



As we prepare our HEARTS for CHRISTMAS we need to declutter the stuff that distracts us from Jesus.

Belinda Letchford

"Focus on Jesus"

Countdown to Christmas
Focus on Jesus

There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby.... An angel of the Lord appeared to them... & they were terrified. The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good

news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord... You will find the baby wrapped in cloths & lying in a manger'. When the angels had left, the shepherds said to one another, 'let us go to Bethlehem & see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.' So they hurried off & found Mary & Joseph, & the baby, who was lying in a manger. The shepherds returned, glorifying & praising God for all the things they had heard & seen. Luke 2: 8-20



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Pastor Greg Shares



Where is your
focus this
Christmas season?

So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision - you'll see it yet! Now that we're on the right track, let's stay on it. Philippians 3:15-16

Paradoxically, Christmas is one of the easiest times of the year to lose focus on God. It's not just the commercialization of the season. After all, advertisers are constantly competing for our attention to grab the newest wonder product. The problem, it seems, is the pressure that mounts up from the start of December until the New Year. It saddens me to hear people say, "I hate Christmas, I can't wait 'til it's over." Even sadder is the fact that I hear this sentiment echoed more frequently each year.

Our Lord never intended our spiritual celebrations to be anxiety-ridden and stressful. If we look to the great festivals of the Old Testament, ***we see whole communities stopping their regular activities for many days to pray, fellowship and reflect.*** These festivals were important to the spiritual & psychological wellbeing of all in the community. When we consider Christmas we see that we have replaced these beneficial practices with something inferior.

Instead of praying and giving thanks to God, we sing some carols & maybe send an e-card. The direct connection to God has been traded for a sentimental reference. Instead of fellowship that is grounded in a shared faith, we get the family together for an oversized meal complete with novelty crackers. No one seeks the spiritual welfare of the other. Where once food was part of our sacrifice to God, it can become the god of Christmas; the centre piece of the whole thing. Instead of reflecting on our God, our life and how they intersect, we take a trip away to 'unwind'. Of course recreation is good but without reflection it cannot truly rejuvenate.

This Advent and Christmas, may we do what

needs to be done with our focus on Jesus. As we prepare for Christmas Eve and Day, may we pray for his presence and that we would be recreated through Him. As we get together for social events may we take time to go deeper in our conversations. As we take a break from regular work, may we reflect on the enormity of God becoming human & our spiritual growth. May we all be blessed this Christmas Season. Pastor Greg Fowler ph: 0413075665



The month of September saw GGLC focus on the theme of 'Growing as Disciples.' During this time we looked in depth on 'The armour of God' as found in **Ephesians 6:10-18**. The children involved in Kids @ Heart learnt much about each of the armour items and then went about making the armour items. The sword, belt, breast plate and helmet, remind us of God's love, protection and the tools he gives us to stay strong in the faith. The information regarding this topic is available on the www.gglc.org.au website under members or a hard copy can be collected from Judith in the office—
phone:82826050



From the Editor

Check out: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=crGix5onAI4>
It is from the film 'The shack', titled: "Keep Your Eyes On Me".

Once again another year is drawing to a close. It is a time to reflect over the year and say thank you to all that have contributed to Life in the Vine, from the personal stories that encourage & inspire us, to the regular reports that keep us up to date with what's happening. Thank you. Without you, this magazine would not exist. It is also a time to give glory & praise to our amazing God who remains faithful and loving to us, holding our hand & sometimes carrying us, as we walk through life. As this year draws to an end we prepare for Christmas, attend many social functions, finalise a school year. We get tired & very busy as we add so many extra things into our lives including gift buying, shopping & cooking, & the planning of what we will do for Christmas and begin to feel some anxiety & tension for various reasons. The busier we become the more we move away from the one who gives us life—Jesus Christ. Our focus moves away from Jesus. We skip our devotion or prayers— I'm too tired tonight; we stop meeting with God in our Bible readings— I haven't got time today; we miss church because we are recovering from the previous night's Christmas function. The list goes on. We need to re-prioritise our life. Christ first—always time for God and then He will give us the time, strength and skills to manage everything else. Our eyes must remain focussed on Jesus. He is the one who created us and gave us life. God loves us so much He just wants to spend time with us. He loves us so much he sent His only son Jesus to be born into this world, in a manger at Bethlehem and then to give His life on the cross for our sins. That is what we want to rejoice in & celebrate - the birth of Jesus. Let's focus on Jesus, follow Him & the life He gives us. A life of Love, Joy & Peace in Him.

