

WORLDWIDE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

By Pastor Greg Pfeiffer

'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' (Matthew 25:40)

Two years ago when I was with Graeme Lienert and the Holy Land tour group we visited Mount Precipice just outside of Nazareth where it is believed that an angry mob attempted to throw Jesus off after his bold proclamation in the local synagogue (Luke 4 :16-30). While I stood there addressing the group two fighter jets flew overhead and minutes later I heard what I thought was distant thunder. As there were no clouds in the sky I wondered how this could be and I queried it with our tour guide who replied, "Greg, that was not thunder." In that chilling moment I realized that we were within hearing of exploding bombs in Syria and I was moved to pray for the poor souls, especially the children who were caught up in that already two-year-old conflict. Now, another two years later, this ongoing conflict has displaced 11.6 million people, including 7.6 million people internally, making this situation in Syria the largest humanitarian crisis in the world!

Many countries have announced their willingness to relocate Syrian refugees including 12,000 to Australia. Western Australia will receive 1,000 humanitarian refugees who, as permanent residents are entitled to support services such as accommodation, language support, education, employment assistance, interpreter services, health services and other social services.

Our well established Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS) providers will operate under the umbrella of the Australian Government's Department of Social Services (DSS) to resettle our refugees. The State Government has consulted local Governments and WA Heads of Churches who have offered support. Many private offers of support have been received and their details are being held for follow up as appropriate.

If you would like to help or even enquire about how you can help please email:

wa-government@dpc.wa.gov.au

May God be with us all and especially those from Syria who have lost so much.



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVALS

Symbolic Christmas Tree Festival

FREE EVENT

At: **St Johns Lutheran Church** complex,
16 Aberdeen St, Northbridge

10am to 3pm daily from 2nd to 9th December

Late night till 8pm on Friday 4th December

TREE INFORMATION:

Each tree has a SYMBOLIC meaning & is constructed with different materials. Trees are of different sizes & differing materials to display the individual symbol to the best advantage.

SYMBOLS on a tree could be "STARS" pointing the way to the manger, or the magnificent mosaic "Creation Tree". There are over 20 different symbols presented.



Katanning Festival

Hosted by St
Stevens,
Katanning

At: Corner Store,
Clive Street
(opposite Town
Hall Square)

Open 10am to
4pm every
Wednesday,
Thursday and
Friday for 3 weeks
starting on
December 9th

WA WOMEN AT LWA CONVENTION

Compiled by Karen Crouch from various reports

The LWA convention at Rochedale Redeemer College, Queensland was inspiring as well as informative. The college built in a beautiful garden setting with a magnificent chapel that could hold more than 700 people was a beautiful location for our two days of fellowship.

The opening service was held in the college chapel where over 250 voices were raised in uplifting song, and music, which set the mood for the business of convention. What a delight to fellowship with old and new friends from around this great country of ours. The theme of "You are the fountain of Light ... where love comes to life" truly came to life in everything we did from Bible studies to business.

It was interesting and informative to listen to ALW president Tanna Mackenzie; and the guest speakers Jodie Brook (Grow Ministries), Naomi Binora (New Guinea), Pastor David Spanagel (far Nth Queensland Mission) and Anne Hansen (Tract Mission).

Thoughtful devotions were presented by WA president Rosemary and the other state presidents at opening and closing sessions.

The next LWA convention will be in N.S.W. in 2018—start planning NOW!



Ladies from W. A. attending Judith Pech, Carol Pocock, Jennie Edwards, Rosemary Davidson, Roslyn Zadow, Anna Ossy Orley, Lottie Dohler, Debbie Dreckow, & Eunice (nee Lienert) Graeme Lienert's sister

LUTHERAN WOMEN OF WA CONVENTION 2016

Time to start planning your trip!

Convention will be held in Esperance on Saturday 14 May, 2016

It is hoped to have a bus from Perth leaving on the Friday 13th.

More information will be going out to each guild in February.

RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven' Ecclesiastes 3:1

Five years ago the LCA College of Presidents, now Bishops, met at New Norcia here in Western Australia for their annual retreat. At that retreat I was invited to share my thoughts and feelings about the combined role of the WA District Bishop and St Johns Pastor. It became clear in that conversation that the model of quarter-time bishop and three-quarter-time pastor does not allow enough time for one person to do justice to these important vocations. It was noted that new and more sustainable models should be investigated.

At the WA District Convention in February this year I pointed out that nothing had changed in terms of the model in the six years I had served. I also said that if a more sustainable model is not found in the next two---year term I would not be standing for re---election at the next District Convention in March 2017. There have been attempts to explore a few alternative models but I am convinced that the situation is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future.

