project that I am currently working on is providing a bookkeeping service to congregations on a fee-for-service basis. I know that a number of congregations are having difficulty in finding a treasurer with the necessary skills to fill this role. Our service will not take away the treasurers' role but will supplement it and take over the day to day processing. I have been successful in obtaining an LCA Grant which will assist in the setup of this service. If your congregation might be interested in learning more please advise me.

As I move around the District I have visited a number of the little cemeteries that adjoin our churches. What will happen to these in the future? This is an area I am currently investigating with the view to setting up a fund and maintenance program so that they are cared for beyond the closure of a church.

Over recent years the way we communicate with our members has evolved. The District Facebook page has grown to have a large number of followers who often share our posts with people who are non-Lutheran. We are sharing the love of Jesus with these people in a non-confrontational manner so they feel comfortable. Please 'like' our page if you have not already as we always share important and urgent information on there, photos from events in our District as well as inspirational thoughts - you might even see your own church on there!

Together magazine continues to be a primary source of stories from around the District. We have been able to expand the number of pages and quality of the magazine while saving on production costs. Advertising in the magazine is available to both internal and external customers at excellent rates. Please let us know of your upcoming events, milestones and other happenings and don't forget to send us a story and quality photos afterwards, so we can share them.

Every member of the District Office team enjoys speaking with our members who phone or visit the office. We love hearing what is happening in your congregations. Much of our work in the District Office is assisting congregations in one way or another. We do so much in so many areas of ministry that it is difficult to define just a few items.

I am blessed to be the District Administrator for the Lutheran Church of Australia, SA-NT District Inc and to work with a group of people who are so committed to serving our congregations and sharing the Gospel with all they meet. I take this opportunity to say 'thank you' to each of the team for all that they do.

Respectfully submitted

**Angela Rogers**

District Administrator



Angela Rogers  
District Administrator



Michelle Storie  
Executive Assistant



Holly Koning  
Administration Assistant



Vanessa Freislich  
Bookkeeper



Amelia Dawkins & Jessica Smith  
Communications

## Finance Report

The audited 2019 financial statements for [LCA SA-NT District](#) and the [LCA SA-NT Holding Limited](#) are available by clicking on the links or downloading from the District website [www.sant.lca.org.au](http://www.sant.lca.org.au). These statements detail the financial activities for 2019.

The main points to note are:

- District contributions and levies were \$55,973 below budget
- Donations and grants were \$234,330 above budget. The significant donations were: LLL provided a Mission support grant of \$80,000 and a Camping Ministry grant of \$28,000, \$91,796 from a "Friends of the Deaf" account was transferred to the District and the District received a \$50,000 donation towards church planting. These donations have been transferred to reserves in 2019.
- Events# – the net result was \$10,145 better than budget (Income \$193,040 Expenses \$182,895)
- Property\* – the net result was \$12,651 better than budget (Income \$174,464 Expenses \$111,813)
- Payroll services% - the net result was \$4,635 below budget (Income \$639,687 Expenses \$637,422)
- Interest income below budget by \$10,441 due to reduction in interest rate
- Donations and grants – a total of \$224,678 was expended – the specific details are in note 2 of the financial statements. \$67,866 of this amount was allocated from pre-2019 income which is shown in the balance sheet as internal funds.
- Operating expenses below budget by \$46,617. This is mainly due to a reduction in consultant and admin expenses.
- District Office salaries were below budget by \$50,264 due to delays in filling vacant staff positions.
- Other salaries were below budget by \$23,804 due to vacancies in the positions to be supported.
- The overall result is a deficit of \$45,237 compared to a deficit of \$119,263 in 2018. When you take into account the \$67,866 from internal funds (pre 2019 income) the actual 2019 result is a small surplus of \$22,629.
- The cash held by the District increased by \$475,393. \$404,062 is a transfer of cash from the Holding Limited (in 2018 reserves were transferred from the Holding Limited to the District – this cash transfer is to match the 2018 reserve transfer).

The 2020 proposed budget is listed below. This budget was prepared and accepted by the District Church Council prior to the Covid-19 crisis. The budget is based on the same level of staffing and programs as for 2018. Obviously, this budget will be adjusted when the financial impact of the crisis is fully known. At this early stage, it would appear that there will be a significant change in income and as such this will need to be offset by careful management of expenses.

**Holding Company**

The Holding Company holds land on trust for the entity that uses it. As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 the Holding Company held a total of \$215,932,000 of land (2018 \$215,210,600). The properties are valued at the State Valuation Office 2018 capital value, or for transfers during 2019 the State Valuation Office capital value at the time of transfer.

**Stephen Kroker**

District Finance Consultant

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

INCOME AND EXPENSES	Actual 2019	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
<b>INCOME</b>			
District contributions and levies	\$1,354,027	\$1,410,000	\$1,410,000
Donations and grants	\$ 364,330	\$ 130,000	\$ 128,000
Event income#	\$ 193,040	\$ 230,000	\$ 280,000
Property income*	\$ 174,464	\$ 160,000	\$ 160,000
Payroll services income%	\$ 639,687	\$ 746,900	\$ 637,400
Interest income	\$ 139,559	\$ 150,000	\$ 138,400
Sundry income	\$ 35,095	\$ 28,510	\$ 32,500
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$2,900,202</b>	<b>\$2,855,410</b>	<b>\$2,786,300</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>			
Depreciation	\$ 36,233	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
Donations and grants – budget	\$ 23,500	\$ 25,500	\$ 25,500
Donations and grants – reserves	\$ 112,088	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Donations and grants – funds	\$ 67,866	\$ 0	\$ 0
Donations and grants – other	\$ 21,224	\$ 10,000	\$ 26,000
Event expenses#	\$ 182,895	\$ 230,000	\$ 280,000
LCA National contribution	\$ 675,000	\$ 675,000	\$ 675,000
Other operating expenses	\$ 144,133	\$ 190,750	\$ 149,600
Property expenses*	\$ 111,813	\$ 110,000	\$ 110,000
Salaries and related costs			
- District Office	\$ 677,396	\$ 727,660	\$ 737,100
- School Pastors%	\$ 637,422	\$ 740,000	\$ 630,500
- Other	\$ 97,696	\$ 121,500	\$ 121,500
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,787,266</b>	<b>\$2,885,410</b>	<b>\$2,810,200</b>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS PRIOR RESERVES</b>	<b>\$ 112,936</b>	<b>\$ (30,000)</b>	<b>\$ (23,900)</b>
ALLOCATION FROM RESERVES	\$ 243,353	\$ 145,000	\$ 164,200
RESERVE INCOME INCLUDED ABOVE	\$ (401,526)	\$ (115,000)	\$ (140,300)
<b>OPERATING (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ (45,237)</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
 <b>LESS EXPENSES FUNDED FROM PRE 2019 INCOME</b>			
Donations and grants – funds	\$ 67,866	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>ADJUSTED OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ 22,629</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
 <b>BALANCE SHEET</b>			
	<b>Actual 2019</b>	<b>Actual 2018</b>	
Current Assets	\$ 7,213,949	\$ 7,167,559	
Non-Current Assets	\$ 6,358,277	\$ 6,230,866	
Total Assets	\$13,572,226	\$13,398,425	
Current Liabilities	\$ 433,906	\$ 416,223	
Non-Current Liabilities	\$ 18,052	\$ 15,982	
Total Liabilities	\$ 451,958	\$ 432,205	
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$13,120,268</b>	<b>\$12,966,220</b>	

## Memories From Around our District



Pastor Lindsay Thomas playing ukelele



Members of Grace Lutheran Church at their inaugural service (merged entity of St Johns and St Pauls Tanunda congregations)



Campers having fun at Pt Hughes CLW 2019



Members of the newly formed Berri Barmera Lutheran Church

A royal visit for students at Yirara College



Students from Immanuel Primary School Novar Gardens interviewing Prime Minister Scott Morrison on television show 'BTN'.

Having fun at Tanunda Lutheran Homes' "Get Loud Day"



## Lutheran Community Care

Lutheran Community Care has remained committed to upholding the rights of all people to belong to a community and thrive as individuals. We have continued to address poverty and injustice and empower all people to achieve their full potential.



Each and every day, I feel honored and privileged to lead such an inspiring organisation of over 650 dedicated staff and volunteers, delivering 50 programs across both South Australia and the Northern Territory.

2019 saw Lutheran Community Care celebrate 50 years of serving the community here in South Australia and 10 years serving communities in the Northern Territory.



