



# WA Lutheran News

September 2011

## GOD'S BEAUTY TIPS

For attractive lips,  
speak words of kindness.  
For beautiful eyes,  
look for the good in others.  
To lose weight,  
let go of stress, hatred, anger, discontentment,  
and the need to control others.

To improve your ears,  
listen to the Word of God.  
For poise,  
walk with knowledge and self-esteem.

To strengthen your arms,  
hug at least 3 people a day; touch someone  
with your love.  
To strengthen your heart,  
forgive yourself and others.

For the ultimate in business, casual or  
evening attire,  
put on the robe of Christ; it fits like a glove  
but allows room for growth.  
Best of all, it never goes out of style  
and is appropriate for any occasion.

Doing these things on a daily basis will  
certainly make you a more beautiful person.

~Author Unknown



Pastor Paul Hannola of Parkwood has just announced his engagement to Karen Martin of Brisbane. Congratulations them both.

Pastor Adrian Kitson of Dalyellup has declined a Call to Tuggeranong ACT.

Pastor Dieter Dell 'Antonio whose call to Geraldton is renewed annually has had his Call renewed until February 2013.

The WA District has just delivered data equipment including laptops, data projectors and screens to the 9 congregations in the District who responded to the offer - complements LLL Technology Grants.

District Convention 2012 to be held the long weekend in March in Esperance.  
The Pastors are meeting in Kalgoorlie-Boulder the week beforehand.



## FROM THE EDITOR

The last WA Lutheran News of the year will be out around 9th December. So please email me with your stories by the deadline of 5th December.

Here are some ideas to get you thinking:

- † Longest Lutheran Lunch
- † PNG Celebrations
- † Confirmations and other special services
- † Plans for Christmas
- † prayer & praise points,
- † poems, funny tidbits, or creative work.

Please email your items to: [waneews@esbconsult.com](mailto: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

## WORTHWHILE WEBSITES

[www.facetoface.org.au](http://www.facetoface.org.au)  
[www.lutheranmedia.org.au](http://www.lutheranmedia.org.au)  
[www.lca.org.au](http://www.lca.org.au)  
[www.lca.org.au/worship/cowadmin](http://www.lca.org.au/worship/cowadmin)  
[adriankitson.blogspot.com](http://adriankitson.blogspot.com)  
[www.formingfaith.com](http://www.formingfaith.com)



Search on Facebook for:

We love The Lutheran!  
Lutheran Media Ministry  
Lutheran Connect

To Laugh out Loud (LOL) search for:

The Cybersalt Site  
"Their Church sign said What?"

### **Theme: The Tabernacle of Moses**

***“...let them make me a sanctuary that I may dwell in their midst” Ex 25:8***

The sun shone and a crisp winter chill hung in the air as our LWWA met at “New Heights” Convention Centre for our annual Retreat. This year we meet for a 2 night stay-to really experience a “coming away” to meet the Lord. At first this Old Testament theme seemed an unusual concept to study, but as a stunning visual display began to take shape our excitement began to build, starting with an opening teaching on the “High Priest-Aaron”, and his role to the Israelites, by Pastor Milo Velebir. After a fully cooked Saturday breakfast, followed by worshipful songs, our journey through the Tabernacle began.

Beginning with an explanation on how the original “High Priest” Aaron was chosen by God and to this day his generation of (Levite) descendants “Kohanim” have a particular DNA gene sequence which sets them apart from other Jewish tribes, we learned that God’s glorious purpose was woven into all the rituals and holy items that surround the Tabernacle and the “High Priest”.

We gained a better understanding of how and why Aaron was the “High Priest” and his role within the people of Israel. Aaron’s garments were known as garments of beauty and glory, the style and colours of blue, red, crimson and gold were all of godly significance. The robe’s colours and adornments were depictions of “the wondrous beauties of Christ the High Priest”. On the front of the “Ephod” Aaron’s garment was “the breastplate of judgment”, placed over Aaron’s heart. This represented how the people of God are always in His heart. As High Priest, Aaron was marked with various symbols on his robes, “he typified the true inner holiness on the grounds of which, alone, Israel could be accepted before God”.

When we learned more of the Tabernacle where the High Priest performed the “cleansing of sins” and other duties we were astounded to find the direct relationship between the sacrifice of Jesus Christ our Saviour on the cross and the rituals, furniture and offerings in the Tabernacle. Blood was a major part of the Tabernacle journey, a poignant symbol of the blood shed by Christ, washing from a “Bronze Laver” a major cleansing ritual, this reminds us of Baptism, the “Golden Candlestick” (Lampstand) remained lit continually, as Jesus is the light of the world and we are His lights also. The “Table of the bread of the Presence” with its loaves of special bread and sprinkled with Frankincense were eaten only by the Tabernacle priests, and replaced every Sabbath. The table also held wine, a very symbolic

representation of Communion well before the Passover before Jesus death. The “Altar of incense” was used every morning and evening to burn incense, the sweet smelling smoke rose up to God representing the prayers of the godly raised up to God.