Secondly, in the last six months a family need has arisen that involves caring for Janet's father who is currently living on his own in South Australia.

Taking these and other important issues into consideration Janet and I have decided to retire from full-time ministry in a year-and-a-half and move to the Barossa Valley where we will live with her father and care for him.

So I am announcing today that I will remain in my current roles as District Bishop and St Johns Pastor for seventeen months until March 2017 and then retire to South Australia.

This decision has not come quickly or lightly. It has a long history and it has been very difficult. Naturally there are implications for us all but we believe it is the right decision under the circumstances and we have a deep sense of peace about it. Nevertheless, there will be sadness as we leave you in 2017 but joy as we move closer to our family in SA.

Janet and I value you all as our brothers and sisters in Christ and we will be happy to talk with you about this in the days and months ahead especially as the implications of this important decision unfold.

God be with you all

Greg Pfeiffer

Despite media reports on much violence here, and sadly a number of needless deaths through Palestinians some indiscriminately attacking Jews, Israel is totally safe for international tourists and travellers - Safe from both Palestinians and Israelis.

As my recent tour group found, it has been an ideal time to visit Jerusalem as the crowds are smaller than usual and all venues for tourists including the Temple Mount are open and accessible.

Our group attended a combined church service of Arabs and Christians in Redeemer Lutheran Church in the Old City of Jerusalem (with Holy Communion) led by LWF President Bishop Younan. He has asked for Christians everywhere to pray for peace.

What we found most interesting was the hymns, sung in both Arabic and English, were the good faithful Lutheran hymns, including Luther's "A mighty Fortress is our God" - sung with gusto, and accompanied by a brilliant organist.

UPCOMING TOUR DATES

Holy Land Pilgrimages

Easter in the Holy City: 21 March - 2 April 2016 to celebrate the Risen Christ

OR

Autumn - 25 Sept - 8 October 2016

Luther 500 Reformation 2017

24 May - 9 June 2017, Celebrate Kirchentag at Wittenberg on Sunday

OR

20 October - 4 November 2017, Stand where Luther Stood, in Wittenberg on 31 October 2017, 500 years after the historic nailing of his 95 Theses on the Castle Church door, that saw the foundation of the Lutheran Church as we know it today.

Contact Graeme Lienert direct, for info and bookings:

Phone: 0419 909 909 -

Email: glien@iinet.net.au

or by post: 6 Elabana Crescent,
Dianella WA 6059

Graeme Lienert has organised a 'Once in a lifetime event' by arranging two tours to Germany in 2017, to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, and the beginning of our Lutheran Church. This momentous and festive occasion will attract Christians' worldwide.

Graeme has been fortuitous in arranging these two special tours, with the help of two St. John's members. Graeme was able to engage foremost German authority on Luther and the Reformation, Rev Dr Aribert Rothe, of Erfurt University to provide lectures on the tour. The engagement of Rev Dr Rothe, came about through Annemarie Freeman of St John's, cousin to Dr Rothe's wife Sigrid.

Another St John's connection emerged though our much admired violinist Marlene Crone who is looking to arrange attendance at a concert when we tour through Mainz, home of the Gutenberg Printing Press.

Arrangements have been made for the tour group to sing in the Prediger-kirche at Erfurt, where the great composers Bach and Pachelbel were the chief organists. Special hymnals will be provided to ensure there will be much joyful singing throughout the tour.

If you would like the opportunity to follow the Pathway of the Reformer, MARTIN LUTHER and attend the 500th ANNIVERSARY 'Kirchentag' at Wittenberg on Sunday 28th May 2017, Or be at Wittenberg on the 31st October 2017, 500 years after LUTHER nailed his 95 theses on the Castle Church, striking the beginning of The Reformation, please contact Graeme.

Spaces for the Reformation Tour are limited.

LUTHERAN YOUTH WA—AGM



All positions will be declared vacant and nominations sought for the 2016 Committee. If you have an interest in helping to shape LYWA's Ministry for 2016, or would like to contribute to the Committee in any way, we welcome you to attend.

The elections will be held on Saturday, 12 Dec at 11.00am at Morley Bethlehem Church - Cnr of Robinson Rd & Weld Crt Morley.