Rosalie Hoklas – Editor contact email: hoklas@internode.on.net

Don't Forget Jesus

*Christmas is a special time to reflect on Jesus Christ
The wonder of His lowly birth brings meaning to our lives*

*There really is no other reason we celebrate this day
The birth of God's precious son and the life He willingly gave*

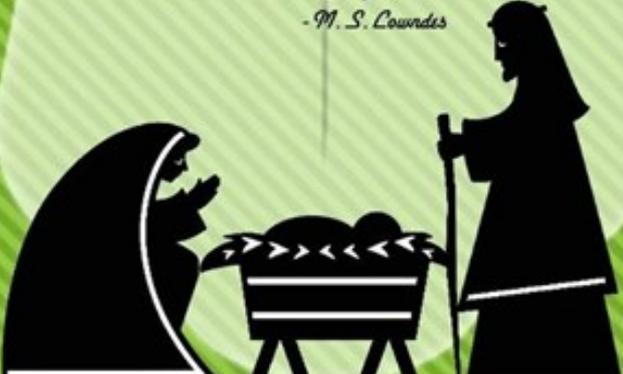
*But so much seems to distract us in the bustling of our lives
We lose our focus in all the happenings not knowing,
we leave out Christ.*

*We lose sight of the true meaning as we endlessly rush about
Trying to find that perfect gift seems to cloud our Savior out*

*We need to stop and reflect awhile remembering our precious Lord
His birth, His life and sacrifice and all that He stands for*

*For though the world may celebrate it seems for other reasons
Let's keep in mind that Jesus Christ
is the true meaning of the season.*

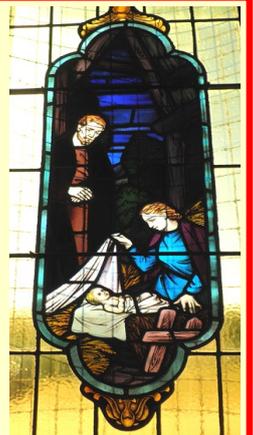
- M. S. Lowndes



Join us this Christmas to Focus on Jesus

Sunday 23rd December
@ 9:30am

*"Service & Decoration
of Christmas Tree"*



Christmas Eve
24th December @ 7pm

*"Service of Carols,
Candles & Readings.*

*Jesus said, 'I am the light of the
world'*

Christmas Day 25th December
@ 9:30am

"The Birth of Jesus"

All Services at GGLC, Wynn Vale,
Corner Sunnybrook & Richardson Drive.



