



WA Lutheran News

December 2012

40 YEARS OF BLESSING – THANK YOU LORD!!

Over 40 years ago a dedicated group of Lutherans formed a congregation and began worshipping in the Morley area. Made up of members from St. John's, post-war migrants and some from the eastern states they met in scout halls, and school buildings, under the leadership of the pastor at large (for all things outside of St. John's) Pastor Haydn Blaess.

The District President, Murray Jordan, under the direction of the District Church Council, asked Pastor Haydn to buy a block of land in the new area of Morley. With the support of the local Council an area on Robinson Road was identified and purchased.

Back in Adelaide, Bethlehem was celebrating its 100th Anniversary of blessing and decided to support a new growing congregation somewhere else in Australia. Morley was chosen to be the recipient of that blessing. \$8000 was raised and was handed over. A busload of supporters came from Adelaide for the opening.

The Church grew and grew and by the time our second Pastor came, Chris Bartholomaeus, we were ready to expand even further. With help from St. John's another worship centre was opened up in Greenwood.

During Pastor Ray Schulz's time, this ministry grew and grew and a block of land was purchased in Duncraig and another Church was planted. Eventually this daughter became self-sufficient and ventured out on their own calling their own Pastor in Kevin Helbig.

Since then Pastor Eugene lead us in a renewed Youth ministry with lots of loud noise and Pastor Kim has served LCA through ministry to the Defence Force among other things.

Right from the beginning Morley developed a very strong working relationship with the Weld Square Primary School, with Pastors Haydn and Ray spending many hours each year leading many Religious Education lessons during their time. We were also able to use the school facilities when it came to Morley's turn to host the District Convention. More recently our Pastor and members were involved in regular afternoon SUPA Club (Scripture Union Primary Age). This resulted in a joint Carols in the Square Evening which is now in its seventh

year, although it has now become "Carols on the Corner" and is being held out in the open in the Bethlehem yard.

Morley has continued to grow in its efforts to be a blessing to others. About 5 years ago through one of our African members heard the plight of some Lutherans who were meeting together in Guinea. They needed support and some money was raised and sent over to them to enable them to build a church and manse. This was added to a number of times. A special thanksgiving offering was also received on the 40th Anniversary Day and this raised a further \$1400 which will be used for this and other African ministries.

The day began with a service of thanksgiving, which was followed by greetings from the Deputy-Mayor, and our local member who both spoke fondly about our work and our ministry. We received many greetings from many former members and other pastors from near and far. We were blessed to have two former pastors, Haydn and Ray and from our sister congregation worship with us on the day. Much food was prepared and eaten, and many words were shared and friendships were renewed. In the afternoon we were entertained by the Peter Nosow duo.

A great thanks to God for his mercy in enabling Bethlehem, Morley to be a blessing in our community. God is GOOD.



Some of the 150 people who gathered to give thanks to God (above)



One of our original members – Mrs Amelia Chrulow - cuts the cake (right)

FAITH FOR THE FUTURE - GOOD NEWS!

*From Michael Graebner,
FFF Chairman—September Update*

GOOD NEWS: Our Faith for the Future project has recently achieved two major milestones.

FUNDING: The LCA Loan Management Committee has approved a \$1,000,000 loan from the Home Mission Establishment Fund. The loan will be interest free for 5 years, a saving of around \$300,000 to the project.

Importantly this recognises and confirms the important mission value of the Faith for the Future project; as the new building will provide facilities to further the work of the WA District in spreading the Good News of the gospel.

BUILDING: Designs for building Stage 1 of the project have been given the verbal tick by Metropolitan Regional Authority; we are now waiting formal approval so we can apply for a building license from Perth City Council. The ground floor plan shows the proposed layout of hall, kitchen, office space and meeting and other rooms. Construction is expected to begin in 2013!! Hallelujah!

THANK YOU: for upholding this project and the committee with prayers, fundraising and donations. We ask that you continue to uphold the Faith for the Future project throughout the busy planning and construction phases to come.

