

VOICES UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA /TASMANIA

2011 : ISSUE 1, MAY



Levee holds back the water from Holy Trinity Lutheran School, Horsham

Floods were a common experience early this year as the summer rain bucketed down. Effects in Victoria and Tasmania were not as dramatic or as damaging as in Queensland but individual people and property still suffered significantly. One church family north of Ballarat was inundated three times – a heart-breaking experience and a severe test of faith.

Church property in Horsham was most at risk. Being located close to the Wimmera River, Sunnyside Retirement Village, Holy Trinity Lutheran School and Pastor David Wear's manse were all threatened. It was time for quick

action and many people helped: from sand-bagging the manse to helping evacuate Sunnyside's nursing home without unduly distressing the residents. Tim Nagorcka, a parent who worked with others to build a levy around school buildings, said, "I don't know how we did it – how we got so much done in such a short time. I guess we know who really made it happen." The levy prevented water from entering buildings and doing serious damage.

Thank you to all who helped in any way, and thank you to those who donated to the LCA's flood relief appeal – it will help many people, especially in Queensland where there has been substantial damage to church and members' properties and income.

We also acknowledge the goodness of our Lord in setting boundaries on nature so that we can generally live with day-to-day security and confidence. With Psalm 74 we confess: *You, O God, are my king from of old; you bring salvation upon the earth... The day is yours, and yours also the night; you established the sun and the moon. It was you who set all the boundaries of the earth; you made summer and winter . (Ps 74:12,16-17).*

Now the land is watered again and we pray for good seasons with faithful gratitude to the Lord.



Horsham manse is threatened by flood waters



Independent living units at Sunnyside Retirement Village surrounded by water



On the third day he rose from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of god the father almighty. (Apostles' creed)

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST
OUR LORD IS RISEN. HALLELUJAH!

Not only has Jesus paid for our sins on the cross, but by his resurrection, God has begun a new life for his people. We praise God for the wonder and majesty of Jesus' resurrection and ascension into heaven. Jesus now conducts his ministry across the whole world, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in his name and the Holy Spirit, through that word, brings the grace of God to forgive and to heal and to build people into the church, Christ's body on earth now. It's wonderful to be part of God's great new world, even as we walk every day in the ongoing first creation with all our different involvements in home and family, work and school. Both the present and the future belong to our Lord – his resurrection has seen to that – and we can walk into the future with confidence in him.

This is a great comfort as we engage with all the changes around us. Every day, week and year seem to bring new issues, new anxieties. We Christians are blessed to not only have the ministry of Jesus behind us but also with us every day, calling us into the future in faith and service – *Into the future with Christ*, as is our theme for this synodical term. Part of that call is to respond to the changing world in the best way we can, so that the ministry of the gospel continues to engage our neighbours and the next generations. Our church is going through a process of reflection and action for this purpose. Just before Easter a large group of people met in Adelaide to consider how, in today's situation, we can better *increase spiritual depth* and *develop proactive mission culture* in the church. These are two of the five strategic directions identified by LCA leaders last year. You'll read about another, to *increase at all levels*, in this edition of *Voices*, with suggestions about how your congregation can participate in this.

As we have no District convention this year, an opportunity for learning and fellowship is being provided through the good services of our Geelong congregations in conjunction with Lutheran School of Theology - Vic in the form of a Study Retreat entitled, *iGod – An Unchanging God in a Fast Changing World*. There's a large variety of electives and a rewarding time is promised. Details are also given elsewhere in *Voices*. Again please consider how you might organise a group from your congregation to attend.

Change can be perceived in different ways. It can be something we are afraid of, it can be something we see as opportunity. In every situation we know that our Lord still reigns among us, that our faith is in him, and therefore that our attention is to his word of truth bringing his heart of grace and Spirit of power.

God's peace to you all in Jesus Christ our risen and reigning Lord.

Pastor Greg Pietsch

EDITORIAL



It's been a tumultuous start to the year, both in Australia and worldwide. Not all of us have been fortunate enough to view events from the sidelines. Many Australians have suffered greatly and our hearts, and help, go out to them. We can never take our circumstances for granted - life can change in an instant. This issue also highlights the endless blessings that our Lord sends us daily, even when days seem dark and desperate. Praise God indeed.