Bishop David Altus & Carolyn Altus, Julia Feegrade & Rohan Feegrade at Lutheran Community Care's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Ball, November 2019

Over the past 12 months we have strengthened our capacity to deliver life-changing services to those most vulnerable and those in need of our care and support through the introduction of new services and the expansion of existing services. As an organisation we have continued to identify areas and communities in need, responding with love, compassion and empathy. Some of our highlights included:

- Approval as the sole SA Support Agency for the National Community Hubs Program for the period 2020-2023, including our 7 current school-based Community Hubs in northern Adelaide, with a further 3 commencing in early 2020
- Significant growth of Foster Care Services in both generalist and specialist placements
- Supporting nearly 1,200 families and individuals in our Housing and Homelessness program
- Expanding our Opportunity Shops including the launch of 'Elcies' Op Shop brand
- Continuation and growth of 'Family Zone', connecting with several hundred families per year through a range of services including home visiting, parent education, parent support groups, playgroups, mobile crèche, facilitated access and other child contact-related services

- Generous donations allowing us to continue to run our Playgroup in Alice Springs
- Continuing to provide a Financial Capability and Wellbeing service for Alice Springs, Ntaria and 39 remote communities



Central Australia Team with the Executive Team at the NT Staff Retreat Day 2019

I wish to specially acknowledge our incredible volunteers. Volunteering plays a critical role in empowering individuals, in fostering active citizenship and in building inclusive and resilient communities in which we can all flourish. Without this special group of people, the work we do would simply not be possible.

As our sector evolves, it is critical that our services are delivered ethically and made accountable to the people we serve. As a care organisation we must be agile and ready to accept these challenges within a Christian framework. Lutheran Community Care intends to grow and expand service delivery, particularly into evolving areas of need.

Finally, as I reflect on our achievements and growth over the past 18 months, it has been our resolute and committed connection to our church that underpins the work we do in communities across both SA and the NT. Lutheran Community Care will continue to grow our connection and commitment to the LCA and SA-NT District into our future.

It is my privilege, blessing and an honor to lead Lutheran Community Care forward into a sustainable future, focused on serving those in need, through the love of God.

**Rohan Feegrade**  
Chief Executive Officer

### **'The Hope We Have.'**

At the time of writing this report as a world, nation, state and territory, and local communities, we are navigating our way through uncharted waters due to the emerging Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

As we adapt to this current reality it is very evident that this will have a profound impact on the emerging future for our society, the church, Lutheran Education (in general) and LESNW learning communities.

The hope we have is that there is a constant in our lives whilst everything around us is uncertain and changing. The constant, unchanging force in our lives is our ever loving, gracious God who sustains us and gives us assurance when we are confronted with uncertainty and doubt.

This report will cover some highline elements of the current reality and emerging future of LESNW.

**Governance:** The implementation of the new LESNW Constitution, and therefore governance structure, was a focal point during 2019. From this has come model constitutions that Learning Communities can adapt and adopt relevant to their context.

LESNW secretariat staff worked with learning community governing councils/boards to assist their understanding of governance and, in turn, their effectiveness. The key focus has been on clarifying a vision for a preferred future, a gap analysis between their current reality and this preferred future and the strategic actions to bridge this gap.

**Vision:** When faced with challenging issues it can be easy to concentrate on the 'immediate' and lose sight of the long-term strategic focus. Over the past 18 months the LESNW Board and Secretariat staff have been intentional about identifying our collective preferred future and strategizing ways to get there that are relational and conducted with integrity.

The adoption of the Awareness Based System Leadership has been transformational. There are three core capabilities that system leaders develop in order to foster collective leadership:

1. The ability to see the larger system - essential to building a shared understanding of complex problems.
2. Fostering reflection and more generative conversations.
3. Moving focus from reactive problem solving to building positive visions for the future.

**Complexity being viewed as Opportunity:** There have been many challenging and complex issues that LESNW has dealt with, especially in regard to some of our learning communities that have experienced significant challenges which have seen the need to be adaptive and alter the way in which they operate. Working to minimise risk and financial harm has required

creativity, persistence and faith. The LESNW Board and Secretariat have been intentional about considering issues with a strong sense of past, present and future. That is:

- Honouring and valuing the past.
- Ensuring present/current sustainability.
- Putting in place policy, procedure and process to ensure long term prosperity and sustainability for our Learning Communities.

Significant investment and work of consultants and secretariat staff went into feasibility studies for new learning community development opportunities at Two Wells and East Mt Barker (Aston Hills) and the potential repurposing of Spring Head Lutheran School site as a camp and retreat centre. LESNW believed there was opportunity to expand the mission of the church through Christian education through these potential developments. The opportunity at East Mt Barker (Aston Hills) continues to be explored. However unfortunately it was decided that LESNW was not in a position to establish a new learning community at Two Wells. Due to planning regulation changes, the repurposing of the Spring Head Lutheran School site was not financially viable.

**System Initiatives:** The introduction and implementation of CompliSpace, a system initiative aimed to assist Learning Communities establish a robust policy platform, mitigate risk and ensure compliance is met, has been positive and is still evolving.

'Education Geographics' has provided each member school with their demographic dashboards, maps and analysis of their existing and potential catchments. This information facilitates targeted marketing focus and efforts.

A suite of financial tools has been provided to schools to better assess financial performance and minimise associated risk. The tools include performance indicators, benchmarks and strategies to improve operational performance.

A Framework/Toolkit for Business Planning is presently being developed to assist Learning Communities to gather information and documentation to chart the course towards their success and sustainability.

**Enrolment Data - LSA Learning Communities 2016/2017 – A comparison:**

<b>Analysis by State</b>	<b>Primary</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	<b>Aug-19</b>	<b>Primary</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	<b>Aug-18</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Change %</b>
South Australia	6760	5926	12686	6792	5831	12623	63	0.5%
Northern Territory	955	753	1708	996	837	1833	-125	-6.8%
Western Australia	244	409	653	284	470	754	-101	-13.4%
<b>TOTAL ENROLMENTS BY STATE</b>	<b>7959</b>	<b>7088</b>	<b>15047</b>	<b>8072</b>	<b>7138</b>	<b>15210</b>	<b>-163</b>	<b>-1.1%</b>

There has been a 1.1% decline in enrolments across LESNW from 2018 to 2019. Contributing factors to this have been the economic downturn in both the Northern Territory and Western Australia, and the announcement of the changing status of Year 7 enrolments to secondary

schools in South Australia effective from 2022. The later has seen a move of siblings in LESNW primary only schools to other Independent R-12 schools.

**Principal and Director retirements or resignations, to take on new challenges:**

LESNW acknowledges the faithful service and outstanding contribution of Robert Hoff, Kathryn Krieg, Mark Rathjen, Rob Sellars, Roger Ashcroft and Cassandra Kopias who have finished their respective times of service to Lutheran education in LESNW and wish them God's abundant blessings in the next phase of their lives.

**Looking to the emerging future:** The horizon ahead may be a bit fuzzy in view of the current reality we live in, but it is with real hopefulness that we step forward as we re-examine who we are in Christ and the commission we, together with the church, have to share the love and grace of Jesus with the students, staff and families connected to our Learning Communities.

The COVID-19 reality provides a wonderful opportunity for learning communities to reimagine themselves and transform the way in which learning and social interaction happens. What this will look like for each individual community will be contextual, but one thing is certain - it will not be the same as it is today.

Respectfully submitted

**John Proeve**

LESNW Executive Director

## Lutheran Aged Care Council

The Aged Care Council seeks to promote, support and encourage both congregations and aged care organisations in their ministry to the aged. It also provides District Church Council with advice and assistance on aged care matters.

### COVID-19

At the time of writing, the COVID-19 situation and the very rapid pace of change continues to have a significant impact on our communities, with a number of restrictions in place across many of our organisations.

We are all becoming familiar with physical distancing, 'essential' vs 'non-essential' and the 4m<sup>2</sup> rule. Our organisations have been working very hard to ensure our residents stay safe and, equally important, connected with family and their communities when there are limited visiting opportunities.

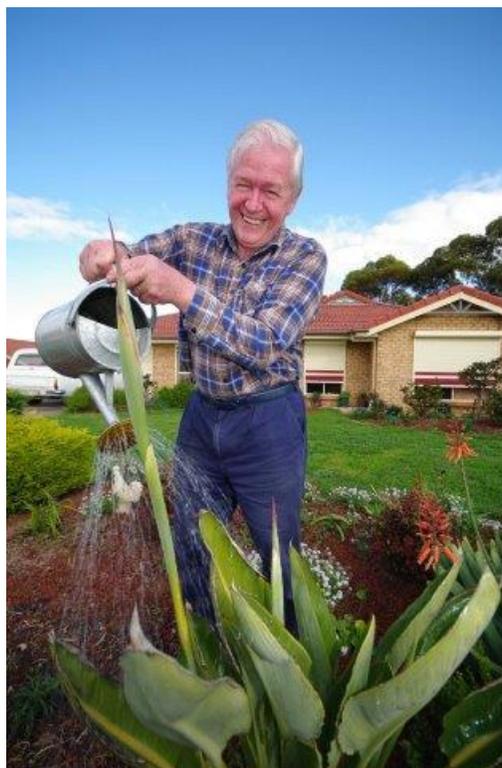
We take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of our front line and support staff who continue to go above-and-beyond to provide Christian love and care to not only our residents, but also their families and each other.