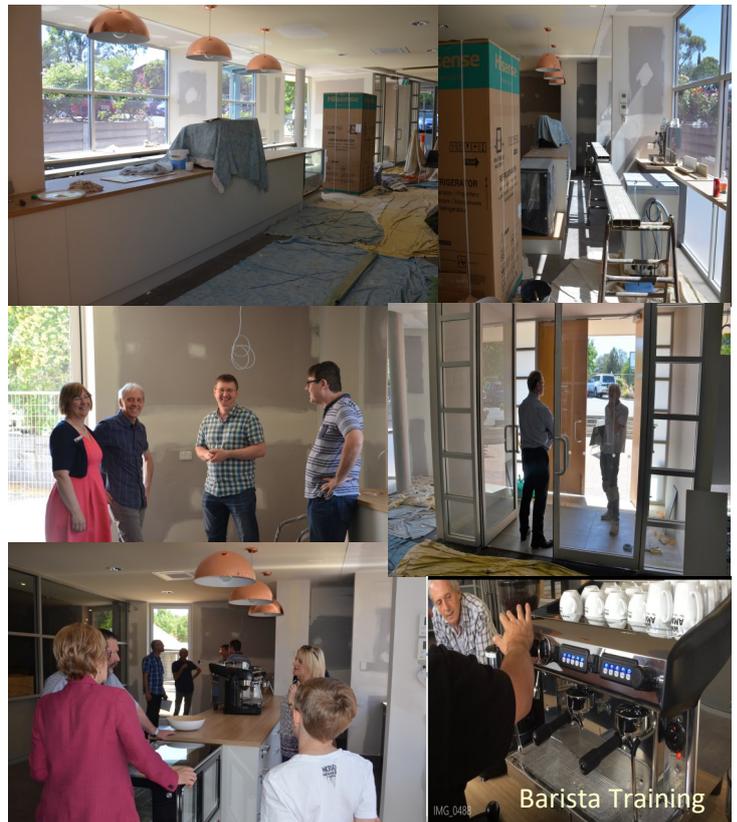
Highlights from Church Council

Jon Schutz - GGLC Chairperson

- ◆ With the Half-Yearly Meeting approaching, let me take this opportunity **to thank everyone who serves our congregation**, including the office bearers and those listed as members of the committees, and all the other volunteers in the various roles that keep this congregation running. As always, there have been a few changes in the teams that will be elected for 2019, but I would particularly like to **thank Elnora Schmocker**, as she steps down from several of her roles including Vice Chairperson, for her years of service to the congregation – especially circa 2013 when she was called on to act as Chairperson for an extended period.
- ◆ **Renovations** have been progressing, with the new carpet being completed in October and the foyer reaching the painting stage. Completion of the last touches on the toilets has had to wait until the school toilet renovation is complete, to allow students access to working facilities during that time. We are, nevertheless, making steady progress toward completion, except for the deck...
- ◆ Regarding **the deck**, we are very thankful for the **support of our local Member of Parliament Tony Zappia**, who sponsored our application under the Stronger Communities Programme for a grant to assist with completion of the deck, including sails, fence and play equipment. ***In an LITV STOP PRESS moment, we received notification on November 26th that our grant application was successful, so work on the deck can begin.***
- ◆ **The café** is almost to the point of being operational. Food standards and barista training for café volunteers commenced in mid-November, all of the major appliances are in place, and other details like crockery, cutlery, utensils and POS facilities are well in hand. Some trial runs are planned for Sunday mornings, with business commencement set for the new school term.
- ◆ With installation of the new carpet, the quality of the **acoustics in the Worship Centre** (which was never great) has further degraded. We were aware of this possibility during the purchasing process; our choice was between spending an extra \$8000 on acoustic underlay which, on the advice of the carpet supplier, would make little difference to the acoustics but would make the carpet less durable, or saving the money and dealing with the problem afterwards, if it occurred. We are now dealing with the problem. At this stage we have a number of potential strategies and a way of measuring the degree of improvement, so further tests and measurements will be conducted over the next few months as we work out the best way to proceed.
- ◆ Whilst we thought we had made a purchasing decision on **new chairs** for the Worship Centre, new information came to light soon afterwards, so that decision – which itself was seen as something of a compromise – is now being revisited and alternative options are under consideration.

Similarly, we were on a trajectory to choose a **café logo** but with some late submissions and feedback that some would have liked to have made a bigger contribution to the process, we have re-opened the invitation for submissions and ideas. Details will be shared in the bulletin.

- ◆ After evaluating the CCs program, **the Christian Education Team** consulted with the school and have put a proposal to Church Council to make some changes, which have been agreed to. CCs will become “Junior Youth”, to be run twice per term on a Friday immediately after school for years 3-6. Our Youth Coordinator Paul’s involvement will increase, allowing our Children’s Ministry Coordinator Natasha to have more time to run a second weekly session of the Mainly Music Playgroup. I commend all who have been involved in this process of continual evaluation, re-strategisation and improvement.
- ◆ **Balancing both the annual budget and renovations budget** continues to throw up challenges. The status of the annual accounts at the end of 2018, after removing all building-related income and expenditure, is predicted to show a deficit of \$8000.
- ◆ It was brought to our attention that Glynde Lutheran Church have signed up as a community in the **CashRewards program**, which is a cooperative through which cashback offers are given from a large number of major retailers. We have followed their lead. Our assessment is that there is opportunity for a small amount of revenue to help our budget position, enough to make it worthwhile, and since it costs members nothing (indeed, it saves individuals a sometimes significant amount on online purchases), we encourage all members to have a look and decide whether it is something you would like to do. Details are in the weekly bulletin and on the church website.



“Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead”. – James 2:15-17 (NIV)

It is the principle expressed in this passage, which ignited my passion for helping others and participating in World Vision’s ‘40 Hour Famine Challenge’ over the last four years.

My name is Grace Atta, and I have been a parishioner at Golden Grove Lutheran Fellowship for about two and half years. I was a graduate of Golden Grove Lutheran Primary School & have been attending youth group on Friday nights for around five to six years. Currently, I’m a student at Endeavour College completing year 11 – a job that takes up most of my time, along with my many other school-based, extra-curricular activities.

As many of you may know, from the 17th - 19th of August this year, I participated in **World Vision’s ‘Backpack Challenge’**- where I was required to pack all of my essential belongings into a backpack and live out of it for 40 hours. I slept on the hard floor, with only a sleeping bag to keep me warm, went without showering, drank only the water I packed, and took on the additional challenge of going without food (as tradition of World Vision’s original 40 Hour Famine Challenge). Now this probably sounds like a rather crazy thing to do, and maybe it was – but unfortunately these are the living conditions for approximately 68.5 million refugees and displaced individuals worldwide. What I experienced in those 40 hours was only a snippet of these individuals’ everyday lives.

I’m passionate about this particular issue for many reasons, but one of the major ones is that I recognise it is by sheer luck that I’m not in the same position. The country I was born in, the family / parents I have, the education I’ve received, are all things (for the most part) I had no control over; and for me it worked out for the best, but for others, it has left them fleeing their homes in fear for their lives (much like Jesus in His infant years). **As Christians, we are taught to love our neighbour as ourselves**, and I have never believed that this was simply a cognitive choice – **but rather something in our hearts, that we commit ourselves to each and every day.** I believe that this is what the verse above, from the book

of James, is reminding us of. **We cannot preach love, service, compassion and hope, if we are not willing to carry out each of these values, in our everyday lives. To treat others with care & understanding, willingly helping another even when it inconveniences us & offering hope, in a seemingly hopeless situation.**

I want to say a **massive thank you to everyone** who sponsored me for this challenge. I went into this with the goal of raising \$300 for the cause and by its conclusion, ended up receiving \$375.76 in donations.