During our Tabernacle journey of discovery we were treated to a foot washing and anointing experience. This was particularly spiritually uplifting. Our ladies could have their feet cleansed and anointed at the “Bronze Laver” and some chose to re-commit to God at the “Brazen Altar”. All this a part of the Tabernacle experience to come into God’s presence. Even to view the “foot-washing” of God’s daughters with quiet songs of glory in the background was powerful as you saw God’s people, His servants, His holy priests bowed in prayer and anointing over a sister’s feet. The compassion was palpable, the tears real and the love majestic. As writer of this article I could not hold back the deep love I felt for all these dear “family” members of Christ. It was a time when God’s love and real presence was in all the eyes of those involved in this experience. God’s “prayer office” would have overflowed with the prayer and praise so readily offered up during this time at our Retreat. Fresh tissues were in short supply. A memory we can all treasure and take strength from. Our Tabernacle journey speakers Edna Walter and Susan Durrant took us further into the Tabernacle where the “holy of holies” resided. The “Most Holy Place” was sectioned off with a curtain (Veil) and this was the place on earth where “God met with man”. We know that now all people can come into God’s presence through our “High Priest” Jesus Christ. The blood He shed on the “mercy seat” of Heaven meant that mercy flowed from the “throne” of God to all His people. Jesus is now placed on the Heavenly “mercy seat” and makes intercession for us so that we can, with all boldness and confidence come into God’s presence without guilt or shame.

On Sunday we experienced a powerful and uplifting service to culminate our Tabernacle experience where we all know we are free to come into God’s presence because we have His Grace and Mercy from the blood of Jesus Christ who gives us strength, joy and hope. The concluding anointing service with many testimonies and outpouring of love was a taste of the heavenly and divine. This moment of likeminded fellowship and praise was such an empowerment to each sister in Christ.

Special thanks must go to our Spiritual Advisor Pastor Milo for all the in depth and most fascinating research he prepared and shared with us over the weekend. Our deep appreciation must also go to his wife Anna our LWWA President, who instigated the weekend Retreat, venue and guest speakers, we owe you our heartfelt gratitude.

We left our Retreat on “spiritual clouds” with God’s love firmly embedded in our own “heart shaped Tabernacles”.

## "HERE I AM" TRUST ME AND GET ON WITH IT

By Pastor Adrian Kitson

Calls are interesting things. Sometimes they seem quite easy to deal with and sometimes they are very hard to deal with. Sometimes you find no sense of deep engagement with a Call from another congregation and sometimes a Call from another congregation can rip the rug out from right under your feet. Who knows why? It is a great mystery to me!

The Call to Tuggeranong was the latter. I came back from 12 weeks R&R leave quite committed and refocussed on the ministry at hand here in Dalyellup. My sense of what God was saying to me was – Trust me, and get on with it!. That meant trying very much to stick to the pastoral work of shepherding God's people in worship, preaching, biblical teaching, leading people into deeper relationships with the Lord and each other. In other words, be-ng more of a – Pastor than a school chaplain.

Part of this focus was also to try and reinvite all of you into the mission we share in very practical ways. Somehow it became apparent to me that many of you might be relying on me far too much and relying on the Lord far too less for your wellbeing and spiritual/church life. That was not an egotistical thought about my own greatness, but a response to the sense I often get in many conversations and activities I experience at Ocean Forest. It also comes when this whole Call process is thrust upon us. – We can't survive if you go, Pr A is the sense I get from many people and that is worrying.

Even though it is a genuine sign of love and care for me and my family, and a sign of Christian fellowship as a church in mission, it also at times portrays an over dependence on the Pastor and that is not healthy. It is not healthy because this Pastor (as all others) is not Jesus and will let you down. This Pastor is just a human being who is a sinner and in need of God's constant mercy and power like you.

Ministry as a Christian community is always about Pastor and people working together in whatever ways they trust they can live and be the good news of Jesus' forgiveness and love in a lonely and idolatrous world. The New testament picture of Christian community is God calls ALL of the community to join together in

repentance and prayer and hard work to bear witness to Jesus whenever and wherever and however it can, with the ordained Pastor preaching and teaching the word and providing spiritual leadership and shepherding and everyone else trusting him and getting on with it at home, at work, in worship and in shared activities.