Chris Otto

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| | fax: 08 8177 2010 |
| Continuing to serve the LCA with Lutheran resources | |
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Deadline for next issue: JULY 2011

Printed by Openbook Howden, Adelaide

Technical facilities graciously provided by Luther College

TWENTY20 VISION COMING TO YOU!

In the past six months, twenty successful applicants for the LCA's **Twenty20 Vision leadership training program** have been working away at their studies. This program aims to better equip our church according to one of the five strategic directions agreed by church leaders last year: **to increase leadership capacity and capability at all levels.**

One of the purposes of this course is to enable these twenty leaders to prepare and deliver leadership training in the church themselves, hence multiplying the benefit to the church. Currently they are preparing **workshops in LCA Governance, LCA Finance, and LCA Induction & Administration.** These will be delivered in various locations across the Vic/Tas District by our five participants in the program: Miriam Rowley (who serves as District Executive Officer), Jane Wiebusch (former member of District Church Council and now a member of the Council for Ministry Support), Gillian Heintze (member of General Church Council), Andrew Brook (senior pastor at St Paul's Box Hill) and David Wear (pastor at Holy Trinity Horsham and serving the school there). When you add other *Twenty20 Vision* participants like Pastor John Henderson, principal of ALC, and Pastor Neville Otto, LCA Secretary and Mission Director, you can see that the leaders are of a high calibre. I therefore ask *every pastor and congregation to identify at least one, and perhaps quite a few more people, to attend these workshops.*

- This is a great opportunity for **people on church and school councils**, for example, to find out how to properly take up those responsibilities, including things like assessing and managing risk, running effective meetings and fulfilling legal requirements – attend an LCA Governance workshop: 12-13 August at Werribee and repeated 26-27 August at Horsham.
- It is a great opportunity for **congregation and parish treasurers** to build up their knowledge about financial reports, how to use cash and accrual accounting, and specific matters relating to the LCA – attend an LCA Finance workshop: 10 September at Werribee and repeated 5 November at Hamilton.
- And it's a great opportunity for **local secretaries, Safe Place coordinators, synod delegates and anyone else interested in the LCA** to grow in their knowledge about parish administration, LCA policies for congregations, the LAMP database and more – attend an LCA Induction & Admin workshop: 14-15 October at Geelong.

These workshops come at a cost (\$100 per participant) in order to fund the LCA wide program, so local church and school councils should put this on their agenda and plan carefully. However, this program is meant to help us better achieve our primary mission through stronger and more able leadership. Experience shows that training is essential to happier volunteers and better outcomes. Plan attendance now and look for specific workshop details as they are advertised this year.

Now let's hear what our five *Twenty20 Vision* participants are undertaking as **specific research and strategic planning projects** of their own...

Greg Pietsch
President

WHAT THEY THINK

- *Vision Twenty20* has given me a window into the fascinating area of management. I've learnt about topics as diverse as accrual accounting and leadership styles. There's no shortage of situations in our congregation where I can apply my new skills.

The topic on project management has helped me to design and oversee our ministry direction review at St Paul's. I thank God for the opportunity to grow in the gift of leadership and guidance.

Pastor Andrew Brook

- Project: Vision and Strategic Planning with the Victorian District Call Committee

Goals: To have a clear vision with planned strategies for the next 2-3 years.

Status: I prepared a draft plan using the Grassroots template. Committee has met and modified the plan. Now we have a practical working draft with tactics and goals.

Gillian Heintze

- It has been a privilege to be a part of the *Twenty20 Vision* leadership training program. I've experienced a wonderful opportunity to learn new skills that can be put to good use for the benefit of our church. It has also been great meeting the other participants and spending some time getting to know some of our current and future leaders. I am encouraged and look forward to what lies ahead for the LCA.

Pastor David Wear

- The *Twenty20* program has benefits for the Church in more areas than I had anticipated. I am currently undertaking my Visioning & Strategic Planning assignment in consultation with the Chair of District Church Council (DCC). This project has provided great structure for DCC to move forward with this important task.