Blessings, Grace Atta

Breakfast & Worship in the School Courtyard



Come let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our maker. Psalm 95:6



Salt Factory- Prayer & Healing Service



Pastor Michael Dutschke –
Guest speaker for the Healing Service
Reflections by Joel Schiller

Pastor Michael has been involved in healing ministry for many years initially at Aberfoyle Lutheran Church & now at Bridgewater - Hahndorf Lutheran Church where he is a Pastor. I learnt that God's love is so great that he wants to share this love to us no matter who we are and what past mistakes we have made. Pastor chose a girl in the congregation who was 8 years old and God showed that all we need is a "childlike faith" as the healing power of Jesus flowed through this girl into a couple people that needed prayer for some injuries.

Pastor also taught us about 'Words of Knowledge'. This is God talking to us and giving us information on what part of the body needs to receive healing first. Information is passed onto the person praying, that only the person being prayed for and God would know about.

This shows to me that God knows each of us intimately. What happens next (after realising that God is omnipresent) is it opens us to receive, to tune in our receiver and realise **God IS LOVE** and he wants YOU to receive physical manifestation of healing. Pastor Michael taught us a technique for 'Words of Knowledge' which I believe is fantastic for all of us learning to hear God more as it allows us to focus in on specific points.

"Then Jesus said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand'. So he stretched it out & it was completely restored". Matthew 12:9-14

You can find Pastor Michael's message on:

<https://bit.ly/2TmGfn4>



Cynthia Harbison, the Pastoral Care Worker at Wynn Vale Primary School, spoke at GGLC Sunday morning service on 25th November.

PCWs promote social, emotional & spiritual wellbeing through role modelling, mentoring, pastoral care & structured programs for Primary & Secondary School Students & Staff in Public Schools. PCWs are funded for approximately 8 hours per week by government, & in our local area additional hours are provided by support from local churches through the Schools Ministry Group

of Tea Tree Gully (SMTTG). In broad statistical terms, for every extra hour, PCWs can support an extra 2 students. A special voluntary offering was held on this day to assist with this valuable work. Please contact church office if you would still like to contribute to the continuing work of PCWs. The Christmas Tree Festival held every 2 years (see page 11) is also a vital fundraiser for PCWs. A shared brunch followed the service, allowing people a chance to catch up and chat with Cynthia.



**Remembrance
Day & Worship
11.11.2018**



Golden Grove Lutheran Youth

G'day again. Wow this year is going quickly. It's hard to imagine it's almost the end of the year. What a year it's been. We've had so much going on & so much still to come.

Youth has been through a bit of a change this year with our Bible Study format & Youth Alpha. The length of the night changed twice but we are now back to our old format where the youth tell us what they would like to learn/look into. Pastor Greg does a great job of delivering. Youth with Para Vista is different now. We don't officially have a partnership anymore but we will aim to do a big combined event once a term with Para Vista and other interested churches. However, leaders & youth from Para Vista are still welcome to attend.

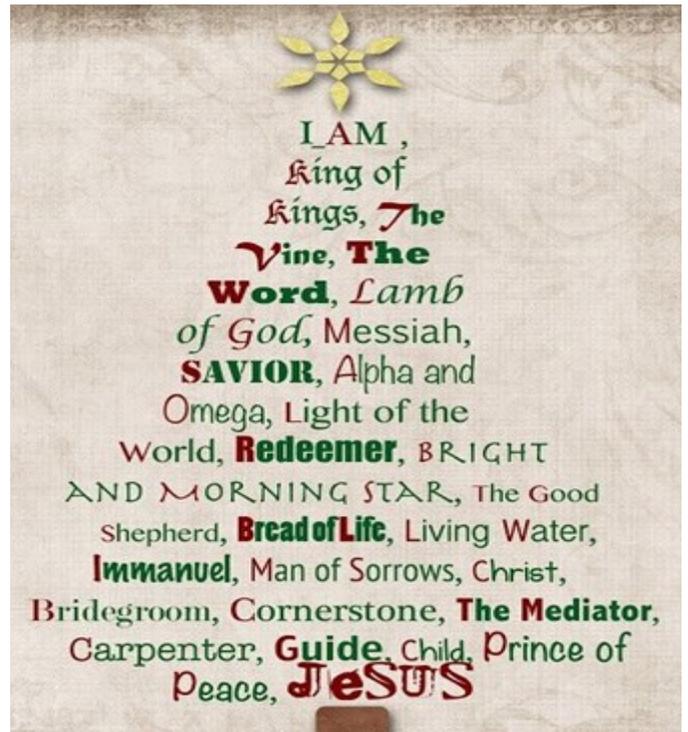
We kicked this 4th term off with the ever popular 'blow dart skirmish'. That's always a hit. **During term 4 we invite the Yr. 6 students along to youth** (as they are getting ready to move into high school) to give them a taste of what youth is like. **Exciting news for our youth is that we have 4 Junior leaders finishing Yr 12 who will move into Senior Youth Leaders for next year.**

This year we went on a **Youth Retreat to Camp Kedron** at Barmera in the Riverland. We had 9 youth come along from Golden Grove and Para Vista youth. Our theme was **'Be still & to focus on God'**. We had Peter and Carol Voigt help in the kitchen along with Jessica Baker and her daughter Keira helping as well. Thank You. There was lots of free time to play games.



