



WA Lutheran News

December 2011

ON THE ROAD WITH THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT

"If one part suffers, every part suffers with it." (St. Paul)

Part of my work in the WA District involves making time for pastoral visits to the various Lutheran congregations in our rather wide-spread District. These visits are for the purpose of caring for the pastors and their families and listening to the parishioners, praying with them and offering them help from the District where ever possible. In recent times there have been some rather urgent needs amongst our sister congregations with pastors Paul Hannola and Adrian Kitson's imminent departure, and quite a lot of sickness especially amongst the pastors and their wives.

While on these visits I also get to do some fun things that a city slicker like me rarely gets to do. While in Esperance recently I got to drive a brand new header, even harvesting a paddock of peas and loading them into the bin. The owner, Mark Wandel, said in church next morning that I got him praying very fervently as he saw me almost back into the silo! Praise God there was no damage.



Also, I've learned the secret of getting a whole row to yourself on the flight back to Perth.

It's simple; just visit the Hoffrichter's pig farm just before you board the plane. Apparently the staff at Sky West could smell me coming. But hey, isn't the piglet cute!

Then last weekend, after leading an Advent evening service at Katanning I spent the early hours of Monday morning in a tiny two-seater Skyranger airplane, assembled and piloted by pastor Heath Pukallus. What an exhilarating experience that was! I recommend it to anyone who is mad enough to accept an invitation!



But seriously, Please pray for our sister congregations and their pastors, especially for those who are facing times without a pastor through the Call system or Rest and Refreshment leave. Pray that solutions to inadequate finances will be found. Also pray that all marriages will be strengthened and remain strong and that those who are unwell will be brought back into good health very soon. We are all in this together and we all need each other.

Pastor Greg.



ALL TOGETHER SEVEN (the white book?)

Time for a new songbook — the last one came out over 4 years ago. Robin Mann wants songs to hear, writers to check out, song-books to explore. Community songs, ones you've heard in church or on CD. Send emails, CDs, print music to Robin Mann, 54 Currawong Crescent, Modbury Heights SA 5092; robindormann@ozemail.com.au

LUTHERAN YOUTH OF WA—JAN CAMP 2012

When: 6pm Friday 20th to 1pm Monday 23rd of January

Where: Nanga Bush Camp, Dwellingup

Jan camp is aimed at young people, ages 12 plus

Camp Activities & Facilities

Daily live music & live concert on Sunday night

Interactive Bible studies & devotions

Swimming facilities & activities galore

To get a copy of the Registration form or more details contact:

Carl Biar – 0431 961 698

Email: biar_19@hotmail.com

Peter Ziersch – 0430 842 814

Email: pziersch@gmail.com

LONGEST LUTHERAN LUNCH

What a great way to spend Reformation Sunday! Congregations from around the state joined with those around Australia and New Zealand to practice the gift of hospitality.

Lunches were held in Albany, Duncraig, Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Katanning, Morley, Narrogin, Parkwood (with Perth Finnish) and St John's in Perth.

Parkwood also celebrated the engagement of Pastor Paul Hannola & Karen Martin.

To see photos and read the full story visit:

www.lca.org.au/a-lunch-engagement.html

Kalgoorlie-Boulder also had a story on the LCA site, visit:

www.lca.org.au/kalgoorlie-boulder-hosts-longest-from-anywhere-lunch.html

The Longest Lutheran Lunch is the first event to be run under the LCA's Operation Connect initiative, which is a new resource for congregations that uses food and hospitality to connect with friends, families and community. To see what other churches did and get some ideas for next year visit: www.lca.org.au

A MODERN PSALM—THE LORD'S BLESSING

By Chloe Astill

Lord, You bless us every day
though we do not deserve your grace.
You cherish us as your own children
and give us gifts each moment
Lord, you bless us every morning with the rise
of the sun.
And every evening with the light of the moon.
Lord, my God, you have created the
never ending skies
The deepest of the seas and the steepest of the
lands
Without you Lord, we would not exist.
You may turn dust to diamonds and
air to ravens
Lord, only you may possess such power
We, as humans, desire more though we are not
worthy of day and night
Lord, we praise you for what we have though we
may not seem thankful
We praise your mercy and love for us.
Lord, you bless us every day though we do not
deserve your grace

Chloe was recently confirmed at St Paul's Kalgoorlie-Boulder

LUTHERAN MEDIA UPDATE

What is Face To Face?