### REGULATION

Our Residential Care organisations are now operating under the new Aged Care Standards. The amount of work to implement the new standards was significant, and created additional pressure on an already pressured industry! All hearings and workshops of the Aged Care Royal Commission are currently suspended due to COVID-19.

Our Villages also continue to operate well, with the Retirement Villages Act coming up for its 3-year review.

It's important to know that our Lutheran Aged Care organisations are places of life!



James Stiller in his garden at Murray Bridge Lutheran Homes

### GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

All organisations continued to engage in the Governance Enhancement project to help meet the LCA Strategic Direction Priority 3: "We are at all levels well governed, run with effective structures and processes, financially sustainable, and professional and accountable".

It has been well noted during the project how collegial all of our organisations are. They are happy to share information and help each other when the need arises. Our providers continue to meet with each other to share ideas and discuss any learning opportunities. Our chaplains also continue to meet.

## **FUTURE**

We see our Lutheran Aged Care organisations continuing to provide excellent care and services to residents and families for the foreseeable future.

However, the Aged Care Council may look a little different in the months to come. The Governance Enhancement project has taken up a number of the Council's current duties. We understand changes in our terms of reference will be considered at a later time. Please continue to pray for our aged care organisations and congregations' ministry with seniors.

Respectfully submitted

**Matt Johns**

Chairperson



**Promote and expand ministry among Aboriginal people that all may come to know of, and grow in, the love of Jesus.**

AbMinSA continues to 'walk together' with Lutheran Congregations and Aboriginal communities in providing ministry with and for the people of Port Lincoln, the Far West Coast of SA and the Greater Adelaide Metropolitan Area (GAMA).

Our current field workers are:

- Pastor Rob Schubert (Port Lincoln)
- Pastor Andrew Vanderwal (Ceduna/Koonibba)
- Pastors Russell Bryant and Lindsay Thomas (Yalata/Oak Valley)

Over the past few years AbMinSA has aimed to forge closer partnerships with congregations and other like-minded organisations within our ministry areas as we reflect on how the LCA connects with First Nations people. In the immediate future, we aim to explore how the LCA can build better relationships with and learn from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within our communities and congregations. We will also continue to discern how the LCA SA-NT District can better connect with, support and walk together with Aboriginal brothers and sisters in building faith and communities of hope.

### **Port Lincoln**

Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Port Lincoln and AbMinSA jointly fund the employment of a pastor. Pastor Rob Schubert has been faithfully serving the Port Lincoln congregation and the Aboriginal community of the area since January 2016. Rob has forged strong relationships with the wider community through his role as chaplain at the Mallee Football Club. As an accredited visitor to the jail he has many opportunities to meet with prisoners and to conduct Bible studies in the jail. Rob's presence in the jail, at the football field and when conducting all too frequent funerals, gently reminds people that they are a part of God's bigger picture and provides ministry opportunities through baptism, confirmation or Bible study.

### **Ceduna/Koonibba**

AbMinSA is also a ministry partner with the Ceduna Parish. During the past 2 years since retiring from the parish, Pastor Allan Wain and his wife Dawn have visited and ministered in the Ceduna Parish on a number of occasions, and have supported the untiring efforts of Dean Heyne to breach the gap. We are delighted that Pastor Andrew Vanderwal commenced ministry in the Ceduna Parish and beyond on 29<sup>th</sup> March this year. We are very grateful that he will also spend some time in the community at Yalata to support and encourage the ministry of newly ordained Pastor, Lindsay Thomas.

### **Yalata/Oak Valley**

Pastor Russell Bryant has continued to minister to the Good Shepherd congregation, assisted by Lindsay Thomas. We thank God that on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2020, Lindsay Thomas was ordained by Bishop John Henderson and installed as pastor in Yalata by Bishop David Altus. It was obvious that Pastor Lindsay has the full support of the community. It was gratifying to see quite a few former Yalata Field workers and other supporters of LCA ministry in Yalata present at the service. Sincere thanks to all who had a role in Lindsay's theological training, and especially

to Pastor David Kuss who travelled to Yalata a number of times for this purpose. Thanks also to the Holy Cross congregation at Birdwood for their support of Pastor David and Yalata.

There is no longer a field worker at Yalata, so we thank God that Pastor Andrew Vanderwal will make frequent visits to Yalata to encourage Pastor Lindsay and the congregation there.

Pastor Russell meanwhile has every intention to minister to the people further north in the community of Oak Valley, if suitable housing arrangements can be made in that community. He has the heart of an evangelist.

In October 2019 we joined together with the people of Yalata in celebrating the tenth anniversary of Russell's ordination.

### **Ferryden Park**

St Paul's Lutheran Church and AbMinSA jointly funded the ministry of Pastor Malcolm Pech to the congregation at Ferryden Park. Until December 2018, AbMinSA also supported the congregation by providing funding for ALC lecturer Pastor Thomas Pietsch to minister part-time with them. Since the retirement of Pastor Pech at the beginning of 2019, St Paul's has been ministered to by a number of retired pastors. Given the congregation's long history and strong feeling of connection with Aboriginal people, AbMinSA will continue to support St. Paul's in this valuable ministry to a diverse community.

### **TACL**

Training Aboriginal Christian Leaders (TACL) is a South Australian Christian ecumenical association of members from the Anglican, Catholic, Lutheran, Uniting, Salvation Army & Baptist Churches but also including other churches & Christian organisations. TACL aims to provide biblical & theological education for Aboriginal people in the church in a way that is sensitive to their learning needs and styles. Jeff Roberts represents AbMinSA at TACL meetings.

We thank God for the loving and encouraging ministry with people in the Yalata community of the late Pastor Neil Hampel (dec. 1/3/20). We also honour the late Mrs Norma Eckermann (dec. 20/1/20) for the role she played amongst the Koonibba community whilst there with the late Pastor Clem Eckermann.

We thank the SA-NT District for their valued investment in Aboriginal Ministry in SA, and look forward to Synod's continued support.

I would like to thank our dedicated and hard-working committee: Malcolm Willcocks, Jeff Roberts, Shona Reid, Pastor Allan Wain, Meryl Schiller and Pastor Dave Kuss. Thanks also to the valued contribution of our consultants: Pastor Andrew Pfeiffer, Judy Jaensch and Pastor Stephen Schultz.

### **Ivan Christian**

Chairperson

## Constitutions Committee

The purpose of the committee is to help congregations, parishes and some other organisations associated with the District to update their constitutions to meet their needs and comply with legislation.

### **Getting Started on Updating a Constitution**

Congregations or parishes wishing to update their constitutions, before doing anything else, are encouraged to contact the District Administrator who will provide information that will save an immense amount of work.

### **Approach to helping congregations and parishes**

The congregation or parish or should appoint a team to review the constitution. Once the District Administrator has been contacted, a simple questionnaire covering the basics is emailed to the team.

Once the organisation returns the answers to the questionnaire, a draft constitution is prepared by the committee for the organisation to consider. If there are any unusual or complicating matters, such as amalgamations, visits by committee members to the organisations to answer questions and help prepare a constitution that will work for them can be arranged.

### **Constitution Approval**

During the last synodical period the committee has considered and recommended 61 constitutions for approval by District Church Council. However, there are still a large number of congregations and parishes that have not updated their constitutions. Many constitutions are more than 30 to 50 years old.

### **Issues arising from out-of-date Constitutions**

Old constitutions will not have kept pace with the changes to both government legislation and LCA/NZ requirements. The most significant changes arose from the Commonwealth Legislation with the creation of a Commission by enacting the '*Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*'. The Commission has introduced the requirements for financial audit or review, not-for-profit status and dissolution.

The committee requests that any parishes or congregations that have not reviewed their constitutions in the past five years to please contact the District Administrator at their earliest convenience.

Please dust off your constitution and seek help from the committee to prepare an update.

### **Membership of the Committee**

Committee members for the year were Roger Collins, Graham Herrmann, Neil Lutz (Chairperson), Gilbert Materne, Peter Miller, Angela Rogers, George Scherer and Peter Wittwer. Roger is retiring at the end of this current term. We thank him for his contribution to the work of the Committee.