Miriam Rowley



Photos by Katharina C. Borszik www.photographybykat.net

NEW FACES – NEW FUTURE

Last year there were some significant retirements and farewells from District service so this year we welcome new people to our collective efforts as God's church in action. There is also a new position in African ministry – a three year program to help local communities develop their own abilities in the areas most needed.

We therefore express a warm welcome and God's richest blessing on those new to their positions, just as we express our heartfelt thanks to those whose service has come to an end more recently, including Pastors Ben Mogg (has left Hobart for Port Lincoln, SA), Stephen Mattner (left Tabor last year due to ill health and now retired in Geelong), John Lai (resigned from Doncaster Chinese for personal reasons), and Bill Fry (resigned from Natimuk parish due to ill health and now resides near Coleraine).

Our District welcomes several new pastors:

- Pastor Nathan Glover (graduate) - Bendigo parish
- Pastor Tim Jarick - Wodonga parish and school pastor at Victory College
- Pastor Damien Martin (graduate) - Dimboola-Jeparit parish
- Pastor Tom Pietsch (graduate) - Grovedale parish

Other new appointments include:

- Robyn Kuchel - Tertiary Ministry Coordinator
- Pamela Dalgliesh - Community Development Facilitator
- Darren Linke - Manager of Tandara Lutheran Camp in the Grampians
- Karyn Bonnington, new Assistant Hospital Chaplain in Melbourne.



Pastor Tim Jarick (centre), Wodonga parish and Pastor for Victory College, at his installation



Pastor Ben Mogg set his sights on Port Lincoln. We thank him for his generous service to his parishioners of Hobart



Graduate Pastor Tom Pietsch, Grovedale parish, greeting members of his new congregation following his installation



Graduate Pastor Nathan Glover, Bendigo parish, shown here with District President Pastor Greg Pietsch



Graduate Pastor Damien Martin, Dimboola-Jeparit parish, was installed by District President Pastor Greg Pietsch



New Tertiary Ministry Coordinator, Robyn Kuchel. Read her thoughts on page 6



New Community Development Facilitator, Pamela Dalgliesh - article on page 6



Darren Linke, new Manager of Tandara Lutheran Camp, Halls Gap

FURTHER EDUCATION

LUTHERAN SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY – A TIME TO GROW IN 2011

As I review the events and activities of the Lutheran School of Theology Vic in past years, I am humbled and amazed at Jesus' grace and power. People have grown in their understanding of God's love for them in Christ. It is my desire and hope that we will be similarly quickened by the Spirit of God in 2011. "Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain." Ps 127:1

LST is the key point of contact in the LCA Victorian District for congregations requiring assistance in meeting their training needs. This could include facilitating a Grassroots training workshop, sourcing local courses and/or trainers, facilitating the development of a workshop in conjunction with other ministry leaders to meet local needs... the list is endless.

Early this year, LST facilitated two Grassroots training workshops on *Communication & Relationships* and

Introduction to Counselling. These were held at St John's Southgate.

LST worked with the Child, Youth and Family Facilitator to develop and present An Orientation to Children's Ministry workshop in Shepparton on 2 April.

Arrangements are well underway for the Study Retreat at Geelong on the 30 & 31 July. The theme is *iGod – an unchanging God in a fast changing world*.

Plan to take the opportunity for time out to be encouraged, strengthened and stretched in your knowledge and understanding of your loving God, yourself and your ministry. I invite you to attend events, bring friends, and pray for God's blessing on our program for 2011. May the Lord be honoured and glorified in all we do.

Cheryl Bartel, Director
Lutheran School of Theology - Vic
cheryl.bartel@vic.lca.org.au



Some of the attendees at the counselling workshop



Some of the workshop participants trying the Readers' Theatre

TERTIARY MINISTRY COORDINATOR

The job description for this position has changed. I am not primarily a chaplain but a connector: a connector between the love and care given to young people in their home congregation and love and care given to them in a new congregation so that they continue their faith journey and do not lose their way.