Face to Face is produced by Lutheran Media Ministry for The Lutheran Church of Australia. To find out more or download the broadcast as a podcast or mp3 or get a copy of the PDF script go to: <http://www.lca.org.au/> and click on Face to Face

December on Face to Face

4th	Christmas is for Everyone	John Henderson
11th	It's Coming Soon	Richard Mau
18th	What if God was one of us?	Adrian Kitson
25th	Christmas a time to celebrate	Richard Mau

FAREWELL FROM PASTOR A

It was eight years ago that Leanne, myself and our four children came back to our home to serve the Lord in a challenging new initiative of the WA District and the Lutheran School Association. The challenge was to do what had up that point never been tried before – to establish a Lutheran K-12 College, and through it, plant a congregation of the LCA in the local community of the new sea-change Australia: Dalyellup. Thanks to the Spirit of the Lord working in and through his faithful people, the LCA does now have a congregation and a college in that coastal community.

Dalyellup in many ways is a snapshot of the new Australia being created around this country's vast coast line. Dalyellup is a new community; a transient community, a community that lives mostly without interest or reference to the biblical story or faith imperatives. It is consumerist, secular and self-motivated as well as often self-interested, just like our modern Australia! I always believed that if the LCA cannot "make it" in a place like Dalyellup, then it may struggle to have a meaningful place in this country. I guess it depends on what you mean by that term "make it"?

In some ways we have made it (at least this far). There have been great moments of passing on of the Christian Faith and living relationship with the God of grace and revealed in his Son, Jesus in these eight years. We have seen adults and young people baptised. On any given day there have been wide little eyes wondering at those magnificent accounts of God's power and love throughout the biblical witness, shared by everyday teachers doing their extraordinary vocation of shaping young minds and hearts. There have been young people publically affirming their faith in Christ, hundreds of children singing songs of faith, weddings, funerals and all the markers of the living of life in a local community.

On the other hand, we have not made it. People who have taken on this challenge have paid for it with their health and wellbeing at times (myself included). We have paid the emotional and sometimes physical price of mission in a place with very little support structure and real on-the-ground assistance. This is nothing new in gospel mission – just ask Paul, or Timothy or Silas or Peter, or Stephen or Polycarp or Ignatius, or Augustine or Luther or Mission costs you. It is meant to cost you. If your church life does not cost you, then it is not real gospel life.

There is so much to be and do. So much for which to fight and "bleed". There are people in this local community in desperate need of a solid biblical argument for giving their life over to a God of grace who offers meaning and purpose to life. There are people who need just plain old fashioned help of all kinds – parenting, relationships, marriage, workplace, emotional, forgiveness..... There are young minds and hearts to be shaped in the living word of Jesus. There are solid church folks who need much encouragement and love and affirmation of who they are in God's coming kingdom plans.

I knew there would one day come a day when we would have to leave this community that we have embedded ourselves in. That is what Pastors and their families know. We know we come and go and the people do the same one way or another; short term or long term. The Call from Jesus is to spend our available time passing it on by living it. In this calling, some sow, some water, some reap and God gets the job done over the very long haul.

Parting shots:

- The work of President in the WA District is absolutely critical for a lot of reasons, not the least of which is that of being the go-to safe place when you are paying the price in mission as a pastor and/or pastor's wife or kid. We need to back the office and the man in any way we can.
- We will have to rethink the way we do church and our mission in WA – a more collaborative approach with more diverse roles across congregational boundaries so that small places are looked after and larger places are supported to innovate and develop. This may mean closing some congregations for the time being and for the sake of the other possibilities. Tough call, but reality. It will mean offering opportunities for our faithful, very tough and long-suffering local leaders to find new drive, meaning, skills and conviction to take up local leadership in ministry with the constant support of visiting theological and pastoral support and training – whatever that may end up looking like.
- The days of only going half way to radically re-orientating how and why we gather are over. We need to get messy and pray like mad for God's covering of forgiveness and love on our mistakes. He will give us new life, despite our mistakes. That is what he does. That is what he has always done. As if he has ever cared very much about his people's mistakes anyway!! Think of the Israelites in that miserable desert. It shaped them and gave them their identity as God's loved children for all time.
- We need to get the District project of redeveloping St Johns up. If it means selling off some assets in a place that no longer needs them, then we need to do it. The original project will give Lutheran gospel evangelisation in this state of the continent legs for another two generations at least.
- The two Lutheran school we have in WA need as much "blood, sweat and tears" as the new hope at St Johns. Because of our three school communities/campuses we have a conversation about Jesus of Nazareth with a few hundred families a week – without anyone ever doing the stats or considering this huge impact. Also, no one knows how tough these three Principals do it. They can relate to the Garden of Gethsemane – for real; just like a parent knows that place when agonising over their own kids. Our Principals need huge support.