It seemed only fitting we get everyone to pair up to make a car out of cardboard and race around a racetrack for an hour, like the Kedron 1000, as it was the Bathurst weekend. We had the options to relax, read, go for a swim or just spend some **quality time with God**. It was a great weekend away from the business of life. The youth

are already asking if we are going next year. We hope it to be a yearly thing. **God Bless, Paul**



Youth Consultants, sponsored by **Grow Ministries** were part of Synod to provide a young person's presence & perspective. They were able to observe & participate in table discussions, all sessions & worship. Youngest consultant, at 19 years was **Noah Hahn from Golden Grove**. He was particularly interested in seeing the business side of church life in action. Full Synod report on pages 8 & 9



General Convention of Synod

By Jenny Kupke

Allen has attended the LCA General Convention of Synod for many years as part of his job at the LLL. This year, I Jenny Kupke was able to go with him as a visitor.

We arrived in Sydney late on Tuesday evening (due to traffic issues), so we didn't get to go to the Synod Opening Service. **Every day started with a Worship Service** which Allen and I attended. **The daily messages given by our District Church Bishops, were a comfort and encouragement for the day.** The Synod band and the other music leaders did a great job. It was interesting to follow the liturgy, as they used a different Service order each day.



After the service Wednesday morning I went with my group to **listen to the presentations that were given by each department of the Church.** We went to three different rooms and listened to five or six presentations in each room. Each person presenting had to do their presentation three times so that every person attending could hear them all. I'm sure it was exhausting for them as this took up most of the afternoon. It was interesting to hear about what is going on in the different departments of the church & to see the people who work in each area.

When the actual Synod sessions started on Thursday morning, I stayed back in the **"Visitor Room"** after the morning service to listen to and watch the first session. I was disappointed as we initially had no sound. Luckily the problem was resolved towards the end of the session. I had planned to go out exploring the local area but, as it rained a lot of the time, I stayed in the building. I spent most of the time with the Allen's LLL workmates and the other people working on the church department displays downstairs. **We became like a little community, getting together, getting to know each other.**

The other main Session that I listened in on together with one of Allen's co-workers was the last part of the discussion and the vote on **Women's Ordination.** LCA Bishop John Henderson & Pastor Neville Otto did a wonderful job keeping calm and order in the room and making sure that speakers from both sides of the debate

had their say. While the votes were being cast, collected and counted, one of the young people in our Visitors room **led us in prayer and another in singing.** The actual outcome of the vote was quite a shock. A lot of people in the room believed that it would go the other way.



It was **encouraging to see that some young people** had taken the time to attend Synod including our Noah Hahn, who was amongst a small group who were allowed into the room with the delegates but not allowed to vote. There were also some young people who spent every session in the Visitor's room, listening to the proceedings. One of them was the son of one of Allen's co-workers. He had driven to Sydney from Canberra, where he is studying, to spend a few days with his parents. His father was a Pastor delegate from Queensland. He could have spent the time with his mother downstairs, but he spent most of the time in the Visitors room listening to the proceedings and catching up with some friends.

During meal breaks I caught up with a lot of people that I know, people that I have worked with or know from working at Adelaide Bethlehem Church (some that I haven't seen for a few years). I also spent time with people from our congregation (including Rosalie), people who have been members of our congregation or part of the school community, and others that I know from the Barossa. Some now live far away in Queensland or Western Australia, so it was lovely to see and speak to them again. I also met a lot of lovely people during these breaks. At breakfast and dinner Allen & I caught up with other people we know, mostly through his work. We also met some lovely people at the two Convention meals. After the closing Service on Sunday, we had a farewell morning tea over which we said goodbye to a lot of old and new friends.





The Lutheran Church of Australia's General Convention of Synod was held October 2-7th @ the beautiful facilities of the Rosehill Race Course Parramatta, Sydney. Rosalie Hoklas from Golden Grove joined 400 delegates along with over 100 visitors and volunteers for the event.