### **Neil Lutz**

Chairperson

## Loxton Riverview Rest Home



Riverview, located in the Riverland town of Loxton, overlooking the beautiful Murray River, comprises of 60 private aged care rooms with ensuites, and has a further 25 independent living options on site. We employ just over 100 staff.

Our vision is to be a vibrant, innovative leader, and the best partner to support people to live well. At Riverview we aim for our Christian values of care, respect, kindness, compassion, quality, love, patience and integrity to be embedded in everything we do and reflected in everyday life.

We believe in investing in our people. We need the best people and we need to train and support them well, in order to deliver excellence in Christian care. Our staff have undertaken training in a wide variety of areas to best support our residents. We offer training both onsite in our training room, and online. In addition to our mandatory training we also have mandatory



'Riverview and the Big Picture' sessions, where we update staff on what is happening across the Aged Care industry and how that affects us here. These sessions are invaluable in helping staff to understand the 'why' behind the changes we make at an organisational level. Staff are very appreciative and grateful to be included in the big picture.

Our Board has completed education on their responsibilities under the new aged care standards, whilst our Young Person and Clinical Board Governance scholarships have seen us welcome two new members with finance and clinical skills respectively, and equipped them with governance knowledge through attendance at the Australian Institute of Company Directors three day Foundations of Governance course.

Our occupancy this financial year to date is 98.86% with all beds generally occupied, and a waiting list of people from across the Riverland region. We pride ourselves on being a provider of choice, and continually seek feedback from residents, staff and families on what we do well and what we can do better.

We continually strive to improve efficiency and effectiveness throughout our organisation, our aim is to be as electronic as possible. Our point of care documentation enables greater accuracy in documenting care provided, and our electronic medication management system provides greater efficiency and accuracy in the delivery of medication.

Sense of community is so very important in the Riverland. Many of our residents have been very involved in the community throughout their lives and we believe it is important to enable them to still be involved in our local community, therefore many of our lifestyle activities involve getting out and about. From Melbourne Cup Luncheon at the club, to visiting open gardens during Rose Week, and participating in our local Mardi Gras parade, our residents are out and about most weeks. Our residents really value these outings. We have been blessed to be able to purchase a modern bus with electronic wheelchair lifter, wrapped with

a picture of Riverview and our logo - we certainly cannot be missed when out and about in the community.

Our close proximity to the Loxton Lutheran School (across the road) enables residents and students to spend time together on a regular basis - our residents attend Chapel and important events at the school, and the students visit on a regular basis, playing games, sharing their learnings, and learning from our residents. We were even blessed to have the whole school, including teachers, come over and parade past our residents in their wonderful costumes during book week. These are extremely valuable interactions for all.

The building of our new chapel and wellbeing centre is currently underway. We had outgrown our old chapel, there was very little room with our increased number of residents (from 40 – 60) and increasing number of high acuity immobile residents that come to chapel in bed chairs (also known as 'princess chairs'). The renovation will also offer a small private lounge area and kitchenette for residents and their families. Any financial support for our new chapel and wellbeing centre would be greatly appreciated.



Artists Impression of our new Chapel & Wellbeing Centre currently under construction

We are very blessed that Pastor Avito da Costa accepted the call to serve our aged care residents, staff and retirement living residents. We truly appreciate having Pastor Avito and his wife Anna here at Riverview. The pastoral care role at Riverview is of utmost importance and very much appreciated by our residents and their families.

Our serviced apartment rental option is still proving popular. Other retirement villages in the area require payment of a licence fee on entry. Our rental option gives those that have always rented (or those that do not wish to tie up their capital) access to a supported community retirement living option. Many of our apartment residents join in with lifestyle activities in our aged care facility, many have lunch with us daily and partake regularly in outings. It also makes the transition from retirement living to aged care much easier if required.

We continue to strive for excellence in Christian care and thank the Lord for the blessings he continues to provide us.

**Nicolle Jachmann**  
Chief Executive Officer

## Tanunda Lutheran Home

### From Pastor Ian Lutze

It's a wonderful thing to be part of the enterprise of Tanunda Lutheran Home, where chaplaincy is fully integrated into the life of the community and in the services provided to residents in the home. We have 1.4 FTE Chaplains, which is an appropriate ratio of chaplains to residents for our context.

I always describe chaplaincy as having two prongs – corresponding to the two hands of God which are spelt out so well in the God's Love Our Care document (on the LCA website).

So we introduce ourselves as chaplains for everybody, insofar as we are concerned with promoting dignity and spiritual health for all residents, including residents whose sources of life, connection and meaning are more widely separate from a religious practice. Chaplains are the spiritual care specialists who provide spiritual care, and also train and encourage all staff in simple spiritual, holistic care, and indeed in their own self-care. 'Spiritual care' has a slightly different definition in healthcare arenas than in the church. It is based on the assumption that every human being has spirituality and some people are religious. Spiritual care is 'left hand of God care'. At TLH, and indeed more and more in the wider aged care sector these days, spiritual care is well accepted and understood.

Chaplains provide *religious* care as well, through church services, Christian prayer and encouragement, and in the conducting of funerals and other rituals. This is 'right hand of God' work – proclaiming the Gospel, and encouraging Christians in their faith and practice. Chaplaincy is often more like a dance than a set of specific tasks. It is art more than science, and when it works well it promotes a lot of joy, well-being and a feeling that God at his best is among us. We are endlessly grateful for the opportunity. Aged care at its best is a great industry to be part of. It is a great place for people to call 'home'.



Photos Left to Right: Ray Giersch, Quinnie Ahrns, Glen Noack, Ira Zeunert and Glenis Kupke.

Tanunda Lutheran Home (TLH) has over the past months been very busy, not only maintaining the quality of care and services of our 120 residents but improving in all ways of what we do. TLH has met all regulatory and accreditation requirements. Last financial year saw TLH achieve a small surplus following major operational reviews that are now showing the great work done some time ago.

Everything TLH does now is developed around the philosophies of “resident centred care” and “consumer directed care”. This means that the both staff and residents are now involved in developing areas of care and have choices in in all that they do. Very precise care plans are now negotiated to ensure the residents (and / or family) likes, dislikes and preferences are available for all staff to read so that care can be provided to the residents.

TLH is also actively expanding our retirement village accommodation offering. The Nuriootpa Retirement Living (NRL) project has completed stage 1a. Seven very nice homes have been completed along with a state of the art community centre. There a number of houses available for those who would like to join our retirement community.



Having the right people to provide the governance, administration, hotel services and care is vitally important to maintain reputation and overall care of the residents and our Home. TLH currently employs 200 staff on various rosters. We are also very lucky to have 120 active volunteers. Our Board of Directors are very positive and active in developing TLH's vision and support to the executive team.

TLH has maintained its staff knowledge by having various and appropriate topic training provided on-line and face to face with topic experts. All volunteers are offered appropriate training to suit the role they provide to TLH. Our Board Directors also attend governance training to ensure they keep up with the latest trends in overseeing a large aged care business.

At TLH we have been able to celebrate over the years the staff who have reached employment milestones during a celebration and training day. TLH has a 19 percent turnover rate of staff per year. 90 percent of staff are female with an average age of between 45 and 50 years. The average length of service by our staff is over two years. The longest serving staff member has provided 40 years of continuous service in the role of an Enrolled Nurse.

**Chris Pfeiffer and Pastor Ian Lutze**  
Tanunda Lutheran Homes

### The Past

This year Concordia celebrates 130 years of 'Lutheran Education' in and through the Church. We praise God for this abundant blessing and draw inspiration and direction for the future from the College's original connection with the Church, its striving for academic rigour, its community focus and its desire to bear witness to the Gospel through this institution we now know as Concordia College.



A 1906 Concordia College classroom

In addition, the College this year celebrates five years since its amalgamation was formally approved as an ELC to Year 12 provider of Lutheran Education. While still young as an amalgamated entity, the College has prospered through the synergies experienced and the cooperation built between the St John's Campus and the Concordia Campus.