If you have any questions please contact:

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

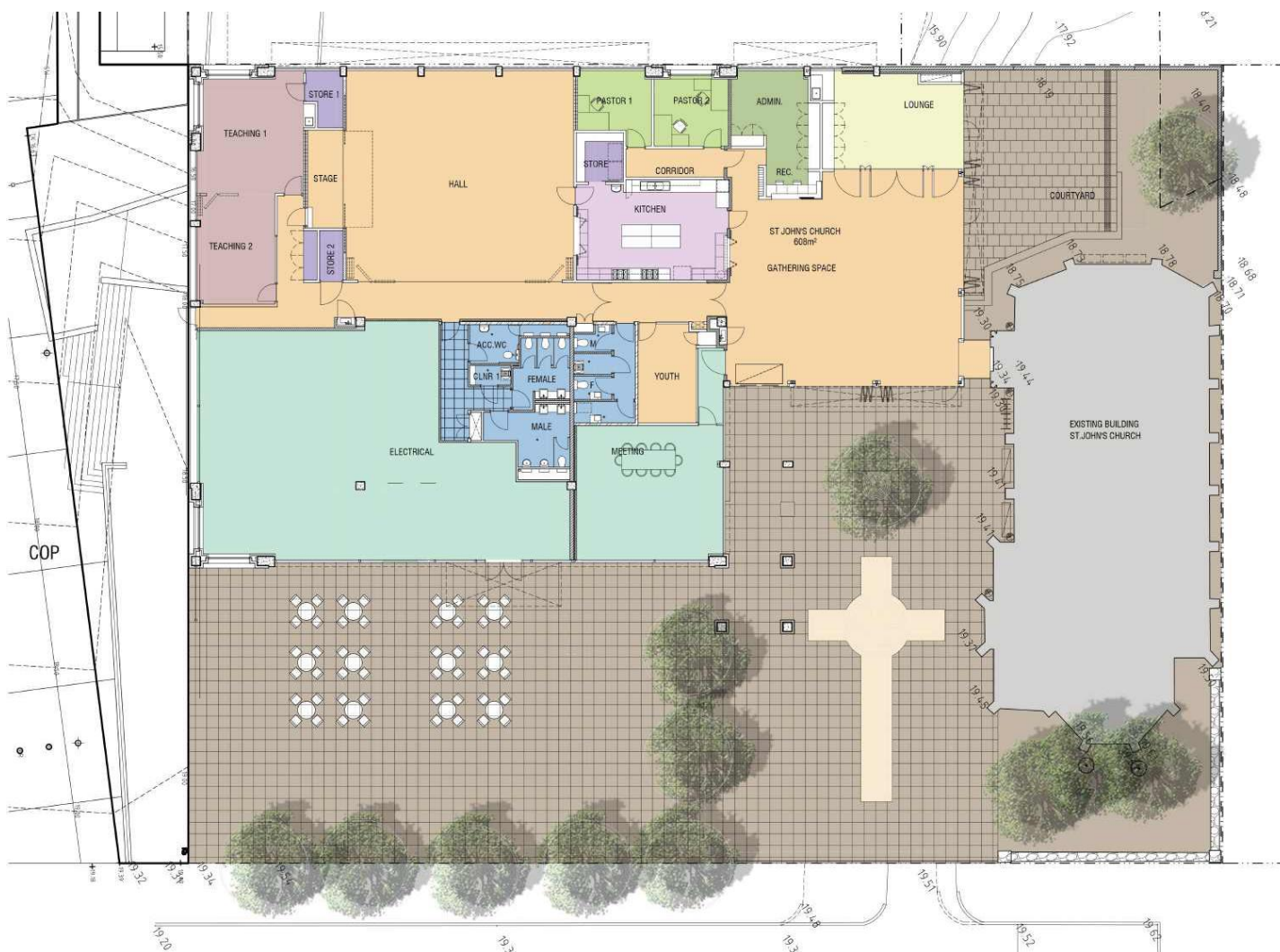
Or visit the website at www.faithforthefuture.org.au

The committee will continue to report back on the fundraising and project progress. We ask that you please continue to keep this Faith for the Future project in your prayers.