If you have any questions or matters to discuss, please direct your queries to the LYWA Ministry Coordinator (Maria Price) or the LYWA Management Committee Director (Serica Yurisich), via email - lywa@wa.lca.org

NEW PASTOR FOR ROCKINGHAM

By Monika Tropicano

The news from the Rockingham Mandurah Lutheran Church (RMLC) is exciting! After a pastoral vacancy of 2 years we will be welcoming our new Pastor, Steve Liersch and his wife and 3 children from South Australia. They arrive towards the end of 2015 and will officially start at the end of January 2016. We praise God for the many volunteers who took on extra work while we were without a pastor. We certainly don't expect our new pastor to take on all those roles, but it does mean that we will have someone in full time leadership. Yay!

We were also very blessed to receive a \$25,000 LLL Mission Stimulus Grant to help fund a church youth worker. We have decided not to employ someone until Pastor Liersch arrives, as he will be working with the youth worker so it would be good for him to be part of the selection process. Our church community has already pledged a significant amount of money to help supplement the cost of the worker and our financial plan is that the role be completely funded by the church community within 4 years.

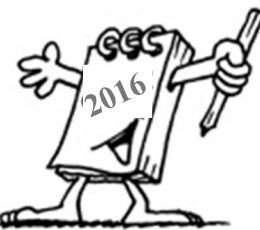
We look forward to seeing many of you at the Ministry and Mission Fest (M&M Fest) in March, 2016.

Blessings,

Monika Tropicano

Chair, RMLC

Mark your Calendar



Ministry & Mission Fest

"Grow and Go"

Friday evening – 4th March

Sunday lunch time – 6th March

Hosted by Rockingham Mandurah Lutheran Church with activities will taking place at the Mandurah Worship Site – Living Waters Lutheran College & Halls Head Campus.

We are hoping that Steen Olsen and Dean Eaton will be able to accept an invitation to help us to "Grow and Go".

LWWA Convention

14 May at St Johns, Esperance



JAN CAMP 2016

When: Friday 22 to
Monday 25 January

Where: Lake Leschenaultia Campsite

Forms will be coming out soon so keep an eye out for them. It will also be advertised on LYWA's Facebook page.

2016 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

These dates are a guide only as sometimes circumstances cause changes

Article Deadline	Publication Date
27 March	4 April
20 June	30 June
12 September	30 September
28 November	15 December

Please email your items to: wanews@wa.lca.org.au
Current and old WA Lutheran News are available for download from www.wa.lca.org.au 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

There is also a closed group in Facebook that you can join. Send me your email address and I will invite you to be a member.



Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have had the pleasure this year of again facilitating many workshops, and included in this was travelling in August to Esperance and Kalgoorlie to facilitate the Professional Standards Training workshops there. Liz Crawford from the national office travelled with me. We were both delighted with the response to the workshop. There are always some challenging questions along the way. The aim of the workshop is not to be the final authority of everything but to encourage us all as church members to look at our own individual circumstances; our worship site, the programs we run, the makeup of our leadership, and to look at the best way we can keep everyone who comes in contact with the Lutheran Church of Western Australia safe. Sometimes this means changing something physical to do with the worship site, such as changing the position of the urn for morning tea, or sometimes it might mean reviewing some of your practices, such as remembering that an adult is defined as someone aged 18 and above. Like any training, even if we have done it many times before, there is always something new that we learn.

I would especially like to thank those of you who attend the training despite doing something similar in the workplace. Church is different because our boundaries are less clear than those in the workplace or even in other volunteer areas. Many of you bring a wealth of knowledge to the workshops and freely share this with us. I am also constantly learning new things from the ideas and knowledge that others share.

I am now starting to look at workshops for 2016. There will be a price rise to \$35, but there continues to be a 10% discount if you have more than 10 attendees from the same congregation and that the total fee owing is paid as one lump sum. Feel free to contact me by email monika.tropiano@lca.org.au or by phone 0457 774 003 if you have any questions regarding this, or would like to book a workshop.

I also attended the ***Safe as Churches? Conference*** in Sydney this year. People ask – “why is there a question mark?” and that is because many people are not sure that churches are a safe place! The Lutheran Church invests resources in helping us to be a safe place for all. That sounds like jargon – but it is very important. The emerging issues that many churches are looking at now, as we start to come to terms with the child sex abuse that has happened, is bullying in the church space. The LCA has just approved a new policy – ***LCA Standards of Ethical Behaviour***, and I encourage you to read through this. You will find under this article and continuing onto the last page of the newsletter. (Thanks Karen for the great job you do in keeping us informed across the state.)

Blessings to you as you navigate the time leading up to Christmas, and the summer break ahead.

Monika Tropiano

Professional Standards Coordinator, LCA WA Inc.