### The Present

- **Enrolments:** The College is at or near to capacity in all year levels and currently has an enrolment of 1267 students (St John's Campus 405; Concordia Campus 871).
- **Programs:**
  - Multiple Chapel services, often addressing a specific theme, are held across the College each week. Pastor Dale Gosden (School Pastor) and Pastor Andrew Brook (St John's Lutheran Church, Unley - Lead Pastor) invest significantly in the organisation and delivery of Chapel services.
  - The '*Unlocking Futures*' learning framework document, which has taken two years to develop, is being rolled out across the whole College.
  - A new College Ministry Committee with expanded Terms of Reference is actively seeking ways to develop and enact ministry opportunities and connections across the College.
  - Work is underway to strengthen and grow the current international student program.
- **Innovations:** In close partnership with selected staff from Flinders University, a research project around student wellbeing is being developed. The next steps involve collecting and analysing student data to ascertain predictors of mental health issues such as sleep deprivation, body image, measurable spikes in Year 11 and 12 mental health risks and bullying-related issues. It is planned that this research will create a shared understanding of what pastoral care and wellbeing mean at Concordia and subsequently develop key socio-emotional capabilities and qualities most beneficial for our students.
- **Facilities:** The facilities at Concordia College are well suited to the learning program, but as new programs unfold and planned enrolment numbers grow there is a constant need to consider refurbishments and new facilities. Currently a refurbishment and extension of St John's Campus learning spaces is in the advanced planning phase. The current College gymnasium, which at the time of construction served the needs of

around 400 students, is inadequate for today's student population, which includes the St John's Campus cohort, thus necessitating the urgent consideration of a new gymnasium.

### **The Future**

The College Board, after many months of research, consultation, conversations and prayerful consideration has adopted the new Strategic Plan for the College. Titled "*Towards 2025*", the Strategic Plan sets out our Vision, Mission and our shared Values. Specifically the document highlights five Strategic Intentions, namely:



**1. Lead in Learning:** this involves the roll out of the '*Unlocking Futures*' learning framework across the whole College, investing in the professional development of all of our staff and forging effective learning links with business, industry and other educational institutions, locally, nationally and internationally.

**2. Strengthen Christian Identity:** this includes fostering close ties with, and exploring ministry opportunities through our local congregation(s), maintaining a Christ-focussed worship program that fosters faith development and actively engaging with students through the Christian Studies program.

**3. Connected Community:** deepening community connections and engagement across the whole College, promoting diversity and intercultural understanding, including strengthening our connections with Aboriginal student communities and championing active and engaged parent and alumni communities.

**4. Promote Wellbeing:** developing an evidence-based, research-driven understanding of wellbeing for all students, including those who are transitioning to post school pathways, and implementing these understandings to effect optimal learning, resilience and relationship outcomes.

**5. Secure Our Future:** exercising stewardship through financial sustainability, targeted and programmed provision and upgrading of learning facilities, strengthening a culture of continuous improvement in teaching and learning delivery; building our capacity for both change and change agency and identifying and investigating opportunities for future development and growth of Concordia College.

In addition to implementing the Strategic Plan, the College Board is also finalising a new Master Plan for the College that includes the refurbishment and extension of the learning facilities at the St John's Campus to increase the intake of students in the ELC and Upper Primary (Years 4 to 6). The Master Plan also situates the proposed new College gymnasium to be purpose-built to cater for students' growing physical and wellbeing needs.

Finally, the College continues to seek ways to walk with education partners, parents and caregivers, and the Church to provide our students with rich and engaging learning experiences in the Lutheran education tradition.

Respectfully submitted

**Dr Loyd R Fyffe**

Chair, Concordia College Board



*To include people with a disability in Christian Community*



I am pleased to submit the Lutheran Disability Services (LDS) report to the 2020 LCA SA-NT Synod.

LDS has experienced significant growth and success during an extraordinary period of transformative change. The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), which has been referred to as the single largest social change that the nation has ever experienced, has provided opportunities and challenges. The transition for the majority of LDS clients from state-based program funding to the national individualised insurance scheme occurred over a very short timeframe, from December 2018 to February 2019. Most clients have received increased support, enabling them to engage more with the wider community and leading to improved quality of life. For a few clients this is life changing. But there is still a fair way to go before the NDIS will have satisfactorily addressed all policy, system and timeframe issues and for the market to mature. Successful outcomes will be achieved most readily by effective collaboration between government and service providers.

Delivering disability supports in the NDIS world has brought challenges in changing systems and processes with customer-facing support staff. New information technology is being implemented to ensure staff are supported and ensure all legislative requirements are met, while still providing outstanding service to clients.

A new independent agency, called the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission, was set up with the purpose of monitoring and regulating NDIS service requirements across quality and safety. LDS underwent an arduous NDIS Q&S Commission audit process during the year and succeeded in receiving renewed NDIS Registration in September 2019. The new ongoing audit process is aimed at ensuring continuous improvement of service quality.

The audit process also assisted LDS with preparation for the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (the Disability Royal Commission). The Disability Royal Commission commenced on 4 April 2019 and will be continuing for three years. LDS strongly supports the objectives of the Commission and looks forward to any improvements that come as a result.

The 2019 financial year was highly successful with significant growth in all areas. Revenue grew 61% to \$9.7M. The number of clients receiving services increased by 18% to 75, and staff numbers grew 41% to 150. The 2020 year will consolidate this growth, which is important for all staff, due to the enormous workload and pressure across the previous year.

While staff attraction and retention is challenging due to the shortage of workers in the disability sector, it is pleasing that LDS has been continually blessed with overall low staff turnover and has continued to attract very good and committed staff. The mission of LDS, to include people with disabilities in Christian Community, continues to be embedded throughout the organisation.

LDS provides outstanding services to the people whom we serve with continuing very high satisfaction ratings from clients and their families. The commencement of support services in the Barossa Valley was finally realised in January 2019, fulfilling a long-term strategic objective. Feedback from the new clients and their families in the Barossa has been very positive.

New opportunities to provide accommodation support services to those who choose LDS is often hindered by the lack of affordable housing options. Currently demand outstrips supply for quality, affordable housing suitable for people with disabilities. Housing partnerships with individual Lutheran congregations is continuing to be successful for some clients and LDS continues to pursue future housing and/or community engagement opportunities with Lutheran congregations. LDS also seeks to continue developing partnerships with Lutheran Community Care, the Lutheran Church SA-NT District and the wider church as the new world of NDIS continues to evolve.

LDS values the support and prayers of the church as it navigates this challenging and rewarding period in the disability sector.

**Kym Wallent**

Chair, LDS Board



### ADELAIDE DEAF COMMUNITY CHURCH (ADCC)

#### **Introduction**

With the support of the Pilgrim Lutheran congregation at Magill and the LCA SA-NT District, the Adelaide Deaf Community Church (ADCC) continues its ministry to Deaf people. While the ADCC's focus is still primarily the Adelaide region, we are also starting to reach out to the wider community through social media and other technologies.

The ADCC has also been blessed to receive some extra administration assistance from Bev Corner (who normally works at Pilgrim in the same capacity) to take over some of the duties formerly held by the "Friends of the Deaf". We thank the Friends for their many years of faithful support for Deaf Ministry and pray that God blesses them in their "retirement".

#### **Worship**

ADCC worships most weeks at 11am at Magill in Australian Sign Language (Auslan). The liturgy and sermon are signed by myself, while members are encouraged to participate through the signing of songs, prayers, and discussion of the readings and the sermon. Membership has remained stable, with new members offsetting a number of transfers out of the congregation due to health and family reasons.

So-called "Away Services" are still held about 6 times a year in host (hearing) congregations – both metropolitan and rural. At these services the ADCC conducts worship in Auslan to help hearing people experience and appreciate the beauty of worshipping in sign language. An interpreter is provided to ensure everyone can understand what is going on. The host congregation is encouraged to provide a morning tea or lunch afterwards, to further encourage fellowship between the Deaf and hearing worshippers.

If your congregation would like to invite the ADCC to your church for an Away Service next year (2020 is already booked out!) please let us know at [pilgrim.magill@lccsa.org.au](mailto:pilgrim.magill@lccsa.org.au) and Bev will be in touch to work out the details.

Last year the ADCC also visited two congregations which offer Deaf services (a signing Catholic congregation and a hearing Churches of Christ congregation offering worship through interpreters) to encourage ecumenical engagement between our respective members. We plan to host reciprocal services with these congregations in 2020.

#### **Mission**

One of the first steps towards serving Deaf people outside of our geographical area has been the setting up of a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ADCCChurch/>). The page, administered by one of our members, ensures that potential visitors have the most up-to-date information about services (particularly irregular service times such as Away Services). It will also serve as a means of sharing ADCC resources as they are produced. Hearing supporters on Facebook are welcome to "like" our page so they are also kept informed of the latest happenings at the ADCC.

Recently we released the first video from our in-house studio. It is a video introducing the ADCC in Auslan (subtitled in English), signed by the chairperson of the congregation, Mary Juhas. You can access the video via our Facebook page or directly on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmgNjyGJM5A>.

The video not only makes information about the ADCC more accessible to Auslan users, but it also showcases the new logo/branding which we have developed to provide a consistent and professional look across our future resources. Many thanks to LCA Communications for working with our congregation to develop this great logo.



A screenshot from the ADCC video.

