



WA Lutheran News

June 2008

New Pastor in WA



On Sunday 8th June St John's Northbridge celebrated the installation of Pastor Greg Pfeiffer. The Service was conducted by Pastor Adrian Kitson and Pastor Mike Fulwood.

Here is a little about Pastor Greg and Janet:

Gregory John Pfeiffer was born in Woodville, South Australia on December 24th 1958. He is married to Janet Allyson Pfeiffer (nee Wild). They have two children – Jade born 1981 in Adelaide and Ben 1984 in Sydney and one granddaughter, Aristeia.

Now let's hear from Pastor Greg:

"I lived in Sydney with Janet for ten years, through the 1980's where I worked as a drummer. I had completed a BA(mus) in Jazz Studies in 1979 in Adelaide before our departure to the East (don't hold that against me!). I thoroughly enjoyed music making in NSW playing with the likes of James Morrison, Tommy Emmanuel, Bob Barnard and Ed Wilson (from the Daly Wilson Big Band) and many others. But I was searching for something more, something spiritual. I thought I had found it when I joined the Sydney Zen Centre, learning how to meditate like a Japanese Buddhist Monk. But, after four years I was led back to my Christian roots, finally doing a full circle and returning to the church of my childhood and eventually Luther Seminary. Janet says I never like doing things by halves! After six years at North Adelaide I was assigned to Pilgrim Lutheran Church at Magill, where Janet and I served for four years before receiving a Call to Immanuel Lutheran Church at Novar Gardens where I was the pastor for almost 7 and 1/2 years."

Now a few words from Janet:

"I am a full time artist and creativity coach. I am looking forward to beginning our new life in Perth and I hope to set up my art studio and get back to work quickly. I am preparing for a solo exhibition and would like to build up my on-line and face-to-face creativity clients for workshops and coaching. I am also looking forward to supporting Greg in his role as your pastor and also getting to know our new family at St John's. I know that God has led us to serve

you in Perth and we have yet to find out how that will unfold, but I know it will be good. Thankyou for making us feel so welcome even before we arrived!"

Interfaith Activities Abound in Perth

Members of St John's have been participating in inter-faith and ecumenical activities during the past two months.

On Saturday, 29 March, 2008, **Karin Strehlow** attended the **AGM of the Council of Churches of WA**, where she was again elected into the Executive representing the Lutheran Church of WA.

On Sunday the 30 March 2008, **Harry Mithen, Janine Symons and Karin Strehlow** spent the morning taking part in the **"Interfaith Sports for Peace Carnival 2008"** held at the Presbyterian Ladies College. Over one hundred students from different faith backgrounds (Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Sheikh and others) came together for the day to explore their faiths and to play.

St John's Lutheran Church hosted the opening service for the centennial celebration of the **"Week of Prayer for Christian Unity"** on the 4th of May 2008. Members of the Roman Catholic Church, Orthodox Churches and other protestant churches descended onto St John's for this special event in the calendar.

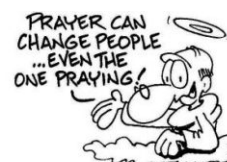
Living Waters College Students Baptised

Gary and Jenny Lawlor presented their daughters, Kara and Olivia for baptism early this month. The girls are students of the college and Gary and Jen have enjoyed finding a church home at Ocean Forest.

Lutherans for Life Blog

Check out the new Lutherans for Life weblog at <http://lutheransforlife.blogspot.com/> for up-to-date posts on the latest life news, written by members of the Lutherans for Life Council. The blog format is designed to invite comments from the readers. Visit the site and join the conversation!

Please pray for the Parishes that are without a Pastor at the moment. There are so many across our district and the whole country. Please pray for the lay people in those churches as they deliver sermons and care for others. Also pray for patience as they wait for God to make the perfect match of Pastor to congregation.



16 Confirm Faith at Rockingham

On two consecutive Sundays (25th May and 1st June) 16 young people confirmed their faith at Rockingham Lutheran Church. Two of them, Blaize Manihera and Drewan Kennedy-Baxter were also baptized as part of the ceremony. These were wonderful events for all who attended as the young people shared their personal faith statements and expressed their response to the promises of God. The personal sharing included an original song entitled "Burning High" by Justin Scott, a PowerPoint presentation by Mikayla Hancock and a presentation made using Storybook Creator software. But the common thread was the way in which God had touched the lives of these young people and was growing in them as they journeyed through confirmation.

Included below is the personal faith statement of one of the group – Kentish Wilson – whose statement was typical of the work done by the young people.

Kentish-Grace Wilson - Faith Statement

Baptised : 17th April 1994

Confirmed : 25th May 2008

To become a Christian, a true believer of God, is so life changing and wonderful that it is a true blessing for me to know God has a purpose for me on earth, and that he loves me no matter what happens or what I do.

God is always there at the end of a hard day to pray to, in fact he is there all the time- no matter what. Not only does God love me beyond anything and listen to and answer my prayers in times of peace and trouble- but he sent his only son, Jesus Christ to perform life saving miracles and change the course of history. Jesus preached and stood up for what is right, and took upon himself all our sins. For this he paid the ultimate price- death by crucifixion on the cross. Jesus experienced every kind of pain on that cross to save us from death, and it amazes me every time I think of it. How awesome it is that Jesus would give up his life for us- scraps of humanity, and our unforgivable sins. Though through Jesus our sins have been forgiven and we have been saved and washed clean.

For me, being a Christian is to believe Jesus died on the cross for our sins, to love and fear God, trust and honor Him, to be true and faithful to the one who is true and faithful to me, my Lord and Creator. I can cast my troubles onto the Holy Spirit, to give me strength in times of need; to lean on Jesus- my support and mentor.

Being a Christian is the greatest thing I could ever do and the thing I will most treasure, remember and be proud of for the rest of my life. Death is scary- but I have to die some time. Then I found I don't need to be scared. For Jesus has already taken the fear of death away, God has banished it from the lives of believers. And at the finish I know I will be safe in heaven with my fellow Christians. I can look forward to eternal life; in a place where time and pain does not exist; where I shall praise and worship The Lord My God-Savior, Creator, and Lord of All.

Kenti's Confirmation Verse: Romans 8:38,39



Lutheran Youth WA Team Visit Ocean Forest

Serica Yurisich (The WA Child Safe Coordinator) hosted an excellent seminar that helps people working with children and young people to think through safety issues for the people they serve. There was also some great fun and games over the weekend. On Sunday morning the LYWA team talked about the ministry they do on our behalf and showed a moving video capturing something of the camping ministry they engage in.



God and balloons with the kids on Sunday

Have you got any news about your parish or congregation? Share with the WA District. I need prayer points, praise points, news and views. Please email your items to: wanews@esbconsult.com

Current and old WA Lutheran News will be 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

