



WA Lutheran News

May 2009

REMIND, RENEW, REJOICE

“Wow! Convention: what a fascinating view of the energy exploding for God across our church. From inspiring WA Youth to ALWS service in Africa we were reminded of the many paths that God is asking us to tread.”

The 41st District Convention was held at Concordia Duncraig on the weekend of March 27th to 29th and this first paragraph from the popular report inspires you to want to read all about it.

There is not enough room to reproduce the Popular Report by Lestor Deckow and the colourful Photo Report created by Anna Velebir here and I (ed) wouldn't want to change one word or lose one photo from these wonderful reports so they are both available for download at:

<http://www.esbconsult.com/lcawanews/>



The 5 "P" band—Pastors only



PASTORS CONFERENCE

More Lutheran Pastors than seen in WA for quiet a few years gathered together for fellowship (and just a few laughs) in the week before convention.

Back Row (L-R): Julian Bayha (Perth), Richard Schulze (Chaplian Living Waters), Milo Velebir (Duncraig), Adrian Kitson (Bunbury/Dalyellup), Heath Pukallus (Katanning/Narrogin), Mike Fulwood (Rockingham/Mandurah), Greg Pfeiffer (Perth)

Front Row (L-R): Adrian Kramer (Esperance/Kalgoorlie-Boulder), Kim Kuchel (Morley), Pastor Ku (Chinese Basil Church—St Johns)

Absent: Franz Moeller (Albany), Kevin Helbig (Parkwood) & Micheal Parker (Ocean Keys)

NEW PRESIDENT FOR WA DISTRICT

At District Convention Pastor Greg Pfeiffer from St John's in Perth was appointed our new WA District President. Pastor Adrian Kitson was appointed as Vice President.

You may remember reading about Pastor Greg and his wife Janet in the June 2008 edition of the WA Lutheran News. It looks like they have well and truly settled in WA, what a blessing.

During 2008 the 'three amigos', were doing the job of a district president between them. Sharing the job and not just watching the vineyard but working it. In that time all our pastoral vacancies were filled and the Lord has blessed our district. We should praise the Lord for His provision of Pastors Mike Fulwood, Adrian Kitson and Julian Bayha and thank their respective congregations for their willingness to share their pastors with the wider district.

President Rev Mike Semmler and our newly elected District President Pastor Greg Pfeiffer



NATIONAL DAY OF THANKSGIVING 30 MAY 2009



The National Day of Thanksgiving was launched by the Governor General in 2004 from Government House with the endorsement of the Prime Minister and the Federal Leader of the Opposition. It is becoming a significant day of Christian celebration in our nation with an estimated 250,000 people across

Australia joining in the activities last year. The day is designed to encourage Australians to express thanks and appreciation to God and to others who have contributed positively to their lives, or the life of their community. Resources and further info is available at www.thanksgiving.org.au or call Brian Pickering at the National Office on 07 3343 8242.



FROM THE WA PRESIDENT

Ex. 4:13 But Moses said, "O Lord, please send someone else to do it."

I must have prayed this prayer a thousand times in the months leading up to the WA District Convention in March '09. Nearly two years earlier I received a call to St John's, the city congregation in Perth, with the added note that the most likely scenario was that one of the St John's pastors would become quarter time president of the district. This terrified me at the time and was one of the main reasons I declined the call to Perth back then. But God never quits! A year ago I received a second call to St John's and this time it was different. The presidency issue had been "sorted out" and WA had three part-time presidents, affectionately known as the Three Amigos, sharing the quarter time position. That sounded like a good solution and paved the way for Janet and me to accept the call and make the big shift to the West. Within days of arriving we realised that the Three Amigos model was merely an interim solution and could not go on forever. Little by little it became clear that the most workable model was for one of St John's pastors to take on the quarter time position. Fingers started pointing in my direction and I got scared again.

Then, as I was praying at a Taize service the following words came clearly to me: Do not be afraid, I will be with you and will help you. The people need someone to listen to them who they believe can make a difference. The churches need someone who can be with them to guide them and support them on special occasions and the pastors need someone to pastor them. In that moment I knew that God was calling me to be that "someone" and a deep sense of peace came over me.

The rest is now history and I still feel at peace with the outcome. In fact, I'm actually starting to get excited about the things God is doing in WA. At present there are no churches calling in the district. We have a full complement of diverse pastors who are working amazingly well together as they seek to grow their people in the grace and knowledge of our Lord. Our schools are providing the high quality education, staffing and facilities we expect from them without compromising the Christian faith and are growing in numbers and reputation. We are on the verge of a major redevelopment of our Northbridge property which, in time, will provide resources for the mission of the Church beyond our wildest dreams! The Global Economic Crisis is devastating but it is actually working in favour of the Northbridge redevelopment. In time we may be able to place energetic evangelists in strategic places around the state. No district is without its problems but the LCWA District is a good place to be right now, and I am honoured to be your president.

I have seen a lot of burnt out Christians in the Church. I do not intend to become the next one! Burn out occurs when people are driven by the agenda of others or when they feel that their work is futile. The 'good old protestant work ethic' is still a powerful driving force in the Church, but so is God's Grace! It was this grace that drove Martin Luther to achieve all he did in his lifetime and it is the same grace that sustains and impels me. I hope that you can say the same.

I'm not praying the prayer of Moses anymore. Instead I find myself praying rather like Luther - 'Lord God, You have placed me in your church. You know how unsuitable I am. Were it not for your guidance I would long since have brought everything to destruction. I wish to give my heart and mouth to your service. I desire to teach your people, and long to be taught your work. Use me as your workman dear Lord. Do not forsake me: for if I am alone I shall bring it all to naught.' Amen.

Pastor Greg Pfeiffer



SECRETARY REQUIRED

Lutheran Homes Committee of Management

Would you like to be part of the decision making team of the Lutheran Homes Committee of Management?

Only 4-5 meetings per year

The Homes are opposite the Bethlehem Morley Church with members of the committee currently from Morley and St Johns, however any member of the Lutheran Church of WA is welcome.

If you are willing to volunteer, please contact the outgoing secretary, Lorraine Schutz via email: lschutz@bigpond.net.au or Volker Hopfmueller at vgahopfm@bigpond.net.au



Have you got any news about your parish or congregation?

Share with the WA District.

I need prayer & praise points and news. I would also love to receive poems and other creative work. Please email your items to: waneews@esbconsult.com Current and old WA Lutheran News are available for download from:

<http://www.esbconsult.com/lcawanews/>

On the website you can also sign up to get an email informing you of when there is a new newsletter ready for download.

Karen Crouch. Editor, WA Lutheran News