### **Partnerships**

Aside from the everyday interaction between the congregations, the ADCC and Pilgrim have intentionally been growing closer through a number of activities. The first, taking place in the second half of 2019, offered an introductory Auslan course to members of Pilgrim. 11 people attended, and enjoyed five two-hour weekly sessions learning basic Auslan vocabulary, grammar, greetings, numbers and fingerspelling. The real challenge for these students is now to practice what they have learned with the ADCC members!

The second activity has been a revision of the Memorandum of Understanding between the congregations. Up until recently the ADCC was treated as a stand-alone congregation by the LCA. However, as the ADCC was not an incorporated body, its members asked Pilgrim if the ADCC could come under the protection of Pilgrim's constitution and incorporation, while still retaining its unique character and autonomy. After discussions between the congregations and the District, it was decided the simplest solution would be to make ADCC an auxiliary of Pilgrim. As such, nothing has changed in the way the congregations worship or share the facilities and pastor at Magill, but they will be working more closely at some levels (e.g. Synod representatives will now serve both Pilgrim and the ADCC).

### **Pastor**

Since the last national synodical term started, I have served on the LCA's Committee for Cross-Cultural Ministry. This has given me the opportunity to learn from others working in cross-cultural ministry, as well as share some of my experiences working across cultures at Magill. Last year I also undertook some private tutoring in Auslan. As a result I am feeling more confident in my signing, although I still have more to learn.

I thank God for the privilege of working with the ADCC and Pilgrim, and for the opportunities I have to share in this unique ministry. I thank God, too, for your ongoing support, and ask you to keep us all in your prayers, particularly those Deaf people who have not yet seen the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In His service,

**Pastor Michael Prenzler**

ADCC and Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Magill

## LLL Mission Stimulus Grant Recipients

### **CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL WOMEN'S CHOIR (CAAWC)**

**Recipient:** Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir. To support the Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir tour to Washington DC, to perform at the Serenade! Choral Festival, 27 June - 4 July 2018.

The Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir (CAAWC) was invited to perform at the 2018 Serenade! International Choral Festival in Washington DC, **Thursday June 28 - Monday 2 July 2018**. The event was co-presented by Classical Movements and The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Choirs from Australia, Canada, India, Indonesia, the Netherlands, Madagascar, Syria, the Tuvan Republic, the United States and Venezuela contributed their own performances a number of times during the festival and also shared in multi-choir performances and a grand finale choral concert staged in the Concert Hall at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.



#### **What did you achieve as a result of the grant:**

The choir's presence and performances showcased its artistic capacity, unique tonality, multilingual choral skills and musicianship. Living Indigenous languages were on display. The capacity of Aboriginal culture to preserve valuable cultural and artistic capital for succeeding generations was also on display. Their performances unveiled a unique body of knowledge, practice and experience: a tradition without peer, bounded by Aboriginal languages, Baroque and Early Romantic musical arrangements and Lutheran hymns preserved for over a century in the desert heart of Australia.

This choral practice has made a considerable contribution to the preservation of language and culture, the propagation of literacy and enhancing of identity and connection to country. On this tour, a new international audience gained a rare and informative insight into an iconic story within Aboriginal culture and its meaning for Central Desert communities and also for the wider Australian community as a significant slice of Centralian Indigenous culture was shared. Nowhere else in the world does such a choir exist!

In addition to two performances at the Kennedy Center, the choir also performed in Chevy Chase Maryland, downtown Washington DC, The Australian Embassy in Washington DC, The Philips Collection Washington DC, the Castleton Festival Virginia, and the Olsen Gruin art gallery in New York City – a total of eight performances in 10 days. We conducted one workshop and participated in five others – a busy and stretching program for the choir, who proudly occupied this international stage as equals alongside choirs of renown from across the world. We felt our choir left an indelible mark, representing their tradition and culture, their communities, the Northern Territory and the nation, and continuing their now well-established reputation of being incredible ambassadors for Australia overseas.

During this tour “The Song Keepers”, the 90-minute feature length documentary relating the story of the Central Australian Aboriginal Women’s Choir and their remarkable concert tour of Germany in 2015, had its American premiere at The Philips Collection in Washington DC, America’s first museum of modern art.

This tour created interest in the Choir, the communities from which its members came, their culture and languages, the Northern Territory and the Desert Song Festival. It stimulated visitation to the Northern Territory as concertgoers in Melbourne, Sydney and the United States subsequently came to visit the NT for the Desert Song Festival in 2018.



**Morris Stuart**  
Conductor and Artistic Director  
Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir

## LLL Mission Stimulus Grant Recipients

### MESSY CHURCH @ ST PETRI

***'Messy Church is an all-ages fresh expression of church that offers counter-cultural transformation of family life, through families coming together to be, to make, to eat and to celebrate God. It's church for children and adults that involves creativity, celebration and hospitality.'***



Scenes from Messy Church, above.

In 2016 St Petri Lutheran Church in Nuriootpa began Messy Church, with the mission of 'sharing the love and hope of Jesus' with their local community. Over the last four years the Lord has done more than they could ever ask or imagine, as Messy Church continues to share the gospel and flourish. In 2019, St Petri received the LLL Mission Stimulus Grant of \$25,000 for Messy Church.

When we began Messy Church at St Petri four years ago, there was a compelling vision to share the love of God with people in our local community, especially with those who don't know Jesus and have had little or no church connections.

The blessing and challenge at our Messy Church is to disciple people in a ministry of large proportions, with an average attendance of 85-100+ people at our six weekly gatherings. We know that Messy Church is not an event, it is 'church'. Our aim is to develop evangelism and discipleship initiatives, helping people to know and grow with God.

Through receiving the LLL Grant, we will employ a part time 'Messy Church Facilitator'. We are currently in this process, and have spent quality time liaising with various ministry people over the last six months to develop our Messy Church mission. St Petri is taking part in the New and Renewing Churches journey, and this has given us opportunities to consult with the New & Renewing staff and shape the role of the Messy Church Facilitator. The Messy Church Facilitator will be paramount in the organisation of Messy Church every six weeks, including assisting in recruiting and equipping volunteers. They will join our Messy Church Core leadership team to implement strategies for intentional Messy Church discipleship of both families and individuals.

Our excitement is to see people in our Messy Church community brought to faith and nurtured in their walk with Jesus, and in turn empowered to serve in their Messy Church community and beyond.

As shared at District Synod last year, we are taking the opportunity to encourage and resource congregations that are keen to know more about Messy Church ministry. We've had a number of congregations in contact with us and they have visited our Messy Church at St Petri which has been awesome.

In February 2021 St Petri is hosting the tri-ennial Australasian Messy Church Conference at Redeemer Lutheran School Nuriootpa. A wonderful time of encouragement for all involved in Messy Church mission. A big thank you to the LLL for giving us the opportunity to develop our Messy Church Ministry through this grant. All praise be to God!

*"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."*

January 2020

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*Just as I am — your love unknown  
has broken every barrier down —  
now to be yours, and yours alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come.*

(LHS 335 verse 6 [TIS 584 verse 5]  
Charlotte Elliot, 1789-1871)

To the Districts, members, and friends of the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand.

### **Our wilderness experience**

As I reflect on the church in 2020, I am filled with gratitude for God's wonderful provision and grace. God continues to gather us under the cross of Christ. He patiently cares for us. All we are and have comes from him, and so we resonate with the words of St Paul, 'I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.'<sup>1</sup>

As I reflect on the church in 2020, I am also filled with wonder that, after all these years, we are still here! That the church still exists on earth is a sign that God isn't finished with us yet. Each generation of the church has faced challenges and losses, sometimes catastrophic, as well as gains, which with a few exceptions have tended to come more slowly. History shows that many before us have questioned in their time whether it has a viable future. Despite all those things, here we still are, by the grace of God.

As I reflect on the church in 2020, I see that, in our time, we continue to face difficulties on many fronts, within and without. Can we solve these dilemmas? Can we remain faithful to Christ, be relevant to people in the modern world, and grow and flourish in a rapidly changing and high-risk environment?

And therein lies the rub. This isn't about us, our brilliance, our way, our crystal ball gazing or carefully made plans. In truth, we don't create or sustain the church. Of course, we must read the signs around us, pay heed to the statistics, and find new ways of working. But all that is for nothing if we do not learn to trust God. Remember Israel's 40-year journey through the wilderness. They didn't travel a straight line from point A to point B. They wandered, apparently aimlessly, until it was time for them to arrive in the promised land. They gave up hope many times, resisting the lessons that God was teaching them. They were homeless and afraid, wandering in the desert surrounded by hostile nations. Sometimes they thought it would be better to go back into slavery than continue as they were. At other times they took matters into their own hands, such as when Aaron built them a golden calf (Exodus 32). Time and time again they sinned to the point of destruction, yet each time God pulled them back. So today for us too, as the people of God, we have this lesson to learn.