This place is my home. It is the place in which the Lord of the church called me back to Faith. It is the place where he set me on the Ministry journey in which I still travel. The call came from everyday young men and women doing their best for the church and for God and that was good enough. It is still good enough. Some of those people are still here. They still are the same people doing the same things but in different ways. There are many new people here and they are all God's design. It is HIS church, after all. He will see it through. He will gather us, send us and then one day welcome us and say those immortal words we all long to hear: "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter in the rest prepared for you since before this whole thing began".

Peace and love in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Way, Truth and Life for all of our lives. Amen.

Pastor Adrian Kitson

Professional Standards Training

The LCA has been working to set up the Professional Standards Unit, which includes the introduction of a range of policies and procedures, as well as a standardised training package, which will be used by all congregations across the LCA. This training will include aspects of the ChildSafe training (which was previously used in the LCWA District), a Safe Place training module (which deals with adult to adult interactions), as well as a range of other important areas concerning professional standards in our church.

The first Professional Standards workshop will be held in WA in February 2012. The workshop will be facilitated by guest presenter, Keith Stiller from QLD. The training has been set for the weekend of Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th February. It is anticipated that the training will occur in a city location on the Saturday and a country location on the Sunday. If your congregation is interested in hosting this training workshop, please contact me as soon as you can.

This training is important for anyone who is involved in any kind of ministry to people, as well as those who hold positions of power/responsibility within the church. Those who are involved in a ministry or hold a position of responsibility and attended ChildSafe training three or more years ago will also be required to attend to refresh their training. More details will be available soon.

Volunteer Police Checks

A number of congregations have now begun the process of applying for Volunteer Police Checks for those volunteers in their congregations who hold positions of responsibility, or are involved in ministry. This is a simple and inexpensive method of screening volunteers and is one step in the process of working towards making our churches as safe as possible for everyone.

If your congregation needs assistance in working through this important process, or you would like more information on Professional Standards in general, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Serica Yurisich

Professional Standards Coordinator
LCWA District
serica.yurisich@wa.lca.org.au
0411 438 721

Lutheran Youth of Western Australia

LYWA Ministry Coordinator

The Lutheran Youth of WA are seeking to employ a Ministry Coordinator, as a resource to the Management Committee and its teams. This position will commence in early 2012.

The position is for 8 hours per week, with extra paid hours required prior to and immediately following camps.

The main duties of this position will relate to the administrative aspects of LYWA's ministries, with an emphasis on LYWA's camping ministry.

For more information about this position, or to receive an Application Pack, please contact:

Serica Yurisich
serica.yurisich@wa.lca.org.au
0411 438 721

*Applications will close on
31 of December, 2011.*

Meditation:

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

--Luke 2:10-12 (KJV)

Quotation:

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and Angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love Incarnate, Love Divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

... Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Reflection: Lord, you are known by love.



Confirmation

The service started with Makat Katom playing a PNG ceremonial drum song as he lead singers, Pastor and the confirmees down the aisle.

St Paul's Kalgoorlie-Boulder celebrated the confirmation of 5 teenagers on November 20. The most in the 25 years that the building has been here.



L-R: Dunn & Kratonga Ohuma, Pastor Adrian Kramer, Luke Crouch, Chloe Astill, Nina Ohuma

These young people are enthusiastic attendees of the church, they have been door stewards, Sunday School members (now helpers), morning tea makers, sound techs and Christmas play writers and actors. We are so pleased to welcome them as members of our church.