Worship highlights

- ◆ Delegates walked between desert rocks and rippling blue velvet walls of water to enter the worship space.
- ◆ 6 worship services with Holy Communion.
- ◆ The text for each day based on book of Exodus with God appearing to Moses, The Passover, Crossing the Red sea, Travelling in the Desert, God appears at Mt Sinai.
- ◆ Messages from Bishops can be found in their entirety on the web site

Business

- ◆ Bishop John Henderson & Bishop Andrew Pfeiffer re elected as LCA Bishop & Assistant Bishop
- ◆ New Governance & Structural changes were approved
- ◆ New LCA Church Board elected
- ◆ The vote for Women's Ordination in the LCA was voted against, although the majority were for. Very deep & emotional time.
- ◆ A national apology by the LCA to all victims of sexual abuse by the LCA and its people.
- ◆ Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) as part of LCA commitment to better hear, recognise and support aboriginal people within the LCA
- ◆ Approved a more collaborative & coordinated

National approach to Lutheran Education

- ◆ Approved a over view of LCA's discipline, adjudication, & appeals provisions & policies
- ◆ Infant communion not endorsed, but offering at the earliest appropriate age instead

Reports from the following Departments

- ◆ Church Workers; Professional Standards; Finance & Admin; Lutheran Archives; Communications; & LLL (Lutheran Laypersons League)
- ◆ Local Mission—Cross Cultural Ministry; Grow Ministries; Lutheran Media; Ministry with Aging; Planting Churches; Christ in the Centre (Finke River)
- ◆ Worship; ALWS (Australian Lutheran world Service); International Mission; Reconciliation Ministry; ALC (Australian Lutheran College; & LEA (Lutheran Education Australia)

Items of Interest

- ◆ Synod offering for drought relief was \$11,408:30
- ◆ 17 items of business were not addressed
- ◆ Detailed information can be found on the convention website : www.convention2018.lca.org.au
- ◆ Next General Convention of Synod held in 3 years hosted by LCA Victoria.

Children's Ministry

O my people, listen to my instructions. Open your ears to what I am saying, for I will speak to you in a parable. I will teach you hidden lessons from our past— stories we have heard and known, stories our ancestors handed down to us.

We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD, about his power & his mighty wonders. Psalm 78:1-4

Our Lord commands us to teach our children the blessings & responsibilities that we have as disciples of Jesus and to model vibrant, living relationships with him. GGLC has always valued children & invested in their spiritual growth. This year has been no different.

Our [Friday playgroup—mainly music](#) is amazingly blessed with around 40 children singing praise to Jesus while our team serves both children & parents. So successful is this program that we are planning a second playgroup to both widen our reach to the community & to deepen existing relationships.

Worship every Sunday also has a children-friendly structure and a high quality [BibleSong- Kids @ Heart](#) teaching time. Our children participate in an engaging and age-appropriate program that assists families to establish Christian truths & values as important characteristics for life. Worship team regularly reviews the effectiveness of our program and how to introduce new ideas. This year we had two services led by our children and other opportunities to use their gifts as blessings to us all.

[CCs](#) has been an important part of our children's ministry for many years and this year we had many events that were well attended. However, we believe that it is time to **freshen up our discipleship program** for primary school students. Next year we will be **replacing CCs with a Junior Youth Program** that will **run on Friday afternoon** rather than Friday evenings. Our Junior Youth will spend more time learning Bible Stories and developing useful spiritual disciplines such as prayer and daily devotions. Of course there will also be plenty of fun and food! Our Junior Youth will be advertised in detail well before the beginning of Term 1 next year.

We thank God for his blessings on our ministry to children. We thank the many volunteers who give so generously to our programs. We thank parents who partner with us in telling Biblical truths to the next generation. Pastor Greg





Congregation Members assisted the children in making decorations for the Golden Grove tree displayed at the Christmas Tree Festival.



Jason & Melanie (teacher at GGLPS) Arnold celebrated the receiving of God's Gift of Grace through baptism for their son Nathaniel on Sunday 2nd December @ GGLC.



1st Sunday in ADVENT - HOPE



Hello
'ol wantok'



Greetings from Asaroka

* Our School's Chaplain's term of serving at the School

has been extended to another 3 year term. The Chaplaincy Office at Ampo has said that **Pastor Benson Samarapa** may continue to be at Asaroka Secondary School for another term. We welcome the decision & look forward to working with him. Pastor Benson organizes morning devotions for teachers, ancillary staff & students on Mondays to Fridays, Sunday services, visits families, counselling, organizes 'Reach Out Ministries;' with the Student Reach Out Team and other administration duties.

The Chaplain's office is the voice, ear, and hand of the Lutheran Church.

* The student's lab computers are functioning well. A few keep breaking down but we manage to force them to work! We teach Grade 11 for enrichment purposes, which is helpful. Computer literacy is important these days.

* The library is also helping and enhancing students in their learning. Not only does it help students, but also assists teachers in their research and teaching. We consider our library to be the best and cleanest building in the school.

* The country celebrated its independence on 16th September. The Asaroka Community participated in singing the National anthem and other activities. The Goroka Show was a day of seeing all kinds of activities from traditional 'bilas' to 'singsing' & cultures displayed from all over PNG.

* Late Noelshar Kubakure, the appointed Deputy Principal of Administration passed away some time ago. He has been serving at this school for almost 16 years. After a short illness he was pronounced dead at Simbu hospital. Kubakure was acting Principal until Martin Akiro was declared Principal by the court. The school met Kubakure's funeral expenses and he is buried at his village in Simbu where he is from. His wife, 7 children and many grand children survive Noelshar.