The church is God's, and we in the LCA want to reflect that, albeit sometimes very dimly. It's not ours to create or to abolish. God will do with us what he wills. As with the Israelites, God is providing a test, helping us explore what we truly believe, and who or what we truly trust. The

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<sup>1</sup> [The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version](#). (1989). (2 Co 12:9). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

question is 'Who, or what, is your God? Who, or what, do you look to when the heat is on, the crisis looms, and the catastrophe threatens?' Will we, like Israel, learn yet to trust him? As I reflect on the church in 2020, I see that we have everything we need. God gathers us, unlikely candidates as we are. I see that we are just the kind of people, and just the kind of church, you would expect us to be. We have no pretences. We know and confess that we are sinners saved by grace. Christ is our hope. He gives us new life, new birth.

To quote one of our Synod themes, every day we are 'learning to walk again.' God is creating something among us that is holy, beautiful and new. Whatever our external circumstances, and whatever bothers us, we can still be confident of God's commitment to this work, to the salvation of the world, and to us, the people he has called.

### **Where we are headed**

Since 2000 these have been the themes of our LCA General Conventions of Synod:

- 2000 (Tanunda SA) – Christ our future
- 2003 (Stanwell Tops NSW) – How are they to hear?
- 2006 (Toowoomba Qld) – Living in the light | Shining as lights
- 2009 (Croydon Victoria) – Learning to walk again
- 2013 (Novar Gardens SA) – Where love comes to life
- 2015 (Rochedale Qld) – Where love comes to life
- 2018 (Rosehill NSW) – Faith Freedom Future

It's intriguing that we began and ended the two decades with the theme 'future'. I guess the future is what bugs us most. There can be many reasons for that, and here's some I have seen:

- We can be insecure about the world and our place in it
- We can fear loss of wealth and our comfortable lifestyle
- We can feel that the church has lost its publicly acknowledged place in society – people no longer look to it for ethical and moral guidance
- We can worry that our children and grandchildren are not coming to church, and therefore it might not survive
- We can despair of the changes happening around us and be disappointed when change in the church looks like it is being influenced by the world instead of fighting it
- We can be frustrated that the church isn't moving with the times and so risks becoming 'irrelevant'
- We might not like the way we see things going, and we want someone to blame
- We might want to be part of something successful, and the church doesn't always look successful
- We can be intolerant of the imperfections of others – we want the church to reflect just ourselves rather than reflect the inclusiveness of Jesus in the gospels
- We are tired – we want someone else to take over the running of the church, but we can't find anyone to do it
- We are annoyed that older people won't let go and let younger ones 'have a go'

So, as I reflect on the church in 2020, I realise that we aren't that different from other people. We live by the same grace and need the same forgiveness and baptismal rebirth as every human being. And that makes the church very special indeed. It is sobering to realise that God's special people are not so very different – they have no short-cut to heaven. We come, just as we are, broken and defeated, and God's love does the rest.

Lutherans teach some quite radical things about this, that being a Christian is not deciding to be a better person, or even deciding to believe in Jesus, difficult though both those things are. When we ask what it is to be a Christian we look somewhere else. Not to ourselves, but to God, in the sacrament of Baptism. In the Small Catechism, which alongside the Bible is our basic Christian handbook, we read that baptism 'effects forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil and grants eternal salvation to all who believe, as the word and promise of God declare.'

This is counter intuitive. When we ask about the church, or about ourselves as Christians, our first tendency is to look inside for evidence of faith and righteousness, or good works. Martin Luther would say that we make an idol of ourselves because when pressed we turn to our own strength instead of to God. Whatever you put your trust in, he said, is your god.

### **Salvation**

We know not to look inside ourselves for salvation. We must look beyond ourselves, to an external source, to what God promises in baptism. In other words, to the salvation won by Jesus Christ, which he gives freely to the world. The human condition is one of death, and Christ gives life. Therefore, the life of the church relies on the daily renewal provided by our baptism, which 'signifies that the old Adam, with all sin and evil lusts, should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance and be put to death, and that the new person should come forth daily and rise up, cleansed and righteous, to live forever in God's presence.'

This gets us away from the idea that human progress requires an onward and upward spiral of success. It requires a radical rethink of our position before God. It means we don't come to God just as wounded souls looking for a cure, or hurt people seeking healing. It's more serious than that. It means we can't come to God at all. We are dead because of sin (Ephesians 2:1,5, Colossians 2:13). It must happen the other way around – God comes to us. We must always remember that. Religions seek God, probing for truth and spiritual reality, but because of sin they cannot truly reach beyond, to the reality of who God is. Christians know that it is not we who seek God, but God who seeks those who are lost. God has found us and does more than rescue us. We were dead, just bones, and God has breathed life into us again (see the vision in Ezekiel 13). That's what we mean by resurrection. The water of baptism brings it to us. The Spirit washes us through and through with God's Word, his promise. Baptism, uniting us with Jesus, is the water of life. It's far too flimsy a foundation just to believe in God. Saving faith rests on something far stronger – Jesus Christ, God's only Son, who came into the world to bring it back to life.

What does this mean for us? It means that our insecurities, fears and doubts cannot destroy us, or the church. How long the LCA will continue in its current format, I can't tell you. There are many stresses and strains on us, and I found no crystal ball when I moved into the bishop's office. I would have been highly sceptical if I had! There are as many possible futures as there are people who predict them. Many will be proven wrong, but maybe not all. One thing I can be sure of, however - the church, God's church, will endure.

In worrying about the future, of course, we are worrying about the wrong thing. The future is in God's hands. It is better, surely, to pay attention to the present, this very moment in which we can do something new for God. Life is made up of such moments. We pray, for instance, in the Lord's Prayer: 'Give us today our *daily* bread.' This was the lesson God taught the Israelites when he gave them manna in the desert (see Exodus 16). The present moment, right

now, is God's gift to us. The past is already a memory, and the future doesn't yet exist. What we are given is now. In faith we recognise Jesus as the divine 'now' in which we live, move and have our being (St Paul in Acts 17:28). So, God loves us here, now, in this present moment, just as we are. That's our constant belief, hope and confidence.

### **God's work**

So finally, as I reflect on the church in 2020, I am not in despair. We don't know the answers to all our problems, but that doesn't mean the cause is lost. It just means we are in that part of the resurrection cycle, of the dying and rising again that is the Christian life. God is at work, bringing new, resurrected life into the world, and that doesn't happen without some pain. It even requires a death, the death of Jesus. We share in his death, so that we may also share in his life.

In the church we measure things differently to the way they are measured in the world. As we strive for 'relevance' in the world, as we grow in ministering responsibly and well under the best standards of behaviour and accountability, as we sort out our differences on who can be a pastor, and as we reshape ourselves to serve in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, let's always keep in mind what really matters – the cross of Jesus Christ and the free forgiveness of sins in his name.

That's why we're Christian and Lutheran, and that's the gift for which we, in turn, will give our own lives, and the life of the LCA, so that others may believe in him.

### **Pastor John Henderson**

Bishop, Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand  
January 2020

## District Chronicle

1<sup>st</sup> May 2018 – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020

### **Pastors: Calls Accepted**

Ken Schultz – Alice Springs NT to Oakey/Norwin Qld  
Tim Spilsbury – Whyalla SA to Hervey Bay Qld  
Peter Ziersch – Freeling SA to Keyneton, Eden Valley & Springton SA  
Neville Otto – LCA to Box Hill Vic  
James Leach – Mid North Lutheran Ministries SA to Central West Coast NSW  
Andrew Koehler – Howard Springs College NT to St Andrews Gold Coast Qld  
Darryl Mattner – Finke River Mission NT to Albury Lutheran Aged Care NSW  
Jason Sander – Renmark/Paringa SA to Loxton St Peters SA  
Tony Traeger – Katanning-Narrogin WA to Mallee Parish SA  
Damien Martin – Queensland District to Barossa North Parish SA  
Peter Fuhlbohm – Southern Yorke Peninsula Parish SA to Lavington NSW  
Geoff Kuchel – Darwin NT to Light Congregation SA  
Luke Spilsbury – Onkaparinga Parish SA to Plainland Faith College Qld  
Greg Vangsness – Naracoorte SA to Mid North Lutheran Ministries SA  
Greg Priebbenow – Blair Athol SA to Indooroopilly Qld  
Avito da Graca Costa – Port Adelaide Woodville Parish SA to Loxton Riverview SA  
Greg Graham – Mount Gambier SA to Bundaberg Qld  
Mathew Ker – Warrnambool Vic to Barossa North Parish SA  
Andrew Vanderwal – Victor Harbor SA to Ceduna SA  
Robin Zadow – Southern Flinders Parish to Alice Springs NT