Yours in Christ,

Chairman, Faith for the Future Committee Mike Graebner

And Faith for the Future Committee members:
*Pastor Greg Pfeiffer, Pastor Andre Meyer,
Chairman Mike Graebner, Terry Sellner, Bill
Trenear, Alexandra Naisbitt, Noel Reid, Ronda
Rohrlach, Jon Offszanka, Diane Lauer, David
Wilson, Simon Stanton, Ruth Brisbane*



PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS TRAINING DAY ST JOHN'S—ESPERANCE

By Pastor Adrian Kramer and Marj Welke

Pastor Adrian

In most things we do in life there are opportunities for us to learn and grow in our understanding of what we do. Sometimes this means we are required to do a course or participate in training to ensure better outcomes as parents, club members or at work. This is the case in the church also.

Since becoming our District President, Pastor Greg Pfeiffer has said that Professional Standards was not something we are here to debate, but something that the church needs to put into practice.

St. John's Esperance (and St. Paul's Kalgoorlie-Boulder) recently took up this challenge and invited Pastor Keith Stiller from LCAQLD and Monika Tropiano LCAWA to run a training day in each of our congregations. At St. John's we had 13 adults attain Team Member status and one his Junior Team Member certificate. At St. Paul's 8 people achieved Team Member status.

Thought-provoking informative, challenging and helpful were just a few of the ways people described the course. Armed with the knowledge gained we can all look forward to better fulfilling our roles and responsibilities and work toward building a safer and more caring church community. Rather than fear training we should embrace it and apply it so our churches can be safe places where the Gospel can be freely heard.

Marg Welke

I found the 'ChildSafe' programme informative and invaluable, especially for those in our Congregation who deal with children and youth.

Pastor Stiller delivered the information in such a manner that I felt entertained as well as informed.

I would urge every Congregation to avail themselves of the opportunity to learn more about the requirements for safety within our churches for children, teenagers and the elderly.

Thanks to Pastor for organizing this seminar for our Parish.



Esperance Training Day

A NOTE FROM THE PS COORDINATOR

Thank you to those who have been in touch with me with regards to Professional Standards. I know that many congregations have their annual general meeting towards the end of the year and that there are often changes of positions. Please remember that the LCAWA District requires all church council members, those in positions of authority (elders) and those dealing with money (treasurers) to have a volunteer police check. If you are unsure about this please contact me at:

monika.tropiano@wa.lca.org.au

Keith Stiller and I were able to present Professional Standards Training Workshops at Esperance and Kalgoorlie in June this year. It was a pleasure to meet congregational members and to see their commitment to making the church a safe place. Serica and I are also planning dates for 2013 Professional Standards training workshops. Before the end of the year I will be in touch with those congregations who haven't had a workshop in the last year to encourage participation in at least one workshop during 2013. St John's is on the ball and have locked in the 23rd February. Well done!

Thank you to the many volunteers within our district who have participated in Professional Standards training and have fulfilled the expectation of the LCA and LCAWA District. All this helps to make the Lutheran Church as safe place.

Blessings
Monika Tropiano
Professional Standards Coordinator
LCAWA District Inc.



A Summary of what is happening in the LCA

22nd February
1932



30th August
2012

Kevin grew up on the family farm at Woolpunda on the Murray River.

After initially rejecting his parents hopes that he would become a pastor he later enrolled at Immanuel Seminary to train for the Lutheran ministry.

This was a time of great anxiety and Kevin developed a severe stutter. It became a constant source of anxiety about anxiety about this ability to serve as a pastor. The night before his first sermon, he confronted God with a challenge. "Take away the stutter or I will walk away and never return." He was aware that everybody was waiting for those first stumbling words. God has a way of getting his own way and Kevin preached that sermon with confidence and without a single stutter. And, he has not stuttered since! For Kevin, this was the affirmation of his call to be a pastor.

In his extended ministry in the Lutheran Church, Kevin served in twelve parishes and continued in his retirement to work in another four parishes in Australia and NZ. In total, he served 48 preaching centres and travelled unknown thousands of kilometres. During his years as a parish pastor, Kevin also served the Lutheran Church on many church committees in all the states that he served.

Kevin was also heavily involved with each community he lived in especially through Rotary.