* Principal Martin Akiro says that the school farm will be revived. He says the school intends to plant rice. **Rice seed has been given by NARI (National Agriculture Research Institute)**. Mr. Akiro has already **engaged the tractor to**

clear and plough the ground. All trees near and around the farm (below the southern cross tanks) have been cut into timbers. A chain saw has been bought for that purpose. He says the rice can be used to feed the students and also sold. He says not only rice but also other crops will be considered. Work is already in progress.

* Another improvement to the school has been the setting up of bright security lights in dark spots at the school.

Many dark places have lights now as bright as the sun. Because of this students who try to disobey or sneak out find it hard to do so.

* Grade tens and twelve's banquets were also organized before they sat for their exams. Many speakers mentioned many good things about life to students. Many said that failure is not final. Grade ten sat for their exam on 8 -12 October and Grade 12 sat for theirs on the 15 October to 19 November. Graduation for Grade 12 happened on the 2nd of November 2018. As expected this graduation was a day of happiness and achievement for students.

Finally, God continue to bless you all our friends in Adelaide and elsewhere. Without your prayers & support in many ways, we would not be able to run the school as we do. But your input contributes towards the whole running of the school & we are thankful. God bless us all.

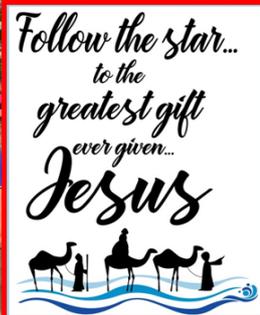
Dan Pipon

This Term the Foundation Classes of GGLPS are learning about service & helping others as part of their Christian Studies Unit. Mrs Hoklas visited the class one morning to share with the children about the partnership the church & school have with Asaroka. The children learnt about the culture through the items they could explore & touch such as bilums, baskets, spears, a shield, flags, books, money etc. **The children heard that we help by praying for them; encouraging & supporting them; visiting their school; sending containers filled with the many items they need such as chairs, textbooks, computers, tools and providing the birthing kits for the local communities.**





GGLC & GGLPS Christmas Picnic & Carol Evening



Why celebrate Christmas on 25th December?

It appears that the Christian Church chose to celebrate the birthday of its Founder (Jesus) on the 25th of December in order to transfer the devotion of the heathen from the Sun, to Him who was called the Sun of Righteousness (Our Lord Jesus Christ). It was a custom of the heathen to celebrate on the same 25th

December the birthday of the Sun, at which they kindled lights in token of festivity (our Christmas tree with lights?). The heathen origin is plainly hinted at, if not tacitly admitted, by Augustine when he exhorts his Christian brethren not to celebrate that solemn day like the heathens on account of the Sun, but on account of Him who made the Sun.

The name Christmas comes from the mass of Christ (Jesus). A mass service (sometimes called 'Communion of the Eucharist') is where Christians remember that Jesus has died for us then came back to life.

The first recorded date of Christmas being celebrated on December 25th was in the year 336, during the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine (the first Christian Roman Emperor). A few years later, Pope Julius 1 declared officially that the birth of Jesus would be celebrated on the 25th December.

For detailed information chat with Christiaan Hersevoort or check out the following references:

- *The Golden Bough; Sir James Frazer; page 357 -359
- *The internet: Christmas customs and Traditions- whychristmas.com



GOLDEN GROVE LUTHERAN
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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**BELIEVE
COLLABORATE
ACHIEVE**

... in our community all people matter

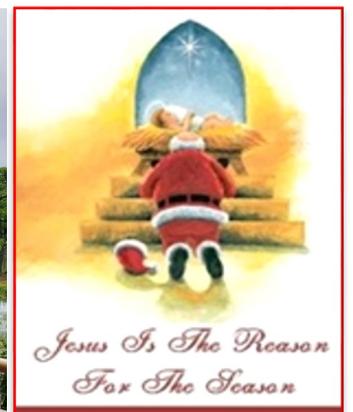
Focus on Jesus — “I am the vine, you are the branches” John 15:5

The Bible verse which has been chosen for this community is quite apt when we consider our relationship with Jesus; it is through Jesus that we grow as branches touching the lives of those in our community.

As a Lutheran school our **focus is on Jesus** and we do this in so many ways; devotion – as staff, in class and as a school, Christian Studies lessons and by the way we relate with each other. With such a **focus on Jesus**, the ‘feel’ in the school is one which quite a number of visitors pass comment. **It sets the tone and the culture of the school - one of acceptance, forgiveness, patience and love.**



Over the last few months quite a lot has occurred in the school. During the last holidays a group of 12 (staff, students and parents) travelled to Japan as part of our biennial Japan trip. The purpose of this trip is mainly cultural and gives the students an opportunity to observe first hand many of the features of Japanese life that is discussed in class. One of the highlights of the trip included the students visiting a Japanese family after school and eating a meal with them.