When young people leave home to study or work, my role is to enable congregations to make sure that they are looked after. I want to find individuals in home congregations who will keep in contact with them and make sure that they are prayed for regularly (advocates). I also want to find individuals in host congregations who will reach out to these young people: befriend them, introduce them to members of the church community, help them to solve the problems involved in finding a new church home – in short, make them feel at home.

I am currently trying to determine who has had to relocate in 2011 and to obtain contact details for them. I also want to get to know pastors and congregations in the District so that I can understand their ministries and needs.

It is a great blessing to me that I will regularly attend worship at St Johns Southgate and other LSF activities. The young people's commitment to growing in faith and in reaching out to others is an inspiration. Praise God!

Your prayerful support for them, their ministry and for Nathan Hedt (the tertiary chaplain) and me will surely help us in our tasks.

Robyn Kuchel



Robyn Kuchel (centre) with two well wishers

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FACILITATOR

It is with great pleasure that we announce the appointment of Pamela Dalgliesh to the role of Community Development Facilitator. This is a new position within the Council of Ministry Support and Council of Lutheran Community Care.



Pamela's role will be working directly with the Pastor for Congregational Support, Allan Heppner, and congregations with African communities. In addition, she will work closely with the African Mission and Ministry Reference Group.

Pamela was a practising dentist for 20 years and then gained diverse experience in delivering clinical health services, working as a senior manager in the public and private health sector. She has a very broad network of contacts within the health and community sector. She is a member of St Paul's Box Hill congregation.

We very much welcome Pamela's broad experience that will add to and complement the team at District Office.

Pamela and Pastor Allan Heppner are the 'first points of contact' for any questions that people may have in relation to African ministry and community support. If you wish to provide support or have ideas on how to support the LCA in the area African mission and ministry, please contact them to discuss your ideas. Pamela's contact details are email: pamela.dalgliesh@vic.lca.org.au, phone (03) 9236 1200 or 0488 333 535. Please welcome her to her new role.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 27 - 29 May | LWV Weekend Retreat (Tandara) |
| 31 May - 2 June | CEP for Pastors & Layworkers |
| 15 - 17 June | National Layworkers' Conference |
| 9 July | LWV retreat (Hopetoun) |
| 30 - 31 July | Lutheran School of Theology Study Retreat, Geelong |
| 13 August | LWV Retreat (Pakenham) |
| 6 - 8 September | District Pastors' Conference |
| 10 September | LWV Retreat (Bendigo) |
| 14 - 16 October | LWV Retreat (Araluen) |
| 16 - 18 May 2012 | District Pastors Conference |
| 2012 | Vic/Tas District Convention |

COMMISSION ON WORSHIP RESOURCES ON THE WEB

The LCA's Commission on Worship helps resource the church's worship. It's done this over the years through publications both in print and on the web. Now it is providing resources another way: by a weekly blog called the LCA Worship Planning Page at: www.lca.org.au/worshipplanningpage

This blog is intended firstly to provide layreaders and others who plan lay-led worship services with all they need to prepare. It has new season-specific orders of service (called 'Sunday Word and Prayer'). It has:

- has links to sermons, some specifically edited for lay reading
- complete Prayers of the Church, collects, bible readings, hymn and song suggestions etc – put together for the particular Sundays or festivals coming up
- key material is provided in ready-to-print format, in editable format, and in PowerPoint format
- and you can subscribe to the blog so that every time there is a new posting you will be informed.

SUBSCRIPTION TO DISTRICT NOTES

If you would like to know more about what's happening in our District and are interested in having your own copy of District Notes sent directly to your email address fortnightly, please email the words, 'Subscribe to Notes' to elissa.havjar@vic.lca.org.au.

We also send District Notes via post! Please contact the District for more information.