Married to Desma (nee Fielke) since 1955 they were blessed with five children, the first four were born within four years of each other; Geoffrey, Kim, Susanne, Wayne and Jenice. During these years they also fostered Rita and adopted Cliff Joe Burns. There were many others who came and went (including 18 Rotary Exchange students); Tracy Tully stayed as another daughter. Their home could always manage one more. There are now 16 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

But thanks be to God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:57

Summarised from the Eulogy of Kevin Dudley Kuchel

LCA Ordination service on 9th December at Concordia College Chapel with President Greg Pfeiffer as liturgist.

Pastor Heath Pukallus has relinquished his call at Katanning/Narrogin and his final service will held on 30th December 2012.

The Kalgoorlie/Esperance parish has formally requested that Glenn Crouch be ordained as a Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) and this is now in the hands of the College of Presidents.

2013

WA District Convention will be held on 1st to 3rd March at Ocean Keys Lutheran Church, Clarkson, preceded by WA Pastor's Conference from 27th February to 1st March also at Clarkson.

Pastor Dieter Dell'Antonio is retiring and his last service in Geraldton will be 17th February.

General Pastor's Conference 17th to 19th April at Concordia College Highgate

Lutheran Women of Australia convention 18th to 19th April at Immanuel College, Novar Gardens, SA

Lutheran Men of Australia convention 19th April at Immanuel College, SA

The General Convention of Synod 21st to 24th April **"Where love comes to life"** in Adelaide



One Direction Youth Service

Saturday 8th December—Free Dinner from 6pm (food for sale) Service starts 7pm

Rockingham Lutheran Church, Warnbro

Jan • Camp Extravaganza

Friday 18th to Sunday 20th Jan 2013

Advent Park Camp Grounds enrolment forms and info booklets from lywa@wa.lca.org.au



LYWA (Lutheran Youth of Western Australia)

LONGEST LUTHERAN LUNCH

Ten days before our Lunch, 200 invitations prepared by a gifted member, were letterbox dropped by members to homes surrounding the Church complex. Detailed plans for this free neighbourhood Lunch were reviewed, we prayed and Pastor Michael Parker taught on what it means to be 'salt'.

On the day of the Lunch, Ocean Keys Community Church with their Finnish interns (Pastor Michael's congregation one hour north) and the Perth Chinese Christian Church who share our site; joined us in Worship during which Pastor Michael taught on being 'light'. Then, with enthusiasm, the Church was transformed by tables laden with home-prepared food.

Approximately 100 people, including 22 from the Community, shared in an environment that buzzed with chatter, laughter and music provided by members. A truly God-blest day concluded with each person receiving a gift of their choice of a tomato or lettuce plant in a cup.

The Engagement of our young pastor was celebrated during last year's Lunch; this year the 'Engagement' in ministry together of Ocean Keys Community Church and St Luke's was officially announced and signed. To God be the glory!



WA DISTRICT WEBSITE

www.wa.lca.org.au

The WA District now has its own website which also has a page especially for the District News as well as links to other helpful things.



2013 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Article Deadline	Publication Date
20 March	30 March
20 June	30 June
11 September	30 September
30 November	10 December

ANNOUNCING THE ENGAGEMENT.....

of Ocean Keys Community Church Clarkson and St Luke's Parkwood.

The formality of this occasion was marked in a Special Service of Thanksgiving on Sunday 25 November at St Luke's.

Pastor Michael Parker, combined music groups, readers and prayer leaders from both congregations, together with President Greg Pfeiffer lead Worship in thanking God for the graciousness of His love and that of Ocean Keys and Pastor Michael.

During this year of courtship, Ministry Understandings have been developed between both congregations, and endorsed by the District, enabling Pastor Michael to lead Worship in St Luke's three Sundays each month & provide limited pastoral care. This becomes a new relationship in ministry without forming a parish; God's blessings are already evident and we prayerfully embrace God's Will for our congregations and in each of our lives.



Handing over the Ministry Understandings Documents



CAROLS ON THE CORNER

On the grass at Bethlehem Morley (cnr. Robinson Rd. & Weld Crt.)

Sunday 9th of December

Food will be available for sale from 6pm
Program commencing at 7pm.

A raffle will be held, with all proceeds going to support local families in need during the Christmas period. All are welcome to attend this fun and relaxed family carols event. *Please note that candles are not permitted.*

Please email your items to: wanews@wa.lca.org.au

Current and old WA Lutheran News are available for download from the new website and also 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