We are currently undertaking a building programme in the school. This includes the construction of a new classroom and the refurbishment of three others. The support of Wynn Vale PS in allowing us to use their site for storage & movement is invaluable & is a relationship which we cherish. This project comes on the back of the complete refurbishment of the student toilets – a project undertaken with a grant from the State government.

We have a number of staff leaving us at the end of this year: Angela Seeliger and Joy Doecke have both announced their retirement. Beth Waldhuter and Sally Garrett, who have both been with us for 12 months are exploring other options. Marion Chan our Japanese teacher will take up responsibilities in a fulltime teaching role in 2019 and will be joined by new staff: Lauren Neumann (Tatachilla), Celeste Hueppauff (Gawler Lutheran), Lisa Katsikitas (Endeavour - Japanese) and David Gardner (teacher graduate).

Our **focus on Jesus** is one of the main features of the school which I share with prospective parents. Families join our school understanding and knowing that it will be different & that they are invited to develop a relationship with Jesus. *This development of a relationship will be a major focus of the new joint ministry sub-committee (school & congregation) which will be established in 2019.*

May God continue to bless our work in this community.



**GOLDEN
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PRIMARY SCHOOL**



During term 4 a group of children from the school celebrated first communion over 2 Fridays with the school community during chapel.



The following is taken from 'The Jesus Story Book' by Sally Lloyd-Jones when Jesus broke bread and shared wine before His death. It is also found in the Bible in Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:15-20

"Then Jesus picked up some bread & broke it. He gave it to his friends. He picked up a cup of wine & thanked God for it. He poured it out & shared it. 'My body is like this bread. It will break' Jesus told them. 'This cup of wine is like my blood. It will pour out.' 'This is how God will rescue the whole world. My life will break & God's broken world will mend. My heart will tear apart—and your hearts will heal. Just as the Passover lamb died, so now I will die instead of you. My blood will wash away all of your sins. You will be clean on the inside—in your hearts'. 'So whenever you eat & drink, remember,' Jesus said, 'I've rescued you.'"



ST KILDA BREAKWATER—Sunday 9th September

Sunrise greeted keen fishers at 6am near the boat ramp at St Kilda. Total in attendance was 37 including a number of late arrivals and families for the BBQ breakfast at 9am. Fishers tried their luck from the boat ramp while others ventured out along and to the end of the breakwater. The weather was cool but clear of rain.

Peter van Loggem caught the only fish for the morning—undersize and returned to the water. A number of good size bream were spotted darting from under the pontoon at the boat ramp however were too clever to be caught. A hearty bacon & eggs breakfast was enjoyed by all thanks to the School providing their BBQ trailer and Chris Simanis supplying the bacon & eggs.



ANNUAL CAMP—Kingston On Murray Caravan Park—19th to 21st October

43 people attended the annual camp in perfect weather of which 27 enjoyed a meal at the Cobdogla District Sports Club (approx. 10 mins from the caravan park) on Friday evening. Accommodation varied from swags, tents & caravans to cabins and a motor home. Competition fishing commenced 7am on Saturday morning through to 5pm. All fishers fished along the banks in or close to the park. 82 Carp were landed as well as a Catfish (Keith Hasler) and a few undersize callop. Total weight of 97kg included a 6.7kg (75cm) Carp caught by Graeme Hoklas (Senior Winner)—a new GGAF heaviest fish record—and a 6.46kg Carp (77cm) landed by Zimmo. Junior Winner was Caitlin Hiscock with a 1.35kg Carp. Peter van Loggem's catch of 16 fish was the biggest number caught. A BBQ tea followed weigh in at the well appointed camp kitchen. Thanks to Louise Sumner and Christine McCulloch for arranging and preparing tasty meats, salads & dessert. A wonderful night of fellowship followed. A number of fishers rose early to try their luck, 7am to 9am Sunday morning. 3 fish were caught including a 2kg Carp by Shaun van Loggem. Nature study was provided by whistling kites preying on fairy martins and pigeons and feeding their baby chicks from close viewing range.



PRESENTATION NIGHT—Sat 17th November

49 GGAF members and friends attended an informative and fun filled evening at the Lutheran Church complex at Wynn Vale. Ian Zimmermann (Zimmo) MC'd a busy program including power point presentations of each event, numerous door prizes and fishing quizzes. Prizes were presented to Senior and Junior winners of each event and President Graeme Hoklas thanked this year's committee for their dedication in planning and attending events. Total number of members were 66 including 17 Juniors. 5 members of the **Spot On Fishing Tackle Shop Team** were in attendance including John Filmer and Steve & Lyn Castle. They were sincerely thanked for their ongoing support and sponsorship including the club's Tackle Night. 2018 Senior Champion this year is Lou Goegan and Junior Champion is Joshua Caldicott—both first time winners. The Encouragement Award was presented to Ines Goegan. The Committee will soon be planning for next year and we invite any suggestions for events and fishing locations.



We wish all fishers a blessed Christmas and a happy and safe New Year and tight lines for 2019.