District Church Council (DCC)

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Faye Schmidt: <i>Chairman</i> | Jane Glatz |
| Pastor Greg Pietsch: <i>District President</i> | John Huf |
| Pastor Ray Pace: <i>District Vice President</i> | Elizabeth Kloeden |
| Miriam Rowley: <i>Consultant/District Executive Officer</i> | Simon Lang |
| Pastor Matt Anker | Bob Menzel |
| | Pastor Wayne Muschamp |
| | John Paech |
| | Tim Wiebusch |

Council for Ministry Support (CMS)

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| John Huf: <i>Chairman</i> | Pastor Richard Schwedes |
| Miriam Zanker: <i>Secretary</i> | Pastor Mark Winter |
| Richard Collyer | Jane Wiebusch |
| Brian Grosser | Miriam Zanker |
| Noel Mibus | |

Council for Lutheran Education South Eastern Region (CLESER)

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Tim McInnes: <i>Chairman</i> | Pastor David Bryce |
| Les Seiffert: <i>Vice Chairman</i> | James Heyne |
| Gary Jewson: <i>Secretary</i> | Matthew Miller |
| Gary Harding: <i>Executive Member</i> | Peter Ridgwell |
| | Peter Zweck |



Lutheran Church of Australia

Central Payroll Bureau

now available to parishes of the Victorian/Tasmanian District. Please contact Miriam Rowley on (03) 9236 1240 or miriam.rowley@vic.lca.org.au for more details.

RESPONDING TO SEXUAL ABUSE COMPLAINTS

A confidential service for responding to complaints of sexual abuse/sexual harassment by paid and voluntary church employees has been set up. Trained advisers are available to help. Write to:

The Supervisor, PO Box 519 Marden, SA, 5070 or use the freecall number 1800 644 628 or email to report.abuse@safeplace.lca.org.au

CONTACT DETAILS: LCA VICTORIAN DISTRICT

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|---|--------------|
| Reception: | 9236 1200 |
| Gordon Wegener (Pastor for Service & Witness/Hospital Chaplain): | 0412 200 946 |

VICTORY LUTHERAN COLLEGE – FULL-TIME COLLEGE PASTOR INSTALLED

In 2009, staff at Victory Lutheran College in Wodonga recognised the vast opportunities for mission and ministry within their school families. As a growing Prep-Year 12 College with an enrolment of 550 in 2011, the school was concerned that a greater pastoral presence was need to assist.

Pastor Joe Kummerow, Parish Pastor of Wodonga Lutheran Parish, previously had sole responsibility for congregation and school ministry. However, with growing staff and student numbers, the parish supported a motion by the College to seek approval for a two pastor parish to come into effect to help service the growing faith community.

On 13 February 2011, Pastor Tim Jarick was installed at St John's Lutheran Church, Wodonga and now works full-time in the College. Pastor Joe focuses most of his time on congregational ministry; however, both Pastors Tim and Joe are involved in the wider ministries of the parish so that they continue to have a presence throughout congregations and College.

Pastor Tim is involved in ministering to the staff, students and parents. In his first two months at the College, Pastor Tim has already led worship services, including twice weekly Chapel services, visited students in hospital, provided support for families and staff facing challenging times, made classroom visits, helped in Christian Studies and planned for the ongoing development of Biblesong in the parish.

We give thanks for the blessings of Pastor Tim and Pastor Joe as they minister to our College with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



The Opening Service for 2011 and Affirmation of Installation was held in the new Multipurpose Hall, 14 February 2011

LUTHER COLLEGE

The College community celebrated the official opening of its new Middle School on 13 February. Former Principal, Adrian Wiles unveiled the plaque.



GOOD NEWS LUTHERAN COLLEGE WERRIBEE



In 2011 Good News Lutheran School, Werribee became Good News Lutheran College, the name change signalling the transition of a primary school into secondary education: to be a Prep – 12 college in 2016. As part of the transition into secondary education, a new logo was launched and some uniform changes made. Two classes of Year 7 students began their secondary schooling at Good News this year. The congregation of St Phillips, together with the College, share an exciting and challenging future, as together they reach out into the community.



Students made a great contribution to Clean Up Australia Day

PRINCIPAL APPOINTMENTS

Holy Trinity Lutheran Primary School, Horsham – Chris Surrige was installed as principal for 2011 on 30 January

Good Shepherd College, Hamilton – Les Seiffert was installed as principal on 20 February

St John's Lutheran Primary School, Portland – Vicki Gollasch, Acting Principal for 2011

Eastside Lutheran College, Hobart – Ralph Zapart, Acting Principal from 28 March for 2011.