PNG Mission Festival

Singing, dancing, tambourines and food were all part of the celebration held 16th October to mark the over 100 years of Lutheran mission in PNG.

We learnt some new songs in both Pidgin & English and were blessed to hear some of the history of missionaries who went from Germany & Australia to share the gospel with the people of PNG.



2012 LCAWA DISTRICT CONVENTION

A reminder for delegates to get their forms in & book accommodation as that long weekend in March is always busy in Esperance.

For more info contact Esperance chairman Mark Wandel or his wife Hayley.

mhwandel@bigpond.com

PASTORS CONFERENCE—MARCH 2012

Kalgoorlie-Boulder is looking forward to hosting the Pastors conference that will take place immediately prior to the LCAWA District Convention.

As Esperance and Kalgoorlie-Boulder are one big parish it is exciting to be involved with District Convention in this way.

Faith for the Future vision: To bring the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ to all people....

As you know from recent meetings, emails and letters the Faith for the Future redevelopment project is at a crucial stage. We want to keep you informed of the fundraising campaign progress; our target was to raise \$500,000 in cash and pledges.

The level of pledges received to date is encouraging, heartfelt thanks go to all who have returned their pledge forms or made donations.

As of Wednesday 14th December contributions and pledges had been received totalling:

\$393,395

Remaining pledges required \$106,605

At this stage pledges received are not sufficient to make the project viable. So the committee has decided to continue working towards raising the target of \$500,000 or more and we will again review the position at the end of January.

It has been suggested that an achievable target is for 100 people willing to contribute \$5000 each. Some may be in a position to give more and some less but no one is being asked to commit what they do not have. We are simply letting everyone know what is needed.

We know that our congregation and District support this project in spirit. **NOW IS THE TIME TO SUPPORT YOUR FAITH FOR THE FUTURE WITH THE NECESSARY FUNDS TO BRING THE PROJECT TO LIFE. WE ARE 95% OF THE WAY THERE.** It will be a great shame if we fall short after coming so far.

If you still have any questions or concerns please contact:

Bill Trenear on **0414 861 094** or by email **wtrenear@wossgroup.com**

Mike Graebner on **0418 913 930** or **mike@graebner.com.au**

Or visit the website at

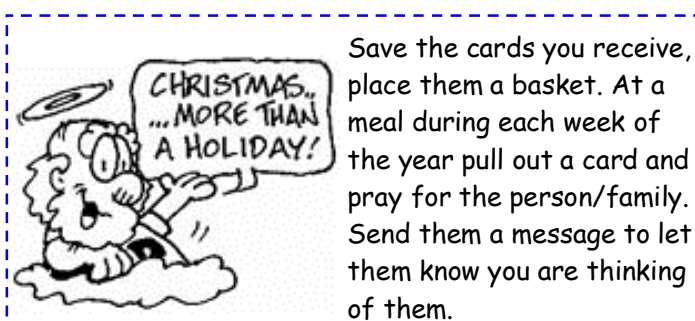
www.faithforthefuture.org.au

You may be able to think of ideas as to how you can involve others who have had a connection with our Church and may be in a position to help if they know about it or are encouraged by you.

Please prayerfully consider your contribution. If you haven't already done so, please complete your pledge form and return to St Johns so that we can make the final tally and know whether the project can proceed.

NINE, WIN and IMPARJA TV Networks have agreed to broadcast our heart-warming animated Christmas film of the **Little Shepherd** at 6.00am on Sunday 18th December. The Australian Christian Channel will broadcast **The City that Forgot about Christmas** at 4.00pm on Friday 23rd December and Red Boots for Christmas at 6.30am on Saturday 24th December on AUSTAR DIGITAL 182, FOXTEL DIGITAL 182, OPTUS 49 / Digital 182.

Please pray that God will bless many as they watch and hear the good news of the Saviour born for us all.



2012 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Article Deadline	Publication Date
20 March	28 March
20 June	28 June
11 September	20 September
4 December	13 December

Each newsletter will celebrate the happenings around the district in the past quarter and advertise what is on in the upcoming quarter.

I would also like to publish prayer & praise points, poems, funny titbits and other creative work.

Please email your items to: wanews@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