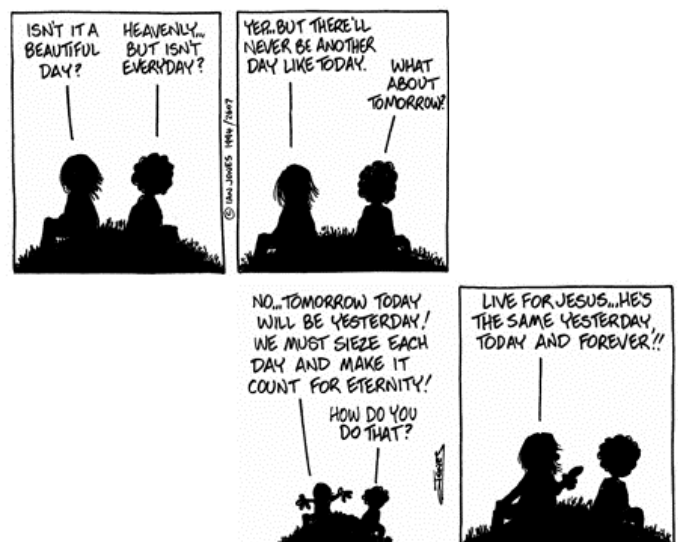
Of course, we are like Moses. We reckon we can't do much, say much or be much when it comes to spiritual things and the Call of God. We can't say the right words, have the right understanding, be powerful enough and all that. We are guilty of telling God to – find someone else. That is a cop out and it is not faithful to the Crucified Jesus. What we are really saying in our excuses is – I don't want to get involved with you, Jesus!.

There are lots of reasons for that – from fear of change and of being a little unfamiliar and uncomfortable with things, to egocentric and self orientated attitude of the heart, and any-thing in between.

Faithfulness is saying, – Here I am and trusting God's power, authority and love for us and then getting on with stuff. It really is that simple. That's what I learnt when we went with Moses up that mountain a week or two ago.

So let's trust the Lord, recommit to what he wants us to do together and do it as best as we can – not in our power and wisdom and might, but in his, with deep humility, repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

*Thanks to Pastor A for allowing me to print this article. I believe members of all our churches can take this to heart and trust God to help us get on with it—Editor*



## FAITH FOR THE FUTURE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

This is certainly a huge project for our WA District to undertake. Now that the project commencement is getting closer, it is a feeling of pride and excitement that the years of hard work are coming to fruition.

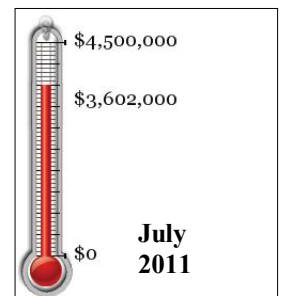
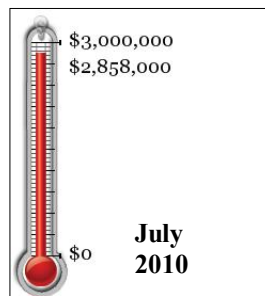
We thank God for this historic opportunity to expand the real presence of the Lutheran Church here in WA. The points below describe where we are now and some areas that you can help and pray about:

- ✦ It is proposed that the development will now proceed in two stages, beginning with the basement car park and ground floor Church facilities.
- ✦ We believe that this activity will have a greater chance of attracting a long term commercial tenants enabling completion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors in the future.
- ✦ We had previously been given an extension of time for construction but to fulfil the requirements of the East Perth Redevelopment Authority (EPRA) and thereby avoid any further delays.
- ✦ We are very pleased with the encouragement we have received from the LLL regarding finance.
- ✦ The cost of Stage 1 is expected to be around \$4.5M. We have set new targets to reduce the reliance on borrowings if possible and continue to work on all fronts to achieve these targets.
- ✦ St Johns and Lutheran Homes Morley propose to sell their manse and rental units eventually and invest in the project.
- ✦ Other congregations in WA are offering their support by providing their properties as security.
- ✦ Any further assistance would be most valuable. Donations are tax deductible.
- ✦ The matching deposit system is an ideal way to assist if a cash donation is not possible. You retain full use of your funds within an LLL account, while the Faith for the Future project is able to borrow amounts equivalent to all earmarked deposits up to a \$5m limit.
- ✦ Bequests are very significant. The land we purchased for the project was paid for with the assistance of a substantial bequest and we are expecting another large cash injection from a bequest in the near future upon the sale of a property.

**GO TO:** [www.faithforthefuture.org.au](http://www.faithforthefuture.org.au) to donate online now or download a giving form, OR: Phone St John's office and request a brochure be sent to you - Ph: 9227 8072

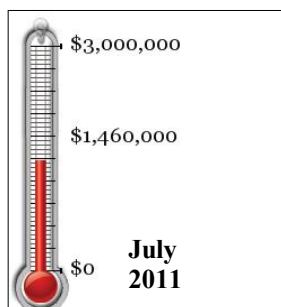
**REMEMBER:** Once building loans are repaid the future income from this major building (approximately \$1m annually) will be donated to the WA District to further the mission of the Lutheran Church, your gift now will mean the project will be providing for the District sooner.

### PROGRESS SO FAR .... Earmarked Accounts

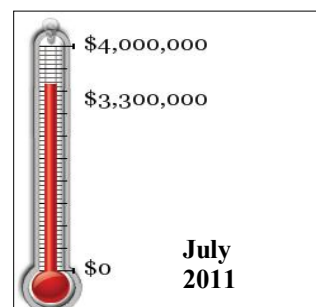


### District Fundraising Target

*(Includes fundraising account and pre-development expenditure)*



### Property Security Target



But just as you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us — see that you also excel in this grace of giving.—2 Corinthians 8:7