06.07 LCA Standards of Ethical Behaviour

God created the church to continue His work on earth. Its task is to celebrate love and life, and to be the vehicle for God's continued work of bringing love to life in the world. The church lives on the gifts of God – God's forgiveness, God's love, God's own life. In its worship the church experiences the love of God in words and actions of forgiveness and of empowerment. Infused with the real presence of Jesus Christ, love comes decisively to life every time the people of God gather.

The life of a Christian is a life of faith active in love, empowered by the love of Christ himself. Indeed we have no other obligation, except to participate in this world transforming gift of God's love.

Love changes people. The experience of being loved brings with it a kind of newness that brings out the best in us. We become more open to the gifts of life and the needs of others, and we live in a new way, a renewed way. Love brings life.

In our personal behaviour we demonstrate God's love by:

- ✚ Setting a good example of Christian living
- ✚ Treating each other with dignity and respect
- ✚ Being courteous, kind and compassionate in our words and actions
- ✚ Not abusing people (including members of our family), verbally, physically, emotionally, sexually or spiritually¹
- ✚ Acting responsibly in potentially addictive activities which may cause harm to our family, such as abuse of alcohol, addictive substances or gambling

- ✚ Refraining from engaging in, viewing or possessing pornographic materials
- ✚ Cultivating a lifestyle of reconciliation

In our pastoral caring we demonstrate God's love by:

- ✚ Ensuring that our caring ministry is for the benefit of the other and not for ourselves
- ✚ Maintaining appropriate boundaries
- ✚ Keeping appropriate records and storing them securely²
- ✚ Maintaining privacy in regards to our pastoral care, ensuring that confidential information is not disclosed, even to family members, without permission²
- ✚ Undertaking relevant training on a regular basis³
- ✚ Considering if a personal relationship will impinge on your ability to provide pastoral caring
- ✚ Considering the needs of vulnerable people

In caring for children we demonstrate God's love by:

- ✚ Ensuring children feel safe, are respected and listened to
- ✚ Considering the needs of children in all decisions regarding Church activities
- ✚ Not abusing children physically, emotionally sexually or spiritually⁴
- ✚ Ensuring that no form of physical punishment is administered to any child whilst engaged in Church activities
- ✚ Ensuring that systems for the prevention of harm to children are maintained⁵
- ✚ Ensuring compliance with all legislative requirements for the health, safety and wellbeing of children

In our communications we demonstrate God's love by:

- ✚ Using polite and respectful language when engaging with each other and with people in contact with the Church
- ✚ Respecting the opinions of others
- ✚ Exercising good judgement when sending electronic mail and in the use of social media⁶
- ✚ Refraining from sending messages which are, or could be perceived as, harassing, threatening, abusive or obscene to each other or to people in contact with the Church
- ✚ Exercising good judgement in the material on your personal social network site
- ✚ Refraining from viewing or circulating material which is pornographic or obscene, violent, racist or hate related, malicious, libellous or slanderous

In financial and administrative matters we demonstrate God's love by:

- ✚ Setting an example of financial integrity in both our personal capacity and in our Church activities
- ✚ Ensuring that Church and legislative requirements are followed when dealing with Church monies⁷
- ✚ Refraining from seeking personal advantage or unfair financial gain for yourself or family and friends from your position or role
- ✚ Considering if the acceptance of a gift is appropriate in all the circumstances⁸
- ✚ Considering if there is a conflict of interest or a perceived conflict of interest if we are engaged in decision making⁹
- ✚ Ensuring that volunteers are nurtured, nourished and valued¹⁰
- ✚ Ensuring that systems for the prevention of harm are maintained
- ✚ Ensuring compliance with all Church and legislative requirements for the health, safety and wellbeing for all people who engage with the Church¹¹

Life in the Church is a preparation and empowerment for a life of love in the world. Our families and our communities, our workplaces and cultural settings might well experience through us something of God's love as it comes to life again in us. *Read Colossians 3:1-17*

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (Colossians 3:12-14)

For more information see LCA policies

1. Prevention of Harassment and Abuse Policy
2. Privacy Policy
3. Training and Development Policy (to be approved)
4. Child Protection Policy
5. Prevention of Risk of Harm from a Known Sex Offender Policy
6. ICT Policy
7. Prevention of Fraud Policy (to be approved)

8. Gift Acceptance Policy (to be approved)
9. Conflict of Interest Policy (to be approved)
10. Volunteers Policy (to be approved)
11. Work Health and Safety Policy (to be approved)

(these numbers relate to the footnote numbers at the end of some of the points in the main article)