### **Pastors: Installations**

#### **2018**

Finn Klein – Hahndorf St Michael's congregation on 20<sup>th</sup> May  
Tim Castle-Schmidt – McLaren Vale congregation on 27<sup>th</sup> May  
Wally Schiller – Barossa North Parish on 29<sup>th</sup> July  
Greg Page – Novar Gardens congregation on 29<sup>th</sup> July  
Rob Borgas – Angaston Parish on 29<sup>th</sup> July  
Basil Schild – Yirara College on 10<sup>th</sup> August  
Michael Jacobson – Finke River Mission on 12<sup>th</sup> August

#### **2019**

Jason Sander – Loxton St Peter's congregation on 20<sup>th</sup> January  
Matthew Edgecomb – Strathalbyn SA on 3<sup>rd</sup> February  
Peter Ziersch – Keyneton, Eden Valley and Springton on 20<sup>th</sup> January  
Matthew Edgecomb – Strathalbyn Parish on 3<sup>rd</sup> February  
Damien Martin – Barossa North Parish on 24<sup>th</sup> February  
Tony Traeger – Mallee Parish on 10<sup>th</sup> March  
Dan Rooney – Mallee Parish on 10<sup>th</sup> March  
Peter Heintze – Mallee Parish on 10<sup>th</sup> March  
Rolf Lungwitz – Hampstead congregation on 11<sup>th</sup> August  
Geoff Kuchel – Light congregation on 25<sup>th</sup> August  
Dean Mills – Berri-Barmera congregation on 15<sup>th</sup> September

## **2020**

Tim Castle-Schmidt – Onkaparinga Parish on 19<sup>th</sup> January  
Shaun Manning – Naracoorte Parish on 26<sup>th</sup> January  
Greg Vangsness – Mid North Lutheran Ministries on 2<sup>nd</sup> February  
Avito da Graca Costa – Loxton Riverview on 5<sup>th</sup> February  
Lee Van Rossen – Whyalla Parish on 9<sup>th</sup> February  
Paul Calnan – Murray Bridge Holy Cross on 23<sup>rd</sup> February  
Sam Davis – Port Adelaide Woodville Parish on 1<sup>st</sup> March  
Mathew Ker – Barossa North Parish on 15<sup>th</sup> March  
Andrew Vanderwal – Ceduna on 29<sup>th</sup> March

## **Graduate Assignments**

### **2018**

Matthew Edgecomb – Strathalbyn, SA  
Lucas Matuschka – Rainbow/Pella, Vic  
Mathew von Stanke – Lifeway Newcastle, NSW  
Jeffrey Wheeler – Mt Liebig, NT

### **2019**

Paul Calnan – Murray Bridge Holy Cross SA  
Kim Luan – Lockyer Valley Laidley Ministry Area, Qld  
Shaun Manning – Naracoorte SA  
Peter Noble – Gladstone Qld  
David Seligmann – Gympie Qld  
Carl Richter – Mildura, Vic  
Lee van Rossen – Whyalla, SA

## **Ordinations**

### **9 December 2018 – Concordia College, Unley**

Matthew Edgecomb  
Lucas Matuschka  
Mathew von Stanke

### **13 October 2019 – Mt Liebig, NT**

Jeffrey Wheeler

### **8 December 2019 – Concordia College, Unley**

David Seligmann  
Carl Richter  
Peter Noble  
Paul Calnan  
Lee Van Rossen  
Jim Luan  
Shaun Manning

### **2020**

Lindsay Thomas as Specific Ministry Pastor at Yalata SA - 26<sup>th</sup> February

## **Vicarage Placements**

### **2018**

Matthew Edgecomb – Unley St John's  
Lucas Matuschka – Hahndorf St Paul's  
Mathew Von Stanke – Para Vista Good Shepherd

### **2019**

Roland Adams – Morphett Vale Calvary  
Paul Calnan – Port Adelaide-Woodville Parish  
Shaun Manning – Nuriootpa St Petri  
Peter Noble – Adelaide Bethlehem  
Carl Richter – Unley St John's  
Lee Van Rossen – Glenelg St Paul's

### **2020**

Chris Johnson – Glenelg St Pauls, Glenelg  
Stephen Noblett - Loxton Lutheran Parish  
Joseph Theodorsen – Mount Barker St Mark's

## **Pastors: Retired**

### **2018**

Roger Atze – 17<sup>th</sup> June  
Jim Bryan – 18<sup>th</sup> November  
Wayne Kerber – 12<sup>th</sup> December  
Les Pfeiffer – 13<sup>th</sup> December

### **2019**

David Buck – 31<sup>st</sup> January  
Malcolm Pech – 22<sup>nd</sup> March  
Wing Tso – 23<sup>rd</sup> April  
Brian Keller – 28<sup>th</sup> July  
Noel Kluge – 2<sup>nd</sup> September  
Mike Pietsch – 31<sup>st</sup> December

### **2020**

Wally Schiller – 19<sup>th</sup> January

## **Deaths**

### **2018**

Kevin Schmidt – 24<sup>th</sup> July  
Joyce Gierus (wife of Pastor Andy Gierus) – 31<sup>st</sup> July  
Reg Kotzur – 24<sup>th</sup> August  
Erich Riedel – 26<sup>th</sup> August  
Hezekiel Jingoona – 12<sup>th</sup> September  
Max Stollznaw – 19<sup>th</sup> September  
Terry Natt – 23<sup>rd</sup> September  
James Haak – 20<sup>th</sup> October  
John Mattiske – 1<sup>st</sup> December  
Les Auricht – 20<sup>th</sup> December

### **2019**

Reta Hentschke (wife of Pastor Colin Hentschke) – 23<sup>rd</sup> January  
David Schache – 25<sup>th</sup> March  
Clarence Schmidt – 20<sup>th</sup> April  
Wilhelm Stolz – 28<sup>th</sup> April  
Anne Dixon (wife of Pastor Simon Dixon) – 30<sup>th</sup> April  
Len Tscharke – 9<sup>th</sup> May  
Gordon Mibus – 10<sup>th</sup> May  
Keith Peters – 21<sup>st</sup> May  
Dudley Liebelt – 28<sup>th</sup> June  
John Vitale – 9<sup>th</sup> October  
Ronald Wilksch – 8<sup>th</sup> December  
Erica Gerschwitz (wife of Pastor Len Gerschwitz) – 25<sup>th</sup> December

### **2020**

Mavis Loffler (wife of Pastor Len Loffler) – 2<sup>nd</sup> January  
Norma Eckermann (wife of Pastor Clem Eckermann) – 20<sup>th</sup> January  
Philip Wilyuka – 22<sup>nd</sup> January  
Neil Hampel – 29<sup>th</sup> February  
Paul Albert – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## **Anniversaries: Churches**

30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St Paul's Lutheran Church Ferryden Park – 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2019  
40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Immanuel Lutheran Church Novar Gardens – 19<sup>th</sup> August 2018  
60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St John's Lutheran Church Woodside – 8<sup>th</sup> July 2018  
70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St Paul's Lutheran Church Keith – 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St Andrew's Lutheran Church Port Pirie – 28<sup>th</sup> July 2019  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Darwin St Andrews Lutheran Church – June 2019

## **Anniversaries: Ordinations**

### **25 Years**

Andrew Brook  
Graham Jenke  
Geoff Johnston  
Peter Ziersch  
David Kent  
Julian Bayha  
Jon Goessling  
Andrew Koehler

### **40 Years**

Allan Wain  
David Buck  
Ken Jaworski  
Steen Olsen  
Stephen Haar  
Peter Lockwood  
Ken Schmidt

### **50 Years**

Geoff Burger  
Len Gerschwitz  
Wayne Zweck  
John Wilksch  
John Kleinig  
Peter Welke  
David Wundersitz  
Claud Scherer  
Wilton Quast  
Brian Schwarz  
Alwin Schirmer  
Ross Schultz  
Dean Zweck

### **60 Years**

Clarence Schmidt  
Noel Schmocker  
Peter Boesch  
Robert Thiele  
Byron Klein  
Neil Hampel  
Carl Dohler  
John Sabel

Holly Koning  
Chronicle Keeper

(We sincerely apologise if we have inadvertently omitted anyone from this Chronicle)

**SAVE THE DATE**

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**2021  
DISTRICT CONVENTION OF  
SYNOD**

15 - 16 May 2021

Venue and other details to be confirmed

All enquiries to the SA-NT District Office

[administration.sa-nt@lca.org.au](mailto:administration.sa-nt@lca.org.au) or 08 8267 5211



**LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**  
OF AUSTRALIA

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
NORTHERN TERRITORY**